

## Irish News.

**ARMAGH.**—New Bell and Belfry for Moy Catholic Church.—There is every indication that the project of a new bell and belfry for Moy Catholic Church will very soon be realised. A meeting of the Armagh Diocesan Building Fund was held on Tuesday, February 8, at the Parochial House, Moy, to consider the plans for this important addition to the church. His Eminence Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, presided, and there were also present—Right Rev. Monsignor Byrne, P.P., V.G., Dungannon; Very Rev. Canon Rice, P.P., V.F., Cookstown; Very Rev. Canon M'Cartan, P.P., Donaghmore; Rev. John Quinn, Adm., Armagh; and Rev. Michael Quinn, C.C., Armagh. Mr. Donnelly, architect, Omagh, was also present.

**ANTRIM.**—Belfast and the University Question.—Mr. Vesey Knox, M.P., has addressed the following communication to the hon. secretaries of the Catholic University Committee in Belfast:—"Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your resolutions with which I am in thorough accord. As I see that my suggestion as to a statutory Commission has been somewhat misunderstood (though not at the Belfast meeting) I may take the opportunity to make it clear. When a new University is established the usual course is for the promoters (if the term may be used) to prepare a draft charter and submit it with a petition to the Crown. The Crown refers it to a Committee of the Privy Council, and grants the charter on their report after the preliminary formality of laying it before Parliament. This is the course followed recently when the University of Wales was established. The only Bill requested in this case would be an Educational Bill. Where, however, it is proposed not merely to found a new University, but also to abolish an old one or entirely alter its character, the usual course is for Parliament to appoint a Commission with full powers to make the necessary changes. This would not be a Royal Commission, which can only consider and report, but a statutory Commission with power to give effect to its conclusion. This precedent was followed in the case of Oxford and Cambridge. What is needed in Ireland is: (1) The establishment and endowment of a new Catholic University; and (2) constitution in lieu of the Royal University of an autonomous university of

within two months teachers agree to pay a premium more than double that agreed upon in 1879. The teachers are perfectly right to make a stand against such treatment. Their salaries are quite small enough without making further charges upon them, and their pensions should be increased rather than diminished.

**DUBLIN.**—Agricultural Co-operation in Ireland.—On Friday, February 4, in the Aula Maxima of University College, Dublin, the Rev. T. Finlay, S.J., lectured before the Debating Society on "The Church and Co-operation," expressing a marked preference for co-operation rather than trades unionism. The Right Hon. Horace Plunkett, M.P., in proposing a vote of thanks to Father Finlay, said that in this work of co-operation in Ireland "at least 95 per cent. of those with whom he had close relations belonged to the Roman Catholic persuasion, and though in religious matters he had to disagree with most of his associates, in economic matters he found himself in entire agreement with them. In almost every portion of Ireland where they desired most to assist the people the assistance of the priest was necessary before progress of any kind could be obtained. He could instance many parishes where the priest was the only person possessed of any education whatever, and it was obvious that in those cases the priest must not only be the spiritual, but even the business adviser, of his flock. The bishop of Clonfert, whilst recognising the good work done by Mr Plunkett's association, made it quite clear that he did not regard those efforts as a permanent remedy for the state of things in Ireland. "If any man," said his Lordship, "knows the West of Ireland I do. In face of foreign competition the elements of successful agriculture are capital, labour, and technical skill. What do I find in the West and other parts of the country? I find that the very best lands in the whole country are gone out of cultivation, without capital, labour, and skill, and they are at the present time in exactly the same state as in the days of Adam. All the best land has gone out of cultivation, inhabited merely by herds, and cultivated by graziers, who are breaking up every day in face of foreign competition, and unable to pay their debts. What have capital, labour, and skill done for these lands? Absolutely nothing. I say, therefore, the first element in successful competition in agriculture in Ireland is the subdividing of the good lands, and the putting of the people to till the lands that they inherited from their forefathers. I do not propose in doing that to be unjust to any man. If any man, landlord or grazier, is

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Belfast. This dual object would require a lengthy and elaborate Act of Parliament unless it be decided to rather follow the Oxford or Cambridge precedent, and create a statutory Commission with the necessary powers to consider and decide as to all the details, to draw statutes, etc. I believe that the latter course would largely diminish the possibility of effective Parliamentary resistance. My object in suggesting it was to point out that the Government if sincere in their adhesion to the general principle could, in accordance with good Parliamentary precedents, carry that principle into effect without making very engrossing demands upon the time of Parliament. There is no reason why, as the Bishop of Down and Connor said, it should not be carried out during the coming session."

**CORK.**—The National Teachers' Grievance.—The National teachers of Ireland have a serious grievance in the new pension regulations, and on Saturday, February 5, the teachers of Cork city and county held a most successful meeting to ventilate their grievance. The main point in the teachers' grievance is that the Treasury has ordered a very large increase in the contributions made by the teachers to their Pension Fund without showing any real ground for making this heavy extra charge. The Cork meeting (says the *Irish Cath lic*) was a most influential one. Sympathetic letters were read from the Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan and the Most Rev. Dr. Browne. Sir George Colthurst proposed a series of resolutions bearing on the financial position of the teachers, which, in a most representative meeting, were carried unanimously. Under the Act of 1879 teachers of the first division of first class were awarded a pension of £88 per annum on completion of 40 years' service. The same Act provided for the annual payment of a certain premium. The Treasury people have now got the notion into their heads that they are losing money by the present arrangement. If they are losing money it ought to be possible to set forth a statement of accounts making the matter clear. Supposing, then, the loss to be genuine, the proper course to pursue would be to invoke the intervention of Parliament for the indemnification of the Treasury. This would be the only reasonable method of procedure, even granting the arrangements made by statute in 1879 to be unsound, though it is undeniable that the evidence before the public points quite the other way. Giving the Treasury credit, nevertheless, for perfectly accurate arithmetic—which is, however, giving away too much—yet the action taken by its officials seems most autocratic. The pension of £88 is to be reduced to £60 unless

deprived of his lands I would give him their full market value for them. The next thing that must be done is—in my opinion—you must make the tenant-farmer the owner of the soil that he tills. So long as human nature is what it is the greatest stimulus to industry will be the conviction that you are working for your own and for nobody else. I know from my own experience with regard to those farms which have been purchased by the tenants that they labour on them night and day, that they pick up the last particle of manure and put it on the land, that they put their fences into good order, that they open the drains, and they and their families work day and night with the assured conviction that no landlord or anybody else can touch them henceforward. Therefore, I say the second element in successful agricultural competition in Ireland must be to make the tenants, on fair terms all round, the owners of the soil they till. If you do this you have a chance of competing successfully with the foreigner, and enabling the tillers of the soil in Ireland to live in comfort in the country.

**An Admirable Society.**—A very admirable society, to be known as the Police-Aided Children's Clothing Society, has been established in Dublin. It is found that in Dublin, like in most large cities, the various philanthropic societies overlap, and while some of the poor are helped from several charitable bodies, others of them are helped from none. Under these circumstances, the Dublin police have generously placed themselves at the disposal of the Philanthropic Reform Association, for the purpose of seeing that the wants of all the deserving poor are attended to, and the Police-Aided Children's Clothing Society is the result. The Society's chief objects are, in the first place, to clothe poor children; in the second place, to secure that drunken parents do not pawn the clothing thus supplied. Her Excellency the Countess of Cadogan is a patroness of the Society, which is certain to rapidly make its way into the public confidence.

**GALWAY.**—The Catholic University Question in Galway.—A great meeting was held in Galway to consider this question, and as might be expected, the Galway people spoke with no uncertain sound on the just claims of Catholics to educational equality. Professor Pye, M.D., J.P., proposed the first resolution, which ran as follows:—1. "That we adopt the claim put forward by the Catholic laity of Ireland in their recent declaration, and reaffirmed by the national meeting held in Dublin, on the 11th inst.,