

In other words, Ireland, probably the poorest country in Europe, pays more for her government than any other nation. The secret of the inefficiency and the extravagance is identical, namely, the fact that it is a government not based upon the consent, but maintained in actual opposition to the will of the governed.

The extension of the English Poor Law, which was devised to meet cases where there was plenty of employment, but where the people would not work, to Ireland, is cited by Mr. Redmond as an example of outrageous English misgovernment. Ireland opposed the measure with every means in her power, and now, seventy years after the law was put in force, a Commission appointed to investigate its workings declares that the Poor Law is unsuited to Ireland, and that it has been a failure during all these years.

There are, in the thirty-two counties of Ireland, 159 workhouses, and there are inmates in these workhouses numbering 43,195. Within these all kinds of inmates are crowded—the sick, aged, and infirm, children, helpless mothers of young children, insane, casuals, and tramps, and other able-bodied paupers.

So far as the larger number of those inmates are concerned, that is a horrible outrage. By far the larger number are sick, aged, and infirm, and the children, on all of whom it is an outrage and a disgrace to our civilisation that any taint of the workhouse should be put.

'We want an Irish Parliament,' declares Mr. Redmond in conclusion, 'with an Executive responsible to it, created by Act of the Imperial Parliament, and charged with the management of purely Irish affairs (land, education, local government, transit, labor, industries, taxation for local purposes, law and justice, police, etc.), leaving to the Imperial Parliament, in which Ireland would probably continue to be represented, but in smaller numbers, the management, just as at present, of all Imperial affairs—army, navy, foreign relations, customs, Imperial taxation, matters pertaining to the Crown, the colonies, and all those other questions which are Imperial and not local in their nature, the Imperial Parliament also retaining an overriding supreme authority over the new Irish Legislature, such as it possesses to-day over the various Legislatures in Canada, Australia, South Africa, and other portions of the Empire.'

The Political Evolution of the Spanish Premier

There is a very curious article written in the *Echo de Paris*, by Sr. J. Vasquez de Mella, a deputy of the Spanish Cortes, which deals with the political evolution of the man so prominent before the world at the present time, Sr. Canalejas. At this distance (remarks *America*) it is impossible to determine with how much reserve these revelations are to be taken, but Vasquez does not hesitate to name the persons—some of them very distinguished in Church and State—who were associated with the Spanish Premier in the very remarkable changes of his public career.

Canalejas was brought up by his pious mother as a strict Catholic, but the impressions of childhood were afterwards somewhat affected by association with his uncle, Don Carlos, a professor in the University of Madrid. Not succeeding in his university career, he shut his books in disgust, and took to politics and the law. In politics he first trained with the Republicans.

After that the changes were rapid. He was for a time a Royalist, and then developed into an outspoken partisan of a military dictatorship. He kept the press busy with articles in support of that idea, until he became the mouthpiece of Polavieja, the ultramontane General, who was for a time the idol and hope of the non-Carlist Clericals. At that time he was furiously anti-Liberal, when suddenly he vaulted clean over to the opposition camp, broke with the Church, and published in Spanish the famous speech of Waldeck-Rousseau, at Toulouse.

The most important event of his career occurred in 1896. The colonies were then in a state of collapse, the attitude of the United States was menacing, and Alfonso's health was a source of serious alarm. It was then that a plot was formed to bring back Don Carlos, by marrying Don Jaime, the son of Don Carlos, to Mercedes, the oldest daughter of Alfonso XII., and to make them sovereigns of Spain, under the active regency of Carlos VIII.

The writer gives the names of all participants in this plot and specifies their place of meeting. With the exception of two they are all living and will vouch for the truth of Vasquez's words. He himself, though not admitted to the secret sessions, was kept informed of the proceedings day by day, by two persons specially deputed for that purpose. One of those persons is still living and ready to confirm all the statements about this particular incident. In 1897, Sr. Vasquez was entrusted with a special mission by Don Carlos himself.

'The conspiracy failed,' he says, 'because Don Carlos, who was always averse to all such arrangements, refused even to listen to the envoy who was sent to him. Whereupon two of the conspirators withdrew from the meeting. One of the two was not Canalejas, who had been all along the most active agent in the scheme. He persevered until the end.'

'In making these revelations,' says Vasquez, 'I have no desire to mortify Canalejas, or to seek to revive the fears of the Republicans, who doubt his sincerity. It is only to show that we must be on our guard against drawing any logical conclusions from the policies of Spanish parliamentarians. Nor should we hope to find any logical sequence in their ideas. This is particularly true of Canalejas, who is a very amiable man, very polite, endowed with intelligence and rich in imagination. He has read much, perhaps, too much, for he has gone too rapidly through books which were written very slowly. He is prodigal of assertions, penurious in reasoning, and deserves to a certain point the judgment passed on him by Castillo, who said he had too much stuff in his style to cover the very small substance of his thoughts. More than others, he is exposed to the suggestions of his environment. When under the influence of the journalist Figueroa, he was an ardent upholder of the Right; but when Figueroa gave way to Morote, the present anti-clerical programme was drawn up. Morote had already developed it in the Freemason journals of Vienna. In brief, Canalejas wants to be first somewhere. He cannot be first among the leaders of the Right, for the place is preempted. So he has delivered himself up to the Left. But he is being dragged to the abyss.'

If only half of what this Spanish deputy says be true, it is clear that Canalejas is not a man possessed of the great ambition of freeing his country from the thrall of clericalism; not a valiant knight cavorting on his charger to spear the monster Pope, but a shifty politician who is constantly out of office; who is all things by turns and nothing long. He is now hoping that his anti-clerical programme will mollify the Spanish Republicans and prevent them from imitating their Portuguese neighbors.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 10.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, to 90 children and 12 adults on Sunday.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Anne's Church, Wellington South, last Sunday to 100 children and adults. Mr. Hawk and Mrs. Segrief acted as sponsors for the candidates.

The Very Rev. Father Bannou, Superior of the Redemptorist Order; the Rev. Father Lynch, Rector of Waratah, formerly of Dunedin; and the Rev. Fathers O'Farrell and Hunt, arrived by the Manuka from Sydney on 7th inst.

Master John Hally, a pupil of the Marist Brothers' School, Boulcott street, has won this year's scholarship at the Sacred Heart College, Auckland. This scholarship is open to boys throughout the Dominion under fourteen years. He is a son of Mr. P. Hally, Conciliation Commissioner for the Wellington district.

A number of pupils of the Seatoun branch of St. Mary's Convent—which is flourishing under the guidance of Mother Bernard—were confirmed by his Grace the Archbishop at his private chapel, Hill street, yesterday afternoon. After the ceremony the boys were entertained at tea in the convent.

The parishioners of Northland are busy preparing for a bazaar to be held next Easter at the Town Hall. The proceeds are to be devoted to wiping off the debt of the St. Vincent's Church, Northlands. Rev. Father Peoples, with Messrs. George McNamara and J. W. Callaghan as joint secretaries, are in charge of arrangements.

About one hundred ladies and gentlemen attended a meeting held in the Mayor's room at the Town Hall the other day with the object of organising a garden party in honor of Mrs. T. G. McCarthy. Dr. Cahill presided. The function is intended as a recognition of the splendid work performed by Mrs. McCarthy in promoting and assisting to carry to a successful issue the recent celebration of Mother Mary Joseph Aubert's golden jubilee.

Considerable interest is being evinced amongst members of the Catholic community here (says the *Dominion's* Pahiatua correspondent) in the movement to erect a convent for the Brigidine Sisters. Since their arrival in Pahiatua some four years ago they have occupied the presbytery, which Father McKenna vacated in their favor, in the meanwhile taking up his abode in a small cottage adjacent to the church. It is estimated that the cost of the building will be about £1200, and at a meeting held in the church on Sunday last more than half of this amount was collected in a few minutes.

The Marist Brothers' new school in Tasman street is now nearing completion, and it is anticipated that it will be ready for opening after the holidays. The building presents a fine appearance, and contains six up-to-date class-rooms, which should be much appreciated by both the