

The fire was first observed shortly after four o'clock by Mr. John Rochford, and he, with others, gave the alarm to the police, the fire brigade, and local residents. As soon as an entrance was effected it was found that the premises were in flames. When the fire brigade arrived about five o'clock it was thought best to fight the flames, so as to prevent their reaching the adjoining houses. Within one hour and a half from the discovery of the fire the whole establishment was completely gutted. The efforts of the fire brigade were successful in preventing the spread of the flames. The damage is very considerable, but it is stated the loss is covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown. Close on 200 hands were thrown out of work.

#### Death of a Priest.

The Rev. Thaddæus Burke, Tallow, County Waterford, died on May 15, after a brief illness. Father Burke was born in Cahir some 45 years ago, and had just completed his 20th year as a priest, nearly half of which time was spent on the mission in England, chiefly in Hanley and Warwickshire, besides a short time in Worcester. He was then recalled to his native diocese. Throughout his missionary career he was a most zealous priest, who never spared himself in the faithful discharge of his sacred duties. He was justly beloved by all classes, and his death has occasioned deep sorrow.

#### WEXFORD.—Harassing Local Bodies.

A Wexford correspondent writes: It will be remembered that a few weeks ago the Local Government Board held a sworn inquiry in the courthouse here into the applications of Mr. Henry Webster, County Surveyor, and his three assistants—Messrs. Murphy, O'Leary, and Jones—for an increase of salary on the ground, as alleged, of the great increase of work which had been thrown on them by the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898. The greatest possible interest was taken in the proceedings at the inquiry, the result of which has been awaited with the utmost anxiety throughout the County Wexford and elsewhere. I am now in a position to state that the result of the inquiry is that Mr. Webster's salary has been increased by £196 per annum by the Local Government Board; that the salary of Mr. Murphy, Assistant County Surveyor, has been increased by £65 per annum, and that the salaries of Messrs. O'Leary and Jones have been increased by £62 and £61 per annum respectively—all by the usual 'Sealed Order.' The greatest indignation is felt here at the action of the Local Government Board, as it is believed the duties of these officials, instead of being increased, have actually been decreased. The County Council are taking strong action on the matter.

#### GENERAL.

##### Imitations of Irish Butter.

In the House of Commons, about the middle of May, the following question was put *re* the recent prosecutions for the frauds perpetrated in England on Irish butter-traders:—Mr. O'Shaughnessy—I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, seeing that quantities of butter, not of Irish make, containing an undue percentage of water, are sold in England packed in Irish pyramid boxes, if he will take more active steps than heretofore to prevent this practice being continued. Mr. Hanbury—We have received no representations showing that the butter is packed in the manner described, and of course the use of pyramid boxes is not confined to Irish exports. But if the hon. member will supply me with further details full investigation will be made. Captain Donelan—Can the right hon. gentleman say what steps are being taken at present to prevent the practice of dressing up bad foreign butter in Irish clothes? No answer was given.

##### Army Remounts.

The deputation of Irish members who waited on Lord Stanley, the Financial Secretary of the War Office, about the middle of May in regard to the purchase of Irish horses for the British Army, had an unanswerable case. Strange as it may appear, the War Office had actually stooped to the petty reprisal of suspending or diminishing its purchase of horses in Ireland because the Irish people are opposed to the war. The result was that the War Office had to purchase from English dealers, and at increased prices. Those dealers in turn bought Irish horses at reduced prices, because the elimination of War Office purchases brought down the price of horseflesh in Ireland. The net result was that the profits of the middlemen bounded up. Irish horses were still purchased, for adequate supplies could not be had without them. It is not surprising that Lord Stanley offered no defence of the practice, and promised favorable consideration to the points urged by the deputation.

All kinds of Throat and Lung troubles can be cured by taking TUSSICURA. It has proved its worth in thousands of cases. Kempthorne, Prosser and Co., agents.—\*.\*

The Deaf Hear.—No. 301 of the *Illustrated World* of 626 Chiswick High road, London, W, England, contains a description of a remarkable cure for deafness and head noises which may be carried out at the patient's home, and which is said to be a certain cure. This number will be sent free to any deaf person sending their address to the editor.—\*.\*

Did you ever read *Helen's Babies*, and do you remember the delightful enthusiasm of little Toddy when he got at the internal workings of somebody's watch and wanted to see 'the wheels go round'? And does it occur to you that wheels occupy a pretty important part in cycles? We have realised this fact, and as an evidence of the attention given the subject, want you to examine the latest Sterling chain, chainless, and free wheels. Built like a watch. New shipment just landed. Morrow, Bassett, and Co.—\*.\*

## People We Hear About

Papers by the Jesuit astronomers, Fathers Sidgreaves and Cortie, were read at the recent meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Of the English Royal Family within 200 years, William III., Anne the four Georges, a Duchess of Kent, the Prince Consort, and Princess Alice each died on a Saturday.

The coronation of King Edward will take place at the end of June, 1902. Westminster Abbey will be entirely closed to the public for four months prior to the event, and all services will be suspended in order to prepare the interior for the ceremony.

Edward is the favorite name of English Kings. Reckoning the three before the Conqueror, there have been 10 of them. Henrys come next with eight, and the Williams and Georges divide the honors with four each. There have been since the Conqueror three Richards, two James's, and two Charles's. Only one King has been named John, and only one Stephen.

An Edinburgh publisher, Sir Thomas Clark, Bart., a member of the firm of T. and T. Clark, who died in December last, aged 77, has left personal estate of the value of £210,566. This has recalled the fact that many other publishers and printers of late have realised large estates, the following among the number:—Thomas Nelson, Edinburgh, £630,867; George P. Potter (of Cassels), £520,561; Alexander Macmillan, 179,011; Robert Clark, Edinburgh, £163,164; John Van Voorst, £157,431; Adam Black, Edinburgh, £147,261; George Lock (Ward and Lock), £119,040; George Routledge, £94,774; John Murray, £71,000. It is evidently more profitable to be a publisher than an author.

It is remarkable what a number of Quaker families in England have worked up immense businesses and acquired great wealth. Both Messrs. Cadbury and Fry, of chocolate fame, belong to the Society of Friends; so, too, do Messrs. Huntly and Palmer, the biscuit-makers, and Messrs. Sutton, the equally famous seed-growers, while the family of Messrs. Pease and Co., of Darlington, are also Quakers. Messrs. Horniman, the well-known tea merchants, furnish another example. Besides giving his attention to business, Mr. Horniman has found time to indulge his hobby of collecting curios. These are so numerous that they fill quite a considerable museum, which he has most generously given, together with a library and 15 acres of freehold land, to the public. It is situated at Forest Hill, a southern suburb of London, and well repays a visit.

Those of the inner circle of Court life affirm that since his accession the King has changed very considerably in speech and in demeanor. A certain aloofness is noticeable in his manner and a decided dignity in his conversation. Instead of addressing his men friends by their Christian names or surnames as heretofore, he now speaks to and of them as 'Lord This' or 'Mr. That.' The pleasant smile and kindly word continue, but some of the cheery familiarity of old days has disappeared, never to return. Stories are leaking out that illustrate this kingly transformation. And it is predicted that the alteration in tone and bearing will become more evident as Court mourning disappears, and the King and Queen once again take their place in London society.

There was staying in Belfast recently (says the *Irish Weekly*) the Rev. P. J. O'Brien, the Newfoundland Catholic priest, whose discovery in the art of shipbuilding promises to revolutionise the construction of sea-going vessels. He has just paid a visit to the principal European shipbuilding yards, where he has met with much success. The Italian Government are going to make experiments on a small scale of Father O'Brien's invention, with a view to applying it to their large ships. The invention is briefly this: that the advantages of a concave bottom to all kinds of vessels, as compared with the present system of convex or round bottoms, are immense, and likely to result in ocean travelling being twice as comfortable and as safe and speedy as hitherto. Up to now the convex keel has been looked upon as perfect. From the days of the ark it has remained the same, though sails, masts, steering-gear, etc., of the primeval barge have undergone transformation. America, always to the fore, has taken the project up with enthusiasm.

It is not at all unusual to hear people speak slightly of 'patent' medicines, but the enormous demand for them throughout the whole of the civilised world is in itself proof that they are regarded generally as one of the necessities of life. The majority of housewives would consider themselves as wanting in their duty if they did not have at hand those remedies which experience has taught them to use in cases of emergency, and nobody will venture to question the wisdom of this. Among the remedies which no household should be without is EVANS'S WITCHES' OIL, an invaluable cure for rheumatic complaints of every description, which has proved itself to be unequalled both as an embrocation and an internal medicine. In the case of sprains, strains, bruises and all kinds of surface wounds, to which, as mothers will know, children are particularly liable, the application of the oil to the parts affected will ensure a speedy and complete cure, while attacks of mumps, quinsy, sore throat and every sort of ache can be successfully treated through its agency. The preparation is a certain remedy for inflammation of the bowels, lungs or any part of the body, and as these are complaints that require immediate attention, a bottle of WITCHES' OIL in the house will prevent serious if not fatal consequences. Sold at all chemists and storekeepers throughout the Colony at 2s 6d and 4s 6d per bottle, and Messrs. Kempthorne, Prosser and Co., agents.—\*.\*