

The CATHOLIC CHRONICLE... DEVOTED TO... FOREIGN NEWS

FRANCE—All the leading French papers comment on the first Encyclical of His Holiness Pius X. Even some of the Socialists and Freethinkers have shown a certain amount of respect for the new Pontiff. It is rather to be regretted that in an important paper, generally moderate and liberal in tone, the Journal des Debats, a writer should try to criticize the Encyclical "E Supremi apostolatus cathedra" on the ground that it is devoid of any political significance and is purely spiritual and mystic.

There are many rumors relative to dissensions in the Combes Cabinet. M. Combes has again been unobscuring himself to a provincial newspaper, and he stated that he is only being supported by some of the "bloc" as a "hanging man is kept up by the rope." It is believed that he wants to throw over the Minister of War, General Andre, and also M. Chaumie, who is found to be too mild and has been praised by the Clericals.

IRELAND

Speaking at the conference of the Catholic Irish Society of Ireland His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam said: The points of contact for union or repulsion of our Irish race with the course of Continental thought are bound to multiply. How timely for us now, how incumbent on us to do our part in establishing and forwarding a Catholic literature in Ireland, and that not only for the simple and childlike but also for the more educated and matured—those who in the intervals of the strife and travail of life will hunger for an enlightening and sympathetic literature—such a literature as will afford them explicitly that which they fervently but with anxious desire still hold implicitly—an anxious desire born of that fear of loss which "thrills into a finer tenderness. Yet for these we have been able to bring out only three books: "Marias Corona," by Rev. Dr. Sheehan; "The Art of Life," a charming book by Father Kelly, of South Africa; and "The City of Peace by Those Who Have Entered It," a most interesting series of papers by certain converts to Catholicity, unfolding the mental processes by which they were finally led into the Church. And these were we only able to publish under very special circumstances which secured us against the danger of incurring any loss by them. The fact is, without any capital but the subscriptions and donations received from the members of the Society. It was considered that these would be sufficient for the work of the Society, and, if they were, it would be the most advisable way of carrying it on. We believed, and we still believe, that as the Society becomes better known, the number of its members will largely increase. In a considerable number we take some of the responsibility of that to ourselves. We have worked quietly, almost silently. This is, indeed, the first occasion on which we have come before the Catholic public and presented them with a statement of our work and our position. We must have access to a roll of our members. Now what number of lay members ought we to have? Let us make a calculation. There are over 1,000 Catholic parishes in Ireland. What number on the average ought we to expect from each parish? In the rich parishes of Dublin, like that in which we are now assembled, we might expect them by the hundreds. In the great Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Kilkenny, Drogheda, etc., we should look for them in large numbers too. No doubt in a great number of rural parishes there could be only a very few, and in many none at all. But taking one with another, shall we say five for each parish—perhaps that would give us 5,000 lay members. With that number we could put life and vigor into the work. But what is the actual number that we have at present? Besides the 25 ladies and gentlemen who paid us at once a bulk sum of £5, and are therefore life members, the number of the ladies, ladies and gentlemen, who paid us an annual subscription for 1902, the last completed year, was 115.

Writing in The Packet Father Dinneen gives an account of the death of O'Connell which is singularly pathetic. "Our old, revered chieftain worked for a year as no man ever worked before, writing, delivering addresses, to relieve the people whom death from starvation was staring in the face. But his labor was vain, and his speech was vain. It was not the work—though he worked with amazing energy—it was not the work that crushed his heart within him. A cloud of desolation overwhelmed him. No sound of joy visited his ears, but the wail of the famine-stricken and the melancholy moan of those whose strength was ebbing away. From noon till night his eyes rested only

Mr. John Redmond on Ireland's Prospects

The most noteworthy recent indication of the progress of Ireland, politically and socially was given by Mr. John Redmond in a speech at Tuisk, Co. Roscommon, Oct. 11th. Mr. Redmond said: "I am here in the centre of a district where there are 30,000 or 40,000 acres of the best land in Ireland practically without any habitation. I believe that in the richest of the land there are only about eight human habitations to the square mile, and as the land increases in value the habitations increase until at the edge of the 30,000 or 40,000 acres in the bog and on the mountains, where the land is valueless, the people are huddled together under conditions which destroy the possibility of decent living and of comfort or happiness of any kind (cheers). In the greater part of Ireland the ownership of the land is in the hands of a few persons, and the national progress and prosperity—the ownership of the land by the people who till it is essential for the development of the industry of agriculture and for the well-being and the happiness and the comfort of the people; but in Connaught it is not a question of well-being or of comfort; it is a question of life or of death (cheers). The success or failure of the Land Act will depend absolutely upon its success or failure in Connaught, and when I see the great bodies of well-to-do tenants of some of the richest land in Ireland buying their farms in the Province of Leinster, I am glad of it, of course, and if they choose to pay what most people consider an extravagant price, well, I suppose, they know their own business, and I am sorry to say that I am here to-day in that no number of sales of that kind throughout Ireland can settle the Irish Land Question (cheers). It was not the condition of such tenants that made the land war in the past, and it was not the sacrifices and sufferings of such tenants that made former Land Acts possible, and made the passing of this Land Bill necessary (cheers). I say that if all the estates of that kind in Ulster and Leinster were sold to-morrow the Land question would remain, and the land war would go on as long as the condition of Connaught remained unchanged (cheers). The facts of the situation in Connaught are simple, in the extreme. There is in this province a very sufficient land to support in comfort and decency the whole population of Connaught, but this land is, as it is in this district, congregated in the hands of a small ring of graziers (groans), while the people are huddled together in the bogs and mountains in squalor, misery and chronic famine (shame). The problem of Ireland is in this (cheers). The work of Ireland is to give the tenants ownership of the land they till; but in a large portion of Connaught if you gave their present holdings to the people for nothing they still would be little better off, and could not live on them (cheers). The problem, therefore, in Connaught is the breaking up of these grass ranches, the enlargement of the holding, the redistribution of the land, and the giving of the land to the people (cheers). Now, I ask myself, will the new Land Act accomplish this? If the new Land Act does not accomplish this, then whatever it does elsewhere in Ireland it fails in its main object to settle the Irish Land Question and end the land war (cheers). I proposed in the House of Commons a number of amendments to the Congested Districts Bill, and I am sorry to say that in most cases we failed to carry out our amendments on this point, but at the same time it is absurd and untrue to say that the new Land Act does not make great improvements in the possibility and prospects of a settlement in Connaught (hear, hear). The Act as it stands most undoubtedly enlarges the powers and increases the funds of the Congested Districts Board to such an extent that it is now under certain conditions possible for them, where it was not possible before, to buy up all the land necessary for the transaction of redistributing the population in such a way that they will have enough land to live on (cheers). Now we demanded compulsory purchase of the Board, and the Congested Districts Board should have the power to take all the grazing land for the purpose of redivision. We failed in carrying that, but such are the additional advantages held out to the landlords by the Act in the congested districts and on congested estates over and above the advantages extended to landlords elsewhere in Ireland that Mr. Wyndham is of opinion that those compulsory powers will not be necessary. Well, now, I don't quite agree with him in that view, and I must say that candidly my opinion is that

THE APPOINTMENT OF SIR ANTONY MACDONNELL

as a member of the Congested Districts Board. But we were given clearly to understand when this matter was discussed in the House of Commons that the way to be appointed an ex-officio member, and not as an additional member of the Board, and that the vacancy created by the disappearance of Mr. Wrench would be filled by an additional member (cheers). Both in public and in private I urged upon the Government that the vacancy should be filled by the appointment of some man who could be held out as a representative of the people, and I moved in the House of Commons an amendment giving the County Councils in this province and in the congested districts in Munster the right of representation on the Board (cheers). Well, that amendment was defeated, but the representations that we made both in public and in private as to the filling up of Mr. Wrench's place by some man representative of the people seemed to all of us to have been most favorably received and considered. It now appears that that cannot be done, because Sir Antony MacDonnell, instead of being appointed an additional member of the Board, has been put into the vacancy created by Mr. Wrench's retirement, and we are told there is no vacancy at all upon the Board. I have some reason to complain of this matter, but instead of complaining I have a way out of the difficulty (cheers). There are upon the Congested Districts Board some members who do not take a very active part in its work, and who, I am perfectly certain, would be willing to retire to-morrow to give place to stronger men if the suggestion were made to them, and I would urge upon the Government to specify in this way at least one vacancy upon this Board, and to fill it up in the way I have suggested by some man who can be regarded directly as representative of the people (cheers). Now, let me say in my judgment upon this congested districts question Mr. Wyndham is thoroughly in earnest, and I say the same of Sir Antony MacDonnell; but I do not know how long they will be members of the Congested Districts Board, and as everything depends, for the next year at least, on the administration of the Board, I would most strongly urge upon Mr. Wyndham the necessity of what I have suggested to-day (cheers). Now, with all our hopes of the settlement of the Land Question, and in the midst of this magnificent spirit of conciliation between the people all over Ireland, it is a little heart-breaking to come to the County of Roscommon and find

AN EVICTION CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

(groans) at this moment. If it were not so cruel and so heartrending it would seem almost ludicrous that an eviction campaign should be set upon foot at the moment when the spirit of conciliation and forbearance and compromise is abroad. It is a shame and a scandal to-day and to-morrow that the general body of the landlords are not responsible. Let me say this, however, to them—they were held responsible in the past and let them never forget it, and they were made to suffer in the past for the sins of a comparatively small number of their class, and I would address a warning to the Irish landlords as a body to-day, and to the British Government, and I would urge them between them to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent the unreasonable action of a few landlords breaking the blessed peace that prevails at this moment, and ruining the infinite possibilities that are opening up before Ireland (cheers). On the general prospects of the Irish cause we have grounds for confidence (cheers). Retribution and confusion have overtaken both the great English parties who have been wont in the past to sneer at our weakness (cheers). Take the Liberal Party first. From the moment that Lord Rosebery, in the name of the Liberal Party, went back to Gladstone's policy for Ireland the Party has gone steadily on to wreck and ruin (cheers), and it must be to all of us and to all our friends in Ireland, and to all who honor the memory of Gladstone, a great satisfaction to find the statement in the life of Gladstone, published by Fr. John Morley the other day, that Lord Rosebery was not appointed Prime Minister when Gladstone retired, but that Gladstone was never consulted, and that had he been consulted he would have recommended for the position, not Lord Rosebery, but Lord Spencer (cheers), a man who loved himself to be one of the most straightforward and staunch friends of Ireland (renewed cheers). The Liberal Party have been overtaken by

UNTIL COMPULSORY POWERS ARE GIVEN

to the Board that it will be found impossible to have a real settlement of the question in the Province of Connaught (cheers). Now, I don't know what the experience of the next few months may be, but I will watch with interest to see what is done in this district. This district will be a type of other parts of Connaught. Will the landlords in this district sell these grazing ranches at a fair price, at an extravagant price even, for Congested Districts Board? I can offer no opinion, but I do say to you that if they refuse to sell it will be perfectly easy in the next session of Parliament—whatever party is in power—to obtain compulsory purchase within the Province of Connaught (cheers). Remember this. In 1895 the Congested Districts Board then compulsively demanded compulsory power was not given to us last session, only because Mr. Wyndham declared that the inducement was putting into the Bill would make every landlord sell, and if he finds, if we find, if the English parties find, if Parliament, which passed this Land Act to settle the

question, finds that Connaught and the Congested Districts Board cannot be settled without compulsory purchase there will not be the slightest difficulty in obtaining additional powers (cheers). The success of the working of the present Act in the Province of Connaught will, of course depend almost altogether on the administration by the Congested Districts Board, and that leads me to consider the question whether the constitution of the Board at present is carry this weight upon its shoulders sufficiently strong to enable it to do the settlement of this additional question. My belief is that it is not. I will make no attack upon the Congested Districts Board, because I know it has done good work, and has the best intentions, and I know we have on the Congested Districts Board men like the Bishop of Raphoe (cheers) and the Rev. Father O'Hara (cheers), and some other other gentlemen who are sincerely anxious for the settlement of this question, but the proceedings of the Board have been tentative, partial, and timid, and they have been so slow that at the rate they went at in the past a century would not see the settlement of the question in Connaught (hear, hear). The first essential, therefore, in my opinion is to strengthen the personnel of the Board (cheers). Now, I welcome most cordially

RAISING ONCE MORE THE BANNER OF HOME RULE

(cheers). Let it never be forgotten by English statesmen that no reform of the land question, no reform of the education question, or reform of the taxation question, or of any other grievance in Ireland, can weaken our demand for self-government (cheers). One the contrary, I hold most strongly that the more prosperous and independent the farmers and laborers of Ireland become, the better the educational facilities at the disposal of the youth of Ireland, the more justice we obtain in the question of the financial relations, the more fit will our people and our nation become for the demand for Home Rule (cheers). The time is rapidly approaching for self-government, and the more determined to obtain it Rule will be made by an absolutely united Irish nation. When the land question is settled the landlords and all those classes who depend upon the landlord will have no personal interest in opposing Home Rule. On the contrary, it will become the interest of every class in Ireland to demand it (hear, hear). Every day is proof to the English people that their fears of 1886 and their fears of 1893 were all false. The land war is coming to an end; the demon of sectarianism is being driven; the work of the County Councils all through Ireland is proving that the Irish people are fit for the arts of self-government, and for my part, I am firmly convinced that if we conduct a great movement for Home Rule with firmness, with moderation, with tolerance, and sober good sense, and, above all, with unity (cheers), we will, in a comparatively short time, see an Irish Parliament once more sitting in Dublin, an Irish Parliament conceded to this country with the consent of all English parties, and welcomed here with enthusiasm by all classes and creeds of Irishmen (loud cheers).

Temperance in Ireland

Lecturing in Dublin in connection with the celebration of Father Mathew's anniversary, Very Rev. Dr. Daly, spoke of the temperance movement of to-day. He said: "In the living present I take my stand, and boldly put the query, 'How fares the cause of Father Mathew?' Oh, that I had on this platform here to-night Marconi's wireless telegraph! I'd face it north, south, east and west, and put the query—'How fares the cause of Father Mathew?' Turning to the north I'd seek first, as in duty bound, Armagh's primal city, and ask that earnest worker, Father Sheerin, 'How fares the cause?' I listen to his reply, 'The harvest is great, the workers many; His Eminence has blessed the work.' I seek Dunganon, and the worthy Dean of Armagh, and put again the query: 'Dean Byrne's answer comes back: 'We have a great Sodality of 500 practical total abstainers in the Church; we have a splendid temperance hall.' Again I venture to reply, 'God bless the work.' I go further north, and this time I approach with reverence and profound respect the Venerable Lord Bishop of Derry, and this is what I hear—'We have put down in this diocese the practice of drinking at wakes and funerals. Nearly all our young priests, and many of the seniors, are total abstainers' (applause). Every one in this hall will join with me in saying—'God bless the Bishop and his work' (applause). I turn towards Belfast, and from many temperance halls Marconigrams come back telling of splendid temperance work. Similar messages we get from Dromore and Kilmore; from Monaghan; and, last of all, I hear the vigorous young voice of the patriotic, total abstinence Bishop of Raphoe (applause). The north is sound in the cause of temperance. Before I leave, I ring up Sir Algernon Cooze, President of the Church of Ireland Total Abstinence Society, and note with joy that Orange and Green bedeck the Temperance Banner (applause). I turn to the Sunny South. I seek the Church of Father Mathew, I repeat my query; the well-known voice of Father Thomas is borne back—'We have 700 members; we have weekly services in Church; we have a spacious hall, and a magnificent band' (applause). I flash the instrument on to St. Finbar's West. A glorious

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ism the programme and the policy of the Gaelic League as an undoubted aid to temperance (applause). Argue as you may, there is a close affinity between the work of the Gaelic League and that of temperance. The Gaelic League has breathed a new spirit into the lives of the people (applause). By practical experience I know that where you have a number of young people who throw themselves, heart and soul, into the revival movement you have, by the very fact, a group of enthusiasts who, for their own and their country's good, will have no hesitation in becoming equally enthusiastic total abstainers; and, on the other hand, if you attack the temperance problem first, and succeed in swelling the ranks of your total abstainers, then I sat there is no difficulty whatever in inducing these to become zealous workers in the cause of an Irish Ireland (applause). Furthermore, I may be permitted to add that I conceive it to be the duty of those who induce their friends to give up the baneful stimulant of a strong drink to provide another, and that other the magnificent intellectual stimulant which the programme and the policy of the Gaelic League so abundantly provide (applause). The Catholic religion is the only religion that can keep its identity without losing its life, and that can keep its life without losing its identity.