

the first time, too, the amounts voted for certain purposes in Ireland are exactly the same as those given under similar conditions to Scotland, but notwithstanding all that has been done, we are poorer to-day by about £400,000 than Scotland, of almost the same size, and with a slightly larger population, for education. While there is better reason to complain of the financial starvation of primary education, the administration of the system calls as loudly for redress and criticism. A board of twenty men eminent in various walks of life, but still irresponsible, and, to a very great extent, out of touch with the wants, aspirations and ideals of the Irish people, manages and controls what ought to be, and is, the most important public department in this country. This board, at the present time, is invested with the power of spending £1,734,554 of public money, and yet the public has nothing whatever to say to its constitution, nor its conduct. For the expenditure of this amount of money, and for the other duties connected with our educational system, a staff of 119 is employed in the office at Marlborough street, at a cost, for this year, of £28,226, while the board has the services of 82 inspectors, whose salaries total the nice sum of £35,018, and the travelling expenses of these gentlemen reach the enormous amount of £15,260. The Scotch department, which will spend this year £2,489,425, uses on administration only £25,214, and has a staff of 117, while the salaries are £32,805, and the travelling allowances £9530 for 70 inspectors. It can thus be seen that administration and inspection cost £10,955 more in Ireland than in Scotland, and this though secondary education is included in the expenditure for the latter country, and that three-quarters of a million more has to be accounted for. Surely economy is not looked upon as a virtue by the Commissioners of National Education, although of prime necessity where money is urgently required for more important and more useful purposes.

CONVERSION OF PROMINENT UNIONISTS.

Mr. H. W. Massingham, writing in the *Morning Leader* on the Home Rule Bill, says: The Tory remedy—twenty years of resolute government—is exploded. The Tories themselves abandoned it before its course was run, and went back to the old cynical device of sops and blandishments, combined with a practical land policy and an abandonment of the spirit though not the forms of coercion. With what result? Ireland is not a whit less Nationalist than she was, and she is much more of a Nation. Again, the beautiful Irish genius has blossomed out in fresh forms of life, and the stupid calumny of the conqueror that the conquered has ceased to exist as a people, or to deserve freedom, is deprived of the pale shadow of truth that it might be said to possess at the most depressed periods of Irish history. During the last ten years the Irish people have done far more for their regeneration, economic and social, than England or Scotland or Wales has done. But they are not less set upon putting the only possible crown and finish to the work. It is only Orange Ulster that remains destitute of every stamp of nationality—of art, poetry, culture, self-reliance. . . . We faced the two alternatives in South Africa. We nearly lost it. If the country had not then been governed by a simple, downright Scot, with a will of his own, a clear insight into the principles of Liberalism, and a strong personal belief in them, we should have attempted to govern South Africa as we governed Ireland. With what result? Would South Africa have been part of the British Empire to-day? I doubt it. And if it is answered that we have the physical power to keep Ireland down, then the Liberal makes the instinctive reply that the British Empire is not held together by force, and never will be; that force is poison in its constitutional system; and that its application to the most brilliant and intellectually fertile race in the Empire is the deadliest of all poisons. But, indeed, Unionism is dissolving of itself. Look at the men who have left it. Lord Dudley is no longer a Unionist, nor Lord Grey, nor Lord Dunraven, nor Sir Frederick Pollock, nor—last, but not least—Sir Horace Plunkett. How many more—that is to say, of the men who know Ireland or the colonies—will follow these converts to freedom?

People We Hear About

The Duke of Norfolk has set aside ground at Arundel for the provision of tennis courts, croquet grounds, and a bowling green for the use of all classes residing within a three-mile radius.

Dr. McInerney, LL.D., who holds the position of Warden of the Melbourne University, has had a distinguished career. He has been re-elected unopposed for 22 years. He formerly represented Delatite in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. T. Scanlan, M.P., who represents the Seamen's and Firemen's Union in the Titanic disaster inquiry, is one of the best-liked and most trusted members of the Irish Parliamentary Party. He is a solicitor by profession.

The Rev. Father Walshe, O.M.I., formerly a missionary in Ceylon, writes as follows to the *Catholic Times*:—'I have just noticed in your last issue the interesting item of news in which you give the honor of being the oldest missionary priest in Asia to Father Des Godins, who was born in Verdun in 1826, ordained in 1850, and left for the missions in Asia in 1855. Now, I think that honor may be at least shared with one of our own Oblate Fathers of the archdiocese of Colombo, Ceylon. Father Chounavel, O.M.I.—the "Grand Old Missionary of the Island," as he is justly styled out there—was born in Saint-Die, France, in 1825, was ordained in 1852, and left shortly afterwards for his distant mission in a sailing vessel, the voyage round the Cape taking several months. Ever since Father Chounavel landed in Ceylon he has never been out of it for a single day. Latest reports inform us that he is as healthy and as actively engaged in missionary work as when he first arrived in the island in 1852. This is certainly a striking record.'

The late Father Augustine Ginisty, of St. Patrick's (says the *Catholic Press*), was one of a family of fourteen children. Three of his brothers are priests in their native diocese of Rhodéz, in the South of France, one of them being Archpriest Ginisty, rector of St. Affrique, Aveyron, a distinguished and learned man. A sister is a member of the Order of the Sisters of Charity in France. Father Ginisty had been associated with Father Piquet for 33 years, and with the late Father le Rennetel for 31 years. All three came to Sydney in March, 1881. Father Piquet first met Father Ginisty when they were students in the scholasticate of the Society of Mary at Belley, Father Ginisty being ordained to the priesthood in '78, and Father Piquet the following year, both at the head novitiate of the Order in Lyons. In France Father Ginisty did splendid work in the colleges of the Society of Mary at Sellis and at La Seyne, where he was in charge of discipline, carrying out his duties with great tact and success.

Lord Pirrie, K.P., chairman of the great ship-building company of Harland and Wolff, and leader of the Belfast Liberals, will soon celebrate the jubilee of his association with the concern of which he is the head. Fifty years ago, as a lad of fifteen, he entered the Belfast yards, whence so many mighty Atlantic liners have come. Twelve years later he became a partner, and to-day, largely because of his energy and brains, the company is the largest of its kind in the world. Lord Pirrie was born in Canada of Irish parents in 1847. When his father died and he was very young, he went to Belfast. His connection with Harland and Wolff began immediately after he left school, and his advance was extraordinarily rapid. The following story is typical of the man:—A large Liverpool shipowner was one day noticed wearing a worried look. When asked the cause, he said: 'Well, the fact is Pirrie has been over, and has persuaded me to order another ship, but I haven't the least notion what to do with it.' Under the chairmanship of Lord Pirrie, Harland and Wolff have built some of the largest ocean liners in the world, notably the Olympic and the ill-fated Titanic.

For Children's Hacking Cough at night,
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, 1/6, 2/6.