

Irish News

GENERAL.

Canon Murphy, who was president of St. Kieran's College, and in 1883 was appointed parish priest of Ballycallan by the late Cardinal Moran, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood recently in the parish of Kilmanagh. Canon Murphy is the only surviving parish priest appointed in Ossory by the late Cardinal.

At the Sixmilebridge (South Clare) Petty Sessions Miss Georgina Frost was the only applicant for the position of Clerk of the Petty Sessions, resigned after twenty-five years' service by her father. She was unanimously elected. The chairman (Mr. McElroy, R.M.) congratulated the magistrates on the appointment, who, he said, were making history, inasmuch as Miss Frost was the first lady in Ireland appointed as Clerk of Petty Sessions. Great credit was due to the chivalry of the magistrates of Clare.

POWER OF PUBLIC OPINION.

The publicity given by Mr. Devlin, M.P., to the tactics of the Belfast Unionists in trying to deprive Nationalists in West Belfast of their votes, and the resolutions of protest that followed, have had the desired effect. The Improvement Committee of the Corporation held a meeting, and by a vote of four to three decided not to proceed with the proposed ejections. The words 'at present' indicate that the intention to evict has not been quite abandoned, notwithstanding the letter to the Council of Colonel Day, Commandant of the Belfast District, wherein he referred to the hardships which would be occasioned to the families of the men on active service and the strong anti-recruiting feeling which would surely arise from any harsh, arbitrary action.

THE HOME RULE ACT.

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., in the course of an interesting speech, delivered at a banquet tendered to a number of Irish-Australian priests in Dublin, said that the Home Rule Act would come automatically into operation at the end of the war. There are some people (he said) who have been foolish enough to think—some people who have been, perhaps I might say, malicious enough to say—that the Coalition Government means the end of the Home Rule Act. I should like to state that, in my opinion, a more monstrous, false, and cowardly statement was never made. I don't like the Coalition Government; to this day, I don't really understand why it was necessary to form that Government. I showed my distrust pretty clearly by refusing to join it. But, gentlemen, it is a Coalition Government formed for the war, and for the war only. It comes to an end when the war comes to an end, and it exists only from day to day by agreement. The Home Rule Act automatically comes into operation at the end of the war, and nothing can prevent that happening—no Coalition Government coming into office, nothing can prevent that happening unless during the war the Coalition Government proposes and passes a Bill to repeal the Home Rule Act, which would indeed put an end to the political truce. The Coalition Government exists only from day to day, as I have said, by agreement, and if any such insane proposal were put forward I assure you on whatever little credit as a politician I may possess, the Coalition Government would not live for a week. I say that with all the more confidence in view of the assured position of strength which the Irish National cause has acquired recently by reason of the position Ireland has taken up with reference to the war. Now, gentlemen, all these prophecies of evil, all these incitements to panic and despair, are a sorry service to Ireland. What we want, on the contrary, is the spirit of confidence and determination. Ireland's highest interest

at this moment is the speedy termination of the war, and, instead of whining and prophesying, we should invite Ireland to address herself to the two essential things in the present situation. The first thing to do her duty with reference to the war, and the second thing is to do her duty in completing the guarding, and strengthening her own domestic, political, and military organisations.

INCREASED POPULATION.

The 51st annual report of the Registrar-General for Ireland was laid recently on the table of the House of Commons. The outstanding features in connection with the statistics for 1914 embodied in this report are as follow:—The birth-rate (22.6 per 1000 of the population) was low; the marriage-rate (5.41)—number of marriages per 1000 of the population—was the highest since 1867; the death-rate (16.3) was the lowest recorded in Ireland since 1868; and the emigration-rate (4.6) is much below that for any year since emigration returns were first compiled in 1851. The estimated population in the middle of 1914 shows an increase of 2386 on the estimate for the middle of 1913. The marriages registered during the year numbered 23,695, being equivalent to a rate of 5.41 per 1000 of the estimated population; this rate is 0.33 above that for the previous year, and 0.22 above the average for the ten years 1904-1913. Dublin has the highest death-rate, Belfast, Limerick, and Monaghan were next in order. Dealing with tuberculosis the report adds—The number of deaths from the disease registered in Ireland was 9089, the lowest recorded in Ireland for any of the 51 years beginning with the year 1864. The continued efforts of urban and rural district councils to improve the housing accommodation, the attention to the caring of the sick by the nurses of Lady Dudley's and other nursing societies, and the continued activity of the branches of the Women's National Health Association are recognised by medical men as contributing considerably to this reduction.

INCREASE OF TILLAGE.

The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland has sent out a summary of the figures it has collected up to the beginning of June. In 1914 only 36,913 acres were under wheat. This has grown to 87,116 acres. Oats, too, are more popular as a crop, 1,078,297 acres being put in, almost 50,000 more than in the previous year. To some extent the barley area has contributed to the land now under wheat and oats, as there are 29,745 fewer acres barley than in the previous year. There is an increase of 2 per cent. in the potato lands, no less than 594,801 acres being devoted to the tuber.

DEATH OF MAJOR-GENERAL DENNEHY.

The death occurred recently at Youghal, County Cork, of Major-General Sir Thomas Dennehy, K.C.I.E. The deceased was born in 1829, at Fermoy, and was educated at the Irish College, Paris. He joined the Indian Army and had a distinguished military career, serving in the Southal campaign of 1855 and in the Indian Mutiny. He was aide-de-camp to Lord Canning, and later organised the Indian police. During 1879-85 he was political agent at Dhalepore. After his retirement as Colonel of the Bengal Staff Corps in 1885, he occupied the position of extra-Groom-in-Waiting to the Princess of Wales in 1888; to Queen Victoria, 1888-1901; and to King Edward VII., 1901-10. The deceased Major-General received his knighthood in 1886. The remains were interred with military honors in the Rosary Cemetery, Midleton. Requiem High Mass was celebrated in the parish church in the morning, the coffin, covered with the Union Jack, being on a catafalque in front of the high altar. A firing party of the 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 50 men with buglers, attended from Cork, and formed a guard of honor at the funeral.

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