

Irish News

CORK—Winner of a Grand Prize

The Presentation Convent, Youghal, was awarded a Grand Prix at the Franco-British Exhibition in London for its beautiful needle-point lace and crochet. The Presentation Convent, Youghal, has long been noted for its needle-point. But it is one thing (says the *Freeman's Journal*) to be able to produce beautiful lace, and another to keep abreast of the times, advancing in perfection, within its own domain, so as to keep pace with the inventive spirit of modern times, and be considered worthy to rank amongst the Grand Prize winners of the world. The competition for 'pride of place' in all branches between the two nations has been most keen. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that France is par excellence the nation of exquisite and historic laces, in order to fully understand the greatness of the victory achieved, and the intrinsic beauty and excellence both in workmanship and design to which the School of Lace at Youghal has attained. But it is not at the Franco-British Exhibition alone that Youghal needle-point has this year covered itself with glory. At the Exhibition of British and Irish laces organised by the *Daily Mail*, London, March, 1908, the gold medal for real lace was awarded to the Presentation Convent, Youghal, and at the Ideal Home Exhibition, organised by the same newspaper, the silver medal has just been won by a needle-point table centre worked at Youghal.

Mitchelston Caves

A small band of scientific cave explorers have been employed in making an exhaustive survey of the remarkable caves at Mitchelstown, County Cork. The party include geologists, a botanist, and a naturalist. This is really the first time that a thorough survey of these caves has been attempted. What are called the 'New Caves' were discovered in 1888. They are very extensive, and include a great variety of chambers. The old cave consists of one immense chamber, and is the largest cave in the British Islands. It was in this cave that the White Knight captured the 'Sugan' Earl of Desmond and sold him to Queen Elizabeth for £1000. He was conveyed to the Tower of London, where he died. There are many inscriptions in this cave, one going back to 1602, that is, four years after the capture of the 'Sugan' Earl.

DONEGAL—A Veteran

Ireland seems to have produced the doyen of old-age pension claimants in Charles Kelly, a county Donegal veteran, who is old enough to remember Trafalgar, and was a full-grown man when Queen Victoria was cradled. There is no doubt that, whatever grievances Ireland may have, she cannot complain of her proportion of centenarians, who at the last census numbered just under 500, or more than could be found in France, England, and Scotland combined. And even more remarkable than this number are the ages many of these centenarians reach. To take only one year's records, among the Irish centenarians whose deaths were recorded in 1905 no fewer than fourteen had seen 105 years or more, and of these eight had passed their 110th birthday.

An Appointment

For the second time of late (says an exchange), the services of an Irish professor have been requisitioned by Catholic Americans for their Universities. The gap left at the Catholic University at Washington by the diplomatic appointment which sent Dr. Maurice Francis Egan to represent his country in Denmark was filled at the end of last year by the appointment of Mr. P. J. Lennox, then Professor of Modern Literature at University College, Stephen's Green. It is now the turn of Mr. Seamus McManus to be summoned to the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, as lecturer—not in Irish, but English. Mr. McManus, who is still in his thirties, was schoolmaster of his native village of Mount Charles, County Donegal, prior to 1896, when he gave up his post to devote himself to literature.

DUBLIN—Blackrock College

Blackrock College, County Dublin, has scored again. Mr. Patrick Kelly, who was educated in that widely-known college, won the first place in the United Kingdom at the recent examination for Surveyorship of Taxes.

Irish Leader Banqueted

A banquet to welcome Mr. John Redmond and his colleagues on their return home from the American Mission was held in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, on Wednesday night, October 21. Mr. Redmond delivered a speech, in which he dealt with the position of the Irish cause in

America, and expounded the policy of the Irish Party with regard to land law reform. Among the other speakers were Mr. John Dillon, Mr. John P. Hayden, Mr. John Fitzgibbon, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and the Mayor of Waterford. Interesting messages were received from the Archbishop of Cashel and other Prelates, and from Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

Madame Melba Entertained

On the evening of October 26 the distinguished singer, Madame Melba, was entertained at dinner in the Gresham Hotel by the Corinthian Club. The hour named was 7 o'clock, and upwards of 360 guests assembled in the Aberdeen Hall of the hotel, which barely sufficed to accommodate the gathering. Ladies were present in large numbers. It was the most largely attended dinner that the club had ever succeeded in gathering under their auspices. The president (Sir Charles Cameron, C.B.) presided.

Imperial Home Rule Association

A correspondent of the *Irish Times*, hearing that a meeting of the Imperial Home Rule Association had been held recently, called on a prominent member of that body and asked him for particulars of the proceedings. The gentleman in question replied that while the meeting was a private one, there were certain facts that he could communicate without being guilty of any breach of confidence. The membership, he said, was over 200, and was composed of noblemen, professional men, and merchants. Asked why he would not give the names of the leading spirits in the new movement, he said: 'I cannot tell you now, for reasons that must for the present be kept a secret. We shall, however, hold two meetings in Dublin soon. You will then know the names, and some of them, I can assure you, will give you a surprise, familiarised though you must be with metamorphoses in Irish political life.'

LIMERICK—White Gloves

At the opening of the quarter sessions for the city of Limerick, Alderman Prendergast, city sub-sheriff, addressing his Honor Judge Law Smith, said, in the absence of the high sheriff, it afforded him much pleasure to present him with a pair of white gloves, to symbolise the immunity of the city of Limerick from any form of serious crime. The Mayor asked permission to say a word, in the absence of the high sheriff, in reference to the satisfactory condition of the city and county of Limerick. It should be a matter of great gratification to everybody living in the county and city of Limerick to have such a record of freedom from crime within the period since last quarter sessions. This condition of things should afford an object lesson to their rulers as to the law-abiding character of the people of this country. His Honor, in acknowledgment of the compliment, said it was to him a special pleasure to receive again this tribute which was offered to the judges, showing the peaceable condition of the city of Limerick; and its freedom from crime. This was the third occasion on which he had received white gloves from the high sheriff of Limerick. His late lamented predecessor used to boast that he had the largest collection of white gloves of any judge in the world; but if things went on in the same satisfactory way that they had been going on since he (his Honor) came to Limerick—and he sincerely hoped they would—he expected to make a rival collection to that of the late County Court Judge.

MAYO—A Presentation

A beautifully illuminated address, together with a solid silver chalice and silver-mounted inkstand, was presented to the Rev. G. J. Prendergast, Diocesan Inspector, Tuam, at his parents' residence, Louisburgh, County Mayo, recently by a deputation of his friends from the parish of Balinakill, County Galway, where he labored as curate for four years.

An Old-age Pensioner

The late Mr. Michael Davitt's nurse, Mrs. Kilcourse, who has attained the age of 83, has been awarded an old-age pension by the Castlebar Pensions Committee.

TIPPERARY—Recognition of the Work of a Pastor

A very pleasing function took place on the completion of the Catholic church at Drombane, Thurles, when the Very Rev. Canon Corcoran, P.P., D.D., was made the recipient of a beautifully illuminated address and sanctuary lamp by his parishioners in grateful recognition of his work in beautifying the parochial church.

TYRONE—Over the Century

The death is reported of Mr. Francis Neily, farmer, near Aughnacloy, County Tyrone, who, according to reliable data in the possession of his family, had attained the remarkable age of 109 years. Up till three months ago he was able to attend to the business of his farm, never