

Tipperary.—At last Tipperary fair the usual fight took place over Sui h-Barry's tolls. Several rows occurred at the various custom gaps and a number of men were arrested.

A mass-meeting of the liberal electors of Bradford was held recently to denounce the action of the Irish Executive towards Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien at Tipperary.

A company is being organised to work the Ormonde slate quarries at Carrick-on-Suir. The slates that have been turned out from this place are said by eminent architects to rank even higher than those that are brought at so much cost from Wales.

A large and representative meeting was held in the William O'Brien Arcade, New Tipperary, for the purpose of endorsing the action of the Irish Parliamentary party at their conference in Dublin with reference to the Tenants' Defence Association. Very Rev. Canon Cahill presided, and amongst the others present were Rev. David Humphries, Rev. P. Egan of Woolford, Lady Robinson of Northampton, Miss A. Mander of Wolverhampton, Miss Borthwick of London, and Sydney Hallifax of Manchester.

Waterford.—The Government has purchased a large tract of land of Knockmealdown District, near Lismore, for a rifle range.

John Henneberry of Mount Bolton was charged at Portlaw with having unlawfully assaulted the sub-Sheriff and his bailiffs on the occasion of the eviction of his father. He pleaded guilty and was bound to the peace.

Westmeath.—The branch is in a healthy condition, and is steadily keeping the National banner afloat in Mullingar. James Allen presided at recent meeting, at which the attendance was large. Several new members were enrolled, amongst them being Mr. John Cain and Mr. Gaynor.

Wexford.—The All-Ireland Gaelic championship matches were recently played between Dublin, Kilkenny, Louth and Wexford in Drumcondra Dublin, which the Castlebridge hurlers and footballers carried off.

An immense gathering of the good men and true of Ramsgrange district recently listened to the words of wisdom and national import which fell from the venerable pastor Canon Doyle. Resolutions in support of the Irish party and the tenants cause were adopted.

The attendance at last meeting of Lady's Is and Labour League was the largest since its inauguration. Several new members were enrolled. Great satisfaction was expressed at the appearance of Mr. Davitt's *Labour World* and hearty wishes for its success. Edward Barnes presided.

Thomas Fitzpatrick, pupil of Rathgarogue National School has been successful in obtaining three of the annual prizes, irrespective of a certificate or honour given by Vere Foster, for the best imitation of one or more of his series head-line copy-books. Ireland was represented by competitors from twenty-nine counties, and England, Scotland, and Wales by forty, besides Colonial and foreign schools. Much credit is due to his teacher, Mr. Condon, for the success of his pupil.

THE DOMINICAN CONVENT BAZAAR, INVERCARGILL.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

AFTER many months of unremitting toil and diligent application the efforts of the Dominican Nuns, and of the ladies and gentleman of the congregation who assisted them were brought to a successful issue. No trouble was spared in the preparation of useful and artistically finished commodities for the bazaar, high hopes were entertained regarding the financial result of the good works in hand and I am glad to be in a position to say that the bazaar has been eminently successful, and the highest hopes have been fully realised. I send the report of the opening of the bazaar on Wednesday, 10th inst., as given in the *Southland Times* of December 11, hoping you will kindly find space to insert it in full.

"The nature and magnitude of the preparations which have been going on for the past few months to render the bazaar in aid of the Dominican Convent and Schools a big draw and a big success were apparent the moment the doors were thrown open to the public yesterday afternoon, and it was equally evident that the promoters, the ladies and gentlemen who have worked so hard and so well, have accomplished all, and perhaps more than even their most sanguine expectations had painted. The visitors who thronged into the theatre as soon as the appointed time arrived were met with a scene the beauties and attractions of which were at first difficult to realise because of their lavish profusion. Every inch of the floor space which could be utilised without absolutely preventing freedom of movement to and fro is occupied by stalls, stands, etc., and upon these stalls and stands are arranged an infinite variety of articles, be produce of much ingenious and artistic skill. To give anything like an idea of the vast assortment of goods, useful and ornamental, which are piled so tastefully all around, to convey the faintest impression of the wonders that the zeal, energy, and skill of the ladies have accomplished would be a task impossible of performance within the ordinary limits of a newspaper report, and it must therefore be sufficient to say that the quality, appearance, and intrinsic value of the goods displayed are greatly superior to those usually vended on such occasions and in every case well worth the prices set upon them. It is not at every bazaar that the expenditure which so freely goes on—or which should so freely go on—affords substantial and satisfactory returns, and therefore the bazaar that can claim such a distinction is particularly entitled to patronage. To spend one's money in a good cause is, beyond doubt, exemplary and praiseworthy, but to get at the same time excellent value does not as a rule tend to lessen the pleasurable feelings the deed of charity creates.

Shortly before 3 p.m. the bazaar was formally opened by Mr. J. G. Ward, M.H.R., who, with the Rev. Fathers Walsh, Keenan, Vereker, and Murphy, and the young people destined to take part in the musical programme, occupied the stage.

Mr. Ward said: Rev. gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen, the part of the business which I have to perform to-day is an exceedingly agreeable one, and one in the discharge of which I shall not take up your time very long. I may in the first place congratulate the ladies and gentlemen, the evidence of whose industry is seen on all sides, on the excellent display before us. I am sure when I look to my right, to my left, and in front of me that the stalls could not have been so splendidly equipped without a great deal of labour, skill, taste and hard work, and I take the earliest opportunity on behalf of those for whom the bazaar has been got up, of returning their thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who have done so well. I trust that the large attendance I see before me may be accepted as an augury as to what the results of the bazaar will be. I see that a gentleman, Mr. McKee, has come from the heights of Hokonui to indulge in bag-pipe music for the pleasure of those who come here, and his presence I think all will agree with me, is a proof that an interest far beyond Invercargill is taken in this bazaar. I desire especially to thank Mr. McKee for coming. It is not my purpose, nor I think your desire, to take up your time unnecessarily; all I wish to say is that I hope those who came here with pockets laden will speedily and freely unload them, and I am sure at the conclusion they will have no occasion to regret their liberality. It would be superfluous for me to go into details as to the attractions offered, and I only have to express the hope that the results of the bazaar will prove highly beneficial to the cause for which it has been got up. Without detaining you any longer I declare the bazaar open, and I hope you will all spend your money freely and so enable it to achieve the purpose for which it is held.

A short musical programme followed, consisting of the following items, each of which was admirably rendered:—Overture, "Crown Diamonds," Misses Little, M. McLeod, Maher, and Morton (pianos), and Miss Dickinson (violin); solo, "Joyous Life," Miss Kirwan; piano solo, "Last Rose of summer," Miss Maher; duet and chorus, "All Hail, Zealand," Misses Hishon and K. Kirwan, and the school girls (60 voices)

The opening ceremony having been completed, the real business began in earnest, the young ladies being indefatigable in their exertions to dispose of their wares, and irresistible in the blandishments they summoned to their aid. The refreshment hall and tea saloon were very liberally patronised; a Christmas tree near the centre of the floor received considerable attention, while the fish pond and the Post Office did capital business. The following were the ladies who presided at the stalls:—Fancy Goods Stall, No. 1—Mesdames Hickson, Maher, and Kersey; assistants, Misses Hickson, Maher, N. Printz, and K. Dickinson. Fancy Goods Stall, No. 2—Misses Morgan (6), Collins (2), Dalrymple. Fancy Goods Stall, No. 3—Misses Lawlor, Sutton, Cahill, Thompson, O'Hara, and Appleby; assistants, Misses Cahill (3), McCarthy, and Hishon. Fancy Goods Stall, No. 4—Mesdames Shepherd, Morton, Dalton, Cassidy, and Moran; assistants, Misses Staunton, Morton, Dalton, Gavin, and Hugh s. Refreshment Stall—Mesdames Byrne and McPherson, Misses Hill (2) and Keys. Flower Stall—Miss s Anderson (2), Lady, Fish, and McLeod (2). Tea Saloon—Mesdames Cameron, Reid, McGrath, and McCarthy. Misses McIvor, Moffatt, Bradley. Fish Pond—Mesdames J. E. Reid and Byrne; assistants, Misses Roche, McInerney. Post Office—Misses Kirwan and Kavanaugh; assistants, Misses Watson, Sock L Hill, A. Phillips, and N. Kane. Religious Objects—Mesdames Walls and Hughes; assistants, Misses Shepherd (2) and Pasco. Christmas Tree—Mrs. Dunne; assistants, Misses Craies, Crawford, and Weavers.

In the evening the hall was crowded almost to excess, and business was extremely brisk and lively. Besides the ladies and gentlemen who promenaded the floor a considerable number took up positions in the circle and there enjoyed the music the limelight views exhibited by Mr. James Stewart, and the scene of brilliant animation. But if any of those who occupied the circle thought that by going so they might avoid the common fate of visitors to bazaars they were hugely mistaken, for the fair vendors penetrated even to that retired sphere and practised their arts of persuasion with no small success.

The concert was a capital one, consisting of the following items, besides a number of selections by the Invercargill Orchestral Society:—Overture, "Poet and Peasant," Misses Little, Maher, and Printz (pianos), and Miss Dickinson (violin); chorus, "Has sorrow thy young days shaded," pupils and ex-pupils; piano solo (three pianos), "Mocking Bird," the Misses Maher, Morton, and McLeod; vocal duet, "Sal campo della gloria," the Misses Kirwan and Hishon; overture, "Tancredi," Misses Little and Morton, Maher and McLeod, Printz and Hickson (pianos), Miss Dickinson and Master Ferguson (violins), and the chorus "All Hail Zealandia," as in the afternoon. The music was listened to with appreciative attention throughout, and at an interval Mr. Stewart's lime-light views interested and amused the audience. The takings for the day exceeded £100.

The bazaar was open each afternoon and evening until Monday night December 15th. The good impressions of the display which were carried away by the patrons on the first days had the effect of bringing in larger crowds, until on Saturday evening the interest and enthusiasm had reached their highest. The theatre was literally crowded, so much so, that locomotion was almost impeded, and the management were compelled to consent to the bazaar being open again on the following Monday. Each evening an attractive vocal and instrumental entertainment was given, while the young people were amused with limelight exhibitions, magic lanterns, and other pleasing displays.

The stalls were very liberally patronised, and did a "roaring" trade—being replenished from the Convent each time the stock was getting low, until the most of the available supply was disposed of.

The gipsy fortune teller was also there, and from the amount she realised it would seem beyond doubt that the vocation of a fortune-teller is a lucrative one.

The drawing of prizes in connection with the art union took place in the theatre on Saturday, December 13th and proved very interesting to those who held tickets and who were present, watching the drawing, and hoping their ticket would prove a winning number. The young ladies from the bazaar stalls performed the