

UNHAPPY IRELAND.

The Papal Decree.

On several occasions the apostolic see has given the people of Ireland, whom it has always regarded with special benevolence, suitable admonition and advice, when circumstances required, as to how they might defend their rights without injury to justice or public peace. Our holy father, Leo XIII., fearing lest, in the species of warfare that has been introduced among the Irish in the contests between landlords and tenants, and which is commonly called the "plan of campaign," and the kind of social interdict called "boycotting," arising from the same contests, a true sense of justice and charity might be perverted, ordered the supreme congregation of the inquisition to subject the matter to a serious and careful examination. Hence, the following was proposed to their eminences, the cardinals of that congregation. Is it permissible in disputes between landlords and their tenants in Ireland to use the means known as "the plan of campaign" and "boycotting?" After long and mature deliberation, their eminences unanimously answered in the negative, and their decision was confirmed by the Holy Father on Wednesday, the 18th of the past month. The justice of this decision will be readily seen by any one who applies his mind to consider that a rent agreed on by mutual consent cannot without violation of a contract, be diminished at the mere will of the tenants, especially when there are tribunals appointed for settling such controversies and reduction of unjust rents within the bounds of equity, after taking into account the causes which diminish the value of the land. Neither can it be considered permissible that rents be extorted from tenants and deposited in the hands of unknown persons to the detriment of land owners. Finally, it is contrary to justice and charity to prosecute by a social interdict those who are satisfied to pay the rents they agreed to pay, or those who, in the exercise of their rights, take vacant farms. It will, therefore, be your lordship's duty, prudently, but effectually, to advise and exhort the clergy and laity not to transgress the bounds of Christian charity and justice while they are striving for remedy for their distressed condition.

(Signed) R. CARDINAL MONACO.

Rome, April 20, 1888.

LINCOLN, Neb., April 30

On the question of the papal condemnation of the plan of campaign, Patrick Egan, ex-president of the Irish National League of America, said yesterday: The National League in Ireland was being hard pressed by the length and severity of the present struggle, but this attempt at spiritual interference in matters purely temporal and political will put new life and energy and determination into the movement. It will raise up unexpected difficulties for England and will bring no credit or advantage to Rome. Irish Catholics recognize very clearly that churchmen are not the church. While they will have no quarrel with the latter, they will stand no dictation from the former, especially when no question of faith or morals is involved. John Dillon, a staunch Catholic and true patriot, expressed the exact truth when he said recently, that in matters Irish outside of religion the commands of the Pope would have no more weight than those of the Sultan of Turkey, and the words of Michael Davitt, only yesterday, were very significant, when he said he preferred boycotting to a blunderbuss. When the English Tories are forced to intrigue for help in holding down Ireland from the fanatics of Ulster orange lodges on one side and the Pope of Rome on the other their case must be getting desperate and the end not far off.

Secretary Sutton, of the Irish National League, said: I look upon the action of the Roman court, if it be as reported, as exceedingly ill-advised and I feel convinced it can only result in injury, not to Ireland as a nation, but to Catholicity as a religion.

LONDON, April 28.

The Nationalists have determined to continue the plan of campaign in spite of the Papal decree. It is asserted that the movement will not suffer much from the necessary

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ALFRED LETTS,

May 4, 1888.

No. 1 Connell's Block, Woodstock.

defection of the priests, who will undoubtedly continue to sympathize with the people, and that the vacancies can easily be filled with laymen. The matter has caused an extremely bitter feeling among the Nationalists, who indignantly resent the Government's intrigues with the Vatican. Conservatives and Orangemen fear that in return for the Pope's action the Government will make concessions in connection with the educational question, which concessions they are prepared to strenuously oppose.

DUBLIN, May 2.

At a private conference held yesterday the priests of Clare discussed the Papal rescript against the league. The speeches were made of a deferential character. No definite line of action was resolved upon. The people of Clare seem indifferent towards the rescript and have decided to adhere to the entire programme of the league.

Hay Duties Refund.

Mr. Lavergne asked, has any action been taken by the Government, or any members thereof, with the view of helping exporters of hay to the United States, to obtain the refund of the duty improperly levied on them by the Customs authorities of the United States; and if so, has any conclusion been reached?

Mr. Thompson—That matter is more particularly under the care of the Minister of Finance, but, in his absence, I may state that action has been taken by the Government and some of its members individually with respect to these claims. Representations were made by the Government officially to the Government of the United States with respect to them, and, when some members of the Government visited Washington in the early part of last Winter, the Minister of Finance and myself had an interview with the Secretary of the Treasury, in which we endeavored to the best of our ability to press the reasonableness of these claims on the attention of Mr. Fairchild, but the result was that Mr. Fairchild stated that it was entirely out of the power of the Government of the United States, or any of its Departments, to give the relief applied for, principally because the claimants had not availed themselves of the remedies provided by the law of the United States, and had allowed the time to pass by during which they could obtain redress; and consequently, except by an Act of Congress, he could not give them relief. Consequently, recollecting the lapse of time and the number of cases of a like character which would be pressed upon them, he declined to give us any expectation that an application to Congress would be successful. At any rate, the conclusion is that the application must be made to the Congress of the United States by the individuals who have been aggrieved, for an appropriation.—Hansard.

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Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage Refutes a Slander.

Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, of Brooklyn, before delivering his sermon, Sunday night, in Brooklyn, made the following personal statement: An infamous falsehood has been given to every city and neighborhood of the country, and has been discussed by hundreds of newspapers, the report saying that recently in entertaining officers of the 13th Regiment at my house I gave four kinds of wine. There was not a drop of wine or any kind of intoxicating liquor, the 25 gentlemen then present being witnesses. I will give \$1,000 reward to any one who will prove that one drop of wine was offered, or will give that amount to any charitable institution that may be named by any respectable clergyman, lawyer or detective, such person being the judge in the whole matter. That which I supposed was told as a joke is being used all over the land to give the impression that temperance men are hypocrites. I respectfully ask that newspapers which have been misled by the report will correct it.

New Tweeds and Coatings just opened at Hugh Hay's.