

Irish News.

(From contemporaries.)

Antrim.—Mr Robert Cromie, the author of "The Crack of Doom," is now in middle life, and spends his days behind a bank counter in Belfast, and his evenings, as he sometimes grimly says, in graduating for the waste-paper basket of the London editor. Fifteen years ago he wrote up a West of Ireland salmon river in the *Field* on behalf of a friend, and from that moment became convinced that he was destined to succeed in fiction. He is a much-quoted authority on peasant proprietorship. Mr Cromie is the son of an Irish surgeon-magistrate, and the brother of another doctor, and has no lower ideal in life than to rush round the Antrim coast on a sunny afternoon in a coasting steamer in a smart breeze.

Armagh.—James Morgan, of Portadown, has applied for a patent for "The Yarn Smash Preventive."

Carlow.—Patrick Kirwin, a barber, of Carlow, had a narrow escape from drowning lately. He was riding a tricycle on the Barrow Track Line, and when turning his machine rather short, he went headlong into the back drain at Carpenter's Pond. The cyclist having an artificial leg, the boot of which was strapped to the pedal of the machine, was powerless to extricate himself, and would certainly have been drowned had not a carpenter named Monahan, and an employee of the asylum named Barnett gone to his aid. They found Kirwin stuck fast in the mud. The unfortunate man, when taken out, was quite exhausted.

Cavan.—At the County Cavan Baronial Sessions recently concluded, the question of erecting a lunatic asylum for the county or adding a new wing to the Monaghan Asylum, which at present serves the two counties, was submitted for decision. It appears that the asylum in Monaghan is not large enough to accommodate all the patients, and a proposal was recently made to build a new wing to it. In the alternative some people proposed that a county asylum for Cavan alone should be built. These two proposals now came before the baronial sessions, in order to ascertain the feeling of the cess-payers, with the result that a considerable majority of them have gone in favour of the latter proposal.

Cork.—An application had been made to the Lord-Lieutenant for an Order-in-Council authorising the construction of a railway between Cork, Middleton and Ballycotton. A sum of £70,000 would be expended in the district by the construction of the line, and the fishing industry at Ballycotton would be considerably developed by it.

Some interesting statements are given by the *Army and Navy Journal* of General Coppinger's ancestry. General John Joseph Coppinger is ninth in descent from Stephen Coppinger, Alderman and Mayor of Cork in 1569. His grandson was Sheriff of Cork, and was outlawed for treason, as were two brothers, while others became the ancestors of the Bordeaux and the Spanish branches of the family respectively, the latter producing afterward General Jose Coppinger. After forfeiture the estates came back into the family. General Coppinger is the oldest son of William Joseph Coppinger, of Ballydonell, and his mother, who was Margaret O'Brien. He has among his kinsmen a captain in the British Royal Munster Fusiliers, and a surgeon in the British Navy, and a commander in that navy was his father's cousin. His own first service was in the Papal Guard of Rome, and he was one of a dozen young Catholics appointed by President Lincoln on the recommendation of Archbishop Hughes, receiving a captaincy in 1861.

The first congress of the Irish trade unionists held at Cork has furnished an admirable contrast, so far as dignity and harmony are concerned, to the English trades congress. Hitherto the Irish have sent delegates to the English trades councils. At Cork 150 delegates, solely Irish, discussed trade and political questions. There was hardly a trace of party or sectarian bitterness. The Socialists made the poorest showing at the congress. A Londonderry delegate proposed the usual resolution to nationalise everything and his motion was seconded by a Belfast man, but an amendment proposed by the president of the Belfast trade unions and seconded by the president of the Dublin trade unionists was adopted, declaring that the ultimate solution of labour problems would be more quickly obtained by effecting pressing reforms, on which a vast majority of working men were agreed, than in passing abstract resolutions. The amendment was passed by a vote of 57 to 25. Schemes to promote technical education and other practical questions engaged the attention of the congress.

Donegal.—A preliminary meeting was held in the Town Hall, Ballybofey, for the purpose of starting a monthly fair in this important centre, as it was felt that the opportunity long looked for by the inhabitants had at last arrived for its establishment. The Stranorlar and Glenties railway opened up for traffic on June 3, and the manager, Mr Livesey, had erected a number of cattle pens in Ballybofey for the convenience of the trade.

In the House of Commons T. D. Sullivan asked the Chief Secretary whether the further inquiries which he said were being made regarding the alleged existence of severe distress in the electoral divisions of Cranford and Loughkeel in the Milford Union, County Donegal, have been completed. Mr Morley answered that as a result of the inquiries which have been made with regard to this district, directions have been given to provide employment on the relief works to the necessitous poor in the two divisions referred to; and the inspectors of the Local Government Board have instructions to visit all localities where distress is alleged to exist, and to obtain all reliable information they can procure on the subject. With this object they consult the clergy of the different parishes.

Down.—A terrific dynamite explosion occurred at Banjor near the coastguard station watch-house, where Messrs Martin and Son are constructing a new pier; the residence of Dr R. L. Moore was badly wrecked. Dr Moore and child had a narrow escape on the lawn. Mrs Gadd, a visitor, with Mrs Fitchie, while engaged in the garden, was struck with a large piece of rock on the shoulder.

After an illness of two months, James MacMahon, J.P., of Newry, died recently. Deceased had reached his ninety-second year, and at his retirement, about a month since, from the chairmanship of the Newry Town Commissioners, was the oldest municipal chairman in Ireland—perhaps in the Three Kingdoms. At that time he had served at the board for fifty-one years, and has been re-elected to the chair for the eleventh term in succession.

Dublin.—Dublin contractors have had a very important army contract turned over to them for the first time. For the greater part of this century the strange-looking structure called Aldborough House, formerly the town residence of Lord Aldborough, at the end of Gloucester street, has been used by the army authorities as a sort of training school for butchers and bakers for the service. Now it is found that a small bounty will bring into the service as many trained men as are wanted for this service, and the system is to be discontinued. The Dublin Bread Company have got the contract for bread, and Rawkin and Molloy the meat contract.

Things are looking bright for the Irish language, and the Gaelic League. At the last weekly meeting of the league, held at 57 Dame street, the proceedings were conducted exclusively in Irish. Now this is just as it should be, and may the day be close at hand when the Gael will have his weekly paper coming to his door with his name in the same tongue, and the news dressed up with that flourish of Irish character which the Roman type seems wanting in.

The question of the Irish cross-Channel mail service has at length been settled, and to the satisfaction of all concerned. The City of Dublin Steam Packet Company has undertaken to guarantee an increased speed of thirty minutes between Kingstown and Hollyhead for an annual subsidy of £100,000. There are four new screw steamers to be built, and increased passenger accommodation is to be provided. These are improvements of some magnitude, and regularity is sure to come after a time.

Galway.—The Hon Mrs Pery, of Kinvarra, has invented a safety pain purse. It can be fastened to either hand by means of a neat little strap running round the wrist, and a small leather ring on the second finger.

Kilkenny.—Owing to the long continued drought here some uneasiness was beginning to be felt about the crops, and Bishop Brownrigg gave directions to his clergy that during the month of June prayers are to be offered up at each Mass for more favourable weather and a good harvest.

Limerick.—Irish Nationalists on both sides of the ocean will learn with deep regret of the almost simultaneous death on June 7 of Dr William B. Wallace and his son, Dr Alphonse M. Wallace of New York. Dr Wallace was born in County Limerick, Ireland, fifty-three years ago. As a boy he went to England to live, but returned to Ireland to be educated for the priesthood at Mount Melleray College. This career he soon abandoned, and entered All Hallows' College, Dublin, where he took his degree. Dr Wallace came to New York in 1868. Here he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and was graduated in 1871. At the time of his death he was visiting physician of the City Hospital on Blackwell's Island, and consulting physician of St Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers. He was a member of the Medico-Legal Society, the Celtic Medical Society and the Catholic Club. It was as an ardent Irish patriot, however, that Dr Wallace was best known, for he was a leader in all the Irish national movements inaugurated in America. He was considered one of the most eloquent orators in America, and was always liberal in subscribing to Irish political movements. Dr Wallace was one of the organisers of the Irish National Land League of America, and a close friend of the late Richard O'Gorman. When the Irish Parliamentary party became divided owing to the divorce suit brought by Captain O'Shea, in which Parnell was named as co-respondent, Dr Wallace became an advanced anti-Parnellite, and with Dr Thomas Addis Emmet, the late Eugene Kelly, and other well-known Irishmen, formed the Irish National Federation of America, of which he was elected vice-president, an office he held at his death.