

training at Fermoy. The occasion was something more than a formal visit, however, for kind friends and well-wishers of the men had been engaged for some time past in a project designed to convey in practical fashion their appreciation of the men's action and example and their regard for their welfare and comfort. This solicitude found expression in the organising of a presentation of gifts to include every member of the four regiments of the Brigade quartered at the Fermoy centre—namely, the Connaught Rangers, the Royal Irish Regiment, the Leinsters, and the Munster Fusiliers.

Prior to the presentation of the gifts, Mr. Devlin, M.P., delivered short addresses to each of the corps. Speaking to the men of the Royal Irish Regiment, who were the first he visited, the member for West Belfast had a few heartening words to say. The object of my visit (he explained) is a very simple one. When the first batch of recruits from the National Volunteers left Belfast for Fermoy, I promised them that I would take an early opportunity of paying them a visit, and I am here in fulfilment of that promise. A number of your friends and mine—ladies and gentlemen in London, Dublin, and Belfast—when they heard that I was to visit you, set about organising the little gifts of pipes, tobacco, cigarettes, and mufflers which I have brought with me. These gifts may be small, but I am sure you will accept them in the spirit in which they are offered to you, as a mark of sincere friendship for you personally, and of appreciation of your patriotism and self-sacrifice in coming forward to defend the cause of liberty and humanity. On the battlefields of Belgium and of France, the Irish soldiers have covered themselves with glory. They have displayed the historic valor of their race. And I feel sure that you, too, every man of you, when the time comes, will acquit yourselves in a manner which will send a thrill of pride through the old race and the old land which we all love so well. We have here, in the Irish Brigades, men from Belfast and Derry, and other parts of Ulster, of whom we Ulstermen are justly proud, and who have placed us under a deep obligation to them for volunteering to fight, in order to preserve the shores of our country and the lives and properties of our people from the horrors of invasion. But we have here also men from other parts of Ireland, from Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, and some, both officers and men, from Great Britain—the ever faithful exiles of Ireland—and of all of them Ireland is proud, and to all of them she feels grateful. They typify and they realise in themselves that unity of all Irishmen in this great National crisis. May that union, made strong by common service and common sacrifice, and cemented in blood on the battlefields of Europe, be maintained and continued when the war is over, when the roar of the cannon has ceased, and when the sword has been sheathed in victory. The Irish Brigades of to-day are fighting, not only for the security and safety of these islands, but for the cause of nationality and liberty the world over. We shall watch your fortunes with eager interest. We know that, in a war like this, our victory may be delayed, but it cannot be prevented. Already all the hopes of the enemy have been disappointed. Their dreams of an empire of force established on the ruins of European liberty have vanished. The Irish Brigade will help, with the other units of the new army which will shortly be going to the front, to complete their disillusion.

Huntly

(From a correspondent.)

The following pupils of the Sisters of the Mission, Huntly, were successful at the theory examination held in connection with Trinity College, London:—Intermediate division, Cecilia Farrell; Junior division, Grace Berry (honors); Preparatory division—Heatherbell Martin (distinction), Joseph Battersby (distinction), Lenor Steel, Edward Farrell.

People We Hear About

Miss Mary Gavan Duffy was, at a meeting of the Federal Executive Council in Melbourne recently, appointed associate to her father, Mr. Justice Duffy, of the High Court Bench.

On New Year's Eve, his Eminence Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli received very hearty congratulations from all parts of the world on the silver jubilee of his reception of the red hat. Although seventy-eight years of age, the Cardinal is very active and in good health.

Right Rev. Mgr. Byrne, V.G., celebrated his 81st birthday on February 22 (says the *Southern Cross*), having been born in Dublin in 1834. On April 26 next he will complete 55 years in the priesthood. He has returned from Port Lincoln, where he recently took Father Jorgensen's place for a couple of weeks.

This pen-picture of the Holy Father is from *Rome*: 'Benedict XV. is under the middle height, with a keen, sensitive face especially when seen in profile, very fine and very courtly and very measured in all he says and does. At first sight you might think him delicate in health, but you would be wrong, for during the eight years he ruled the archdiocese of Bologna he never needed a doctor's visit.'

King Victor Emmanuel has signed the decree appointing Signor Marconi, the celebrated inventor, a Senator. Signor Marconi was to have been appointed a Senator last year, but when King Victor informed the famous inventor of the fact the latter was obliged to inform his Majesty that he had not yet reached the statutory age of 40 years. It was announced at the time, however, that the honor was only postponed.

Through the recent death of several aged Archbishops and the retirement of one or two others, Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore has become dean of the Bishops of the entire Catholic Church, now in active service. Cardinal Gibbons is one of the Bishops still living of those created by Pope Pius IX. He was made a Bishop in 1869, when only 34 years of age. Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul is also another of the remaining Bishops created by Pope Pius IX. He was consecrated in 1875.

Baron de Broqueville, Premier of Belgium, was nominated as head of the Government by Albert, 'The People's King,' in 1912, after the elections of June in that year when the Catholic Party secured a decisive electoral triumph. He has also been Minister for War. He is a 'strong man,' and has had great Parliamentary successes. He carried an Army Bill which, had it had time to operate fully before war broke out, would have doubled the normal strength of the army, bringing up its effective to 300,000. Amongst his measures was a Compulsory Education Act.

Cardinal Mercier, in his earlier days, was one of the most popular professors in Louvain University. There he was a close friend of two English Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Bourne and Bishop Casartelli. His Eminence learned English for the purpose of following the philosophic writings of such men as Herbert Spencer and Mr. Balfour. At the Eucharistic Congress meeting in London the Cardinal addressed the audience in their own tongue, and again in November last, while returning from the Conclave, he spoke in English to the enthusiastic Irish Catholics who thronged round Archbishop's House, Westminster, to give him welcome.

For the first time electric power will be transmitted from one country to another by submarine cable, if the cable which has been laid between Sweden and Denmark proves successful. A Swedish company has bought three waterfalls at Lagan, in the south of Sweden, and electricity at a pressure of 50,000 volts will be generated. As Denmark has neither coal nor water power the Swedish experiment may lead to further important developments.

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