

way in the past and will continue to support, will not constitute a reason for his expulsion from Irish politics. Parnell says during the ten years of independence of the Irish Parliamentary party it has, because of its independence, forced upon the English people the necessity of granting home rule to Ireland. He believes the party will obtain home rule, provided it remains independent of any English party. In conclusion, he says:

"I do not believe any action of the Irish people in supporting me will endanger the Irish home rule cause or postpone the establishment of an Irish parliament. But, even if the danger were to be realized, I believe the Irish people throughout the world would agree with me that postponement would be preferable to a compromise of our national rights by the acceptance of a measure which would not realize the aspirations of our race."

The anti-Parnellites rely upon the votes of William O'Brien, T. P. O'Connor, Gill and T. D. Sullivan. The adherents of Parnell, who have announced their intention to stick to the old leader, number twenty-three, namely: Blane, Byrne, Henry Campbell, Conway, W. J. Corbet, J. G. Fitzgerald, Edward Harrington, Hayden, J. E. Kenny, W. A. McDonald, MacNeal, Maguire, Mahoney, J. P. Nolan, Joseph Nolan, John O'Connor, O'Kelly, Pinkerton, P. J. Power, Richard Power, John Redmond, William Redmond and Shiel.

It is stated, even if Parnell is outvoted at Monday's meeting, he will stick to his seat for Cork and harass the liberals as much as possible.

It is reported that Gladstone will issue a counter-manifesto. All the papers comment at great length on the matter.

The *Post* says a bomb has been exploded in anger and Parnell turns evidence against his fellow conspirators to save his own political life. The manifesto has rendered the prospects for home rule worse than at any time since 1885.

The *Daily News* says: "This is the last fatal disservice which obliterates many, if not all, of his incomparable services."

The *News* appeals to the Irish clergy and people not to allow Parnell to drag down the home rule cause in his own fall by belief in serious misapprehensions of their English friends.

The *Chronicle* says Parnell's most powerful blow is a revelation of abject paralysis. The manifesto clearly shows that Parnell is not a person with whom any statesman can venture to hold confidential relations. Irish ingratitude in politics is proverbial, but was never before avowed with such cold, calculating cynicism.

The *Standard* says the manifesto is highly damaging to the credit of Gladstone and Morley as straightforward statesmen. No English politician will ever trust Parnell again, but he has chosen the right line to win back the fanatical regard of Irishmen.

The *Times* says the manifesto shivers forever the supposition that Parnell can ever again be treated as a trustworthy friend or an honorable foe. It is probably the most shameless document seen since the days of the revolution. The *Times* thinks, however, that it will probably effect its purpose in Ireland, and refers to the severity of the blow inflicted on Gladstone's impracticable schemes.

In case the Irish national members at the meeting Monday favor Parnell a movement will immediately be started among the liberals to give English reforms preference over home rule, and a meeting to advocate reverting to the programme of 1885 will be summoned. Sir William Vernon Harcourt, it is believed, will succeed Gladstone in the leadership of the liberal party in the event of the latter retiring.

AN INTERESTING DOCUMENT.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—Secretary of the Interior Noble, in his annual report, says, the vacant lands of the United States, exclusive of those in Alaska, at present extend over 586,216,861 acres, of which 282,772,439 are already surveyed. Alaska contains 577,390 square miles, or 369,529,600 acres, of which not more than 1000 acres have been entered. The aggregate reaches 955,746,461 acres.

The policy of the department has been continued, as the Secretary's last report shows it to have been begun, under the present administration, in giving a liberal interpretation to the land laws in favor of the settlers and by advancing, as far as can reasonably be done, the early decisions upon all entries made, contested or uncontested. Nineteen million acres of agricultural land were transferred to actual settlers during the past year, embracing those upon final and commuted homestead entries, preemption, timber culture, desert, private cash, townsite, and all other entries for strictly agricultural non-mineral lands.

The lands patented to States for education, internal improvements and public buildings have exceeded 300 per cent over the previous year, amounting in 1890 to 539,779.84 acres.

The patents issued for the year ending June 30, 1890, numbered 117,247, as against 70,141 the preceding year, or an increase for the last year in patents of 47,106, and in land of 7,536,960 acres, the patents for 1890 covering 18,759,520 acres; those for 1889, 11,222,560.

In addition to these there was an increase of 494 in mineral and mill-site patents issued in 1890, those for 1890 being 1407. The area of coal lands granted in 1890 nearly doubled that of the previous year.

The total receipts from public lands were \$7,470,370.

The Secretary recommends the establishment of a United States land court for the settlement of private land claims and some legislation for the protection of the Mexican residents of New Mexico in their property rights.

On the subject of arid lands the Secretary says, in part:

"The location and selection on the public lands of reservoir sites is proceeding with very decided energy under the law of August 30, 1890, and the present existence of the sites, their continued multiplication, and their future use now demand from the people and the Government the most serious consideration."

The Secretary urges that Congress should without delay enact comprehensive laws, determining the national policy in this business, and, if the reservoirs are subject to local control, particularly guarding against such misuse of the powers granted as would either allow the upper lands to absorb the water continuously through the dry season, or the authorities to require any but the cheapest and most liberal terms for its transportation to the inhabitants and farmers."

"The most valuable timber on the public lands is being rapidly exhausted, and the several laws now in force are wholly inadequate to prevent the public forests from illegal appropriation, or to protect the interests of the settlers who may need to use them in the development of the country."

"The protection of the timber upon the public domain is of the first importance. The great commercial value of this product, the ease with which it may be illegally appropriated, the difficulty of protecting the large forests from ravages by fire, which destroys annually a very much larger amount of wood on the public lands than all other causes combined, seem to require additional legislation by Congress."

In reviewing the past year's work of the Department in regard to Indians, it is seen that there has been steady progress made in engaging them in peaceful ways and industrial pursuits. A stronger desire is manifested among many for the education of their children, for the individual ownership of land, and generally for the comforts of civilization. There are not more than 250,000 Indians within the borders of the United States (excluding Alaska). The greater part of these reside upon or have some interest in the existing reservations, the others living upon a portion of the public domain. The aggregate area of the Indian reservations was, at the last report, about 116,000,000 acres, or 181,250 square miles, which is, as calculated by the Indian commissioner, greater than that of the New England and Middle States combined, greater than the aggregate area of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky, and nearly equal to the combined area of the two Dakotas and Montana; or, to carry the comparison further, it is larger by half than the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, larger than Sweden or Norway, and nearly as large as either France or Spain.

There has been a reduction during the fiscal year by cession of Indian title to reservations under ratified agreements to the extent of