

IRELAND.

1900	.....	4,466,326	1,087	4,108
1901	.....	4,445,630	1,221	3,640
1902	.....	4,432,274	1,086	4,081
1903	.....	4,413,655	1,160	3,775
1904	.....	4,402,168	1,296	3,396

SCOTLAND.

1900	.....	4,436,958	1,835	2,417
1901	.....	4,483,880	1,872	2,395
1902	.....	4,531,299	2,052	2,208
1903	.....	4,579,223	2,114	2,166
1904	.....	4,627,656	2,207	2,296

It will be apparent from this list that only in one year (1901) had there been more crime in Ireland than in England, and in that case only by an infinitesimal percentage. Roughly speaking, the convicted criminals in Ireland are in proportion only about twelve to every thirteen in England, and of three to every five in Scotland. The British Parliamentary estimates of 1905 were drawn up on the basis of there being 120 more prisoners per day in Scotch prisons than in those of Ireland. Yet England and Scotland are often referred to, and I imagine with justice, as the most law abiding nations in Europe.

It seems, therefore, that there is scarcely any possible justification for the newspapers which continually represent Ireland as in a lawless condition. Not only is it peaceful, but the law is there better observed than in England. Even if the figures given could be reversed, it would not therefore follow that Ireland would be in a more perilous state than the majority of European nations. Why, then, does she pay nearly a million and a half for her police? And, apart from the police, why does she remain burdened with an organisation largely designed to meet extraordinary difficulties arising out of the great agitation before the Home Rule bills? Because an irresponsible bureaucracy can only work on a system of fixed rules.

However active minded its officials, they cannot escape the ties of routine. It is therefore the slowest moving kind of government in the world, almost utterly unresponsive to national needs, demands or enthusiasm. It has here failed to adapt itself either to national growth or to the melancholy phases of national decay. It is, in fact, a gigantic "War Office" with about forty different branches, but worse in one respect than the prototype has ever been, for in the vast majority of cases its head officials have no seat in Parliament, and cannot be called to account.

The Irish Delegates

STRATFORD.

(From our travelling correspondent.)

Mr. Devlin arrived from New Plymouth by the afternoon train on January 8, and was met at the station by the Mayor, Father Tracey, and the reception committee, and taken to the Council Chambers and welcomed to the town by the Mayor. Mr. Devlin thanked him cordially for the welcome accorded to him.

In the evening the Town Hall was crowded. The band played national airs. The Mayor took the chair, and the county and borough councillors and the executive occupied seats on the stage. A telegram was received from Mr. Symes, M.H.R., regretting his inability to be present. Mr. Devlin got a splendid reception on making his appearance. The Mayor introduced him and wished him success in his mission. Mr. Devlin's speech was mainly on the lines of those reported already in the 'Tablet'. The audience applauded loudly and often, more particularly where he exposed the calumny that Home Rule meant Rome Rule, also when he proved that if Ireland had self-government she would be loyal. At the close of his speech Mr. Devlin was accorded an ovation.

Mr. Marchant, chairman of the County Council, moved an appreciative motion to the effect that the meeting, having heard the views of Mr. Devlin on the Home Rule question, is of opinion that Home Rule should be granted to Ireland, and that those present would do all in their power to assist the movement. He believed that the charges made by Mr. Devlin that night were true, and he thought that a country producing the good, great, and clever men that Ireland has produced should be allowed to control its own affairs.

Mr. Asthenry, a member of the County Council, seconded the motion. He said that, as a colonial, after having heard Mr. Devlin's speech, he came to

the conclusion that it was only right and fair that Ireland should have Home Rule. New Zealand should be proud that Ireland had sent an envoy to them, and he thought that a good way to influence the Home Parliament was for the colonies to support the movement. The motion was carried amidst great acclamations.

Mr. Devlin moved a vote of thanks to the chair, and the Mayor replied.

The stage was prettily decorated. The committee (of which Mr. Sexton was secretary) worked hard. Next day the party drove to the mayoral residence and were hospitably entertained there. They went then to the Nigaré gardens and also were shown over the butter factory by the manager. Mr. Devlin left by the afternoon train for New Plymouth. He expressed himself greatly pleased with his visit to Stratford. Father Tracey informs me that they will have the handsome sum of about £150 to present to Mr. Devlin.

MR. DONOVAN IN DUNEDIN.

The members of the H.A.C.B. Society, the Ladies' Club, and the Catholic Men's Club in connection with the Cathedral parish took the opportunity on Thursday evening of Mr. Donovan's brief visit to Dunedin on his way from Lawrence, where he spoke on Wednesday evening, to Canterbury, to entertain the Irish envoy at a conversation in St. Joseph's Hall. Mr. J. B. Callan presided, and there were also present his Lordship Bishop Verdon, Very Rev. Dean Regnault (Waimate), Rev. Father O'Donnell (Queenstown), Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. Rev. Fathers Cleary, O'Reilly, and Corcoran. There was a very large attendance. The hall, especially the stage, was very tastefully decorated for the occasion; the motto, 'Ceád Mile Fáilte,' occupying a prominent place.

After a short but excellent programme of vocal music the chairman formally welcomed Mr. Donovan to Dunedin. He expressed his pleasure at seeing such a large assemblage to give a hearty welcome to Mr. Donovan, and said it was a good thing to see young men like Mr. Devlin and Mr. Donovan advocating the cause of Ireland in these new lands. They had been very successful in Australia, and he felt they would be equally as successful here. (Applause.)

Mr. Donovan, who on rising was received with hearty applause, said that he and his colleague had been touring the Australasian States for the past eleven months, and had been well received everywhere; not only by their own kith and kin, but by Australians of all creeds and classes. They had not only realised a sum of £20,000 for the Home Rule cause, but they had attracted to that cause all who were fair-minded in the Commonwealth. The speaker then contrasted the warmth of their reception with the hostility that was often shown to Messrs. John and William Redmond, when they were here 23 years ago. A great change on the question of Home Rule had come over the bulk of the people, and the present delegates had dissipated many of the illusions which had existed regarding certain questions. In conclusion he said to the people of New Zealand: always be proud of your grand country, with its free institutions, and jealously guard them. If the people of Ireland had the same privileges there would be no need of sending out a delegation here. The people of Ireland are agitating for the very liberties which the New Zealanders enjoy, and which he trusted they would guard well. (Applause.)

At the conclusion of the proceedings, on the motion of Mr. Donovan a vote of thanks was passed with acclamation to Mr. Callan for presiding, and to his Lordship the Bishop for his presence that evening.

His Lordship said he was always pleased to do anything that was in his power to assist the Irish cause. (Applause.)

During the evening songs were contributed by Mrs. Power, Miss N. Hall, Rev. Father O'Reilly, and Messrs. Miles, Carolin, and McGrath. The accompaniments were played by Miss S. Hall and Miss McTigue.

Light refreshments were dispensed by the members of the Ladies' Club, under the direction of Miss Staunton; to whom, later on, Rev. Father Coffey returned thanks on behalf of those present.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

There was a big crowd at the Theatre Royal, New Plymouth, on Tuesday night, January 8 (says the 'Taranaki Daily News'), to hear one of the most logical, forceful, yet eloquent and impassioned ad-