

Irish News

CORK—Mr. O'Brien and his Followers

With the co-operation of distinguished Unionists (says the *Catholic Times*), Mr. William O'Brien is about to establish a new daily paper in Cork, and there are other symptoms which indicate that he entertains the hope of permanently keeping up a Parliamentary Party, however small. If he expressly allied himself with Lord Dunraven as a Conservative Devolutionist, his campaign might be of service to his country. Some of the landlords who have held aloof from the National movement might draw nearer to it and range themselves under his banner. But Mr. O'Brien is not content to play such a rôle. He is determined to resist the national forces, and he is devoting himself very largely to the task of denouncing Mr. Redmond's policy. Cork City may support him for a time, but his adherents both there and throughout Cork County will grow weary of such an unprofitable, destructive crusade. The new journal will not create a strong party. Mr. O'Brien will once more bow to the will of the people, and retire from the political arena. It will not tell in his favor that when, as Mr. Dillon remarked on Friday night in the Hibernian Hall, Dublin, the situation required delicate treatment and the exercise of the utmost Parliamentary skill, he has exerted himself to pile up difficulties in the path of the Nationalist Party.

DONEGAL—Tree-planting

Some time ago (remarks the *Freeman's Journal*) the County Donegal Committee of Agriculture appointed a sub-committee to formulate a scheme of tree-planting, and proposed to grant £75 to that body in order that something in the nature of a practical beginning might be made. To this plan the Department of Agriculture objects, on the ground that under existing schemes provision of this character has already been made. The communication from the department is instructive, as showing the extent to which the afforestation movement has been adopted by County Committees of Agriculture. It is stated that in 27 counties almost 427,000 trees, other than fruit trees, were distributed by the committees during one planting season, and reports received from time to time by the department showed that this arrangement was appreciated and availed of to a large extent. Further, in the scheme of prizes for small farms the judge was instructed to take into consideration when making his awards the judicious planting of shelter belts on the holdings of competitors.

DUBLIN—Catholic Students at the University

In the University Church, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, on February 11, a meeting was held with the object of forming a sodality for Catholic students attending University College. The Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Canea, delivered an interesting address, which was listened to with deep attention by the professors and students present, who numbered over 300. His Lordship said he deemed it a very distinguished honor to be associated with them that evening in the formation of that pious Sodality. Forty-six years ago he preached from that very pulpit one of the University sermons there in the presence of all the governing authorities, the academic body, and the students of what was then known as the Catholic University of Ireland, and it pleased him very much that after such a long interval he had been invited to come back to that same pulpit when the tangled skein of University prospects seemed at length to be straightened out and when they were beginning to make a new departure—this time not to go back, but to go forward resolutely and hopefully. At the time he spoke of that church was a University Church in very name. It was founded, as they knew, by that great man, the first Rector of the Catholic University of Ireland, Dr. Newman. Dr. Newman said that it was a work that he had in his mind earlier than any other work, because amongst other reasons it expressed the symbolism of the indissoluble union of philosophy with religion, and because, as he declared in another place, the erection of a University in which no provision was made for Theological Chairs was an intellectual absurdity. The Bishop asked the students to enrol themselves as members of the sodality, and he assured them that they would have no reason to regret the step for their prospects in this life or in the next.

The Royal Society of Antiquaries

At the annual meeting of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, the Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Canea, and Count Plunkett, whose term of office as vice-presidents had ended, were elected members of Council. The new vice-presidents of the Society include Sir Henry Bellingham, D.L., The O'Neill (a Peer of Portugal), and the Right Rev. Mgr. Fahy.

Royal Irish Academy

At a recent meeting of the Royal Irish Academy, Mr. Mario Esposito, the Irish-born son of a distinguished Neapolitan musician, read a paper on 'Hiberno-Latin Manuscripts in the Libraries of Switzerland.' Searching in a few Swiss libraries, the young scholar has found some forty

mediaeval manuscripts of Irish origin. In referring the paper to the Council for publication, Count Plunkett drew attention to the importance of such researches in foreign libraries and monasteries, where much of the evidence of Ireland's mission throughout Europe is treasured, or hidden.

Makers of History

Addressing a jury in a Dublin case in which one of the parties was a Jew, Mr. Justice Kenny expressed his opinion that Jew or Gentile or Atheist would always receive a fair verdict from a Dublin jury. No one dare stand up in that court and say a single word against the Jews. The leader of the defendant's case (Mr. Healy) went out of his way to compliment the Jews upon their present conduct and their past history. In all times the Jews had been makers of history, leaders in every profession, in statesmanship, in every walk of life; and any attempt to condemn a Jew on account of his religion and his nationality showed a degraded and narrow mind, and no man of common sense would listen to it for a moment.

The Irish Leader and the Government

On all hands (writes a Dublin correspondent) Mr. Redmond's speech at the banquet given to him on February 10 in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, is discussed, and it has been received with a general feeling of satisfaction. Even Mr. O'Brien and his friends refrain from criticising it in a hostile spirit. The following are the salient passages: 'There was but one great issue for us, and that great issue is Home Rule for Ireland. The Veto of the House of Lords was for us in Ireland Home Rule. And the pledge which decided us to support heart and soul the Liberal Party in the last General Election was the pledge which the Prime Minister gave, that neither he nor his colleagues would ever assume or retain office again in England unless they were given assurances that they would be able to curb and limit the Veto of the House of Lords. I have always regarded Mr. Asquith as a man of his word. His word sometimes has not gone as far as I would wish it to go; but I have never had the slightest reason to believe that he would not stand by his word as it was given. I say it is inconceivable that in this matter he should now waver in his purpose or palter with his pledges. To do so would, in my humble judgment—and I speak with great diffidence—would be to wreck the Liberal Party, to drive them for the next twenty years into the wilderness. I will not insult him by suggesting that he has any such intention. I see it has been suggested by the *Westminster Gazette*, and some so-called Liberal organs in England, that the proper policy for the Government would be first to reintroduce and pass the Budget, and then deal with the question of the Veto at some more convenient time in the future—that is to say, it is seriously suggested that the House of Commons, having won a victory at the polls against the Lords, should send the Budget back to the Lords with the request that under the existing system of the Constitution they would be kind enough by favor to pass the Budget into law. I venture to say that to do so would be to give the whole case against the Lords away. To do so would be to allow this great Constitutional crisis that has arisen—the greatest for 200 years—to peter out. To do so would mean to slack down the fires of enthusiasm amongst the democrats of England. To do so would be to disgust every real democrat in Great Britain. I say plainly that if Mr. Asquith is not in a position to say that he has such guarantees as are necessary to enable him to pass the Veto Bill through the House of Lords this year, and if, in spite of that, he intends, to use his own phrase, to retain office in spite of that, and proposes to pass the Budget into law, and then to adjourn—I do not care for how long or how short—to adjourn the consideration of the question of the Veto of the House of Lords, that is a policy that Ireland cannot, and will not, uphold. A scene of the greatest enthusiasm here occurred, everyone present rising to his feet and vociferously cheering the pronouncement.

KERRY—Unfair Treatment

The inequality in the Government's treatment of British and Irish schools was the theme of an address delivered recently in Killarney by the Right Rev. Dr. Mangan, Bishop of Kerry. Taking the estimates for the current year, the Bishop pointed out that the Treasury contributes £791,250 for secondary education in England; £166,500 for the same object in Scotland; and £26,400 for that purpose in Wales; or a total of £984,150; but that no provision whatsoever is made from this source for secondary education in Ireland. It cannot be disputed (says the *Catholic Times*) that the Irish people have a just claim to an equivalent of the grants made to the other countries of the United Kingdom, and we feel sure that if the claim is brought properly before the public and pressed upon the attention of our legislators, it will be recognised. Dr. Mangan's suggestion that the head masters of the Irish Intermediate schools should discuss the subject from time to time, make a joint application with the Commissioners of the Board of Intermediate Education to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and also approach the Irish Party, is an excellent one. Under this unequal treatment the Irish secondary schools must suffer severely. As the Bishop says, the system is indefensible, and no serious opposition