

Irish News

GENERAL.

The death has occurred of Rev. John Bannon, S.J., of Upper Gardiner street, Dublin, who passed away in his eighty-fourth year and the sixtieth year of his priesthood. In the 'seventies his name and fame as a preacher were well-known.

Judge Kenny, who was presented with white gloves at Donegal Assizes as a token of the absence of crime, said it was a highly satisfactory state of things. The county was in a very peaceful state. There was no boycotting, no intimidation, and no one was under police protection.

A meeting of the Nationalists of Cork, held on July 11 in the City Hall, passed resolutions rejoicing at the Third Reading of the Home Rule Bill, and expressing confidence in Mr. John Redmond and the Irish Party.

On Sunday, July 13, the Right Rev. Dr. Clune, Bishop of Perth, celebrated last Mass in St. Patrick's Church, Castlereagh, and preached an eloquent sermon, at the conclusion of which he announced that he was taking with him to preach the Gospel, beneath the Southern Cross, a young Castlereagh priest, the Rev. P. Lavin, whom he had ordained a fortnight previously at All Hallows College, Dublin.

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Neill, Vicar-Capitular of the Archdiocese of Cashel, was presented on July 13 with an address from the people of Lattin and Cullen. In replying, he referred to the question of national self-government, and said a Home Rule Government in Dublin would foster trade, develop the rich resources of the country, which undoubtedly were great, and the mineral wealth of Ireland, and it would be a centre from which, and around which, peace, happiness, and prosperity would emanate and radiate.

Commenting on the satisfactory condition of Co. Tyrone, Judge Ross, in opening the Tyrone Assizes in Omagh, said he attributed the happy diminution of the Crown business to the advance of temperance and the fact that land purchase had been most successfully carried out, particularly in the southern part of the county. Now that the hostile feelings that had existed between landlord and tenant had been done away with, the gentlemen of the Grand Jury who had sold their land had a unique opportunity of doing great service to their country. There were only two cases to go before them, and Tyrone was in a peaceful and prosperous condition.

MR. REDMOND AT PLYMOUTH.

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., spoke to a great meeting of Devon and Cornwall Liberals at Plymouth on July 11, and had an enthusiastic and inspiring welcome. Again he struck a note of confidence and hope for Ireland. Mr. Redmond said that 'Home Rule united and inspired the Liberal Party as perhaps did no other issue of the present moment. What was the position in which Home Rule stood to-day? For the fourth time the Home Rule Bill had been before the House of Commons, supported by a powerful Government, and for the third time had passed the House of Commons too. For the second time in this Parliament a Home Rule Bill had passed the House of Commons by a considerable majority of British members. Leaving the Irish members out of the question altogether, there was a British majority of forty-five. The voice of Ireland was declared by a majority of 64. Let them take the votes of Ulster alone and reject the votes of the rest of Ireland, and they would find that the Bill was carried by two votes. The statesmen and leading men of the great self-governing countries and of all the English-speaking part of the world took it for granted, as a matter of course, that if the Government of this country after fifty-eight days of discussion passed the Home Rule Bill by such a majority, the measure was certain to become law.'

BIG IRISH RAILWAY SCHEME.

From an authoritative source the London *Evening News* learns that a contract of over £1,000,000 has just been signed (and the work will begin in the autumn) for the construction of a railway and a new harbor on the West Coast of Ireland in connection with the All Red Route scheme. The railway will run from Collooney in Co. Sligo, to Ballina, Belmullet, and Blacksod Bay, in Mayo, which is to be the port for the steamers, which will make the run to Halifax in three and a-half days. Blacksod Bay will be reached from London in 14 hours instead of two and a-half days which it takes at present. The proposed railway was sanctioned by Parliament three years ago, but the scheme has been waiting for Canadian approval. It is stated on the highest authority that 2000 men are to start work on the railway. Truly the West of Ireland promises to undergo a transformation, and seems destined to become the highway of the world's traffic.

THE ASQUITH DINNER.

On Thursday, July 10, the Irish Parliamentary Party celebrated the second passage of the Home Rule Bill by a dinner in the spacious Harcourt Room at the House of Commons. Mr. John Redmond presided, and the guest of the evening was Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister. The other guests included Sir Rufus Isaacs, Sir John Simon, Mr. Herbert Samuel (the three Ministers responsible, with the Premier and Mr. Birrell, for the conduct of the Bill in the Commons), and Mr. Illingworth, the Chief Government Whip. The proceedings were not open to the press, but enough has transpired to show that they were most cordial and friendly throughout, and that Mr. Asquith made a speech in which he spoke so confidently of the passage of the Home Rule Bill into law next year as to make that event as certain as anything human can be. Mr. Asquith is reported to have said that he did not anticipate any more difficulty in the remaining stages of the Home Rule Bill than in those stages already passed; and a London Sunday paper credits him with saying:—

'I am prepared to stake my existence that a Parliament will be sitting in Dublin before two years.'

At any rate, the Prime Minister's speech evoked great enthusiasm, and it is spoken of in terms of unmeasured eulogy and satisfaction by the Irish members who were present.

DEATH OF MRS. JOHN MARTIN.

With profound sorrow, which will be universally shared amongst Irishmen, we (*Freeman's Journal*) have learned through a telegram from Newry of the death of Mrs. John Martin, the '48 patriot. The deceased lady, who had reached to a grand old age, was a sister of John Martin's colleague in the Young Ireland movement and in the exile that followed—the illustrious John Mitchell. Long after the death of husband and brother she evinced the keenest interest in every movement that made for the realisation of their ideals, and often contributed by her presence at their meetings to inspire the young men of a later generation with the resolve to persevere in the cause for which they toiled and suffered.

INTOLERANT ORANGEMEN.

While a clergyman was addressing an Orange meeting on July 12, at Castlecaulfield, Co. Tyrone, one of the crowd called attention to the presence at the reporters' table on the platform of Mr. Conway, a member of the staff of the local Nationalist paper, and called on him to come down. Other members of the crowd joined in the demand, and the proceedings were interrupted. Mr. Conway eventually left the table and was walking down the field towards the road when he was followed by a crowd of several hundred, who closed in upon him. Mr. Conway was kicked and beaten with drum-sticks and the small wooden mallets usually carried in Orange processions. At last the Rev. Gordon Scott, the local Protestant rector, and Colonel Brown appeared on the scene, and pushing their way through the crowd rescued Mr. Conway and placed him on a