

# Éire Ireland

Uim. 26. Leabhar 1.  
No. 26. Vol. 1.

Dia Luain, Samain 30, 1914.  
Monday, November 30, 1914.

Leat-piçinn.  
One Halfpenny.

## MILITARY RULE.

### PROTEST IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the motion for the second reading of the "Defence of the Realm Consolidation Act" in the British House of Lords on Friday evening, Earl Loreburn said that power was asked in the Bill to try British subjects by courtmartial for offences many of which constituted high treason.

#### The Ordinary Courts were to be superseded by Courts-martial

at the discretion of the Government. That deprived a British subject of the right to have trial for his life before an ordinary tribunal. It was a dangerous thing to take away the right of trial before an ordinary Court, especially in cases where the death penalty might be inflicted. As the Courts of law were available and were regarded with confidence the power proposed should not be given. At a later stage of the Bill he would move an amendment providing that any British subject who had not accepted military or naval employment should have the right to be tried by the ordinary Courts of law for any offence under this Act if such Courts were available, and that the Courts should have power to try such cases under regulations to be made by Order in Council.

The Earl of Halsbury (U) supported the view of Earl Loreburn, and said that he hesitated to surrender all the liberties and protection which had been built up through so many generations.

Viscount Bryce (L) hoped the Government would see their way to accept the amendment referred to by Earl Loreburn. He regretted that the Government should wish to interfere with the right of British subjects to be tried by the Civil Courts.

Lord Parmoor (U) asked why the method of ascertaining whether a British civilian was guilty or not should be altered to his disadvantage at a time like the present, when there was so much bias and prejudice? The safeguards which had been preserved for centuries should continue to operate. He did not believe there was a precedent for taking away all the rights of British subjects as regarded trial by Judge and jury and submitting the cases to Courts-martial, which had not the same knowledge, experience, and safeguards as the Civil Courts.

The Earl of Crawford (U), while holding that the Bill conferred unparalleled powers, hoped the Government would not accept the amendment.

The Bill was read a second time, and on the motion for the third reading,

Earl Loreburn moved the amendment of which he had given notice.

The Marquess of Crewe said that if the proposal of the Bill was a gross invasion of popular liberties it was surely singular that it should have passed the House of Commons without any protest. It was evidently not feared that the Government were setting up a Star Chamber. He did not believe that any military tribunal, safeguarded as it was, could be unjust in the matter. No hurried decision would be taken by which a British subject

would be tried, perhaps privately, and then taken out and hanged or shot without opportunity of appeal. The prerogative of mercy was in no way interfered with by legislation of this kind. He could not believe that any practical hardship or injustice was likely to follow from the passing of this provision, and there might be many minor cases where due punishment would be escaped if the Bill was not passed. He suggested that the amendment might be withdrawn.

The Earl of Halsbury said that in deference to the view of the Government he would not press his objections, but he thought the proposal of the Bill was

#### The Most Unconstitutional Thing that had ever happened

Lord Loreburn asked whether the Government undertook that between now and the next sittings of the House, where a regular Court was available, the death sentence would not be inflicted on a British subject by a Court-martial under this Bill.

The Marquess said that the question was not an easy one for him, as he had no special responsibility in the matter. He thought it exceedingly likely that where a British subject was concerned and the offence was one of high treason the trial would take place in the ordinary way. He could see no reason why in that case the normal practice should be departed from. He could conceive of a case of a purely military offence which in one, though not the ordinary, sense, might be regarded as high treason and which would be more appropriately tried by a military tribunal. He referred to such a case as the attempt years ago to blow up the Tower of London, a fortress, with dynamite. Subject to exceptions of that kind he thought he could safely say that no civilian, even if condemned to death under this Act, would be executed without the most careful consideration and examination of the case by the civil authorities.

Viscount Bryce said that what he and Lord Loreburn desired to prevent was the setting up of what they regarded as a dangerous precedent.

Earl Loreburn stated that the undertaking which he sought was that until Parliament met again a civilian British subject, not under martial law, should not be deprived of his life by courtmartial under the present measure.

The Lord Chancellor said he did not think he could hesitate to give that undertaking.

The Earl of Crawford pointed out that they were putting on soldiers certain responsibilities and taking away from those soldiers the duty of enforcing the punishment ("No, no.") Yes, for the matter was to be held up until Parliament met again.

The amendment was then withdrawn. The Bill was read a third time and passed.

The New York "American" of Nov. 18th reports that Joseph Ullmann, of the well-known firm of furriers, with offices in New York, St. Paul, London, Leipzig, and Paris, has been sentenced to death in London as a German spy. It is contended that Mr. Ullmann is an American citizen, born in America, of American-born parents, and Coroner Winterbottom and Dr. Griswold, of New York, have applied to the American Government in the matter.

## THE FOOTBALL FINAL.

### KERRY v. WEXFORD.

An enormous crowd assembled yesterday at Croke Park to witness the replay of the final in the Croke Cup Championship between Kerry (the holders) and Wexford. The strong wind which blew all through the match was a decisive factor in the play. At the half hour the scores were: Wexford, 6 points; Kerry, nil.

Now it was Kerry's turn to be favoured with the wind and they were not long in turning it to account, for they already had two goals to their credit in the first three minutes of play.

Final score:—

Kerry	...	...	2 goals, 3 points.
Wexford	...	...	6 points.

A special account of the match will appear in to-morrow's issue.

The gate receipts were £824 2s. 11d.

## "ARMS ACT REPEALED."

From to-day the sale of military or semi-military weapons and stores throughout Ireland by gunsmiths or other shopkeepers is interdicted, except by permission of the British War Office. A full list and minute particulars of all military articles in the possession of shopkeepers in Ireland has been demanded with a view to their purchase by the British authorities.

## THE EMDEN.

### CAPT. VON MULLER'S ACCOUNT OF ITS DESTRUCTION.

Commander von Müller, of the "Emden," reports, says the Berlin official news, that he approached the battleship "Sydney" near Cocos Island and cut the cable. He states that the "Emden's" shooting was good, but in a very short time the superiority of the English forces caused heavy losses among his gunners, and this resulted in his guns soon being silenced. Notwithstanding the fact that the rudder of the "Emden" was damaged, he fired a torpedo at the "Sydney," but missed his object. The speed of his vessel was reduced in consequence of damage to her funnel and he was obliged to run the ship ashore on a reef, from which point a landing party set out, followed by the English, who, however, gave up the pursuit and resumed their fire against the wrecked "Emden." In order to avoid further unnecessary loss of life he surrendered with the officers and crew, consisting of six officers, four deck officers, 28 petty officers and 93 men. One petty officer and seven men were severely wounded.

### BRITISH SQUADRON FOR THE CAPE.

The Berlin official wireless news asserts that at the request of the South African Government a British squadron is being sent to the Cape.



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### IRELAND.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1914.

#### AN AWFUL WARNING.

It is melancholy to observe how the moral character of the man who opposes England in this war undergoes a hideous transformation. The latest is De Wet, whom the English used to describe as the most chivalrous of Boer leaders. It appears this unfortunate man now spends most of his time in cursing, robbing, and beating the innocent.

#### "THEY NEVER WOULD BE MISSED."

As nowadays it happens that the "windbags" are around,

I keep a little list, I keep a little list,  
Of placehunters and professors who all make  
its welkin sound,  
And who never would be missed, who never  
would be missed.  
There's the "economic" humbug, who on  
platforms seems a guy,  
Who hasn't killed a German, but would rather  
like to try,  
Full of "horrors" all varieties, late "cocoa"  
journalist,  
He never would be missed! He never would  
be missed! !

We've the Princes Street "Munchausens,"  
who on Castle patrons fawn,  
Writing "leaders" made to order, piffle that  
provokes a yawn,  
How the Sham Squire must be chuckling, with  
the gyves upon his wrist,  
"Why, it's quite like old times, Brayden, I  
was on the Castle list."  
Then P.C.'s Gold Sticks-in-Waiting, with  
drawn "salaries" in their fist,  
When oblivion overtakes them, do you think  
they will be missed?  
And that other strange anomaly, the "Red  
Cross Libellist,"  
Do you think she would be missed? I have  
her on my list!

Then the pigmy corporator, whose inglorious  
defeat,  
At the Tullamore "convention" made him  
beat a swift retreat.  
And that other, "Mr. Face Both Ways," the  
Lagan Nationalist,  
He never would be missed. No! he never will  
be missed!  
Next in order comes the evening Pink'un  
"Rum-our specialist,"  
With a scissors in his fist, he's the office  
strategist,  
Full of war and other condiments Lloyd George  
has never "missed"—  
You will find him on my list, Oh, you'll find  
him on my list! !

Glancing down the long array of eager "ex-  
pectationists,"  
There are none who would be missed, there are  
none who would be missed.  
All the J.P.'s, legal bantlings, embryo "Chief  
Baronists,"  
From the Redmond Sunday platforms, you will  
find they're rarely missed!  
But where the great Howitzers hurl "Jack  
Johnsons" through the mist,  
It is there they'd send You smiling for a shat-  
tered arm or wrist,  
While at home in snug assurance, mouthing  
round as "loyalist"—  
You will find them keen perusing the "Con-  
solidated list"! !

D.

#### THE STUPID GERMANS.

The Germans continue to strengthen the British Navy. Every British warship they sink turns out to be an old one that the British were rather glad to get rid of.

#### THE BOGUS "FIRING-LINERS."

Mr. Gwynne, M.P., who is the only Irish M. P. to volunteer for the front, is to go, it appears, as an Ambulance man. This will never bring him into the firing line, says the "Roscommon Herald." Mr. Kettle, who has also volunteered, is to act as an interpreter, another safe job at the base. Mr. Wm. Redmond, M.P., at Cork, on Sunday, spoke about his proposal to the Volunteers to enlist, with the remark that it would not be to go to the front, "But follow me!" So far he has not donned the red-coat, although trained as a militia officer in his young days.

#### GERMANY AND IRELAND.

The London "Daily Mail" of Saturday writes:—For the past week the "Daily Mail," in common with other British journals which have regular access to the columns of German newspapers, has been aware that "remarkable negotiations" have been in progress between the German Government and Sir Roger Casement, described in the German official Press as "the well-known Irish Nationalist."

Sir Roger Casement recently arrived in Berlin after a visit to the United States, and according to a communique issued by the German Foreign Office on November 20 and published officially in the "North German Gazette" he has been conferring with the Kaiser's authorities in regard to the future of Ireland in case of a successful German invasion of the United Kingdom. Under the caption

#### "Germany and Ireland"

the organ of the Imperial Government said:—

The well-known Irish Nationalist, Sir Roger Casement, who recently came to Berlin from the United States of America, was received at the Foreign Office. Sir Roger Casement called attention to the fact that ostensibly at the instigation of the British Government authorised statements had been published to the effect that a German victory would result in "great" injury to the Irish people in that country. Their homes, their churches, and their priests would find themselves at the mercy of the army of invasion, which would be inspired only by lust of pillage and conquest. Recent utterances of Mr. Redmond in the course of his recruiting campaign in Ireland, as well as notable expressions in the British Press on the same subject, so Sir Roger emphasises, had been given still wider circulation, and had naturally aroused among the Irish fears with regard to the attitude of Germany in case of a German victory.

Sir Roger asked for the utterance regarding the intentions of Germany toward Ireland of a declaration designed to relieve the anxieties aroused among his compatriots throughout the world, and especially in Ireland and America, by the disquieting representations emanating from responsible British quarters.

The acting Foreign Secretary therefore, in the name of the Imperial Chancellor, made the following official declaration:—

#### German Assurances.

The Imperial Government dis-owns most emphatically the malicious intentions ascribed to it by the representations submitted by Sir Roger, and avails itself of this opportunity to give the categorical assurance that Germany cherishes only wishes for the welfare of the Irish people, their country, and their institutions. The Imperial Government declares in all formality that Germany would never invade Ireland with the intention of conquest and destruction of any kind of institutions.

If in the course of this war, which Germany did not seek, the fortune of arms should ever lead German troops to the coast of Ireland, they will land there not as an army of invaders, who come to pillage and devastate, but as forces of a Government which is inspired by good will towards a country and a people for which Germany wishes nothing but welfare and national liberty.

The heavy words used above are not ours, but are those used by the semi-official "Cologne Gazette" of November 20 in reproducing the original official communique from the "North German Gazette." It will be observed that the German Foreign Office resorts to the familiar English idiom of referring here and there to Sir Roger Casement as "Sir Roger."

#### BRITISH HONOUR.

Since Sir Roger Casement went to the trouble of getting an assurance from Germany that his country would not suffer if the German arms triumphed, the British Press has unanimously decided that he is no longer an honourable man.

#### MISTAKEN.

From "Puck" of November 14th.

Scene in a country Cottage in England.

Kind Lady: Good afternoon, Mrs. Billords.

Mrs. B.: Good afternoon to you, Ma'am.

K. L.: I've brought you a present of a pound of tea, and (she names several other things).

Mrs. B.: I don't know how to thank you, Ma'am.

K. L.: You won't give way if I speak a word or two about Mr. Billords?

Mrs. B.: Not me, Ma'am. We've been together too long for that.

K. L.: You must bear with patience the cross that has been laid upon you.

Mrs. B.: I shall do my best, Ma'am.

K. L.: You must always remember that you are not the only sufferer.

Mrs. B.: There's a many got worse than what I have.

K. L.: It must be a great comfort to you to think that he's doing his duty at this moment as a man and an Englishman?

Mrs. B.: I don't know about that. I shouldn't wonder if 'e was 'aving 'alf a pint at the "Spotted Dog."

K. L.: Surely there must be some mistake. I was told that your husband had gone to the front.

Mrs. B.: Well, Ma'am, if 'e 'as, it must be since dinner-time.

K. L.: Then I must have been misinformed. How annoying!

Mrs. B.: I quite agree, Ma'am. I think it 'igh time 'e went and did a bit of fighting. Only last night he nearly throttled me. I 'ad to punch him on the nose to waken him. "My word," 'e says, "if I didn't think you was a blooming ole German."

K. L.: Good afternoon, Mrs. Billords.

Mrs. B.: Good afternoon, Ma'am: and thank you for all these nice things.

#### THE OIREACHTAS.

##### Preparations in Dundalk for Big Event.

On Thursday evening a meeting of delegates from public bodies and local associations was held in Dundalk for the purpose of ratifying the decision of the Coisde Ceanntair of the county in accepting the offer of the 1915 Oireachtas for Dundalk.

Rev. P. Lyons, Adm., presided, and said that he personally was of opinion that Dundalk was as suitable a place for the holding of the Oireachtas as there could be got in Ireland, and he had no doubt that it would be a pronounced success (applause).

Mr. Micheal Smidic, B.A., B.L., shortly explained the different interests for which the Oireachtas would cater, and said it was the most comprehensive effort of the Gaelic League during the year. Last year's Oireachtas in Killarney was a distinct success, but he had no doubt that Dundalk would go one better, for the district teemed with scenic and historic attractions (applause).

Mr. Seaghan Mac Enri followed.

Mr. B. Hamill, J.P., Chairman, Dundalk Harbour Board, and representative of the County Council, proposed a resolution ratifying the decision of the Coisde Ceanntair, and pledging the support of the people to the Oireachtas. Whatever support might be required from the public bodies of which he was a member would be willingly given, since their town was to be honoured with the first festival of Gaelic Ireland (applause).

Mr. Thomas Murphy, Co. Council, in seconding, said the people of the county would assist the project with a heart and a half.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. Charles MacAlister, Secretary, Co. Council, moved a resolution, appointing those present a County Oireachtas Committee, to assist the Executive. He thought in Dun Dealgan they could arrange a more attractive Oireachtas than, perhaps, had been held in any other centre.

Mr. A. G. O'Lochlainn seconded, and it was passed.

Mr. Thomas Soraghan, representing Dundalk Rural Council, moved a vote of thanks to the visitors.

Rev. Fr. Huson, C.C., in seconding, said some people had been inquiring of late—"Why not kill the Gaelic League?" In his opinion the Gaelic League had been the saviour of Ireland (applause). It had infused new life into the nation at a time when the infusion was necessary, and it provided them with some little backbone and grit. It was a matter of certain that the Oireachtas would be a striking success (applause).

The vote of thanks was passed and the meeting concluded.



## THE WAR DAY BY DAY.

### The Losses on Both Sides.

Mr. Hilaire Belloc, the well-known English writer, has been giving us again his estimate of the losses sustained in this war. Needless to say, he confines himself entirely to the German and Austrian losses. Seated comfortably in an arm chair by the fire he gets a book of statistics about Germany and Austria. From that book he learns there are so many millions of men between the ages of 17 and 38 in Germany, and so many other millions of men between the same ages in Austria. He deducts a certain proportion as being unfit and arrives at the comforting conclusion that the number of men that both Germany and Austria can possibly put in the field would total about five millions in Germany and four in Austria. Out of this number, by another process of comfortable deduction, he arrives at the conclusion that the German losses to date are 1,750,000, and the Austrian losses come to about the same number, or 1,700,000. It is all very beautifully worked out—on paper. The only thing Mr. Belloc does not tell us is—if the Germans and Austrians have sustained these losses why the Allies (about whose losses he is silent) do not march at once on Berlin.

### Pure Guess Work.

As a matter of fact Mr. Belloc's figures are pure guess work. Any man with Whitaker's Almanac in his hand could make just as good (or as bad) an estimate as that of Mr. Belloc. For that matter, if any reader believes the daily record of huge losses "sustained by the enemy" compiled by the pro-English Press, he can go even further than Mr. Belloc. Instead of the German losses being 1,750,000 he can believe them to be 2,750,000, or even 3,750,000. As for the Austrian, if he believes in the stories of Russian and Serbian victories the losses should come to about four millions, and there should not be a soldier left in Vienna or Budapest to-day. Apart from all joking, I have been looking over my file of daily papers kept since the war began, and I can assure my readers positively that if these precious pro-English organs could be believed the German losses to-day would be five millions and the Austrians four millions—so that all Belloc's estimate of the fighting forces of both Germany and Austria should by now be completely wiped out and the war should be over. Of course no sane man believes the pro-English Press. Only cranks believe in Hilaire Belloc or his tribe. The wise man won't believe any side. He will wait for results. I should advise this course to all my readers. Let them discard the daily litany of colossal victories and awful losses and wait for results. War is like a football match. One side may be winning all the time according to form, but if the other side secures the odd goal it wins the game.

C.

## TWO-MILLION-POUND FORT

### Destroyed in One Day.

The New York "American" publishes a despatch from Paris, which states that Manonviller, the newest of French forts, lasted only one day when bombarded by the Germans. It cost £2,000,000 and was reduced by 147 shots from two of the 42-centimetre German guns. These guns were planted nine miles away, and not one of their shots missed the fort. Their target was 600 meters long and 400 meters wide.

Fourteen hundred prisoners and munitions for six months fell into the hands of the Germans. The French scouting is said to have been insufficient and the fortress was surrounded before the garrison knew it. Only one of the prisoners was wounded.

Manonviller lies sixty miles to the east of Laon and some the German officers on duty there were present at the capture of the fortress.

German operations against the forts at Maubeuge not only disclosed the futility of the modern fortress but also brought out the fact that a considerable part of the French scheme of fortification exists only on paper.

## "THE SMALL NATIONALITIES."

### The Russian Regime in Finland.

M. Svinokuvud, formerly Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, has been arrested by order of the Russian Governor-General and imprisoned.

## IRELAND'S FOOD SUPPLY.

### MEETING OF CORK CONSUMERS' LEAGUE.

#### Interesting Report.

Mr. Edward Sheehan, M.A. (Chairman) presided over the first quarterly meeting of the Cork Consumers' League. The attendance included—Mrs. H. M. Barry, Miss M. McSwiney, B.A.; Miss Fitzgerald, Madam Gerard, Mrs. Vaughan, Mrs. Horgan, Mrs. Roche, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. O'Sullivan, Miss O'Mahony, Mrs. Fawsitt, Miss O'Leary, Mrs. Leahy, Messrs. Denis O'Mahony, T.C.; A. Foxe, Hon. Treas.; John Good (Secretary United Trades and Labour Council), D. Cronin, T. Barry, J. Curtin, E. Riordan, D. Courtney, D. O'Sullivan, P. Murphy, J. O'Callaghan, and J. L. Fawsitt, Hon. Sec.

Miss M. St. C. Barry, Co. Hon. Sec., and other members sent apologies for non-attendance.

The following report was submitted by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. L. Fawsitt):—Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen—On August 13th last, at a public meeting, convened by the Cork Industrial Development Association, and held in the City Hall, the Cork Consumers' League was founded, to interest itself in the question of the conservation of the food supply of our city and county during the war crisis. The Chairman of that meeting, Ald. Terence O'Connor, P.L.G., whose opening address stimulated the large audience present on the occasion, has since passed away, and your Executive Committee, in your name, tendered to his widow and family the sincere condolence of this League on his demise. We feel assured that our action in so condoling with Mrs. O'Connor on the loss she has sustained represented your feeling on the sad occasion. During the three months which have elapsed since our first public meeting your General Council and Executive Committee met regularly and attended to the business of the League. In all some fifteen meetings of both bodies have been held, at which the attendance of members has been satisfactory.

#### Ireland's Food Supply.

As you are aware, the objects and constitution of the League have been clearly defined and were set forth in full both in the local Press and in a special circular which your Executive Committee had published and circulated. The business transacted during the past months consisted of the propagation, through the medium of the daily papers, of information concerning our country's food supply. Attention was specially directed to the danger likely to accrue to our nation through an undue exportation of food stuffs, in the event of a prolongation of the war. That there exists a danger to the country by such exportation cannot be gainsaid. Mr. T. P. Gill, Secretary Department of Agriculture, Dublin, publicly, during the past week, drew attention to the undue exportation of live stock, and especially to the exportation of breeding stock. Should this condition of things continue unchecked, next spring, when prices are high, our farmers will find themselves without stock, and the meat, milk and butter supplies of our people will be imperilled.

#### Tillage Expansion.

Another matter to which considerable attention was drawn was the expansion of tillage in Ireland. Despite the fact that we are an agricultural race, yet we are altogether dependent for the staff of life—our daily bread—upon foreign wheat and flour supplies. The I.A.O.S. and the Department of Agriculture also, pressed home this point upon our farmers, and, judging from a letter which appeared in the Irish Press on the 31st October last from the Right Hon. T. W. Russell, M.P., Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture, there has been a marked improvement in the sowing of winter wheat, oats, and catch crops generally throughout Ireland during the past two months. Our efforts should not cease until tillage replaces grass in all Irish counties.

#### Prices.

Your Committee also concerned itself with local wholesale and retail prices for necessities of life. Investigations were made where exorbitant prices were alleged to have been charged for household commodities. Lists of prices that obtained in other cities were studied and comparisons made with prevailing local prices of similar articles. Everything that could be done through human instrumentality was done to secure that famine prices were not charged to the public, and that no undue inflation of prices took place. To the activity of your Committee, in this respect, must be ascribed the, generally speaking, low level of prices which was maintained through-

out the city since the subsidence of the original "panic" that caused so much suffering and want among the very poor of our city on the outbreak of war between England and Germany. Whilst the war lasts the public cannot consider themselves immune from the menace of inflated prices, and due vigilance will have to be exercised in this regard in the future as in the immediate past.

#### Irish Goods and Employment.

With a view to prevent the spread of distress in the city, your Committee appealed to the producing classes to continue to give employment to our city workers. Consumers generally were exhorted to encourage local production by purchasing, as far as possible, only goods of local or Irish origin. In this way employment would be sustained in the city and work would be provided for our workers. Your Committee were animated throughout by the belief that the prevention of distress was of far greater importance to the entire community than the relief of distress by charitable organisations, which invariably demoralised those so aided.

#### The Feeding of the Poor School-Children.

The feeding of necessitous school-children and the proper housing of the masses were also kept prominently before the public mind. Your Committee did everything possible under the circumstances to interest local charitable organisations and the Corporation in the question of the feeding of school children. It is a matter of considerable regret that the Corporation have not before now set the Act in operation and provided meals for the children of the very poor attending city schools. The health of these little children is imperilled through want of nutritious food, and their sufferings and privations, owing to the general prevalence of distress in the city, should urge the members of the Corporation to speedy action in their behalf. Much money and effort has been expended on the homeless poor of another country, but our own poor need better homes, better clothing, and better food, and their needs should not be overlooked, especially during the severe winter season which has so suddenly come upon us. These, in brief, constituted the main activities of the League during the past three months. It is for you to-night to consider how these activities are to be shaped and directed for the trying months yet ahead of all of us. It is for our members to assist to dispel this apathy and to arouse our people to the importance of conserving our national resources for the difficult and darkening days that a continuance of the present calamitous war will inevitably bring upon our country and race.

#### English Fishermen and Irish Coasts.

The Chairman (Mr. E. Sheehan) M.A. said that though some of the necessities of life were in price above the normal at this time of the year, he believed that it was the existence of that organisation that had kept prices as they stood. He would like to know whether the public were made to pay the new prices for the huge stocks of tea taken out of bond and distributed to retailers before the new duties were announced. If that were so it was smart business but sheer dishonesty. Something akin to this had happened in the case of sugar last August. The public should watch the price of bread. It afforded a good profit to bakers as it stood. He was glad to hear that tillage was greatly on the increase all over Cork county, and it would be both patriotic and profitable for farmers to till as much land as possible. He (Chairman) characterised the statement of Lord Meath that Irish fishing vessels had sown German mines in the North Channel as being devoid of foundation. There was, Mr. Sheehan said, a game afoot to relax the fishery bye-laws and permit English East Coast boats to fish in Irish waters within the present prohibited limits. It might be attempted to keep Irish boats in port so that Ireland would get no fish save through England. Referring to the feeding of necessitous school-children the Chairman wondered what had become of the proposal since the Public Health Committee considered the Law Agent's report on the Act? He thought that the Public Health Committee should be written to again on the matter.

Mr. Denis O'Mahony, T.C., thought too much attention could not be centred on the question of supplying food to school children. The winter was now upon them and distress was more prevalent than formerly. Children sent to school without a nourishing breakfast could not be expected to give that attention and interest in school studies which their more fortunate companions could. These children would be the future citizens, and it was all important that sustenance for their bodies be provided for them. If the amount of money that could be raised off the rates were insuffi-



cient for the purpose he believed that the charitable public of Cork would gladly contribute freely towards so laudable an object. He thought the matter should not be allowed to drop, but should be agitated until the Act was put in force locally.

Mrs. Barry and Miss Fitzgerald both agreed that steps should be taken to arouse the public to the importance of this question.

Miss M. McSwiney, B.A., whilst sympathising with the desire to see the poor children of the city provided with nourishing food during school hours, expressed the belief that the first duty of the League was to conserve the food supply of the nation. It could not be disputed that there was an undus exportation of live stock out of the country to England. Were this to continue unchecked the effects would be serious for the whole community. The extension of tillage so as to increase our home produced food stuffs was also of equal importance, and stress should also be laid on the object of the League. Were the present war to continue, as anticipated, for a number of years, the Irish people would require for their own consumption all the food that could be produced in the country.

Mr. John Good believed that were prices raised, the public would have only themselves to blame. The apathy that prevailed among consumers was, he declared, most disheartening. The organisation would be doing a great deal did it survive the inertia that abounded in all sides and keep itself intact for the days of stress that, he felt, were ahead of all of them.

Some other members having spoken, the report was adopted unanimously, and the secretaries were directed to write again to the Public Health Committee on the feeding of necessitous school children.

## THE SERVIANS.

The following article is from the pen of Miss Edith Durham, the well-known English war-correspondent in the Balkans in the late war:—

When, as a casual tourist, I first visited Montenegro in 1900, and asked why Cettinge—then a mere village of mainly one-storeyed houses—should be bristling with Legations, Consulates, and Diplomatic Agencies, I was told: "Because Cettinge is the most inflammable spot in Europe. It is the tinder-box which will kindle the next great war."

Servia was at that time in a state of great internal unrest, and Montenegro was regarded as leader of the South Slavs. The assassination of Alexander Obrenovitch, King of Servia, and his wife Draga in 1903, gave an immense impulse to the Serv cause. I witnessed the rejoicings in Montenegro, and went up country with the news, which was hailed everywhere as the dawn of a new era.

When in 1906 I revisited Servia I found that the military party which had the actual power largely in its hands had organised and carried out the murders. The army was then being reorganised and equipped, a fact which brought on one of the usual "tariff wars" with Austria. Talk ran on preparations for real war.

Rivalry, meanwhile, between Montenegro and Servia ran high. The Montenegrins had hoped in 1903 that Prince Mirko, the second son of their own King Nikola, would be king of Servia. I remember him in the Royal box on the occasion of the gala performance in honour of King Peter's accession, looking as though he had just been badly "ploughed" in an examination.

In 1907 a plot to assassinate King Nikola was discovered. The persons implicated in the plot were for the most part men who had studied in Belgrade or their relatives. The bombs came from the Royal Servian arsenal at Kragujevat, as did those which recently killed the Austrian Archduke. A number of persons of all ranks were found guilty and condemned to various terms of imprisonment, and several, notably three popular young men of Andrijevitza, were executed.

The creation of a Great Servia was the ambition of both Servia and Montenegro—but each wished to be top-dog. Both were anxious for a war, more especially Montenegro.

Russia armed Montenegro, supplying artillery and ammunition, and starting a military school. She also supported a large school for girls, under the patronage of the Dowager Empress of Russia, collected girls from Bosnia, Dalmatia and Turkish territory, and instilled into them through a very efficient Russian headmistress Pan-slavism and the necessity of spreading the doctrines of the Holy Orthodox Church.

As the Turkish Empire rotted and weakened, so did the desire to attack it increase. In 1903, in Montenegro, I was told plans were

maturing. In 1905 I saw troops rush to the frontier, and we sat up all night, the jubilant villagers certain that war was in sight.

In 1908 came the Young Turk revolution and the almost immediate annexation by Austria of Bosnia, and the declaration of independence by Bulgaria. All plots were upset, and the fact that Europe hailed Turkish regeneration with joy further infuriated both Serb and Montenegrin.

Austria, in fact, made a bad blunder. She had been entrusted with the administration and occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by the Treaty of Berlin in 1878, followed by the Convention of 1879. She accepted the task. No term was set to her occupation and she was permitted and encouraged to sink a great amount of capital in the construction of roads, railways, factories, schools, schools of agriculture, irrigation, mines and so forth. Nominally the land was Turkish, but the capitulations had been allowed to lapse and to all intents and purposes it was Austrian territory. Nor did Europe object when in 1881 compulsory military service in the Austrian army was enforced. The orthodox Serb element was held down with a heavy hand, but in justice to Austria it should be remembered that it was precisely for this purpose that Europe put her there.

It must, moreover, be admitted that Austria's occupation of Bosnia saved a large part of the Moslem population. Moslem schools were provided, and complete religious freedom was allowed. In the territories annexed at the same time by the Serbs and Montenegrins, on the other hand, the Moslems were treated with gross injustice. Their lands were in many cases confiscated and numbers of them expelled.

The problem which was abruptly solved by Austria in 1908 was not whether Bosnia should be Austrian or Servian, but whether it should be Austrian or Turkish. Austria dreaded lest Turkey should demand representation of Bosnia in the Turkish Parliament and most foolishly acted without consulting the Powers. The annexation was within an ace of kindling war. Servia and Montenegro began mobilising, and war fever ran high. It yielded, however, to European diplomacy and peace was maintained.

Austria, desirous now of winning over the South Slavs to her side, gave Bosnia a Constitution, none too liberal, but still considerably better than the previous military rule.

The Archduke Franz Ferdinand was said to support warmly all schemes for gaining Slav confidence, and forming a South Slav State as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

This did not at all suit the plans and ambitions of Servia and Montenegro. The pro-Serb propaganda went on in Bosnia as before and both Serb and Austrian, to judge by those with whom I discussed it, regretted that they had not gone to war in 1908. The Austrians were, I gathered, terrified of the growing power of the Serbs, backed, as they obviously were, by Russia, and said time and again that war must be made before they got too strong. The Serbs on their part said: "Austria was not ready in 1908, and Russia would have helped us. Turkey was too occupied at home, and powerless. We should have had a free hand."

Had it not been for the furious jealousy raging between Servia and Montenegro owing to the bomb affair of the previous year it is possible that even European pressure would not have kept the peace.

Serb land-hunger increased and for over a year attempt after attempt was made to force the Turks into declaring war. On one occasion Montenegro burnt a number of Turkish block-houses and penetrated fifteen kilometres into Turkish territory. But Turkey would not retaliate. Finally, on October 9th, 1912, Montenegro declared war. The subsequent events are fresh in the minds of all.

Living, as I was, among Montenegrin officers, soldiers and officials, I heard from day to day enough of their hopes and wishes. They were very bitter indeed against Russia for not giving greater assistance, though she supplied Russian officers, artillery and ammunition. "Why could she not help as she did in 1877?" The obvious answer was that she could not take part without a decent excuse.

Perhaps, in order to afford one, attempts were made to drag in Austria. Her Consul, Prochaska, was maltreated at Prizren. About this affair there have been many charges and countercharges. The version given me by the secretary of General Vukotitch, who had been through the whole campaign in Kosovo villayet, was that: "Austria will never dare confess what we did to her Consul. It is impossible to exaggerate it. He was rolled on the ground and spat on. The foulest insults were levelled at him and the flag. Why? To show Austria one has no more need of her and her Consuls. She dares not tell or she would be laughed at by all Europe and forced to declare war. The

day of Austria is over, etc., etc." Austria accepted apologies to flag and Consul. The Montenegrins retorted by terrorising and maltreating the Catholic Albanians in the conquered territories who had been entrusted to the protection of Austria by Europe.

The form of oppression adopted was to give them the choice of death or of abjuring their faith and turning Orthodox. The persecution culminated in the martyrdom of the Franciscan of Djakova, who, refusing courageously to the last to make the sign of the Cross in orthodox fashion, was first beaten and then bayonnetted to death. Austria intervened, demanded a full enquiry and established the truth of the facts reported. But again she accepted apologies and refrained from using force!

Serb and Montenegrin, considering that Austria dared not retort, showed the inordinate greed and hideous ferocity of their nature. They avowed their intention of clearing off from the territories which they seized all members of other races and religions. In some districts they carried out wholesale and cold-blooded massacres, as both officers and men delighted to describe to me. The Montenegrin Royal family lost much of its prestige. Blood-drunk and loot-drunk officers and men made the wildest plans for the formation of a Great Servia. Nothing paid like assassination. King Ferdinand was to be assassinated and Bulgaria absorbed; King Nikola, too, if necessary. The Serb people were invincible.

I remember well at the close of the Balkan war in May, 1913, a yelling pack of Montenegrins at the parcel post office bawling: "We, the Serb people, have beaten the Turk. We are a Power. We shall set Europe on fire."

They claimed that they had all Russia supporting them and stated repeatedly that they would begin in Bosnia. I little thought at the time that they would fulfil their threat so literally.

Only time can unravel the mass of intrigue that has brought about the present situation. Meanwhile it is of interest to remember that the military party, which has such great power in Servia, murdered its own King and has boasted of its intention to murder others and that the bombs prepared both for King Nikola and the Archduke came from the Servian government arsenal.

## ALLEGED MINE-LAYER ARRESTED.

A Norwegian trawler has been arrested at Fleetwood charged with laying mines on the north coast of Ireland.

## IRISH VOLUNTEERS.

Members of the "A" Company, 1st Batt., will parade to-night at 7.45 p.m. Guides of No. 2 Section to act as orderlies and be in attendance from 7.30 p.m.

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