

them to start, whenever the opportunity occurs, a Unionist candidate for any of the four Parliamentary divisions of Kerry, and I can assure them their candidates will not receive one hundred out of every thousand votes. We must show by our generosity in response to this appeal on behalf of Home Rule that we are not unmindful at this crucial time in our history of the sacrifices endured and the victories won by those who have gone before us.'

THE PROGRESS OF THE WEST.

Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., delivered a lecture on 'Irish Agriculture' recently in London, in the course of which he said they had now in Ireland a system of agricultural education, and he recently had to chide a Cabinet Minister for robbing his hen roost of an officer of his Department. The reply was, 'If we want a scientific agriculturist, Ireland is now the first place we turn to.' Mr. Russell went on to emphasise the importance of the smaller agricultural industries. He referred at some length to the provision of laborers' cottages, on which seven millions had been spent. What the laborer wanted was some addition to what he got for his labor. Poultry was the great resource, and the Department were also providing bee-keeping. Then there was nothing to hinder the Irish farmer from adding two million pounds sterling to the produce of the soil by potatoes, if he would only box and sprout his potatoes before planting them. The Department had calculated that such an increase was possible, and the people were already doing it on a large scale. As to tobacco-growing, he paid a tribute to the ability, persistency, and success of Mr. Wm. Redmond's work in that direction. The question was—Could tobacco be grown without bonus or protection? and the Department had asked for a grant of £7,500 a year for ten years, in order to extend the development of tobacco-growing, and to find out definitely whether it was possible to make it a commercial success. They were extremely likely to get that grant, and so to solve the problem. Though not a smoker, he had been extremely glad to help Mr. Redmond in his efforts, and would continue to do so, mainly because tobacco-growing was an industry which employed a large number of boys and girls at the very time when they were apt to go away from Ireland. Continuing, Mr. Russell spoke of the warm interest he had always taken in the West of Ireland. He first visited that area more than thirty-five years ago, and was appalled by the misery and wretchedness of the people. To-day, one would not recognise the country nor the people as the same. It repaid all the trouble, sorrow, and cost of the land war. He did not hear Mr. William O'Brien speak often upon the question, but he knew Mr. O'Brien's views, and that he was constantly charging the Government with having shut down the Land Acts and stopped land purchase. It was a curious fact that Mr. O'Brien never referred to this western area. That was where every Land Act had been born. All the land legislation had been produced out of the woe and wretchedness of that part of the country and out of the sufferings of its people. Now, at last, they had got the Land Acts working in reality in the West. Estates worth six millions sterling had been arranged to be sold by the Congested Districts Board since Mr. Birrell's Act of 1909. Before that—under all the Acts—there was not a million pounds sterling sold there altogether. He thought that when people talked about shutting down the Land Acts they should give the facts. He was giving them official facts. The West had been transformed; it had been a big job, and it would be a big job still before it was finished; but they saw the people of the West with their heads up, erect and confident, and a grand glint of sunshine in front of them, from the political standpoint.

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People We Hear About

Mr. Algar Labouchere Thorold, nephew of the late Mr. Henry Labouchere, is to be his uncle's biographer. Mr. Thorold is a Catholic, a convert, being the only son of the late Protestant Bishop of Winchester, who married Mr. Labouchere's sister. Like his uncle, Mr. Thorold lives in Florence.

The reports recently published indicating that the health of Sir Wilfrid Laurier had broken down are declared this week to be quite unfounded. The great Canadian statesman is 71 years of age, but says he never felt better in his life, and so far from being depressed by his recent political defeat, he is keen for conflict again.

The Right Rev. Thomas Alphonsus O'Callaghan, O.P., the venerable Bishop of Cork, is now 72 years of age and was born in Cork. He entered the Dominican Novitiate and studied under the famous, Father Tom Burke. He also spent some time in Rome, and 27 years ago was consecrated Coadjutor-Bishop of his native city. He succeeded the late Bishop Delaney in 1886.

This year (says the *Louisiana Record*) Cardinal Gibbons is in his 78th year; Cardinal Farley, in his 70th; Bishop Hogan, in his 83rd; Bishop Foley, in his 79th; Bishop Janssen, in his 77th; Bishop Chatard, in his 78th; Archbishop Ireland, in his 74th; Bishop Richter, in his 74th; Bishop Trobec, in his 74th; Bishop John J. Keane, in his 73rd; Archbishop Spalding, in his 72nd; Bishop Gabriels, in his 74th; Bishop Byrne, in his 71st; Bishop McGoldrick, in his 71st; Bishop Northop, in his 70th; Archbishop Riordan, in his 71st; Bishop Scannell, in his 70th; Bishop Maes, in his 66th; Bishop Ryan, in his 63rd, and Bishop O'Donaghue, in his 64th.

Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh, M.P., the popular representative of South Down, and one of the wittiest and most versatile members of the Irish Party, has a delicious sense of humor, and lets a story lose nothing in the telling, even though it be against himself. Though he had long been inured to platform speaking, his first public lecture was apparently somewhat of a trial to him. He was particularly anxious as to the impression he had made, and was surprised that the friend who afterwards accompanied him to the hotel was making no reference to the event of the evening. At last 'Jerry' blurted out, 'What do you think of my lecture?' 'Oh, the lecture,' mused his friend. 'Well, there were only three things wrong with it. In the first place, you read it; in the second place, you read it badly; and in the third place, there wasn't a thing in it worth reading at all!'

General Sir Thomas Kelly-Kenny, who celebrated his 72nd birthday recently, is a native of Co. Clare, and entered the Army as an ensign in the 2nd Foot in 1858. Since then he has seen active service in many parts of the world, and during the last South African War took a prominent part in bringing about the surrender of General Cronje at Paardeberg. He was then placed in command of Orange River Colony, and on his return to England was appointed Adjutant-General of the Forces. In 1906 he accompanied Prince Arthur of Connaught's mission to Japan to confer the Garter on the Mikado, and has taken a prominent part in many other Court functions. Sir Thomas, who retired in 1907, is now Colonel of the Royal West Surrey Regiment, and has many honors and decorations, including the Grand Cordon of the Red Eagle and the Grand Cross of the Rising Sun, conferred by the Mikado.

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