

Irish News

ANTRIM.—A Belfast Disaster

Fairbairn and Lawson's moulding shop, Belfast, collapsed last week, and fifteen persons were entombed, only a few of whom were rescued alive.

DERRY.—Orange Factions

The anniversary of the Relief of Derry was celebrated by the Orangemen of the city and district. Belfast sent two opposing contingents of the Sloanites and Trewites, but both sections were prohibited from participating in the public procession of the Order. The Orangemen later in the day, began to quarrel among themselves, and there was a good deal of bloodshed, but eventually the police got the combatants to the railway station and cleared them out of the city. King Edward was denounced as a 'Popish King' at a meeting held by Trew.

DOWN.—Pronouncement by the Irish Leader

Mr. J. E. Redmond, speaking at Newcastle last week said if the Irish Land Act was intelligently worked it would end the agrarian question in a few years. The next session must be devoted to the interests of the laborers, to whom the Nationalists' cause owed so much. The Nationalists had in their hands the Ministry's life or death. They would use their power without compunction to forward the Irish cause. In connection with Mr. Redmond's views it is interesting to note that the 'Irish Times,' the Dublin Unionist organ, holds somewhat similar opinions. It says:—'We have spoken of the 103 representatives of Ireland as a whole, and not of the 20 Unionists or the 83 Nationalists as separate parties, because it seems to us most desirable that on this issue Irishmen should speak with no uncertain sound, but should support a common policy solely directed to the benefit of Irish interests. England has never been governed in deciding upon her fiscal policy by any special consideration for the interests of Ireland, and we see no reason why in this matter Ireland should show herself more altruistic than her neighbor. In the eighteenth century the nascent manufactures of Ireland were deliberately hampered and destroyed by the restrictions placed upon them in the interests of English traders: in the nineteenth century England, to suit herself, repealed the corn-laws, and thereby deprived the chief remaining industry in Ireland of such advantage as it reaped from their continuance. Ireland may now have the deciding voice in determining what the fiscal policy of Great Britain shall be for the next half-century. Let her look to it that, after full consideration of the circumstances, she raises her voice on the side of that policy which promises the greatest good to her own people.'

DUBLIN.—Death of a Baronet

Sir Percy Grace, Bart., died recently at his residence, Boley, Monkstown. The deceased baronet, who was a member of an old Catholic family, was connected with various public bodies. He was a director of the Hibernian Bank, and of the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Company. He was also a Commissioner of the National Education Board, and of the Irish Lights Board and the Board of Charitable Donations and Bequests. He was Governor of the Royal Hibernian Military School and of Shiel's Institute.

Trustees Appointed

The following trustees have been appointed for the distribution amongst the Dublin hospitals of the gift of £50,000 which Lord Iveagh generously gave in connection with the King's visit to Dublin: Lord O'Brien, of Kiltenera (chairman). Mr. Charles E. Martin, D.L., J.P., of 12 Fitzwilliam place; the Right Hon. Jonathan Hogg, wine merchant, 12 Cope street; Mr. Joseph Todhunter Pim, 22 William street; and Lieutenant-Colonel Adderly, a director of Guinness's Brewery.

GALWAY.—The Blake Clan

Mr. Thomas Blake, who headed the amateur escort of tenant-farmers on their ponies which accompanied the King during his recent visit to Galway, is the eldest son of Sir Valentine Blake, of Menlo, the picturesque ivy-covered seat that towers above the Corrib waters near Galway. The Blakes are a great clan in Galway, and this baronetcy dates from 1622, its first holder having been Mayor of Galway. The Blakes were Cavaliers, and Sir Walter Blake was a captain in Dillon's regiment in the army of James II. in Ireland, but 'obtained' the benefit of the articles of capitulation at Galway in 1691, when William III.'s cause finally triumphed. They have done their share of fighting since, and have married Lynches and Burkes, the other great Connemara clans. The present, the fourteenth baronet, is over 60. His son Thomas was born in 1870, and was formerly a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery. His sister, Miss Florence Blake, had rather a sad story. In 1894 Mr. Roland Cot-

ton, of Etwall Hall, her lover was drowned in Galway dock while on a visit to the Blakes. Of Mr. Thomas Blake's 'Cavalry' the 'Times' correspondent says:—'A wilder, merrier crew than this escort, with knots of red, white, and blue and green ribbons in their hats, many of them riding bare-backed, and not a few of them chattering in Irish, was surely never seen.'

KERRY.—Mass on the Mountain Top

Apocryphal of the imposing ceremony on Croagh Patrick on Sunday, August 16, the last occasion (says the 'Freeman's Journal'), when Mass was celebrated on the top of an Irish mountain was on Sunday, June 28th, 1868. This great junction was initiated by the late Canon Brosnan, the senior curate of Tralee, and on that memorable Sunday quite 20,000 people, headed by Dr. Moriarty, Bishop of Kerry, ascended Brendan Mountain (over 5000ft. high) most of them starting at five o'clock a.m. from Tralee. Mass was celebrated at the base of the mount at 11 o'clock by Father Murphy, O.P., Prior of the Dominican Convent, Tralee, and before 12 noon the sacred ceremonies of the day commenced on the pinnacle of St. Brendan's Mountain, the Bishop celebrating Solemn Mass. Three sermons were preached, the first by Father Murphy, the second by Father Moriarty, and the third in Irish, by Father Brosnan.

KILDARE.—Purchasing their Holdings

A cable message states that the tenants have purchased the Duke of Leinster's Kildare estates, comprising 44,000 acres, for £1,381,353. Twenty-five years is given for the payment of the purchase money. It is evident from the tenor of this message that the sale was not under the new Land Act but by private treaty, especially as the Act does not come into force until the beginning of next month.

LEITRIM.—Fatal Accident

A shock was given the residents of Carrick-on-Shannon on August 14, when the news spread that Dr. Richard B. Threlfall had bled to death early that morning from having the main artery of one of his legs severed by accident. Four doctors were immediately at the side of their popular colleague. However, all their efforts to stop the flow of blood was futile, and the once promising medical man bled to death. He was fortified by the rites of the Church, which was administered to him by the Rev. B. Geraghty.

LIMERICK.—Increase of Lunacy

The resident medical superintendent of the Limerick Lunatic Asylum reports that the number of patients still keeps increasing, 18 cases having been admitted in a month, while only 10 were discharged.

MAYO.—An Imposing Ceremony

Croagh Patrick, one of the most stately of the mountain ranges of Connemara, was on Sunday, August 16, the scene of an imposing ceremony. On the highest peak, overlooking Clew Bay, and fully 2500ft. above the level of the sea Father McDonald, Administrator, Westport, offered up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the presence of a congregation which numbered over 7000, and included not a few visitors from America and Australia who happened to be in Ireland and gladly availed of the opportunity of being present. His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Healy was to have preached on the occasion, but owing to the inclemency of the weather he was unable to attend. Father McDonald announced that an Indulgence had been granted by the Holy See to everyone who assisted at the ceremony with proper dispositions. He also intimated that Mass would be celebrated on the mountain every year in future.

MEATH. Convent Schools

A passage occurring in the pastoral letter issued by the Bishop of Meath gives the lie to the slanders insinuated in the letters of P. H. O'Donnell and Michael McCarthy, that the nuns of Ireland are backward in education, and but indifferently equipped to impart it. Bishop Gaffney, referring to the convent at Navan, says that one of the nuns there 'got first place in the Intermediate list of honors for successive years, afterwards matriculated for Royal University and got an exhibition for her examination. She got an exhibition in First Arts, and afterwards got the Stewart prize for the excellence of her examination in First and Second Arts in open competitions with all the schools of Ireland. She is B.A. and M.A. of the Royal University.' No wonder the Bishop goes on to add: 'It is lamentable to see the folly of so many parents sending their daughters away—even to England—while they have such home advantages.'

WATERFORD.—Lord Dudley's Opinions

The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, speaking at Waterford in reference to the new Irish Land Act, remarked that it seemed to him the success of the measure depended largely not only on the method of administration, but in the spirit in which the people co-operated in bringing it into operation. Lord Dudley gave an undertaking on behalf of the Government as to the administration, and