

## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Apr. 23.

A convention was held in Dublin on the 16th and 17th which is pronounced by Irish leaders to have been the most important national assemblage in Ireland in a hundred years. It was attended by 2,000 delegates who had been chosen by Irish constituencies for the purpose of acting upon the Irish land-purchase bill introduced in parliament on the 26th of March by the chief secretary for Ireland (vol. v, p. 810), which is as follows in substance:

1. The British government will raise from \$500,000,000 to \$750,000,000, by the sale of 2½ per cent. 30-year treasury stock, to be lent to tenants in Ireland for the purchase of their holdings under the direction of a government commission.

2. In congested districts the limit of the loans will be \$2,500, and in other districts \$5,000.

3. A free gift of \$60,000,000 will be made by the government to Irish landlords, to make up the difference between the price the tenants are able to pay and that which the landlords demand.

4. Tenants borrowing from the government must repay with interest in yearly installments.

Upon assembling at Dublin on the 16th to give formal expression to Irish opinion on this relief measure, the convention mentioned above elected John Redmond, leader of the Irish parliamentary party, to preside over its deliberations. Mr. Redmond begged the delegates in his opening speech to consider well before objecting to the bill. In this connection he said:

Whatever defects Mr. Wyndham's bill has, and I am inclined to minimize them, its object is the complete and final abolition of landlordism in all its essentials. Ireland is united as she never was before. Each man must well weigh his words and remember that the whole future of his country and the welfare of his children and that of unborn generations may depend upon the convention's decision. I hope no man will advocate renewing the struggle of the land war without knowing what that renewal means—the indefinite delay of industrial and economic welfare and even of political freedom. No man must dare to do that unless he is willing to take his share of the terrible fight which would be involved by a refusal of the bill.

At the conclusion of Redmond's

speech, William O'Brien, also an Irish member of parliament, moved that the convention welcome this bill, but that it also suggest amendments in certain respects and intrust their disposition to the Irish parliamentary party. In advocating his motion Mr. O'Brien said that the Wyndham bill, if properly amended, would "make the peasants as safe as the king on his throne in the possession of their land," and that they would never again have to stand trembling in a rent office. He regarded the bill as "the biggest thing English statesmanship has ever done toward restoring the soil of Ireland to Irishmen."

All the delegates were not of O'Brien's opinion. One of them, Patrick White, another Irish member of parliament, moved to reject the bill. But he was loudly hissed and angrily urged to withdraw his motion. It was with great difficulty that the chairman secured him a hearing, and after he had spoken his motion was overwhelmingly voted down.

Michael Davitt was another member who did not join in all the enthusiasm for the Wyndham bill, nor share the confidence of the chairman that it would settle the Irish question. He is reported to have made a strong plea in behalf of the Irish agricultural laborer, maintaining that the bill, even if amended as proposed, would not put an end to the land struggle. At the close of his speech he moved as an amendment to Mr. O'Brien's motion, that the Irish members of parliament refer the bill back to the convention for final approval, after it had passed the committee stage in the House of Commons, so that the Irish people might decide whether they will accept it as amended, and that the convention be merely adjourned instead of dissolved. But as it was urged that this amendment to O'Brien's motion would be construed as an expression of want of confidence in the parliamentary party, Mr. Davitt withdrew it. Before the convention dissolved, however, he presented his views fully in support of the principle of nationalization of the land, showing that nothing short of this would settle the Irish land question, which is not merely a landlord and tenant question but a question of the natural rights of laborers as well as tenants to their native soil.

The convention dissolved on the 17th, after adopting O'Brien's motion to accept the bill and formulating a series of amendments to it. One of the amendments, proposed by Michael Davitt, asserts the principle of the American homestead law, its expressed purpose being to "safeguard the peasants from the results of improvident borrowing and the operations of land grabbers and land jobbers." The adoption of O'Brien's motion and the amendments was supplemented by the adoption of a resolution declaring that the Irish nation will never be satisfied until it obtains a full measure of self-government.

After the convention had dissolved, the chairman, Mr. Redmond, and Lord Dunraven, representing the Irish landlord interest, held an informal conference with a view to fixing a date for the reassembling of the Irish landlords and tenants conference (vol. v, p. 635), at which it is expected that the Wyndham bill, with the amendments proposed by the Irish convention, will be approved. Should this be done, it is understood that the amended bill will go through parliament without hitch, through the coalition of the ministerial party with the Irish parliamentary party, and that thereby the ministerial party in parliament will be saved from defeat on other ministerial measures.

The revolution in Morocco (p. 24), is now reported from Melilla to have succeeded. This news comes by the way of Madrid on the 22d. It is to the effect that Muley Mohammed, the sultan's brother, has been proclaimed emperor at Fez. Another dispatch, coming from Tangier under date of the 22d, tells of the arrival at Tangier from Melilla on that day of Muley Amrani, an uncle of the sultan, with the customs officials and all the government customs property, the government having abandoned Melilla. Taken together the two dispatches make it probable that the government is still holding out but that the revolutionists are in the ascendant.

On our own side of the Atlantic attention is again directed toward Venezuela, where the revolution, of which so much has been told in these columns (vol. v, p. 809), is still in progress. It is meeting with less and less success, however, and the

latest news is of a disastrous defeat of the revolutionists in battle. This news left Caracas on the 11th, but the dispatch was so delayed in transmission that it did not appear in the American papers until the 18th. The vice president, Gomez, had gone by sea with a body of government troops to Rio Chico, on the northern coast in the state of Bolivar, with the purpose of attacking the revolutionary Gen. Rolando in the rear while another government force fell upon him in front. The frontal attack was made near Guatiro, where the revolutionists under Rolando, 3,000 strong, were encamped. Retreating toward the coast after a hard fight of 14 hours, they were checked by Vice President Gomez, whereupon they tried to escape southward, but a third government force had been posted along the line of the retreat, which intercepted them and made the government victory complete. The revolutionists lost in killed, wounded and prisoners over 600 men. They suffered the further loss of a large quantity of ammunition which had just been landed by a Dutch vessel from Trinidad. Among the killed was Gen. Ramon Guzman, and among the prisoners are Gen. Ortega Martinez, formerly a minister under President Crespo, and Dr. Botancourt, formerly secretary of ex-President Andrade. It was expected that Gen. Rolando himself might be taken soon, so completely was his force demoralized and the survivors hemmed in.

Another Venezuelan battle is reported from Coro, in the State of Guiana. But here the government troops were less successful than in Bolivar. Yet they were not defeated. They had attacked the revolutionary Gen. Riera at a point near Coro. The battle lasted two days and was undecided.

The revolution in Santo Domingo (vol. v, p. 822) appears not to have been so near an end a month ago as the government insisted. At that time the revolutionists were in possession of the city of San Domingo, but were reported to be without power elsewhere. Since then the government forces have besieged the city almost daily; and on the 18th they made a desperate attack. The shelling began at eight o'clock in the morning, and the government troops captured two garrison posts. But

these were quickly retaken. The artillery of the insurgents set fire to the houses in San Carlos, and that flourishing little town was burned to the ground. By a steamer which left Monte Cristi, Santo Domingo, on April 17, arriving at St. Thomas on the 19th it was reported that the rebels were besieging Monte Cristi by land and sea, and that the revolution was gathering strength throughout the country.

In American politics the event of most immediate concern,—local to Chicago, however,—is the election of an entire new bench of judges for Cook county, Illinois (including Chicago), which is to take place in June. Heretofore in these judicial elections it has been customary to make bipartisan nominations, each political party selecting half the candidates and forming a consolidated ticket which no opposition could well defeat. This afforded an opportunity for the "bosses" of each party to place their favorites, no matter how objectionable to the bar and the general public, securely upon the bench. Judgeships became prizes for bargains and compromises between the political machines of both parties. As one of the consequences of Mayor Harrison's recent election (p. 25) this practice is abandoned in the present instance by the Democrats, as it probably will be by the Republicans. When the Democrats met in judicial convention on the 18th, they nominated a full party ticket, comprising all the present Democratic judges: namely: Murray F. Tuley, Edward F. Dunne, Frank Baker, Richard W. Clifford, Thomas G. Windes and Francis Adams. The additional candidates nominated are Edward Osgood Brown, Samuel Shaw Parks, William P. Black, Joseph A. O'Donnell, Charles M. Walker, Lockwood Honore, George Kersten, William H. Barnum, Julian W. Mack, George Mills Rogers and Thomas H. Hoyne.

As the official count for the recent municipal election in Cleveland makes the returns slightly different from those of the original report (p. 5) we append the official figures on the vote for mayor and vice mayor:

Mayor:	
Johnson (Dem.)	36,060
Goulder (Rep.)	30,275
Thomas (Soc.)	1,079
Bartlett (Pro.)	151
Goerke (Soc. Lab.)	334
Johnson's plurality	5,785
Vice Mayor:	
Lapp (Dem.)	37,771

Sonthelmer (Rep.)	27,138
(Others not reported.)	
Lapp's plurality	10,633

The political panorama in Ohio with reference to the gubernatorial election of next fall—which will be fought between Johnson and Hanna, no matter who the candidates are—is beginning to unfold. It is now understood that the Republican candidate for governor will be Myron T. Herrick, of Cleveland. This understanding rests upon an authoritative interview given out this week by George B. Cox, the Republican "boss" of Cincinnati, after a conference with Senator Hanna. Having given his reasons, Mr. Cox says:

I have, therefore, determined to support Myron T. Herrick and will ask my friends to do likewise. His nomination will strengthen the party more than that of any other man I can think of, particularly because of the conditions in Cleveland and Cuyahoga counties, where, in my judgment, Senator Hanna, President Roosevelt and the Republican party will need the most help.

The reason this announcement is taken as a guarantee of Herrick's nomination is conclusive with politicians. Herrick lives in Cleveland and is Hanna's candidate. He will therefore have the Republican delegation from Cuyahoga county. Cox's support assures him the Republican delegation from Hamilton county. With these two men and these two counties back of him, his candidacy is regarded as invincible and his unanimous nomination as almost certain.

The Republican convention by which this nomination is to be formally made will be held at Columbus, June 3 and 4. This was determined by the Republican State Central committee at Columbus on the 21st, which at the same time selected Senator Hanna for temporary chairman of the convention.

Only a few days previously the Democratic central committee, also meeting at Columbus, named Columbus as the place and August 25 and 26, as the time, for holding the Democratic convention of Ohio. G. M. Saltzgaber is to be the temporary chairman. The resolution calling the convention provides for one delegate and one alternate for each 500 votes cast for Bigelow last fall, to be selected by primaries or delegate or mass conventions. The latter provision puts an end to an old custom in Hamilton county (which includes