

taken place recently between Mr Seddon and the chairman of the bondholders with a view to a settlement. The amount proposed in the Bill included the sum of £20,000 to be paid to the shareholders of the company. The receiver of the company had also expressed his satisfaction with the provisions of the Bill.

In the debate which followed, and lasted until five o'clock on Thursday morning, about half a dozen members spoke strongly against the measure, and declared they would use all the forms of the House to prevent it becoming law. Eventually the second reading was carried by 47 votes to 8. On the Bill going into committee a decided stonewall was set up, and it was not until 3 p.m. that the Bill was reported, and two hours more were spent in putting it through the final stage.

The Speaker then complimented the House on the manner in which the protracted proceedings had been conducted.

The Supplementary Estimates were brought down at an early hour on Friday morning.

The session which was brought to a close on Friday night was one of the shortest on record, and remarkable for the smoothness with which the statute-making machinery worked under the control of Sir J. G. Ward, who has been congratulated by friend and foe for his tact, and the conciliatory spirit in which he has discharged his duties as Acting-Premier.

RETURNING TO THE FOLD.

Miss Sarah Van Alen, who was married recently to Mr Robert J. Collier, of New York, in St. Joseph's Church, Newport, R.I., became a Catholic some months ago.

A London paper says the Rev. W. H. Mitchell, whose resignation of the vicarage of Elberton, Gloucestershire, was announced some weeks ago, has been received into the Catholic Church by the Rev. Father Nicholson, at Kingswood, Bristol.

The Marchioness Susannah Maria Menabrea di Val Dora was received into the Catholic Church in the Convent Church of the Sisters of St. Clotilda, at San Remo, Italy, on July 23. Not only was the new convert baptised and confirmed, but she also made her first Communion at the Solemn High Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Ventimiglia.

The Hon. Violet Gibson, a daughter of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, has become a Catholic, having been received into the Church lately. Miss Gibson's brother, the Hon. William Gibson, had some years ago preceded her. The motto of the Ashbourne family is, 'Open O yon heavenly gates,' an appropriate sentiment to a family which has yielded two converts to the true faith.

Dr. B. G. Connor, who died recently at Waxahachie, Ellis Co, Texas, was a notable convert to Catholicity. Born about 1822 at Abbeville, South Carolina, he received his medical education at Hartford University, Conn., and afterwards practised his profession at Alabama. Dr. Connor married in 1876 a daughter of the late James MacCarthy, of Shelburne, County Limerick, for many years proprietor of the *Limerick and Clare Examiner*, now represented by the *Munster News*. Received into the Church quite recently, Dr. Connor had the happiness of dying with the last consolations of the true faith.

Major Josiah Pierce, jr., of Washington (says the *Ave Maria*), who had the happiness of being received into the Church a few hours before his death, was a notable figure in scientific and educational circles. He studied in the leading institutions of Russia (where he was born in 1861), England, and the United States, and at various times served as professor in Columbian University and the Catholic University. He rendered important service to the geological, coast, and geodetic surveys of the Government; and in 1888 was sent, at the special request of the American Minister, to study the method of ordnance survey in Great Britain. While in England he received a gold medal and premium for papers on American methods of mapping. In 1898 President McKinley commissioned Mr Pierce major of engineers—a position he held throughout the Spanish-American war. The *Washington Post* says of him: 'Notable as were Major Pierce's achievements in the scientific work connected with his profession, many of his intimate friends will ever remember as his most unusual quality a sweetness, simplicity, and loyalty which made him a notable man.'

Westminster Cathedral.

Rev. J. P. Bannin, P.S.M., in the course of an interesting address delivered recently, described the architectural features of the new Westminster Cathedral. The architect of the building was the late Mr J. F. Bentley, who died recently. From his designs the edifice is built in the Byzantine style, which was specially chosen by Cardinal Vaughan, in order that it should not compare in any sense with any of the existing Cathedrals in London. The Cathedral consists of a noble porch, a vestibule, a campanile—which is now the only existing sample of a Byzantine campanile, that of St. Mark's Venice, having collapsed—a nave and two aisles with transepts, a baptistry, and eight side chapels. A sanctuary, a few feet above the level of the nave, has on one side a spacious Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, and on the other side the Lady Chapel, and beyond it rises an apsidal choir 10 feet above the nave, for the chanting of the divine office, with a crypt beneath it. Over the aisles and at the west end stand capacious tribunes or galleries, and behind the Blessed Sacrament Chapel are two larger sacristies and rooms connected with them. In external dimensions the Cathedral is 360 feet long and 156 feet wide. The height of the nave is 117 feet, that of the facade (not including the turrets) 99 feet, that of

the campanile 273 feet, and to the top of the cross 283 feet. According to the details given by Father Bannin, the walls are composed of Roman brick, and the roof is surmounted by three large cupolas, which assist the ventilation of the building and constitute a great part of the strength of the roof. In the interior the walls will be covered over the lower part with marble, and over the upper part with gold mosaic. The raised choir consists of one solid stone weighing 12 tons—a solid block of grey unpolished Cornwall granite—which will form practically the keystone of the edifice. The pulpit, of Byzantine design, is constructed of porphyry and marble, and the archiepiscopal throne will be of white statuary marble. From the arch dividing the chancel from the nave, a great crucifix, 30 feet high, will hang.

Submarine Telegraphs.

THE United States Treasury Bureau of Statistics has issued a monograph on the submarine and land telegraphs of the world. It presents some information regarding the submarine telegraphs of the world which is especially interesting at this time, in view of the prospective construction of an all-American cable across the Pacific. It shows that the submarine telegraphs of the world number 1,750. Their aggregate length is nearly 200,000 miles; their total cost is estimated at 275,000,000 dol., and the number of messages annually transmitted over them is more than 6,000,000.

All the grand divisions of the earth are now connected by their wires, and from country to country and island to island the thoughts and words of mankind are instantaneously transmitted. Beneath all oceans save the Pacific the universal language which this system has created flows uninterrupted, and man talks as face to face with his fellowman at the antipodes. Darkest Africa now converses daily with enlightened Europe or America, and the great events of the morning are known in the evening throughout the inhabited world. Adding to the submarine lines the land telegraph systems by which they are connected and through which they bring interior points of the various continents into instantaneous communication, the total length of telegraph lines of the world is 1,180,000 miles, the length of their single wires, or conductors, 3,800,000 miles, and the total number of messages annually sent over them about 400,000,000, or an average of more than 1,000,000 each day.

In the short half century since the practicability of submarine telegraphy was demonstrated, every body of water lying between the inhabited portions of the earth, with the single exception of the Pacific Ocean, has been crossed and recrossed by submarine telegraph lines. Even that vast expanse of water has been invaded along its margin, submarine wires stretching along its western border from Siberia to Australia, while its eastern borders are skirted with lines which stretch along the western coasts of the two Americas. Several adventurous pioneers in Pacific telegraphy have ventured to considerable distances and depths in that great ocean, one cable line running from Australia to New Zealand, a distance of over 1,000 miles, and another extending from Australia to the French Colony of New Caledonia, 800 miles seaward. A cable which is to connect Canada with Australia across the Pacific is now being laid at the joint expense of the United Kingdom, Canada, and the Australian Commonwealth, and has already been completed from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Fanning Island, just south of the Hawaiian Islands, and it is expected that the entire line will be completed by the end of the next year.

The chief obstacle in the part of the construction of a grand transpacific cable was found in the fact that in mid-ocean resting places could not be satisfactorily obtained or arranged for, no single government controlling a sufficient number of suitable landing places to make this seem practicable in view of the belief that the distance through which messages could be sent and cables controlled was limited. With landing places at Hawaii, Wake Island, Guam, and the Philippines, however, no section of a cable stretching from the United States to Asia and touching at these points would have a length equal to that now in daily operation between France and the United States. The length of the French cable from Brest, France, to Cape Cod, Mass., is 3350 miles, while the greatest distance from land to land on the proposed Pacific route would be that from San Francisco to Hawaii, 2093 miles; that from Hawaii to Wake Island, 2040 miles; from Wake Island to Guam, 1290 miles; from Guam to Manila, 1520 miles; and from Manila to the Asiatic coast, 630 miles.

While the depth of the Pacific is somewhat greater than that at which any cable has been laid, the difference between its depth and the greatest depth reached by cables in the Atlantic would be very slight, the cable recently laid from Hayti to the Windward Island being in 18,000ft. of water. The recent survey for a cable between the Pacific Coast and Manila justifies the belief that a route can be selected in which the depth will not exceed 20,000ft., and may not exceed 18,000ft. The recent survey made by the Bureau of Equipment, Navy Department, under the direction of Rear-Admiral R. B. Bradford, disclosed that the greatest ocean depth heretofore known, lying between Midway Island and Guam, is 31,614ft., or only 66ft. short of six miles. This depression, however, which has been named the 'Nero deep,' in honor of the vessel from which the sounding was made, can be avoided by a detour.

MAKE NO MISTAKE!—You may fancy a cough is a trivial affair, but unless you take precautions you will find it rapidly develop into something very serious. Take warning, therefore, and at the first symptoms of trouble try TUSSICURA, which everyone who has once taken it acknowledges to be the only certain remedy for Complaints of the Throat and Lungs. There will be no difficulty in obtaining it, as all Chemists and Store-keepers keep TUSSICURA, and you should insist on having that and nothing else.* *