

hopes by explicit promises and a settled policy of the Government, will regard their selfish monopoly with patience and in silence. Whilst deprecating any departure, however slight, from the dictates of justice and charity, the Bishop is disposed to countenance every form of pressure within the law with a view to bring home to the Government the urgent need for legislation on a suitable scale, and to convince the owners of property that the time has come for a settlement of this vexed question. Will the property owners act upon the Bishop's suggestion? Should they reject it, it will be at grave peril to their own interests.

WATERFORD—Orderly and Law-abiding

Mr. Justice Madden and Mr. Justice Kenny opened the Spring Assizes for the County and City of Waterford. Judge Madden, addressing the county grand jury, said there were only six cases to go before them, of an ordinary character. No bill presented crime of an exceptional character or detracted from the character the county bore as orderly and law-abiding. Mr. Justice Kenny, addressing the city grand jury, said there was only one solitary case sent forward, and he congratulated them on the peaceful state of the city. In the case referred to by his Lordship the Crown did not send up a bill.

WESTMEATH—Most Ordinary Character

Addressing the grand jury at the opening of the Westmeath Assizes at Mullingar Lord Justice Holmes mentioned that there were only three cases to go before them, and they were of the most ordinary character.

WICKLOW—A Light Calendar

Mr. Justice Madden opened the Wicklow Assizes, and in the course of his address to the grand jury said:—Bills are about to be presented for your consideration dealing with two cases. These, gentlemen, represent crimes of offences against property of the most ordinary character, and they will give you no difficulty. And I am glad to infer from the information supplied to me in the ordinary course that this very light calendar fairly represents the condition of the county with regard to crime. I hope, gentlemen, your county will long maintain the character which it holds as a peaceful and law-abiding community.

GENERAL

Housing the Working Classes

Mr. Hogan's Bill for the housing of the working classes (Ireland), proposes that for the purpose of cheap housing the moneys at the disposal of the Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland and the funds officially accumulated in the law courts may be lent to the local authorities to the extent of five millions sterling, repayable over an extended period of eighty years.

No Work for the Judges

After reading the reports of the Irish Assizes (remarks the 'Freeman's Journal') one is almost always forced to ask what on earth the judges go to the Assizes for. There is generally no crime to be investigated that would cause any trouble at Petty Sessions. And except to find some work for those seasons, which are duller in the law courts than others, the judges might as well keep kicking their heels together in Dublin. Yet the whole elaborate machinery of calling the grand juries and charging them, and so forth, is gone through, as if the safety of the State depended on its maintenance. Of course, we are not oblivious of the fact that the Assizes give some of the judges the requisite opportunity for political harangues at large. Of course, the criminal calendars never justify these exhibitions of anti-national spirit and feeling; but the deficiency is readily supplied by police reports, which can easily be made to suit the temper of the particular judge going the Assize. The Spring Assizes have been in full swing, with no business to be done. A bill here and a bill there confronted their lordships, and they strolled in and out of county towns in genuine Micawber style; but nothing turned up. Some of his Majesty's judges will begin to think it positively insulting on the part of the Irish people to keep the peace so unerringly and allow the criminal law thus to drop into desuetude.

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People We Hear About

Mr. W. Marconi, of wireless telegraphy fame, will celebrate his thirty-third birthday on Saturday. He was only twenty-one when he placed his invention before the British public.

His Grace the Archbishop of Wellington entered on his seventieth year on April 8. His Grace was ordained priest in June, 1865, was consecrated Bishop of Wellington on St. Patrick's Day, 1874, and was appointed first Archbishop of Wellington and Metropolitan of New Zealand in May, 1887.

That famous inventor, Mr. Thomas A. Edison, who has passed the sixtieth milestone in a life of great usefulness, is still full of energy, strong, and active. He is up every morning at five o'clock, takes a walk in his grounds, whilst he reads the newspaper. He has breakfast at 6.30 o'clock, starts work at 7, and keeps at it until 6 p.m.

Mr. John Edward Power Wallis, barrister, who has been appointed a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Madras, has been Advocate-General of Madras since 1900. His father was John E. Wallis, of the Inner Temple, a Judge in the Mixed Tribunals of Egypt, and his mother was a daughter of the late Robert Power, of Gortnamana, County Galway, and Pembroke Place, Dublin. He was educated at St. Cuthbert's, Ushaw, and is an M.A. and a gold medallist of London University.

Lord Bute is well blessed with this world's goods. He inherited at the death of his father something between five and six millions sterling, and his possessions are of a character that improve with keeping from the point of view of revenue. He has residences at Cardiff Castle; Mount Stuart, Rothesay; Dumfries House, Ayrshire; and Mochrum, Wigtownshire. Mount Stuart, rebuilt to take the place of the ancient mansion burnt down some twenty years or so ago, is fit for a king's palace. The marble in it, rough hewn from the quarries, cost £60,000 before a mason had laid a hand to it. The whole cost of the dwelling is said to have run away with the better part of three-quarters of a million pounds.

Probably no man living has a greater power to sway audiences by the magic of his tongue than William Jennings Bryan, who is to be once more the Democratic nominee for the United States Presidency; and yet no man is more devoid of the tricks and artifices of the orator. The magic lies in his voice, which is of a peculiar, rich, deep-sounding, musical quality, and which seems to cast a spell over those who hear it. And this tongue of silver is supplemented by a magnetic personality which sways and dominates the least sympathetic audiences. 'I saw women in hysterics and men with tears in their eyes at his entrance,' says an American journalist; and I timed the length of the excitement. It was 20 minutes before Bryan could sit down. And this before he had spoken a word! His method of speaking is simple to the verge of unconventionality. He simply talks, mostly with his hands in his pockets, and only rarely making the least gesture; but so subtle and powerful is his speaking that he sways his listeners as he pleases, as complete a master of their emotions as a Paderewski of the keys of his piano.

Sir Charles Santley, the celebrated Catholic singer, who is still popular with English audiences, has entered on his 74th year. Sir Charles was born in Liverpool in 1834, and after receiving a good musical and general education in London proceeded to Italy to study. He made his debut in England as an operatic singer at Covent Garden with the Pyne-Harrison company, and achieved his greatest successes as Hoel, in 'Dinorah,' in 1859, and Rhineberg, in 'Lurline,' in 1860. He at once took high rank as one of the most distinguished baritones of the day. He then went on the Italian operatic stage, and was very successful in most of the great capitals of Europe. In Gounod's opera of 'Faust,' in one season, he appeared in the parts of Valentine and Mephistopheles. In oratorio also his career has been marked with the greatest possible success, and he has always been heard at the great musical festivals throughout England. In 1889-90 he made a tour of Australia and New Zealand. He sang in oratorio at the Dunedin Exhibition. In 1859 he married Miss Gertrude Kemble, a granddaughter of Charles Kemble. Of late years Sir Charles has devoted himself to teaching, and not a few New Zealanders have taken advantage of his skill as a teacher.

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