

This does not bear out the statement of the New York correspondent of the *London Times*, who stated the other day that 'the American public show a waning interest in the Irish question.'

To Mend the Pace

Mr. George Wyndham, M.P., writing in reply to a letter addressed to him by the Earl of Kenmare, Chairman of the Irish Land Purchase Association, on the subject of Land Purchase, says:—In that letter you raise two points, viz. (1) a statement by Lord Crews, which suggests that I contemplated a particular rate for operations under the Irish Land Act, 1903, and (2) a general belief that the rate I contemplated was to be £5,000,000 worth of Irish estates in any one year. The facts are that I did in 1903 contemplate that particular rate of £5,000,000 a year, but only during the first three years of operations under the Act. Beyond that period I laid down no limit. On the contrary, I expressed 'my opinion' that it would be 'possibly desirable to mend the pace.' I adhere to the opinion that it is desirable to mend the pace.

Local Government

His Grace the Archbishop of Cashel, speaking at the opening of the carnival in Killarney on August 9, said that the working of the Local Government system in Ireland is a very strong argument in favor of Home Rule. It used to be said before the passing of the Local Government Act of 1898 that whatever might be said of Irishmen abroad, Irishmen at home were incapable of self-government, but that argument had disappeared with the successful working of local government under the county councils and district councils in Ireland. Our local government system worked under the supervision and control of the English Local Government Board sitting in Dublin, and in the reports of that board it was admitted that their duties had been satisfactory and steadily discharged by the councils and their officials throughout Ireland. On the 27th February, 1902, speaking of the Local Government Act, Mr. Wyndham said: 'This Act effected nothing short of a social revolution; it took the political power in the matter of local affairs from the hands of one class and gave it to another. In respect of economy and efficiency, that social revolution has not been a failure; it has exceeded the expectation of the most sanguine.'

Progress of Education

In the course of a letter to Monsignor Beechinor his Grace Archbishop Delany, who is on a visit to Ireland, says: 'Not merely in the south, which I have just traversed, but in the west and centre, not to speak of Dublin and its immediate surroundings, have I found scholastic establishments equipped with quite modern requisites and furnished with a large outfit for object lessons; but, what is the chief point in every important centre, I find quite a fever of study amongst the teachers, male and female alike. For example, when I visited the Ursuline Convent at Sligo, I found there quite a number of the Sisters putting in their vacation at a course of physiology under the direction of a former pupil of their own, a Miss —, who had gone to Scotland and graduated in science. Here I found quite a laboratory in which the Sisters were engaged in investigation; and I found pretty well the same thoroughness in all the secondary convent schools I visited. In their own way the primary schools are quite as good. Here in Dublin the Christian Brothers conduct schools chiefly of the technical and commercial order, which are marvels; and their Cork schools are not less so—indeed, if anything, even superior. They lean to the scientific and technical side simply because that is the side of education most called for now in Ireland. One fact will suffice to let you see what I mean: I saw at least sixty brothers of different teaching Orders pass me a fortnight ago across Stephen's Green about 1 o'clock in the day. I inquired who they were and what brought so many there all in such concentrated haste. I was told they came from their various schools, and were putting in summer terms at the Dublin Royal College of Science. Just imagine hard-worked teachers coming to spend their vacations in lectures, running daily to five and even six hours! No superior compels them to do it; they are all too eager to learn. And what I note in the teachers is almost as strikingly evident in the learners at the various schools.'

She: 'How is it your sister didn't sing to-night?' He: 'Oh, the doctor has forbidden her. He says she must not sing for six months.' She: 'Does he live near her?'

A guidebook makes the curious assertion that a large proportion of those who have made the ascent of Mont Blanc have been persons of unsound mind.

People We Hear About

The Archbishop of Boston has acquired *The Pilot* of that city. It is one of the oldest and most influential of Catholic journals. Miss Katherine Conway, who had been editor of *The Pilot* for some time, has joined the staff of the *Boston Republic*, owned by ex-Mayor Fitzgerald. *Donohoe's Magazine* has ceased publication. Its subscription list has been purchased by the *Catholic World* of New York, published by the Paulist Fathers.

Mr. John Pius Boland, M.P., has represented South Kerry in the House of Commons since 1900. He is an accomplished athlete, and distinguished himself in sports at the University. He was among the successful competitors at the Olympic games held at Athens in 1896. Mr. Boland was born in Dublin in 1870, and was the second son of Mr. Patrick Boland of that city. He was educated at the Oratory School; at Christ Church, Oxford (where he graduated M.A., and was president of the Newman Society), and at Bonn University. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1897. He married, in 1902, Eileen, daughter of Dr. Patrick Moloney, of Melbourne.

His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster, who took the leading part in the recent Eucharistic Congress in London, was born in Clapham in 1861. His father was Henry Bourne, of the Post Office Department of the Civil Service. The future Archbishop was educated at Ushaw; at Old Hall, Ware; at St. Sulpice, Paris, where he received the diaconate in 1883; and at Louvain University. In 1884 he was ordained by Bishop Coffin, of Southwark, and spent the next five years as assistant priest at Blackheath, Mortlake, and West Grinstead. He left West Grinstead in 1889 at the call of Bishop Butt to found the Diocesan Seminary at Womersley. In 1895 he was named Domestic Prelate to Leo XIII., and the following year he was consecrated titular Bishop of Epiphania and Coadjutor to the Bishop of Southwark, whom he succeeded in April, 1897. While yet the youngest member of the English Episcopate, he was transferred in August, 1903, to the Archbishopric of Westminster in succession to the late Cardinal Vaughan, and received the pallium in November of the same year.

Among those raised to the peerage by King Edward on the occasion of the bestowal of the birthday honors was the Hon. Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, K.C.M.G., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, and now a member of the Privy Council, the son of John Fitzpatrick, of Quebec. Born in 1853, he was educated at Quebec Seminary and Laval University (B.A., LL.B.), called to the Bar, appointed Crown Prosecutor for Quebec District, 1879; leading counsel for Riel 1885, member of Quebec Legislature 1890-92, refused portfolio in De Boucherville Provincial Government, 1891; having resigned his provincial seat, was returned to Dominion House of Commons for Quebec County, 1896; Solicitor-General, 1896-1901; Minister of Justice, 1901-06. Sir Charles (a statesman who by his character and his ability strengthened the Laurier Government during a time of difficulty as to the settlement of the Manitoba school question) retired from the Cabinet to succeed the late Sir Henri Taschereau as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ottawa in 1906.

Sir Joseph Ward, K.C.M.G., Prime Minister of this Dominion, who celebrated on Saturday the twenty-first anniversary of his entry into politics, and was the recipient of several presentations on that occasion, is almost wholly a New Zealander, for he came here from Victoria (his birthplace) with his parents when quite a child. They settled in the Awarua district, and there the young man early set about making a living. After receiving an elementary education he entered the Postal Department as a messenger when he was thirteen years old, but he soon resigned to take a place in a merchant's office. Next we find him in the Railway Department—that was thirty-two years ago. A year later, when he was twenty-one years of age, he set up for himself in business in the grain trade. About this time he was elected a member of the Campbelltown Borough Council, and was later on Mayor of that borough for five years. For many years he was member of the Bluff Harbor Board. He entered Parliament for Awarua in 1887. Shortly after the election of 1890 he entered the Cabinet as Postmaster-General, and three years later became Colonial Treasurer. Since then he has held many portfolios, but it is especially as Postmaster-General and Minister of Railways that he has made his mark. In 1901 he received the honor of Knighthood. Sir Joseph Ward is a very keen, powerful, and fluent debater, and very popular among men of all shades of political opinion in Parliament.