

had not the support of a member of the New Zealand Parliament.'

POLITICS AND BUSINESS.

When the Home Rule Bill was in committee Mr. Birrell, speaking on an amendment excluding four counties of Ulster from the operations of the measure, said it was an entire delusion to suppose, strong as is the feeling in Ulster, that the shrewd inhabitants of that prosperous province were entirely devoted to no other question but to their religious opinions or their religious differences. They were very strongly involved in the prosperity of Ireland. They certainly were bankers in Ireland, and he could see their branches in all the most important towns in the South and West of Ireland. Although he did not pretend to have any figures at his disposal, he should be very much surprised if it were not the fact that many of the industries and a great deal of the enterprise of the North-East of Ulster was not derived to a considerable extent from the money and savings of the agricultural portion of Ireland. Such a state of things was thoroughly in accordance with the banking figures and statistics of England. It was obvious to anyone acquainted with Ireland that the banking business, which was spread over all parts of the country and the capital of Belfast and its neighborhood was derived to no inconsiderable extent from the savings and the money of the people of the South and West of Ireland. He was not surprised that the Ulster Unionist representatives had held their tongues in this significant matter, as he did not believe that the people of this province were desirous of cutting themselves adrift from Ireland as a whole. Therefore one would like to hear a great deal more than they had heard as to dealing with this problem by suggesting that these four particular counties should be excluded from the operation of this Bill and left as an annexe of England. The amendment had omitted several very important counties which formed part of Ulster, where the division between Catholics and Protestants was very marked. The proposal of the hon. member was a fantastic one. It would create another minority in Ireland. The total population of these four counties, according to the last census, was just over a million. Of this number 723,000 were Protestants and the balance Catholics. He for his own part was more and more persuaded that the distinction between the Catholic form of religion and the Presbyterian and the Protestant Episcopal Church was not of such a character that they should regard it as the only final and binding line of division between the population. He believed that it was quite possible for people to entertain the strongest difference of opinion on religious matters and yet to be closely and intimately in agreement in politics, agriculture, and commerce. They had already had experience of this on various boards in Ireland, and they had found Catholic clergymen and Protestant ministers and the Protestant and Catholic members of these bodies working together with a degree of affection and regard which would almost seem as if they were sorry to have been kept asunder so long. Looking to the future, he was surely entitled to believe that while there might not be Christian unity there could be co-operation between Catholics and Protestants in every form of patriotic, industrial, and commercial intercourse. He felt that Home Rule without the co-operation of Ulster as a whole would be of a truncated description. He advised hon. members to read the speech of Mr. Parnell on the second reading of the first Home Rule Bill, as he knew no other speech which put the case for Home Rule with such logical force and clearness and with such a good businesslike sense of justice. Mr. Parnell's view was that they could not dispense with the co-operation of Protestants any more than they could with that of Catholics. They might be told that it was an impossible dream, that there were two nations and two religions. But in other nations similarly situated there was co-operation and friendship of the closest character. He confessed that nothing had surprised him more during the six or seven years he had been in Ireland than to find how friendly and how well Protestants and Catholics got on together and intermingled.

People We Hear About

The Wexford Board of Guardians, at their annual meeting, elected three out of four lady Guardians on the board to the chair, vice-chair, and deputy vice-chair. The 'chairman' is Lady Maurice Fitzgerald, Mrs. Healy (sister-in-law of Mr. T. M. Healy), fills the vice-chair, and Mrs. Edith Cooper the deputy vice-chair.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Bickerstaffe-Drew, K.H.S., Domestic Prelate of his Holiness, has been promoted to the dignity of Protonotary Apostolic. Mgr. Bickerstaffe was born in 1858, and became a Catholic soon after leaving school, while an undergraduate at Oxford. He was ordained in 1884 and has been in the army as acting chaplain or chaplain for over a quarter of a century. In 1891 he was appointed Private Chamberlain to Leo XIII., and ten years later received from him the Cross *Pro Ecclesiâ et Pontifice*. Pius X. re-appointed him Chamberlain at once, and shortly afterwards raised him to the higher and permanent dignity of a Domestic Prelate. In 1909 Mgr. Bickerstaffe-Drew was made a Knight of the Sovereign Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and in the same year he received from the Sovereign Pontiff the special jubilee medal. For many years Mgr. Bickerstaffe-Drew has been senior Catholic Chaplain to the Southern Command. As 'John Ayscough' he is known to Catholic readers all over the world.

It is interesting to know that every one of the seven candidates for the Presidency of the United States has been admitted to the Bar, and five of them have had successful careers in the law. Two have been judges. No one of them is a business man, and no one, save Mr. Harmon, has had any considerable experience with business affairs, either large or small. No one of them, by virtue of their high talents, have been able at times to earn large incomes; they have all been hard workers. Two or three of them have been relatively poor men all their lives, living frugally and devoting themselves unreservedly to public work. All of the candidates, save Wilson, have had long experience in public office and in dealing with public men and public questions. While most of them can be called able politicians, no one of them belongs to that extreme type known as a machine politician; a boss. There is to the credit of every one of them not a little sound public service. All of the seven, save possibly Harmon, are at the very prime of life for national leadership. These are their ages: Underwood, 50 years old; Roosevelt, 54; Taft, 55; Wilson, 56; La Follette, 57; Clark, 62; and Harmon, 66.

Mr. Shane Leslie, who was married recently to an American bride, Miss Marjory Ide, the daughter of the American Ambassador to Spain, follows a long and well-established practice on the part of Irish as well as British politicians in seeking beyond the shores of Ireland the future partner of his joys and sorrows. Mr. Redmond's first wife was an Australian, as is also the wife of his brother, Mr. William Redmond. Michael Davitt married an American lady, and Mrs. William O'Brien is a Russian. Mrs. 'T. P.' as most people know, was an American. Mr. Dillon and Mr. Healy alone of the Irish 'Cabinet' politicians married Irish wives, Mrs. Healy being the daughter of Mr. T. D. Sullivan and the cousin of her husband. Mrs. Dillon, as may be remembered, was the daughter of Sir James Mathew, a family name famous for ever in Ireland's history on account of the labors of her distinguished relative, the saintly Capuchin, who first stemmed the tide of intemperance in Ireland. Besides seeking a wife in America, it should be remembered that Mr Leslie is himself half American. His mother was a Miss Jerome, of New York, the sister of Lady Randolph Churchill, so that Shane and Winston are first cousins.

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