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Aotes.

Speaking of the proposal that the Pope should arbitrate between England and France in the Newfoundland fisheries question, a Paris journal, La Liberte, remarks: "What a magnificent role it would be for the Pope, in spite of his lost temporal power, to remain arbitrator, mediator, and pacifier of kings and nations. We can understand how this would tempt the ambition of the great Pontiff; how Governments would see in this religious exhibition more guarantees than in any other."

In labour troubles, little and large, says the Weekly Register, Catholic bishops and priests are everywhere following the lead so boldly set by Cardinal Manning. No one was more influential than Canon Scannell in bringing to a peaceful close the ill-timed dockers' strike at Southampton; and now the news comes from Sydney that the Archbishop, Cardinal Moran, has been nominated by the Labour Committee the first of three arbitrators in a dispute now proceeding between capital and labour in New South Wales.

The New York IIcral's London correspondent cabled on Thursday of last week the purport and trend of a leading article in the Times, concerning the formation of the American Committee for the relief of the famine in Ireland. "We can assure this committee of American politicans and journalists," says the Times' writer, "that the famine, with which they hope to angle for the Irish vote, has not yet been heard of here outside the columns of Mr. Parnell's papers, and those are not the sources usually resorted to for facts by persons familiar with their methods;" and it sneeringly adds that the appeal of the American committee "is couched in the usual turgid magniloquence of transatlantic electioneering literature."

The Liberal papers, on the other hand, are loud in their praises of the promptaction of the American committee; while in the current number of the Paternoster Review, the new monthly which has been begun, and is, we believe, to be conducted by the "Old Boys" of the Edghaston Oratory, Dr. McWeeny, an expert on the

subject, proves conclusively that the potato crop in Ireland this year will not be more than half as great as usual. His figures, which cannot be controverted, speak for themselves better than miles of editorials written by men who perhaps have never been in Ireland nor eaten the Irish potato.

Sixty four members of the Irish Parliamentary party assembled in convention in Dublin on Monday, under the chairmanship, in the absence of Mr. Parnell, of Mr. Justin McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy in his speech explained that Mr. Parnell, though absent, was in active co-operation with what they did, and that he had seen and had sanctioned all the resolutions. There was no difference of opinion in the party, Mr. McCarthy explained, and if they met under the pressure of difficulties, they met also under conditions entitled to give them confidence and inspiration. They had faith, he said, in the unconquerable Irish people whom ages of despotic power had not subdued, and they were not likely to be greatly intimidated by the sham Cromwellism of the present day. They had faith in Irishmen abroad and in the great Liberal democracy of England. They had faith too in their leaders, and the prospect ahead was full of growing light.

Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P. made a noteworthy statement respecting any famine relief. He believed that such a movement as a famine fund would not be unattended with danger. In too many cases this generosity simply had the effect of filling the coffers of Irish landlords. If Irishmen did their duty to themselves, and the Parnellites were able, as he believed they would be, to force the government to do a small part of their duty, it would be possible to tide over the coming distress without the humiliation and shame of again appealing to the charity of the world.

The adoption of the resolutions was moved by Mr. McCarthy. The first of these pledges the fullest support of the National league to the tenants who were threatened with ruin in consequence of the course adopted by the government and the landlord syndicates.

The second resolution demands that certain distressed districts in the south and west be given special consideration by the government, and that measures be taken at once for the relief of the inhabitants. The government is called upon to inaugurate a scheme of public improvements for the purpose of giving employment to the people and enable them to support themselves without charitable assistance.

The third resolution condemns the conduct of the government in causing the arrest of O'Brien, Dillon and the other Nationalist leaders arraigned at Tipperary.

The fourth resolution says the Nationalist party is compelled by circumstances to make an appeal to its friends everywhere in behalf of the Irish tenants, and it looks especially to its friends in America to subscribe generously for the defence of a distressed people. This appeal, the resolution says, is made most unwillingly, but the desperate straits in which the Irish tenants are now placed make it absolutely necessary that assistance should be asked throughout the world.