

Irish News.

(From Contemporaries.)

ANTRIM.—The Giant's Causeway.—The Giant's Causeway Committee are determined, if the funds are forthcoming, to appeal against the decision of the Vice-Chancellor. Local feeling on the appropriation of the causeway by the syndicate is very strong, and we have no doubt that the efforts of the committee to safeguard public rights will receive a full measure of support from all who take an interest in Irish scenery.

ARMAGH.—Masters and Men in the Building Trade.—A short time ago the members of the Portadown branch of the Bricklayer's Society made a demand on their employers for an increase of wages and a reduction of the hours of labour. The notice having expired a conference of the masters and men was held in the Town Hall for the purpose of endeavouring to arrange an amicable settlement and thereby avert a strike. Mr. Robert Cullen, president, and the other members of the Builders' Association present were:—Messrs. George Bright, secretary; Joseph Collen, Richard Lutton, William Reid, and Thomas Cullen. The men were represented by Messrs. William Whitten, James Shanks, Thomas Hyde, James Whitten and John Whitten. The men asked that their wages should be advanced from 6½d to 7½d an hour, and that the hours of labour be reduced from 57 to 56 hours a week. After discussing the matter for an hour and a half the masters offered to increase the wages to 7d an hour for a 56 hours week, which the deputation representing the men unanimously agreed to accept.

CORK.—Michael Davitt's Return.—Amongst the saloon passengers who landed on Friday, May 14, from the Cunarder, *Lucania*, which called off the harbour from New York, en route for Liverpool, was Mr. Michael Davitt, M.P., who was visiting friends in the United States of America, and was away for the last six weeks. The hon. gentleman is in the enjoyment of excellent health, and he expressed himself as much pleased with his trip across the Atlantic. Very fine weather was experienced during the passage from New York, which was accomplished in 5 days 14 hours 30 minutes. Some Press representatives waited on Mr. Davitt to obtain his views on the present political situation, but Mr. Davitt was willing to speak on any other subject except politics, on which he had nothing to say. He was pleased to be able to say that times were slightly improved in America. He was glad to learn that there was a great falling off in emigration to the States. From what he heard in the States thousands of tourists from America will visit Ireland next year for the '98 Centenary celebration.

DUBLIN.—An Unadvisable Proceeding.—A complaint which seems to have reasonable foundation is made against the action of the Dublin Corporation in issuing advertisements in the Belfast paper, asking for tenders for the printing of the Parliamentary voter's lists. The issue of such advertisements does not necessarily mean that a Belfast firm will get the contract, but it certainly points to a desire on the part of those issuing the advertisement to bring the Belfast people into competition. We think that it is, on the whole, (says the *Freeman*) a very inadvisable proceeding. The printing trade in Dublin is sufficiently large to secure a good healthy competition at home, and certainly the Dublin printers are entitled to the doing of the work if their terms are at all reasonable. We trust that reason and moderation will avert both the Corporation and the printers in the matter, and that unless there is some glaring inequality in the terms no attempt will be made to place the contract outside the city.

KERRY.—Opening of new Tourist Routes.—The link wanted to connect the newly opened scenery of the Shannon with the well-known tourist routes of Kerry has been supplied. On and after the 1st of June there will be a coaching service daily between Listowel and Tarbert, and henceforth tourists who, having explored the beauties of the West, wish to continue their trip through the "kingdom" will have all facilities afforded them for the purpose. The communication now about to be provided is one of the most important steps yet taken for the development of tourist traffic in the South-West of Ireland and ought to be attended with most satisfactory results.

KING'S COUNTY.—The Fербane Church Fetes.—Mr. John Gilbert King, D.L., the veteran ex-Conservative M.P. for King's County and former M.F.H., has become the patron and president of the sporting tournament which the Very Rev. Canon Sheridan, P.P., will bring off in Fербane in connection with the grand bazaar and open air *fete* promoted to aid the building fund of the beautiful new church that he has been the means of erecting at a cost of fully £7,000, and which is now in an advanced stage towards completion. The *fete* will last one week and a day. The programme includes jumping competitions for horses, cobs and ponies; cycling and athletic events, football tournaments, hurling, tugs-of-war, concerts, etc. A number of valuable cups will be the principal prizes. The Earl of Rosse, another prominent Protestant, has given a large bank-note as a prize in the general drawing, and many others of the same community are cordially co-operating with the Catholic people to make the great undertaking the success that it deserves to be.

LIMERICK.—The Limerick Streets; End of the Sweepers' Strike.—The street sweepers' strike is at an end, and not a moment too soon. Appalling clouds of dust are driving through the streets, and the refuse, which, according to a strange custom in Limerick, is thrown from the houses of gentle and simple out in the streets at nightfall, were accumulating heaps. The back streets and lanes were infinitely worse, and there was imminent danger of disease if this lamentable dispute was not brought to a close. A conference was held at which the Mayor pre-

sided. Mr. John Daly and Mr. William Field, M.P., were also present. After about an hour's discussion the Mayor promised the men that their grievances would be thoroughly investigated and justice done them, and on this condition the men have all returned to work.

LOUTH.—Sending work out of the Country.—On Saturday evening, May 15, a meeting of the Drogheda Trades Council was held. Mr. Thomas McCullough, president, presided. The secretary stated that Mr. McCullough had been elected to represent the council at the annual Irish Trades Congress in Waterford next month. A deputation consisting of Messrs Peter Kiely, John McGinn and John Cook attended from the Typographical Society to ask the assistance of the council, and through them of the tradesmen and labourers of Drogheda, to bring influence on the shopkeepers of the town to get their letterpress printing executed in the local offices. They calculated Drogheda lost £600 a year for printing which could be as well done at home as in English towns where it was sent. They did not ask litho work, but submitted that that class of printing should be sent to Dublin or Belfast and not across the water. Trades who were making their money in Ireland should support home as against foreign manufacture. On the motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Downes, a resolution was passed, calling on the merchants and traders of Drogheda to get their work done locally, and pledging themselves to give every possible assistance to any movement which might be initiated to compel the imprint to be put to all posters, so that there could be no deception as to where they were printed.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.—A Great Land Sale.—The arrangements for the sale of close on eight thousand acres of the estate of the Earl of Portarlington are now completed, the transaction, having regard to the fertility of the land, its extent, and the price to be paid, being the most important that has yet taken place in the Midlands under the Land Purchase Acts. The property lies partly in the north of the Queen's County, between Portarlington and Stradbally, and partly in the Barony of Ikerrin, in County Tipperary. That portion that is in the Queen's County comprises 5,600 acres, including 1,500 acres of Emo Park townland, and the rest is situate in the country of which Roscrea is the chief town.

ROSCOMMON.—New Church of Ballintubber.—On Sunday, May 16, under most agreeable and delightful auspices, the solemn function of laying and blessing the foundation stone of the new church of St. James took place at Ballintubber. The occasion was remarkable for several reasons. In the first place Father Martin, the revered pastor of this particular section of a wide-spreading parish, was in a position to boast of the fact that the first real day of summer weather, which means so much, favoured the accomplishment of his great work. In the second place, although it should be mentioned as above and beyond the local interest associated with the work, the Most Rev. Dr. Clancy, the Bishop of Elphin, who performed the ceremony, addressed the people afterwards, and his appeal is certain to result in the completion of the great good work to which Father Martin has devoted himself. The old church, a kind of reminiscence of the penal days, lies in a valley. It is unsuited to the requirements of the parish, and a new church has become an inevitable necessity. Thanks to The O'Connor Don, the lord of the soil, a site, an ideal site as it is, has been granted close to the castle, and justifying in every way the reference made to it by the Bishop. The solemn ceremony was attended by large crowds from all the outlying districts. The scene presented during the solemn function of blessing the corner stone was most impressive, and at its conclusion, the Most Rev. Dr. Clancy, Bishop of Elphin, addressed the people from a dais erected close to the cross which marks the position of the High Altar of the new church. The interesting and impressive function then concluded.

WATERFORD.—A Veteran Sportsman.—The fine old veteran sportsman, Johnny Ryan, after having been for fifty-five years associated with the Curraghmore Hounds as huntsman, has been pensioned by the Marquis of Waterford, and the remainder of his days will be spent in repose and comfort. In 1842, under Lord Henry, Mr. Ryan began his career with the Curraghmore, and during over half a century saw many triumphs of the chase. He has, too, participated in the sorrows which fell upon the family with genuine and heartfelt sympathy. It was Johnny Ryan who first came to aid Lord Henry after the fatal leap in County Kilkenny, and the gallant Marquis died on the huntsman's knee. We are informed that the old man will enjoy a pension of a £100 a year.

GENERAL.

The Government and the Irish Landlords.—The Chief Secretary on Friday, May 14, announced that the Government had decided to yield to the threats and clamour of the Irish landlords and to issue a commission of inquiry into the Land Acts. Naturally the announcement provoked strong protests from the Nationalist benches. The object of the commission, of course (says the *Dublin Freeman*) to do the landlord's work of intimidating the Sub-Commissioners. Many of them hold office by an uncertain tenure, and of course if they conceive that their services are likely to be dispensed with by those in power they will act as their paymasters wish. A more unjust or scandalous proceeding was surely never committed, even by the Castle Government, than this inquiry into the exercise of judicial functions which are to continue to be exercised while the Commission which is trying the members of various courts is sitting. The Chief Secretary's statement was preceded by a remarkably vigorous speech by Mr. Carson, who, from a landlord point of view, attacked British misgovernment of Ireland generally. We are glad to find some of the landlord advocates waking up to the fact that British misgovernment is a curse which affects all classes in Ireland. When this theory was put forward time after time, however, the landlord classes would

SMOKE "ROYAL COLORS" TOBACCO.

(IMPROVED AROMATIC.)