

£5,000,000 a year will be forthcoming, the Treasury, through an issue of short-dated notes bearing 2½ or 3 per cent. interest, can raise at par ten millions for every million a year of the £5,000,000 which is assigned for the redemption of the notes for ten years. The proposal, though not without drawbacks, is worthy of consideration. But, however the money may be secured, it is of the utmost importance that the tenants should continue to purchase their holdings. Though the policy of enabling the tenants to become the owners of their farms may involve a heavy expenditure, the policy is the surest that can be pursued to ensure the prosperity of the country.

The Economic Side of the Land Question

Speaking at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in Dublin, on the Land Act and the means to be adopted for getting the necessary funds for the completion of the scheme, Mr. T. W. Russell said that the only way in which he could have kept out of the discussion on this important question would have been for him to have kept out of the room altogether. He wished to state at the opening that he did not attend there that day in his official capacity as Vice-President of the Department or as a member of the Government. But he did attend as the representative of an Irish constituency composed almost entirely of tenant farmers, most of whom had purchased under the various Acts. And it was a very typical constituency, because there were very few holdings of over twenty or thirty acres of land. He had studied this question from its political aspect, and he had been driven to study it from the economic side. In his opinion land purchase must proceed to the end. It could not be arrested or stopped. At this moment 260,000 holdings out of a total probably approaching 500,000 had passed from the owners to the occupiers. That had broken the back of things, at all events, and made it impossible to stop where they were. No Government could give to 260,000 men farms of the character that were given under these Acts and withhold them from the remainder, who were placed under precisely the same conditions. He therefore said that this procedure could not be stopped, but that, on the contrary, it must go forward until the land was transferred from the owner to the occupier. He said that for another reason. Everybody knew—and this was almost a meeting of strangers to Ireland—that the real troubles which had paralysed government in Ireland for so long had arisen from the land, and just as the land question had been settled peace and order had come about where it had been settled, and all the trouble which they heard of now was simply the aftermath of that struggle, which had gone on for centuries. Therefore, altogether apart from the injustice to individuals of a stoppage of land purchase now, the necessities of public order necessitated that the battle should be fought to the end, thus applying an effective remedy to the whole country.

Irish Athletes for Rome

The following were selected to represent Ireland at the athletic competitions at the Vatican:—Messrs. C. J. McCarthy, Maynooth College; T. J. McNamara, Maynooth College; Patk. Kirwan, Kilmacthomas, County Waterford; J. J. Burke, Cappawhite, County Tipperary; D. McCarthy, T.C., Kilkenny. The team to represent Ireland in the Gymnastic Section of the competitions was selected from the following members of the Catholic Young Men's Society:—Messrs. Edward G. Lemass, S. Bregazzi, John Breen, Wm. Carroll, T. J. O'Donnell, John Cooney, Wm. Heaney, John Nugent, James O'Duffy, M. Cranny, and D. Bregazzi. It was decided to give an exhibition game of caman in the Vatican Gardens, and the competing teams were to be played on to the field by an Irish piper in national dress. At the special audience an illuminated address was to be presented to his Holiness on behalf of the affiliated branches of the Catholic Young Men's Society, and other addresses were to be presented from the Dublin Corporation, North and South Dublin Unions, Rural Councils, and the Central Committee of the Irish Confraternities and Sodalties. A very large number of priests and prominent Catholic laity took part in the pilgrimage.

Father Mathew Anniversary

Notwithstanding very unfavorable weather conditions, the Father Mathew anniversary celebration, held in Dublin on Sunday, August 23, was a success. Thousands joined in the procession that assembled in O'Connell street and marched to the Phoenix Park, while sympathisers in immense numbers assembled along the route and showed plainly the faith that animated them.

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People We Hear About

The Earl of Westmeath is one of the only two Catholic Irish representative peers (of whom Lord Bellew is the other). His earldom dates its creation from the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and the estates, which have been in the possession of the family from time immemorial, number some 16,000 acres in extent. He has been a world-wide traveller; but in all his experiences the one which impressed him the most deeply—and he is himself the authority for the assertion—was his visit to Pope Leo XIII. on the occasion of his Pontifical jubilee. Lord Westmeath, who has a great taste for art in many of its branches, has, at Pallas, near Longhrea, a notable collection of fine paintings of the old school.

An announcement which recently went the round of the press to the effect that Killarney House, the beautiful home of Lord Kenmare, was about to be change ownership has proved to be inaccurate. The Killarney estates, which have been in Lord Kenmare's family since the reign of James I., by whom they were bestowed on his ancestor, include the lovely Island of Ross and the historic Ross Castle, which, after a fierce contest, was seized by the Parliamentary forces, commanded by General Ludlow. Lord Kenmare, who possesses at Killarney a very beautiful chapel and a fine collection of paintings, traces his descent from a prominent knight of Queen Elizabeth's Court—Sir Valentine Browne—who was appointed her Majesty's Auditor-General of Ireland.

A contributor to London *Sunday Chronicle*, writing of the visit of Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli to London as the Pope's Legate to the Eucharistic Congress, says this is not the first visit which his Eminence paid to England. In 1904, when on his way as Papal envoy to Ireland, where he represented the Pope at the re-opening of Armagh Cathedral, he was the guest in London of the Archbishop of Westminster. Arriving in Ireland, he gave proof of his Christian breadth of view and tactful spirit by driving to pay a visit to the Protestant Primate, who, it is said, was deeply touched by this simple act of human brotherhood. This act, of course, was not without its effect upon the crowd of excited Orangemen who had assembled in a more or less hostile spirit to witness the Cardinal's progress through the streets, and many who had come prepared to curse remained to cheer. On another occasion the Cardinal made the members of the Royal Irish Constabulary, who were keeping the ways for him through the crowds, stand aghast at the coolness with which, towering above some of the tallest members of the force, he broke their ranks in order to let some struggling old man or woman get near him to touch his hand or kiss his ring.

The Marquis of Ripon, who has just retired from the Liberal Cabinet, was born in Downing street, London, his father being Prime Minister in the reign of George IV. It is now fifty-six years since he entered public life as member for Hull. To realise how far back that period is, we have only to remember that when he entered Parliament the present cities of Christchurch and Dunedin had scarcely got beyond the canvas-tent stage. Before the end of the fifties he was Under-Secretary for War, with Lord Palmerston for leader, and Gladstone as his colleague. In 1869, under Gladstone, the Marquis of Ripon took office as Lord President of Council. In 1871 he became Grand Master of the Freemasons, a position which he relinquished three years later on his reception into the Catholic Church. This took place at the London Oratory in 1874. This step on his part created the utmost excitement, and it was confidently predicted that his public career was at an end. But it was not so. Six years later the Marquis of Ripon was appointed by Mr. Gladstone Viceroy of India, where he made his mark as a wise and strong ruler, in whose impartiality and sense of justice the native races placed implicit trust. Here is what General Gordon said of his work in India:—'God has blessed India and England in giving Lord Ripon the Viceroyalty. Depend on it, this vast country will find, in spite of all obstacles, the rule of Lord Ripon will be blessed; for he will rule in the strength of the Lord, not of men.' The truth of these words, written in 1880, was borne witness to by cheers and blessings from millions of tongues when Lord Ripon left India four years later. Since then he has occupied various offices under successive Liberal Administrations. In addition to his public duties, he finds time for meetings in support of religious and philanthropic purposes. He is president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, vice-president of the Catholic Union, and is an active supporter of St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary Society.

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