

THURSDAY EVENING, SEPT. 12, 1895

we have received a copy of the report of the Registrar-General containing the general abstract of Irish Agricultural Statistics so far as they relate to the season 1894-95. Although long, monotonous numerical tables are to be read, it need hardly be observed that from this particular report a great deal of useful and interesting information may be gleaned with regard to the present position of Irish agriculture. Being chiefly an agricultural country, we are perhaps the most severely affected by foreign competition, one of the results of which has been the rapid decline of agriculture. Large districts that years ago afforded employment to hundreds of farm labourers, have long since been converted into pasture, and unfortunately the decline in agriculture is year by year maintained. This is proved by the fact that the total area under crops in 1895, namely 4,879,506 acres, shows the large decrease of 51,505 acres on the extent of the preceding year. Of this, Ulster contributes 3,245 acres, or 0.8 per cent; Leinster, 23,675 acres, or 1.8 per cent, and Munster 15,398 acres, or 1.2 per cent, but Connaught, which has given evidence of industrial revival in other respects, in this case also relieves the gloomy aspect of the picture, for in that province there is an increase of 813 acres, or 0.1 per cent. The figures just quoted prepare us for the further information that in the present year there is an increase of 66,610 acres under grass as compared with 1894, when the total area thus utilised was 10,214,096 acres. The extent returned as fallow in 1894, was 9,568 acres, as against 18,506 in 1895. We notice that compared with 1894, there appears a decrease of 12,809 acres in the acreage under wheat; a decrease of 38,467 acres under oats; an increase of 7,053 acres under barley; a decrease of 448 acres under bere and rye, and a decrease of 333 acres under beans and peas; showing a net decrease of 5,004 acres in the extent under cereal crops. On the other hand there is an increase of 1,935 acres under turnips, and 987 acres under beet root and mangel-wurzel. Strange to say, however, there is the big decrease of 3,701 acres in the area producing the staple food of the country—the potato. Cabbages have decreased by 4,805 acres; vetches and rape by 1,013, and carrots, parsnips and other green crops by 2,000 acres, leaving a net decrease of 11,693 acres in the extent under green crops.

30 horses, not including mules and donkeys, on a small stage, entirely loose and free from any restraint, and obedient to his command; but this is nothing to some of the feats which these highly trained and beautiful animals perform. The entertainment opens with a school scene, in which the horses play the part of scholars, and act with striking intelligence as their master directs. Then there are some other extraordinary features in the programme. One horse laughs, others dance, some jump, all the band perform feats that naturally cause wonder. There are tableaux, in which they are introduced, and they present novel and original features. What can be thought of horses that introduce, on a rough scale though it may be, a court scene, a complicated military drill, incidents in camp, and a battle in which the animals fire cannon and attack the enemy's fort. It must have taken years of labour to bring them to their present state of perfection, beyond which it is difficult to imagine them carried. There was a large audience in all divisions of the house last evening, and the performance was received with the warmest approval." We feel certain the engagement will draw big houses next week.

#### DEATH OF MR. PATRICK CORBETT.

With deep regret we record this evening the demise of an old and highly-respected citizen, Mr P Corbett, who died on Tuesday night at the residence of his brother, Mr Wm E Corbett, City Surveyor, Glentworth-street. The deceased gentleman who had attained a ripe old age, full of honours and esteemed by all who knew him, was one of the few connecting links between the present and the past generation. Up to some time ago, when he retired from business owing to ill-health, he was proprietor of the "Apollo Music Warehouse" in George-street, and it need hardly be said that all through his life he took the deepest interest in musical matters. He was one of the leading members of the old Limerick Musical Society, and a trustee of the Athenæum, in which institution he took an active interest, and for many years held the position of honorary treasurer. He was of a most unassuming, genial, and courteous disposition—one who did not trouble himself with a personal participation in public affairs, but did what in him lay to further any charitable movement. He was one of the oldest members of the St Vincent de Paul Society. For some time past, Mr Corbett was in delicate health, and had been at Kilkee and Lisdeonvarna this season, but the end gradually came, and on Wednesday night he passed peacefully away. The funeral will leave St Michael's R.C Church on to-morrow (Friday), at ten o'clock.

#### ILLNESS OF MRS ALEXANDER.

The serious illness of the gifted wife of Bishop Alexander has (the *Derry Standard* states) taken a turn for the better. Inquiries from her medical adviser, Sir William Miller, elicited the gratifying report that the change for the better still continued, and that the patient was progressing most favourably.

#### MR SHANNON, R. M.

We learn, says the *King's County Chronicle*, that our highly esteemed R M is likely to receive well-earned promotion and that he is about to succeed General Sir West Ridgway, in the governorship of the Kingdom of Man. There can be little doubt that Mr Shannon's capabilities, powers, and experience render him fully qualified to undertake the many delicate responsibilities of that funny little Isle, and its lively inhabitants.

the candidates being Mr. Parnell (Federationist), and Mr. Parnell (Parnellite). The proceedings were conducted in a most orderly manner, and with much excitement. In fact, but for the presence of knots of police round the booths were situated, a meeting would scarcely have been an important event as a matter was pending. In the city arranged according to booths there were two booths for the Tories, there were eighteen in the Liberties comprised in the city there were seven. Various stations in our city in the earlier part of the day the traffic was very slow, not to mention the electors having voted there was a considerable number of artisan classes. During the day and their friends were most numerous. Mr O'Keefe, Mr Ralph Nash, solr, and Mr. Parnell by the Mayor. The Parnellites with a hostile reception in the city and the Mayor being high and youngsters, who also High Sheriff and his party for a share of the reception on the scene while on his part but the disturbers were the police who made two here he remarked that the was most active in superintending the which were of a most satisfactory drove round in his carriage and was accompanied by Mr Pitt, Mr P Lynch, B L, Mr Gaffney, his solicitor. A considerable apathy prevailed at the election. Scores of voters who did not register their quite indifferent as to how eventuate, and, as a result position to offer an author subject were by no means result of the poll would be the world knows it, their dwelling on the circumstances referring to it as showing certainty that prevailed to a late hour last night a mate estimate as to the available at either side. inclined to the belief that by a small majority. By o'clock voting was tolerable and the legal hour having boxes were sealed up and Courthouse by the presence of escort of police. Excitement and in the vicinity of a noisy crowd from the End and cheered frequently neither he nor Mr Nolan. An analysis which has shows that something The total on the register ber polled was 3,648. when Mr O'Keefe defeated polled numbered 3,409. into account the fact that 323 on the register, the is something like 84 less election, allowing for the The following table comparing voting at the present election that of 1892:—