

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—Valuable Mineral Deposits.—An especially fine coal seam has been discovered near Drumahit, Ballycastle, and is expected to add greatly to the prosperity of the district, which is poor and thinly populated. Freestone has also been discovered in the same neighborhood, and on the shores of Lough Neagh, the valuable 'kieselguhr' clay, used in manufacturing dynamite, and as a non-conductor of heat in lining hot-water tanks, etc., has been found.

DOWN.—Presentation of an Address.—Dr. Hugh McAvoy was the recipient of an address from his fellow-townsmen in Rathfriland on the occasion of his leaving the town. His departure is deeply regretted, and he carries the good wishes of all creeds and classes to his new home at Burton-on-Trent.

DUBLIN.—Golden Wedding Celebration.—Dr. M. J. Fottrell, a prominent physician of San Francisco, left recently for Ireland to be present at the celebration of the golden wedding of his parents which will take place in Dublin.

Carrickmacross lace for the Queen.—While in Dublin her Majesty the Queen purchased a lace skirt and trimming from the Irish lace Depot, Grafton street, which had been worked by three members of the Lace Co-operative Society, St. Louis's Convent, Carrickmacross. This skirt and trimming were ordered by the depot to be shown at the Paris exhibition. The skirt measuring six yards, of a beautiful design, in Carrickmacross guipure and applique, was made by Misses Ellen McMahon and Margaret Hughes. The trimming of same design, six yards in length, was worked by Miss Catherine Hoey.

Death of the Parish Priest of Donabate.—The death is announced of the Very Rev. Patrick Duff, late parish priest of Donabate, County Dublin. The sad event took place on the morning of Easter Sunday. The deceased pastor had reached his eighty-third year. He will be long and gratefully remembered by the people of Rush and its neighborhood for his heroic devotion to the dying in the terrible days of the cholera epidemic about 50 years ago.

A Philanthropic Proposal.—A project is on foot to establish in Dublin refreshment rooms for the working classes on the lines of the Alexandria Trust Dining Rooms, which Sir Thomas Lipton's generosity set on foot. The well-known police solicitor, Mr. Tobias, who is an advocate of temperance, has written to the Press asking for support for the movement.

LIMERICK.—Another Centenarian.—At Drumcollagher recently Mrs. Bridget R. Riordan passed away. Her age was stated by some persons to be 106 years, and by others who were more intimately acquainted with her to be not less than 110 years. As she neither smoked tobacco nor drank spirituous liquors, the doctors were at a loss to account for her early death.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Fund.—The reply (says an Irish exchange) which the Bishop of Limerick has addressed to the Countess of Dunraven, who requested, on behalf of the Limerick Branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Fund Association, the Episcopal permission to institute collections in the Catholic churches of the diocese in aid of the funds of the Association, will be regarded with approval by every person who reflects on the circumstances. The Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer's letter, although brief, is yet expressive and to the point. 'I regret to have to state,' writes his Lordship, 'that the burden which the Catholic people of this diocese have to bear for religious and charitable institutions is so heavy in proportion to their means, they being for the most part mere tenant farmers, while the owners of the land contribute nothing for such local purposes as I have mentioned, that I really do not think it would be reasonable to impose a collection on them for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Fund.' It is impossible not to admit the force of the Bishop's reason for declining to allow such a burden as that now referred to to be imposed upon the shoulders of his flock, most of whom are still in the early stage of the attempt to recover from the rack-rents and oppression of former years.

LOUTH.—Presentation to a Priest.—The Rev. P. J. Mathews, curate at Ardee, was recently the recipient of an illuminated address and purse of sovereigns, the gift of the people of the united parishes of Dunlaver, Dromin, and Philipstown. Father Mathews, prior to his recent transfer to Ardee, had been for some years curate in Dunleer.

MONAGHAN.—A Tardy Act of Justice.—Lord Rathdonnell has reinstated Peter McCarron in the holding at Errigal, from which his mother, long since dead, was evicted nearly 20 years ago. The success of the negotiations for restoring McCarron is due to the efforts of Father Callan, pastor of Errigal, Truagh.

TIPPERARY.—Death of a Priest in the United States.—Rev. Father Robert Tobin, C.S.Sp., whose death is announced from Tuscan, Arizona, was born beneath the shadow of Slievnamon, in the County Tipperary, in 1865. While still young he entered Rockwell College as a day student. Later on he went to Blackrock College, where he finished his classical and philosophical studies. In 1882 he entered the theological seminary of the Order at Chevilly, near Paris, France. He was ordained priest in 1886, and in the following year he made the three vows of religious profession. After a visit to his home and friends he was assigned to Pittsburgh College of the Holy Ghost. As a professor of ancient classics and English he devoted himself with untiring zeal to the advancement of his pupils, and was loved and esteemed by them in return.

WEXFORD.—A Distinguished Visitor.—Wexford was visited recently by Signor Giuseppe Marconi, Italian banker, the father of the inventor of wireless telegraphy. Signor Marconi was the guest of Mr. H. Jameson Davis at Killabeg, Enniscorthy, with whom he is connected by marriage. Signor Marconi's wife and the mother of the great inventor was a Miss Jameson, from the banks of the Slaney, and a sister of Mrs. Davis, of Fairfield.

GENERAL.

Emigration Returns.—During last year (says an American exchange) there were landed at the port of New York 23,095 Irish immigrants, of whom 12,515 were females. These immigrants brought with them £75,000, or about £3 10s each, and only 93 of the number were sent back to Ireland because of inability to maintain themselves. The dispersion of these immigrants over the United States is an interesting fact. About one half of them remained in New York State, 2294 went to Pennsylvania, 1833 to New Jersey, 1649 to Massachusetts, 1354 to Connecticut, 1231 to Illinois, and the remainder to other States and Territories. New York city is by far the most attractive point in the United States to the average Irish immigrant.

Contempt of Court.—The Parliamentary return, moved for by P. A. McHugh, M.P., setting forth the names and addresses of all persons in Ireland who, within the past five years, have been committed to unlimited terms of imprisonment for contempt of Court, was issued on April 19. It shows that the number of persons so committed was 154, of whom five are now in custody. Of these Mrs. Ellen Ryan, of Clare street, Limerick, whose case has frequently been mentioned in the House of Commons, had, up to February 14, of the present year, spent no less than 743 days in custody, while in no case was her term less than 149 days.

Demand for Irish crochet.—Never in the memory of woman has Irish crochet been so 'well worn' as at the present date (says the *Freeman's Journal*). The demand for it is so great, indeed, that Belgian and Flemish work is being imported to supply the gap—the genuine article being necessarily slow in manufacture and impossible to procure in large quantities at short notice. The genesis of this beautiful adornment dates from the great Irish famine, when certain philanthropic ladies took advantage of the fashionable rage for crochet collars to teach the survivors of that terrible time how a little money might be earned at home by working for the English millinery market. Since that time crochet work has been constantly carried on by our peasantry with varying profit, the brightest days of the industry being the present.

Who fears to speak of Ninety-Eight?—The rumor of a volume of poems by Dr. John Kells Ingram is revived. It is to make its appearance this year under the title *Who Fears to Speak of Ninety-Eight and other Poems*. The Trinity College professor has figured quite recently as a poet, a sonnet of his having been contributed to the *Manchester Guardian*, from which it appears that he is a warm sympathiser with the Transvaal, just as he was in 1881, when he wrote a sonnet on Majuba. The sonnet has a reference to Mr. Chamberlain, from which it is evident that the action of Trinity in conferring a degree on the Colonial Secretary does not commend itself to him. His countrymen at home and abroad will await the doctor's book anxiously, for though he has never of late associated himself with the popular side he has always shown himself a friend to freedom.

The Irish in the Way.—Professor Goldwin Smith says that the statue of Oliver Cromwell, rejected at Westminster, might, 'if the Irish vote were not in the way, be fitly set up at Washington.' 'Always those pesky Irish!' 'Marshal,' said King Louis to the Duke of Berwick, 'this Irish Brigade gives me more trouble than all my army put together.' 'Please your Majesty,' was the answer, 'your enemies make just the same complaint of them.'

Suggested Uniform for the Irish Guards.—In connection with the proposed regiment of Irish Guards it is suggested that their uniform should be distinctive of their nationality. Regarding this matter the London *Chronicle* publishes a suggestion from the Hon. William Gibson, eldest son of Lord Ashbourne, Lord Chancellor of Ireland. Mr. Gibson insists that the dress of the Irish Guards should be the kilt, the ancient Irish dress. In one respect the Irish kilt is an improvement on the Scottish, the color being that of saffron, approaching in tint to cinnamon. The kilt in all its glory lasted in Ireland till the end of the sixteenth century, when it was forbidden by law. Gradually, owing to the various sumptuary laws imposed by England, the Irish kilt became a sign of poverty and inferiority, and finally it disappeared altogether. Mr. Gibson thinks that 'if the kilt be given to the Irish Guards as their uniform the Irish gentry will also take it up, and so a revival would be brought about of a costume comfortable, economic, rational, picturesque, and one which would recall to Irishmen that theirs is one of the oldest civilisations in Europe.'

Tussisura.—The most wonderful remedy of the age for coughs, colds, bronchitis, influenza, and all other affections of the throat and lungs. Those suffering should obtain it at once. Give it a trial.—*.*

Evening Star, June 22, 1899, says:—"Messrs W. Gawne and Co. of George Street, have sent us a sample of Worcestershire Sauce manufactured by them, which is in no respect inferior to the imported article, so long celebrated for flavouring sauces and as an agreeable addition to grills, fish, and steaks. We can safely recommend it as a valuable addition to our rapidly developing local manufactures. The bottles are neatly labelled and ornamental, not only for home use, but for exportation; and we hope the manufacturers will realise a demand equal to the merits of the savoury article they have produced."—*.*