

claims to their own crops that might be in the soil; and they were to pay all rates and taxes whatsoever. Whoever refused to accept these terms must quit! It was a terrible alternative. Let us try to recall, if we can, the scene in Dobbyn's Hotel, in Tipperary town, on that day, in June, 1868, when Scully attended to receive the May rents, and to get his tenants to sign the new leases. He is seated at a table, with a loaded revolver on each hand, and a policeman, with rifle and sabre, close by. Only four tenants come in person. The others have sent their rent by messengers. Even the four tenants who come in person refuse to sign the leases. Scully swears at them. They actually defy him. The worm has turned at last. In that room in Dobbyn's Hotel, Irish landlordism had thrown down the gauntlet, and the men of Ballycohey had picked it up. There is a point beyond which human endurance cannot go, a point where patience becomes cowardice, and that point had now been reached.

WICKLOW—A Loss to Arklow

A good deal of alarm has been caused at Arklow owing to the fact that over 100 employees of Messrs. Kynoch and Co., the local chemical and cordite factories, have been dismissed. The manager of the works states that work could not be found for the hands, and that there is no likelihood of them being taken on again. The wages of the men affected range from 18s to 25s per week.

An Irish Riviera

The Countess of Aberdeen, in opening a tuberculosis exhibition at Bray, said that if the people on the other side of the water could have seen Bray during the month of February, in the bright fresh sunshine, day by day, they would go no more, she was sure, to the Riviera in search of early summer, but there would result instead a very large influx of spring visitors to this, the Irish Riviera.

GENERAL

Ireland's Freedom from Crime

At the opening of the Commission on April 1 (writes a Dublin correspondent), Judge Kenny congratulated the grand juries of the Dublin City and County on the almost complete immunity from crime of both. At Cork Criminal Sessions, on the same date, the Recorder was presented with white gloves. The same ceremony took place recently at Limerick City and County Assizes, Monaghan, Wicklow, and other places. The instances in which the criminal calendars comprised not more than one, two, or three cases are very numerous. It would be most interesting if a return giving the records presented all over Ireland at the Spring Assizes were compiled and published far and wide.

The Parliamentary Fund

Within six weeks of the issue of the appeal to the people of Ireland, published by the National Trustees in accordance with the resolution at the National Convention, we (*Irish News*) acknowledge a 'first instalment' of £1147 2s 2d towards the United Irish National and Parliamentary Fund, 1909. Several circumstances must be taken into account if the encouraging significance of the list and the total in another page is to be fully appreciated. When the appeal was issued, Irish Nationalists were looking forward with disgust and apprehension to a recrudescence of factional squabbling and, perhaps, a period of political stagnation as a consequence. For five or six weeks the country was threatened with another 'Split'—of a minor character, no doubt, but still a 'Split' annoying and disheartening. Only those whose faith rose above difficulties and to whom political insight revealed the necessity for immediate practical action, cared to respond while the future appeared uncertain. Under these circumstances this week's long list is more than satisfactory: it is inspiring. As a record of the people's confidence in the capacity, fidelity, and unstained honor of their elected representatives it challenges recognition from friends and enemies.

Catholic Disabilities Bill

We were informed by cable last week that the second reading of the Catholic Disabilities Bill, moved by Mr. W. Redmond, M.P., was carried in the House of Commons by 138 votes to 123. The measure seeks the removal of the embargo on the eligibility of Catholics for the offices of Lord Chancellor of Great Britain and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and the omission of the offensive sentence from the King's Accession Oath. After the second reading the Bill was sent to a committee of the whole House, which is equivalent to shelving it. The Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, approved of the opening of the Lord Chancellorship and the Viceroyalty of Ireland to Catholics. He said the Accession Declaration was the flimsiest and most unnecessary safeguard. Mr. Asquith suggested the appointment of a committee to find a form of declaration that would be inoffensive to any religious susceptibilities.

People We Hear About

Madame Melba entered on her forty-fifth year on May 19. She held a reception in honor of the occasion at the Grand Hotel, Auckland.

A short time prior to his death, the Municipality of Sorrento conferred upon Mr. Marion Crawford the distinction of honorary citizenship, and named one of the chief thoroughfares the Corso Marion Crawford.

There are in the Cabinet of Sir Wilfred Laurier, the present Prime Minister of Canada, who is for the third time holding that high office, four Catholics, four Episcopalians, two Methodists, one Baptist, and not one affiliated with any religious denomination.

The *Cleveland Catholic Universe* states that a Catholic priest was the first to give the title Father of his Country to George Washington. It quotes from the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of February 22, 1800, these words: 'Father Carr has given General George Washington a name that will live for ever, "The Father of His Country."'

The Very Rev. Father Murray, the newly-elected Superior-General of the Redemptorist Order, is a comparatively young man, having been born in 1865. He was educated at Maynooth, and on concluding his college course entered this Order, and was ordained priest in 1890. He became Provincial in Ireland about three years ago.

Mr. Andrew Selkirk, who died at Cowdenbeath, Fifeshire, Scotland, recently, was a descendant of Alexander Selkirk, the original of Defoe's 'Robinson Crusoe.' Mr. Selkirk, who was an engineer, had himself led a roving and adventurous life, having travelled extensively in Australia and New Zealand and taken part in the early rushes to the Australian gold diggings.

Lord and Lady Roberts celebrated their golden wedding last week. In 1860, whilst stationed in India, and just a year after his marriage, Lord Roberts was very anxious to be sent to China, where there was some trouble. Lord Clyde, however, chose someone else. Afterwards Lord Clyde met Lady Roberts at dinner, and told her that he had purposely passed over her husband because he thought they would not like to be separated so soon. Instead of thanking Lord Clyde (as the latter had expected she would do) Lady Roberts, who had been anxious that her husband should be sent, was very much concerned, and replied that he had made her feel that she was ruining her husband's career. 'Well, I'm hanged if I can understand you women!' was the astonished nobleman's blunt comment.

Sir Frederick Darley, who has just retired from the Chief Justiceship of New South Wales, was called to the Irish Bar, at which he practised for some years, before emigrating to Australia in Hilary Term, 1853, on the same day as another eminent judicial personage, the Right Hon. Christopher Palles, now Chief Baron of Ireland for nearly five-and-thirty years. Sir Frederick Darley is a grandson of a Lord Mayor of Dublin in the days of the old unreformed Corporation of that city, and his first cousin, the late Mr. F. W. Darley, an Irish County Court judge, had a distinct recollection of being taken by his father, a Dublin Corporator, to witness the reception of George IV. by the Corporation in 1825. The King had forbidden political allusions. The moment his Majesty retired the toast of 'The Glorious, Pious, and Immortal Memory' was drunk.

King Leopold of Belgium has unconventional manners, which have ingratiated him with his people. Several good stories are told of his characteristic bonhomie. Once, while in Paris, on seeing a large crowd assembled before the private entrance of the Hotel Bristol, he approached an idler, and asked what the people were waiting for. 'To see Leopold,' was the reply. 'Well,' said the King, 'take my advice and go away. He's not worth waiting for.' And with that Leopold II. betook himself to the boulevards. During one of King Leopold's many rambles incognito, he found himself when darkness was setting in near Enghien, in Hainault, and he sought shelter at a small wayside inn, where he was hospitably entertained. When, however, his host presented him with his very modest bill of three francs on the following morning, the King found to his horror that his purse had either been lost or stolen. The landlord was furious at what he regarded as an imposition, and threatened to hand his guest over to the law. 'But I am your King!' Leopold exclaimed. 'That is very unlikely,' Boniface answered, with a smile of derision; 'kings don't wander about the country with empty pockets. Ah, no!' The matter was finally arranged by the King depositing his watch with the host, and for long afterwards he would humorously speak of himself as the 'King without a franc.'

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