

greatly-increased number of competitors. There were over double the number of entries received last year and considerably more than the highest received since the festival was inaugurated. The attendance, too, was much larger on this occasion than in past years. In the evening there was an excellent concert and reception of delegates from other Celtic nations. They were welcomed by Dr. Douglas Hyde, who spoke in Irish. Mr. Alastair McLaren, on behalf of the Scottish Gaels, returned thanks in his native language. Rev. Canon O'Connell, Lecturer in Irish, Queen's University, Belfast, delivered the Oireachtas oration, and Mr. Piaras Beaslai recited the Oireachtas Ode, which was composed by himself. It was received with enthusiasm. On the following evening the Gaelic Bardic Society held a session at the Gresham Hotel, the Rev. Father Dineen, M.R.I.A., in the chair. Amongst those who contributed papers or poems were the Rev. C. Brennan, of Tralee, 'Conan Maol,' 'Torna,' and Mr. Piaras Beaslai.

#### ADVOCATING REBELLION.

At a Unionist demonstration on July 26, at Blenheim Park, the seat of the Duke of Marlborough (who presided), Mr. Bonar Law, leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, said the Prime Minister (Mr. Asquith) had touched the lowest depths of humiliation in accepting the welcome of the Corporation of Dublin, which had refused to welcome the King. As the Government was a revolutionary committee, which had fraudulently seized upon despotic power by means of single chamber rule, the Unionists would use whatever means seemed most effective to compel them to face the people they had deceived. 'I warn the Government,' exclaimed Mr. Bonar Law, 'that if an attempt be made to use troops against Ulster the Government will be starting a civil war that will shake the Empire to its foundations.' He promised to support the Protestants of Ulster in any lengths to which they might go in their opposition to Home Rule in Ireland.

In a letter to the chairman of the Liberal organisation at Dundee, Mr. Churchill, referring to Home Rule, dealt at some length with Mr. Bonar Law's threats, 'not because Mr. Law is likely to carry them out or because there will be no remedy if he did.' Mr. Churchill adds: 'Mr. Law declares that there is no length to which Orangemen might not go in resisting, not tyranny or ill-usage, mark you, but Home Rule, which he does not support, arguing that it was not an issue at the last election. This is untrue. Mr. Law's doctrines are fatal to the evolution that has been proceeding for the last two generations towards consolidation and reconciliation, tending to make Home Rule within the Empire and enabling all its people to establish their rights and respect their creeds, their honor and their traditions, and enabling all to stand together with their high comradeship and freedom unbroken in the hour of trial. Mr. Law's doctrines are not only pernicious in regard to external affairs, but he counsels violence. Mutiny may not be unattractive to many millions of the very poor suffering in the toilers' slums at Home, who, harkening thereto, may be lured to their own and public disaster. Mr. Law's doctrines as embodied in his Blenheim speech are Mr. Tillet's at Tower Hill; but Mr. Tillet's men were starving. The talk of civil war emanates from one side alone; but were Home Rule frustrated Mr. Law within 12 months would possibly be sending the Nationalists to servitude or the gallows, and be holding the provinces in the grip of a Coercion Act in the name of the same law and order which he now recklessly tramples. The Government will pursue its path patiently and soberly until its work is done. The transference of power to its successors will not be effected by violent means, and will not occur until Mr. Law divests himself of doctrines disqualifying him for official responsibilities—doctrines whereby every lawless or disruptive movement in any part of the Empire can be justified, and whence every street bully with a brickbat and every crazy fanatic fumbling with a pistol may derive inspiration.'

## People We Hear About

Sir Malachi J. Kelly, who as Chief Crown Solicitor for Ireland got the honor of knighthood, comes from a family of lawyers. His father, grandfather, great-grandfather, father-in-law, and brother were solicitors. His father was Crown Solicitor for Mayo, which post Sir Malachi also held, and during the tenure of which he conducted many Coercion prosecutions. He comes from a very old Kelly family, that of Cargins, in the County Galway, who can trace their descent to a far-off ancestry. His wife is a daughter of Sir Patrick Coll, K.C.B., formerly Crown Solicitor for Ireland.

Sir Thomas Henry Grattan Esmonde, Bart., M.P., bears one of the most ancient and honored names in Ireland, being descended from a family which was established in the tenth century in County Wexford, and one of whose members was Bishop of Ferns in 1340. Sir Thomas is a Private Chamberlain to the Holy Father. The Baronet is a direct descendant and heir of Sir Lawrence Esmonde, who was raised to the peerage in 1622, as Lord Esmonde, Baron of Limerick, County Wexford. Burke's Peerage contains an interesting account of the way in which the title was allowed to lapse.

Mr. R. J. Kelly, B.L., of Dublin, had the honor of being invited by the Lord Mayor and Principality of the Royal City of Prague, the capital of the Kingdom of Bohemia, to attend as their guest the ceremonies connected with the unveiling of the monument to the historian, Francis Palacky, in Prague. The principal street in Prague, now numbering 300,000 inhabitants, is called the Irish street, in memory of the Irish monks. Mr. Kelly is well-known in Bohemia personally and by his writings, and is the proud bearer of the large silver medal of merit of the ancient and Royal City of Prague, and of the certificate of citizenship conferring it, which is the equivalent to the Freedom of the City.

With the recent appointment to the Mastership of the Rolls, remarks the writer of *Et Cetera* in the *Tablet*, all the ex-officio judges of the Court of Appeal in Ireland profess Ireland's national faith:—The Lord Chancellor (Mr. Redmond Barry), the Lord Chief Justice (O'Brien), the Master of the Rolls (Mr. Charles O'Connor), and the Lord Chief Baron (Palles). 'The spectacle,' thinks a writer in the *Daily Telegraph*, 'is calculated to make King William turn in his grave.' In the lower courts, however, the balance is very much the other way; for of the ten judges of 'first instance,' only two—Mr. Justice Kenny and Mr. Justice Fitzgerald—are Catholics. Let Fleet street be reassured that William of Orange may rest in peace.

The Right Hon. Charles A. O'Connor, the new Master of the Rolls in Ireland, has not been a very prominent figure in public life. He has largely devoted himself to his profession, in which he attained by conspicuous ability and industry a foremost place, and now ascends the bench with the hearty affection of all sorts and conditions of men. He was the Auditor of the Trinity College Historical Society in 1877, and it was in the discussion on his inaugural address that Lord Randolph Churchill, to use an expressive phrase, 'found himself.' He had hitherto been an unknown man, representing for some years Woodstock, a nomination borough of the Marlborough family, simply because he was a son of the Duke of the day. He came over to Ireland in 1877 as private secretary to his father, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and came under the influence of Lord Justice FitzGibbon, then Solicitor-General, who saw his enormous ability and set himself to persuading him to apply it. His first appearance in a serious aspect was at the College Historical Society on Mr. O'Connor's auditorial address night. Mr. O'Connor, who was born at Acres, near Roscommon, and called to the Bar in 1888, is the first Connaughtman and the second Catholic to be appointed Master of the Rolls, the other Catholic being Sir Colman O'Loghlen.

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