

NATIONALITY

EDITED BY ARTHUR GRIFFITH.

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WEEK BY WEEK.

Meetings in support of Sinn Fein were addressed on Sunday at Ballycormell (Cavan) by Mr. Darrell Figgis, at Killock (Kildare) by Mr. Ginnell, and at Moyne (Longford) by Mr. Collins. A public meeting of the Michael Malone Branch (Camden Street, Dublin) was addressed by Count Plunkett. Mr. Figgis lectured in Waterford on Friday night.

On Thursday, the 28th ult., Mr. Griffith lectured in Emmistymon (Clare) on "British Policy in Ireland." Father Griffin presiding, and afterwards Messrs. Griffith and Milroy spoke on the existing political situation. On Friday night Mr. Griffith lectured in Mit-townmalloy (Clare), Mr. James Kenny presiding, and afterwards, with Father Enright and Mr. Sean Milroy, addressed the meeting on the political situation.

West Wicklow is ready whenever the Vivinist who now misrepresents it gives it the opportunity to replace him by a man. On Sunday night the Town Hall of Ballynaglass was thronged with a meeting to support Sinn Fein. Ninety new members joined the branch and a round sum of money was subscribed.

In North Kildare Sinn Fein is booming, and Parliamentary stock is going very low. The constituency is now almost completely organised. Three new Clubs were established during the past few days at Clogherknoke, Johnstown Bridge, and Cloncurry. The Rev. Fr. James, C.C., Broadford, presided at the first two, and Mr. J. Boggan, Co. C., at the last. Mr. Arthur O'Connor was the principal speaker at all.

During Mr. Ginnell's speech at Killock on Sunday, while he was referring to a local rancher, a person in the crowd shouted "shoot him!" Mr. Ginnell turned towards him and declared amid cheers that the fellow was either a fool or a dupe of Dublin Castle, and warned the people against him. Messieurs the Agents-Procureurs have been sent out broadcast from Dublin Castle in recent weeks.

On Friday last a meeting was held at Ballyhaise (Co. Cavan), presided over by Rev. Father Dolan, P.P., and addressed by Rev. Father Dolan, C.C., Messrs. Magee (Ballyhaise), Geo. Moloney, and W. L. Cole. All the people of Ballyhaise and neighbourhood were present. It was unanimously resolved to maintain the bacon-curing industry at the local Co-operative Society's Factory, and to hold the whole of the produce for local needs first and for distribution within Ireland only afterwards.

Last week we briefly explained the new Franchise Act, which reached us a few hours before going to press. In some points it is desirable to make the explanation fuller, and on one or two points a correction is necessary. Residential qualification means that the voter on the last day of the qualifying period must be residing in premises in the constituency, and must have resided in them or in premises in a contiguous constituency for six months previously.

"Business premises" means land or other premises of a value yearly not less than £10 occupied for the business purposes, trade or profession of the voter. The yearly value is the rateable value, but if the premises are not separately valued the Registration Officer may estimate what the rateable value would be if they were separately valued.

The value of a dwellinghouse need not be taken into account in the case of registering a voter. The wife of every voter is not automatically entitled to a vote, but the wife of every Local Government voter—every man who has a vote for a Corporation, Town Council, or County Council—is entitled to a Parliamentary vote, provided she be 30 years of age or over.

Persons holding honorary University degrees are not entitled to vote in University elections. In T.C.D. a man or woman who has obtained a Fellowship or Scholarship is entitled to vote. A man may have votes in several constituencies, but a woman can only have a vote in one constituency. She may, however, in addition, have a University vote.

The appeal from the Registration Officer's decision by a claimant for a vote is in Dublin City and County to the persons who are the respective Revising Barristers at the time of the passing of the Act. On points of law there is an appeal from the Revising Barrister and the County Court to the Court of Appeal.

As there will be only in Ireland an annual register, the qualifying periods ending 15th January and 15th July do not apply. We stated last week that each candidate was entitled to use the elementary schools for public meetings. This is true in Great Britain, but we find in the Addendum to the Act that in Ireland the use of the schools is prohibited.

Colonel Charles Guinness is not known to the Irish public, but he is no small beer. The Colonel is on terms with certain English and other military personages, and he set out recently to organise in a quiet and unostentatious manner "A Call to Unionists." What the stout warrior's instructions were we do

not know, but he succeeded in forming a junction with Mr. W. M. Jellett, K.C., and two-and-twenty persons were beaten up by Guinness and Jellett to sign a prepared document headed "The Crisis in Ireland: Call to Unionists." The "call" is, of course, for more martial law for the mere Irish. Guinness paid for the printing of the "Call" and Jellett supplied his house, 36 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, for the assembly of the two-and-twenty members of Irish Nationalism. They gathered around Jellett's table at 4.30 on Friday evening, and arranged to fire off the "Call" on Monday morning.

The signatories to the document were mainly Masons, but we are glad to say that several prominent Masons refused to allow their names to be used for the sinister purpose behind the manoeuvres of Guinness and Jellett. Among the prominent Masons who did take part in issuing the manifesto were Lord Dunally, Mr. Fane Vernon, D.L., and Mr. John E. Walsh. Lord Dunally, who represents North Munster in the Grand Lodge of Instruction, is a "Councillor of the 28th Degree—the Knights of the Sun—being three Degrees lower than Mr. Fane Vernon, who, with the present Lord Chief Justice, Sir James H. Campbell, is a member of 'The Tribunal of Twenty-One'—the Thirty-first Degree. Mr. John E. Walsh, however, though he is one of the members of the higher degree, has got a long way to go to get to the altitude of the Dunallys and Fane Vernons, who play the tune for English militarism in Ireland. At the meeting in Jellett's house it was explained that it was necessary to "organise the Unionists of the South and West at once." The convalescence in Fitzwilliam Square on Friday was a pretty commentary on the fiery tales being told to County Council Chairmen by "the leaders of the Southern Unionists" of their absorbing desire to preserve peace in Ireland.

The South Armagh election has proved a boomerang for the Provincialists. The union of Orangism and Hibernianism against Nationalism opened the eyes of tens of thousands in Ulster, and since the election the accessions to the ranks of Sinn Fein in Ulster have caused consternation to the enemies of Irish freedom. In this dire strait, Mr. Alexander Fisher, the Unionist leader, who marshalled the Unionist electors of South Armagh to the poll for the Provincialist candidate, with inflexible impudence wrote to the "Daily Independent" to deny that the Unionists voted, or in the alternative voted for Sinn Fein, and to deny the Orange orgies of joy at the result of the election.

Night and day this man Fisher worked for the defeat of Sinn Fein. He has been convicted by Father Smith, C.C., of Newtownhamilton, of deliberate falsehood in his denial of the Orange Saturnalia there on the night of the election, and his audacious suggestion that he did not sign a printed appeal to the Unionist voters has been exposed by Mr. Figgis. We ourselves secured in Nowry on the polling day one of the circulars signed by Fisher. During the week prior to the poll Fisher held private meetings of the Unionists and Orangemen of the different districts, putting pressure on the reluctant ones to vote for the Party. We proposed to publish in "Nationality" the speeches delivered and the statements made by Fisher at these gatherings, but the National Press in Ireland is subject in what it prints to the veto of Mr. Fisher's political sympathisers, and the report of Mr. Fisher's speech does not appear. But if Mr. Fisher was not authorised by the "British Government and the War Cabinet" to tell the Unionists of Armagh that they "must vote for Donnelly" then the "British Government and the War Cabinet" have been misrepresented by this eloquent Deunpy.

Mr. W. J. McGeagh McCaw is a Champion Food Hog of the British Empire. Recently he engaged, as a member of the British Parliament, in making a law to send people to prison for hoarding food. Numbers have been so sent. One day it was discovered that Mr. McGeagh McCaw, the law-maker, had hoarded enough food in one of his own houses to feed a dozen human pigs for months. McGeagh McCaw was haled before the Court, but it was a British Court, and a British Court is a respecter of persons. If McGeagh McCaw had been a poor man it would have sent him to prison with hard labour, but as he is rolling in wealth he was politely released after paying a fine.

Now, consider this man. He is a legislator, and he makes a law to punish other men for doing what he was doing in a tenfold worse way. He is an Imperialist calling out for the Empire, and at a time of semi-famine in England he stole, by the use of his money, food from the poor and hoarded it in his house that he might wallow while they starved. The British Court let him off with a fine that meant less to him than twopenny to a workman. The British Legislature did not expel him from its membership. He still moves in the highest circles of English society, and last week he came over to Ireland and addressed the Provincialists of West Down. The Orange newspapers and the miserable "Irish Times" delight their readers with this creature's speech. Here is portion of it:—

The Sinn Feiners appeared to be entirely a law unto themselves alone. They proclaim an Irish Republic; they terrorise the whole countryside in their raids to collect arms and ammunition. They commandeer

land and defy the laws of the country in every possible way. It seemed perfectly monstrous that this state of affairs should be allowed by the Government to exist when the rest of the country was engaged in one of the most deadly conflicts ever known. In conclusion, he said that Ulster Unionists owed Sir Edward Carson a deep debt of gratitude which could be a very difficult one to repay.

The place where this human pig declaimed as above was the Orange Hall, Banbridge. The name of the person who presided was T. C. Rogers, J.P.—a magistrate taking the chair for the most despicable type of law-breaker in England. The Ulster Unionists elsewhere may be able to produce a burglar, a garrotter, a pickpocket, to advise their Party, praise Carson and the Empire, and belie Sinn Fein; but their best efforts will not find a manner type of criminal to represent them than Mr. W. J. McGeagh McCaw, whose declaration "that they had been born and bred under the British Government, and under the British Government they claimed to stay," represents his wise belief that under an Irish Government he would now be doing hard labour if he had robbed the poor of their food.

The "Daily Independent" newspaper some time ago published a letter signed "John J. Hayes," with an American address, grossly attacking Monsignor O'Farrell of Longford in connection with his protest against the manner in which some young Irish emigrants to the United States had been trapped into the American army. One column and half of space was given to Hayes's letter, and people were thus induced to regard Hayes as a person of importance. Now, Mr. Hayes is a person connected with the English army. A letter in reply to his extending to one quarter of a column, and pointing out that Mr. Hayes represented nobody but himself, has been refused insertion by the Editor of the "Independent."

But there is more. In Tuesday's "Independent" several Catholic papers in America are quoted as condemning Sinn Fein. We have seen in New York for Feb. 2nd. It quotes from a number of Catholic and Irish papers published in America—the majority of them being sympathetic to Sinn Fein. What the "Daily Independent," Dublin, has done is to cull from the "Litany Dyest" the hostile expressions and suppress the favourable ones.

Mr. Horatio Bottomley, the Unofficial Prime Minister of England, as he styles himself, is indignant with the German Premier, who, in reply to England's claim for "Self-Determination" for the "Small Nations," has inquired whether England will permit Ireland, Egypt and India to decide by the vote of their people their future status.

"When this pinchbeck dictator," writes Bottomley, "goes on to demand that the same policy shall be applied to Egypt, to India and to Ireland, I tug the insult back in his teeth and tell him we will fight to the last drop of our blood and the last ounce of our treasure rather than submit or even to listen to his insolent demands."

The British military authorities have renounced their intention of turning the local hospital at Buttevant into an hospital for venereal diseases, but the English Local Government Board in Ireland has circularised the workhouse officials throughout Ireland calling on them to establish a venereal department in their hospitals. They say (1) that a Royal Commission has reported on the advisability of such a scheme, inasmuch as this disease is on the increase; 10 per cent. of the population being infected with it; (2) that after the war the disease will be still more widespread; (3) that these hospitals are to be "open to all comers, no matter where from." To which we reply that the Commission did not sit or take evidence in Ireland; that its finding that 10 per cent. of the population is infected is false as regards Ireland. Syphilis is not an Irish disease. It comes to Ireland from the country which is fighting for Christianity and civilisation. If after the war the disease will be still more widespread, the proper course is to build internment hospitals. The audacious proposal of the Local Government Board is to turn our workhouse hospitals into hospitals for strangers to be put upon our rates, and to bring a stigma upon the districts.

Some time ago the organ of Dillon, Carson, Davlin and the other wirepullers of the Provincialist Party published a story of an attempt to wreck a train on the Midland Railway by means of placing a bar of iron on the rails. It was suggested by the journalistic thugs who wrote on the matter that Sinn Feiners were responsible. An inquiry has been held by the railway authorities, but no statement of the result of the inquiry has been made public. Why? The truth is now known, and the truth is being concealed by the directors of the Midland Railway from the Irish public. Sir Walter Nugent, one of these directors, is a member of the Redmondite Party. Would he admit the truth, would he brand his colleagues as liars? Perhaps some of the shareholders of the Midland will inquire why the directors of that body do not let the public know the result of the inquiry.

The "Balkan News" is the title of a journal printed and published at Salonika by the

British Government for free distribution. We have before us its issue for February 6th, in which it chronicles the correct war news, and reports the South Armagh election among the British victories. "Donnelly, the Nationalist candidate," it writes, "defeated the Sinn Fein candidate, Dr. McCartan, by 2,316 votes to 1,259. This is the first occasion on which an election had been fought between a Sinn Fein candidate and an Irish Nationalist."

From this statement it can be inferred that the British Government organ in Salonika—now in the third year of its existence—has suppressed the news of the previous elections in Ireland. Commenting on the South Armagh election, the "Balkan News" says:—

"The fact must never be lost sight of that the question of Self-Government in Ireland is not one between the Irish people and the British Government, but between different groups of the Irish people themselves. The British Government long ago passed all the stages of the Bill granting Irish Self-Government, with representative institutions, on a wide suffrage basis, as well as the control of all extra Imperial Irish affairs. The fact that Home Rule is not in force to-day is due solely to differences among Irishmen themselves regarding the application of the measure."

Not even the South Armagh Unionist boss, Mr. Alexander Fisher, could condense more mendacity into a paragraph. The Catholic voters who were suborned by Dillon and Devlin to vote for the English Government in South Armagh can now realise how England is using the result of that election abroad. She uses it to propagate the idea in the Balkan countries and elsewhere that Ireland does not claim or seek independence; she uses it to allege that there is no issue of Self-Government between the people of Ireland and England, and she uses it to spread the libel that the Irish are a people hopelessly unable to agree among themselves. The "Balkan News" is one of a multitude of papers established in the last few years in various countries of Europe and America by British agents, such as Malcolm Lyon. Let us add

was not written by the Editor of the "Balkan News," but sent by telegraph from London to Salonika on Tuesday, Feb. 5th. This interesting fact the Editor of the "Balkan News" unwittingly discloses. The same comment was presumably telegraphed from the Propaganda Committee, which the British Government placed in control of Sir Edward Carson, to every other British Propaganda Organ on the Continent and elsewhere. The dullest voter in South Armagh by meditating on these facts will come to understand whence England's creatures—the Carsons, Dillons, Devlins and Fishers—derive the value they possess to the English Government. They can induce some Irish to believe their falsehoods and become pawns in England's game to represent Ireland to foreign peoples as neither deserving independence nor possessing the capacity to exercise it.

Dr. O'Connor, of Listowel, writes to us:—"In view of the inaccurate report of Lord Listowel's lands ploughed up, in last week's papers, I wish to state the facts of the case for your information, and mayhap for general information as well. The Food Committee of this Club requested the occupiers of the lands (one a victualler, the other a cattle-jobber) to give up their title and interest in these lands to the Committee, so that we could allot a part to each poor person for tillage, and also allot other portions for grazing milk cows to persons who were in a position to buy one cow each, preference to be given to persons with families. One man agreed to give over his claim on repayment of money paid by him to the Estate Office, provided the other man also surrendered his claim. The latter held out until the military arrived on the scene. He then gave in and took our cheque. The first man also took his cheque at the same time. The County Inspector, who was in charge of a large force of police, with the military, were stationed on the lands, and when he was informed that the occupiers had surrendered their claims he said that he would now withdraw all his forces, as 'he only came to protect the interests of the occupiers, and that Lord Listowel could look after his own interests.' The latter, I understand, is to lodge a claim for compensation for £350 for ploughing seven statute acres. There are 27 acres in other portions for milk cows. The Committee then interviewed Hill, the sub-agent, to ask him whether he would agree, on Lord Listowel's behalf, to accept four trustees appointed by the Committee, who would be responsible to him for all charges re rent, etc. We did not ask him for keys, as the two men had them. His (Hill's) attitude being non-possessive, we forthwith entered the lands and forcibly took possession and ploughed about six acres in one field, and a strip in a large one to mark possession."

British trade policy has demanded for three hundred years the suppression of that geography which treasonably decried Ireland the natural channel of trade between Europe and America. Its demand is still the same. The Secretary of the Cork Industrial Development Association writes to us:—"The Dominions Royal Commission, appointed to inquire into the natural resources, trade and legislation of the British Empire, in their Final Report (Cd. 8462) advocated 'a policy of scientific and co-ordinated development of the harbours of the Empire as an urgent mea-

sure which should be undertaken with the least possible delay.' The chief grounds advanced for the application of such policy by the Commissioners were (1) 'the life of the Empire depends on its sea communications'; and (2) 'producer, manufacturer and merchant alike are vitally concerned with securing cheap, regular and efficient transport for their goods, and consequently with the progressive improvement of the Empire's shipping facilities.' Such action would, in the opinion of the Commissioners, promote 'the permanent betterment of sea routes within the Empire,' give 'a powerful impetus to Imperial trade,' and lead to a notable increase of 'the strength and cohesion of the Empire.' In a supplementary Parliamentary Publication (Cd. 8461) the Commissioners supplied 'Memoranda and Tables as to the chief harbours of the British Empire and certain foreign countries, and as to the Suez and Panama Canals.' In this publication nine main trade routes of the world were fully set out, including (1) route via Suez Canal to the East and Australia; (2) route to Australia and New Zealand via South Africa; (3) route to Eastern Canada; (4) route to Australia and New Zealand via Eastern Canada, Jamaica, Panama Canal and Tahiti; (5) route to Western Canada via Eastern Canada, United States (eastern and western ports), and the Panama Canal; (6) route to South American ports; and (7) route to India via South Africa. The United Kingdom was taken as the starting point for each and all of these routes. The Report next proceeded to detail the harbours and harbour depths of (a) the British Empire (including the United Kingdom) and (b) foreign countries. The history and capacity of the Suez and Panama Canals were outlined in Part 3 of the Report. It is almost unnecessary to add that the chief object intended to be served by these Reports is the promotion of closer, more improved, and more extended trade relations between all parts of the British Empire after the war.

For the information of those interested in the trade and welfare of Ireland I wish to call public attention to the facts: (1) that, despite the geographical fact that Ireland lies between Great Britain and all the foreign ports enumerated in the returns above quoted, no port or harbour of Ireland is mentioned in that of the fourteen ports and harbours of the United Kingdom reported on only one Irish harbour is treated of, viz., Belfast; and (2) that the one and only mention of Ireland contained in the Report is as follows:—'Mr. J. Tatlow (Ireland), who signed the Report apparently as representative of Ireland. Further comment on this boycott of our country and of its unrivalled harbours would be superfluous. Its significance, however, cannot well escape the minds of those among us who give thought to our country's position and future, and especially of the members of the Irish Convention.'

"Ireland's Golden Age" was the subject of Professor MacNeill's lecture, the eighth of the series on Irish History, delivered in the Rotunda Concert Hall on Thursday evening, the 28th ult. The lecturer discussed the singular development of Christian and Latin learning in Ireland after St. Patrick's time. On the political side it dealt with the divisions of the monarchical house and the manner of the succession to the monarchy. Professor MacNeill claimed that the common story of the curing and desertion of Tara is of a fabulous kind, and that the abandonment of Tara was a natural consequence of the course of events recorded in the Annals, etc. Munster, for centuries after the introduction of Christianity, was perhaps the most tranquil land of equal extent in Western Europe. In 734 the succession to the Irish Monarchy ceased to be irregular, and became for three centuries a regular alternation between the Kings of Aileach and Uisneach. Though the extent of Latin learning in the Irish schools had not yet been fully explored, it was the lecturer's opinion that the degree of Greek scholarship that existed in those schools had been overrated by some modern writers. Contrary to the view of Mr. Orpen, who said that the Irishman knew no country but his own tribal territory, Mr. MacNeill held that "the Irish people stood singular and eminent in those times as the possessors of an intense national consciousness," and he quoted various documents in proof of this.

At a recent meeting of the Organising Committee of the Gaelic League it was decided that the week beginning March 17th and ending March 24th should this year be marked out as Irish Language Week. The annual collection in aid of the Irish Language National Fund will be made by the branches of the organisation in every county of Ireland during that week. Flag days will be held on the Sundays or other days of the week as may suit local convenience. Branch Secretaries are invited to write at once to 25 Parnell Square, Dublin, for collection material. This matter should be attended to by branch officials without delay.

The result of the plebiscite in Garriendeeck (East Limerick) as to whether Ireland should appeal to the Peace Conference for complete independence is as follows:—

For	266
Refused to sign	10

We are asked to draw the attention of our readers in the Rathmines area to the Rathmines Sinn Fein Club, which operates in a very important district. All local sympathisers should join up at 53b Rathmines Rd., on Tuesday night.

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NATIONALITY. SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1918. LITHUANIA. The territories of Esthonia, Livonia, Courland, and Lithuania are now, after centuries, freed from Russian rule, and according to the "Daily Mail" Germany and Austria are to determine their future fate in agreement with their populations. Another English journal, much concerned for Lithuania, exclaims against the perfidious plot of the German Government. It would appear the German Government designs setting up an "Assembly," which is to pretend to determine the future status of Lithuania. But this Assembly, instead of being freely chosen by the Lithuanians, is nominated by the German Government, and on it is freely and strongly represented the Germanised minority in Lithuania amounting to just 10 per cent. It would furthermore appear that this "Assembly" in Lithuania is having imposed upon it a scheme drafted by the German Chancellor—Count Hertling—which it is being induced to put forward as its own scheme, and as the claim of the Lithuanian people. The scheme decrees: That the Lithuanians shall be an integral part of the German Empire—that they shall send 40 members to the German Parliament—that they shall have no control over War, Peace, Foreign Policy, Army, Navy, and so forth—that they shall not be permitted to enter into commercial or other treaties with any country; but they are to have a legislature. The German Government is to nominate a fourth of the legislature. The Germanised Lithuanians are to sit in the legislature, with power to vary or veto any of its Acts affecting them—a perpetual Ascendancy. Germany, moreover, forbids the Lithuanians to have an Army, a Militia, or a Volunteer Force. The Police are also to remain under Germany's control. So are the Post Office, the Customs, and the Revenue Department. This means that three-fourths of all the Revenue and all the Customs Officers,

Excise Officers, and Postal Officials, as well as the Police, will remain directly under the control of the German Government, and will owe no allegiance or respect to the nominal "Government" in Lithuania. It also means that Lithuania will have no power to protect or encourage its own trade or industries. A humorous stroke in the alleged German plan for the complete absorption of Lithuania under the guise of giving it Self-Determination is the formation of a "Joint Board" in Berlin to take charge of Lithuanian finance. The money collected by the Customs, Excise, and Postal Services in Lithuania is to be sent to Berlin. Then the Joint Board is to determine how much Lithuania is fairly entitled to get back, and how much Germany is entitled to keep. The Joint Board is to consist of two Lithuanians and three Germans, with a German always in the chair. It does not seem possible that any people could be so stupid as to tolerate for a moment such a scheme; but our English contemporary is of opinion that the German Government will offer a bribe of cheap land to the farmers and cheap houses to the town workers to get them to agree to the plot for the national, political, and economic subjugation of Lithuania. We believe the whole story is a libel on the Germans, and that the "Lithuanian Proposals" were really invented in England.

On the basis of three raids for arms, a robbery, and eight cattle drives—this in a county three the size of Dublin—Clare has been flooded with British soldiery and British press correspondents, whose instructions are to paint Clare as seething with disorder. It is a grim reminder how the influences that wrought up the Curragh Mutiny are still potent to find at the present time in a county like Clare, where there is less crime in a month than there is in any English shire in a day. In Ennis the English correspondents are feeding on the fat of the land and declaring they feel in paradise, while they write lurid accounts of Clare to the papers and joke about the fact at night. Over Ennis. To-day with these people are ranged the Parliamentarians. They, too, joined the conspiracy against Clare out of hatred against Sinn Fein. Not less venomous—not less lying—have been the "Freeman's Journal" and the "Irish Times." The pact of Armagh unites in a common cause in Clare the authors of the Curragh Mutiny and the Devlin-Dillonites. Last week we went through Clare, from the Limerick border to the Atlantic. The normal life of industrious Clare proceeded. It is not the people of Clare who are in a panic. Calm, self-reliant, and cool-headed, they regarded the attempt to intimidate them and the effort to blacken their name to the world with the disdain of strong men. Here are a people Irish of the Irish—a people who have ever held by their land, among whom the language of 3,000 years is still along the margin of the ocean the language of their lives, a people who labour hard, live purely and nobly, who fear God, but who crutch to no man—a people honest, generous, and manly—and it is such a people against whom certain women of England's feid society have planned and carried out the present offensive. One poor fellow lies in his grave, shot by the pawis of Jezebel; but the shot will have other effects than those looked for. How many votes would an anti-Sinn Fein get in West Clare? we asked in Milltown-Malbay. "None," was the reply. England's offensive against Clare has made the whole county solid for Sinn Fein.

"The next two months are crucial. It is then the ground must be broken for this year's food production. Everything that can be said or done to plough more land during that period is needed. Let that time pass without the requisite effort being made, and the loss cannot be repaired." This is taken from a memorandum issued as a special statement to the Press on Food Production, 1918, by the Department of Agriculture. It then proceeds to mention a vital fact which has never before been put clearly before the country. "Ireland herself imports in food and feeding stuffs for human and animal consumption practically as much in value as she exports—a value in normal times of about 33 millions annually in each case; but the volume of imported food is greater." Here is a statement worth pondering. Ireland imports a greater bulk of food than she exports in what the Department is pleased to regard as normal times, that is, in 1915, for the values given refer to that year. On examining the figures for that year, it is clear that this statement is quite correct, though it is very effectively disguised in the statistics presented under the heading of "Food, Drink and Tobacco." By excluding "drink and tobacco" we find that Ireland is not properly an exporter of food at all if the whole balance of trade is taken into account. There is in normal times no surplus of food available when our total requirements are taken into account. If these imports of food are stopped, as most of them are at present, the Department tells us that "the situation must rapidly become very serious. Our live stock have hitherto been very largely maintained upon imported grain, such as maize, and imported feeding cakes—over 800,000 tons of these annually." Here again is a statement well worth pondering over. "These imports are not available, and the shortage of fodder for our live stock has to be made up by what our farmers produce." Nobody can dispute this proposition. It is clear and self-evident. This leads to the final conclusion in the next sentence. "If, therefore, there is not much more land put under crops this year the feeding of live stock will fail, and the supply of meat, including beef, mutton, bacon, and poultry, will go down, and go down in such a fashion that it cannot be resuscitated for years."

We doubt if the seriousness of the position and the danger attending the shortage of feeding stuffs is even yet realised. If fodder fails the result will be that live stock cannot be kept. The herds will have to be slaugh-

tered. The supply of live animals must go down. It will not be possible to keep up even the small supply of beef, mutton, eggs, bacon, butter, milk, now available. The scarcity of fodder will lead straight to famine in all meat and dairy produce. Moreover, a famine in flesh is bound to last over some years, until the herds can be brought back to their former numbers. It is, therefore, a very serious position. We have to grow from our own soil the equivalent of 800,000 tons of Indian corn and meal and other feeding stuffs.

The question is: Where is it to be got? On this point the Department is misty. It appeals to the farmers, who have already done a great deal. It issues a new Tillage Order requiring a further five per cent. of cultivation on holdings containing two hundred arable acres and upwards. This means that on the larger holdings a total of twenty per cent. new tillage will have to be added in the coming year to the amount cultivated in 1916. The number of cases of what the Department calls "serious default" in 1917 is given as 1,244. The acreage is not given, nor are we told what extent of land would be affected by this Order, and how much would be brought into cultivation if it were carried out. No mention is made of the ten thousand ranches or grass farms affected, nor of the unutilised land, estimated at four million acres of prime quality. It is not explained how unutilised land can be cultivated, nor how tillage can be carried on without dairies or stall feeding or buildings of any kind. We are told, however, that "in all cases of serious default in complying with the 1917 Tillage Regulation the defaulters have been required to give an undertaking to plough up out of old grass the areas in default prescribed by the Department. In any cases in which the defaulters fail, without reasonable cause, to plough up the areas in default, the Department are arranging to have the holdings entered upon and portion set in concrete for cultivation." It will be noticed here that there are no penalties imposed. There is a very evident tenderness of treatment, a certain pussyfootedness, in the attitude of the Department, no doubt acting on restraint placed upon them by the British Government. While a man is quite justly branded as a criminal for hoarding food, the man who hoards land and keeps it out of cultivation is regarded with sympathy. Men have been fined and put into prison for technical offences, while those who are the real cause of famine and high prices are treated like sucking doves. Those who hold up land which they cannot cultivate are merely speculators, profiteers and monopolists, whose occupation is the greatest menace to the security of the country.

It is well to set out here the quantities of fodder which were imported in 1915, and which have to be replaced by home-grown corn and meal as far as possible—

Imports of Fodder, 1915. Table with 2 columns: Item, Tons. Oats 13,800; Indian corn 685,000; Indian meal 1,100; Linseed meal 4,300; Cotton meal 14,000; Feeding meal 22,000; Bran and pollard 67,000; Grain offal 2,600; Grains 3,000; Feeding stuffs 500; Linseed cake 1,000; Cottonseed Cake 850; Oileake 1,000. Total 816,150.

The question is mainly one of finding a substitute for Indian corn. Some years ago the Department made several experiments in feeding barley meal to pigs, and it was proved that, weight for weight and price for price, it gave practically the same results. Barley is as good as maize. The yield last year of barley was 168,000 tons from 177,000 acres. To produce eight hundred thousand tons of barley would require nearly nine hundred thousand acres of new tillage. Whether it is possible to find so much land suitable for barley we cannot tell. The investigations of the Department do not extend to analysis of the soil, and we have no means of knowing what can be produced on the untillied lands. Whatever substitute is used, it will evidently require a very large increase of tillage. Potatoes, oats and roots will have to be drawn on to make up the shortage, and it is plain that this is a very strong reason against permitting any inroad on our stocks. The increase of half a million tons of oats in this year's crop is fully set off. Mangels and turnips have increased 400,000 tons.

It should be borne in mind that at the best of times the supply of fodder in Ireland has never been abundant, and is more necessary now than ever in view of the famine in meat. The folly of the Food Controller and his Orders is now becoming clear, and we are feeling the results fully predicted in "Nationality" last autumn. In the movement to increase tillage we have to face the consequences imposed by these criminal Orders. With Indian meal running up to 30s. a cwt. the prospect of raising stock is a very difficult one. Barley meal is cheaper. It stood at 20s. 10d. on November 1st, at the same time that Indian meal stood at 25s. 5d. It is about twenty per cent. less, and it can be used instead of it. But the quantity obtainable is not large. Yet no effort, as far as we are aware, has been made to encourage the growing of barley except to fix the price at 32s. 6d. per barrel, apparently for maling purposes. There should be a very large demand for feeding barley as a result of the cessation of maize imports, and it should be worth while breaking up suitable land for the purpose. Any extension of the area of feeding stuffs of any description deserves encouragement.

Recently the authorities in Ireland got a couple of ordinary criminals to go on hunger-strike and released one of them. The idea was to confuse the minds of the people as to the object and moral justification of hunger-striking. The hunger strike was entered upon to compel political prisoners to receive political prisoner treatment—instead of being treated as criminals. After the death of Thomas Ashe the English Government, through the Lord Mayor of Dublin, agreed

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In accord the treatment of political prisoners to Irish political prisoners. That Government has, as usual, broken its agreement and attempted to restore the old conditions—hence the hunger-strike. It must be clearly understood both in Ireland and outside that the reason why Irishmen are dying of hunger in prison is because, six months after entering into the Mountjoy agreement, the English Government has broken it.

England at the beginning of the war sent an Ambassador to the Vatican. England eight months afterwards signed a secret treaty with the Italian Government which guaranteed England's aid to Italy to prevent the Pope or the Papacy being allowed a voice in the matter of peace. A year later the secret treaty came to light. It was pondered on at the Vatican, where the English Ambassador was protesting England's love and affection for Christianity and civilisation and profound respect for Catholicity. The present address of the English Ambassador to the Vatican is not Rome.

Cumann na mBan is at present concentrating on the organisation of the Ulster counties, which had hitherto been neglected. When Donegal has been properly worked up, the organiser will turn her attention to the Counties of Cavan and Monaghan. Following on the South Armagh election, branches have been formed at Newry, Camlough and Forkhill. Other new branches recently affiliated are Ardara, Bundoran, Dungloe, Drumcondra, Drogheda and Toome. While the main effort is being made in the North, the rest of Ireland has not been neglected. An organising tour of the County Cork, now just completed, shows that that County is in a state of almost perfect organisation. There are at present forty-six active branches in the county. Every town and every important village has its Cumann na mBan Branch. We hope that other counties will follow this example. Branches in important centres could assist Headquarters by organising other branches at places within reach without waiting for an organiser from Dublin. The Executive intends to issue a leaflet shortly giving instructions to branches to enable them to secure votes for all qualified Nationalist women in their district before the General Election.

LAWLESSNESS IN ENGLAND

In Ireland to plant untitled land with potatoes against the owner's will, even though he is paid the handsome rent of £4 an acre, is an "outrage" according to the English Press. It is not done for personal gain; it helps to mitigate the horrors of war by keeping off famine; and it is what the Government has besought the landowners themselves to do. But it is a contravention of the letter of the law—the law which England has made for Irishmen—and so not only is it denounced with the utmost licence of calumny by the English newspapers, but to prevent it whole counties in Ireland are being dragged by troops and police. In England, on the other hand, thousands and thousands of workmen go out on strike every week. They do so for personal gain, although in receipt of enormous wages; they aggravate—for England—the evils of war by withholding munitions from the soldiers; and they are guilty of a crime, since strikes are prohibited by the Munitions of War Act. But who has ever seen a strike denounced as an "outrage" by an English newspaper, or ever heard of an attempt by the Government to use armed force to prevent it? An Englishman's idea of right and wrong is largely a question of geography. A technical offence by the hated Irish is an infamy, while a really serious breach of the law by Englishmen is only "a mistaken policy." Moreover, an Englishman's moral judgment always turns upon the question of power. Those who are strong through influence or wealth of numbers are treated with respect. It is only when the "criminal" is either weak or else "a damned foreigner," like the Hottentot or the Hun, that the Englishman's moral indignation really rises. Then, indeed, his mouthings are a spectacle for gods and Irishmen.

The Englishman's unstable conceptions of law and justice are curiously illustrated by the practical immunity given to military offenders—at least in cases where the sacredness of property is not assailed. Last August an officer whose wife refused to abandon her relations with another man went armed with whip and revolver into her lover's room, where he was asleep, thrashed him severely and then shot him dead. The officer did not enter the witness box, and no evidence of any kind was given on his behalf, but the jury refused to find him guilty of murder "or of any other offence," and he was acquitted, while the court rocked in a storm of long-continued applause. Last November a soldier was indicted for the murder of his wife. The judge told the jury that they "could not judge a man who was accustomed to the grim side of war as they would an ordinary prisoner," and he was acquitted. Two months ago a soldier who, after forgiving his unfaithful wife, changed his mind and killed her, was merely bound over to keep the peace, and was discharged. It was these cases and others that caused one of the judges (Mr. Justice Darling) of the Court of Criminal Appeal a few days ago to observe upon "a practice which has been adopted in certain Courts of allowing soldiers who commit crimes to go practically unpunished," so that "if a man has served well he may murder his wife, outrage a woman, and commit I know not how many bigamies, and yet go free."

This immunity to enlisted criminals has been most frequent in bigamy cases, of which (according to Mr. Justice Bray) there have been 500 during the last twelve months. The Recorder of London, referring a month or two ago to soldiers convicted of bigamy, described them as "a band of heroes," adding: "They immortalised themselves in the history of the country, and I shall always treat them as such in dealing with cases of this kind when they come before me." He has been as good as his word. The latest instance was that of a sergeant stationed at Yarmouth who had a wife and nine children, and who deluded a young girl into "marriage" with him, thereafter dividing his attentions between the two women. The sympathetic Recorder bound him over, praising

him the while as "an asset to the country as a musketry instructor!"

It is, however, not all soldiers that are privileged in this way—even by the Recorder of London. The test seems to be whether they are useful enough to be flung (in the "Daily Mail's" phrase) into the slime pits in Flanders. One day the Recorder had before him half a dozen cases of bigamy by soldiers. All but one were young serviceable men. The other, though he had enlisted voluntarily, was over military age and suffered from bad feet. The young men brazened it out and "had nothing to say." The older man expressed contrition, and an intention to go straight in future. The brazen, healthy conscripts were all released, while the repentant volunteer with the bad feet was given six months' hard labour.

An interesting fact about this very English judge is that he has two sons of his own who are of military age, but are not in the army. One of them is a clerk at his father's Court—the Old Bailey—at a salary of £1,500 a year; but when conscription came in he suddenly disappeared from that very public office and is now snugly embusqué in a Government Department. It is perhaps to compensate for the absence of his own sons that this learned judge is so eager to return every available "hero" to the trenches as quickly as possible. Perhaps, too, he may have read the opinion expressed in an interview last October by a high official at the head of Scotland Yard, that "the man of criminal instincts shows to better advantage in war than at any other time."

It should be noted that it is only offences against the person that are excused in this way in soldiers. Offences against property are quite a different matter. A Flying Corps man stole two £1 notes recently while at the house of a lady of title. He did not (in Mr. Justice Darling's phrase) "murder his wife, outrage a woman, or commit I know not how many bigamies." He stole two pounds. And English "justice," more careful of a lady's purse than of a woman's life or honour, sentenced him to three years' penal servitude.

These offences of soldiers are interesting as showing how in England the courts are worked in the interests of the army, and how lawlessness exists on the Bench as well as among the people. But apart from offences by soldiers there is an immense volume of crime in England. Frauds, thefts, and ordinary assaults are past counting. Many murders have been committed during the last few months—in some instances murders of women as horribly used as any Belgian victim of the "Hun." A few days ago a woman was chloroformed in her own house; when she recovered she found that her assailant, in some added treak of devilish malice, had cut off all her hair. These events are given only a few lines in the English papers. If they happened in Ireland they would be given columns. It is true that in Ireland they would be more remarkable, for Ireland—even with criminal statistics artificially inflated against her—is shown by the records to be the most crimeless country in the world.

H. L.

LE h-ASAD NA hOISINCORNI.

Spas Gairbhí.

- 1. Bero an fearainn agat pón óidce. Féac ar an ppéil.
2. Is póp buicil níl dom ceallpáin dá malairt ag.
3. Nac páb ná ag fearainn ar maron mioní go moe?
4. Bí—Bí an maron 'p curó níat ve'n lú, bpeac-pluic.
5. An beul an bótar á veap in-áprúeac puáal ag, cor ar bir?
6. Im bpeacap móre nac beul: 'p pón eite in póp ceacam a bí.
7. Ábput, pe com tona leip pín? Níop puádear pín ag!
8. An tione ná puáal ag—ná bíor bpón i n-a ceoil ag.
9. Nul amac nam, bí an ppéil vap lom geal gopm:
Ac 'le teagab na fáil, eamc máp mop bapúe oim.
'S bí 'p ag curim in-a ceacapmáis pap a ppocear an teac.
'S i pé an tae, i n-a bíaró pín, níop máic lom gluapúeac amac.

Approximate Pronunciation.—(Gas koe-rooy. 1. Bye un arin oagth fay 'n ee. Fay-uch err un spay-ir! 2. Iss fee-ur gh-with. Nyee ay-un dyal-ros dhaw walit err. 3. Noeh re shay a farm err mwad-yin in-you. Go mu-ch? 4. Vee-vee un wad-yin, iss kwid wah dhien law brack-lyuch. 5. A will un boe-har i n-ari-ach-th shool err, kur err bee? 6. Im bree-har woad-ye noch will: iss rudh ela nyee físs ka-hin a vee. 7. A will shay ch-oe 'p lish shin? Nyee-ur hue-las ree-uv err. 8. Un dhin-e nor hue-il err—naw bee-uch brone i nu heev err. 9. A gull amach dhom, vee un spav-ir, dher lyum gval gurm. Oeh lay la-goo dhu hool, hanik moor more bwash-tyee urm. Svee shay a thith-im nu ch-log-nr-nee sor a hreh-yas un t-yach, iss i ree an lay iya vee chin, nyee-uv wah lyum gloosh-ech-th amach. 10. Ee oor chal-ode-yuch shah vee oo, arare. Vee shay hoe dhurche shin nor byare gh-with un spav-ir hor un tholav, marach go rev un shach-tha err nu sh-lee-uv, ee nyee-us dhurche nyee oeh-a thoo ree-uv.

Translation.—A bit of conversation. 1. You'll have the rain by night. Look at the sky! 2. True for you. There is no appearance to the contrary. 3. Was it not raining this morning early? / It was. The morning and a good part of the day were rather wet. 5. Is the road south fit for walking on, at all at all? 6. Upon my word it is not; and another thing, none knows when it was. 7. Is it as bad as that? I never walked on it. 8. The person who never walked on it—let there be no sorrow on him about it! 9. As I was going out, the sky seemed to me to be bright and blue, but in the twinkling of an eye a great shower of rain came on me, and it was rattling down before I reached the house, and during the day, after that, I did not care about moving out. 10. A cold stormy night is what was in it last night. It was so dark that you would not discern the sky from the earth if it were not that there was the snow on the mountain. A darker night you never saw.

Alice Furlong.

(To be Continued.)

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Mr. Gerard B. Crofts, who has been confined to his bed for the last few weeks from an acute attack of inflammation of the lungs, is now, we are glad to say, though physically weak, out of danger. Ever since his release from Lewes Jail Mr. Crofts has been under the care of Dr. O'Brien, Merion Square.

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NOTICES

ARD-CRAOBH SINN FEIN—Debate on "Prison Reform Under the Irish Republic" on Monday, March 11th, at 8 p.m., at 6 Harcourt Street. LIVERPOOL—St. John's, Kirkdale. Irish Service, St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, 17th, at 6.30 p.m.; Rosary, Hymns, and Sermon in Irish. LIVERPOOL—Irish Language Collection. Books and Flags may be had from Committee and members Gaelic League, 1. N. Foresters' Hall, Scotland Road. MATEHY Sinn Fein Hall and Band—Result of Drawing: 1st Prize, No. 372; 2nd, 420; 3rd, 62; 4th, 905.

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GRATEFUL THANKS to Little Flower of Child Jesus for favour granted.—M.M.K.

GRATEFUL THANKS to Sacred Heart, Blessed Virgin, St. Anthony, St. Modena of Fogart, and St. Peter of Alcantara, for favours received.—J.N.

GRATEFUL Thanks to Sacred Heart, Our Lady, Little Flower, for favours received; further favours expected. M.K.M.

GRATEFUL THANKSGIVING to Sacred Heart, Blessed Virgin, St. Patrick, and St. Bridget, for great favours received.—M.M.

MOST Grateful Thanks to the Sacred Heart, Blessed Virgin, and Little Flower of Jesus for great favour received. Publication promised.

THANKS to St. Anthony for favours received.—T. O'F.

THANKSGIVING to the Holy Family, Little Nellie, Souls in Purgatory, and Sacred Heart, for favour received.—B.B.

THANKSGIVING to Sacred Heart of Jesus, Blessed Virgin, Little Flower, for favour received.—B.B.

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