

Irish News

GENERAL.

The Senate of the National University of Ireland has appointed Mr. C. M. Drennan, M.A., Professor of History, English Literature, and Mental Science in University College, Dublin.

A great Nationalist demonstration was held in Dragan, Co. Tipperary, on May 18, when Mr. John Dillon, M.P., unveiled a memorial to the late Mr. Michael Cusack, one of the most ardent and unselfish patriots of his generation.

Three Nationalist candidates are already in the field for the vacancy in the Parliamentary representation of Leix Division of Queen's County, created by the death of Mr. P. A. Meehan, M.P.—namely, Mr. James J. Aird, J.P., Co.C., Maryborough; Mr. P. J. Meehan, solicitor, Maryborough; and Mr. John Lalor Fitzpatrick, Tenakill, Mountrath.

A sensation was caused in Bray on May 16, when it was learned that Mr. Justice Wright had been found dead in an armchair in the library of his house. Mr. Justice Wright was the son of the late Mr. Thomas R. Wright, solicitor, Clonakilty, and was born in that town in June, 1847. He was one of a large family of brilliant sons, the eldest being at present the Clerk of the Crown and Peace for the City of Cork and the East Riding. He was married to a daughter of the late Sir Croker Barrington, of Limerick.

In Kiltelly, Co. Limerick, on May 18, a monument was unveiled in the churchyard over the grave of Mr. William Landon, who represented East Limerick in the House of Commons for many years. The unveiling ceremony was performed by Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., for West Belfast, in the presence of an enormous gathering, which included contingents from every district in Limerick and many parts of Cork and Tipperary.

THE PENAL LAWS AND THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

In the Land Judge's Court, on May 14, Mr. Justice Ross, in the matter of the estate of Patrick Finn, late of Mitchelstown, declared a bequest of £1000 to the Abbot of Mount Melleray invalid as being a bequest for an illegal Order. His Lordship also held that the words 'and for the charitable works of the Order' in the will did not operate to make the bequest a good one, inasmuch as a bequest for the works of the Order was the same in effect as a bequest for the Order itself. This is only one of many glaring instances of similar hardships inflicted from time to time upon religious Orders under the penal laws which are still on the Statute Book. It is shameful that no Government has thought fit or found time to pass an Act repealing the odious penal clauses which deprive self-sacrificing religious bodies like the Cistercians of their undoubted rights.

WHAT THE IRISH PARLIAMENT DID.

Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., and a party of friends had an interesting experience on May 20. They visited the Wolfhill Coalfields in Queen's County on the invitation of the proprietor, Mr. J. J. Parkinson, and braving the discomforts of the journey descended into the workings. On leaving, after an inspection of the mine, Mr. Redmond delivered a brief address to a party of miners who had assembled. He said: I do not know whether you are politicians, any of you. But I am a politician, and naturally I look at everything from a political point of view, as well as an industrial point of view, and I cannot forget that one of the very last acts of the Irish Parliament before it was suppressed was the voting of a sum of £50,000 for the purpose of developing this very coal field. Unfortunately the Parliament was immediately afterwards abolished, and the money was never forthcoming. The money that is required to develop this coal field now is very little, a drop of water compared with the enormous revenue which is collected in this

country—a revenue of twelve millions a year, and all that is required to develop this coal mine is a comparatively small sum of money which I feel sure will be forthcoming in the immediate future. I look forward with the greatest possible confidence to the future success of this coal mine, and, as a result, to an enormous impetus being given to the whole industrial development of Ireland. I am delighted to see the work that is done here. I am glad to congratulate Mr. Parkinson on what he has done, and to congratulate you on the work upon which you are engaged. I hope the day is very near when this will be a great centre of industrial prosperity.

LITERARY SOCIETIES' REUNION.

A most enjoyable function took place in Dublin on the evening of May 14, when the Irish National Literary Society entertained the members of the Irish Literary Society of London, in celebration of the twenty-first anniversary of the foundation of both bodies. Addresses were delivered by representative members of both bodies. The principal speakers were Dr. Sigerson, of Dublin, and Mr. Alfred Percival Graves, of London. Dr. Sigerson said they were celebrating the twenty-first anniversary of the Irish Literary Society of London, and of the National Literary Society of Ireland; in reality welcoming home their countrymen who were fighting the good fight in the capital of England. When they first began their crusade against ignorance of all things Irish in literature, in history, in music, and in other departments, there was unquestionably apathy over the land. The aim of the society was to dispel that apathy, to create a new life, to form a National opinion racy of the soil, and to recall that a nation could live only by its mind and by its aspirations. Now, from a little thing, as from a mustard seed, the society had grown into a great tree. Mr. Alfred Percival Graves, President of the Irish Literary Society, said they in London had started two important Irish National Associations—the Irish Text Society and the Irish Folk Song Society. The great success of the Irish Text Society was mainly owing to two women—Eleanor Hull and Norma Borthwick. The Irish Folk Song Society was formed as the result of a conversation which took place between Mr. Plunkett Green, his brother Charles, and himself. He mentioned the splendid effect which the Gaelic League movement had created in Limerick by spreading the love of Irish literature, and suggested that an Irish library should be started and called 'Every Irishman's Library.'

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN LADY.

At Seatown House, Dunkalk, on May 14, the death took place at an advanced age of Mrs. Julia Hamill, widow of the late Mr. J. Hamill, J.P. Deceased was a lady of considerable means, and her benefactions to Catholic institutions in the Armagh diocese were numerous. Some thirteen years ago she presented to the Redemptorist community a chime of bells, at a cost of £1200. Later she was largely responsible for the erection of a beautiful new marble altar in St. Malachy's Dominican Church, Dundalk. Some seven years ago Mrs. Hamill had erected at her own cost a magnificent tower at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dundalk, at a cost of some £7000, while two years ago she contributed a sum of £1000 towards the renovation of the same church.

A TRANSFORMED WEST.

Mr. T. W. Russell, in welcoming recently a delegation of the British Farmers' Association to Dublin, said he was sorry the members of the association were not going to the West of Ireland. In these parts of the West, where the ranches were in existence, some of the most interesting experiments that any country had ever carried out, had taken place. He went quite recently to Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon. He found that in a large area that had formerly been a grass ranch, something like fifty families had been transferred from the bogs to new holdings. Nothing could have been better. It was not only that a change had been made,

J. & R. HEWITT

Strings. Awarded Gold and Silver Medals N.Z.

VIOLIN MAKERS & REPAIRERS, 47 ELLIOTT STREET, AUCKLAND, Have in Stock Violins, Violas, and Violoncellos. Violins from £1 up. Repairs to all kinds of Stringed Instruments. Specialists in Violin International Exhibition, 1906-7.