

WATERFORD—A Golden Jubilee

At Mount Zion, Waterford, the golden jubilee of Rev. Brother O'Farrell has been fittingly celebrated. The Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of the diocese, presided at High Mass, which was attended by several clergymen and laymen. On the conclusion of the religious ceremonies the Bishop congratulated the jubilarian in felicitous terms, and imparted to him his blessing. In the afternoon Brother O'Farrell was the recipient of the Papal Benediction. He also received the felicitations of his religious brethren, many of whom assisted at the sacred ceremonies.

GENERAL

Increase of Emigration

The increase in emigration from Ireland continues (says the Freeman's Journal). The number of emigrants last month (September) was 3743, an increase of 893 on the figure for the corresponding period last year. Ulster supplied 1068 emigrants, and that province is responsible for more than a third of the emigration during the past nine months amounting to 24,067 persons. The total emigration in 1908 amounted to only 23,295 persons, and comparing the totals of the first nine months in 1908 and 1909, there is an increase of nearly 5000 to be recorded against this year. Nine hundred and eighty-four of the persons who left Ireland in September for the United States had their passages paid for in America. They represented almost one-third of the emigrants whose destination was that country.

The Congested Districts Board

The Irish Congested Districts Board, in their latest report say no measures adopted by them have been productive of so much immediate improvement in the condition of the people as their various schemes for giving assistance in building, enlarging, or repairing houses.

The Irish Party and the Budget

On the third reading of the Budget the Irish Party abstained from voting. Mr. Redmond in a speech just prior to the division, explained the reason. He said: "It is on the land taxes that this Bill is going to be snarled in another place, and therefore being in favor of the land taxes in principle and in practice, and having obtained what I regard as valuable concessions from the Irish point of view on these land taxes, I confess that I find myself for the moment in a position of considerable embarrassment. We object to this Budget because we think it is unjust to Ireland, and because we do not want any additional taxation on Ireland. But the Opposition have never hinted or suggested that they are in favor of differentiating in favor of Ireland, and that if they to-morrow had to frame a Budget they would leave Ireland out of it. On the contrary, they voted against the concessions that Ireland obtained. They actually walked into the lobby against the concession that we obtained on the licensing duties. Looking at this matter from the standpoint of Ireland when I am asked to vote in favor of their campaign and in favor of the House of Lords in wrecking this Bill, I want to know on what basis I am asked. Is it on the basis that if they get in they will remit Irish taxation? Nothing of the kind. I know what would happen if they got in. They would reject the land taxes, of course. But they would put on taxes which would fall upon the poor in Ireland. They would increase the indirect taxation of Ireland, which is already 78 per cent. of the whole, while in this country it is only about 50 per cent. Their Budget must inevitably be worse for Ireland. There is a still larger issue at stake in this matter. We are told that this Bill is going to be rejected by the House of Lords. If that fight is entered upon, many issues more than the land taxes or the license duties will be raised. If the questions of the House of Lords and the power of the House of Lords permanently to block legislation in his country is going to be challenged in the crisis which is before us, I am going to be not on the side of the House of Lords, but of this House. In these circumstances I again look at the matter from the Irish point of view, and bad as are the whiskey taxes, the stamp duties, the death duties, and so on, in Ireland they would sink into insignificance and disappear if it was a great constitutional crisis we were able to take sides effectively against the power of the House of Lords, which permanently blocks every good measure that is passed for Ireland."

A Peculiar Suggestion

So recently as October 9 a charming scheme for the destruction of the Irish movement was prominently put forth by the London Times. It suggested some eight or nine Nationalist seats, which, if contested, or, at any rate, how successfully would deplete the League exchequer by some £16,000 at least. This is a huge sum. The last time that all Nationalist seats were contested it was evident that the Parliamentary war chest of the Party had reached its lowest ebb. Would it not be worth the consideration of the Central Conservative Office to provide funds for again contesting every seat now held by the Nationalists in that country? Even if it resulted in no gain of seats, the moral effect would be great.

People We Hear About

Captain James Alphonsus Kelly, U.S.I. of the 18th Royal Irish Regiment, passed away recently in India. Born thirty-four years ago, the only son of the late Infidre Charles Kelly, K.C., of Newtown, County Galway, he was twice mentioned in despatches during the South African War, and he subsequently held for three years the Adjutantcy of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment. A meeting convened in Ripon Town Hall recently by those interested in the erection of a local memorial to Lord Ripon, the Mayor announced the receipt of substantial subscriptions towards a statue of The Bishop of Ripon (Anglican) moving that a permanent memorial be erected, said truly enough that Lord Ripon belonged not only to Ripon, but to the Empire. A committee was elected with Lord Mountgarret as chairman, to carry out the intentions of the subscribers. It is to be hoped that the memorial will be of interest to note (says the Irish Catholic) that the two aviators, who have made the most sensational flights up to date, viz., the Comte de Lambert and the Bleriot, are both Catholics, and that the first to make the journey, which was impossible, and to soar so high as to reach an altitude of 100 metres above the Eiffel Tower, which is itself over 1,000 feet high, there he turned a grade fully in the air, and made their return journey to the point whence he started. The Comte is known to be a pilot as well as a daring. As for M. Bleriot, the first to cross the sea in a flying machine from one country to another, he is a graduate of the Catholic College of Our Lady of Grace at Cambrai, France.

The Church of St. Mary of the Angels, Bayswater, England, whose patronal festival has just been celebrated under the presidency of Archbishop Bourne, dates from 1857, and was founded by the future Cardinal Manning. Cardinal Vaughan was also an early member of this Bayswater community. Very Rev. Francis M. Wyndham, the doyen of the Bayswater Community, is a near relative of the Right Hon. George Wyndham, M.P. Educated at Harrow and Merton College, Oxford, he took Anglican Orders and served as a curate under Charles Lowder at St. George's in the East, the scene of riotous disturbances in the early days of Ritualism. Father Wyndham was received into the Catholic Church in 1868, and ever since his life has been spent at Bayswater, where he was Superior from 1901 to 1908. He has published several books, one of them on the Fjords of Norway, and another on Joan of Arc.

The Rome correspondent of a Catholic exchange gives some information as to the newspapers and reviews that the Holy Father reads. He says: "Needless to say, Pius X. has but little time for newspaper reading—the care of five continents excludes indulgences of the kind. The Osservatore Romano, the Difesa, and two Catholic reviews are usually all taken in hand by the head of the Church. But the extent of the world's news is by no means confined to these. Every morning a young journalist makes clippings of all the papers of matter likely to interest the Pope. These clippings are sent to Cardinal Merry del Val, who marks the most important and carries them, bound together in a convenient form, to the Holy Father. In case any clipping requires special attention, the director of the Osservatore Romano is telephoned for and given orders to publish an official note on the point. Of the foreign journals that reach the Vatican, the secretaries make clippings and translate them from the different tongues into Italian. It is interesting to note that these clippings are carefully preserved, the collection on hand going back from the present day to the first years of the reign of Pius IX."

The Irish National University began its career on November 11, 1879, and has since that time been a constant source of home and abroad for its success. The Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, its first Chancellor, was born in Dublin in 1821, and was educated at St. Laurence O'Toole's Seminary and at Maynooth College. After his ordination he was for some time professor in that famous college, and in 1880 succeeded Dr. Russell as president. In 1885 he was appointed Vicar-Capitular of the diocese of Dublin, and in that year was consecrated as successor to Cardinal Cullen. He has since that time taken an active part in the public life of Ireland, has sat on many Government Boards and Commissions, especially those dealing with education. He was consulted in the framing of the Land Act—especially those of 1881-82, and has been the life-long friend of the National movement, from which his predecessors, Cardinals McCabe and Gillard, held aloof. As a writer of wide range, he has contributed largely and effectively to questions affecting his Catholic countrymen. He was a pioneer in arousing the public conscience to the shortcomings of Irish University education, the question on which his views were first given to the public in book form 18 years ago.