

# Notes

## Laws of Succession.

There is a charming variety in the laws which regulate the succession to the throne in the various countries of Europe. Three different systems prevail. The most widely-accepted of these is (1) what is known as the Salic Law, under which 'women's rights' are so completely ignored that the dear creatures are rigidly excluded from the succession. The old Frankish law excluded females from succeeding to what were called Salic lands. But, says a writer on the subject, 'it was but a doubtful analogy that led the rule of succession to Salic lands to be extended to the French crown, and it seems to have been only in the fourteenth century that the exclusion of females from the throne became an established principle. The accession of Philip the Long was probably the first occasion on which it received public sanction, and the fact that Edward III. rested his claim on female succession doubtless led to that instance being regarded as an unquestionable precedent.' The Salic Law is in force in Belgium, Sweden, and Norway, Italy, Denmark, and Germany. Then there is (2) the German-Dutch system, under which males in all degrees of relationship take precedence of females, the throne passing to the female line only in case of the extinction of all the males, however remote. This is the rule in Holland—from which it takes its name—Russia, and some of the minor German States. The third system (3) obtains in Great Britain. Under it females are excluded when there are males in the same degree of relationship but take precedence of males whose degree of relationship is not so close as their own. Thus an elder daughter of the ruling Sovereign gives way to all her younger brothers and their issue, but takes precedence of a male cousin or a nephew. This system is the rule in Spain and Portugal as well as in England.

## The Irish Land Bill.

In our issue of June 12 we outlined the provisions of the Irish Land Bill, introduced in the House of Commons by Mr Wyndham just before the Easter recess. We then pointed out that while the Bill contained some really excellent provisions, and was a step in the right direction, there were several serious flaws, which if allowed to remain would nullify the best features of Mr Gladstone's land legislation in 1881. In introducing the Bill, Mr Wyndham, anticipating a sharp debate on the obnoxious clauses, intimated that unless the Bill passed as a whole he would drop it; but it would seem that better counsels have prevailed, as it has now been cabled that the Government will drop the contentious clauses if the remainder is agreed to. What these clauses were we have already pointed out, but in view of later developments we may again mention them. The machinery for the purchase of land was to be placed in the hands of two officials, to be known as Estates Commissioners, who were to fix the price to be paid for the land and against their decision there was to be no appeal. If the tenants refused to purchase at the price fixed, preferring to continue paying rent, they were debarred from having their rents fixed by the land courts. This penal provision it was which evoked opposition to the Bill, not only by Irish members, but by the Liberals who had helped to pass the Act of 1881. The dropping of these clauses will facilitate the passage of the measure, which, however, lacks provision for the compulsory sale of estates, and as the number of landlords who are willing to sell is annually growing smaller, the prospect of the purchasing clauses becoming a dead-letter is not remote. As the instalment of justice accorded to Ireland in this respect has been followed by results which even the Government have to admit are successful, this proves unhappily that the landlords and their friends are not yet prepared to go to the root of the just national resentment.

## Mr. Seddon and his Friends.

While Mr Seddon is ingratiating himself with the Imperialists at Home, he is evidently alienating himself from some of his supporters in the Colony, who have made audible their resentment at his glowing pictures of prosperity in New Zealand. The Wellington Trades and Labor Council has gone the length of contradicting the Premier's statements. This is by no means a new attitude on the part of Labor representatives, who very often belittle the Colony in which they happen to reside in order to deter outsiders from entering the field in competition. An eulogy on the Colony almost as warm as Mr Seddon's was recently uttered by a speaker at the annual meeting of a shipping company trading to New Zealand, which is proof that commercial men, who discount sentiment, recognise the Colony's prosperity. And if we look around, and observe the signs by which the Colony's condition may be judged, we are unable to endorse the pessimism of the Wellington malcontents. There are no signs of general destitution. The number of

unemployed is not unusually great for the season of the year, and the Colony's finances are healthy. Most important of all, the farming community is enjoying high prices for produce of all kinds. Probably the results of this prosperity have not yet had time to filter in their fertilising course throughout the Colony, but when the farmers are doing well, the Colony cannot be in a bad state. The Premier's sentiments on the subject of Imperial expansion will bring him into contact with a class of politicians who are not regarded with favor by Colonial Liberals. With Conservatism, as it is known in the United Kingdom, he can have but little in common, and therefore it is not likely that his principles will undergo any material change during his stay in England.

## The Coronation.

The Imperial Government is evidently ardently desirous of placating the colonies, having assigned to Mr Barton and Sir Wilfrid Laurier the leading place in the Coronation procession. To Mr Seddon has been allotted the second place, New Zealand in this respect being placed on an equality with Newfoundland. Cape Colony comes only third, and after its representative come other distinguished colonials and representatives of the Indian Empire. If there is any significance in this order of precedence the relative importance of the various dependencies in British eyes is interesting, and, like all other awards of the kind, little calculated to give complete satisfaction. If, for example, precedence had been given according to the relative magnitude of the sacrifices recently made by the colonies for the Mother Country, New Zealand should come first. The Cape Colony has brought Britain, so far, only a heritage of woe, while India has added another jewel to the Imperial diadem. What grounds there are for placing Newfoundland on an apparent equality with New Zealand it is hard to define, as the older colony has certainly not made itself conspicuous in the late war. It was natural to expect that the New Zealand representative should be accorded a prominent place. It is due as much to Mr Seddon's personality as to the importance of the Colony. To the onlookers Mr Seddon's personality will be the most important feature. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has made more truly eloquent patriotic speeches than Mr Seddon. 'Our Lady of the Snows' was the first among all the colonies, and as yet the only one, to declare for a preferential tariff in favor of British goods. Mr Barton represents a country far more important in every respect than New Zealand, and yet in that procession Mr Seddon will tower head and shoulders above either.

# Diocesan News

## ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 21.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood returned from Blenheim on Wednesday last.

Rev. Father Galerne has been appointed assistant priest in the parish of Te Aro.

The examination of the Catholic schools by the Government Inspector is to be held in August.

The Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association will hold a social at Spiller's Hall on July 9.

Rev. Father Ainsworth resumes his missionary labors in Reef-ton to-morrow.

Mr W. Organ was admitted by the Chief Justice as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court on Friday last.

The Marist Brothers' Old Boys have definitely decided to take charge of No. 5 stall at the bazaar in aid of the Church of the Sacred Heart.

The students of St. Patrick's College and St. Mary's Convent dispersed this week for their mid-winter holidays.

The Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., intends to hold an art union in connection with the bazaar in aid of the Sacred Heart Church.

Mr Dovey, of the Physical Training School, has been appointed gymnastic instructor at St. Patrick's College.

On Coronation Day the children attending the Catholic schools of the city will be entertained at their respective schools by the City Council.

The many friends of Rev. Father Walsh will be pleased to hear that in a very short time he will be able to resume his ordinary duties. Aided by an artificial limb he is now able to dispense with crutches.

The quarterly meeting of the Hibernian Society was held at St. Patrick's Hall on Wednesday evening. The half-yearly meeting at which the election of officers takes place will be held in July. The senior and juvenile members of the society have decided to take part in the procession on Coronation Day.

At the Church of the Sacred Heart, on Coronation Day, a Solemn High Mass will be celebrated at half-past nine o'clock. After Mass, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be given and the 'Te Deum' sung. At St. Joseph's and St. Mary of the Angels' Masses will be celebrated at nine o'clock.