

June 31, 1908, reveal that this trade amounted to £3,517,000, compared with £1,800,000 ten years ago. A greater portion of the trade was in linens, this item alone accounting for £2,000,000. Judging by the latest available returns, the year 1909 probably exceeded the best previous record of Irish exports to America.

A Successful Company

The Irish Catholic Church Property Insurance Company has just issued its annual report. The general revenue for 1909 amounted to £4766 12s. After fire losses and other expenses had been paid, there remains a surplus of £3443 13s 5d. As a result of this satisfactory working, the company is enabled to hand over a sum of £1000 to the Catholic Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, to be used by them in accordance with Art. 90 of the company.

Colleges for Women

A memorial to the Senate of the National University of Ireland asking for the recognition of colleges for women in connection with the University is being widely circulated through the country for signatures by the Irish Women Education Association. The circular states that a memorial has been presented to the Senate from the Women Graduates' Association, protesting against the recognition by the University of any college for women, and urging the desirability of imposing on all women graduates the system of co-education as a condition of their being permitted to proceed to the degrees of the University. The memorialists consider that the imposition of such an exclusive system would be undesirable in itself, would shut out from the National University hundreds of students whose exclusion was never contemplated by Parliament, and would inflict a grave injustice on those colleges for women which had hitherto worked zealously and with success in the cause of the higher education of women.

Astounding Revelations

The astounding revelations made by Sir Robert Anderson regarding his share in the authorship of the articles entitled 'Parnellism and Crime' shows more clearly than ever (writes a Dublin correspondent) the character of the campaign conducted at the time for the destruction of the Irish Party. Here was a man whose position in the Criminal Investigation Department brought him into contact with spies and informers drawn from the very lowest strata of humanity, dressing up statements for publication in the *Times* with the object of defaming the character of Irish Nationalists before the world. To say that he sincerely hated the Irish Nationalists is not to offer an excuse that palliates his conduct. The risk, the characters, liberties, and lives of Irish Nationalists were subjected to in those troublesome times, when representatives of so many social elements were in league against them, will scarcely ever be fully known. Time, however, has completely vindicated them, and if it had not already done so, this unexpected confession of Sir Robert Anderson and his public avowal of the part he took in the campaign would do so. Sir Robert Anderson's belief in the innocence of Pigott, the forger, shows how blind hatred of Ireland has got the better of his reason. There is probably no other being in existence who knows the history of the Parnell Commission that has a shadow of doubt on the point. The unfortunate forger himself admitted it. He escaped to the Continent to avoid arrest, and when caught blew out his brains to avoid the consequences of his terrible crime.

The Nationalist Party

Bishops, priests, and people continue (says a Dublin correspondent) to give evidence of their entire confidence in the Irish Party under the leadership of Mr. John Redmond, M.P., and of their unswerving fidelity to the National cause. The Most Rev. Dr. McHugh, Bishop of Derry, following the example set by other prelates, has doubled his usual subscription to the Parliamentary Fund. Writing to Mr. Redmond, he says the conduct of the Irish Party in the present session of Parliament has met with universal approval. Now that the crisis is at hand, the best way in which people can show that they mean what they say is to supply the party with the necessary funds to carry to a successful issue what is really their own fight. This the people are certainly doing, as shown by the fact that already between three and four thousand pounds have been subscribed in a comparatively short space of time, the amount being nearly double that contributed during the corresponding period of last year. Mr. John Roche, M.P., in the course of a letter enclosing £30 from the priests and people of Portumna, which is in the heart of the Clanricarde estate, says the subscription is the largest ever made in the parish for the support of the Irish Party, and, coming as it does from a body of Irishmen who have suffered more and gained less than any in Ireland from the land legislation of the past generation, it affords most eloquent and convincing evidence of the intensity of the devotion of the men of the West to the cause of national unity and of their unchanged and unchanging loyalty to the Irish Party. What Mr. Roche so forcibly says of the people of Portumna may be said of Irishmen generally.

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People We Hear About

Madame Melba entered on her forty-sixth year on May 19.

Major-General Barry's appointment as head of the United States Military Academy at West Point has been reported in the daily press. General Barry is a Catholic, whose work in Cuba has been highly praised. At the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the New York diocese he was chief marshal of the parade.

Mrs. Meynell, the poet and essayist, who is always so charming in whatever she does, is said to be one of the few literary workers who can write in the midst of interruptions and disturbances. Even the immediate presence of children, of whom she has several, does not interfere with her mental serenity. Mrs. Meynell is a lady of charming and unassuming manners and a most devout Catholic.

Mr. Thomas F. Walsh, the business partner of the late King Leopold, died at Washington, U.S.A., on April 9. Mr. Walsh's career has been phenomenal. He was born at Clonmel in 1851, and went to America as a steerage passenger in 1870. Beginning as a day laborer in the streets of Boston, he became a millwright and carpenter, and went to Colorado, where he followed the occupation of a contractor. He built several hotels, and finally managed one at Leadville, where he soon became known for his liberality. He would not press for payment of bills from unfortunate prospectors, telling them to pay when luck came their way. As a result he was given an interest in many mining claims. Seventeen years after arriving in America he announced his intention to retire and live on the fortune he had accumulated. An unfortunate investment rendered him poor, and he started again. Having studied mining scientifically, he became impressed with the possibilities of the Camp Bird Mine, 12,000 feet above sea level. Experts who examined its prospects unanimously agreed that the mine was worthless. Mr. Walsh contended that the best ore bodies are found on high altitudes. In three years he produced gold worth £600,000. An English syndicate is reported to have offered £7,000,000 for the mine, which Mr. Walsh refused. He sold part of his interest for nearly £3,000,000. At the Paris Exposition in 1900, Mr. Walsh met King Leopold, who wanted him to manage his Congo properties. Mr. Walsh refused, but the two became associated in gold mines.

With Mr. Dillon and Mr. Swift MacNeill both away ill, the Nationalist Party (says the *Manchester Guardian*) loses for the time much of its power over the eye and ear of the House. The two have sat together for many years on the bench below Mr. Redmond, and Mr. Dillon, in addition to his own work, has officiated usefully as a kind of moderator to the learned friend at his right or left elbow. Mr. Swift MacNeill, a most sincere and learned publicist, takes his politics very much to heart, and it is a common thing to see Mr. Dillon lay a hand on his arm when he wishes to accompany an unsympathetic speech with a more liberal measure of comment and ejaculation than the rules of Parliament allow. In all these matters of Parliamentary usage Mr. Dillon moves with a certain instinct which comes of aptitude perfected by the training of years. Dillon is the brain of the Nationalist Party. He has taught many Liberals all that they know about foreign politics, and he will often intervene with authority when the leaders are discussing among themselves some intricate point in the working of the Parliamentary machine. To see him read his daily paper, underline and annotate it with a pencil from his pocket, is a lesson in the art of mastering public affairs as they change from day to day. The men who learned public affairs under Mr. Parnell, and still play a part, are growing very few, and events have taken them far apart from one another, but they still have some characteristics in common. They all protest as Home Rulers against being kept at Westminster, and most of them have on occasion been suspended for a time for breaking the rules, but in the minor matters of Parliamentary law they are all marked by a propriety as of the Scribes and Pharisees. Mr. Dillon, for example, in his black morning coat and sober tie dresses exactly as Parliamentarians are supposed but not always found in dress. He wears his silk hat in the House, following the custom which was once more commonly observed than it is to-day, and nobody ever sees Mr. Swift MacNeill or Mr. Tim Healy or Mr. T. P. O'Connor in anything but clothes of a most formal cut. Mr. William O'Brien is more unconventional in tweed clothes and a soft hat. Mr. Redmond and his brother come down to the House from their homes at Earl's Court in overcoats and bowler hats, Mr. W. Redmond smoking a pipe as he travels on the Underground, but they always leave their hats outside the House itself, and Mr. John Redmond likes a frock coat for an important speech. In the early morning Mr. John Redmond may be seen riding in Rotten Row, looking a much less dangerous and revolutionary person than many of his critics take him to be.

'Catholic Marriages.' The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted. Apply Manager, *Tablet*, Dunedin.