

ANOTHER CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN IRELAND

THE CLOSING YEARS of this century has witnessed a revival, so to speak, of national sentiment which has not been surpassed at any period in the history of the "Green Isle." It is far excellence an epoch of conventions, of unity amongst her sons and daughters. At a meeting of the executive of United Irish League held in Dublin shortly after the elections, to which brief reference has already been made in these columns it was decided to hold another monster convention on December 4.

The gathering was a representative one as may be seen from the following list of those in attendance: Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., chairman of the Irish Parliamentary party, presided, and among those present were William O'Brien, M.P., West Mayo Executive; John Dillon, M.P.; Rev. T. M. O'Callaghan, C.C., North Cork Executive; Rev. J. C. Cannon, Adm., East Donegal Executive; Thomas Higgins, North Galway Executive; John O'Dowd, M.P., South Sligo Executive; Denis Johnson, North Leitrim; E. Haviland Burke, M.P., honorable secretary; Connaught Directory; David Sheehy; John O'Donnell, M.P., Secretary; Patrick O'Boyle (North Meath); John McInerney, J.P., East Clare; John Cullinane, M.P., South Tipperary; J. G. Swift MacNeill, M.P., Alderman O'Mara, Limerick City; Dr. Dennehy, West Waterford Executive; Thomas Harrington, South Kilkenny Executive; Dr. Mulcahy, North Leitrim; Joseph Devlin, Belfast Executive; Thomas Woods, East Cavan Executive; William Abraham, M.P., Alderman Farrell, Harbor Division, city; Michael Delaney, South Mayo; John Devitt, East Mayo; J. F. X. O'Brien, M.P.; Patrick White, M.P.; Alfred Webb and Andrew J. Kettle, Treasurers U. I. L.

DATE FIXED.—After a brief address by the chairman the following resolution was proposed by Rev. J. C. Cannon, Adm. (East Donegal), and seconded by Mr. John Harrington (South Kilkenny): "That in obedience to the direction contained in Clause VII. of the Constitution of the United Irish League, we hereby respectfully summon a national convention to assemble at the Round Room, Rotunda, Dublin, on Tuesday, 4th December, to make provision for the future government and maintenance of the United Irish League and of the United Irish Parliamentary Party; and that the Standing Committee be requested to hear the results and to arrange for summoning and holding the said national convention, which shall be composed in the same manner as the national convention of 19th June last, and shall consist of: (1) Prelates and clergymen of all denominations. (2) All Irish Nationalist members of Parliament and ex-members of Parliament. (3) All members of the Directory of the United Irish League, and the chairman, treasurer and secretary of all Divisional Executives of the League. (4) Three delegates from each branch of the United Irish League, duly affiliated, to be appointed on or before 3rd December next. Representation of Cork City Branch to be the same as that accorded at the last convention to Cork Unity Committee. (5) Six delegates from each County Council. (6) Eight delegates from each County Borough. (7) Other towns electing Mayors—six delegates each. (8) Rural District Councillors—two elected delegates each. (9) Urban District Councils—two elected delegates each. (10) Town Commissioners (other than Urban Councils)—two delegates each. (11) All Boards of Guardians not identical with Rural District Councils—two delegates each. (Special arrangement as to Dublin to be maintained.) (12) Three delegates from each branch of the Land and Labor Association. (13) Three delegates from each Trade and Labor Council in any city or town. (14) Three delegates from each branch of the United Irish League in Great Britain. (15) Three delegates each: All National Registration Associations, Householders Leagues, National Literary Clubs; branches of Irish National Foresters, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Gaelic Athletic Association, Young Ireland, or other National, Trade or Benevolent Association desiring representation." Application for representation by other bodies will be received up to and including Nov. 15.

GENERAL ELECTION FUND.—Proposed by Rev. T. M. O'Callaghan, C.C. (North Cork), seconded by Mr. Thomas Higgins (North Galway), and unanimously adopted: "That we express our earnest thanks to the country for the generous response they have made to the appeal for the general election fund, notwithstanding the numerous discouragements and misrepresentations by which it was sought to bring about the failure of the appeal of the national trustees; and thereby to convey our grateful acknowledgments in a special manner to the guarantors, whose prompt and generous advance at a critical moment enabled the country to make adequate provision for a sudden dissolution of Parliament, and thereby minimized the number of contested elections; that a sufficient sum has now been subscribed to cover the expenses of the general election, the amounts advanced by the guarantors be forthwith repaid; and that, subject to the completion of any collections already arranged for, the

General Election Fund be closed on Nov. 11 proximo, and that the question of the disposal of any balance then remaining on hand be remitted to the national convention."

FACTIONISM.—Mr. Joseph Devlin (West Belfast) proposed and Mr. John Dillon, M.P., seconded the following resolution, which was unanimously passed: "That at this, the first meeting of the directory since the general election, we hasten to express our congratulations to the country upon the almost universally satisfactory result of the struggle between the United Irish League and its native and Saxon antagonists; that we hail with special satisfaction the complete fusion of the masses of the Nationalists of Ireland, Parnellite and non-Parnellite, under the banner of the National Convention and of the United Irish League, thereby happily marking the final disappearance of the only cause of quarrel which kept the honest Nationalists of the country divided; that we appeal to any further attempts to divide or nullify the will of the country, now unmistakably declared; and that we look with confidence to the United Irish Parliamentary party, under the guidance and encouragement of the National Convention, to enforce the imperative mandate of the country by stamping out mutiny from its ranks, completing the organization of the country and entering upon an active and uncompromising campaign in Parliament and in the country to force the Irish question upon the immediate attention of English statesmen."

THE ORGANIZATION.—Proposed by the chairman and seconded by Alderman Farrell (Harbor Division) and passed by acclamation: "That, inasmuch as the experience of the late general election has once more impressed upon the public mind the advantages of popular organization, and inasmuch as the efficiency of the movement in Parliament and in the country will depend upon the establishment and maintenance in each constituency of a divisional executive in the fullest manner representative of the National and Democratic spirit of the country, we respectfully appeal to the newly elected members of Parliament to take active and immediate steps for completing the organization of their various constituencies; and we request the standing committee to inquire their efforts specially to those portions of the country where a sufficient number of branches have not yet been formed to enable the divisional executive to be duly established, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the secretary to each Nationalist member of Parliament."

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.—Mr. William O'Brien, M.P. (West Mayo Executive), proposed, Mr. John Harrington (South Kilkenny Executive) seconded and it was unanimously passed: "That, in view of the general failure of the harvest and the complete breakdown of the Land Commission method of fair rent fixtures, and the ever-increasing difficulties of the farmers in extracting a double income from the soil, the branches ought to arrange for a combined demand by the tenantry on each estate for a substantial abatement on the November gale, and hold public meetings to consider the replies so that the National Convention will be in a position to hear the result and to take such measures as may be deemed advisable for forcing the question of compulsory purchase to the front."

Proposed by Rev. T. M. O'Callaghan, C.C. (North Cork), seconded by Mr. Michael Delaney (South Mayo), and passed unanimously: "That the Directory request the standing committee, with a view of persistent exposure in Parliament, to amend the various cases of Castle coercion, police tyranny and landlord oppression constantly occurring throughout the country, such as the Kinsale and Newmarket prosecutions, the contempt of court proceedings in the case of Widow Brennan, Widow Sampson, John Walsh and others who are detained in prison without trial under circumstances of the utmost barbarity. The expression of public meetings, the exaction of extra police taxes and monstrous subsidies to policemen concerning trifling injuries in discharge of their duty, the utterly unconstitutional and vindictive treatment of Mr. Peter Regan, the gross cases of jury packing carried out in Sligo and Cork city and all other cases of tyranny calling for public exposure."

The following resolution was received from the Portsmouth branch of the United Irish League and unanimously adopted: "That this branch hereby records its heartfelt gratitude to Messrs. John Redmond, William O'Brien, John Dillon and Michael Davitt on the glorious result of their efforts in the cause of unity and halls with satisfaction the determination of our countrymen to crush factionism in all its forms, and rejoices in the return of a United and pledged party." Other resolutions were passed and reports read showing the splendid condition of the national organization all over Ireland and many subscriptions handed in.

COAL FAMINE NOW.—Something like a note of alarm in regard to the exhaustion of Great Britain's coal supply, is struck this week in the official report of Mr. Neve Foster, British inspector of mines, says an English correspondent to an American newspaper, which shows that the total coal output for 1899 was 220,000,000 tons, an increase of 9 per cent. compared with 1898. Mr. Fos-

ter says that the question of exhaustion is rapidly assuming urgency, and adds: "Whether the supply last several centuries, or whether, as many competent authorities believe, the serious famine will begin to be felt within the lives of the present generation, economy in the use of coal is of the utmost importance, and will repay even a large State expenditure in an investigation. A saving of ten per cent. in consumption means an annual saving of nearly one and two-thirds millions tons, worth over \$3,000,000."

The report also emphasizes the enormous exportations of coal, amounting last year to 41,000,000 tons, exceeding that is, the whole output of any country in the world except the United States and Germany. The increased export is almost entirely to foreign countries. Russia bought 1,500,000 tons, and France, 1,000,000 more.

Mr. Foster does not urge prohibition or taxation of coal exports, but his report will increase the agitation with those ends in view. There is a ring of materialism about such reports which will soon die away.

SCIENTISTS AND THEIR WORK

In a recent report on the big trees of California published by the Department of Agriculture there is an interesting discussion of the probable age of these giants of the forest. The conclusion is reached that the thousands of years, and in one instance an age of 5,000 years is assigned to a tree. Prof. Charles E. Bessey, of the University of Nebraska, in a note recently published in "Science," expresses his doubts as to whether any of the existing trees approach the age of 2,000 years. In corroboration of this contention, he says that he once examined carefully the stump of one of the largest of the great trees, which was felled in 1853, and whose stump forms the floor of the dancing pavilion. He counted the number of rings from circumference to centre, and found them to amount to 1,147. He considers that it is safe to say that the tree, which was fully twenty-five feet in diameter and considerably more than three hundred feet in height, acquired these dimensions in 1,147 years.

STREET PAVEMENTS.—An investigation has recently been carried out by two members of the faculty of Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., to test the healthfulness of the various forms of street pavement of that city, and the results of their researches, which were carried on along bacteriological lines, have been published in a late issue of the "Engineering News." The real unhealthfulness of a pavement, it is claimed, depends on the number of germs that escape from its surface and are carried about in the air in the form of dust, sooner or later to reach the human system. Against certain forms of pavement, notably those formed of wood blocks, it has been urged that they retain and harbor large numbers of germs, while brick and asphalt are practically free from them. It has been argued, therefore, that wood pavements were unsanitary. The theory on which the experiments at Lafayette were based, was that the pavement that allowed the greatest number of germs to escape from its surface must be considered the most unsanitary, and accordingly a bacterial examination of the dust in the air over various types of pavements was made, and the relative number of germs ascertained. The experiments were performed in the following manner: Four-inch Pasteur dishes containing films of sterilized agar were exposed in duplicate at a height of five feet above the surface of the street, and the amount of dust that fell on the experiment measured. The different exposures were made under as nearly similar conditions as possible, and five varieties of pavement were tested. They were as follows: Round celled brick, street asphalt, asphalt block, and macadam. The cedar block was eleven years old and in bad condition, as was also the macadam, while the others were in good repair. The plates were allowed to incubate for three or four days, and the colonies of bacteria and moulds counted. Each colony is supposed to have been the result of a single germ that had fallen upon the agar, and as the size of the plates and the time of exposure was the same, a good means of comparison was afforded. It was not found possible to deduce any general law as a result of the experiments, but it was ascertained that the charges of unhealthfulness made against wood pavements were not sustained, and that this form of pavement was the most free from dust clouds. The dust given off from sheet asphalt and macadam is much finer than that from brick and asphalt blocks, and is more dangerous to health, as it acts as an irritant to the membranes of the eye, nose, and throat. In addition, the fine and practically invisible dust is made up of the spores of bacteria and moulds. The experiments emphasize the need of better methods of cleaning pavements, and the importance of generous sprinkling, which will lay the dust and retain the finer dust and bacteria. Other considerations to be taken into consideration in judging the healthfulness of street pavements are the extent to which they reflect the heat, and the amount of moisture they retain. Where pavements are constantly damp they may exert a depressing effect on the people of the neighborhood, and render them more susceptible to various diseases. Certain forms of wood block might bring about such conditions, but it is not shown in an increased death-rate of cities having such pavements.

and bishops of northern Germany, devoted almost entirely to the consideration of work-people's union and guilds, in which was urged upon the clergy the desirability of their doing all in their power to further the creation of such societies. Great weight is laid upon the importance to the Church generally and the working men's guilds and the Principles upon which they can be authorized and should be managed are laid down. The pastoral is signed by Cardinal Kopp, prince bishop of Breslau, the archbishops of Freiburg and Cologne, and ten bishops of other important sees. In old days the Catholic guilds of Germany played a most important part in the social development of the people; many of them in a modified form survive to this day. Though modern trade unions claim to fulfil the functions of the old guilds, the difference between the ancient and the modern unionism is too marked to make any such claim other than ludicrous. The old guilds were friendly societies of both masters and men, banded together for the promotion of the interests of their trade and of their native city, for the protection of the poor, and for the glory of the Church. No divergence between the interests of master and man was dreamt of, and no one who could not show the record of a clean life as a son of the Church, and as a proficient in his trade, was admitted to membership. The designations 'apprentice' and 'journeyman' then an exact and actual meaning. What do they usually mean nowadays beyond conveying an idea that individuals to whom they are applied have followed a trade for an uncertain period, perhaps with much inclination for absorbing what they are shown as a sieve has for carrying water?"

PARNELL ESTATE.—This is always a favorite theme for newspaper men. Here is the latest view: Mr. Boyland, who purchased the Parnell estate the other day for \$8,000 (\$38,922), has expressed his willingness to transfer the property to John Howard Parnell, brother of the late Charles Stewart Parnell, and member of Parliament for Southmeath since 1895, at cost. Mr. Boy-

land refuses to deal with the trustees for the American fund. John Redmond says the money of that fund was collected for the purpose of securing the Parnell mansion and grounds for the Parnell family for life. Afterward the property would have reverted to the Irish people. In the second place, the money was intended to be used for the purpose of erecting a monument in Dublin to the memory of Charles Stewart Parnell, should the first object fail. The second plan will now be carried out.

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