

Irish News

GENERAL.

The late Mr. Thomas O'Donoghue, of Dingle, Co. Kerry, who died last October, left personal estate valued at £130,357.

Sir Nugent Everard, Bart., was, for the tenth time, elected chairman of the Meath Agricultural Society at the annual meeting.

The death has taken place at Clonmel of the Rev. Thomas Hannigan, Powerstown. The deceased, who had reached the venerable age of 88, was sixty years in the sacred ministry, being for thirty years parish priest of Powerstown.

The report of the auditor of the Local Government Board on the recent audit of the accounts of the Kerry County Council, speaks of the position as satisfactory, and says that the administrative expenditure is kept to the lowest economical limit.

The total sum granted by the Road Board to the Irish County Councils for the improvement of Irish roads is £51,968. Cork is the county in receipt of the largest amount—viz., £9750; Galway is next with £4700, and Antrim third with £4194.

Cardinal Logue, presiding at a meeting held in Drogheda to promote the Gaelic League in County Louth, said the spread of the league would tend to bring the people of Ireland back to their primitive simplicity and primitive devotion to the Church. His Eminence commended the practice pursued in County Donegal, where in many households it was a strict rule that for a certain hour every day nothing but Irish should be spoken.

In the census returns for the City and County of Derry, just issued, it is shown that the population fell from 144,404 in 1901 to 140,625 in 1911. The religious professions of the people were as follow:—Catholics—County, 41,478; city, 22,932. Episcopalians—County, 20,028; city, 7148. Presbyterians—County, 32,236; city, 8700. Methodists—County, 756; city, 1183. There was a majority of Catholics in the city over all other denominations of 5066. The Catholics in the county amount to 41.5 of the population.

THE PARLIAMENTARY FUND.

The third list of subscriptions to the Home Rule fund was published on April 6. The fund then amounted to £7012 12s 8d. Amongst the acknowledgments were the following amounts:—Alderman Cotton, M.P., Dublin (making £100), £50; Surgeon McArdle, Dublin, £50; V. Kilbride, Dublin (making £60 10s), £50; T. S. McCann, K.C. (making £35), £25; A. M. Sullivan, K.C. (making £50), £25; Right Hon. M. F. Cox, M.D. (making 25 guineas), £21; J. R. O'Connell, LL.D., Dublin, £21; John L. Scallan, Dublin, £20; Dr. D. J. Coffey, Dublin (making £25), £15; Sir Joseph O'Carroll (making £10), £5; Joseph A. Glynn, Dublin, £10; T. P. Power, £10 10s; Dr. Geo. Sigerson, Dublin, £10; Jonathan Pim, Dublin, £10; Surgeon A. Blayney, Dublin, £10 10s; L. H. Rosenthal, B.L., Dublin, £10.

AN OLD MAN'S HOARD.

Beneath the kitchen floor of an old man's cottage at Garvagh, County Derry, the police have found a sum of £560 carefully concealed in a dilapidated old paint-box. The discovery followed on the death of the owner, an octogenarian, named Alexander, who recently returned to his native village after amassing a considerable sum of money in Australia. The old man was found dead in bed. He had lived in absolute seclusion, and no one knew of any likely hiding-place where he might have concealed his wealth. In the circumstances the police instituted a search immediately after the funeral, and under the floor of the kitchen they found the man's fortune. The £560 was in deposit receipts, bank notes, and sovereigns.

THE BEST IN EUROPE.

At Somerset County Council meeting at Wells the other day, Lord Strachey moved a motion, which was agreed to, that it was desirable that the facilities given to Irish local authorities for providing cottages in rural districts be extended to English local authorities. He said the housing accommodation of labourers in Ireland had been described as the best in Europe. He thought what was good for Ireland ought to be good enough for England.

SERIOUS FIRE IN MEATH.

Damage to the extent of over £40,000 was caused by a fire which occurred on the night of April 4 at Gibbstown Castle, the palatial residence of Mr. Thomas Gerrard, D.L., in Co. Meath. The cause of the fire is unknown. It was first noticed in the roof of the main building by one of the maids, who gave the alarm. It is thought that the flames—which spread with considerable rapidity—were communicated to the lower part of the building by means of a lift shaft. Willing workers on the spot did their utmost to check the spread of the fire, but their efforts met with little success. The Dublin Fire Brigade had been summoned, and arrived in about 80 minutes, in which time they covered over 36 miles. A plentiful supply of water was, fortunately, at hand, and the brigade worked energetically until they had beaten the flames, but by that time the roof and the top and second floors, with their valuable contents, had been destroyed. The castle was erected in 1870 at a cost of £200,000, and, it is stated, the premises were insured for half a million sterling. The building was the finest of its kind in the County of Meath, and contained 63 bedrooms. It is situated five miles from Navan.

NEW AUXILIARY BISHOP OF TUAM.

The Holy See has appointed the Right Rev. Canon M. Higgins, D.D., P.P., V.F., Cumber, Auxiliary Bishop to his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam. Dr. Higgins, who is a native of Castlebar, was ordained twenty-four years ago. He pursued his early studies in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, from which he went to Maynooth, where he finished a distinguished course. He served on various missions throughout the diocese, and in 1904 he became Doctor of Divinity and subsequently appointed a Canon. He was appointed President of St. Jarlath's College, and under his able supervision the college jumped to the front amongst Diocesan Colleges in Ireland, and after six years' occupation of the office he in 1910 was appointed parish priest of Cumber, in room of the late Father McHugh. Dr. Higgins, in addition to being Auxiliary Bishop to his Grace, becomes pastor of the extensive parish of Castlebar. His selection was made on the submission, in accordance with the rule, of three names to the Holy See. His elevation to the important office has afforded entire satisfaction to the clergy throughout the Tuam diocese and amongst the laity, with whom Dr. Higgins is exceedingly popular.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.

In the course of an address at the forty-eighth annual congress of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation held at Kilkenny, the president (Mr. G. O'Callaghan) said: For the present financial year £2,489,425 will be given from the common purse to education in Scotland, while for a similar purpose £1,734,554 must satisfy all our needs in Ireland, thus showing that the former country is preferentially treated to the extent of about three-quarters of a million of money. If the sums voted for secondary education be taken into account, however, Ireland has to be satisfied to run her primary education system on something like half a million a year less than Scotland. This year there is a ray of comfort and hope, for the estimates for Irish public education show an increase of £78,230, but at the same time, the Scotch estimates have about £150,000 added to them. While the extra grant given to Ireland falls short by about £300,000 of our just share, yet, satisfaction must be expressed that it is given at all and that I am not in the unhappy position of some of my predecessors, who had to record a deceased vote. For