

Irish News

GENERAL.

An interesting feature of the Home Rule Bill is the fact that Ireland will have her own postage stamps, presumably of her own design. This has been confirmed by Mr. Herbert Samuel himself, who informed a press representative that Ireland would in all probability fall into line with the colonies in the matter of separate postage stamps.

In recognition of their conspicuous bravery on the occasion of the wreck of the trawler *Rosebud* at Balbriggan, in October of last year, the trustees of the Carnegie Hero Fund have contributed £15 each to Coastguardsmen Strandford and Murphy, of Balbriggan. The men have also been presented with certificates on vellum.

To vary an old saying, politics make strange bed-fellows. The Catholic Earl of Kenmare was among the speakers at an anti-Home Rule demonstration in Cork, to which, by the way, no one in the fair city of the Lee, offered the slightest opposition. On the other hand, one of the principal speakers at the Home Rule Convention in Dublin was the Rev. Mr. McCutcheon, the Protestant Rector of Kenmare.

About the middle of April Mr. W. J. D. Walker, C.B., of the Congested Districts Board, and Mr. John Drennan, B.L., Registrar of the Estates Commissioners, were examined in Dublin before the Departmental Committee on Agricultural Credit. Mr. Walker described the peasantry as marvellously honest. In Donegal he knew of cases where, when people got work, they paid debts incurred by their fathers and grandfathers.

The Right Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, presiding at a meeting of the Cork City Technical Committee recently, said he could not withhold the expression of the very great pleasure he felt on reading the outspoken testimony, founded on their experience, of Canon Courtenay Moore and Mr. Williams, to the harmonious relations that prevailed among Catholics and Protestants in the South of Ireland, and notably in Cork City and County, and to the heartiness and goodwill with which they worked together for the common good.

ABUSE IS NOT ARGUMENT.

Speaking at Curry Rivel, South Somerset, the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., said that whilst he agreed with the Unionist Party on the Home Rule question, he thought it was rather a pity they did not sometimes take a wider view of it. If the Empire was going to succeed it meant a good deal of conciliation. Therefore he was sorry when he heard people on the Unionist side take up a strong and abusive line with regard to Irishmen and Catholics, who had done as much for the Empire as Englishmen. Those who at present had interests clashing with ours must be reconciled.

GOLDSMITH'S BIRTHPLACE.

The project to erect a suitable monument to Goldsmith in London (writes a correspondent) is being enthusiastically taken up. His anniversary invariably brings a crowd of worshipping admirers to the Temple, where 'poor Noll' was buried. The great Irish poet and dramatist died on April 4, 1774, in his 46th year. His birthplace was for long a subject of keen controversy—many persons having been misled by Johnson's epitaph—but the researches of Monsignor Kelly, of Athlone, and the Right Hon. Dr. M. F. Cox leave no room for doubt as to Elphin, County Roscommon, having an unquestionable claim for that honor. Goldsmith was born on November 10, 1728, at Smith Hill, Elphin, and in his second year was brought to Lissoy ('Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain'), where he learned the three R's from Tom Byrne, the village schoolmaster, and then passed to the Elphin Diocesan School, but stayed with his uncle, John Goldsmith, at Ballyoughter, about a mile distant.

THE NATIONAL FUND.

Twelve months ago (says the *Irish Weekly* of April 30) the National Fund for 1911 stood at £3746 5s 6d. The National Trustees acknowledged £7826 15s 6d this week—a difference of £4080 10s in favor of the country's response so far—to the appeal issued a few months ago by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Mr. John E. Redmond, and Mr. John Fitzgibbon. Those Unionist adepts at misrepresentation who maintain that the Irish people's demand for self-government is not being pressed with as much fervor as in previous years will find no consolation in such figures. They will prefer to ignore them. But the country at large will not ignore the lesson taught by the splendid response to the trustees' appeal; and the amount of nearly £540 contributed this week can be doubled at any time if an all-round rally is made. Belfast's second list of subscriptions brings the total to date from the people of this city alone up to £506; and Belfast can add the full £1000 to the National Exchequer if all the Home Rulers within the city's boundaries perform their duty to their nation's cause. The limitless wealth of the English Tory Party is being 'poured out like water'; and the Irish people must remember it is their own battle they are fighting when they give to the war chest. We are on the eve of victory, but we must redouble, not slacken, our efforts.

TOLERATION IN DUBLIN.

Mr. James Glover, the popular conductor of the Drury Lane orchestra, is a many-sided man (remarks the *Glasgow Observer*). Besides wielding the baton, he has been Mayor of Bexhill, and he is a very practical politician as the sequel will show.

Irritated lately by the persistence of a Unionist statement that Protestants are excluded from remunerative employment under the Corporation of Dublin, Mr. Glover took the straight step of writing to the Lord Mayor of Dublin and asking for facts. He got them. Here are some.

During recent years two Protestant Home Rulers, Sir Thomas Pile and Mr. James Shanks, were elected by the nationalist and Catholic majority of the Dublin Corporation as Lord Mayor and Sheriff of the City.

As to paid officials, Dublin Corporation during the past five years increased the salary of its borough surveyor, Mr. Spencer Harty, who is a Protestant, from £1000 a year to £1500, and when he retired it gave him an allowance of £1000 a year unanimously. Sir Charles Cameron, head of the Public Health Department in Dublin, is a Protestant who has received the freedom of the City from the Corporation which employs him. The chief electrical engineer is a Protestant, Mr. Ruddle, with a salary of £750, and most of the officials of the same department are also Protestants. Mr. Fred Allan, the secretary, has £500 a year. In every other department of the Corporation the same condition holds good. One of the latest appointments made, that of draughtsman, chosen by the Finance Committee, resulted in the election of a Protestant. Merit and ability, the Lord Mayor adds, are what the Corporation of Dublin seek when considering appointments, 'and all our clerkships are filled by competitive examination irrespective of any other consideration.'

DISTINGUISHED GAELIC SCHOLARS.

A special meeting of the Dublin Corporation was held on April 22, the Lord Mayor presiding, to witness the affixing to the roll of honorary burgesses the name of Dr. Kuno Meyer, Professor of Celtic Philology in the University of Berlin; Professor of Celtic in the University of Liverpool; Professor of German in the University of Liverpool; also the name of the Very Rev. Peter Canon O'Leary, P.P., Castlelyons, County Cork, Gaelic orator and writer.

The Lord Mayor said that the Municipal Council some nine months ago unanimously decided to ask Dr. Kuno Meyer and the Very Rev. Peter Canon O'Leary to accept the freedom of the city of Dublin. That day they had assembled for the purpose of witnessing both these distinguished men affixing their names to the roll of honorary freemen, and also to present them with