

Irish News.

Antrim.—Tenants on the Larne estate of Edward Coey have been offered a reduction of 10 per cent. in their rents.

Lord Arthur Hill has allowed his Island-Magee tenants a reduction of 15 per cent.

A meeting of the Ballyclare Reform Association was held in the Lecture Hall, Ballyclare, when the rent schedule recently issued by the Chief Land Commission and the administration of the land laws were fully discussed. The following resolutions were unanimously passed:—Resolved—That we hereby express our great dissatisfaction at the schedule varying the judicial rents, as issued by the Land Commission for the year 1888; that, as the present administration of the land laws, especially by the Chief Commissioners, is, to our minds, unfair, we assert that the final settlement of the land question lies in making the occupier the sole owner of the soil on terms which shall not encroach on his interest, an encroachment which, we believe, has been made by the Commissioners in fixing the present judicial rents.

Armagh.—A few days ago Mr. English, agent for Captain Dowglass, attended at Jerrettspass for the purpose of receiving the rents due on his estate in the district. The tenants asked for a reduction of rent, but the agent only allowed them the judicial abatement. All the tenants paid their rents.

A largely-attended meeting of the tenant farmers of the district was held at the Institute, Portadown, January 26, for the purpose of protesting against the schedule of judicial rents recently issued by the Chief Land Commission. Amongst those present were:—Rev. Robt. Jameson, Thomas Shillington, James Finnegan, Thos. Keegan, Wm. Weir, Jacob Sinton, John Joseph Wilson, William H. Orr, Ralph Bullock, Richard McConnell, William Metcalf, Patrick Loughran. On motion of W. H. Sinton, seconded by James Keegan, the chair was taken by James Hobson. The following resolutions were passed by acclamation:—That we protest in the strongest manner against the injustice of the order made by the Land Commission raising the judicial rents; that only by the transfer to the tenant on fair terms of the landlord's interest in the value of the soil can the country be freed from its present difficulties and agriculture prosper; that recent manipulations of the Land Courts, indicating a tendency to control them from Dublin Castle, have produced alarm amongst farmers, and that a permanent committee be appointed of the farmers of this district to watch the course of events, and take such steps to defend the interests of the farmers as they may judge right.

Carlow.—Rev. B. Bourke, at early Mass in Bagnalstown, January 27, referred to the timely letter from the brilliant pen of Archbishop Croke on the emigration to the Argentine Republic which appeared in the National papers. The reverend gentleman warned the people against the inducements held out to them by the promoters, whose placards were posted so extensively in the district, and strongly advised intending emigrants not to quit their native land, for a brighter era was dawning on Ireland.

Clare.—Joseph R. Cox, Member for East Clare, has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment at Strokestown Coercion Court for inciting tenants not to pay rack-rents.

The case of Birmingham v. Turner and others was continued before the Lord Chancellor in the Appeal Court, Dublin, on February 1. The plaintiff was one of a number of tenants who had been evicted on the Vandeleur estate, and who have since commenced actions against Colonel Turner, Colonel Vandeleur, the landlord; his agent, Hallam Studdert; Mr. D'Esterre, High Sheriff; and Mr. Croker, sub-Sheriff. The plaintiff claims £500 damages for alleged unlawful trespass on his house and land. One point on which Mr. Birmingham relied was that a notice required under the Land Act of 1887 had not been posted in the right district, and another was that the value of his holding being over £30 a year there was no power to remit the action. The case was adjourned.

Cork.—At Kanturk Quarter Sessions a case was heard in which the Learys, father and son, of Pruhus, appealed from a sentence of seven weeks' imprisonment inflicted by a Crimes Act Court at Millstreet. The Recorder reversed the decision of the Removables. The result was received with a great deal of popular rejoicing.

A Coercion Court was held at Shandagan, near Macroom, recently for the purpose of hearing a case in which Denis Murphy was charged with having used intimidation towards Richard Kingston, and thereby induced him not to take a farm from which Denis Murphy, defendant's father, had been evicted. The Removables sentenced defendant to three months' imprisonment with hard labor. Notice of appeal was lodged.

An eviction of a distressing nature took place at Ballycurrane, near Clashmore, on Villiers Stuart's property. Lately Edmond Fleming, the evicted tenant, applied for a fair rent, and since a judicial rent was fixed he was a marked man. Efforts have been made for some time to effect a purchase, but even with the terror of eviction before him the tenant could not accept the terms asked, viz., 20 years at Griffith's valuation, and, in addition, the payment of one year's old rent. Fleming, however, under pressure, offered what he knew was too much—22½ years on the judicial rent, and, in addition, £49, which is one year's, according to the judicial rent. The result is that sub-Sheriff Hudson and his bailiffs, reinforced by rangers, rent-warners, and hangers-on of the Dromana estate, armed with eviction implements and headed by a man named Armit, effected their purpose, protected by a large force of police and surrounded by a crowd of Fleming's sympathisers. Fleming and his family having been left homeless, the next move was towards Knockanervis, where the same process was gone through, and Edmund Dower, another of Villiers Stuart's tenants, was evicted.

Derry.—Mr Gage, Cultra House, Holywood, the agent for B. T. O'Neil, attended at Derrynoid, Draperstown, the other day for the purpose of receiving the rents and arrears now due by the tenants

residing on the County Derry estates, and also to give those tenants against whom there were ejectments an opportunity to settle them. The majority of the tenants were present, and those who paid the rent of 1888, or the last half of 1887, were allowed the reductions set forth in the schedules issued by the Commissioners. Several of the tenants owed three years' rent, and Mr. Gage accepted one year's rent from them. In the case of those against whom there were ejectments Mr. Gage settled with them on reasonable terms. Tenants who asked for an extension of time until they could make up their rents, were readily granted it.

Down.—A meeting of the tenant-farmers of South Down was held at Kilticoo recently to consider the rent schedule of the Land Commissioners. The meeting was most successful and there were about 3,000 people present. Resolutions strongly condemning the schedule were adopted. Rev. B. Garry, Kilticoo, presided. Speeches were delivered by Messrs. McCartin and Pinkerton, M.P.'s.

Dublin.—On being informed of the brutal and inhuman treatment of William O'Brien in Clonmel Gaol, Thomas Sexton sent the following telegram to Chief Secretary Balfour:—"The illegal and brutal violence offered to William O'Brien by your agents in Clonmel Gaol has excited unexampled indignation and disgust throughout the whole community. I think it my duty to warn you that the anger of the public is rapidly reaching a point at which restraint may not be possible, and if you delay to instruct your agents to abstain from violence and torture, and to have regard to Mr. O'Brien's character and position, the public judgment will hold you personally responsible for his safety and for the peace of the country now placed in the utmost danger.—THOMAS SEXTON." The Lord Mayor's Secretary, Mr. Whyte, on taking the dispatch to the Castle, was grossly insulted by Balfour, who called him a liar and a cur. Robert Kells, who drove Mr. Whyte to the Castle, says that Mr. Balfour's conduct appeared to be that of a madman. He added that he had often seen tamer lunatics than the Chief Secretary in the asylum.

Kerry.—A large and representative meeting of the inhabitants of Tralee, specially convened by the chairman of the Town Commissioners, was held in the Town Hall. Mr. Slattery presided. J. O'Donovan wrote apologising for his inability to attend, and expressing full sympathy with the meeting. Mr. O'Bourke proposed a resolution as follows:—"That we stigmatise the treatment of William O'Brien, M.P., on the occasion of his recent arrest at Manchester, and his subsequent treatment in Clonmel Gaol as base, bloody, and brutal, and we distinctly charge Arthur J. Balfour, present Chief Secretary for Ireland, with responsibility for this foul treatment of an honorable opponent, whom we, with the rest of Ireland, recognise as one of the most honest of our representatives. M. B. Stokes seconded the resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

The eviction campaign on the Kenmare estate commenced on January 31. The proceedings took place at Scrahanaveel, about 12 miles from Killarney, and 4 from Rathmore. The house of Daniel Murphy was the first visited. It was found when visited by District-Inspector Rodgers and his 80 policemen, to be barricaded by the occupants; but an entrance was soon effected after which the premises were cleared and policemen placed in charge of the house. A son of Murphy's was arrested. The next house visited was that of Mrs. Falvey, which was also barricaded, and in which resistance was offered. A clearance of the premises was effected, after which the house was permanently secured. A young man named Cahill was arrested here for resisting the bailiffs and police. Some young women connected with the evicted tenants were arrested for having poured boiling water on the bailiffs, but were afterwards discharged, to be summoned under the Coercion Act. Murphy and Cahill were brought handcuffed to Killarney, en route to Tralee Gaol, to await their trial.

Kildare.—R. J. O'Duffy, Secretary to the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language, has been appointed Professor of Celtic Studies in Clongowes Wood College, Sallins. The successful record of this college at the last Intermediate Examination placed it in the foreground of Irish educational institutions, and the addition of Celtic to its curriculum, will, therefore, be welcomed by students of our native literature.

King's County.—Castlejordan National League, Rev. M. M'Loughlin, President, has contradicted the evidence of Garret Tyrell, a local informer, at the Forgeries Commission in London.

The attempted upsetting of the Banagher train has been denounced by Rev. F. Dr. Monaghan, Vicar-General of the diocese, as an unjust attempt to take away the lives of a number of innocent people.

At the recent meeting of the Tullamore Board of Guardians, Jas. Roe presiding, a number of farm labourers applied for assistance to enable them to emigrate to the Argentine Republic. Rev. P. O'Beilly and the ratepayers were opposed to giving the proposed assistance, so the Guardians refused the application.

Limerick.—John Finucane, M.P., and other coercion prisoners were released from the Limerick Gaol. Mayor O'Keefe presided at a meeting held in their honour, and said that Balfour might expect the vengeance of the Irish nation if anything serious happened to Wm. O'Brien.

At the weekly meeting of the Newcastlewest Guardians, David D. Leahy presiding, Edward Mulcahy proposed, and James B. Kenny seconded a resolution protesting against the vindictive conduct of Balfour towards Mr. O'Brien, and thanking the people of Manchester for the hearty reception they accorded to Balfour's criminal.

Longford.—E. Cooney was chairman of the recent meeting of the Killoe National League. The following resolution was adopted unanimously:—"That we disclaim any connection whatsoever with the deliberate perjurer, Igoe, as we never held any communication with him. If the London Times and the Tory Government can't employ a more reliable witness than this degraded wretch we wish them luck in their materials,