

of evictions and those wholesale 'clearances' that have left wide tracts of the country almost bare of population. The partial settlement of the land question and the rapid sale of estates under the recent Purchase Acts have to some extent deprived the Royal Irish Constabulary of their chief traditional occupation. During the past two or three years the force has, therefore, been considerably reduced—except in the portions of Ulster that are infected with the virus of the Yellow Agony and convulsed by the annual revolution that takes place in the dog-days of July.

As we have shown from time to time, there are practically no criminal classes in Ireland, grave crime is comparatively little known there, and (according to official statistics) the prison population is proportionately less than in England or Scotland. In 1903, for instance, there were 59,962 committals to prison in Scotland, and 32,669 in Ireland—the population of both countries being practically equal, that of the Land o' Cakes numbering 4,507,000 in 1902, and the Green Isle 4,434,000. In Great Britain the police are a peace force; in Ireland a military coercive one. The 'Royal Irish' have little to do with the prevention and detection of crime. Their days are filled in with drill, patrolling country roads, fishing, cycling, and other forms of sport, and prosecuting the owners of wandering donkeys and unlicensed dogs. For the rest (as Teufelsdröck puts it in 'Sartor Resartus') they dress and digest and talk articulate words; other vitality show they almost none. The sleepy monotony of these occupations among an almost crimeless people is occasionally broken by such fits of 'divarshun' as breaking the faces of Members of Parliament that dare to address their constituents without the high sanction of the Lord Lieutenant, disturbing or dispersing peaceful assemblies of the people, paying illegal domiciliary visits at unseasonable hours of the night to law-abiding cottagers' homes, giving 'the butt-end of the law' to nine-year-old rebels caught whistling 'Harvey Duff,' escorting to gaol older desperadoes convicted of sneezing at a policeman on duty, or of 'smiling at him in a threatening manner,' or (as recently at Swords) 'blowing their noses disrespectfully towards' a constable who was on the opposite side of the street. Chesterfield tells of a man who hanged himself for lack of occupation—for sheer weariness of putting on and pulling off his shoes and stockings every day. Ireland is enormously over-policed by a costly constabulary. Dublin Castle finds great difficulty in giving it enough occupation to keep the blue devils away. But one way or another it endeavors to give the idle, handsome, well-fed fellows enough amusement and exercise to make digestion wait on appetite and health on both.

St. Mary's Cathedral, Wellington

At St. Patrick's Hall, Boulcott street, Wellington, on Sunday afternoon, August 13 (says the 'New Zealand Times') there was a large and representative attendance at the annual meeting of parishioners to receive the report and balance sheet of the trustees of the St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral Building Fund. His Grace Archbishop Redwood presided.

The balance sheet for the year ending April 30, 1905, was read. It showed funds in hand at that date of £8894 6s 8d, being an increase for the year of £2123 1s 1d, which was derived from subscriptions and interest on invested funds. The trustees reported that with the subscriptions and interest since received the total funds now in their hands amounted to £9522 15s 2d, all of which was, bearing interest at an average rate of 5 per cent per annum.

His Grace, in speaking to the report, mentioned that it was now his intention not to proceed with the erection of more than about half of the edifice of the proposed Cathedral, as a commencement, and that he desired to have in hand three-fourths of the sum required for the erection of such portion before actually entering on the work. It was anticipated, he said, that the fund would increase by at least £2000 a year by means of collections throughout the archdiocese, and

the interest on the investment of the funds, and at that rate of increase there was reasonable hope that the portion of the Cathedral he referred to would be commenced at no very distant date. His Grace concluded by saying that they had to thank Mr. Martin Kennedy for his very generous offer to vest in the trustees, as a portion of the Cathedral site, a property in Buckle street, when they had £10,000 in hand, which would, he hoped, be by the end of the present year. The property, when acquired, would bring in about £150 a year, and that would further help to augment the funds.

The meeting re-elected Messrs. R. J. Collins and R. O'Connor (the retiring trustees). The hon. treasurers (Rev. Father O'Shea and Mr. R. O'Connor), the hon. auditor (Mr. W. J. Miller), and the secretary (Mr. B. J. Devine) were also re-elected.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

August 19.

The Rev. Father Holley returned from his visit south on Friday morning. I regret to report that the condition of his father has in no way improved.

The Rev. Father Ainsworth left on Thursday en route for Sydney. Father Moloney will have charge of Wellington South during his absence.

His Lordship Bishop Lenihan of Auckland is still in town. During his stay in the city he has been accorded the privilege of a seat on the floor of the House of Representatives, beside the Speaker—a privilege of which he has more than once availed himself.

At the examinations conducted by the Education Board Inspectors at the Wellington South and Dixon street Convent schools, the pupils have proved highly successful. The detailed reports on the various classes and subjects of instruction are not yet to hand.

The fourteenth half-yearly meeting of the Catholic Young Men's Club will be held on Tuesday next. The report and balance-sheet disclose a highly satisfactory state of things. The annual supper given by the club will take place on the following Thursday.

The football match between the Wellington and St. Patrick's College teams is always looked forward to with interest by the many votaries of the Rugby game. The match on Saturday last was a fine display of the scientific game. The Wellington College boys, though lighter than their opponents, managed to secure a victory by 16 points to 6. The victors displayed a better knowledge of the finer points of the game, and were quicker in seizing opportunities. The boys from St. Patrick's seemed to be suffering from the lack of proper coaching. The game was most interesting, and was played in the best possible spirit.

The usual cry of preference to Catholics was raised by a constable at the police commission of inquiry just held here, and received the same convincing refutation. It was alleged that Inspector Cullen, of Auckland, had used his influence in favor of men of his own creed. Commissioner Dinne, however, submitted a return that was a sufficient answer to this contention. The return showed that out of twenty of the Inspector's recommendations, only four were Catholics. Three had been recommended for promotion as sergeants, and all were Protestants. These facts clearly put—as Mr. Bishop (one of the Commissioners) expressed it—a different complexion upon the affair.

The ladies and gentlemen of Wellington South have decided to do something to raise funds for the assistance of the various works undertaken by the local Sisters of Mercy. With this object a meeting was held on Sunday evening, at which it was decided that a monster social gathering should be held in the Victoria hall next month. The ladies undertook to make the necessary arrangements, and Mrs. Casey was elected to the position of secretary. The gentlemen decided to make a canvass for subscriptions, and I understand that a considerable sum has been already secured. The good Sisters are deserving of the best endeavors of the parishioners, and it is hoped that as a result of their united efforts a goodly amount will be raised.

On Thursday evening St. Patrick's Hall was crowded on the occasion of the lecture on 'Daniel O'Connell' given by Mr. E. J. Fitzgibbon. The lecturer, who dealt with his subject in an interesting and able manner, gave an account of O'Connell's life and character, and showed his connection with the various social and political movements of his time. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer at the conclusion. The chair was occupied by Rev. Father Kimbell, who