

system of national self-government. The meeting was composed altogether of Irish Protestant Home Rulers. It was held in the Gresham Hotel, O'Connell street. The proceedings were conducted in private. Our representative was subsequently informed by some gentlemen who had taken part in them that the meeting was very representative, Protestants being present not only from Dublin and the province of Leinster, but from the other provinces of Ireland as well, and that the Irish Protestant Church, the medical profession, the profession of the law, public bodies, the merchants and landlords of the country, deputy-lieutenants, and justices of the peace were represented. Three members of the Executive of the Irish Protestant Home Rule Committee from London were present—Mr. Henry de Montmorency, of the Naval and Military Club, Hon. Treasurer of the Home Rule Committee; Mr. Osborne O'Reilly, Hon. Secretary of the Committee, and Mr. Herbert Z. Deane.

ALLEGED PROSPERITY OF ULSTER.

Great capital is continually being made by the opponents of Home Rule of the alleged fact that Ulster is the most prosperous province of Ireland, and that there will be nothing to tax if she stands out of the Irish Parliament. This fiction was exposed in a reply to a question addressed by Mr. Michael Flavin, the representative of North Kerry, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. When the particulars appeared in the printed official papers, many English members were disposed towards incredulity; and one gentleman personally approached Mr. Lloyd George, only to receive assurance that the information was absolutely correct. Taking the figures given in the reply, it is evident—(1) That the income tax paid per head of the population is in Dublin £1 3s 8d, in Cork 11s 1d, in Belfast 10s 7d, in Limerick 7s 5d, and in Derry 6s 1d. (2) That the gross assessment per head of the population is in Dublin £36 8s 9d, in Cork £17 0s 3d, in Belfast £16 7s 7d, in Limerick £11 7s 1d, and in Derry £9 7s 5d. The full details had already been given in a series of articles in the *Dublin Leader* by Mr. Galloway Rigg, who has conclusively proved that Ulster, with a larger population, is behind Leinster in wealth, and that the large figure it cuts in the Customs is merely due to its being an importing centre for the rest of Ireland, which pays most of the duty.

THE CASTLE ROBBERY.

During the week before Christmas the *Daily News* and the *Daily Telegraph* published remarkable stories regarding the robbery of the Crown Jewels and Insignia from Dublin Castle in July, 1907. Both stories were contradicted by the Chief Secretary for Ireland in his place in the House of Commons. The missing regalia comprised the diamond star of the Grand Master of the Order of St. Patrick, worth nearly £50,000, the diamond badge of the same Order (£16,000), and five collars of Knights Companions of the Order, worth roughly £1000 each. The theft, or rather the 'abstraction,' took place on or about the night of July 5, 1907—a most leisurely business, showing clearly enough that the safe in the strong room had been opened with a key and with no fear of disturbance after the strong room had been similarly entered. There was enough booty in the strong room alone at the command of the most exacting Raffles or Lupin in real life, and yet none of this had been touched. The jewels, and the jewels alone, had been removed. No arrests were ever made, and it is very highly probable that no arrests ever will be made in connection with the 'robbery.'

THE LATE ARCHBISHOP CROKE.

The Secretary of the Central Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association stated at a meeting of that body that the Council had £250 lodged to their credit towards the cost of a suitable memorial to the late Most Rev. Dr. Croke, who was one of the first patrons of the Association. The Munster and Leinster Councils have each promised to contribute £25 towards the fund; and six counties—Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, Wexford, and Kilkenny—have been invited to participate in a tournament with a view to raising more money for the project.

People We Hear About

The late Earl of Ashburnham, who became a Catholic in 1872, was a K.G.C. of the Sovereign Order of Malta and of the Order of Pius. He succeeded his father as fifth Earl in 1878, and is now succeeded by his brother, the Hon. John Ashburnham, who is a non-Catholic.

Popular rejoicings have taken place at Doneraile at the restoration to health of the Very Rev. Canon P. A. Sheehan, D.D., P.P., after a prolonged illness. The whole town was illuminated, and a torchlight procession, headed by a fife and drum band, marched to the Canon's residence, where a selection of music was played.

Commenting on the demonstration of Irish Protestants in support of Home Rule, the *Daily News* says: 'The idea that Protestants in Ireland are unanimously opposed to Home Rule has long been dissipated. The truth is that what is best in Protestant Ireland is in enthusiastic sympathy with Home Rule. Could the Unionist cause in Ireland produce any platform comparable with that of the other day when men of such conspicuous gifts and curious points of view as Mr. G. B. Shaw, Mr. Stephen Gwynn, Sir A. Conan Doyle, Canon Lilley, Canon Courtenay Moore, and the son of the defender of Ladysmith united in protesting against the efforts which are being made in North-East Ulster to involve the political issues with religious conflicts?'

Mr. Justice Real, senior puisne judge of the Queensland Supreme Court, was on a visit recently to Melbourne, with Mrs. Real and their son, Mr. E. Real, who is a member of the Queensland Bar. The visiting judge (says the *Age*), whose commanding figure stands over six feet in height, is a typical example of what a combination of study, energy and industry can achieve. As a young man he was a mechanic at Ipswich (Q.) railway workshops. His spare moments were spent in studying for the Bar, and in 1874 he was admitted. His progress in the law courts was rapid. Before many years passed he was called upon to act as District Court judge, and after filling the position of Crown Prosecutor with distinction for some years, he was elevated to the Supreme Court Bench in 1890—sixteen years after being called to the Bar. Mr. Justice Real, who was an old colleague of Sir Samuel Griffith on the Queensland Bench, is mentioned as likely to be appointed to one of the three vacant positions on the High Court Bench.

The *Irish News*, at the request of an English correspondent, gives the following particulars regarding the ancestors of Sir Conan Doyle, who took a leading part in the recent Protestant Home Rule demonstration in London:—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's grandfather was a famous artist in his day. Eighty years ago his initials, 'H. B.', were as familiar as the names of Lord Melbourne or Sir Robert Peel. He was an original member of the staff of *Punch*, and materially assisted in making that paper's reputation and fortune but he resigned an important and remunerative post rather than lend his pen, or the sanction of his name, to the caricatures of Catholic prelates and the anti-Catholic jeremiads in the pages of *Punch* during the controversy over the abortive Ecclesiastical Tithes Bill. John Doyle's ('H. B.') sons, Richard and Charles, inherited their father's abilities, and were also famous artists in their day. Charles was the father of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 'H. B.' who was born in Dublin in 1797, died in London in 1868. He was a Catholic; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is a Protestant. No member of the family has been directly connected with this country since 'H. B.' left Dublin probably eighty years ago, or more. The novelist, whose conversion to Home Rule has made a deep impression on so many minds, was born in 1859 at Edinburgh.

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