

son, LL.D., Registrar-General for Ireland, handed in statistics showing an enormous increase of lunacy in the country. The proportion of lunatics in Ireland in 1861 was one in every 411 of the entire population, while in 1901 it was one in every 178. One large factor in the increase was the return of Irish emigrants from America when they had lost both health and reason and were deported home.

### General Rates

The total rates—poor rate, municipal rate and water rate—levied in Ireland last year amounted to £2,952,771, a decrease of £40,537 on the previous year. The County Councils reduced their levy by £109,255; while the Municipal and Urban Authorities increased theirs by £68,718. County cess and Poor rate are lower by nearly half a million than in 1898, the year before the Local Government Act came into operation. Even allowing for the share of the Agricultural Grant payable in relief of County cess, the figure represents a big saving, when it is remembered that out of the rates £35,000 a year is now provided for agricultural and technical instruction, and that the cost of administration was deliberately forced up by the Local Government Board when the Act came into force. The Poor rate levied in the rural districts last year was £65,000 less than in 1903-4. On the other hand, Municipal rates have increased by £250,000 since 1898, or over 30 per cent.

### Exodus of Teachers

In view of the exodus of some of the most efficient young teachers in Ireland to other countries, where their prospects are brighter than at home, the Provincial Council of the Clerical Managers of Connaught have passed a resolution demanding that the payment of Irish teachers be raised to the standard of English and Scotch ones.

### The Land Sub-Commissioners

During the debate in the House of Commons on the vote for the Irish Land Commission Mr. John Redmond drew attention to the personnel of the Sub-Commissioners. These Sub-Commissioners (said Mr. Redmond) consist, with some exceptions, of broken-down landlords, retired military men, land agents, and political hangers-on of the Tory Party. And it is monstrous, when so much depends upon the proper working of the Land Act and for the successful carrying out of the policy, that its working should be given over to mere partisans. When the Chief Secretary came into office, 27 of these officers were going out of office, and representations were made to the right hon. gentleman almost immediately calling attention to this important matter. We showed that the Commission had been steadily raising rents. We submitted the facts, and we impressed upon the Chief Secretary that the great majority of these men were greatly distrusted by the Irish people, and although we submitted no names, we impressed upon the Chief Secretary the desirability of appointing men whose reputation for impartiality would give satisfaction. I think we had every reason and right to expect that the right hon. gentleman would have taken our advice and would have acted up to the pledge given in the King's Speech of governing Ireland according to Irish ideas. On the contrary, however, the right hon. gentleman rejected our views and disregarded Irish opinion in this matter, and, with the exception of five, all those old Commissioners, who had been the merest tools in the hands of the landlord party, were reappointed. I do not say that he ought to have refused to appoint all of them, but I do say that a large proportion of them were distrusted, and had been put into their position by jobs. The right hon. gentleman refused to reappoint five, and I submit that by that action he has incurred just as much hostility from the landlord classes as if he had taken the courageous course and gone the full length. He has profoundly dissatisfied the people, and he has profoundly stirred the souls of the members for Ulster, who a few weeks ago made the roof of the House of Commons ring in their indignation, because a single one of their men had been removed from his position. I regret that the right hon. gentleman has disregarded Irish opinion on this important matter.

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## People We Hear About

The death is announced of Sir Edward Elgar's father, Mr. W. H. Elgar, who was for many years organist at St. George's Catholic Church, Worcester. He died at eighty.

The Victoria Cross was instituted 50 years ago, January 29. Since then only 520 persons have received it—517 of them soldiers or sailors, and three of them civilians, who were acting in a military capacity when they won the cross.

Lord Chief Baron Pales, of Dublin, who was raised to the Bench in 1874 by Mr. Gladstone, is enjoying excellent health still, although far advanced in years. The Master of the Rolls is the only other judge appointed by Mr. Gladstone, and he also is both hale and hearty.

Mr. Patrick J. Meehan, of Jersey City, N.J., editor of the 'Irish-American,' of New York, the oldest Irish newspaper in the United States with the exception of the 'Pilot' of Boston, died on April 20. He had edited the paper since 1858. Mr. Meehan was born in the city of Limerick, Ireland, in 1830.

The late Lord Currie, British Ambassador at Rome, worked his way upward in the diplomatic service from a clerkship in the Foreign Office. He was formerly Sir Philip Wodhouse, and was created Baron seven years ago. He was private secretary to Lord Salisbury when the latter was Foreign Secretary, and was engaged in many diplomatic missions in one capacity or another, the most famous being the Berlin Treaty and the Turkish Convention at the close of the Russian war.

Mr. H. G. Shee, K.C., who took so prominent a part in the great meeting of protest against the Education Bill of the Catholics of London at the Albert Hall on May 5, is the son of Mr. Serjeant Shee, who was Member for Kilkenny in the fifties of the last century, and an enthusiastic ally of Charles Gavan Duffy and Lucas in the League of North and South and in the expulsion from power of Lord John Russell for his insult to the Catholic Church embodied in the notorious Durham letter.

The most sensational event of the Olympic Games at Athens was the victory of H. D. Herring in the Marathon Race (says the 'Freeman's Journal'). The distance was 26 miles, and the victor came in ten minutes ahead of all his competitors. According to the special correspondent of the 'Birmingham Post' in Toronto, Mr. Herring's victory has been greeted there, and all over Canada, with great enthusiasm, and the athlete will be accorded a great reception on his return. It is then added—'He is widely known as a member of St. Patrick's Amateur Athletic Club, and is very popular among Canadian athletes.' O'Connor and Leahy have already been set down as 'British.' Fortunately for Mr. Herring, of St. Patrick's Amateur Athletic Club—a Canadian-Irishman presumably—he is a Canadian. However, the Celts whose motherland is Ireland have held their own at the Olympic Games probably better than the representatives of any other race, taking into consideration the number of them who competed.

The announcement that Lundy Island, in the Bristol Channel, will soon be sold by auction in London, recalls the fact that the place was once picked up as a 'job lot' by a well-known Irishman, Sir Vere Hunt, Bart., the grandfather of the late Aubrey de Vere, the eminent Catholic poet. Sir Vere Hunt, who was a man of droll turns at times, was walking through a London street one day when the sounds of an auction in progress attracted him. He enquired what was being sold, and on being told it was Lundy Island he went in to the auction room. He knew nothing whatever about Lundy Island, but when the auctioneer dilated on its advantages, that it had neither tax nor tithe, owed no allegiance to King or Parliament, and knew no law, civil or ecclesiastical; he was tempted to bid for it, and was declared the purchaser. Nor was it a bad speculation. Sir Vere Hunt repaid himself for the purchase by selling rabbits. He planted a small Irish colony in Lundy, and laid down an elaborate code of laws for their guidance. He sometimes retired there for meditation. Seventy years ago the island passed to the Heaven family, who are now selling the place.

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