

**ROSCOMMON—State of the County Satisfactory**

Mr. Justice Johnson, in opening the Roscommon Assizes, said he was happy to inform the Grand Jury that the condition of the county was of a satisfactory character, and that the cases to go before them was the smallest ever sent before any Grand Jury in the county.

**SLIGO—Nothing but Kindness and Consideration**

Mr. W. T. Vernon, the popular secretary of the Sligo County Council, has tendered his resignation (says the *Irish Weekly*). He has been in the public service for forty-two years; and, though hale and vigorous, he thinks himself entitled to a rest from official cares. Supplementing his formal letter of resignation, Mr. Vernon made a brief statement to the last meeting of the Sligo Council. 'At the close of my service,' he wrote, 'I cannot help but to express my deep and sincere thanks to the Council of County Sligo for the way in which they have always treated me. I was taken over from a different body nine years ago, and from that day to this I must say I received nothing but kindness and consideration from this great Nationalist Board.' This gentleman's political opinions are not those of the vast majority of Sligonians. But the *Sligo Champion* justly says:—'It is not too much to say that if the County Council, by any chance, failed to treat him with kindness and consideration they would fail to reflect the views of their constituents.' Further on, the Nationalist journal writes:—'The members of the County Council, as Nationalists and Catholics, claim no credit for having treated Mr. Vernon, a Conservative and Protestant, as he deserved to be treated. They merely acted in accordance with a principle of their political faith, and every Irish-born man is entitled, irrespective of religious or political belief, to fair and honorable treatment. The complaints, which are sometimes made for political purposes, to the effect that under Home-Rule Protestants would be persecuted and unfairly treated, are mere figments of fanatical imaginations.'

**GENERAL****St. Patrick's Day in London**

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with the usual enthusiasm in London. There were many festive gatherings and many church services, and the shamrock was worn in London by Saxon and Celt more largely, it is said, than ever before. The principal festive celebration was held at the Hotel Cecil, where Mr. John Redmond, M.P., presided over the annual Irish national banquet. Bishop Kelly, of Ross, was amongst the distinguished guests on the occasion. In proposing the toast of 'Ireland a Nation,' Mr. Redmond referred to the new University, and said that it was a great measure of civil and religious emancipation for Ireland, a measure which would stand out for all time on the page of history as a great landmark on the road to Irish independence and happiness. That University was the completion of Catholic emancipation. So long as the Catholic youth of Ireland was excluded from university education, except at the sacrifice of their religious convictions, so long Catholic emancipation was not completed, but the creation of this University established religious equality in educational facilities, and Catholic emancipation, carried by O'Connell, had only been completed by the statute of the year 1908. 'From to-day onward,' said Mr. Redmond, 'I hope and I believe that there will be in Ireland a great educational revival, a great revival of educational enthusiasm. I believe there will be a rapid intellectual development of our nation. I believe there will be a broadening of the national life, and a rapid spread of religious and political toleration. I believe you will find in the near future a disappearance of the old spiteful and fatal spirit of faction, and consequently I believe there will be a strengthening of the national movement.'

**Improvement in Irish Trade**

Mr. John Dillon, M.P., speaking in Glasgow on March 14, said that the marked and rapid improvement in the trade of Ireland which Mr. Birrell had just disclosed was a new and very remarkable thing. There was a conspiracy in the Unionist press of England falsely to represent Ireland as in a state of chaos and crime.

The Wright aeroplane, which is regarded as the most successful of the aerial machines, will appear in Australia this month. Messrs. J. and N. Tait have secured the Australasian rights of Mr. Wilbur Wright's aeroplane, and Mr. Colin Depres, who is now practising at Pau, in the South of France, with the machine, will take charge of the exhibition in Australia.

'Catholic Marriages.' The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted; 12 copies and over, 8d each, purchaser to pay carriage. Apply Manager, 'Tablet,' Dunedin.

**People We Hear About**

Seventy members of the Canadian House of Commons are Catholics. There are in the House more Catholics than men of any other religion.

Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, who has just celebrated his 78th birthday, intends to pay a visit to his native county, Tipperary, in a short time.

The Rev. Dr. Louis A. Lambert, of Scottsville, N.Y., editor of the *New York Freeman's Journal*, and the author of *Notes on Ingersoll*, has attained the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Cardinal Gibbons is included in the *New York Herald* list of the ten greatest living Americans, excluding politicians. Its readers did the selection. The other nine are Edison, Carnegie, Pierpont Morgan, Rockefeller, Mark Twain, Admiral Dewey, Charles Elliott, Henry Clews, and Alex. G. Bell.

Lord Emly, who recently celebrated his 51st birthday, succeeded to his barony twenty years after it had been conferred on his distinguished father. Although he inherited considerable landed property, Lord Emly's sympathies are with the laborers rather than the landlords, and he is the only Irish peer with Nationalist sympathies. He is a county councillor for Limerick, where Lady Emly secured a seat on the Board of Guardians after a contested election.

The Viennese will celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the death of Joseph Haydn by a musical festival, which will be under the patronage of the Emperor Francis Joseph, and in connection with the great musical societies of Austria. The principal religious and secular works of the masters will be produced, and the festival will coincide with the international Congress of Musicians. The celebrations are timed for the 25th to the 29th May. Haydn died on May 31, 1809.

Mr. James L. Molloy, a popular Irish composer, died recently at Hambleton, Berks, England. He was in his 72nd year. He was a native of Cornelaire, King's County, and was the son of Kedo Molloy. He was educated at the Catholic University, Dublin, and later at London University, Paris, and Bonn. After completing his education he was admitted to the English Bar. But it is chiefly as a composer of songs that he is best known. He wrote over a hundred of these, among which the following are familiar to all lovers of genuine ballad music: 'By the river,' 'To-morrow will be Friday,' 'The Kerry dance,' and 'Love's old sweet song.' He also wrote the score for several operettas, one of which, 'The Student's Frolic,' achieved success.

The death the other day of Mr. Andrew Pears, the chief partner in the famous firm of soap manufacturers of that name, has again drawn attention to the origin of the business, and the secret of its success. The business began in the days of the French Revolution. A small London shopkeeper named Andrew Pears, a Cornishman, made good soap and preached the gospel of cleanliness—a rather new gospel in those days. To protect himself against counterfeits in a time when patent laws were very inefficient, he inscribed with a quill pen his autograph on the wrapper of every cake of soap he sold. The secret of the great development of the business was advertising. The Pears were among the first people to realise the great importance of bold and clever advertising, and having made up their minds on the point, they proceeded to cover the world with that immortal question, 'Have you used Pears' soap?' Mr. Gladstone once used in Parliament the simile, 'as plentiful as advertisements of Pears' soap or leaves in Vallambrosa.' Since the beginning of the firm Messrs. Pears have spent well over £3,000,000 in advertising, and when in 1892 they became a limited liability company, the yearly profits were £70,000. In the interview a little time ago the late Mr. Pears remarked that while advertising was a very expensive amusement, it was absolutely necessary. 'This year,' he said, 'our bill for that item alone reaches £100,000, not one penny of which is, I consider, thrown away. For instance, we paid Millais £2200 down for his famous picture "Bubbles." He denied the rumor that the famous beauties who had testified to the value of the soap had been paid for their recommendations.'

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