

at first anticipated in tracing the ages, and where any difficulty was experienced the Pension Officers were given discretion to act on their own judgment, as far as general appearance was a guide in estimating the age. In any case where the Pension Officers and the committee disagreed as to the age of a claimant, the committee approved of the pension, so that in the event of an appeal, and their decision being upheld, the claimant may be paid from the first Friday in the New Year. All the recipients of outdoor relief who have been passed for the pension have been paid their last contribution from the rates, which carries them up to the morning of January 4. In some unions that amount had been doubled in accordance with an old Christmas custom, but it was not general. The amount payable in pensions to the qualifying out-door paupers in the county, about 800 in all, will be £200 per week, or £10,400 per annum. In the case of the indoor paupers, not so many of them will avail of the pension as was expected. In the county about 200 of these aged poor have already been passed for the pension, but it is estimated that no more than 80 will leave the work-houses, so that the income of the county under that head will be no more than £20 per week, or £1040 per annum. Of the remaining 120, 80 at least consider that they are better looked after inside than they could possibly hope to be outside at 5s per week.

#### TIPPERARY—To be Forgotten

A few weeks ago, following the poisoning of some hounds, there was a danger that the Tipperary Hunt would not be continued this season. The indignation expressed by the Master, Mr. Bouch, was shared by the people of the county, who in public meeting at Fethard and through resolutions passed by the various representative boards condemned the outrage. But it was urged that the whole community should not be penalised for the acts of a few, wanton or careless, and further explanations having been given Mr. Bouch has decided to resume hunting. He thanks the farmers for the immediate, unanimous and decisive way in which they supported him, and adds: 'For my part, I consider myself a very lucky man to be living in this county of Tipperary, where I have met, from the beginning, with so much friendliness. My one desire now is to have the whole unfortunate business forgotten as quickly as possible.'

#### WICKLOW—Experience Teaches

Mr. H. A. Hinkson, writing to the *London Times*, endorses the opinion recently expressed by Mr. Stephen Gwynn, M.P., as to the position of Protestants under Home Rule. Mr. Hinkson says:—'May I from my own knowledge endorse the opinion expressed by Mr. Stephen Gwynn as to the position of Protestants under Home Rule? I am a Conservative and an Irish Protestant descended from Ulster Protestants on the one side and from Wicklow Orangemen on the other. When a boy I lived in a rectory in Wicklow. The Land League was then at the height of its power; but so little did it affect the friendly relations existing between Catholic and Protestant that every summer the Protestant rector's Roman Catholic neighbors came with the machines and forks, horses and carts, and cut and made his hay, not for reward, but because he was a minister of religion. One cannot imagine Ulster Protestants doing a like service for a Roman Catholic priest, though with curious inconsistency they not infrequently take an ailing cow to a priest to be blessed. While I was at T.C.D. I was selected out of a number of candidates, Catholic and Protestant, for the post of Senior Classical Tutor in the Jesuit College of Clongowes Wood, which is the most important Roman Catholic lay college in Ireland. If they had desired a Roman Catholic the authorities would have had no difficulty in finding one equally competent. While I was in residence every consideration was shown to me, and not only was there no attempted interference with my religious beliefs, but, although it was the rule of the college to abstain from meat on Fridays, meat was specially cooked on those days for me and my two Protestant colleagues. At that time we Protestants regarded all appointments in the gift of the Irish Government as by right, as well as by tradition, belonging to the Protestants, regardless of the claims of the Roman Catholic candidates. To Mr. Balfour and Mr. Wyndham belong the high credit of having made merit, not religion, the basis of selection. And surely if the profession of the Protestant faith is to be a condition precedent of self-government, the Imperial idea must be abandoned.'

#### The Archbishop's Munificence

His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, has sent a cheque for £100 to the committee promoting the fund on behalf of helpless widows and families of the poor fishermen who lost their lives in Arklow Bay some weeks ago.

#### GENERAL

#### The Parliamentary Fund

The subscriptions to the Irish Parliamentary Fund for 1910 totalled £14,987 9s 3d, a sum unprecedentedly large as compared with the totals for any year since 1905.

## People We Hear About

Mr. T. P. O'Connor is the 'father' of the Irish Party, having sat uninterruptedly in Parliament since 1880. Messrs. Dillon and J. J. Keily entered the House the same year. Mr. William Redmond has had the longest unbroken term of membership of any Irish M.P.

James Francis Hogan, secretary to the Colonial Party in the British Parliament, has seen life in various parts of the Kingdom. He was born in Tipperary fifty-five years ago, was taken to Australia by his parents when a child, and lived in the Commonwealth long enough to learn of its resources and attractions. He has written many books, history and fiction, and is now content to remain in London.

Miss Johanna Redmond, daughter of John Redmond, the leader of the Irish Nationalists in the British House of Commons, is a rising author, who, though only twenty-two years old, is now preparing her second play for production in London. In her first dramatic effort, a one-act piece, the part of the heroine was played by her sister, Esther, who has recently married a New York doctor.

Probably the most remarkable man who ever sat in the British Commons was Mr. Arthur Kavanagh, who, legless and armless, a mere trunk of a man, had to be carried into the House on the back of an attendant. Mr. Kavanagh was a hard worker and an excellent speaker, and made so light of his physical disqualifications that he was an ardent huntsman, a skilful shot and angler, and a daring explorer, who, among other wonderful feats, made his way, by Russia and Persia, to Bombay.

The number of lawyers in the newly-elected Parliament is (says the *Law Journal*) practically the same as in the old. In January of last year 169 members of the legal profession were elected—139 barristers and 30 solicitors. The late election resulted in the return of 163 lawyers—136 barristers and 27 solicitors. 'It is pretty safe (adds the *Law Journal*) to state that the practising lawyers in the new House of Commons do not number more than 80, but, as a matter of fact, the members of Parliament who are active members of the legal profession are somewhat more numerous than they were.'

The New Year list of honors conferred by the King contained no mention of peerages (says the *Glasgow Observer*). Six new Privy Councillors are appointed, three of them being the Master of Elibank, Mr. Wm. Abraham, M.P. ('Mabon,' an ex-miner), and Mr. T. Shillington, of Portadown, an Ulster Protestant Home Ruler. Baronetries are conferred on nine gentlemen, among them being Mr. R. Balfour, M.P., Partick; and Mr. H. H. Raphael, M.P., a wealthy Jewish gentleman connected with London banking. Twenty-five new knightships are created, the recipients including Mr. George Green (of the Prudential Insurance Company), a well known Scottish Liberal; Mr. Joseph Lyons (of Lyons' tea rooms); Mr. H. J. Wood, a popular musical conductor; Mr. J. P. Lynch, and Mr. J. M. Redmond, M.D., of Dublin. Mr. Lynch is a Dublin solicitor. Dr. Redmond is an ex-President of the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland. He is a Catholic. The colonial honors include a baronetcy for Dr. Jameson, the leader of the 'Jameson Raid.'

Lord Willoughby de Eresby by the death of his father, the Earl of Ancaster, and his elevation to the Peerage, will be yet another addition to the considerable number of persons who in political history have been elected to be members of the Houses of Commons in which they have not been destined to sit (says the *Edinburgh Catholic Herald*). Lord Willoughby de Eresby was elected in the recent General Election as Tory member for the Horncastle Division of Lincolnshire, and will accordingly never sit in the new House of Commons. In 1877 the late Sir Bryan O'Loughlen was elected as member for Clare when in Australia, but never sat in the House of Commons, of which he was a member for two years, till his seat became vacant on his acceptance of the position of Attorney-General of Victoria. At the General Election of 1885, Mr. McKane, a professor in the Queen's College, was elected in the Orange interest for one of the divisions of Armagh, and thereby vacated his professorship. He died before the meeting of Parliament. The most curious instance of all is probably the case of Mr. Anderson, now dead, who at a by-election in the autumn of 1905, was elected for the Barkston Ash Division of Yorks in the Radical interest. The Parliament was prorogued and never met, being dissolved in the following December, and at the General Election of 1906 Mr. Anderson lost the seat for which he had never sat and had no opportunity of sitting, for he had not been a member of the House of Commons during a single day when it had been in session. The cases of persons, as in the instances of O'Donovan Rossa, John Mitchel, and Michael Davitt, who have been elected to Houses of Commons for which they were held to be disqualified as 'unpardoned felons' are, of course, fresh in the public memory.

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