

posed by Colonel Sandwith (Unionist), and again won the seat, but his majority was reduced to 76. A recent general election he succeeded after a hard struggle in defeating Mr. McCaw by the narrow majority of 31; but owing to the state of his health he was unable to take his seat in the House of Commons. Last week we were informed by cable that Mr. Kettle (Nationalist) was elected to the vacancy, beating Mr. McCaw (Unionist) by the narrow majority of 19 votes.

WATERFORD—Temperance Conference

The thirteenth annual conference of the Irish Women's Temperance Union has been held in Waterford, there being representative delegates present from the various associations in Ireland. At the opening of the proceedings the chair was taken by Miss Barrett (Kingstown), who in her address said that the cause of temperance was at the present time most hopeful. Great advances had been made in the cause of temperance generally by the starting in many parts of the country of cafes.

WEXFORD—A Successful Function

Over 2000 entries were received for the Wexford Feis, which was held at Enniscorthy, almost every parish in the county sending contributors. There was an exceedingly large attendance at the opening ceremony, which was performed by Lord Castletown of Upper Ossory, and at which Rev. J. Dunne, Adm., Enniscorthy, presided.

GENERAL

The Output of Coal

According to the report of the Government Inspector of Mines, the total quantity of coal produced in Ireland last year was only 96,335 tons, of which 77,241 was anthracite. This is 15,302 tons less than in 1904, and lower than in any year since 1897 when the output of coal was 135,025 tons. The value of coal at the mines throughout the year was 9s 7.29d per ton, the total being £13,018. The total number of persons employed in and about the mines during the year was 749, being 5 less than in the previous year. In County Antrim there was an increase of 31, due to the commencement of two shafts to develop the Ballycastle coalfield at Ballyvooy, the prospects of which, the inspector says, are distinctly encouraging, in Kilkenny a decrease of 5, in Leitrim a decrease of 6, in Queen's County an increase of 5, in Sligo an increase of 1, in Tipperary a decrease of 11, and in Tyrone an increase of 7.

Ireland on the Present Parliament

Ireland occupies no place of prominence in the present Parliament (says the London 'Daily News'). Days, and even weeks, go by in which, except for the strings of Irish inquiry at question time, its very existence might be forgotten. The Irish leaders have scarcely intervened in debate except on the Education question, and then only in a manner entirely conciliatory, to plead the cause of the poor Irish children in the cities of an alien land. Here is something far indeed from the days when the condition of Ireland filled the whole horizon, and little else but Ireland was allowed to occupy the attention of legislation. We believe that next year wise and far-reaching legislation is to be introduced to remove its most obvious grievances—to ensure financial control, to remedy the waste and chaos of its present government, and to associate the people directly with its own internal administration. Something of the local interest and concern which Russia has tardily returned to Finland, which Poland is demanding to-day from the Duma, will recognise the fact that only a National Government can be alike efficient and free. With such a vision of future possibilities the Irish have been content in Parliament to practise a self-denying effacement. Never, at least within a hundred years, it may safely be asserted, have the prospects been so bright of honorable peace being effected in a warfare which has been waged for centuries.

Trade with France

According to the Paris correspondent of the 'Times' Ireland is not being forgotten in France during these days of the entente cordiale. The trade between France and Ireland is increasing rapidly, which is shown by the fact that, according to the 'Temps,' a new steamboat service is about to be established between Havre and Cork. This makes the third of the direct routes between Ireland and France, the other two being Treport and Dublin and between Dunkirk, Dublin, and Belfast. The 'Temps' says that the French export to Ireland a large quantity of goods of all descriptions, while many kinds of Irish goods find a ready market in France, such as Irish tweeds, hams, lace, and linen.

People We Hear About

The death is reported of Mr. J. L. Toole, the famous comedian, who paid a visit to New Zealand about sixteen years ago.

Mr. T. St. John Gaffney, a distinguished Limerick man, who fills the position of C.S. Consul-General at Dresden, was on a visit to his native land during June. He was touring through the country on a motor-car.

Very Rev. Basil Maturin, who preached recently in St. Saviour's Church, Dublin, in aid of St. Vincent's Female Orphanage, won a high reputation as a pulpit orator long before he left the Church of England. He is a member of a French Protestant family which settled in Dublin a couple of centuries ago, and his grandfather, Charles Robert Maturin, attained celebrity as a preacher, poet, dramatist, and novelist. Father Maturin was born in Grangegorm, of which parish his father was rector.

The Prince and Princess of Wales' carriage in the Spanish marriage procession was four ahead of that of the King and Queen of Spain. It was noticed that the explosion did not in the slightest degree disturb the equanimity of the Prince or Princess, both of whom continued to bow and smile at the crowds on either side with the utmost sang-froid, as though nothing had happened. This exhibition of English phlegm greatly impressed the Spaniards. It turned out, however, that the Prince and Princess of Wales were in entire and happy ignorance of what had happened, and imagined that the bomb was some form of Spanish Royal salute; of course, they never looked behind or noticed the confusion. They heard of the attempt only on their arrival at the Royal Palace, and learned at the same time of the fortunate escape of the King and Queen.

The Marquis of Bute, who wedded last year the daughter of Sir Henry Bellingham, and his brother, Lord Ninian Stuart, who was married on June 16 to Miss Preston, the daughter of Viscount Gormanston, have both, strange to say, chosen wives from Irish families who were prominently associated with the struggle of the Stuart dynasty against William III. in Ireland. Sir Henry Bellingham is the descendant of the Major Bellingham who entertained William III. at luncheon at Castle Bellingham and to whom 'the deliverer' gave the little casket of wine flagons which is still preserved as an heirloom in the family. Lord Gormanston's ancestor, on the contrary, fought and died in the cause of James II. The seventh Viscount Gormanston fought for James II. at the Battle of the Boyne, and subsequently died of a malignant fever during the siege of Limerick. The title, which was forfeited, was not restored till 1800, after the lapse of upwards of a century.

Sir Joseph Ward, the new Premier of this Colony, is almost wholly a New Zealander, for he came here with his parents from Victoria, where he was born, when quite a child. They settled in the Awarua district, where Sir Joseph received an elementary education until the age of thirteen, when he left school to enter the Postal Department. After a time he resigned to take a place in a merchant's office, only to leave this a few years later for the Railway Department. By the time he had reached his twenty-first year he had made another change, this time setting up in business as a grain merchant. The saying, that a rolling stone gathers no moss, might be applied to him at that time, but if he did not gather money he had been acquiring experience in two government departments over which he was in after years to preside with such distinct success. About this time he was smitten with a desire to enter public life, and became a member of the Campbelltown Borough Council, later on occupying the mayoral chair for a period of five years. For many years he was a member of the Bluff Harbor Board, and was chairman of that body for four years. It is nineteen years since he first entered Parliament as member for Awarua, and was there only three years when he rose to the position of Cabinet Minister—a record in its way. On the death of the then Premier, Mr. Ballance, in 1893, he became Colonial Treasurer. His political career since then is well known. In 1899 he became Postmaster-General and Minister of Railways. The Public Health, Trade and Commerce, and Tourist Departments owe their existence to him. On three occasions Sir Joseph had held the position of Acting-Premier. On the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of York he received the honor of knighthood. Sir Joseph is popular among men of all shades of political opinion in the House, is a fluent speaker, an able debater, and the general opinion is that he will make a very successful Premier.