

# HAWAIIAN STAR.

SECOND SECTION

PAGES 9 TO 13

HONOLULU, HAWAII, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1912

PAGES 9 TO 12



Dr. Douglas Hyde, First President of Gaelic League in Ireland

## The GAELIC LEAGUE



Honan McColum, Irish Delegate



A Village Scene



A Page of Gaelic from Fourteenth Century



Father Michael O'Flanagan, Irish Delegate

Typical Irish Village in which League is Reviving Study of Gaelic

During the week in which St. Patrick's Day falls each year a country-wide collection is taken up in Ireland with which to further the work of an organization whose head is there, but whose arms reach out over the entire world wherever the sons of Old Erin have migrated. In the United States the work of the Gaelic League—for such is the title of the organization—is growing in leaps and bounds. Chapters of it are to be found in nearly every city where Irish and other Celts, such as the Scotch, Welsh and Bretons, have located.

Its object is to preserve the Gaelic language, publish Irish literature, and to foster Irish music, pastimes, and industries. Indeed, it urges every Irishman in the United States in particular to do his share in saving his national tongue from decay and death and in awakening from their educational and industrial slumber his kindred back on the "ould sod."

There are over seven hundred branches of the League in all parts of the world, and it is estimated, over three hundred thousand people are now earnest students of Gaelic. The movement is especially strong in this country. There is scarcely a city of any size with an Irish population but what boasts a branch of the Gaelic League, or some similar organization whose purpose is the preservation of the Gaelic tongue and the promotion of Gaelic industries.

Only last year two Irishmen, Father Michael O'Flanagan and Mr. Honan McColum came over from Dublin, as delegates of the League, to explain to the Irish centers in America the renewed interest in the Gaelic movement in the Emerald Isle. They visited the various communities, organized mass meetings, set forth their propaganda and aroused a personal interest in the Irish-American's mother tongue. By popular subscription they raised a good many thousand dollars with which to further the work.

Ireland at the same time, as was

customary, took up her "Irish language week collection" for the same purpose. This year, over in the land of the shamrock, they are doing the same thing on St. Patrick's Day and during the remainder of the week. The people are solicited to contribute by posters pasted on the walls, collectors with boxes stationed outside churches, handbills, and a general house to house canvass. Nor are the sons of Old Erin in this country shirking their financial responsibility.

It may not be clear to the average reader just why the preservation of a tongue which, by some is ranked among the dead languages, is of such great import to the descendants of the original Celts. A glance back over the history of Ireland is enlightening. Way back in the dim ages the Irish language—called by those who speak it Gaelic—was spoken in Central and Western Europe, in Spain, in Asia Minor and in Ireland. But as time went on these Celts were conquered by other races and either forgot their native tongue, under the harsh rule of their masters, or fled to other lands. At the present time there remains but a mere fringe of Celtic speakers in Wales, the Isles of Man, Brittany, the Highlands of Scotland and in Ireland—a scant three millions in all.

Until nearly the end of the seventeenth century at least three-fourths of all Ireland spoke the Irish language in its pristine form. Its decline, however, began in the eighteenth century. From then on its decadence was rapid. The English system of national education was introduced in the year 1831 and Irish children were

not only compelled to learn English but were flogged if they spoke their own tongue. Then, in the '40s came the Great Famine, and thousands of the poor Irish either emigrated to America or starved to death at home. Only the wealthier classes, in general, remained and multiplied—and they despised their native tongue!

In 1861 there were but a million-and-a-half Irish people in Ireland speaking their mother tongue. The decline was steady, rapid and unchecked until about a dozen years ago, when the Irish movement was begun. For example, it was estimated that, in 1901, there were but a little over six hundred thousand Irish speakers in Ireland.

At present the system of state education in Ireland is English, but the Irish tongue is taught in the schools. Irish patriotism was found discouraged, and there is no means as effectual in destroying patriotism as to stamp out the native tongue. Such, in the past, say Irish leaders, has been the policy of England. Hence, to revive the use of the mother tongue is to revive the national spirit and pride in Irish industries and literature. This is what the Gaelic League aims to do.

With the exception of Basque, Gaelic is the most ancient language of Europe. It was practically the only language spoken in Ireland until the Cromwellian settlement. There are parts of Ireland today in which it is the only language used by the common people, and in County Galway there are nearly ten thousand people who know no English at all.

The language itself has a vocabu-

lary of approximately seventy thousand native words. An unlimited number of new words are formed from pre-existing native roots. Grammatically complete, it has all the genders, all the inflections and all the moods (some of which have been lost in French, English and other modern languages). It possesses ninety-five sounds and sixteen characters which are not dissimilar to the Greek symbols.

The Gaelic League was organized in July, 1883, by seven men who met in Ireland for that purpose. John McNeill, Dr. Douglas Hyde and Father O'Brownney were the moving spirits. Dr. Hyde was elected president of the organization. At first they held meetings and taught classes only in Dublin. But soon they felt encouraged to carry their campaign into other parts of Ireland, despite the disapproval of "the upper classes" who frowned upon the movement. Their enthusiasm, however, could not be crushed and the propaganda was spread throughout all Ireland.

The fight to establish the study of Gaelic in the public schools was a long and severe one and was won step by step. In 1902, for example, it was taught as an extra subject in but 235 of the State primary schools of Ireland; and in 1909, in 1,500 national schools, with over forty-six thousand pupils passing examinations in it. To accomplish this, Dr. Douglas Hyde came to the United States six years ago to enlist financial aid and sympathy of Irish-Americans. He is really the instigator of the Gaelic movement in this country for branches of the Gaelic League were

formed in nearly every city he visited.

The Gaelic League is nonsectarian and—in America—non-political. Since it appeals chiefly to the masses of the people of Ireland, the majority of its members are of Roman Catholic faith and nationalists in politics. There are, however, among its most prominent workers, men and women of various creeds and political opinions. Every effort is made to keep the organization strictly neutral, political speeches being barred at meetings and its membership unqualified by any particular religious or political views. St. Patrick's Day is the great day among its members both in this country and Ireland, simply because Saint Patrick is the patron saint of that land.

The League is not content with the introduction of Irish as a study in the public schools of Ireland, but supports a corps of organizers and traveling teachers who penetrate to every section of the Emerald Isle. The organizers impress upon the natives the importance of propagating their native tongue, music, pastimes and customs. The traveling teachers, in districts where the language has almost entirely disappeared, hold classes and secure local teachers competent to instruct the people. There are a hundred and thirty of these traveling teachers and organizers. The League also trains teachers, publishes text books and masterpieces of Gaelic literature and encourages interest in the native music, dances and games.

In the United States the same thing is accomplished by the individ-

ual leaders of the Gaelic organizations in the various cities. The Gaelic tongue is studied and papers are prepared and read in that language which is also spoken at meetings by those who are masters of it. Much attention is given to Irish music, especially to the playing of instruments peculiar to Ireland and the singing of those songs most likely to foster and keep alive a national spirit and a sense of patriotism.

The teaching of the Gaelic tongue, however, is by no means the sole endeavor of the League. There is a lighter side to the work—especially in Ireland. Various Gaelic League festivities are held there from time to time. Among them is the feis, at which all sorts of competitions are indulged in; the aerdeacht, or outdoor fete; the cuirm choil, or concert; and others that are regular features of county life in Ireland.

Every year in August the ar-d-theis, or congress, is held in Dublin, the headquarters of the League. After the work of the organization is reviewed and officers elected for the coming year, the festivities begin. There are contests in playing the harp and the Irish pipes, in Irish dancing, in singing and in story telling. Concerts are held each evening with songs in Irish, and Irish dramas are presented. Excursions are made to various spots of historic interest in the neighborhood, and an industrial exhibition of Irish goods arouses keen interest among the craftsmen. Indeed, this latter phase of the work has been quite instrumental in securing for the Irish Industrial Development Association the Irish trade mark which is a guarantee against spurious goods marked "Irish made." In addition to this big celebration various lesser ones are held in all parts of the island.

That the Gaelic movement is meeting with sincere approbation in this country is unquestioned. Four of our universities now have Celtic departments. Harvard was the first to enter that field; then the Catholic Univer-

sity, at Washington, D. C., followed suit with a chair of Celtic. Columbia University was the next to recognize the importance of the study and, not so very long ago, the University of California established a Department of Gaelic.

Interest in the Gaelic movement is so keen in America that, in some cities, Gaelic organizations exist without connection with the Gaelic League. An excellent type of this is to be found in the Gaelic Society of Washington, D. C., which was founded as a result of a visit of Dr. Hyde to Washington about six years ago. Some of the most notable men in literary and musical circles of the National Capital are associated with the Society.

No less a personage than Matthew Arnold has paid an impressive tribute to the Gaelic tongue, for he wrote: "If I were asked where English poetry got these three things—its turn for style, its turn for melancholy and its turn for a natural magic for catching and rendering the charms of nature in a wonderfully near and vivid way—I should answer, with some doubt, that it got much of its turn for style from a Celtic source with less doubt, that it got much of its turn for melancholy from a Celtic source; and, with no doubt at all, that from a Celtic source it got nearly all its natural magic."

Professor Holger Pederson, of the University of Copenhagen, has said: "I should be very sorry if the Irish language should die out; for thereby Irishmen would lose their own nationality and become Englishmen. As soon as the Irish language ceases to exist, there would be no Irish nation. And that would be a great loss for it is the Irish nation that bestowed mediaeval learning upon Europe."

Dr. Hyde, the first president of the League, sums up the work accomplished by the organization in the following pungent sentence: "We found Ireland imitation-English; we are leaving it genuine Irish."

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When given as soon as the croupy cough appears Chamberlain's Cough Remedy will ward off an attack of croup and prevent all danger and cause of anxiety. Thousands of mothers use it successfully. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.

## DENIO FIRE ALARM SYSTEM MAY DISPLACE THE GAMEWELL

Honolulu will have an entirely new system of fire-alarm boxes installed within a short time, if C. B. Potter, manager of the Denio Telephone Fire Alarm Company, is able to convince the city fathers that the Denio telephone fire alarm is an improvement on the Gamewell system now being used by the city to protect itself from the ravages of fire.

The Denio signal box was tested in the presence of Fire Chief Thurston at the telephone office last Saturday and the chief expressed himself as pleased at the demonstration which is said to have been very successful.

The Denio signal box is said to be far in advance of the old Gamewell box alarm. In the Denio system, all that is necessary to turn in an alarm is to break the glass in front of the box and push the button.

As it is operated over the telephone wires, the pushing of the button transmits a distinctive signal to the telephone exchange and connection is automatically made with the fire-department alarm office, which receives the alarm direct.

A register at headquarters records the number of the box and the time of sending, the whole operation taking from five to ten seconds.

But it is in the home that the Denio corporation claim that their alarm is away ahead of either the telephone or any other fire alarm system. In the private establishment, the Denio fire alarm is installed near the telephone and uses the same wires.

When the button is pushed—turning in an alarm—the telephone is automatically disconnected while the alarm is being registered and this is no sooner done than the phone connection is automatically restored.

The Denio system is used exclusively in New York City and throughout the East. It has recently been installed in twenty-one cities on the Pacific Coast, and at present a system is being installed at Medford, Oregon.

The Denio people claim that while turning in an alarm by telephone involves a necessary wait of from five to twenty minutes, their system will do the work in fifty-seconds.

## THIRSTING FOR LUXURIES

New Bedford Standard: In view of the well known saving propensity of the plain people of France, which has been to a large degree inherent and has been zealously fostered by the government through its system of loans on land and the sale of interest-bearing bonds, it is interesting to note, through the report of the American consul at Harve, a growing tendency on the part of these people to break away from their plain living and to go in for some of the luxuries of life. Consul Dunning says that the lower cost of living in France than in this country has not come out of the fixed charges of life, such as rent, food, clothing, and fuel, but has been the result of an absence of those luxuries which the similar class in America indulge in. While the American family has "musical instruments, electric lights, ornamental furniture, labor-saving kitchen appliances, illustrated periodicals, modern bathrooms, patented food in packages, and many other characteristic American adjuncts," to quote Consul Dunning, the French family of equal station has so far considered all such objects as beyond its reach.

Now the "American spirit" seems to be invading France. In five years there has been a "decided heightening of the popular appetite for luxury which has been at the bottom of the advanced cost of living the world over; the average family is less and less satisfied to live under the old conditions in which economy rather than physical comfort was the rule," to quote the report. The fact is instanced that in one French city of about one hundred thousand inhabitants, in the last two or three years one hundred mechanical piano players have been sold at more than two hundred dollars each. Ten years ago such a thing would have been entirely impossible anywhere in France. In the three years between 1907 and 1910 automobile imports increased from a million and a half of annual expenditure to only a million eight hundred thousand, while in 1910 the imports of automobiles for use in France from the United States alone were valued at one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, as against only sixteen thousand in 1907. This the consul comments, "is vitally significant of the changing conditions in the French middle class, as practically all these American cars are under

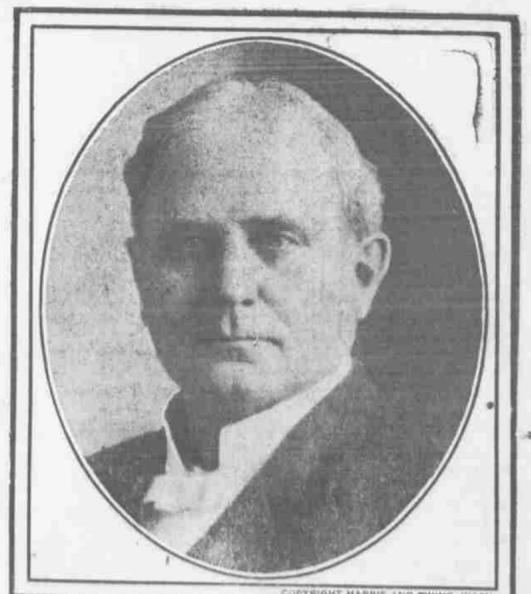
twelve hundred dollars in cost, of low horsepower, and driven by the owner."

Analyzing the situation, the consul sees in this tendency of the French lower middle class to raise itself into the higher middle class, a necessary increase of income, which will mean for the manufacturer higher cost of production; and as for the people themselves, though the increase in income may come, their "larger and larger appetite for luxuries is bound to bring them in contact with the comparatively high food scale and the advancing price of rents." It is the familiar experience of the larger income leaving no greater surplus than the smaller but serving the purpose of raising the standard of living and of affording greater comfort and satisfaction.

### SHOULD BE PLEASANT TO TAKE.

When a medicine must be given to young children it should be pleasant to take. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is made from loaf sugar, and the roots used in its preparation gives it a flavor similar to maple syrup making it pleasant to take. It has no superior for colds, croup and whooping cough. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.

In your desire to give the Jew his due, don't give him everything else you can get hold of.



**SPEAKER CHAMP CLARK,**  
Of the House of Representatives, Presidential candidate.  
When members of a family think anything about Father's Extra of reducing expenses, they are apt to vagrant habits.