

WATERFORD—Tasmanian Visitors

In Waterford a hearty reception has been given to the nephew and niece of Thomas Francis Meagher, who arrived there on a visit in company with Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Ford. They were met at the railway station by the Mayor, Alderman Whittle, the High Sheriff, Mr. Hyland, and a number of citizens, accompanied by the Barrack Street Band, and were escorted by a torchlight procession to the Granville Hotel, where Mr. Meagher returned thanks.

GENERAL**Another Council Bill**

The *Drogheda Argus* announces that it has information 'from a well-known Devolutionist' that a Bill on the lines of the Irish Councils Bill, but much more generous, is in contemplation. The Liberals are not to be responsible for the next Bill. 'The Imperial Home Rulers are to take the initiative and to respond to Mr. Birrell's taunt to Mr. Redmond "to put on paper his demand and they would consider it."'

American Assistance

The Bishop of Raphoe, Chief Trustee of the United Irish Parliamentary and National Fund, has received a cablegram from the officers of the United Irish League in America notifying that £2000, the first instalment of the amount promised by the Boston Convention, has been mailed.

A Reminiscence

Speaking at St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, on October 5, on a vote of thanks to Dr. Cox, who delivered an address on the new University and its relation to the medical profession, Mr. T. W. Russell, Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, said he first came across the trouble about the University at the Town Hall of Fintona, and it was full of Orangemen, rather hazy about what a University was. But they wanted to know what he was going to do about a Catholic University. He said he was going to vote for it, at which there were groans. He put it to them in this way, and he remembered the staggerer it was. He said: 'Supposing that you men had sons and wished to secure for them a University education; supposing you wished to send them to Trinity College and that Trinity College was as Catholic as it now is Protestant—that was 21 years ago—supposing that the service in the chapel of Trinity, instead of being a Protestant service, was a Catholic service, supposing that the head of the college and every teacher in it was Catholic; supposing every man from the Provost down to the doorkeeper was a Jesuit—he knew that would fetch them—how many of you would send your sons to an institution of that kind?' He waited; not one of them answered. 'Very well,' he said, 'if you would not send your sons to a college of that kind, what right have you to force Catholics into a Protestant institution?' No answer had been given to that question from that day to this in any part of the King's dominions. Now they had got to an end of it. He was rather inclined to take credit to himself that he was the only Ulster member who from the day he entered Parliament until the day this measure received the Royal Assent maintained that it was just, that it ought to be frankly conceded, and that it was an outrage to withhold it.

A New Land Bill

Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, introduced in the House of Commons last week a new Land Purchase Bill for Ireland. He stated that the sales already completed under the Land Purchase Act totalled £25,000,000, while agreements were pending for an additional £32,000,000. Instead of £100,000,000 contemplated by Mr. Wyndham in 1903, £180,000,000 was needed. Amid Nationalist cheers the Irish Secretary announced that he intended to relieve the Irish ratepayers of their prospective losses of half a million yearly. Referring to the issues of stock, he intended to issue 3 per cents., to increase intending tenants' annual interest on advances made, to reduce the bonus to 3 per cent., to increase the present limit to £12,000,000, and to graduate the bonus in order to assist the poorer landlord to sell. Mr. Birrell commented on the Dudley Commission, and remarked that the possession of untenanted or grass lands must be obtained. They must decide which was the better, cattle or people. The Government therefore asked for compulsory powers. He explained that the congested districts board would consist of 18 members, whereof nine would be chosen by the local authorities of each congested district in each county. The finance would be controlled by an administrative committee of non-elected members. The Chief Secretary assured the Nationalists that if any measures were carried over to another session he would resign unless this one were excluded.

People We Hear About

Of the fourteen members who were elected at the second ballot contests last week, and who did not sit in the last Parliament, six are farmers, whilst the following professions and trades have one representative each:—Solicitor, grain merchant, journalist, painter, printer, ironfounder, bootmaker, builder. Nine are natives of New Zealand, three were born in England, and two in Scotland.

The Right Hon. Sir James Mathew, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, who passed away a few weeks ago at the age of 78 years, was father-in-law of Mr. John Dillon, M.P., and nephew of Father Mathew, the famous Apostle of Temperance. Mrs. Dillon, it will be remembered, died last year. The late Lord Justice Mathew, who was a son of Charles Mathew, of Lehera House, Cork, was born in 1830, educated at Trinity College, Dublin (B.A. 1850 and LL.D. 1851), and called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, 1854. He was a junior for the Crown in the Tichborne case, and was created a judge and knighted in 1881. He presided over the Evicted Tenants Royal Commission of 1893, appointed to advise the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland concerning the best method of reinstating those men. Later he received appointments as Lord Justice of Appeal and Privy Councillor. He was the third Catholic judge appointed in England since Catholic emancipation. In 1901 Sir James Mathew was appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal, and he resigned in 1906.

The *Daily News* in its issue of October 10 paid the following tribute of praise to the Marquis of Ripon for his services to the British Empire:—The resignation of the Marquis of Ripon of his seat in the Cabinet removes from the public service an historic figure, and one of the most high-minded and unselfish men who ever served the State. It is a break with a great past. With him disappears our living contact with that memorable summer of Liberalism which marked Gladstone's greatest Ministry. No one is now left in office who served with Gladstone in the sixties and seventies. Lord Ripon belonged to the old guard, in spirit as well as in time. He carried with him the tradition of a spacious day, and of a rare conception of disinterested labor for the commonwealth. Above all, he carried with him the memory of inestimable service in a field where few have succeeded. The name of Lord Ripon is honored in India beyond that of any Englishman of our time. It is honored as that of a man who embodied the purest ideal of British Liberalism in relation to subject peoples. His tenure of the Vice-royalty was coincident with the happiest relationship ever established between us and India. It seemed like the dawn of a better day. Unhappily there has been a lamentable reaction since then, but Lord Ripon's memory is still honored beyond that of any other personal memory and his name constantly appears in streets and public places, and even in the names of the children.

This is an age of young men (remarks the *Sydney Catholic Press*), and the Federal Ministry certainly cannot be called elderly. The Prime Minister is only 46 years of age, the Attorney-General is 44, the Minister for Defence is quite a young man, the Minister for External Affairs is 43, the Minister for Customs is 42, the Postmaster-General is 45, and Mr. Mahon, who owns to 50, is only in the very prime of life. Senator McGregor, the Vice-President of the Executive Council, is the father of the little family, but his 60 years have been very kind to him, and he looks as robust as his youngest colleague. There are only three Australians in the new Federal Ministry—Senator Pearce, Mr. Batchelor, and Mr. Tudor. Pearce is a South Australian, and so is Batchelor, whilst Tudor was born in Victoria. Scotland is represented by Fisher, Hutchinson, and McGregor, Ireland by Hugh Mahon, and Wales by W. Hughes. Thomas hails from Cornwall. At one time it was a rare thing to find an Australian native in a big political position, but nowadays the native-born are elbowing the old men out, and are well represented in the Ministries of the various States as well as in the Cabinet of the Commonwealth. Senator Pearce, the new Minister for Defence, is a carpenter and joiner by trade; Batchelor (Minister for External Affairs) was a hand in the Government locomotive workshops; Tudor (Minister for Customs) was an operative in a hat factory; Postmaster-General Thomas was a working miner, and Hugh Mahon (Minister for Home Affairs) is a journalist. Prime Minister Fisher, like Thomas, knows what it is to swing a pick underground. All the Ministers without exception had to make their own way in life, and owe very little to fortune.