

to the impending distress. He pointed out that the potato crop throughout the parish was a complete failure, and that, to illustrate the old saying, "Misfortunes never come singly," the people along the seaboard were unable to dispose of their kelp. The kelp industry was the thing they had to look forward to to meet the demands of the shopkeeper and the rent office. He assured Mr. O'Malley that unless something were soon done by the Government to afford the people employment they would be face to face with a very serious state of things indeed. Mr. O'Malley said he had visited several districts in his constituency and saw for himself the condition of the potato crop, and had no hesitation in saying it was a total failure, and he was convinced that suffering and hunger would quickly ensue unless employment on a large scale was afforded immediately.

MAYO.—A Call from the Clergy.—At a meeting of the clergy of Westport Deanery the following resolution was adopted:—"That we urgently call upon the Government to take immediate steps to avert the famine sure to overtake the people of this part of Mayo in the near future arising from the failure of the crops two years in succession. The means and credit of the poor people are exhausted and the price of breadstuffs is nearly doubled. No charity can cope with the crisis, extensive public works alone can save the people. *Salus populi suprema lex.* We, therefore, call upon the Government at once to discharge its most imperative duty toward her Majesty's subjects. Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the Right Hon. the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Members of Parliament for Mayo, the *Freeman's Journal* and the *Irish Times*.—(Signed) P. Canon Greally, P. Canon Flatley, John P. Connelly, William Coen, William Joyce, Thomas Healy, Adm.; Jeremiah O'Toole, Adm.; J. Godfrey, Patrick J. Madden, C.C.; William Fitzgerald, C.C.; Michael Hughes, Michael Ronayne, James Bourke, Charles J. White, Martin Moran.

Ballinasloe Horse Fair.—The horse fair at Ballinasloe on Thursday, October 7, was not productive of much business, the most of the business having transacted on the two previous days. Generally speaking the quality of the animals shown was inferior, and as might be anticipated the number was small. A spice of interest was added to the proceedings by a number of visitors whom Ballinasloe could well do without. A detachment of light-fingered gentry made the town their headquarters, and several dealers were eased of substantial sums of money. On Thursday three arrests

to the rumour that the Arklow street preachers were about to pay a visit to the town. A large force of police was drafted into the town. However, acting on the representations of the majority of his congregation the Protestant Rector of the town, Dr. Latham, intervened, and induced the Bishop to forbid Rev. Mr. Hallowes and his followers from coming to the town. The people of Wexford of all creeds and classes feel grateful to Dr. Latham for the active steps he took to avoid a disturbance being created in the town.

WATERFORD.—Waterford Successes at Maynooth College.—With much pleasure and pride we received a telegram yesterday (says the Tipperary *Nationalist*, October 13) announcing that Father Sheehan, Dean of Waterford College, has been appointed professor of rhetoric in our great National Ecclesiastical College Maynooth. This appointment is the result of a stiff competition, which continued during several days of last week in the halls of Maynooth. All the aspirants were men of distinguished collegiate record. The successful candidate was the most youthful of the reverend superiors of our diocesan college. We heartily congratulate him on his very gratifying victory, and on the brilliant career now opening before him. It is a victory of which the College of Waterford, from which he went forth to the contest, and the diocese of Waterford and Lismore, to which he belongs, may well feel proud. We recall the appointment quite recently of Father Hickey, our late diocesan inspector, to the chair of Gaelic in the great college, and we note that our diocese has now an honour which it never had before, in being represented in the National Ecclesiastical College by two professors.

GENERAL.

Irish Banquet in Toronto: Speech of Mr. Edward Blake.—At a banquet given in Toronto in honour of Archbishop Walsh, Mr. Edward Blake, M.P., and the Canadian delegates to the Irish Race Convention of 1896, Mr. Blake said that since the Convention the decided feeling among the masses of the Irish people was wholly in favour of unity. The differences existing in Ireland would disappear. The Irish Nationalist representatives had felt that their difficulties of the last few years almost paralysed their forces. And at the present time the conditions surrounding them were not all such as they could wish. In Parliament there was a great majority against Home Rule. The Liberal Party, too, which had

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were made on suspicion, and after a preliminary investigation the prisoners were remanded. The cattle fair was well supplied on Friday with buyers and sellers, and for the first few hours a very brisk business was done. The condition of the animals exposed for sale was not quite up to last year's standard. As to prices, bullocks fetched from 15s. to £1 a head less than this time twelve months, while there was practically no change in the prices offered for heifers, which changed hands at from £10 to £15. Saturday, the concluding day of Ballinasloe fair, was a very disappointing one for sellers. The supply of cattle was far in excess of the demand, and prices ruled very low, store cattle being down £2 a head as compared with last year. The complete gap returns for the whole fair indicate, however, that more business was transacted this year in all departments. A comparison of the prices even with last year's figures reveals the fact that there was a downward tendency in the prices obtainable for all kinds of stock. There was a falling off of 9 per cent. in the prices of sheep, and the cattle prices were down 3½ per cent. A much more remarkable evidence of the decline in the value of stock is presented, if a contrast is made with the prices of Ballinasloe fair of 1881. If we take the price of cattle alone we find that prices have come down to the extent of 42 per cent., and estimating the amount of selling cattle in the country at 800,000 there is a loss in money to the farmers of Ireland amounting to £5,750,000.

WICKLOW.—A Generous Gift.—Lord Carysfort's gift to the town of Arklow, of £25,000, for the building of a new church, was the subject of a public meeting on Thursday, October 7. The gathering was held under the auspices of the Irish Industrial League, who took the initiative, owing to the rumour that most of the money in question was to be spent out of Ireland. Their view is that an effort should be made to have that amount spent at home, especially as equally good value, and as equally cheap rates, could be had in Ireland, as far as material and workmanship were concerned. One reverend gentleman deprecated anything in the nature of an attack upon Lord Carysfort, but it having been shown to his satisfaction that such a course was never intended a local branch of the Industrial League was established, and a suggestion was thrown out that a local deputation should wait upon the donor of the gift and endeavour to have the greater portion of the work in connection with the erection of the church carried out in Ireland.

WEXFORD.—Prohibition of Street Preachers.—The town of Wexford has been in a state of excitement recently, owing

generally remained friendly to Ireland through all the fight, was much more demoralised and disorganised than the Irish Party. Not merely were differences arising from personal influences and animosities being felt in the Liberal Party, but serious differences upon points of opinion existed, whereas not one difference over a matter of principle or serious opinion, either between the Parliamentary representatives or among the people, stood in the way of the Irish cause. There was no difference of opinion among the masses of the Irish people, which showed that there was no excuse for separation or coolness, and no foundation for any such differences of opinion as existed in the Liberal Party of England to-day. It was his opinion that the Bill for Irish local county government must prove a boon to the Irish people when licked into proper shape by the Irish Party at Westminster. The measure must give this great and immediate opportunity to the Irish people, that from among their own ranks they could bring forward men of mark and strength in local constituencies, the result of which could not fail to put an end to the systematic stigmatising of the Irish, who, though admittedly fit to govern in every part of the world, were told by a class of Englishmen that they were unfitted to govern themselves.

Irish Eggs in England: Decision of Liverpool Dealers.—At a representative gathering of Liverpool grocers and provision dealers recently the question of Irish eggs was discussed. It was shown that Continental eggs were ousting the Irish from the English market. The meeting decided to recommend the trade to refuse, after January 1 next, all eggs not packed in free cases of 1,200 or less, and if thought otherwise than absolutely fresh to reject them. Strong comments were made regarding the storing of eggs and turning them in straw awaiting an advancing market, a practice, it was stated, that was becoming a science in Ireland. Such food was considered prejudicial to public health.

The Co-operative Dairy System.—The people of Skibbereen are not at all pleased with their experience of the co-operative system of dairying. Six years ago a creamery was established in the town and the venture was watched over from the start by Mr. Horace Plunkett and Mr. Anderson, the organising secretary to the creamery movement. Recently a meeting of the shareholders was held, and it was decided by a sweeping majority to sell up the society, which had turned out an unprofitable speculation. Mr. Anderson put all the blame of the collapse upon the local management, but one of the shareholders retorted that it was adherence to Mr. Anderson's instructions that had placed them in diffi-