

QUEEN'S COUNTY—A Centenarian passes away

The death took place recently of William Rooney, Clonmore, Queen's County, in his 103rd year. Deceased was a total abstainer all through life, but was a heavy smoker.

ROSCOMMON—Remarkable Longevity

A very remarkable case of longevity in a family comes from Mountcashel, County Roscommon (says an exchange). In a family named Fox representatives of five generations are at present alive, and in robust health. Recently Mrs. Timothy Fox, of Mountcashel, gave birth to a son. The grandmother, Mrs. Fox, is 55 years of age, the great-grandmother, Mrs. Fahey, is 82, while the great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Mulvenie, is in her 103rd year. It is not often that one hears of a woman 82 years of age having her mother alive and in good health.

TIPPERARY—Presentation

In connection with the silver jubilee of Father Brennan, President of Rockwell College, Cashel, which was celebrated last October, the chairman of the presentation committee has handed the rev. gentleman a beautiful gold watch and chain as a memento of the occasion.

The late Archbishop Croke

In St. Patrick's College, Thurles, on February 5, Mr. John Dillon, M.P., who was attending a political demonstration in the town, received addresses of welcome from several representative bodies. In replying he recalled the fact that he last spoke in that hall on his release from prison twenty years ago, when he was welcomed by the then Archbishop of Cashel, who more than any other man of his generation typified that union between the priests and people of Ireland which was the main hope of the future of the country. The lesson and the inspiration of his life, and the manly stand he took for the honor and liberty of the Irish people, formed a great national asset. He rejoiced to know that in Dr. Croke's successor they had a true-hearted Tipperary man who was as loyal to the cause of liberty as any Bishop who ever reigned in Ireland.

GENERAL.**Assisting Farmers**

The Agricultural Board has authorised the Department to apply a sum not exceeding £10,000 from their Endowment Fund in reducing the cost of seed to the occupying purchasers under the Local Government Board scheme.

Technical Education

Mr. Louis Ronillon, Professor of Manual Training at the Teachers' College, Columbia University, has been appointed Chief Inspector of Technical Education for Ireland. It is understood that Sir Horace Plunkett secured his appointment.

Parliamentary Representation

Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., has announced that he will run candidates for at least nine seats in Ulster at the General Election. They will advocate a large reduction in the cost of the government of Ireland, chiefly with regard to law and police expenses.

Earl Spencer's Views

Earl Spencer, speaking at Wandsworth, declared that Mr. Wyndham's discovery of the necessity of an advance by devolution or some other change is a striking justification of Mr. Gladstone's view of the impossibility of continuing coercion, and the necessity for conceding some self-government to Ireland.

Cardinal Moran's Proposal

Mr. John Redmond, the Irish Parliamentary leader, speaking in Dublin the other day, referred again to Cardinal Moran's proposal for holding a conference of the Irish race in Australia, which, he said, he hoped to see soon realised. "It is a brilliant proposal," said Mr. Redmond, "worthy of the great leader of the Irish people in Australia."

It was stated at a meeting of the Trades and Labor Council at Auckland that the Colony was flooded with imported American vehicles. This was a serious detriment to local industry, and a Christchurch firm (i.e. Morrow, Bassett, and Co.) imported hundreds of American vehicles, which they sold a hundred per cent. under the prices for which the local manufacturers produce the same goods. It was resolved to urge the Government to impose an increase on the tax (now 30 per cent.) on vehicles imported, in parts or complete. Before the Government gets to work would be the time to buy a Daisy Road Cart—price, £13 delivered....

People We Hear About

Few members of the peerage have had a more eventful career than Lord Mount-Stephen, who has lately given £200,000 to the King's Hospital Fund. He was once a herd-boy in Banffshire, and then a draper's apprentice in Aberdeen. Emigrating to Canada, he made a large fortune out of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in the building of which he was associated with his cousin, Donald Smith. Smith is now Lord Strathcona, High Commissioner for Canada. Both Peers are childless. Many years ago, however, Lord Mount-Stephen and his first wife adopted a little girl, and soon after they went to England. Miss Alice Stephen married Mr. Henry Stafford Northcote. In 1887 Mr. Northcote was created a baronet, and in 1900 he became Lord Northcote.

In Sir John Robinson's 'Fifty Years of Fleet Street' he tells how Sir Arthur Sullivan offered to sell outright the song 'The Lost Chord' for 250 dollars, but, fortunately for him, his offer was declined, and he retained the copyright, out of which he got a very large sum from first to last. One curious thing he mentioned with regard to the song. There is an absurd blunder in it. The words are, "I struck one chord of music like the sound of a great Amen." Now, Amen is a word of two syllables, so that there must have been two chords. He did not notice this, he said, until after the song had been sung in public, and he was terribly afraid he would get laughed at for it. Strange to say, nobody ever seemed to have found it out.

A few weeks ago (says the 'Catholic Herald') we referred to an 'interesting event' which is said to be expected shortly in the Norfolk family. A writer in the 'Freeman's Journal' the other day gives some detailed particulars regarding the matter. Should a boy be born, the Duke of Norfolk will then have a direct heir. Should the child be a girl Lord Edmund Talbot, the Duke's brother, will remain heir presumptive. Lord Edmund bears the name of Talbot under the will of the last Catholic Earl of Shrewsbury, who made him his heir. English Catholics are much interested in the hopes for a direct heir to the Duke, for at present only two delicate boys, the sons of Lord E. Talbot and of Lord Howard of Glossop, stand between the Duke and a Protestant heir.

Father Gapon, the leader of the Russian strikers, is an Orthodox clergyman who has had a remarkable career. From his youth he has been conversant with the life of workmen. The son of a peasant in the Poltava province, he resolved to devote himself to the service of the people, and felt that he could best accomplish that purpose by becoming a priest. After his ordination he began the work of endeavoring to improve the lot of the toilers. He formed evening classes for their benefit, joined in various philanthropic movements, and published a pamphlet on 'The Means of Combating Destitution.' Whilst chaplain of the Transport Prison he conducted classes amongst the criminals condemned to penal servitude. His experience led him to the conclusion that the workmen must be closely banded together if they were to become a real power. Thus is explained the genesis of the association he has formed.

The London 'Tablet,' noting the inclusion of Father John Gerard's name in the latest edition of 'Who's Who,' gives some interesting particulars of the Gerard family apropos of the fact that four of its members now figure in 'Who's Who.'—Father John figures as the eldest son of the late Colonel Archibald Gerard, of Rochsoles, born in 1840, and, at the early age of sixteen, entering the Society he has since so brilliantly served. His brother, General Sir Montagu Gerard, born three years later, has a long record of military distinction in 'Who's Who.' He, too, is a maker of books and his present experiences at the seat of the war in the Far East will provide, one supposes, marvellously interesting material for a volume in succession to "Leaves from the Diary of a Soldier and Sportsman." Two ladies of the family neighbor their brother in "Who's Who," Madame de Laszowski, and Madame Longard de Longarde—the Emily and Dorothea Gerard of so many attractive title-pages—"Reata," "Beggars my Neighbor," "The Waters of Hercules," and the rest." The 'Tablet,' by the way, protests against the continued ignoring of the names of other Jesuits such as Father Thurston and Father Matthew Russell by the compilers of 'Who's Who.' It designates such exclusion as 'hideous.' And the word is not too strong.