

## Irish News.

**CORK.—Compensation for a Policeman.**—Constable Coughlan claimed £500 for injuries received at an eviction near Mitchelstown, and was awarded £282 by the Recorder of Cork.

**The Gospel of Sobriety.**—Before leaving for America Archbishop Ireland visited Cork and delivered an address on temperance. In the course of a very eloquent discourse his Grace said the Gospel that he preached that evening was the gospel of sobriety. Ireland sober would be so strong that nothing could keep her from leading in all the walks of civilisation, intelligence, and social prosperity. For nearly 40 years he had worked among the Irish people as priest and Bishop. He knew their virtues and he knew their faults, and because he loved them with every fibre of his heart he was prepared to speak to them wherever they were in Ireland and in America with absolute frankness. He was prepared to tell them of the one obstacle in their path of greatness and happiness, in the firm hope that something might be done to remove that obstacle, and place the Irish people on the height where God intended they should live. The great impediment to the onward march of the Irish people was the use of intoxicating drinks. He was going to speak with the greatest frankness, for the Irish race deserved to be told the truth, in order that nothing henceforth might oppress them. For nearly three-quarters of a century they had been going to America by hundreds of thousands, and numbers of them had attained social success and positions of wealth; but those who had so risen were not the full number that should have risen, and in many other great cities where they would expect to find names telling of Ireland they found these names few and far between, and they found, too, many of their people miserable. Everywhere it was said to him there was but one curse—namely, drink. Of the people brought before the courts 75 per cent. were there through drink, and a judge of the courts told him that 95 per cent. of the Irish people before the courts were there for drunkenness; and, were it not for that one fell curse, scarcely an Irishman, or the child of an Irishman, would appear before these courts: He had often talked to employers of labour and they told him they wished to employ Irishmen because they were so quick, but they were often afraid to employ them because of the temptation that came to so many of them to drink. Of course for the past 20 years a wonderful change had come over them. They were now coming forth as the most sober element in the population of America, but while they congratulated themselves upon that fact it would be doing them a wrong if they did not speak of evils in the past in order that such evils might not attend them in the future.

**DUBLIN.—Well Deserved Promotion.**—General satisfaction is felt at the appointment of Mr. W. P. Quirke, for many years Controller of the Sorters' Department, G.P.O., Dublin, to the important post of Chief Clerk and Inspector of Mails in Ireland. For some time past English officials were imported for the more important positions in the Irish Post Office service, and Mr. Quirke's appointment shows that Irishmen are now getting a chance.

**KERRY.—The Lakes of Killarney.**—A cable message of Saturday last stated that Sir Thomas Lipton had offered £50,000 for the Lakes of Killarney, intending to present them to the Irish nation. About six weeks ago a message was received to the effect that the celebrated Muckross estate, which includes the Lakes, had been purchased by Mr. Gallagher, the well-known tobacco merchant of Belfast, and who is reputed to be, like Sir Thomas Lipton, a millionaire. None of our Home exchanges mentioned anything about the purchase of the estate by Mr. Gallagher. Mr. Croker, of Tammany fame, was reported to be negotiating with the owners of the property, which a number of Irish-Americans desired to secure and present to the Irish people. Lords Ardilaun and Iveagh, and Messrs. Howard and George Gould, of New York, were, also, it was said, desirous of obtaining the ownership of it. Mr. Gallagher was reported to have paid £85,000 for the estate.

**LOUTH.—Clerical Appointment.**—His Eminence Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, has appointed the Rev. Patrick Fagan, C.C., Armagh, to be parish priest of the parish of Kilsaran, County Louth, in place of the Rev. Peter Pentony, P.P., lately deceased. Father Fagan has been stationed in the Primatial City for a considerable number of years, and during that time has earned for himself the high esteem and sincere affection of all with whom he came in contact.

**MAYO.—The Ballaghaderreen Cathedral.**—The Rev. M. Henry, P.P., Attymass, and Rev. P. Cawley, C.C., Coloneoy, of the diocese of Achonry, are about to proceed to America to collect for the cathedral at Ballaghaderreen, which for the last fifty years has remained in an incomplete condition.

**TIPPERARY.—Successful Students.**—The following eight students of Rockwell College, Cashel, were candidates at the recent Royal University Matriculation examination:—William Martin, Edmund O'Donnell, Michael J. Ryan, John P. Waters, Maurice A. Power, William Ryan, J. J. Healy. All passed the examination successfully. In the Intermediate Examinations for the last three years Rockwell scored the most enviable successes.

**WATERFORD.—The Administratorship of St. John's Parish.**—His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford, has appointed Rev. Father P. F. Fitzgerald to the administratorship of St. John's parish, rendered vacant by the lamented death of Father Barron. Father Fitzgerald, who is a native of Carrick-on-Suir, has been fifteen years in the sacred ministry, the last five years of which he has been curate in St. John's. His promotion has given great satisfaction.

**WEXFORD.—A Judge with Progressive Ideas.**—Mr. Justice O'Brien, in his address to the Wexford Grand Jury at the Summer Assizes, said:—Since this time last year, when it was my duty to address you, a vast change has been effected over the whole country of Ireland in the duties of Grand Jurors. The fiscal duties they were wont to discharge have been transferred to the County and District Councils, and Parliament has thereby recognised that the foundation stone of the liberties of a free people is that those who pay the taxation shall through their elected representatives impose and disburse that taxation. It has now been decided by Parliament that the people, through their own elected representatives, shall in future disburse the taxation of the country, a principle that is everywhere recognised as the principle of a free people. That is the principle of the House of Commons, and we are proceeding from precedent to precedent.

### GENERAL.

**Proposed National Synod of Irish Bishops.**—Preparations are being made for the National Synod of the Irish Bishops which is to be held next year. A committee of the bishops has been appointed for the purpose, and their first meeting was held on Monday, July 31st.

**An Irishman Presides Over the Eisteddfod.**—Lord Castle-town of Ossory presided on Wednesday, July 26, over the Eisteddfod at Cardiff, being the first Irishman that has done so. His address was considered one of the finest ever delivered on such an occasion. He was initiated a member of the Gorsedd, and the Archdruid conferred on him the title of 'Leader of the Celts.' He headed a procession of the Irish-Celtic delegates, which was cheered by a large crowd as it moved through the streets to the place of meeting. The Irish residents of Cardiff, who number 30,000, are greatly elated with his visit and that of his fellow-delegates from the Irish societies, and the interchange of courtesies between the Irish and Welsh Celts augurs well for the future good relations between them.

**A Fortune in Fish.**—The report of the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries on the sea and inland fisheries of Ireland for 1898 states that 6707 vessels and boats were actually engaged in the sea fisheries in 1898, as compared with 6626 in 1897. This shows an increase of 81. There were 25,206 men and 969 boys employed, showing an increase on the previous year of 613 men, and a decrease of 157 boys. Of the vessels, 393 were first class, 2940 second class, and 2374 third class. Of the £20,000 reserved by the Purchase of Land and Congested Districts (Ireland) Act, 1891, for administration by the inspectors in non-congested districts, the sum of £20,985 8s 4d was advanced up to the 31st December, 1898. The promissory notes signed to secure principal and interest amounted to £22,664 18s 7d. The repayments were £13,240 11s 3d; the outstanding notes not arrived at maturity, £9,424 7s 4d. The arrears on the £22,664 18s 7d consisted of only £239 6s 10d, or 1 per cent.

**A Candid Opinion.**—Some minds appear to be haunted by a dread that every boon wrung from England will damp the Irishman's aspirations for Home Rule. There must be no such fear. 'With greater comfort and prosperity,' comments the *Daily Chronicle*, *appropos* of the Irish Agricultural Bill, 'the just demands of Ireland will be more strongly pressed. For one thing, that terrible drain of the country's best blood will be checked. As it stands, Ireland is losing 35,000 of her most capable and energetic sons and daughters on an average every year. With proper cultivation and direction there is not the smallest doubt she could keep nearly all of them at home for many years to come. It is true also she is necessarily an agricultural country. The linen, shipbuilding, and brewing are limited to a few centres. The capitalised value of the crops and stocks throughout the country is estimated at £112,000,000. But there is not a doubt that this value could be at least doubled.'

**The Archbishop of St. Paul's Impressions of Ireland.**—On arriving in New York Archbishop Ireland was subjected to the inevitable interview, and regarding Ireland he said:—The last thing I did before leaving was to give a ten-minute talk at Cork, which I called my message to the Irish people, on temperance. I told them that all they had to do was to follow the lines of Father Mathew and they would be among the first in everything. There has been great improvement in the conditions in Ireland. The county councils, which formerly were named by the grand jury and were practically the landlords, are now elective, and give a large measure of home rule. So far as it goes, the system is remarkably good. I will say nothing as to giving ultimate satisfaction. Mr. Balfour, to whom the whole thing is due, is well pleased with the results. There are schools everywhere in Ireland, and the Irish people to-day are well educated. The immigrants we get in the future will be so.

**An Expensive Inquiry.**—It is estimated that the inquiry into the proposed amalgamation of Irish railways, which came to a conclusion at the House of Commons recently, cost no less than five guineas a minute. This sensational rate of expenditure, the authority for which is Mr. Pope, Q.C., is probably without parallel in the history of Parliamentary committees. The proceedings extended over a period of twenty-seven Parliamentary days, and have involved, it is computed a total expenditure of something like £50,000. Twenty counsel were briefed for the various interests concerned, and the number of witnesses examined constitutes a record for at least the last ten years. And the net result of it all is that the scheme has been rejected by the committee. If the proposal had received the sanction of the House, it would have conferred upon the Great Southern Railway Company a practical monopoly of the whole of Ireland south of a line drawn from Dublin to Galway, and a competitive line through Connaught with the Midland Great Western of Ireland. The opposition to the scheme came mainly from Limerick, Tralee, and Tipperary, and from the few local governing bodies of those portions of the country affected.