

AGRICULTURAL RENTS IN IRELAND.—Our Dublin Correspondent writes, under date August 19:—"The anti-rent agitation is still proceeding in the county Mayo. A meeting in furtherance of the movement was held a few days ago at Balla, and on Saturday there was another at Castlebar, which is described as the first convention since the repeal of the Convention Act. Delegates are stated to have been present from different parts of the country, but the assembly was not very large, numbering only about 40 persons, and was held in Darby's Hotel. Mr. Loudon, barrister, took the chair, and read a letter from the Rev. Father Joyce, P.P., of Louisburg, expressing regret that, the day being Saturday, he could not leave his flock to be present, but intimating his satisfaction that a Tenants' Defence Club was to be formed and his intention to 'go in for Home Rule' and join the club. The chairman spoke at some length upon the land question. He complained that Mr. Gladstone's intentions in passing the Land Act had been to some extent defeated by landlord influence, and that a landlord could get rid of a tenant by the process of raising the rent. He admitted that, according to the existing law, the relation between landlord and tenant was founded on contract, and if the tenant could not fulfil it the landlord had a legal right to demand possession of the land, but there was a higher law, an 'ideal equity,' which it was the duty of statesmen to apply. They should consider that it was not a question of contract, but of the salvation of the people. One of the objects of the agitation was to procure the abolition of the present land laws, and the substitution of a system which would abolish landlordism for ever and make the tenants the owners of the land which they cultivated. They should make the land question the test question at the next election. Mr. Davitt, the liberated Fenian convict, read a long paper setting forth the objects of the proposed Tenants' Defence Club. It was to watch over the interests of the people, 'to resort to every means compatible with justice, morality, and right reason, which should not clash defiantly with the Constitution upheld by the powers of the British Empire in this country, for the abolition of the present land laws and the substitution in their place of such a system as shall be in accord with the social rights and interests of our people, the traditions and moral sentiments of our race, and which the contentment and prosperity of our country imperatively demand.' Pending a permanent and satisfactory settlement of the question it will expose the injustice, wrong, and injury which may be inflicted on any farmer by eviction, and opposing persecution by all means which the laws will permit. It will publish the names of tenants evicted or threatened with eviction for nonpayment of exorbitant rents and the names of any persons who take the farms or offer a higher rent for land. It will assist them to defend actions taken by landlords against farmers who may be evicted, organize local clubs, and finally establish a vigilance committee to watch the conduct of grand juries, Poor-law guardians, members of Parliament, and others. The document stated that the area of Ireland is capable of maintaining 20 millions of inhabitants if restrictive land laws were abolished. In denouncing the land laws, it was not proposed to confiscate the property of the landlords but to compensate them for existing interests. It was resolved to adopt the manifesto of Mr. Davitt, and establish a National Land League."

THE WEST INDIA SUGAR TRADE.—Last night a meeting of working men connected with the sugar industry was held in the Coopers' Hall, Commercial-road, E., to consider their future course of action in the movement for the abolition of the foreign sugar bounties, and the propriety of sending a representative of the coopers' trade to the West Indies to report on the state of the sugar production of these colonies. After a long discussion, the following resolution was carried:—"That as the West Indian industries afford profitable employment to the journeymen coopers of the United Kingdom, and as their industries are being gradually destroyed by the system of Continental export bounties, and as it is the desire of the coopering trade to preserve the West Indian industries from foreign State protection, this mass meeting of coopers of London hereby agrees to appoint, in conjunction with the other coopers' societies of the kingdom, a special delegate to proceed to the West Indian colonies to investigate into the effects of the sugar bounties upon the colonial sugar industries and to report the same." Mr. Monteith, the president of the Coopers' Society, was appointed as the West Indian delegate, and after some routine business the meeting closed.

THE MUTINY ON BOARD THE CASWELL.—In the case of Pistoria, now awaiting execution at Cork Gaol, a strong memorial, numerously signed, was forwarded to Government, praying for a commutation of the death sentence. It was stated that the prisoner during the mutiny on board the Caswell had been instrumental in saving the lives of the two apprentice boys, and that after the mutiny he had warned the English portion of the crew of the designs of "Big George" and the other Greeks to take their lives. The length of time that had elapsed since the mutiny, and the fact that already three of the mutineers have been punished with death, were also put forward in the petition with other circumstances favourable to the prisoner. All along Pistoria had cherished a strong hope that his life would have been spared, and the unfavourable reply received yesterday from the Government affected him very much. Since his conviction the culprit has shown great penitence, and has listened with attention to the ministrations of the Roman Catholic chaplain who has been in attendance upon him.

A GORILLA AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—A young female gorilla, recently brought from the West Coast of Africa to Liverpool, and there purchased by Mr. Garcia, at a large price, for exhibition, was yesterday privately shown at the Crystal Palace to a small party, among whom were Mr. Alfred R. Wallace, the author of "The Geographical Distribution of Animals," and the Rev. J. G. Wood. The interest of the exhibition was increased by the presence of a chimpanzee, somewhat older than the gorilla, and the many differences between these species are more strikingly seen when two of these creatures are thus brought into company. The chimpanzee is a male, probably between two and three years of age, and he not only treats his companion very tenderly himself, but takes good care that no other creature shall approach her. A monkey being placed in their cage, with the idea that his presence would enliven them, the chimpanzee immediately attacked the stranger and bit three of his fingers clean off. The brownish yellow skin of the chimpanzee shows distinctly through the black hair that covers him; his eyes are of a hazel brown, and his ears stand out prominently. He takes little notice of his visitors beyond giving an occasional sharp glance at any new comer, but he recognizes and greets his keeper with a grimace which is something broader than a rudimentary smile, and holds out his right fore-paw to shake hands with him. The gorilla seems at present to be very tractable in disposition, and sat very quietly yesterday, fixing her large black eyes on one and another of those around the glass case in which the creatures are shown. The ears are small, and lie close to the head. Her skin is black, and so is the hair on the head, the body, and the limbs, there being scarcely a trace of that reddish tinge which has been said to mark the female. Their food on the voyage has been uncooked Indian corn and rice, tinned milk, a little fruit now and then, and sometimes a cooked meat bone to gnaw. At the request of Mr. Flood Page, the manager of the Crystal Palace, Mr. Wallace, who during his long stay in Borneo and the Malay Archipelago had opportunities of studying the ourang-outang, now gave an interesting account of the anthropoid apes, pointing out the distinctive characteristics of the two specimens before him. The great danger to the gorilla in this country, he said, was from lung disease. Those which had hitherto been brought to England had not survived the second winter. It was more important that they should have abundance of fresh air, he added, than that they should be kept very warm; though, of course, they ought not to be subjected to great or sudden changes of temperature. During the week the Rev. J. G. Wood will give a lecture daily on the apes and their habits.