

Irish News.

OUR IRISH LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Dublin, June 3, 1902.

The Shipping Combine

They are very canny people down in Belfast. They are very loyal, and they are Orange and Blue when it suits them, and when it does not, they can be just what they like, and no thanks to any one. But now it has come to pass that Messrs Harland and Wolfe have joined an American corner that it is thought will seriously injure, if not ruin, England's trans-oceanic trade. The great Belfast firm (the builders of the finest ships in the world) has entered into a contract with an American shipping combine to build such a fleet of merchantmen as will practically leave English trading vessels nowhere, and make the Americans dangerous rivals in trade. Moreover Messrs Harland and Wolfe, preferring foreign cash to even their King's supremacy over foreign countries, have contracted over to the American combine, for a long period, all the product of their great concerns, the finest shipbuilding yards in the world. It is said that when the news of this corner burst upon England, the consternation of those concerned was unspeakable. Yet it is in loyal Belfast this thrust at England and her merchant service is made, not in any of the provinces that are now suffering under Coercion rule.

The Right Color.

It is often said now-a-days that the bigotry of Protestants in this country, the efforts to keep Catholics from rising to wealth and eminence at home are actually almost more rank and more active than in penal days. In fact, nothing that can be done is left undone to advance Protestants to every post worth having in Ireland, while proselytism is supported by a grant of £20,000 per annum, a sum which does much to corrupt our poor and to keep alive religious animosities between Catholics and Protestants. Our work-house system is a vile one; few now deny that O'Connell was right in denouncing it as productive of incalculable evil. Some years ago a move was made towards alleviating the evil of rearing infants in these cold houses and the plan was tried of boarding out children singly amongst the decent poor, to be reared in honest homes where the poor little creatures have some chance of winning the affection the Irish woman so often gives to even a strange child. The boarding out of these children is under the inspection of ladies appointed by the local Boards of Guardians. It was lately decided by Government to appoint a head inspector to look after these boarded-out children, and a Protestant woman from England was appointed, although many Catholic Irish ladies would gladly have taken the situation, were it only to see to the religious welfare of the children who, as well as their foster-parents, are nearly all Catholics. As a protest against what they consider an intolerable wrong, many Boards of Guardians have point blank refused to furnish the names of children boarded out or the addresses of the women in whose charge the little children are.

Again, in the Dublin Albert Farm, a model farm for the training of young men and women, since Mr. Horace Plunkett became vice-president of the Board of Agriculture, the Irish teachers and other employes have been gradually removed and English and Scotch Protestants put in their places, while the resident head manager is a Protestant from the Orkney Islands. In the Royal Irish Constabulary, there are

39 county inspectors, 214 district inspectors. Of the former—all highly paid—35 are Protestants, 4 are Catholics, of the latter 154 are Protestants; 60 are Catholics. In every Government department the proportions are about the same.

M.B.

COUNMY NEWS.

ANTRIM.—Emmet Centenary.

A largely attended meeting of Nationalists was held recently in Belfast to take steps towards fittingly celebrating the Emmet centenary in 1903. It is intended to celebrate the centenary by a monster demonstration to Hannahstown early next year.

ARMAGH. Catholics not wanted.

The Armagh Board of Guardians (says a Dublin correspondent) should affix the above words to their advertisements in future. The phrase is short and to the point. It has always been found useful by bigots when in power. It is easily understood by all and would save applicants for situations in the Armagh Union who belong to the ancient Faith both worry and certain disappointment as the following case will show. The Guardians require a trained nurse. Some months ago they advertised for one. A Protestant lady from London was appointed in preference to a local Catholic. The London lady changed her mind, as ladies sometimes will, and declined the position. A second advertisement was issued, again a Protestant was elected in preference to a Catholic who was actually doing temporary duty and giving entire satisfaction. The successful candidate this time also for some reason or other declined to come, and a third advertisement was issued. The contest lay between Nurse Kelly, Roscommon, and Nurse Firth Mossall, Fever Hospital, Manchester. The latter won easily, but she declined to submit herself for examination as required by the local Government Board, with the result that the position is still vacant, and another advertisement was ordered. It would be difficult to find a more flagrant display of bigotry and intolerance, especially in view of the fact that the majority of the inmates are Catholics.

CORK.—A Generous Gift.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given £10,000 to provide a larger building for the free library at Cork.

Visit of Cardinal Logue.

His Eminence Cardinal Logue, accompanied by his secretary, Very Rev. Canon Quinn, and Rev. Father O'Callaghan, Superior of St. Vincent's, Cork, paid a visit to the Cork International Exhibition recently. The Lord Mayor and some members of the executive took his Eminence in charge, and pointed out the leading features of the exhibition. His Eminence wrote the following in the visitors' book:—'I cordially congratulate the people of Cork on the magnificent enterprise which they have shown in starting and bringing to a successful issue their exceptionally interesting and useful exhibition.'

DOWN.—Mineral Resources.

Mr. MacVeagh, M.P. has been in communication with the Department of Agriculture in Ireland with reference to the mineral resources in his constituency, South Down. The Department sent down Mr. E. St. John Lyburn, A.R.C.S.I., to make a general survey, and he reports favorably on the granite of Castlewellan and the clay of Killough. Particulars of the iron ore of the Decomet area will be kept on record in case of inquiry from capitalists, and the Department offers to place polished specimens of the granite, of moderate size, on exhibition in the Science and Art Museum, Dublin. The report also sets out the facilities

offered by the Department for the display of minerals and raw materials in connection with their sections at the Cork Exhibition.

DUBLIN.

'The Irish Catholic Church Property Insurance Co., Limited,' has been registered with a capital of £100,000. The company has been established for the purpose of carrying on business as a Fire Insurance Company in all its branches, more particularly in relation to property used for Catholic purposes, such as churches, chapels, schools, colleges, convents, and residences. Surplus profits after payment of a cumulative dividend of 5 per cent. on capital and providing the necessary reserve are to be applied to charitable purposes in Ireland. The original subscribers of the company are—Mr. James M'Cann, M.P.; Rev. James Donnellan, Bursar, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth; Alderman M'Cormick, Belfast; Mr. John Mulligan, Managing Director, Hibernian Bank; Mr. Thomas Sexton, chairman 'Freeman's Journal,' Limited; Archdeacon MacManus, Meath street; and Sir Christopher Nixon. The first five of the subscribers form the directors, who have subscribed a hundred shares each of the capital. The prospectus, it is expected, will be issued shortly.

KERRY.—Death of a Priest.

A painful impression was created throughout North Kerry by the sudden and wholly unexpected death of the Rev. Matthew Dillon, who for the past fifteen years has been in charge of the Newtown parish, which extends to within a few miles of Listowel.

As it should be.

A very striking illustration of the cordial relations existing between Catholics and Protestants in the South of Ireland was given recently in Kilgarvan, Kerry. A deputation of four appeared at Kilgarvan Vicarage to present the Vicar, the Rev. A. S. Duggan, with a new bicycle. The deputation consisted of three Catholics and one Protestant, representing 127 subscribers, 112 Catholics and 15 Protestants, of the parish. Mr. Philip Cronin presented the machine, and said that it was but a slight token of the affection and esteem and gratitude the people felt for Mr. Duggan, who devoted his life to the temporal welfare of the people. The machine was the best that could be bought, and very inadequately represented what they felt. They had never collected for any object to which there was a more hearty response; in fact, the difficulty was to restrain the generosity of their neighbors. The people came unbidden to the door to subscribe. He hoped Mr. Duggan would long enjoy the pleasure they all wished to give him, and long remain with them.

LOUTH.—Obituary.

The deepest regret has been occasioned by the death of Canon M'Crystal, P.P., Kilkenny, Dundalk, at the age of 75 years. The deceased was born at Errigal Kieran, Tyrone, and educated at the Diocesan College, Belfast, and subsequently at Armagh Seminary and at Maynooth. He was ordained in 1857 at Clarendon street, Dublin. His first curacy was in Donaghmore, from which he went to Armagh, where he labored for 11 years, a great part of the time as Administrator. In 1870 he was made parish priest of Cooley, and subsequently promoted to Kilkenny.

WATERFORD Cornered.

The man who stands to his guns (says the 'Catholic Times') even when he is fighting in the wrong is respected; the man who feels and expresses regret when he finds he has made a mistake is honored for taking a manly course; but the man who wiggles, who half apologises and again half retracts the apology,