

themselves worthy of their trust. They had proved to the stranger that they were capable of managing their own affairs, and so had slowly, but surely, prepared the way for a native Parliament. His Lordship, in reply to addresses presented by various societies, including the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the United Irish League, said that he was in thorough sympathy with all their efforts in furthering the interests of the country. After many years of ceaseless striving the Irish people seemed to have at length arrived at the goal of their most cherished ambitions; their own Parliament would soon be restored to them.

FATAL FIRE IN LIMERICK.

An alarming fire, involving the loss of three lives, occurred in Limerick early on Sunday morning, March 30. The premises attacked were those of Mr. George Clancy, who had a large drapery warehouse in William street, a central district. On Saturday business is done up to 11 o'clock, and about that hour the premises were closed and the proprietor, Mr. George Clancy, and assistants (sleeping in) retired to their sleeping apartments on the third and uppermost floors. Nothing unusual was noticed until towards 1 o'clock, when smoke and flames were seen issuing from the rear portion of the premises, and when the alarm was given it was found that the fire had made great headway and was virtually in possession of the four-storey building. The Corporation Fire Brigade and the Royal Engineers, with engines, and the police were sent for, and arrived promptly, but a painful sensation was caused when the proprietor, Mr. George Clancy, and his chief assistant, John Higgins, and another were seen in the upper windows appealing for assistance. There was no fire escape available at the moment, but a man named James Ledden availed himself of a ladder and, with the assistance of the police, Sergeant Browne and others, succeeded in rescuing the two. The Corporation Fire Brigade did all they could to confine the fire to the drapery stores, and in this they succeeded, the damage done to the adjoining houses not being serious. The premises were entirely burned out, and after the rescue of Mr. Clancy and his assistant it was ascertained that three persons in the burned establishment had perished: Peter McDonnell (28), an assistant; George Clancy (14), nephew of the proprietor; and Mary Daly, a servant.

THE IRISH NATIONAL TEACHERS.

The Irish national school system was at the outset distrusted by Catholics. With good reason, for there are incontestable proofs that Archbishop Whately and his friends designed to make it an instrument of proselytism. That danger was warded off, and though in many respects the system was sadly defective, it was accepted and worked for years in a harmonious spirit by the teachers, the managers, and the National Board. But for some time past (says the *Catholic Times*) the teachers have been complaining of grievances urgently calling for redress, and the dismissal of Mr. Mansfield led to an agitation which resulted in the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry on National Education. Unfortunately the Commissioners are conducting their proceedings in private. The teachers have been insisting that the enquiry should be held publicly, and as this course was not adopted they decided to refuse to give evidence. A resolution endorsing that attitude was passed unanimously at the annual congress of the National Teachers' Association in Dublin. It is to be regretted that the desire of the teachers for the publication of the evidence day by day has not been satisfied. Friction between the teachers and the National Board must tell against the efficiency of the system, and the Commissioners' report is not likely to remove the friction that exists unless the teachers as well as the board have confidence in their method of carrying out their work.

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People We Hear About

The Hon. John Burke, former Governor of North Dakota, was appointed Treasurer of the United States, by President Wilson, and his nomination was confirmed by the Senate on March 17.

Cardinal Bourne advocates compulsory military training in an article in the *Nineteenth Century*. His Eminence suggests that after the age of twenty-one all young men physically capable of bearing arms, who have not of their own accord gone through a prescribed course of military training, should be compelled by law to make good the deficiency in their education.

The London *Daily Telegraph* speaks of Mgr. Benson as follows: 'Of the accessions to the Church of Rome which have taken place during the last twenty years, none has been more useful to Rome, from a polemic and literary point of view, than that of Mgr. Robert Hugh Benson. Ever since his submission to the Roman See, Mr. Benson has devoted his pen to the service of the Papacy, and most of his novels have been packed with propaganda in an amiable disguise.'

Sir Ivor Herbert, M.P., of Llanarth, who has been appointed to the Lord Lieutenancy of Monmouthshire, has earned the recommendation as a consistent supporter of the Liberal Government throughout his public life. The Herberts of Llanarth were Joneses up to the time of Sir Ivor's grandfather, Sir Arthur Jones; but they are of the same stock as the great Herbert families of Wales, who possess the three Earldoms of Carnarvon, Powis, and Pembroke. Sir Ivor, who at one time commanded the Canadian Militia, has been M.P. for South Monmouthshire for the past seven years.

The London *Tablet*, in recording the retirement of Mr. Redmond Barry from the Lord Chancellorship of Ireland, and the appointment of Mr. Ignatius O'Brien as his successor, points out that Mr. Barry was the third Catholic Lord Chancellor of Ireland since the Union. His predecessors were—Lord O'Hagan and Mr. Naish. It is rather remarkable that every Catholic who has been appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland has been appointed by a Liberal Government. Some people are fain to regard the Conservative Party as the most friendly of British political parties towards Catholics in these countries. But it is from the Liberals the appointments come.

The Most Rev. John Healy has presided since 1903 over the ancient and historic diocese of Tuam—a See which boasts upon its roll the illustrious names of McHale and McEvily. He was born at Ballinacree, County Sligo, November 14, 1841, and went from Summer Hill College to Maynooth, where he displayed brilliantly his great and versatile intellectual powers. He took the highest honors, and became Professor of Classics in 1867. After a period of missionary labor he became Professor of Theology at Maynooth and Prefect of the Dunboyne Establishment. One of the busiest and most useful public men in the country, it would be almost tedious to enumerate the positions he fills. He was a Senator of the Royal University, and has been one of the most zealous laborers in connection with its successor, the National. The Board of Agriculture, the Commission for the Publication of the Brehon Laws, the Royal Society of Antiquarians, and the Commission on University Education have had the benefit of his sterling abilities. He is president of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, to the great success of which he has splendidly contributed both by speech and pen. His Grace is a most eloquent speaker and preacher, and altogether one of the most notable Irishmen of the time.

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