

GENERAL

The Intermediate Examinations

The number of students who have given notice of their intention to go forward to the intermediate examination this year is the largest since the establishment of the system in Ireland. The numbers are 12,549, an increase of 845 over last year, and 2261 over 1905.

Emigration Statistics

Twenty-seven thousand Irish people landed in New York in 1906 (writes a Dublin correspondent). It cost them £160,000 to get across the Atlantic, and when they landed they had in their pockets £100,000. In other words, Ireland lost for evermore during the year 27,000 of her best and bravest children and £260,000. Enough people to make a city about as large as Limerick, and enough money to start an industry that would give work to hundreds of people in Ireland, and help to create a home market for home produce. America gained 27,000 full-grown and God-fearing citizens and £100,000 without a cent's worth of expense on her part. The money that it cost to take the 27,000 people over went, of course, into the pockets of the gentlemen who own the steamships.

Irish National Celebration in London

The Irish National banquet, over which Mr. John Redmond presided in the Hotel Cecil on March 18 (writes a London correspondent), proved an unqualified success, and in every respect worthy of its forerunners. This function has from small beginnings grown into the largest gathering of its kind in the world. About six hundred guests sat down in the Grand Banqueting Hall. The committee of arrangements had discharged their duties admirably, and even in the smallest details the proceedings went through without a hitch. There was a large muster of Irish members of Parliament, and the gathering was characterised by great enthusiasm. The various speakers were listened to with close attention, and the musical programme was, as usual, of a high order.

Repeal of the Coercion Act

The motion brought forward in the House of Commons by Mr. Hogan on behalf of the Irish Party for the repeal of the Balfour Coercion Act was carried by a majority of 169. The case for perpetuating the enactment was made or attempted to be made by Mr. John Gordon on the usual lines. He rehearsed all the discredited reports which his colleagues have been endeavoring to foist off on the House for the past few months, and he dwelt in melodramatic tones on the horrors and sufferings entailed by manufactured examples of boycotting. This dish he served up with a sauce piquantly provided by the addresses of certain members of the Judicial Bench whose delivery coincided so strangely with the parliamentary campaign of slander started with the Ulster Landlord Party. He then reverted to the staled old trick of all—the attempt to show that there was nothing in the Balfour Act beyond what was provided by the ordinary law of England and Scotland. Mr. Cherry said he and the Government had decided on taking office to rely on the ordinary law, and they had done so, with the most satisfactory results.

How Titles are Bought

Mr. T. Gibson Bowles, the well-known Conservative M.P., in refusing a subscription to a Tory Association, writes:—'As to subscriptions, I cannot conceive that the Conservative Party can need to appeal for these elsewhere than to Mr. Balfour and Sir A. Acland Hood, who are in possession and exclusive control of the party fund. That fund is immense. Not many years ago it was over £100,000, but at the last election it must have been far greater, for the contributions to it of certain recent recipients of titles have, if common report is to be believed, varied between £30,000 from a new knight and £250,000 from a new peer. It was calculated a year ago that at least £500,000 must have been encashed from various sources by this party fund, and it is impossible so vast a sum can have been expended over the general election.'

The new Holy Trinity Church, Granville, was blessed and opened on Sunday, April 21, by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Brien. The church will accommodate a congregation of 700, and was built at a cost of £1039.

People We Hear About

A statue to Sir Antony MacDonnell has been unveiled at Lucknow by Sir John Hewitt, Lieutenant-Governor, who in doing so praised the Irish Under-Secretary for the work done by him in Oudh, where his name is gratefully remembered.

King Alfonso's full name is Alfonso Leon Fernando Maria Santiago Isidore Paschal Marcian. His mother decided on Alfonso, Santiago is the patron saint of Spain, Leon is adapted from the name of his godfather Pope Leo, the ploughman Isidore is the patron saint of Madrid, Paschal is the patron saint of the King's birthday, and Marcian is that of his christening day.

When Mr. John Burns entered the Cabinet there were rumours that he would refuse to don the cocked hat and epaulettes of official uniform. The King asked him about it 'Not true,' returned Mr. Burns; 'and, besides, I have already worn your Majesty's uniform.' The King naturally asked when that was. 'When I was in Pentonville,' answered Mr. Burns, alluding, of course, to his three months' sentence after the Trafalgar Square riots.

Mr. Charles Santley, the noted Catholic singer, who has just entered on his 73rd year, has been for half a century before the English public as a concert singer of the first rank. Last week the golden jubilee of his first appearance in oratorio was celebrated by a concert in Albert Hall, London, in which the leading vocalists and instrumentalists of the Metropolis took part. It is intended to make him a presentation, and a sum of £2000 is already on hand for that purpose.

The Hon. Richard M'Bride, Premier of British Columbia, whose Government has emerged successfully from a general election, is the youngest Prime Minister in the King's dominions. He is only thirty-six, and he achieved the Premiership four years ago, after having held subordinate office as Minister of Mines. He is a native of New Westminster, the original capital of British Columbia. Mr. M'Bride is a barrister, and made an unsuccessful bid for Parliamentary honors at twenty-five. At twenty-seven he tried again, and was favored by fortune.

The Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, was born in Glasgow in the year 1836. His uncle, William Campbell, was in the early part of the last century an assistant in a Glasgow draper's shop. At that time it was common to mark goods with one price, but to be prepared to sell them, after haggling, for much less; and Dr. Chalmers, of Disruption fame, condemned the system as savoring of corruption. William Campbell was much impressed, and urged his employer to adopt a system of 'No Second Prices.' His employer ridiculed the idea, but offered to lend William Campbell £500 to try the experiment in a business of his own. William accepted the offer, got credit for a like amount from Manchester houses, and opened a 'One Price' shop with his brother, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's father, as his partner. The business grew to enormous proportions, and the Prime Minister's father, Sir James Campbell, became Lord Provost of the city of Glasgow, and a pioneer in its period of municipal expansion.

Abbot Gasquet, the head of the English Benedictine Congregation, is famous as a historian wherever the English language is spoken. Perhaps (writes a correspondent to the 'Manchester Guardian') many people who have no special sympathy with the Catholic Church in France went to the Free Trade Hall the other night merely to see the great historical scholar and the charming writer to whom we owe so much for making the England of the Middle Ages live again for us. Abbot Gasquet is the chief living representative of the great, but now perhaps somewhat declined, tradition of Benedictine historical learning. His work has, of course, been assailed by critics, who consider that he has painted the medieval world in too fair colors, but it can hardly be disputed that, if he is not 'our only English historian,' as he has been called, he is in the very first rank of English historical writers. The last of Dr. Gasquet's long series of historical works, dealing with parish life in the Middle Ages, was published last year, and to the mere 'ordinary reader,' who wants primarily a living picture of the past, it is perhaps the most fascinating of all.

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