

cheers, the band playing 'God save Ireland.' On the way back to Queenstown a reception was held in the cabin in the tender, an address of welcome being delivered by Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., and acknowledged by the guests. At Queenstown numerous addresses from representative bodies were presented, and the journey to Dublin was signalised by enthusiastic demonstrations at Cork, Blarney, Mallow, Limerick Junction, Thurles, Maryborough, and Portarlington. At Dublin the enthusiasm was indescribable, and at the United Irish League offices stirring speeches were delivered by the Lord Mayor, Captain Condon, Mr. John O'Callaghan, Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., Mr. Wm. Redmond, M.P., and Mr. David Sheehy, M.P. A reception in honor of Captain O'Meagher Condon and Mr. John O'Callaghan was held in the Hibernian Hall, Rutland square, Dublin, on September 6. An address was presented to them, and very able speeches were delivered by the guests and by Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P.

Progress of Land Purchase

Over 212,000 tenants have now agreed to purchase their holdings (says the *Freeman's Journal*). Eighty-one thousand are Ulster men, 55,000 Munster men, 51,000 Leinster men, and 24,000 Connaught men. Though the majority of the purchasers are to be found in Ulster, Leinster and Munster take the lion's share of the money. £18,650,000 is applied for in Ulster, Leinster wants £24,672,000, Munster £23,500,000, while in Connaught less than £5,000,000 is required for the 24,471 holdings agreed to be sold. The price in Connaught is only a little over £200 a farm, a price that indicates the uneconomic character of a large number of the holdings. Last year was the biggest year of the five since the Act began to operate effectively. Over 20 millions worth of land was sold. The rush for the bonus explains the figure. Agreements to the amount of ten millions and a quarter were lodged in October alone. It was also the biggest in another sense. Mr. Birrell is charged with holding back the money. But the actual advances last year amounted to far more than in any previous year, and totalled six millions and a half, or a million and a half more than Mr. Wyndham's estimate of the annual provision required.

An Army of Officials

Speaking at Birr nearly two years ago, Mr. John Redmond, M.P., contrasted the methods and cost of administration in Ireland and other States. He said: 'You have in this country an army of useless and overpaid officials; it is calculated that there are in Ireland 100,000 officials, and a recent moderate estimate goes to show that these 100,000 officials receive about £3,000,000 a year in the shape of pay, pensions, and gratuities. That is to say, that of every £2 supposed to be spent on the government of Ireland, nearly one-half is pocketed by an employee of the bureaucracy. Now, by comparison with England and Scotland, this expenditure is monstrous and incredible.' The estimate referred to by Mr. Redmond (says the *Irish Weekly*) was moderate indeed, and the 'army of useless and over-paid officials' has been largely augmented since 1907. At least £3,400,000 is now disbursed annually in 'pay, pensions, and gratuities,' and other forms of reward for 'services,' past and present, to the vast multitude of individuals who constitute the 'governing classes' in Ireland.

Irish People in Many Lands

Thinking people should give some special thought to Ireland, in many respects the most remarkable country on earth (says the *Leader* of Richmond, U.S.A.). Nowhere in history is there record of a territory so small and a people so few giving the world so much. No other nation has its blood so widely diffused among the strong peoples of the earth, adding strength, energy, and dash to the best of them. No other people has sent its blood to be shed on so many battlefields and in so many causes, and so invariably far to the front. It is one of the familiar but pathetic humors of history that the Irish have done more for almost every land on the globe than for Ireland; and there is much truth in that famous and somewhat flattering sneer that the Irish rule all countries but Ireland. They have contributed to every department of human endeavor. In this Republic Irish names and Irish stock are everywhere active in the doing of things, from the digging of ditches to the leadership of armies and the creation and conduct of great enterprises. A very large majority of the citizens of these United States have more or less Irish blood in their veins, and consequently sympathy with and affection for Ireland. Aside from that, all the people must recognise the debt they owe to Irishmen for achievement in war, for brilliancy in statesmanship, for poetry, literature, art, science, and commercial and industrial triumphs. When we recall that the island is about three-fourths the size of the State of Virginia, and at its most populous period never had more than eight million people, we must be astonished at the influence it has had in the world and at its rich contributions to the roll of heroes and the greatness of mankind.

'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

M. Blériot, the aviator, who recently crossed the English Channel in a flying machine, is a graduate of the Catholic College of Our Lady of Grace, Cambrai, France (says *America*). He was born at Malincourt, Canton of Clary, France.

The value of the estate of the late Marquis of Ripon, formerly Governor-General of India and later Lord Privy Seal in Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Ministry, has been proved at £125,574. The testator bequeathed to Mr. St. Quentin, a former private secretary, the sum of £10,000, and made provision for the establishment of scholarships in connection with the Ripon Grammar School. He bequeathed the church and convent of San Damiano, near Assisi, in Italy, to the Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Walter Talbot Kerr, son of the seventh Marquis of Lothian. Lord Walter, like the deceased Marquis, is a Catholic.

It will doubtless interest some of our readers (remarks the *London Tablet*) to learn that the new Prime Minister of Denmark, Count Holstein-Ledreborg, is a Catholic. He was born (writes a correspondent from Copenhagen) in 1839, and after a distinguished career at the University of Copenhagen, he went abroad in 1866. There he remained till 1872, and during his sojourn abroad the Count was received into the Catholic Church. That this change was not merely due to the influence of his Catholic mother is evident to anyone who reads the learned pamphlets published by Count Holstein-Ledreborg in 1872 and the following years when he entered into controversy with Provost Schepelern, and Bishops Martensen and Grundvig, some of the greatest men whom the Danish Lutheran Establishment has numbered amongst her ministers. Indeed, the Count ever since his conversion has shown himself to be a zealous Catholic. For many years he has been a Radical, though he has taken no part in politics since 1890. The only Catholic member of the Danish Parliament till recently was the late Jens Buck, a Socialist and a most ardent Catholic.

In a recent number of the *World* Sir John Ross of Bladensburg is the 'Celebrity at Home.' The writer recalls the origin of the family surname, which owes its present rather baffling form to the exploits of Sir John's grandfather, Major-General Robert Ross. This officer, after gaining high distinction in the Peninsula War, was chosen by Wellington for the leadership of one of the expeditions sent out in 1814 to the United States. 'After a short campaign of interrupted success, during which he achieved the victory of Bladensburg and possessed himself of the American capital, General Ross fell on September 12, 1814, while advancing to take the enemy's position near Baltimore. His widow and descendants were accorded permission by the Prince Regent to commemorate the General's services by adding the title of his victory to the family name. At the same time an augmentation of the family arms was made by the Crown granting the emblazonment of a hand and arm (wearing the uniform of a British General and wreathed in laurel), the hand holding a "broken flag" of the United States.' Sir John would, one imagines, feel a little shy of taking heraldic notepaper with him on a visit to the United States. Sir John Ross of Bladensburg resides in Dublin, where he is a prominent figure.

Writing some time before the election of Sir John Knill as Lord Mayor of London for the coming year, the *London Sunday Observer* had this to say:—'Exceptional interest attaches to the approaching election, for three reasons. In the first place, the Alderman next in rotation, Sir John Knill, will follow, after the lapse of some years, his late father, Sir Stuart Knill, as Lord Mayor, a most unusual occurrence. In the second place, Sir John Knill, if elected, will be one of the very few Aldermen who can claim to have been baronets at the time of election. And, thirdly, the election will attract special attention for the reason that Sir John Knill is a staunch Roman Catholic, and as such will not attend any Protestant place of worship during the year. The full force of the militant Protestant party was brought to bear against the late Sir Stuart Knill at the time of his election, his opponents even going so far as to demand a poll, an exceedingly rare occurrence in the city's history. Sir Stuart Knill, however, was triumphantly returned, and so brilliantly discharged his manifold duties that he quickly overcame all prejudices, and retired amid universal acclamation. It is probable that on Michaelmas Day a few questions will be addressed to Sir John Knill, but any active opposition to his election is very unlikely.'

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