

rise to considerable comment locally, has now assumed a most amusing aspect. A man named Michael Penston took some grazing land from a farmer named Carty, residing at Ballylacey, County Wexford. In addition to the four horses which Penston sent to graze on the lands were several head of cattle, belonging to other parties. Recently it was reported to the owner of the horses that their tails and manes had been cut off, and an examination having proved the truth of the statement, the matter was brought under the notice of the authorities. The police at Coolgreany, believing that the act had been committed by tramps or tinkers, kept a daily and nightly vigil, and the result of their observations was the discovery that a cow, which was caught in the very act of eating all that remained of one of the horse's tails, was the real culprit.

GENERAL

Decrease of Serious Crime

Mr. John Redmond, in the House of Commons on July 20, inquired of the Chief Secretary for Ireland if the recently published criminal statistics for Ireland did not show a decrease of serious crime in that country. Mr. Birrell (Chief Secretary) said it was correct that the recently published statistics showed a happy decrease in what was commonly called serious crime in Ireland. Cattle-driving, accompanied by riot and violence, was included in serious crime. He would have imagined that the decrease would be a matter of congratulation, even to the Unionists.

A Difficulty

There were no births registered in Ireland before 1866, so that it will be very difficult to prove who is and is not seventy,' said Mr. Lloyd George in a speech in London. This opens up a new vista in the old-age pensions question. The old Irishman or Irishwoman who claims a pension may well have no tangible evidence to produce in favor of his or her claim. Under such conditions what is to be done? If the pension is refused in all cases where there is no birth certificate there will be real hardship, and the great majority of Irish poor will be excluded, since their parents did not go to the trouble of registering the birth when registration was not compulsory. If, on the other hand, a birth certificate is held to be unnecessary, it can safely be predicted that the number of claimants will be very large indeed. Any person who looks old who was born before 1866, and who can tell a plausible story, may be able to obtain the £13 per annum, which will spell wealth to the old Irish peasant. The number of residents in Ireland who in the census of 1901 returned their age at seventy or over was 93,800. Between sixty and seventy the number was 301,000, and it is probable that many of these will at least attempt to put in a claim. As compulsory registration of births was adopted in England in 1836, and as registration was usual prior to the Act making it compulsory, the Government will probably require a birth certificate as a proof of age. Thus an Englishman who is under seventy will stand no chance of securing a pension, while an Irishman under the appointed age may possibly succeed in satisfying inquiry.

Laborers' Cottages.

According to a recent Parliamentary return, the total of laborers' cottages already provided in Ireland were as follows:—Ulster, 2333; Leinster, 8834; Munster, 11,302, and Connaught, 452; whilst the cottages applied for under the last completed schemes numbered in Ulster, 1763; in Leinster, 2822; in Munster, 5281, and in Connaught, 496. The total expenses were—Ulster, £27,310; Leinster, £26,141; Munster, £54,399, and Connaught, £7198. These figures illustrate the anxiety of Ulster Unionists to promote the welfare and comfort of laborers, but they illustrate in an even more striking degree the extravagance of the Ulster district councils; for Munster has nearly four times as many cottages at only double the cost of Ulster, whilst Leinster has three times as many at a less total cost.

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People We Hear About

Mr. Winston Churchill tells an amusing story concerning an old man who happened to see a portrait of him in a shop window. The old fellow was greatly interested in the picture, and asked a bystander who it was. 'Oh, that's Winston Churchill,' was the reply. 'Where does he preach?' asked the old man suddenly. 'Oh, he is not a preacher,' said the other; 'he's a politician.' 'A what?' 'A politician—a member of Parliament.' The old man slowly shook his head, and a look of pity came into his eyes. 'That's too bad! too bad!' he exclaimed, sadly. 'And he has such a good face, too!'

Two ladies of noteworthy descent visited the Terrace of the House of Commons recently, when they were the guests of Mr. William Redmond. These were Miss Drummond and her sister, Mrs. Joseph Kay, the daughters of Mr. Thomas Drummond, the famous Under-Secretary for Ireland of earlier days. Mr. Drummond's administration was the most successful on record. In 1893, nearly half a century after his death, Mr. Drummond's character was drawn in glowing colors by Mr. Gladstone in one of the Home Rule debates. Drummond was not only a great public servant, but a great scientist, to whose genius the Drummond light is due. He died in Dublin from exhaustion brought on by incessant work, and was buried, at his own request, in Dublin, where there is a magnificent statue to his memory.

On July 17 in the Church of Our Lady of Victories, High street, Kensington, London, the marriage took place of Miss Esther Redmond, eldest daughter of Mr. John Redmond, M.P., to Dr. William J. Power, of New York. The Very Rev. Canon Fanning was the officiating clergyman. The Rev. Father Cox presided at the organ, and the church was beautifully decorated with flowers. The bride was given away by her father, and the bridesmaids were two in number, Miss Joanna Redmond, sister of the bride, and Miss Power, sister of the bridegroom. Dr. James Power, New York, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man. The wedding party attended Mass, at the conclusion of which Canon Fanning gave the Papal Benediction, specially sent by his Holiness.

Arundel Castle, where the son and heir to the great historical Premier Dukedom was born, dates from the time of King Alfred. The ancient keep is of Saxon architecture, and a beautiful old Norman doorway marks the chief entrance. It has been stated that if the Duke of Norfolk were to break the entail and sell Arundel Castle to a millionaire, the purchaser would become Earl of Arundel by right of tenure. That, however, is a myth. In olden times there were peerages by tenure, but such claims have not been recognized since the time of Charles II. If any purchaser of Arundel Castle asked for summons to the House of Lords to sit as Earl of Arundel by virtue of his ownership of the castle, it is fairly certain that such a claim would be refused.

Sir Robert Ball, who is one of the keenest supporters of the Daylight Bill which is creating so much attention at the moment, is not only one of our greatest astronomers, but a delightful raconteur. He has had many amusing experiences, but says that he never laughed so much as when an Irishman asked to see the moon through his telescope. Sir Robert explained that it was impossible to see the moon just then, it being broad daylight, but he would be very pleased to give him a view if he came that night. 'Indeed, an' what's the good o' that, at all?' asked the Irishman in disgust. 'Sure, an' at night it's meself that can see the moon without any tellescope.' Almost as good is the story of the young lady who said how sorry she was that she could not attend one of Sir Robert's lectures. The astronomer remarked that he was afraid it would not have interested her much, as it was all about sun spots. Then it would have interested me greatly,' she replied, 'for between me and you, Sir Robert, I have been a martyr to freckles all my life.'

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