

Irish News.

CARLOW.—Only two criminal cases were set down for trial at the Carlow Assizes, which opened on July 5, and in one of these the offender was an English soldier. Baron Dowse congratulated the Grand Jury on the practical immunity from crime which the County had enjoyed for many years.

On June 26 meetings were held in Ticknock and Talbotstown to give the people of these districts an opportunity of renewing their annual subscriptions to the Irish National League. As a protest against the action of the Tory Government for bringing forward the most infamous Coercion Act on record, a large number of members renewed their subscriptions, and the people of both districts clearly manifested a keen desire to stand by the National League organization, despite the futile efforts of Mr. Balfour to frighten them away.

CAVAN.—Late on the night of July 7, a fife-and-drum Orange party halted on the public road immediately beneath the windows of St. Patrick's College, Cavan, and rehearsed "Kick the Pope" and "The Boyne Water," with the evident intention of disturbing and insulting the priests of the Kilmore diocese, who were there on a spiritual retreat.

Bailieborough Fair on July 4 was very discouraging to breeders and graziers. Prices were below the average at recent fairs on account of the continued drought and consequent want of grass; in fact complaints are general as to the prospects of the season. Young store cattle were most affected, and were fully £1 10s to £1 1s lower in consequence. In fact every class, even springers and milch cows, suffered in prices.

CLARE.—At a large meeting of the Kildysart Guardians on July 7, a scene of wild excitement took place. After the minutes were read the clerk said that the business of the Board would be chiefly to consider certain representations under the Labourer's Act, and a letter from the labourers of the district requesting that the Union's sanitary officers should not be employed to inspect cottages under the new scheme, as they neglected to do their duty on the last occasion, and that being the case they hoped the Guardians would ask the Local Government Board to send down a sanitary officer to make the necessary inspection. After the letter was read about 40 labourers rushed into the room, followed by a large number of ratepayers, all carrying sticks. James Morgan, President of the Cranny Labour League, walked up to the chairman and asked him to bear in mind that the labourers would have to get their just rights. The Kildysart Guardians were a pack of humbugs, and the labourers would not stand such wretched tricks any longer. (Order.) The labourers and their wives then attacked the farmers who opposed them, and strong language was indulged in. The chairman here left the chair. Soon after the excitement ceased, and the business of the Board was proceeded with.

CORK.—For the first four days of July the mountainous bog belonging to Mr. Grehan, J.P., Banteer, was incessantly in a state of fierce conflagration, although great efforts were made by the police and the people to extinguish the flames. The bog was extremely dry from the intense heat of the weather.

On July 8 six families were evicted from their holdings on the Thompson property at Dromina, near Liscarroll. There was a good deal of excitement throughout the proceedings, resistance being offered in several instances.

Daniel Buckley, the eldest of five orphan brothers, was reinstated on July 4 on his farm at Kileully, from which he was evicted the week before under very harsh circumstances. A great crowd assisted in the reinstatement of the tenant.

An exciting handball match was played in Cork on July 2 between Lalor, the Irish champion, and Leary, of Fermoy, and won easily by the champion by three games to two. The fame of Lalor brought many persons from considerable distances to see him play. Though he had an opponent of no mean powers, yet he played with such ease and grace, and, at the same time, with such skill, that at the finish of the first game Leary was almost entirely done up, while at the conclusion of the rubber Lalor looked as if he had scarcely touched the ball. He kept Leary running about the court the whole time, while hardly exerting himself.

At daybreak on July 5, an abortive attempt was made to seize the cattle of three very respectable farmers named Thomas Murphy, J. McCarthy, and Timothy O'Brien, for non-payment of rent. Three bailiffs and 20 police were in the surprise party, but a long search failed to find a single four-footed animal to reward them for their early rising and long march.

At the Bandon Quarter Sessions on July 5, the County Court Judge, Mr. Ferguson, Q.C., was presented with a pair of white gloves, as there was no criminal business. He said he was glad to find that such a large and important district should be free from crime during the past three months. A similar state of things prevailed in the neighbouring district of Macroom, where there was one small case, the bill in which the Grand Jury ignored.

The recent long spell of hot weather in the south of Ireland has had an extraordinary effect on the iron work of the bridge across the Blackwater, near Youghal, which had so expanded by June 30, that it was found impossible to work the swing portion of the structure. On the erection of the bridge the usual allowance for expansion and contraction was made, but the intense heat has had a greater effect on the mass of ironwork than was expected.

On July 7, on the Bantry Extension Railway, the train from Drimoleague to Bantry started as usual at 5.30 o'clock, a.m., and on arriving at the Bantry station, instead of stopping at the platform, it ran right through and defied the efforts of the driver to bring it to a standstill. The engine and a carriage fell over the high embankment upon which the station is built. There was only one passenger in the carriage, and he was not seriously hurt, but the engine driver, Patrick Kiely, was killed, and the stoker, Jas. Twomey, seriously, probably fatally, injured. The engine itself is a wreck.

Two publicans named Judge and Sheehy were sued at the Fermoy Quarter Sessions on July 2 for refusing to sell, as bound to do by their license, necessary food and refreshment to a man named O'Neill, a bailiff and his son. After hearing the evidence in each case the Recorder decided that the cases did not arise out of boycotting and that the defendants were justified in acting as they had done. He, therefore, dismissed both actions. On July 4 the same bailiff sued a publican named Lyons for having refused to supply him with drink. The defence was that the man was a very disorderly person, and there being pretty clear evidence of the fact, the Recorder *nilled* the process.

DERRY.—During the quarter ending June 30 there left the port of Derry for the United States 28 ships carrying 5,253 passengers, of whom 148 were married males, 237 females; 2,349 single males, 1,965 females; 295 male children and infants, and 259 females. To British North America there sailed in 19 ships 79 married males, 100 females; 656 single males, 266 females; 64 male children and infants, and 66 females, or a total of 1,231 souls. For the half-year now ending, 8,094 passengers left the port for both countries, as against 5,519 in 1886, thus showing an increase of 2,575 passengers for 1887.

The flax crops look promising all over the county. In Castle-dawson district one-fifth less flax has been sown than last year; Coleraine, one-fifth more; Feeney, a half less; Derry, a third less; Magherafelt, one-fifth less; Maghera, one-eighth less; Moneymore and Tobermore, about the same. The crop never looked better at this season of the year in any of the localities named, and farmers regret that they did not sow more.

DONEGAL.—The Land Commissioners sat in the Buncrana Court-house on June 27, 28, and 29, and made reductions varying from 15 to 45 per cent. in the rents of 43 holdings on the estate of E. G. Cochrane and 32 holdings on the estates of Charles B. Harvey, George V. Hark, Michael C. Rankin, Wm. Rankin, Wm. Cunningham, George K. Gilliland, Rev. Thomas M'Oelland, Robert Stevenson, Walter Hegarty, H. St. George Lyard, William Dunbar, William J. Crawford, and the Countess of Shaftsbury. Most of the farmers are in Inl-shown.

Ardara—No flax sown this year. Ballyshannon—An increase of 100 per cent. in the sowing. Very hopeful, except in lealands, where the crop is not so promising. Oaheshmore—A decrease in the acreage. Plants have a promising appearance. Donegal—The probable increase is about 15 per cent. Crops look exceedingly well. Duffanaghy—One-eighth of a decrease compared with last year. Crops look very promising so far. Killygordon—The probable increase is 25 per cent. on last year. The seed made a good start, but the heat at present keeps back growth. Manocunningham—Much the same sown as last year. What was put in previous to 20th April is doing well, but any sown since 1st May is unevenly. Rain would improve it all. Ramelton—The probable decrease in the acreage under flax, compared with 1886, is about 25 per cent. Complaints of want of progress. Raphoe—The acreage under flax is much about the same as last year. Brairds look well.

DOWN.—Newry Quarter Sessions were opened on July 2 by County Court Judge Lefroy, who in his address to the Grand Jury said:—The cases to go before you are only six in number. One of them is for larceny, one for maliciously throwing a stone at a railway carriage with intent to injure parties, one for riot and affray, another for aggravated assault, and two for breaking and entering dwelling-houses with intent to steal. None of these require any special directions from me.

DUBLIN.—It is stated that the Queen has notified her intention of conferring the following Jubilee honours on Dublin citizens:—To be baronets: Dr. John Thomas Banks and Dr. Henry Haswell Head; to be knights: Alderman George Moyers, ex-Lord Mayor; Alderman Henry Cochrane, Chairman of the Citizens' Jubilee Committee, and Edward Fottrell, Chairman of the Rathmines Town Commissioners. They are Tories to a man.

There is every probability of a successful contest between the National amateur brass bands of Ireland being held in Leinster Hall, Dublin, next October. The arrangements will be under charge of the well-known band-master, John O'Donnell, who has written to the celebrated P. S. Gilmore, of New York, asking him if he can so arrange his European tour this year as to undertake the duties of sole judge at the contest.

The anniversary of the death of the great Dominican, Father Tom Burke, was celebrated by the Antiquarian, Historical, and Literary League at Tallaght on July 3. Very Rev. V. P. Flood, O.P., Bishop-elect of Trinidad, presided.

A public playground, the first of its kind in Dublin, at all events, is now in course of construction at Pimlico, in the Liberties. It is provided by the Earl and Countess of Meath, who are defraying the entire cost. The playground covers an area of about one-third of an acre, and is close to the cottages of the Artisans' Dwellings Company. It is divided by a railing into two portions, one for boys, the other for girls. The boys' ground contains a skittle alley, a large set of swings, comprising two-seat swings and two trapezes, with sliding and climbing poles, a ladder fixed horizontally about six feet from the ground, four see-saws, three boat swings, fly pole or giant's stride, two sets of parallel bars, two sets of horizontal bars, a spring-board and high jump. The girls' ground has a large set of swings, see-saws, and boat swings similar to the boys' and a skipping post and ropes. There is sanitary accommodation provided in both grounds, and also a drinking fountain, for which the Waterworks Committee have granted a supply of water free of charge.

FERMANAGH.—On June 25, Mrs. Clifford, of Farnascallogh, while attending Lisnaskea market was prostrated by the intense heat and died in a few minutes.

The flax crops are promising well in the districts of Brookborough Enniskillen, and Maguiresbridge, but threaten to be a failure in Irvinestown, which is the only locality in the county where there has been a decrease in the acreage sown.

Derrgonnelly Great Summer Fair was held on June 24. The attendance was very limited, the show of cattle was arse, and the