

Irish News

GENERAL.

The members of the Irish Party have each decided to contribute £50 of their parliamentary honorarium to the Irish National Fund in aid of Home Rule.

An ancient chalice has been found in a lumber loft at Newbaun, near New Ross. It is stated that a priest lived in this place about 1730, and it is thought that he must have hidden the chalice in a moment of danger. It is still in an excellent state of preservation.

Rev. Father Thomas, O.S.F.C., at the general meeting of the Father Mathew Total Abstinence Association in Dublin, stated that during the past year the Fathers had administered the pledge to 76,584 persons, while 15,000 children enlisted in the Young Irish Crusaders.

Waterford Town Council has now the distinction of having two lady members on the roll of membership. At the recent by-election in the Custom House Ward, Mrs. Lily Poole was returned at the head of the poll with 179 votes, against 129 for Mr. Thomas Dunne and 83 for Mr. Patrick Cahill.

News has reached Carrickmacross of the death of Rose Anne Costello, who had reached the extraordinary age of 118 years. She died at New Stevenson, near Glasgow, and had been a resident of Chapel Hall for close on eighty years. 'Rosie,' as she was familiarly called in the village, was a native of Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, her maiden name being Larkin.

Mr. P. O'Connor, Waterford, who holds the running long-jump record of the world (24ft 11½in), has been admitted a solicitor, and will practise in Waterford. During his athletic career he won upwards of £1000 worth of valuable prizes and 50 championships. He retired from athletics in 1905, after distinguishing himself at the Olympic games in Athens.

Replying to Mr. J. G. Swift MacNeill in the House of Commons, Mr. McKenna said he was aware of the proclamation signed by Lord Londonderry inviting the people of Belfast to prevent a public meeting from being addressed by a Minister of the Crown, but he did not think it necessary to take any action in regard to Lord Londonderry's retention of the offices of Privy Councillor and Lieutenant of the County of Down. When Mr. MacNeill inquired whether 22 Irish members of Parliament had been sent to prison for less offences than Lord Londonderry had committed there were loud Ministerial cheers.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

In the returns of pauperism the effects of the Old-age Pensions Act are discerned (says the *Freeman's Journal*). Compared with those for the corresponding period of 1910, they show a decrease of 2422 in the average number of workhouse inmates on Saturdays during the quarter, and a decrease of 14,622 in the average number on out-door relief. But the best test is supplied by comparison with the averages for the fourth quarter of the ten years, 1901-1910. The number of workhouse inmates shows a decrease of 4971, and the number of persons on outdoor relief shows a decrease of 16,795, the total under both heads being no less than 21.9 per cent. under the average for the fourth quarter of the ten years. The estimated decrease in the population, as compared with the average population for those years, is 0.6 per cent.

SMPATHY WITH LORD PIRRIE.

A letter from the South Belfast Parliamentary Association (Unionist), dated from the Independent Orange Hall, Great Victoria street, Belfast, has been written by Mr. T. H. Sloan, ex-M.P., and Mr. William J. Moore, to Lord Pirrie, the letter conveying the congratulations of the body mentioned to his Lordship on the successful meeting over which he presided at Celtic Park, Belfast, on February 8, and protesting in

the strongest way against the cowardly attack afterwards made upon Lord and Lady Pirrie. The latter adds that resentment at the attack on Lord Pirrie and his wife is widespread in Belfast, and will continue 'until civil and religious liberty, which is so much talked about, prevails.' As this statement and these sentiments (remarks the *Catholic Herald*) emanate from an Orange Association, it cannot hereafter be pretended that Ulster Orangeism is unanimous in its opposition at least to the fair and open public discussion of the Home Rule question, or that it concurs in the cowardly outrages perpetrated by a section of the Orange body on Lord and Lady Pirrie, as well as upon some humbler victims, as a consequence of the Churchill meeting in Belfast.

DEATH OF SIR FRANCIS CRUISE.

Medical science, literature, and art have sustained a great loss through the death of Sir Francis Cruise, which took place on February 26 at his residence in Merrion square, Dublin, at the age of 77. For fully half a century he was a prominent figure in the life of Dublin, and his passing away, although at an advanced age, is widely regretted. He was educated at Belvidere College, from which he passed to Clongowes and thence to Dublin University, where he graduated in arts and medicine. Settling down in his native city, Dr. Cruise worked assiduously, and in the course of a few years became one of the most famous physicians in Dublin. In the midst of a busy professional life he devoted much of his time to literature, of which he was passionately fond. His deep research in connection with the 'Imitation of Christ' earned for him the esteem of many distinguished ecclesiastics and learned laymen. A devoted Catholic, he took an active interest in every movement intended for the welfare of his co-religionists. In 1905 the Holy Father conferred upon Sir Francis the decoration of a Knight of St. Gregory, of which he was prouder than of any other of the many distinctions conferred upon him. The son of Richard Cruise, of Rahood, County Meath, he was the lineal descendant of Sir Maurice Cruise, who settled in Ireland in the twelfth century, receiving large grants of land. The family, whose motto is 'Crux contra Maligna,' suffered much for the Faith. One of the streets at Kempen, near Dusseldorf, is named after the deceased owing to his labors in honor of Thomas a Kempis. Of music Sir Francis had a profound knowledge.

A SLIGHT INCREASE IN POPULATION.

An increase in the population of Ireland is indicated by the quarterly return issued by the Registrar-General. During the quarter ended December 31 last there were registered in the 827 Registrars' districts 23,875 births—a number equal to an annual birth rate of 21.8 in every 1000 of the estimated population—and 17,025 deaths, representing an annual rate of 15.6 per 1000. In the same period (according to the returns obtained by the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Metropolitan Police, who acted as enumerators at the several seaports) 4791 persons emigrated. As the births exceeded the deaths by 6850, there is a gain of 2000. It should be added that the birth rate for the quarter was 0.2 below the average for the corresponding quarter of the ten years 1901-1910, and 0.1 below the rate for the fourth quarter of 1910.

IRISH HORSE EXPORTS.

An activity that has not been equalled for years is observable at the moment in one form of British exports (says the *London Daily Mail*). Continental buyers of the best sort have always had a liking for Irish horses; but this year war and other subsidiary causes have swelled this liking to a passion. The Italians are considerably the most eager of all the purchasers. They are to be seen at most of the larger Irish fairs offering good prices; but they prefer to discover the horses on the farms and buy quietly. Their most eager competitors are the Germans, and the trouble the rival buyers take to escape one another's notice is not a little amusing. One of the dealers who