

# Irish News.

**ANTRIM.**—Both the Belfast Franchise Bill and the Main Drainage Bill have been disposed of in Parliament. Mr. Sexton fought for four points and he has gained them, after a struggle of two years duration, with signal success. These points were:—1, the extension of the Belfast Municipal Franchise; 2, the application of the new franchise to this year's register; 3, the retirement of the whole Council next November; 4, the postponement of the main drainage scheme until ratified by the new Council. Mr. Sexton is to be heartily congratulated on the result of his labours, and the workmen of Belfast are enthusiastic in their appreciation of his efforts on their behalf.

**ARMAGH.**—A dastardly outrage was perpetrated at Silverwood, about a mile from Lurgan, on July 12, by some Orangemen on their return from Lurgan. As Mrs. Mallon, a Catholic, was returning home from her work at the Rev. Adam Cuppage's, she was attacked and badly beaten. She was brought to Dr. Magennis's to have her wounds dressed. One of the wounds is very serious, and the doctor considers her life in danger. The police were communicated with, her depositions were taken, and a man named Gracey has been arrested and sent to Armagh Gaol. After beating Mrs. Mallon, the party went on and wrecked the house of a Catholic named Lavery. A number of the Catholics of Silverwood applied to the authorities for police protection, having strong apprehensions that disturbances would occur, but no protection was given them, nor were any extra police brought into Lurgan for this anniversary. The business people had to close their shops altogether owing to this want of protection.

**CARLOW.**—This County is in the Dublin Military District and forms part of No. 66 sub-District, in conjunction with the counties of Dublin, Kildare, and Wicklow, the depot of the Brigade being at Naas, in Kildare. There is only one barrack station in the County, that at the town of Carlow, which usually accommodates a couple of cavalry squadrons and half a battalion of infantry. These are to be strengthened, and there is talk also of establishing military stations at Bagnalstown and Tullow.

The agent of Mr. Grace, of Gracefield, whose tenants, accompanied by Father John Maher, asked for a reduction of 30 per cent. on non-judicial and 20 per cent. on judicial tenancies, and who, having been refused returned without paying, has granted 25 and 15 per cent. abatement on their respective tenancies, and has been paid on these terms. Similar reductions have been given by the Rev. Mr. Trench, cousin of the Lansdowne agent, on the Ballinubert estate, in the same parish. "Those who run may read."

**CAVAN.**—At the Assizes Justice Lawson was glad to tell the Grand Jury that their duties were of a very light description. There were only three unimportant offences to be sent before them, and those were of a class that required no observation from him.

The barometer of profit and loss that the farmers study is the prices that prevail at fairs. They can get little hope from the last two held in this County. At Ballyjamsduff fair on July 18, there was a fair average supply of stock, especially young stores, a good attendance of buyers, and a fair business done, but prices ruled generally low. At Blacklion monthly fair, on July 22, there was a good supply of stock, a full attendance of buyers, and a fair average amount of business done, but prices in all classes except in the milk department ruled low, and not up to the expectations of sellers.

**CLARE.**—The tenants of Mrs. Vandeleur, West Clare, have now been allowed an abatement of 33 per cent. which was resisted for six months. The tenants lodged their rents under the Plan of Campaign when their demands were first refused.

The Clare sub-Commissioners have just given their decisions in cases on the estates of Lord Inchiquin, Lady Inchiquin, Marquis Conyngham, Rev. W. B. Smith, and Captain O'Callaghan. In the cases of the latter landlord the abatements averaged 25 per cent. In many cases on the other estates the rents were reduced 30 per cent.

At Buaratty, on June 16, the police visited the houses of a number of farmers and other residents in the district, and seized many guns and firearms, for which the owners held licences. It appeared, however, that in the previous night's *Gazette* the licences of the owners in question had been revoked and the police had been instructed by telegraph to make the seizure.

During the week ending 17th July, 571 emigrants left Queens-town, being an increase of 131 over the corresponding period of last year.

At the City Assizes, on July 22, the Grand Jury adopted a resolution condemning in forcible terms the brutal Coercion Act which is now the law of the land.

The County Assizes were opened on July 19, by Justice Johnson who, in his address to the Grand Jury, congratulated them on the fact that the number of cases to go before them was not large, having regard to the size of the County. There was a considerable decrease in the number of cases from the East Riding as compared with 12 months ago, but in the West Riding there was a slight increase. On the whole, crime that could be regarded as serious had greatly diminished.

Addressing the Grand Jury of the City of Cork on July 22, Justice O'Brien congratulated them on the remarkable absence of crime observable in the City of Cork for a long period. In this respect Cork possessed a record which could not be excelled nor equalled by any place of equal size in the Three Kingdoms. There was but one case of any serious character to be tried, and the person charged in that case was a seafaring man—a stranger to Cork.

**DUBLIN.**—At a meeting of the Dublin Corporation on July 19, a letter was read from Mr. Davitt resigning his seat as a representative of the Council in the Port and Docks Board. Alderman Winstanley having moved that the resignation be accepted, Mr. Doyle moved as

an amendment that Mr. Davitt be asked to reconsider his resignation. The amendment was carried without a division.

**FERMANAGH.**—The last meeting of the Russlea Branch of the League was the largest ever held. It was intended as an answer to the Coercion Bill. Over 30 new members joined and handed in their subscriptions. P. Flynn presided. The Secretary asked the Chairman's permission to read for the committee and the meeting the speech of Michael Davitt at Glasgow on the 5th of July. On hearing it read the meeting was unanimously of the opinion that if Balfour's Jubilee Coercion Bill becomes law, the leaders of the National movement would do well to adopt the lines laid down by Mr. Davitt, and show to Lord Salisbury and his landlord garrison that the people of Ireland would never yield to any brutal Coercion Act that ever passed through a British House of Parliament.

**GALWAY.**—At the meeting of the Gort Guardians on July 9, notices of eviction were handed in from Arthur Alexander against Bartley Nee, Michael Fuery, and John Connors, all of Cahermore, parish of Kinvarra.

The Assizes for the County of Galway were opened on July 10 by the Lord Chief Justice and the Chief Baron. The Chief Baron presided in the Crown Court, and, addressing the Grand Jury, said the criminal business to go before them at the present assizes was considerable, being much larger than ordinary. There were in all 23 cases to be considered. Four of these cases had been adjourned from the last assizes, and in the remaining 19 bills would be sent to the Grand Jury.

Several meetings of ratepayers of the Lough Corrib drainage districts have been held to protest against the neglect of the drainage trustees in allowing the main drains to become silted up, thereby causing serious injury to the property of occupiers and owners of land by frequent flooding. At the Land Commission Court held in Galway evidence was given by 37 tenants to the effect that for several years their property, including crops and live stock, had been destroyed, and that in consequence they had been reduced to poverty. Memorials have been forwarded from those meetings of the ratepayers to the Lord Lieutenant, asking him to urge upon the Commissioners of Public Works the necessity of sending a properly-qualified engineer down to examine and report, but the Commissioners, when so requested, refused to do so unless they first received a deposit of £30.

**KERRY.**—In a case heard at the Kerry Assizes on July 16 in which the sub-Sheriff was prosecuted for not having executed a decree, evidence was given that the sub-Sheriff lost as much money as would cover the decree in fruitless attempts to seize cattle. Always at the approach of the shrieval party the people would blow horns and the cattle would have been driven off before the Sheriff had reached the farm.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Tralee National League on July 17, J. O'Donnell proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—"That in accordance with the advice of our trusted leaders we, the members of the Tralee Branch of the National League, call upon the people of the district to boycott the secret inquiry clause of the for-ever-and-ever Coercion Act by refusing point blank to be sworn, and thereby show that they are determined to resist this brutal attempt to deprive them of every vestige of constitutional right."

On July 14 two young boys named McCrohan, minding some cattle on the Great Basket Island, ventured down one of the cliffs by which the Island is surrounded in order to take some sea-gulls from the nests which abound in the place. When partly down the younger of the two boys got afraid and stopped, but the elder went on and returned soon after to his companion with some gulls. Climbing down again, however, he lost his footing, and tumbling down was precipitated from an awful elevation into the sea which yawned beneath. Some time after a canoe came round and picked him up as he floated on the water.

A series of evictions on the estate of Lord Ventry, at Dingle, commenced on July 21, a force of 60 police protecting the crowbar men. Only three evictions were actually carried out, two other tenants who were threatened having come to a settlement with the agent at the last moment. There was no opposition offered to the Sheriff and his forces, and everything passed off quietly. A notable incident was the refusal of some Emergency-men supplied by the Cork Defence Union to assist in the work of eviction and their immediate dismissal by their employers. The evictions were resumed the following day. Several tenants of miserable holdings at the extreme end of the Dingle promontory were thrown out. Settlements were arrived at in some cases, the agent accepting portion of the rent. The unfortunate tenants, who are all in the deepest poverty, offered no resistance whatever, and the wretched work was carried out without interruption.

**KILDARE.**—Gaelic athletic sports were held at Clane on July 17 in the presence of an enormous crowd of spectators.

Justice Harrison opened the Commission of Assizes on July 14. Addressing the Grand Jury, he said:—"I am happy to tell you that I believe your duties, so far as they are of a criminal nature, at these Assizes will be very light indeed: There are only five cases to go before you, and none of them appear to be of a grave or serious nature. The returns laid before me by the County Inspector are satisfactory. On looking over the returns I do not see anything in the state of the County requiring any remarks from me, and there is nothing as far as I have been able to ascertain reflecting in any way on the peace of your County."

**LIMERICK.**—At the meeting of the Limerick Corporation on July 20,—the Mayor, J. A. O'Keefe, presiding,—the draft deed of conveyance of three sites in St. Mary's parish for the erection of artisans' cottages was received from Lord Limerick and signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk on behalf of the Corporation. The Town Council have been granted a loan of £3,500 by the Board of Works for the erection of the cottages, which are to be commenced forthwith, the tenders having been already accepted.

At the Kilmallock Petty Sessions on July 19 eight members of the Efin Hurling Club were summoned for wilfully and maliciously