

to the great depreciation in prices of agricultural produce and the partial failure of the crops, they were unable to meet the agent's demand. Since then the matter has been under consideration, and recently the tenants received notice that the reduction would be granted on one condition, that the tenants would sign an agreement for fifteen years. This notice was accompanied by judicial lease forms, to be filled up by the Clerk of the Stewartstown Petty Sessions. The tenants have unanimously agreed to accept the offer.

**Westmeath.**—The Rocheford Bridge I.N.L. met on July 29 under the presidency of Rev. P. Gallagher. L. Arthur, a member of the committee, who was arrested under the Crimes Act, was congratulated on being the first victim of Ba fourism in the neighborhood. A deputation consisting of Messrs. Whelehan and Harford was appointed to wait on James Hughes, P.L.C., and impress upon him the advisability of having the labourers' houses in Castletost (East Division) erected without further delay.

**Wexford.**—An evicting party left Wexford on July 31 for Crossabeg, in the neighbourhood of which two families were to be cast out on the roadside. Their merciless mission was at the suit of Lord Ardilaun, who appears to have been land-grabber-in-chief when land was in the market at a higher figure than it is now capable of realising. The evicting brigade party reached the house of Mr. Cooper, Kavanagh's Park, about 11 o'clock, the old man at the time being in bed suffering from rheumatic fever. An appeal was made by the female members of the family in order that some preparation might be made so as not to expose Mr. Cooper to the hardships attendant upon an eviction. Mr. Cooper, who is a member of a highly respectable Protestant family, has never been what is called "an agitator." He has invested the savings and labour of a lifetime in his farm, which consists of fifty acres, for which he paid as long as he could a rack-rent of £93 per annum. The Government valuation of the farm is £76. He has spent over fifty years toiling on his farm, upon which he built a splendid dwelling-house, neatly planted the grounds, and spent large sums in other improvements. Now he is cast out upon the roadside. The agent of Lord Ardilaun, Mr. Guinness, who superintended the heartless proceedings, went up to the bedside of the sick man, but the sight of the victim did not cause him to relent, for the old man and all his belongings were cast out. The evicting party then proceeded to the holding of John Devereaux, whose daughter has been bed-ridden for fifteen years. A certificate from Dr. Hadden, medical officer of the district, was produced to the effect that it would be dangerous to her life to remove her. Rev. Martin Ryan, who was present, added his testimony to that of the medical officer, and pleaded for delay. Whether the appeal for mercy prevailed, or whether some temporary settlement was arrived at, the eviction was not carried out, and the "officers" of British law in Ireland returned to their homes, satisfied with the devil's work they had accomplished.

**Wicklow.**—Denis Fay presided at the recent meeting of Hollywood I.N.L. Amongst the other members present were Messrs. Byrne, Doyle, Dunne, Toomey, Quinn, Smyth, Murphy, and Walsh. The following was one of the resolutions adopted:—That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to John Dillon, M.P., one of Ireland's purest patriots, in his prison cell, and we strongly condemn the action of a coercion Government in carrying out their cruel policy to the bitter end.

The people of Wicklow town assembled in large numbers at the Town Hall on July 29 to protest against the jury packing at the Assizes. Thomas Deliaunt occupied the chair. There were also present:—Father Mamon, Matthew Harris, M.P., Dr. Counsell, Joseph McCarroll, Peter O'Brien, Patrick Carr, Joseph Collins, Thos. O'H. White, Edenderry; Garret Byrne, Edward Kennedy, Paul A. Brown, Bernard Smith, Thomas Gregory, Patrick Fitzsimons, John Clarke, Matthew McDonnell, Daniel Kennedy. The following resolution was unanimously passed:—That this meeting enters its solemn protest against the unconstitutional action of the Crown in exercising an unlimited power of peremptory challenge, by which the subject is deprived of his right to be tried by twelve of his peers indifferently chosen, and formally demands, on behalf of Irishmen, that the Crown be deprived of those privileges not granted by the law to the accused, and never exercised in England. Copies of this resolution to be sent to Mr. Parnell and Mr. Gladstone.

**THE OAMARU CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT.**

(Oamaru Mail, October 26.)

For some time the public have been held in expectation of an entertainment of an exceptionally high order announced to be given by the young ladies of the Convent High School. It was known that great and sustained efforts were being made to render the event one that would redound to the credit of all who took part in it or had any share in its preparation. The promised entertainment was given last evening in the Convent School building, which was crowded to such an extent as to necessitate the infliction of a certain amount of discomfort upon the audience, who seemed, however, to bear this pleasantly, and to be thankful that they had not, like a number of others, found it impossible to gain admission. That the audience were well satisfied—more than satisfied—with the entertainment was manifested by the enthusiastic applause which they bestowed upon the young performers. A very considerable amount of trouble and expense had unmistakably been gone to in order to render the dramatic portion of the programme as complete as possible. A small stage had been erected at one end of the building, and fitted with proscenium and drop-scene, bearing a series of bright and well-executed paintings of notable bits of scenery. Then elegant dresses of the period of the drama had been provided, and the stage throughout presented a number of pictures that were of themselves sources of delight, the only drawback being that from some parts of the hall it was impossible to obtain a complete view of the

stage, but that was a misfortune, and not a fault for which blame can be attributed to anyone. So much as to the preparations; we have now to speak of the performance. Of course we have no intention to give a detailed criticism, for criticism is disarmed by the youth of the performers and the fact that names were withheld. The programme was mainly dramatic, but to our mind the musical portion must be ranked first in point of excellence. Chief among the items under this heading were Boieldieu's overture to "The Caliph of Bagdad," and Rossini's overture to "L'Italiana in Algeria," both played with precision and marked attention to light and shade by five performers upon three pianos, one lent by Mr. Kemshed, and all of good tone and well in tune. Of the two overtures we preferred the latter, for, though the opening was taken too quickly, Rossini's bright and tuneful music was played with a thorough appreciation of its many viceties and constant alteration of enchanting themes, graceful runs, and martial fortissimos. The most remarkable feature of both performances was that the players kept so well together without any directing baton, and this must be accepted as evidence of the care bestowed upon their tuition. The other musical selections—"Marche des Troubadours," a duo from "Belisario," and the march in "Tannhauser"—were also well played. The rest of the programme consisted of a prologue and an epilogue appropriate to the occasion delivered by a young lady of the junior division; the drama of "The Heir of the L'Estranges," and the farce of "Box and Cox." Of those taking part in both the dramatic pieces it must be said that all were letter perfect in their parts, that several of them showed considerable aptitude for the histrionic art, and that the assumptions of character were generally well sustained. Of some it must be said that there was a disposition to speak too slowly and deliberately, a proceeding not necessitated either by the character assumed or by the acoustic properties of the building, which more closely approach perfection than do those of any other large room in Oamaru. Though, where there was such general excellence, it may seem invidious to single out individuals for special praise, we cannot refrain from mentioning the young lady who impersonated the Countess of Edgecumbe, for, while her acting was admirable, her singing of snatches from the works of Mendelssohn, Schubert, Knoken, Tosti, and Wallace was one of the delights of the evening. Altogether the entertainment, which was closed with a verse of the New Zealand Anthem, was one that will long be remembered, and all concerned well deserved the vote of thanks proposed by the Hon. S. E. Skrimiski, endorsed by the audience, and conveyed to the young performers by his Lordship Bishop Moran.

**IRISH NATIONAL LEAGUE.**

The following contains its own explanation:—Lower Hutt, October 5 1888. William O'Brien Branch of the National League, Hutt and Petone, Wellington, New Zealand. To the Most Reverend Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin.—May it please your Grace to accept the sum of thirty pounds which we forward to you in aid of the poor evicted tenants of Ireland, from the said Branch. Although thousands of miles away, under the Southern Cross, in the Antipodes, our hearts beat in unison with the high national aspirations of our people for Home Rule, for justice and freedom. We admire and esteem the noble efforts and struggle of our countrymen to liberate themselves from the thralldom of a galling, unbearable despotism. The regeneration of our Green Isle, and the success of the great movement to secure a Native House of Parliament in College Green have our earnest prayer. We appreciate the dauntless and indefatigable exertions of our noble leaders and the able advocacy of our cause at the Vatican by your Grace; thereby bringing to nought and foiling British intrigue at Rome. We protest against English coercion in Ireland, as evil and degrading to our nation. We protest against the barbarous and inhuman treatment of our National champions and priesthood, loading them with infamy, by obliging them to don the prison garb and associate with criminals. We cannot but applaud our poor tenants' resistance to landlord rapacity in Ireland. In New Zealand, your Grace, the public opinion is with us. The Press, as a rule, is with us, all Nationalists are with us, the cause is bound to triumph and some of us look forward to the day, with anxious desire, when Ireland in the language of the poet, shall take her place among the nations of the earth, etc. We have great sympathy with poor John Mandeville whom an English Government murdered in prison. May the God of Mercy grant him eternal rest. Assuring your Grace that we shall contribute our mite, and begging your Grace's blessing.—We remain with the most profound respect, your Grace's obedient servants, Messrs. J. Cuniffe, Secretary; T. Minogue, President; E. Byrne, Vice-President; J. Lane, Treasurer.

**OBITUARY NOTICE.**

By the death of the Rev. Father Regnier which occurred at Napier on Sunday night, New Zealand loses a survivor of the earlier missionaries. Father Regnier, who came to the Colony in 1842, was a missionary of great zeal, and whose long life was constantly engaged in successful works of religion. The Maori race was especially dear to him, and he laboured among them with great devotion. He was chief in establishing for their children the fine native school at Napier, and also in founding the mission station at Meanee. Among the many devoted and successful missionaries whom France and the Society of Mary have given to the world, it would be hard to mark one who has left more the record of self-devotion, sacrifice, and zeal behind him than Father Regnier now leaves.—R. I. P.

The Public Benefit Boat and Shoe Manufacturing Company, Princes street, Dunedin, invite a close inspection of their stock, and challenge contradiction of their assertion that it cannot be surpassed in quality, or rivalled in lowness of prices.