

## Irish News

### GENERAL.

In the archdiocese of Dublin the Peter's Pence collection made for this year amounts to £1554.

*Reynolds's Newspaper* says that a big syndicate is in process of formation with the object of constructing a port at Blacksod Bay, County Mayo, for an express line of steamers between that point and Cape St. Charles, in South Labrador, whence another Trans-Continental railway is to be built, bringing Canada within five days of London.

The annual Convention of the Irish National Foresters was opened in the Town Hall, Cavan, on August 4, after a special Mass celebrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Mr. James Moran, Liverpool, Grand High Chief Ranger, presided. In the course of an interesting address he referred to the great progress made by the society, and said that in 1901 they had some 29,000 members; now they had 50,000.

Lord Ashbourne, speaking at a meeting in Galway in support of the Irish language movement, said that in Galway he heard people who knew Irish talking English to their children. Was not that a shame? He had been asked in the public press whether, now that he was a peer, he would speak Irish in the House of Lords. He answered: The House of Lords was in England, and what good was it for him to talk Irish to Englishmen while the Irish people of Galway spoke English to one another? Let them speak Irish in Galway, and he promised them that he would not be afraid to speak it in the House of Lords.

The movement to utilise Irish coal is spreading. The Callan Guardians are anxious that the coalfields in their Union should be exploited, and they have addressed the Chief Secretary, the Department of Agriculture, and the county members on the subject. The coal is near the surface, the shafts are sunk, but the owners will neither work the mine themselves nor allow others to take it in hand. The local institutions are anxious to use this coal at the low rates it could be sold at so close to the pit's mouth, and there is a large demand for it in the town and the district around.

The County Kilkenny Committee of Agriculture are about to increase their prizes to small holders. The prizes are awarded for neatness and excellence of farm work, and with a view to encourage tillage especially. It was reported at the last meeting that the interest in the competitions is dying out because the prizes are too low. There are three prizes, ranging from £2 10s to 10s. The county is divided into seven prize districts, each consisting of a group of five parishes, and there is one set of prizes for each group. It was pointed out that in Meath, where a valuation basis is used for classification, prizes as high as £15 are offered, and in some of the classes a £30 prize was offered.

### THE BISHOP OF GALWAY'S ADVICE.

Speaking at a large open-air meeting held in Galway, in support of the Irish language movement, the Bishop of Galway, who presided, spoke in Irish. He said when he was young everyone could speak Irish in the district where he was born. Now nobody spoke it there, and Irish had been lost in that little corner of Ireland. Unless they looked to it, the language would be lost in the same way in the districts that were yet Irish-speaking. He was certain that unless Irish was spoken to the young it would be lost. He thought there was no better advice for the people of Galway than this—to speak Irish always among themselves, and not to speak a word of English where the people were able to speak Irish. If they did that there was not the slightest fear of the language dying out.

### MASQUERADING AS IRISHMEN.

It is not alone in New Zealand that criminals masquerade as Irishmen and Catholics. According to

the *Catholic Times* two of the men who received long sentences for the Berkeley Hotel robbery in London recently, Stephen Sharman and William Fell, had records of previous convictions extending over several years and in many of these cases they had given and been convicted under such thoroughly Irish names as Sullivan and O'Brien, though both were Englishmen. There are other instances of criminals thus masquerading as Irishmen. In the terrible case of murder and conspiracy in connection with the New York police scandals of this year, one of the most prominent of the hired assassins was a certain John Sullivan and many of those who read the record of the case thought that he was not only an Irishman but a Catholic. John Sullivan, however, was an immigrant German Jew, whose real name was Jacob Reich. We believe that this assumption of Irish names by professional criminals is not uncommon. To complete the disguise they often say that they are Catholics. Every gaol chaplain finds from time to time prisoners entered on his list as 'Roman Catholics,' who prove to be strangely ignorant of every Catholic doctrine and practice, and a few judicious questions reveal the fact that they first professed to be Catholics on being arrested. Sometimes it is hard to assign a motive for this, but in some cases it is the result of a widespread belief that the Catholic chaplain is likely to be more kindly and helpful than his Anglican colleague; these assumptions of Irish nationality and Catholic religion should be kept in mind in dealing with criminal statistics.

### THE NEW IRISH LAND BILL.

The text of the Irish Land Bill, introduced by Mr. Birrell on July 21, was issued early in August, together with an explanatory memorandum dealing with the financial clauses of the Bill. The financial provisions with respect to new transactions may be stated as follows:—(1) Purchase annuities are to be at the rate of 3½ per cent. instead of 3¼ per cent.; (2) advances are to be made half in cash and half in Guaranteed Three per Cent. Stock at its face value, the market price of which has varied in the last three weeks from 76 to 78½; (3) money required for advances is to be raised on terminable annuities running for sixty-two years at the rate of interest of 3½ per cent.; (4) the bonus is to be calculated in accordance with a scale which is set out; (5) any sums over and above the amount to be provided by purchase annuities are to be charged to the Imperial Exchequer. With regard to labourers' cottages, an additional million is to be made available for advances. The purchase annuities in respect thereof are to be at the rate of 3½ per cent., and 20 per cent. of the purchase annuities is to be charged to the Imperial Exchequer.

### SAD DROWNING FATALITY.

Strandhill, a new seaside resort adjoining the town of Sligo, was on August 2 the scene of a very sad drowning fatality, as a result of which five young ladies lost their lives, being swept out to sea, it is understood, by a very strong current before help could reach them. The names of the victims are—Margaret Frayne, aged 29 years, Ballaghadereen; Lizzie Murphy, aged 27 years, and her sister, Annie Murtagh, aged 23, of Lisacern, Newtownforbes, Co. Longford; Lizzie Forde, Fairymount, Frenchpark, Roscommon, and Lizzie McNulty, aged 32 years, Drumsna, Co. Leitrim. It appears that on Saturday morning the ladies went out for a bathe at Strandhill. Previous to going into the water they met another lady, a Miss O'Reilly, stated to be a cousin to Miss Forde, and asked her to join them, but she declined and proceeded along the strand for some considerable distance. Soon afterwards, on looking back in the direction in which the party had gone, Miss O'Reilly noticed them struggling in the water. They then suddenly disappeared.

### IRISH AMERICAN BISHOP'S ADDRESS.

Sunday, August 3, was a red-letter day in the history of the Catholic parish of Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone. The church was packed by the friends of the late Edward Gunn, of Black Hill, to see and to hear his eldest