

Irish News

GENERAL.

The Dowager Countess of Desart has been fined for failing to stamp the insurance cards of her servants. She pleaded conscientious objection.

The death has just taken place at Clonmel, County Tipperary, of Mr. John McCormack, who took part in the '48 rising at Ballingarry under Smith O'Brien.

The death of Canon Walsh, pastor of Newcastle, County Waterford, occurred on January 27. Deceased was recently promoted to the dignity of Canon by the Bishop.

His Holiness has conferred signal honor on two Wexford gentlemen—Mr. B. J. O'Flaherty, solicitor, and Mr. H. J. Roche, J.P.,—by conferring on them the Knighthood of the Holy Sepulchre. The Irish branch, with Sir Thomas Esmonde at its head, is senior in the United Kingdom.

In Derry City there are 22,000 Nationalists and 17,000 Unionists, but by jerrymandering the Unionists have a majority in the Corporation, and in the Corporation employment, out of 43 officials, 40 are Unionists and three Nationalists. In salaries Derry City pays Unionist officials £7335 annually. The three Nationalists get an aggregate of £236 between the lot.

In the Catholic churches in Derry on the Sunday before the election references were made to the coming contest. The people were cautioned against yielding to excitement, or possibly incitement, and advised to maintain charity, goodwill, and the honorable reputation of the city by bearing and forbearing, and avoiding everything in the nature of disturbance. This was the only reference to the election that was made in the Catholic churches.

Mr. William Moore, M.P., complained in Parliament on January 16 of the appointment of Mr. Hewitt, president of the local branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, as Income Tax collector in Kells district. There was loud laughter when Mr. Masterton stated that the appointment was made in 1902 under a Unionist Government. Mr. Hewitt performed his duties most satisfactorily. He did not think there was any rule of the service against such an appointment.

The election of Irish Mayors took place on January 20. Lord Mayors Sherlock, McMordie, M.P., and O'Shea were re-elected in Dublin, Belfast, and Cork respectively without opposition. Other Mayors are—Alderman Fitzgibbon, Clonmel; Councillor Callaghan, Drogheda; Alderman Purcell, Kilkenny; Alderman O'Donovan, Limerick; Alderman O'Donnell, Sligo; Alderman Power, Waterford; Alderman Sinnott, Wexford.

THE BISHOP OF ROCKHAMPTON.

In St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, on Sunday, January 26, the Right Rev. Dr. Shiel was consecrated Bishop of Rockhampton by the Most Rev. Dr. Mannix, who was himself consecrated Coadjutor Archbishop of Melbourne in the same college but a short time ago. The consecrating prelate was assisted by the Most Rev. Dr. Gaughran, Bishop of Meath, and the Most Rev. Dr. McKenna, Bishop of Clogher. Amongst the visiting clergy who attended were the Rev. W. Kane, Ballarat, Australia; Rev. John Carroll, Rockhampton, Australia; and the Rev. J. S. Russell, C.M., Hammer-smith, London.

HOME RULE IN THE LORDS.

The Home Rule Bill came up for the Second Reading in the House of Lords on January 27. Lord Crewe in a spirited speech moved the Second Reading. The Duke of Devonshire moved rejection. In the course of the debate Lord Dunraven, though criticising the Bill, supported the principle of Home Rule, and said he would vote for the measure. Earl Grey, though in favor of an Irish settlement on Home Rule lines, would not vote for the Bill because it was not on Federal lines. Lord MacDonnell, while criticising the finance

of the measure, supported the Bill, while Lord Ribblesdale (the father-in-law of Lord Lovat) closed the debate with a speech supporting the measure. On the following day Lord St. Aldwyn (formerly Sir M. Hicks Beach) resumed the debate in a speech against the Bill. He had been opposing Home Rule for forty years, he said, and his position was unchanged. The Lord Chancellor, who followed, showed the hollowness of that vaunt, for in his speech Lord St. Aldwyn had indicated a preference for a scheme of Provincial Councils as a settlement of the Irish difficulty. The Protestant Archbishop of York opposed the Bill on the ground of want of mandate. But he told the Unionists they would never settle the trouble by repeating 'We won't have Home Rule.' Submit the Bill to the electorate and he would support it. Lord Brassey and Lord Emmott supported the Bill, and Lord Middleton opposed it.

A CONTRAST BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

The election of chairmen of Irish municipal bodies was characterised by the usual 'intolerance' on the part of Catholics in districts where the Catholic vote is supreme. In Ballinasloe, for instance, there is one Protestant member in the local Council. He was re-elected chairman, and on returning thanks, he declared that he had never seen any intolerance on the part of Catholics in the district. Derry City elected its Mayor and Sheriff, and, although the Catholics of Derry are a majority of the population, and although the Catholic members in the Corporation are just a minority of the whole, it is needless to say that the intolerant majority refused to elect a Catholic or Nationalist either as Mayor or Sheriff in Derry. In strong contrast to that was the example of Cork City, which chose a Protestant merchant, Mr. Richard Henry Tilson, as High Sheriff. Mr. Tilson, telegraphing to Mr. Hogg, of Derry, said he had been appointed High Sheriff of Cork 'by the goodwill and tolerance of my Catholic Nationalist fellow-citizens.'

HEROISM OF IRISH NUNS.

The heroism displayed by the Irish nuns on the occasion of the fire tragedy at St. John's Orphanage, San Antonio, Texas, in October last, caused a thrill of admiration throughout the Catholic world. The Catholics of Ireland shared the pride evoked by the conduct of the devoted Sisters during the disaster, but the keenest sorrow was felt in those districts where the brave nuns had received their early education. A communication has just been received in Ireland stating that Sister Mary Kostka Farrell, a native of Kildare (who was reported as dead), is now recovering from the injuries she sustained in jumping from the third-storey window during the burning of the Orphanage. The welcome message details that in taking the leap described Sister Mary struck the second-storey railing, which threw her out of line of the life-net held by the firemen. Her back was hurt, one ankle strained, and the other broken. Her recovery is remarkable, as Sister Monica lost her life in taking the same jump.

MR. REDMOND ON ULSTER.

The Irish Leader got a splendid reception at Coventry on January 25, when he made his first platform speech since the Third Reading of the Home Rule Bill. His speech was confident in tone, and an irresistible argument for Home Rule. Once again he dealt with the 'Ulster' question in words which must impress every reasonable mind. He said: 'Tories were claiming that four counties out of thirty-four, with a population not amounting to anything like one-fifth of the whole of Ireland, should be able to veto Home Rule for the rest of the island. They said they would not permit Home Rule, and they said frankly to the people of England that if both parties here, the Liberal and the Tory parties, united in supporting the passing of a Home Rule Bill, that would not affect them, and that by force of arms they would prevent the will of the people to prevail. I submit,' declared Mr. Redmond, 'that that is an intolerable claim. It is a claim which goes deep down into the whole system of democratic representative institutions.'

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