

Dublin Notes.

(From the National papers.)

The London correspondent of the *Western Morning News* says:—"The Government has not yet decided what to do in the autumn about Lord Ashbourne's Act. The case stands precisely thus. The Commission had five millions of money to deal with. It is asked to advance no less a sum than £5,701,000. It has sanctioned an expenditure of £4,638,000. It has issued loans to the amount of something more than three millions. It has therefore in hand two millions, of which £1,600,000 is already appropriated, and has a margin of only some £360,000 to work with. The applications are coming in at the rate of nearly £200,000 a month. Loans are being sanctioned at the rate of something more than £200,000 a month, so that by the end of September all the available money will be appropriated, and there will be applications to deal with for more than a million in addition."

The £10 prize awarded for "English and one modern language" by the Intermediate Education Board has been hitherto won by the aid of French or German, but this year Master Michael Hoban, Christian Schools, Westport, substituting Irish for a foreign language, has taken first place in the £10 prize list, Junior Grade. This unprecedented achievement will be more fully appreciated when we consider that French and German have allotted to them each 700 marks, while Celtic has only 600. Master Hoban's success should be an encouragement to our youthful countrymen to study their own "grand old tongue," and an inducement to the Intermediate Board, in the spirit of fair play, to make the marks for Celtic at least equal to those for French and German. The same youthful competitor has been awarded the silver medal and composition prize for Celtic.

Farmer Somers, of Coolroe, who offered strenuous resistance had fortified his place with earthwork and trenches. Before operations were begun, he made an offer, which the Magistrate advised the landlord to accept. The landlord, however, refused. Two hundred policemen, with the aid of a battering ram, then began the attack. After three hours of useless conflict, an American gentleman offered to pay half of the rent, but his offer was refused. The police then resumed the attack, using their bayonets, but they were compelled to retire, many being injured. At 6 p.m., seeing that the gable was on fire, Mr. Redmond and Canon Doyle advised the inmates to surrender. The defenders came out and were immediately arrested.

There was a rumour last week that the forger of the Parnell letters had much to do with the Edinburgh suit. One of the Irish leaders says the letters and papers sent over here by Patrick Egan have thrown a startling light on the mystery. They have furnished information on a lot of points which were before hidden. Mr. Parnell has made up his mind as to the author of the letters and can lay his hands on him when he wishes. This is the reason for his confident action lately.

The London correspondent of the *Western Morning News* gives the following mysterious paragraph first in his letter of Monday last—"I hardly know how to put the piece of news which reaches me to-day. If it be put too absolutely it will be untrue. If it be put too loosely it may be misleading. Perhaps it is best to say that at the present moment Lord Hartington may, if he pleases, become, at whatever time he may choose within the next few months, leader of the House of Commons. The suggestion of course is not his. It does not come from him. But it has been made, and Lord Hartington's own decision will be final as to the result."

The Lord Lieutenant has a pious opinion, which he communicated to a few people of Newtownbutler, in the County Cavan, on Tuesday, that the Government should give every possible assistance and encouragement to the Irish people in fostering the native industries. What kind of encouragement? So far as promises are concerned, there has been an abundance. Mr. Goschen, at a Primrose banquet, would be prepared to give any amount of lip encouragement to every industry in Ireland. But when it comes to performance, the action of Mr. Balfour last session in parading and then shelving absolutely the Drainage Bills is a complete illustration of the insincerity of talk such as Lord Londonderry—probably for the want of something else to say—indulged in yesterday in a furtive way to a small saluting deputation.

The Government has at last become very much disturbed at the manner in which evictions are conducted in Ireland, and begin to show signs of fear lest the condemnation under which these scenes have fallen in England shall prove fatal to their continuance in power. They are especially incensed at Lord Clanricarde's cold-blooded and wholesale evictions. They have tried to dissuade him from his determination to oust his tenants, but it is useless. He is determined to carry on the war to the knife, and will grant no mercy, even to the sick and helpless. Shylock-like he insists upon the whole pound of flesh, and will not accept payment of rent. He insists upon proceeding, and it is a striking commentary upon the position of the Government that they are obliged to render assistance to what even they condemn. The evictions will greatly injure the Government, for Liberal speakers all over the country are making use of the scenes at the evictions to exemplify the brutality of Mr. Balfour's policy. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, Postmaster-General in Mr. Gladstone's government, was present taking notice of all that went on with a view of arousing English electors to a sense of the cruelty and horror of England's policy towards Ireland. The ex-Minister personally aided several of the homeless families.

Cardinal Moran visited the Archdiocese of Tuam last week (ending September 1), and on entering the archiepiscopal town was presented with an address of welcome by the township Commissioners. His Eminence replied in a few touching words—words which show, as previous addresses delivered by the Cardinal since he came amongst us have shown, how deeply he has been impressed with the difference that exists between the social condition of his native country and that of the country of his adoption. Cardinal Moran speaks out boldly what he thinks. The colonies, he says, are pre-

perous because they enjoy the blessings of that good government which never fails to bring prosperity. Their system of government is good alike for the colonies and for the Empire at large. Their having separate Parliaments, observes his Eminence, does not weaken their loyalty; it rather adds to it. This the Cardinal speaks to from his own personal experience, apart altogether from the general knowledge which everyone has of colonial affairs. We can conceive nothing so strongly calculated to make Home Rule convert than a contrast between the conditions of Ireland and any of the colonies. The silent, steady, and deadly decay of the one, and the ever-growing prosperity of the other, tell their own tale.

The progress made by the National Indemnity Fund is watched with extraordinary vigilance by the *Daily Express* and the *Evening Mail*. Their articles on the subject taken an amount of industry in scanning the lists and reading the letters which we publish that is quite amazing as well as amusing. We deem it right to direct their special attention to a few facts in connection with it appearing in our columns to-day. One of them is that at a meeting of the Nationalists of Belfast between £200 and £300 were subscribed. Another is that a first instalment of £50 is on its way to us from Newry for the same object. A third is that £40 were subscribed in Naas on Monday, September 3. A fourth is that £40 more were contributed in Thurles on the same day. A fifth is that a fund was opened in Carlow simultaneously. And now we call their attention to the list of acknowledgments from ourselves. They will there see the list of donations headed by one of the oldest and one of the youngest bishops in Ireland. The Venerable Dr. Leahy sends £5, and the youthful Bishop of Kilmore sends £10. They will note that every quarter of Ireland is well and substantially represented. They will see Dublin and Galway, Kerry and Wicklow, Roscommon and Tipperary, Dunbarven and Dungannon, all uniting for the common object. We shall ask them, in conclusion, to note that both the Bishops named are very clear in their expression of opinion. "I say for myself and the priests of Kilmore," says Dr. McGennis, "that we have found the National League free from association or sympathy with crime." And Dr. Leahy gives it "the sanction of his approval and support."

Complaints that are only too reasonable have been made over and over again of the delay which faces the tenants applying to have judicial rents fixed. Half the value, such as it is, of the Land Acts, has been sacrificed by the bungling slowness of the machinery provided for giving effect to the remedial legislation. How far an improvement in this respect will follow from the recent multiplication of the sub-Commission remains to be seen. Meanwhile, "A Memorandum for the Guidance of Assistant Commissioners" has been issued from the offices of the Irish Land Commission. It is a characteristic document. In a series of paragraphs, elaborate in their minute particularity, the order in which the hearing of applications for the fixing of judicial rents is set forth. The Sub-Commissions are manned by one legal Commissioner, and by two, sometimes four, and sometimes six Assistant-Commissioners. The memorandum develops a scheme by which the assistants will branch off in their district into pairs, and by which the legal Commissioner will skip about from pair to pair, and from week to week, in a manner most economical as to time, and saving as to travelling expenses. The memorandum is of no interest to the public generally, save as showing how very precise and painstaking a body like the Irish Land Commission can be in affairs of red-tape, while looseness and delay are its distinctive features in the practical portion of its proceedings. If some of the time which is monopolised by flooding the Press with rubbishy documents, and preparations for doing business which ought to be done, we should have less complaints from the suitors in the Land Courts, and the public service would be the gainer.

Mr. J. Cairns, agent to the Committee of the Arran Relief Fund, has prepared his report consequent on the completion of the charitable work undertaken by the Committee. From the commencement of the movement on the 26th March till the 16th August, when the last distribution was made, there were 372 tons of potatoes, 22 tons of Indian and oatmeal, and 16 cwt of flour given out to the various districts on the three islands. The number of families relieved was 485, numbering 2,314. Mr. Cairns declares that the relief thus given has been the means of saving, not only the lives of many of its recipients, but also all the cattle on the islands. We take the following suggestive paragraph from the report—"The planting of the islands has been unaccountably neglected. Had it been undertaken even fifty years ago, that which is now a wild, cheerless waste of rock would be clothed with verdure, the natural salubrious climate made still more so, good pasturage afforded for cattle, and by the harbour for game afforded an additional attraction would be given to the islands, and an added source of industry and convenience to the inhabitants. Now one can travel from end to end, and in the matter of trees will have to pronounce 'all barren.' Except for the few trees around the vicarage at Kilmoran, and Mr. Johnston's residence at Kilmurvey, there is not material for a whip-handle in the three islands. The remedying of this great defect might well be undertaken now with immediate benefit, by affording much-needed employment, and with important future results." All this, unfortunately, has an application far wider than the district referred to.

One of the most disingenuously sophistical and malignantly unfair articles ever penned has just appeared in the *Spectator* signed with the name of Mr. Dicey. Its subject is the Commission Act for investigating the charges made against Mr. Parnell and the other Irish representatives by the *Times*. Its object is to push the Commission into an inquiry *de omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis*, in order that the Commission may report even vaguely against them on some general issue. Its prompting motive is the evident belief or fear in Mr. Dicey's mind that there is no case against the members of Parliament. Mr. Dicey wants to provide against the effect of this conclusion; so he sets himself down to show that if the Commission report favourably to the Irish representatives, this should not cause a single coercionist to waver in his opposition to Home Rule or in his support of the sole alternative to Home Rule—viz. coercion. One would not be so struck by Mr. Dicey's partisanship did he freely admit and insist in the same dogmatic way that neither should an unfavourable report re-