

Our Irish Letter.

DUBLIN, April 10.

The landlords, who have always been the inveterate enemies of public agitation of any kind, are evidently determined to change their ways...

The project of establishing the Nation as a daily is progressing slowly. It is, however, expected that by the end of next month that the first issue will appear.

There is a good deal of anxiety in the ranks of the followers of Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., leader of the Fenianites, regarding the outcome of the conference to be held at the Mansion House on the 20th inst.

The Financial Relations question is likely to again engage the attention of the House of Commons, as recent reports received in this city go to prove that Mr. T. Healy, M.P., has succeeded in obtaining an expression of opinion from Mr. Balour, which may enable the Irish Party to bring the matter up when the Budget is being considered.

Kilkenny has a collection of antiquities that are highly prized by its public spirited citizens as fragments of local history. For a long time these curios have been stored in a house on Patrick street that was unsuitable as a museum...

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE]

GREEK AND TURK.

General Smolentz, ex Minister of War, is in command of 14,000 Greeks at Reveni, not far from Tyrnovo, northwest of Larissa. At this point Edhem Pasha, closely pressed, was nearly taken prisoner.

The news of this success at Reveni and of the imminent fall of Preveza has changed the dismay caused at Athens by the loss of Mitoua into the wildest rejoicing.

The latest advice was that the Greek troops were advancing last night to reoccupy their positions at Mitoua and at Grizoval, the latter of which, it is alleged, was abandoned owing to a misunderstanding by the general in command, who interpreted as an order to retreat what was really intended as an order to advance.

Captain Tagarde, who was wounded at Grizoval, shot himself in order to avoid falling into the hands of the Turks.

The Greeks report that the Turks lost 7000 killed and wounded at Reveni, but this estimate is probably excessive.

The Greek engineers constructed a bridge at Pachyskalos to enable their troops to cross the river.

It is stated that the Turkish forces attacking Reveni numbered more than 10,000 men.

Religious News Items.

The first issue of Hoffman's Catholic directory under the name of the new proprietors, M. H. Wiltzins & Co., came from the press on April 10. A special copy, beautifully bound in cream tinted sheepskin, embellished with the Papal coat-of-arms in gilt, was forwarded to His Holiness the Pope.

Archbishop Hennessy will deliver the sermon on the occasion of Archbishop Ryan's Silver Jubilee. It has been customary with these two prelates who were long associated in religious work, to interchange this courtesy on the eventful occasions that have marked each other's lives.

The Catholics of South Buffalo, in the vicinity of Cazenovia and Seneca Streets, are to have a new Church. For some time past it has been necessary for a large number of families in this vicinity to walk two miles to attend service in

the nearest Roman Catholic churches. As the Catholic population of the neighborhood grew until it finally reached its present proportions, quite sufficient to establish a church, the matter of having a church was discussed. With this end in view, a meeting was called, and it was decided to lease the old school building in Cazenovia Street and use it temporarily as a church.

A Catholic University is to be erected in Mexico as an outcome of the Catholic Congress, the decision of the prelates on the matter having received the full approval of the Congregation of Studies. The new institution will be empowered to confer degrees in philosophy, theology, and canon law, equivalent to those received in Rome.

The correspondent of the Monitor in Paris says:

The official intimation has reached Paris of the definite choice of the French prelates to be elevated to the Cardinalate at the next Consistory. As was expected, they are Mgr. Couille, Archbishop of Lyons; Mgr. Sourrieu, Archbishop of Rouen; Mgr. Laboure, of Saint Sulpice, the famous Paris Seminary. The selection of the French Cardinal de Curia to reside in Rome has not yet been made, though it still remains probable that Mgr. Captier, the Superior-General of Saint Sulpice, will be appointed.

In 1875 Mgr. Dupanloup chose him to serve as Coadjutor Bishop of Orleans. In two years he succeeded the saintly bishop. From Orleans he was transferred to the Archbishopric of Lyons in 1893. He is a Count of the Holy Roman Empire, and one of the Prelates-Assistant at the Papal Throne, besides being, in virtue of his Archbishopric, Primate of the Gauls. Mgr. Laboure, Primate of Brittany, is much the younger of the three prelates, having been born in 1841. He also is a student of St. Sulpice. He was consecrated Bishop of Mans in 1884, and was promoted to his Archbishopric in 1893. The choice of the Holy See is received with almost entire satisfaction in France. The three "Cardinal-in-petito" are the most distinguished among the French Hierarchy; and, while all have never failed to protest very strongly, on occasion arose, against the oppression of the Church by the Government, it is recognised that they also, by their prompt acquiescence in the Pope's instructions with regard to the recognition of the Republic, secured to a certain extent the favour and good-will of the authorities. And a cordial understanding between the governing powers of the Church and of the State cannot fail to be productive of much good in the present strained condition of affairs. It is true that some protest has been made, even in the Chamber, against the selection of the Archbishop of Lyons, but the Minister interpellated defended the Archbishop very warmly, remarking that though the Government had once thought it necessary to suspend his "traitement" on account of the vehemence of his protests against the acts of the authorities, every one must recognize his claims to respect and honor.

AN ENCOUNTER BETWEEN ELEPHANTS.

A most exciting encounter between three elephants attached to "Lord" George Sanger's travelling circus and menagerie took place at Twickenham recently, says the Times. The great elephant, Edgar, recently purchased by Mr. Sanger at Earl's Court, broke loose at Wimbledon, swam through a large piece of water close by, and was only recaptured after an exciting chase. In order to prevent a repetition of such conduct, Edgar, who is a very fine animal, with massive tusks, the ends of which are guarded with brass balls, was attached to a female elephant, with 15 years' ring experience, named Mary, who has been accustomed to perform in the ring in company with Charlie, the animal who killed his former keeper, at Dalston, on Sunday, the 10th January last, by way of revenge for ill treatment, and Minnie, another female elephant.

Nothing peculiar had been noticed in the behaviour of Charlie on Thursday, nor during the journey to Twickenham on Friday morning, but it was thought advisable to keep him and the new elephant Edgar as far apart as possible. On Sunday morning while the huge tent was being erected at Twickenham, Edgar and Mary were turned into a field, being coupled together by means of a chain fastened to one of Edgar's tusks. Hundreds of men, women and children were watching the animals and the building up of the tent, when suddenly everyone was alarmed by the loud trumpeting of the elephants. It was then found that owing to the carelessness of one of the servants Charlie had found his way into the field, and was making a furious onslaught on Edgar.

Lord George Sanger, Mr. Oliver, Professor Tottenham, the trainer, and a number of the ring men at once rushed to the spot; but so furious had been the attack by Charlie that before they could reach the animals he had forced the chained pair right through a stream which ran at the back of the field, and thence through a stiff hedge.

Some fifty or sixty men were at once requisitioned, and armed with tent poles, whips, &c., began to attempt to separate the infuriated animals, but Charlie, despite the onslaught made upon him, continued to butt at Edgar. The trumpeting of the three elephants alarmed the other nine attached to the circus, and they also commenced to trumpet loudly. Ostriches, horses, ponies, camels, dromedaries, and other inmates of the menagerie then began to utter loud cries, and the din became terrific. Charlie was eventually beaten off, and at once went quietly to his stable,

but it was some time before the other animals quieted down, so greatly were they alarmed.

After the encounter it was found that Edgar was little the worse beyond a few scratches on his back and a mark under the right eye, from which blood was trickling. He is nearly as big an elephant as Charlie, and what the result would have been if he had not been chained to Mary it is impossible to say, although it appears that, but for the coupling, Charlie would not have made the attack.

THE HORSE MARKET.

THE REPORT OF THE AMERICAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

What it Says in Regard to Prices During the Past Thirty Years. Some of the Factors that Have Affected the Trade.

Edward T. Peters, in a recent issue of the New York Sun, contributes an article chiefly dealing with the horse market in the United States, from which we take the following extracts:

The statistics of farm animals annually prepared by the statistician of the Department of Agriculture are based upon returns from several thousand correspondents of the department and may be accepted as representing fairly well the general movement of numbers, prices and values. The report for Jan. 1, 1897, issued a few weeks ago, shows that the extraordinary depression which has existed for some years past in the market for horses and mules still continues, the average prices of these animals being still lower than those reported at the beginning of 1896. But unprecedented as the present depression is, the report does not take a pessimistic view of the future of the horse market; and in this is a subject in which farmers and horse breeders are particularly interested, I have traced the course of prices for more than thirty years in connection with various other circumstances by which prices would be influenced.

THE OFFICIAL FIGURES FOR THE YEARS

preceding the resumption of specie payments represent currency values, but in order to make them comparable with those of later years, I have reduced them to their approximate equivalent in coin, and am thus enabled to present below a table of average prices, on a uniform coin basis, for the early part of each year from 1866 to 1897 inclusive. Down to 1872 the figures are for Feb. 1, but from 1873 on they purport to be for the first day of each year.

AVERAGE PRICES OF HORSES AND MULES IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1866.

Table with columns for Year, Average Price-Horses, and Average Price-Mules. Data ranges from 1866 to 1897.

THE HIGHEST GOLD PRICE

for horses prior to resumption was \$70.80, the average for 1871. The price for mules for the same year was \$91.67, and for these animals that is the highest average for any year in the entire period, but the highest figure for horses was that of 1881 (\$74.64), exceeding the figures for 1871 by \$3.75.

That prices should have been high during the earlier years of the period covered was to have been expected, the loss of horses during the war having been so heavy that the increase in their number for the decade ending in 1870 was only 14.4 per cent., as against 44.1 per cent. in the preceding decade, and nearly 45 per cent. in each of the two decades which followed. The fall in prices which began in 1871, as shown in the figures for Feb. 1, 1872 may have originated in a gradual recovery from the loss in numbers which the war had caused, but the panic of 1873 and the business depression of the next six years had, no doubt, much to do with its extent and continuance.

THE LOWEST AVERAGE

during this earlier period of depression was that for Jan. 1, 1879, the figures for that date being \$52.95 for horses and \$55 for mules. From that time there was a sharp advance until the maximum figures, namely, \$74.64 for horses and \$84.22 for mules, were reached on Jan. 1, 1881. The decline during the first five years after that date was slight and not without interruption. During the four years from Jan. 1, 1884, to Jan. 1, 1893, it was much greater, amounting to 14.8 per cent. for horses and 11.1 per cent. for mules; but the most rapid fall occurred during the two years from Jan. 1, 1893, to Jan. 1, 1895, horses declining by 40.7 per cent. and mules by 32.7 per cent. between those dates. A further decline of \$4.78 per capita on horses and \$5.89 per capita on mules occurred within the two years ending on Jan. 1, 1897, and the figures for the date last named are the lowest on the records. At that time horses were worth, on an average, a little more than two-fifths, and mules

a little less than one-half of what they were worth thirteen years before. Common range horses

ARE SOLD IN MANY LOCALITIES FOR ALMOST ANYTHING

that they will bring. Prices as low as \$2 per head are mentioned by correspondents of the department in some parts of the range country. Many cases are mentioned in which horses have been given away to get rid of them, and some in which hundreds have been shot to save the pasturage for more saleable kinds of stock.

To very considerable extent the fall in the average price of horses must represent a deterioration in their average quality. Western horses have been offered in many of the more Eastern States, especially, and in the South in such numbers and at such prices that it became cheaper to depend upon the supply thus obtained than to raise horses at home, and numerous reports from almost every State represent that breeding has almost or entirely ceased. This means that the stock of horses has been recruited far less than usual from the better breeds kept in the older States and far more than usual from the horses promiscuously bred in the range districts, which could not fail to lower the average quality.

Referring to the fact that in the case of horses prices have fallen more than in the case of cattle or sheep he finds the explanation in the "suitability of the latter for food and the wider market afforded by their easy exportation in the form of meat." It may be worth while to state that the comparative fall in the prices of the chief classes of farm animals since 1884 has been as follows: Horses, 57.8 per cent.; mules, 60.5 per cent.; milk cows, 26.1 per cent.; other cattle, 29.2 per cent.; sheep, 23.3 per cent.; swine, 25 per cent.

THE EFFECT UPON PRICES

produced by the substitution of electricity and other mechanical motors for horse power is unconceivably much exaggerated in many quarters. In 1890 there were 5,783 miles of street railway, of which 4,061 miles were operated by animal power. It has been stated that the present year opened with over 12,000 miles of electric road, and that this was more than 90 per cent. of all the street railroads in the United States. This would reduce the length of road now worked by animals to between 1,000 and 1,500 miles. The larger part of the street railway mileage constructed since 1890 consists of roads that would not have been built but for the availability of cheap and efficient motive power. The number of horses actually displaced on lines where they were formerly in use may be roughly estimated at from 40,000 to 50,000, and it would be a very liberal estimate to suppose that in the absence of rival motors an additional 40,000 or 50,000 horses would by this time have been required for street railway work. If we

SHOULD CREDIT THE BICYCLE

with something like an equal effect in displacing horse power, the total displacement would not exceed 150,000 or at most 200,000 horses. When the fall of prices began the displacement was altogether insignificant, and even in 1893, when the fall was greatly accelerated, the displacement was much smaller than that represented by the above figures. On the other hand the number of horses in the country increased between 1893, the last year of the period of rising prices, and 1895, the year in which the number of horses attained its maximum, from 10,838,110 to 16,206,802, a gain of 5,368,692, or nearly 50 per cent.—a rate of increase about twice as high as that of our population, which increased a fraction less than 25 per cent. during the decade 1880-1890. Is it not obvious, therefore, that increase of supply has been an incomparably larger factor than decrease of demand from the causes above mentioned in bringing about the present extraordinary depression in prices?

DIED.

At Lower Lachine, on the night of Tuesday, April 20th, 1897, Elizabeth Milon, of Dunganon, Tyrone Co., Ireland, beloved wife of Edward Salley, of the Montreal Water Works. Funeral from her late residence, Friday morning, the 23rd inst., at 8 o'clock, to the Church at Cote St. Paul, from thence to the Cote des Neiges Cemetery. Friends will kindly omit flowers.

An English exchange says that the Bradley-Martins, of New York, who are well-known characters since their recent famous fall, have secured a house in London, on the route of the coming Jubilee procession for the day of the celebration. The price was £1200 or about \$5,000. What a trite saying is the old proverb about fools and their money.

Garibaldi's widow, who is still living at Caprea, where the patriot was buried in 1882, has been granted a pension by the Italian Government, the Corte dei Conti at Rome having, after much discussion, fixed the amount at 300 lire (\$60) a year.



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