



IRISH NEWS

TRADE DEVELOPMENT—CENTENARY OF PARISH—REDEMPTORISTS' JUBILEE—CHURCH PROGRESS
INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY—IRISH PATRIOT PASSES AWAY.

Herr Georg von Dehn has come to Dublin as Consul-General for Germany. He regards the development of a direct trade between Ireland and Germany in the future as a commercial question of the greatest importance. There is already a direct service between Dublin and Hamburg which is largely availed of for trade between the two countries. There is a big market in Germany for Irish cattle and Irish dairy and agricultural products. It looks as if this trade will be developed and that there will be an increase in the imports of German manufactured goods into Ireland. Much business has recently been done with the Catholic German States, notably Bavaria and Saxony.

With special solemnity and due religious impressiveness an important ceremony was observed in the Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Rathmines. The occasion was the commemoration of the centenary of the formation of the parish. The local congregation taking part in the celebration was augmented by numbers of people from other parishes, with the result that the sacred edifice—the repairs to which are in an advanced state—was not equal to accommodating all who sought admission. Spanning the road adjacent to the church streamers bearing appropriate lettering were erected, and the township generally was *en fête* for the event. His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Byrne, Archbishop of Dublin, presided at the religious function, and preached an eloquent sermon after the First Gospel of the High Mass.

At Mount St. Alphonsus, Limerick, the diamond jubilee of two venerable Redemptorists were celebrated—Rev. T. Power and Rev. P. Sampson. The ceremonies consisted of a Missa Cantata, celebrated in the private chapel of the monastery. At the close the jubilarians renewed their vows and received for the occasion a special blessing from the Holy Father. Both Redemptorists, who were professed in Holland in 1863, are natives of Co. Limerick, where Father Power was born in 1841 and Father Sampson in 1843. Father Sampson is a well-known missionary in Ireland, England and Scotland. Father Power was also on the mission in Ireland and England, and was Superior at Clapham and Bishop-Eaton. He has been for some years attached to the Limerick House, and Father Sampson to St. Patrick's, Esker, Athenry.

Within a century great strides have been made by the Catholic Church in Dublin. It was the boast of the Viceroy, Ormonde, in 1679, that not one Catholic "Mass house" remained un-suppressed in the city of Dublin. In 1774 a number of worshippers were secretly gathered in a back room in an obscure street to assist at Mass. The floor gave way owing to the weight of the crowd, with the result that several persons lost their lives. This gives a sufficient idea of the persecution to which Catholics had been subjected. Their churches had been all confiscated or destroyed and they could not publicly attend the celebration of Mass. It was not, in fact, until the latter half of the 19th century that the dawn of toleration began to break in Dublin. Prior to that period only a few new churches had been built. To-day the city is well provided with churches and the Catholic population has increased so much that new parishes have had to be created at regular intervals. Rathmines, a suburb of Dublin, now possesses four fine churches. Just one hundred years ago the first parish in that district was formed. The centenary was celebrated with special solemnity a short time ago. Preaching on the occasion Archbishop Byrne said:

"The history of our country has many a varied tale to tell. It has pages glorious and pages sad. There is one fact which stands out in bold relief before the reader of that story through all its chapters of confusion; one fact which cannot escape the notice even of the most prejudiced

observer—the enduring vitality of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The Church has survived through all the vicissitudes of the nation's fortunes. Wave after wave of persecution dashed upon the Irish Church, and often it seemed impossible that she could withstand the ferocity of the storm. Enemies who had plotted her destruction stood watching and gloating over her imminent ruin and utter wreck, and when they looked again the Irish Church, like Peter's Barque, was riding the storm, battered and torn, but sound and seaworthy."

A decided increase in industrial activity is perceptible in the Irish Free State. Three new tobacco factories are on the point of completion in Dublin. It is computed that, when they are in operation, they will give employment to four thousand persons.

The absorption of so much labor will be a great benefit to the Catholic workers of the city. It will mitigate and almost end the unemployment now prevailing.

Henry Ford is credited with the intention of starting a big factory in the neighborhood of Dublin. About 22 miles from the city and eight miles from Drogheda, at the mouth of the famous river Boyne, there is a spacious area suitable for a factory. It is covered with huts, houses, sheds, and workshops. Originally the place was used for the accommodation of British soldiers during the war. In the course of the Anglo-Irish trouble it was utilised for the housing of Black-and-Tans, and also as an internment camp. Under the Treaty it passed to the Free State Government. It has been evaded of by that Government as an internment camp. A workshop for the repair of military motors was established in the place. The name of the locality is Gormanstown.

It is understood that Mr. Ford is in negotiation with the Free State Government for the acquisition of Gormanstown, his purpose being to extend further his enterprises in Ireland. His main factory is in Cork City, with subsidiary works at Maerroom, a town about 24 miles distant from that city.

Wexford, noted for its manufacture of agricultural implements and machinery, may soon possess an important addition to its existing factories. A project is on foot to start a rubber tire factory in the town. Those associated with this scheme include such well-known Catholics as Senator Sir Thomas J. Grattan-Edmonde, C. M. Byrne, and W. Sears. The promoters have decided to send Mr. C. J. O'Callaghan, an authority on the subject, to America, to confer with the heads of a well-known manufacturing firm, with a view to establish a branch in Ireland.

The Right Hon. L. A. Waldron, one of Dublin's leading Catholic laymen, died last week at his residence, Marino, Ballybrack (says a Home paper for January 5). Mr. Waldron, who represented the St. Stephen's Green Division at Westminster—as an Independent Home Ruler—from 1904 to 1910, was a consistent advocate of self-government, and was prominently connected with many phases of national activity. Though a keen and successful business man, he was a member of the Senate of the National University, a trustee of the National Library, a governor of the National Gallery, and a commissioner of Charitable Donations and Bequests. In pre-war days he was one of the few financial magnates in this country who saw clearly the undesirability of maintaining the Anglo-Irish Union. Since the signing of the Treaty Mr. Waldron had the satisfaction of witnessing the reconciliation of the Dublin business world to legislative changes more drastic than he deemed possible in the days of his political activity. His death removes a distinguished representative of an old school of Irish patriotism, a school which, despite its very moderate demands, did much to keep alive the spirit of the people when grounds for hope seemed non-existent.

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