

### Slow Procedure

Mr. T. W. Russell, in a scathing description of the scandals of the Irish Land Judge's Court, mentioned an instance of an estate in which he had himself some interest, which came into that court some years ago and is still in it. When the estate was brought into the court it was solvent; it had, however, since become hopelessly insolvent. Mr. T. W. Russell's description of the fortunes of this estate in Judge Ross's Court recalls the celebrated remark of Dean Swift in Captain Lemuel Gulliver's introduction to his 'Travels.' 'My father,' he wrote, 'was plaintiff in a Chancery suit, which was decided in his favor with costs. He was, of course, hopelessly ruined.'

### Emigration

Notwithstanding the efforts of the Anti-Emigration Society (writes a Dublin correspondent), a substantial increase took place last year as compared with the preceding years in the number of people who left the country. At first sight it would seem from this as if the work of the Society had been all in vain. It would be a mistake to come to such a conclusion. The increase would certainly have been greater were it not for the valuable information scattered throughout Ireland by the Society as to the condition of the labor market in America. A more powerful antidote is, however, necessary to cope with an evil of such magnitude. It must be evident to every thinking person that employment for those who need it is the one and only thing that can stop the terrible drain that goes steadily on year after year. Beside this every other remedy proposed fades into insignificance. If those Irishmen who are blessed with wealth and have the good of their country at heart would only follow the excellent example set them by the late Mr. J. McCann, M.P., the land would in a short time be dotted with industries of a remunerative kind and there would be no necessity for the youth of Ireland to seek a livelihood abroad.

### Railway Rates

Mr. J. F. O'Brien called attention recently in the House of Commons to the question of transit and railway rates in Ireland. He complained that there was no harmony in the working of the various railways in Ireland, and suggested that negotiations should be opened to put all the lines of railway under one common Board. The railway system had always been a great hindrance to the trade of the country. Irish railway rates were 22 per cent higher than the English. The remedy clearly was to amalgamate the railways under one common Board. The Board of Trade could easily formulate a scheme that would guarantee the profits to each railway, and work the whole for the general trade and prosperity of the country. Mr. Wyndham, in reply, said that reduction in rates had already been made in many cases. Through the action of the Department for Agriculture in Ireland experiments had been made for nine months to collect agricultural produce on seventeen different routes by means of motors, which was believed by many people to be the best means of solving the problem of gathering agricultural produce, if it was to be put on the railway on anything like reasonable terms. The chief difficulties which had arisen originally had been the speed limit and the state of the Irish roads, but the Government were now prepared to increase the speed limit to ten miles, and the weight of the cars to three tons, with a trailer of a ton and a half. With regard to the roads, they must be certified by the county surveyors as sufficient to take the cars. They must endeavor to make the Irish railways buck up courage, and take their place side by side with private enterprise in developing Irish industries and agriculture.

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## People We Hear About

The following is the record of the Hon. Edward Blake, who told the House of Commons recently that he had a longer experience of the working of subordinate Parliaments than any other member. Mr. Blake entered the Parliament of Ontario and the Dominion Parliament thirty-six years ago. He sat in the two Parliaments simultaneously for five years, and was Prime Minister of Ontario while a member of the Canadian Parliament. He was Minister of Justice for Canada for a period, and left the Dominion Parliament in 1891 to enter the 'Mother of Parliaments.'

The Rev. Peter Amigo, whom the Congregation of Propaganda has recommended the Pope to appoint Bishop of Southwark, is a native of Gibraltar. Both his parents were naturalised British subjects, and his mother still resides in the fortress. Born in 1864, he went to England in 1878, his intention being to join the English Bar. He became a student of St. Edmund's College, Ware, and there abandoned his ambitions for the Bar on finding that he had a vocation for the priesthood.

South Africa (says the 'Daily News') is well blessed with Irishmen. Mr. W. St. John Carr, the first Mayor of Johannesburg, is an Irishman and a Catholic. The Mayor of Pretoria is Mr. Bourke, whose name betrays his nationality. Mr. O'Reilly, a Limerick man, who was recently on a visit to this country, was Mayor of Capetown a few years ago. Mr. Moses Cornwall, the Mayor of Kimberley before the outbreak of the war, is a Dublin man, and attended the Convention of the Irish Race in his native city a few years ago as a Home Rule delegate from the Diamond Fields.

Mr. P. A. M'Hugh, M.P., who was one of the new members introduced at the opening of Parliament, and who was selected to move the Irish amendment to the Address, has been in Parliament for many years. His return on the present occasion occurs owing to his bankruptcy in connection with certain legal proceedings taken by the Crown Solicitor of Sligo. When the seat was vacated and a new writ issued Mr. M'Hugh and his father were both nominated for the vacancy. The father's nomination took place to avoid any legal disqualification of Mr. M'Hugh himself in case of opposition. When at the last moment no sign of any opponent was observed the father withdrew, and the son was declared re-elected for South Leitrim. Mr. M'Hugh was three times Mayor of Sligo, and just the same number of times in prison under different Coercion Acts.

Colonel Sanderson's grandfather, to whose staunch anti-Union principles in the Irish House of Commons Mr. Swift MacNeill, M.P., referred on the night of the Irish debate, is included in Sir Jonah Barrington's famous 'Red List' of members who could not be corrupted by Lord Castlereagh's offers of pay, places, and peerages. It is one of the ironies of Irish history that the ancestors of some of the most extreme Unionists of Ulster to-day were the strongest opponents of the Act of Union, which was favored by many Catholic dignitaries. There are notable names in the Irish Peerage to-day representing ancestors or relatives who fought against the Union in the Irish House of Commons. Members of the Irish Commons in the fateful 1800 who voted against the Union subsequently became Marquis of Omond, Lord Farnham, Lord Belmore, Lord Leitrim, Lord Enniskillen, Lord Carbery, Lord Kingston, and Lord Plunket, who, by the way, has two descendants in the Peerage to-day—Lord Plunket and Lord Rathmore.

The new Duchess of Norfolk is descended from that Maxwell who made one of the most exciting escapes from the Tower of London ever recorded. He was Earl of Nithsdale, and, foolishly taking the part of the Pretender against George I., he was captured at the Battle of Preston, and was committed to the Tower. His wife, a daughter of the Marquis of Powis of the time, rode through the snow from the North of England to London, although she was a poor horsewoman, to entreat George I. for her husband's life. All to no avail, although it is recorded that one day she hung on to the King's coat-tails and was dragged on her knees the whole length of a room while the King tried to escape from her. The refusal of the King gave the family of Maxwell a story of ingenuity and breathless daring which they would no doubt be sorry to be without. Lord Nithsdale was smuggled out of the Tower in the clothes of his wife's maid the night before the day appointed for his execution, and Lord Derwentwater and all the other prisoners who had not the advantage of being served by devoted wives were duly executed.