

## DEATH OF VERY REV. DEAN HILLS, S.M.

A telegraphic message from Auckland on Thursday, August 7, announces the death, at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, of the Very Rev. Francis Dean Hills, S.M. The deceased priest, who, owing to failing health, had for some time retired from active duty, was born in the archdiocese of Westminster, London, on Christmas Day, 1855, was professed in the Society of Mary on May 6, 1877, and was shortly after ordained to the priesthood. He was for a long period associated with St. Mary's College, Dundalk, Ireland, and with



the University College, Leeton Street, Dublin, first as an ecclesiastical student, and afterwards as a professor. He spent some considerable time in the colleges of France, and was a distinguished French scholar, speaking that language with great fluency. He came to St. Patrick's College, Wellington, in 1897, joining the professorial staff in the Chair of Literature, and retaining also the position of vice-rector, offices he held for over 10 years. In 1908 he was appointed to the diocese of Christchurch as parish priest of Leeton, a position he worthily filled until the beginning of 1911, when he was appointed to the pastorate of Blenheim, which then had just become vacant. Towards the end of the same year, Dean Hills was recalled to the diocese of Christchurch, having been appointed by Bishop Grimes vicar-general, in succession to Dean Ginaty, whom he also succeeded as rector of St. Mary's, Manchester Street. The late Dean Hills occupied the office of Diocesan Administrator on the death of Bishop Grimes, and after the consecration of his Lordship Bishop Brodie to the See of Christchurch, he again, for a brief period, took charge of the parish of Leeton, being succeeded at St. Mary's by the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. But a few months before his severance with St. Patrick's College he had celebrated his silver jubilee, when the old and (then) present pupils gathered round to felicitate him on the event. His departure from the college was greatly regretted by the boys, who had learned to venerate and to love the genial priest. Whilst at the college, he, with infinite skill and patience, practically established what is claimed

to be the finest museum collection of any school in the Dominion. The late Dean Hills was well known to his Lordship the late Bishop Grimes in England, and was among the distinguished company at the consecration in London of the first Bishop of Christchurch.—R.I.P.

## IRISH NEWS

### GENERAL.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., speaking recently in London, said:—"There is no longer one Irish faction fighting against another. The Irish are a unit, and the old Constitutionalists who had stood by me and the party to which I belong for 50 years are now standing on the same platform as the most revolutionary."

Judge Cohalan, of the Supreme Court, New York, says a *Sunday Independent* correspondent, has made a complete statement of Ireland's case and claim to self-determination. He believes that England fears that a free Ireland would rival her in all the markets of the world. By the Act of Union Ireland was over-taxed on a yearly average of £300,000,000. Bismarck took £200,000,000 as indemnity from France; Great Britain has exceeded this sum by half. The writer points out that Ireland, by the votes of the people, has declared itself for complete independence and separation.

Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., addressing the English House of Commons, said if Sinn Fein was the dominant will of the Irish people, it has a perfect right to represent Ireland. He also declared, during the Budget debate, that even when the entire representation of Ireland attended at Westminster, their voices were not listened to when they raised the questions of the financial and political rights of their country. The Sinn Fein papers say Mr. Devlin ought to accept the obvious moral of his own arguments and withdraw from Westminster.

### IRELAND'S POPULATION: TRAGIC FIGURES.

The London *Daily News* says:—"One of the greatest tragedies published in modern times was issued as a Parliamentary Paper for the modest sum of 2d. It is in the shape of a report from the Registrar-General of Ireland, addressed to "His Excellency John Denton Pinkstone, Viscount French, Lord Lieutenant-General and Governor-General of Ireland," and it says:—"During the period from May 1, 1851, to December 31, 1918, the number of natives of Ireland who emigrated was 4,319,693 (2,244,339 males and 2,075,354 females), equivalent to 82.8 per cent. of the average population of the country."

There was a redeeming feature in 1918, thanks, of course, to "Dora." The emigrants from Ireland last year numbered only 983.

### MR. LLOYD GEORGE AND THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS.

The Cork *Examiner* says the news from Paris to the effect that Mr. Lloyd George has withdrawn his offer to receive the American Commissioners, Messrs. Walsh, Dunne, and Ryan, on their return to Paris, will occasion no surprise in Ireland, where Georgian promises are appraised at their proper worth. In any case, circumstances were too strong for him. The influences that destroyed Home Rule, hushed up the Curragh revolt, condoned the Orange preparations for rebellion, and the landing of arms at Larne—all the old malevolent and reactionary influences were at work to prevent an interview. As, however, the Commissioners have asserted they neither sought nor desired an interview with Mr. George, they will not be perturbed at the new turn of events. Besides, the only use of an interview to the Premier would be to delay or side-track important matters, and they would not be prepared to give him any help in that direction.