

cially the mission yields 50,000 dollars, not including 5000 handed back to the sufferers from the Californian earthquake.

Sunday Closing

Mr. Sloan's Bill for extending Sunday closing to the five exempted cities and the compulsory closing of licensed premises at nine o'clock on Saturday evenings was carried in the House of Commons by a majority of 194, and referred to the Committee on Trade by a majority of 180. The measure, therefore, stands a fair chance of becoming law this session. In the debate which took place on the Bill the members for Dublin and Cork, who spoke, opposed the second reading; but it was supported by many members of the Nationalist Party and by all the Unionist members. This division (says the 'Freeman's Journal') of opinion fairly reflects the public mind upon the subject. There is no doubt anywhere of the beneficial effects of Sunday closing outside the exempted cities. That system was established with the general assent of Irish opinion, and with the support of the majority of the Home Rulers.

The Laborers' Bill

The attitude which the Irish Party adopted towards the Laborers' Bill introduced by Mr. Wyndham two years ago was triumphantly vindicated (says the 'Irish Weekly') when Mr. Bryce brought in a Bill which in every respect was in remarkable contrast with the measure which the Irish Party declined to accept. Mr. Bryce's Bill concedes the three points demanded by the Nationalist members. First, that the laborers should have the same financial terms as the tenant-farmers; secondly, that the laborers, like the farmers, should receive a 'bonus' or Exchequer grant; and thirdly, that the procedure should be cheapened, shortened, and simplified. The financial provisions include a loan of four millions and a quarter, repayable in sixty-nine years in annual instalments of £138,000, the interest being 3½ per cent. instead of 4½. The Exchequer is to give an annual grant of £28,000 a year, and the rents will yield about £65,000. These will be drawn from Irish sources about £22,000 a year. These sums will, it is calculated, permit of the erection of another 30,000 cottages, and the annual net cost to the rates will be only about one pound per cottage, or even less, the total cost being computed at £23,000.

Police Methods

It must be admitted by anyone who knows Dublin (writes 'A Constable' in the 'Irish Independent') that crime of all classes is decreasing year by year. Notwithstanding this some officers of police pounce occasionally on the sergeants and constables under them for an explanation why the number of prosecutions by summons are not kept up to corresponding periods. Some of the superintendants have gone so far as to bring a number of constables to their offices and warn them that if they did not get cases they would be represented to the Commissioner as useless men, and incur the risk of dismissal. These threats have caused some of the men to regard their positions as shaky, with the result that the safety of the subject is endangered, and people are summoned for most trivial offences. The officers who confront their subordinates and ask them, one by one, on parade how many summonses they have for a month, are endangering the liberty of the people, particularly in the case of young and indiscreet constables. No man who does not show a certain number of prosecutions is likely under the existing system to be recommended for advancement. The position of the constable who tries to steer an even keel between the officers urging him to show a large return of prosecutions and the public, who are aggravated occasionally over undue interference on the part of the police over trifling matters, is not one to be envied. This (writes Mrs. C. E. Jeffery in the 'Catholic Times') throws a significant sidelight on the methods by which Ireland is (mis)governed. In most countries it is regarded as a matter for congratulation when statistics show a diminution of crime. In Ireland, apparently, it is the reverse, and the Government regards a high rate of crime as desirable. Can this curious anxiety of the police authorities in face of diminishing crime, and their desire to foster fiction to the contrary, afford a solution to the mystery of coercion in the past?

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People We Hear About

Oxford is about to confer an honorary degree on a Catholic priest, Mgr. Duchesne, a French ecclesiastic of scholarly repute.

One of the prelates who met the King of Spain and his bride at the entrance to the Church of San Geronimo was Bishop Brindle, of Nottingham, who assisted at the reception of Princess Ena into the Church.

The King of Portugal is an enthusiastic amateur painter. It will be remembered that several of his pictures received awards at the recent International Exposition in Paris, and each year he finishes a number of water-colors, pastels, and pen-and-ink drawings.

The conclusion of Mr. Davitt's will is the beautiful manifesto of a noble nature.—'To all my friends I leave kind thoughts; to my enemies the fullest possible forgiveness; and to Ireland the undying prayer for the absolute freedom and independence which it is my life's ambition to try and obtain for her.'

Jan Kubelik's first ambition was not to make a name as a musician, but as an explorer. Hearing much of Dr. Livingstone as a child, he was fired with a desire to emulate that great man, but long before he was out of the knickerbocker stage he showed much marvellous talents with the violin that a life of travel was out of the question for him.

The sobriquet 'Father of His Country' was first applied to Marius, the Roman officer who, B. C. 102 and 101, won signal victories over the northern barbarians. Marius declined the honor, but the name was afterwards given to Cicero, then to several more or less worthy Roman emperors, and finally to Washington, who by his enemies was also termed the 'Stepfather of His Country.'

Queen Amelie of Portugal is the only Royal lady doctor in the world, i.e., the only Queen who is a doctor by merit, for many Royal ladies have received the degree of doctor of one sort or another as a courtesy title. Queen Amelie, however, went through a thorough course of medical training, and on more than one occasion, when waiting in Lisbon, she has been able to render medical aid in street accidents.

The month of May, whose last day had witnessed the death of Michael Davitt, is fraught with mournful memories to Irish patriots. In May, 1798, Lord Edward Fitzgerald died in a dungeon from wounds he had sustained in resisting arrest on a charge of high treason. In May, 1847, O'Connell died in Genoa when on his way to Rome; and in May, 1879, Isaac Butt died at Roebuck Lodge, Clonskeagh, his end resembling, not the dying light of the sunset, but the blackness of the eclipse.

The children of the Earl of Aberdeen have all been brought up to be useful. At one time a furnished cottage was placed at the disposal of Lady Marjorie, the Viceroy's daughter, who was expected to keep it tidy, and even lay the fires and scrub the floors. The cottage stood in a small garden which was cultivated by his Excellency's sons, one of whose hobbies was the growing of fruit and vegetables.

Mr. Hugh James O'Beirne, C.B., an old Beaumont College boy, who, as First Secretary of the British Embassy in Paris since 1900, has won high praise for his abilities, has been included in the list of important diplomatic promotions to no less a post than that of Councillor of his Majesty's Embassy at St. Petersburg. Mr. O'Beirne's presentation of the British case in the affairs of the Russian Admiral and the Hull fishermen was widely remarked upon, and opened a prospect of early advancement.

Sir Hubert Jerningham, who has been travelling round the world with his nephew, Mr. Edmonstone Cranstoun, of Corehouse, has just arrived home. Accompanied by the Earl of Leitrim, they visited Port Arthur and the battlefields of Manchuria, being the first British subjects who have received the permission of the Japanese authorities to do so since the conclusion of the war. Sir Hubert, who is a scion of the old Catholic noble house of Stafford, is a Bachelor of the University of France and an accomplished man of letters, besides being an ex-diplomatist of considerable distinction. He has held several important appointments, the last being the Governorship of Trinidad, which reasons of health obliged him to resign. The present Governor of Trinidad is also a Catholic, Sir Henry Jackson, brother of the Rector of Exeter College, Oxford.