

# Irish News.

**ANTRIM.**—At Ballylesson on January 20, a large untenanted farmhouse, from which James Boyd was evicted for non-payment of rent some time ago, was discovered to be on fire. Recently the holding was purchased for £800 by a farmer named Gardiner, who intended taking possession. The house, however, was reduced to ruins the day before his design was put into execution, the cause alleged being incendiarism.

**ARMAGH.**—The Lord Lieutenant has appointed George De La Poer Beresford, of Castle Dillon, as High Sheriff of this County.

At Armagh Quarter Sessions on January 22, there were a large number of ejectments, defended and undefended. Some tenants owed five years' rent. A few tenants who had paid part of their rent since ejectments were served, asked for time to meet the rent. Judge Gamble granted a stay of execution. On the estate of Mr. Maxwell Close decrees were granted against four or five tenants, who owed five years' rent each.

On January 19, a meeting of the parish priests of the Archdiocese of Armagh was held in the Cathedral here, for the purpose of electing a coadjutor to his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. McGettigan, Catholic Primate of All Ireland, who has been in delicate health for some time past. The Primate presided. The following three names were selected:—Dr. Logue, Bishop of Raphoe, *dignissimus*, 41 votes; Dean Byrne, Dungannon, *dignior*, 3 votes; and Canon Kafferty, Crossmaglen, *dignus*, 2 votes. The three names will have to be submitted to the Pope, who will select one from amongst them to be the coadjutor.

**CARLOW.**—At the last Tallow Petty Sessions, which were presided over by Sir Thomas Butler, who is chairman of the organising committee of the L.L.P.U., a boy of 13 years of age, named Doyle, was prosecuted under the fishery law. According to the evidence of the water bailiff, the child was going "towards the river with a long stick with a salmon gaff on it." The child immediately gave up the dreaded implement to the bailiff, who further deposed that Doyle was at no time within twenty yards of the river. The evidence of the father, Luke Doyle, was that the gaff was in the house for seven years, and the only use it was put to was to pull down brambles. This was the evidence of a respectable labourer as against that of a water bailiff. The chairman announced the decision of the bench to fine the child £4 and costs, or, in default, two months' imprisonment in Kilkenry gaol. Mr. Bryne applied for time to enable a petition to be forwarded to the Lord Lieutenant to remit or reduce the penalty. The magistrates refused time. Amongst the other "justices" who sat on the bench and agreed to this scandalous travesty on the very word justice were Sir C. Wolsley, Bart., W. C. Browne, Hardy, Eustace, and W. Cole Bailey.

**CAVAN.**—Mr. O'Hanlan, M.P., recently met his tenantry at Ballygawley, and granted them a reduction of 30 per cent. The tenantry expressed themselves well pleased with the reduction.

**CLARE.**—Some evictions were expected on January 19, on the property of Col. John O'Callaghan at Maryfort, near Tulla, but the evicting party did not put in an appearance. The explanation of this was subsequently found in the intelligence that the sub-Sheriff, Mr. C. G. Mahon, had resigned in consequence of the inadequate sum now allowed for expenses.

The tenants of the High Sheriff of Clare, at Kilcarroll, who have joined the Plan of Campaign, have removed all their stock in anticipation of attempted seizures. On January 20, the sub-Sheriff made an attempt at Carrigaholt, but found nothing, and on the borough property at Carrin three attempts were made to seize cattle, but the officials were driven off and the cattle removed.

The tenants on the Shanchool property of Mrs. Fanny Gavin met her agent at Kildysart on January 20, and tendered the rent at the Government valuation, which was refused. Father Vaughan, who accompanied the tenants, tried to effect a settlement. Mrs. Gavin said she would consent to grant 15 per cent. These terms the tenants refused to accept, and the rents will be placed in the hands of trustees. On January 22, at a meeting of the Mullough tenants of Mr. Griffiths, the tenants resolved to adopt the Plan against rackrents unless an abatement of 50 per cent. in some townlands be granted by the landlord.

On January 20, Kildysart was the scene of lively and novel agrarian proceedings. For some time negotiations have been proceeding between the agents and the tenants on the Scott and Vandeleur properties regarding rent. Some years ago the tenants on the Scott lands were allowed from 20 to 30 per cent. and in 1885 they got 15 per cent. but since then the present owner, a Mr. Trench, has refused any concessions. Legal proceedings were instituted to recover the rents, and the tenants resolved to defeat them by selling off their stock. Accordingly, they held a fair in the town and filed it with cattle and stock. At an early hour buyers from various directions attended and every head was cleared off.

**CORK.**—On the night of January 19, at Duhallow, a body of some 20 armed and disguised men visited the house of Jeremiah O'Connell, an extensive farmer, seized his gun, and soundly thrashed himself and his son. It is said that O'Connell had violated the Plan of Campaign and surreptitiously paid his rent to his landlord, Arthur Langford, J.P.

W. J. and Faue Good have given their Kilmichael tenants a reduction of 35 per cent. on the present half-year's rent and agreed to wipe out all arrears. Lord Muskerry's tenants met the agent, Mr. Skeffington, on January 25, at the rent office, refused an offer of 15 per cent. and left without paying. Killeagh tenants of Sir Capel Brooke have adopted the Plan of Campaign.

At Kanturk Quarter Sessions on January 21, Hannah Carey sued the Secretary and two members of the Killavullen Branch of the National League to recover £25 18s 6d for services rendered as principal teacher of a school alleged to have been established in opposition to the National School, of which Father Ahern, P.P., is

manager. The defendants denied their liability, but the Recorder gave a decree against Mr. Buckley, the secretary, for the full amount claimed.

On January 23, an enthusiastic demonstration under the auspices of the National League was held at Mollcarthy Bridge, situated eight miles from the town of Kanturk. There was an enormous assemblage, estimated at 6,000 persons. There were two brass bands and several fife and drum bands in attendance, accompanied by contingents from all the surrounding branches of the League, including Banteer, Dromagh, Dromtariff Millstreet, Ballyvourney, Carrigenema, Newmarket, Ballycough, Lyre, Kilcorney, and Nadd. A large force of police under the Millstreet district inspector was present. A Government note-taker was also present and took notes of the speeches.

A very large and enthusiastic meeting of the Pensonby tenantry was held at Gortroe on January 23, for the purpose of denouncing the Youghal Press correspondent, who reported to the Dublin Tory papers that some of the tenants were going to the agents and making a settlement behind the backs of their neighbours. The statement was copied into *United Ireland*, and the tenants, knowing that there was not a shadow of foundation for it, decided to give it an immediate and emphatic contradiction. Nearly all the tenants of the estate were present, and before the meeting was held they assured the clergyman present that, instead of being anxious to approach the landlord or his agent, they were more inclined not to make any settlement unless they got a full receipt for the half-year's rent due in March.

On January 23 a meeting was held some distance beyond the village of Douglas, to condemn a case of land-grabbing which has recently occurred in the district. It was held under National League auspices near the evicted farm. Notwithstanding short notice, people from the neighbourhood and surrounding districts attended in large numbers, while contingents came from Shanbally, Monkstown, Carrigaline, Ballygarvan, and other places. Cork city contributed very largely to the meeting, and the gathering was considerably enlivened by the presence of the Barrack Street Band. The farm which was stated to have been grabbed, was held by John Baggot, and had been held, either by himself or members of his family, for upwards of sixty-five years. Recently, however, owing to the bad times, he found himself unable to pay the heavy rent which was put upon him, and he was evicted.

On January 22 a commodious timber house was built for John F. Riordan, who was evicted from his farm at Droumsicane, near Millstreet, a few days before. The site was given by Denis O'Connor, close to the evicted farm. Thirteen carpenters were at work on the spot. Dr. Tanner, M.P., came to inaugurate the work by the 2 o'clock train, and at the station he was met by some 2,000 people. Two brass bands—Millstreet and Droumtariff, and Cullen fife and drum—varied the proceedings by stirring strains. Crossing the Blackwater, a most unique structure presented itself. A regular bridge of carts extended the entire width of the river, about 50 yards. It was perfectly solid, though run up in one hour by the aid of many willing hands. The hut was finished before nightfall.

On January 23, a magnificent meeting was held at Coolagown, three miles from Castleyons, on the farm of Richard Rice, against whom proceedings have been taken by his landlord, Dr. Peard, for the recovery of his rent. The meeting, in point of numbers and enthusiasm, was the largest held in the County of Cork since the commencement of the land agitation. Brigades of agricultural cavalry came from all directions to the place of meeting, and numerous musical bands and gay banners enlivened the assemblage. There were strong contingents from Middleton, Fermoy, Rathcoormack, Tallow, Conna, Castletownroche, Ballyhooly, Glenville, Mogeely, and other places. There were over 100 spring cars, laden with the wives and daughters of their owners, in the field, and the scene, as viewed from the platform, which was erected in view of the landlord's residence, was a bright and inspiring one. A shorthand writer, under the protection of three policemen, took a note of the speeches for the Government.

**DERRY.**—James Spence Stephenson's tenants, in full numbers, met the agent, Thomas S. Ash, on January 20 at Draperstown. They were offered 20 per cent. on non-judicial or old rents, and 15 per cent. on rents either judicial or fixed by agreement. The offer was accepted. The tenants of Hon. R. T. O'Neal have adopted the Plan of Campaign, as they have exhausted every other means of obtaining a reduction.

At the Magherafelt Quarter Sessions on January 21, before James C. Lane, Q.C. (acting on behalf of the Recorder of Londonderry), the Skinners were plaintiffs in 43 ejectments against tenants on the Ballinascree, Draperstown, portion of their estate. The ejectments are nearly all for one year's rents up to November last, and were all undefended only seven. Decrees, as a matter of course, were granted in all the cases but two.

**DONEGAL.**—At the Letterkenny Quarter Sessions on January 18, the Earl of Leitrim obtained 15 ejectment decrees; Sir Augustus Stewart, Bart., Fortstewart, Ramelton, 2; Capt. Arthur Hill, Gweedore, 30; and Miss Mary Newton, 1. At the Lifford Quarter Sessions on January 22, about 100 ejectments were set down for hearing. Decrees were granted in almost every case.

At the last meeting of the Donegal branch of the League, Very Rev. H. McFadden, P.P., V.G. presiding, there was an unusually large assemblage, particularly of the tenantry on the Townswilly estate. This estate is situated on a bleak and sloping mountain, comprising twelve townlands, and is occupied by a purely Celtic race. It adjoins the famous Gap of Barasmore, overlooks the beautiful waters of Lough Eske, and is within four miles of the town of Donegal. The soil is of the very worst quality, there being hardly a plough for farming purposes on the entire estate. Any rent at all would be a rack-rent, yet it is highly rented. All efforts to obtain a reduction having failed, it was decided to try the Plan of Campaign.

On January 23, a very large meeting was held on the seaward side of Mamore Gap, near Dunaff Head, at the entrance of Lough Swilly, for the purpose of adopting some means of obtaining