

Irish News

GENERAL.

Professor W. A. Scott, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.H.A., of Mountjoy square, Dublin, and the School of Architecture, Dublin University, has been commissioned to design the new Cathedral for Galway.

An unusual will came up recently for settlement, in Celbridge, Kildare. The testator was the Hon. Richard Anthony Nugent. He left £100 to the Archbishop of London, for the poor of that city, £50 to the poor of Celbridge, a similar amount for the poor of Tynagh, and £60 as an offering for Masses. After providing for his family, he stated that he 'urgently desired that as far as possible his children should be prevented from marrying persons not of the Catholic faith, as he was convinced mixed marriages were productive of much suffering.'

WORLD'S MOST BE-BOARDED COUNTRY.

'We have been the most "be-boarded" country in the world,' said the Most. Rev. Dr. Mangan, at a distribution of prizes in St. Brendan's Seminary, Killarney. 'I believe that the tendency of every department and every board in Ireland is to become absolute masters of those with whom they have to deal.' He thought it was an atrocious thing that, at a time when many boarding schools could hardly exist, the funds which should go to their support were being filched away in the high-handed manner mentioned by the Very Rev. President, Father Marshall. He protested against it. The present time was one in which they should get rid of unnecessary officialdom. The policy of adding to it was absolutely indefensible. These remarks arose out of Father Marshall's report that the decline in the school grant was probably due to an unnecessary increase in the number of inspectors, each one of whom meant a loss of nearly £1000 a year to the schools. He objected to any bonus grant out of the funds of the Intermediate, and he objected to the conditions attached to it.

SINN FEIN TROUBLES.

The Rev. James O'Connor, B.A., who was ordained at All Hallow's College, Dublin, in December, for the archdiocese of Hobart, arrived in Hobart about the middle of May, having come out by way of America. His first knowledge of the Sinn Fein troubles came to him on reaching Sydney. He says that when he left home it was estimated that their influence was very slight, an inference happily confirmed by the result, sad as it is. He says that the activity in parts of the county of Galway is not surprising. A certain number of non-resident landlords—chief of whom was the late Lord Clanricarde—had stubbornly refused Government and public opinion, and kept up open hostility to the movement for securing the people on the land. Evictions wholesale were carried out there years ago, and not yet fully undone. Hence the people were inclined to join secret associations, and had not the same faith in constitutional methods as the rest of the peasantry in the south and parts of Connaught. In his own county of Roscommon a great deal has been done through the Congested Districts Board to resettle people upon the broad sheep runs. Numbers of farmers' sons are now building up prosperous and happy homes on the earstwhile ranches. All those people are in thorough opposition to Sinn Fein insurrectionary ideas. Still, Father O'Connor is surprised that even the Sinn Feiners went so far. He believes they have the cordial disapproval of 95 per cent. of the people. With regard to Dublin, he says that unhappily the poverty and want of employment so prevalent and long standing in that city, lent too much color in the minds of the discontented to the socialistic propaganda of Jim Larkin and his fellows. Those would be ready enough to join in any tumult, just as that class would in any city. With regard to

recruiting, he instances his own native town of Roscommon. Its population is only about 1800; and on Mr. Redmond's first call it sent 180 to the front—one-tenth of the people! That surely is a record. But he says the young farmers feel unable to answer in the same way. They feel it would mean utter ruin to their homes. When asked how it was that the number of recruits from Connaught was, according to the reports, so far below the returns from each of the other provinces, he replied that in Connaught there was but a comparatively small urban population. There were absolutely no town industries to attract people. The whole population of that province was practically employed either in agriculture or merely in supplying merchandise through the small local towns to the surrounding peasantry. Then it is just within these last few years that the Connaught peasants have got a hold of the land. They are now in what may be considered the initial stage of establishing their homes. They are full of hope, and, besides, they have been encouraged to work up the land, and told that in so doing they are helping to strengthen the United Kingdom, for at home it has been long admitted that home-grown supplies are of the first importance, especially in time of war. He heard no complaints therefore against the farmers for not quitting their farms in order to go to the war.

ULSTER VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. J. D. Nugent, in the House of Commons, asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether his attention had been called to the disturbances which had recently occurred in the Clonmacate police district, near Portadown; whether it was the fact that hundreds of armed men, said to belong to the Ulster Volunteer Force, marched to Tartaraghan, in the Breagh district, and demolished the entire structure of a hall which was in process of building there for the Ancient Order of Hibernians; whether shots were fired, the bullets lodging in the walls of an adjacent house; whether the small force of police present was hopelessly out-numbered, and obliged to remain as spectators only; whether, having pulled down the building, the armed party marched away, rifle firing being heard in the distance for hours afterwards; whether the dwelling-house of a respectable Catholic family named Donnelly was attacked by an armed Orange mob, numbering between 150 and 200; whether scores of rifle and revolver bullets were rained on the dwelling-house, the inmates, consisting of Mr. John Donnelly, his sister, and a relative, having almost miraculous escapes; whether this was the first occasion on which the Carson German rifles had been put to practical use; and what steps, if any, the authorities proposed to take to protect the lives and properties of Catholics and Nationalists in the district.

The Chief Secretary: My attention has been called to the regrettable incident referred to, of which the main facts, though not all the details, appear to be as stated by the hon. member. The aggressors were disguised, and it has not yet been possible to identify any of them. The police in the neighborhood have, however, been strengthened, and are continuing their investigations. As far as I have been able to ascertain, no persons of responsibility had previous cognisance of the attack nor of the circumstances that led up to it; and I have hopes that the prudence of party leaders in the district will prevent further risk to the public peace.

Not for us do the glorious army of saints and martyrs, the bright choir of virgins and purified souls—who honored their Lord in the flesh, exalted the aspirations and hopes of mankind, glorified human nature through divine grace, and consecrated the whole world—sleep in the cold grave, or lie torpid in some undefined region, waiting the return of a warm spring morning to make anew into life and activity. They are now living, full of life, a sweet, joyous life, in comparison with which what we call our life is but death.—Dr. Brownson.