

was an impression abroad that the Church was not receiving the consideration to which it was entitled in this matter, but that was not correct. Chaplains were appointed to the force on the basis of one of each religion to every thousand men of that persuasion, and that the Church had its full share of chaplains now on service. Statements had been made that the camp at Tauherenikau had not been attended to, but that was not in accordance with the facts. Mass had been celebrated there every Sunday since the establishment of the camp. He said he was pleased that the erection of the hall was to be proceeded with almost immediately, and stated that the hall at Trentham was now too small to accommodate the increased number now in camp.

Rev. Father Segrief spoke interestingly of the work of the chaplain at Samoa, and on the hospital ship Maheno, and referred in glowing terms to the work of the Rev. Fathers McMenamin and Dore at Gallipoli. He stated that the work of these two chaplains was the admiration of all on the Peninsula, and trusted that both chaplains would soon be restored to health. Father Segrief made a strong appeal for the erection of the hall at the Featherston camp, where he had been appointed chaplain, and concluded an interesting address by thanking the Federation for the assistance it had given him while on active service.

## THE WAR AND ITS COST

One wonders (says the *Irish Weekly*) whether the general public realises what the fifth Vote of Credit for £400,000,000 signifies. Lord Crewe said in the House of Lords that individual economies were not yet practised to any appreciable extent in these countries because the masses of the people had not begun to appreciate or understand the situation: and the Marquis spoke truly. Four Votes of Credit, totalling £900,000,000, had already been freely granted; the fifth brings the sum up to £1,300,000,000. Now that the Government themselves have created a standard of 4½ per cent., the annual interest on the money which was well and duly voted before the close of the Parliamentary sitting, will be £58,500,000 at least. Mr. Asquith's analysis of the stupendous figures with which he dealt must be sought for in the report of his speech. It was a speech intended for the House of Commons and for persons professionally concerned with 'finance' rather than for the general public. Ordinary individuals whose experience of 'pounds sterling' is limited to anything between a few hundreds every year to one or two every week must confess to that species of bewilderment which seizes upon the intellect when an attempt is made to realise the distance in statute miles between the earth and the farthest star in the constellation called Capricornus. From the 1st of April to the 6th of November the expenses of the State were as follows:—

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Army, Navy, and munitions ... | £517,300,000 |
| Bank of England ...           | 104,000,000  |
| Loans ...                     | 98,300,000   |
| Food supplies, etc. ...       | 23,500,000   |

From April to 1st of June the daily rate of expenditure was £2,700,000; from July 1 to July 17 it was £3,000,000; from July 18 to September 11, £3,500,000; thenceforward to November 6, £4,350,000; and henceforth an expenditure of at least £5,000,000 per day—at the rate of £1,825,000,000 annually—must be provided for. Lord Crewe was quite cheerful in the House of Lords over the certainty that the enemy nations are now suffering more than these Islands, and that their future condition must be far more deplorable. Much will depend on circumstances that cannot be foreseen: but I am inclined towards agreement with the Liberal peer.

The Able Editor of the *Economist*,

which is, perhaps, the most authoritative financial journal in the world, has just given publicity to a calculation regarding the cost of the war to the principal

nations concerned. It is an appalling result of careful investigation. Mr. Francis W. Hirst's estimate is tabulated thus:—

| Country.          | Daily Cost. |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Great Britain ... | £5,000,000  |
| Germany ...       | 4,000,000   |
| France ...        | 2,500,000   |
| Russia ...        | 2,500,000   |
| Austria ...       | 2,500,000   |
| Italy ...         | 1,500,000   |
| Grand total ...   | £18,000,000 |

This, it may be remarked, means £126,000,000 weekly, and £6,570,000,000 yearly. At this cost about 14,000,000 men of all nations have already been killed or disabled, or subjected to humiliations and brutalities as prisoners of war.

There is little doubt as to the existence of good grounds for the accusation that expenditure has been—and still is—grossly muddled, and that untold millions are wasted owing to the ineptitude of various Government Departments: and the same tale may be told of affairs in other countries—though the Germans have probably made better use of their resources, comparatively, than any other party to the strife. But the issue must be fought out to the end: worse than the loss of money or lives would be the consequences to the human race of victory for the authors of the war. And our own National leaders will, of course, lay their plans well and carefully for the safeguarding of Ireland's interests in future days. The whole story is worse than appalling. While one's eyes are dazzled and one's mind confused by the mighty lines of figures representing 'pounds sterling,' let it not be forgotten that if all the wise and foolish men of the world—statesmen, scientists, philosophers, generals, and poets—were presented with 1,000,000 times the annual cost of the strife, they could not recall God's gift of life to one of the millions of corpses made since the German Emperor's war began to desolate Europe.

## WEDDING BELLS

### SHELLEY—MORIARTY.

A quiet but interesting ceremony was performed at St. Patrick's Church, Greymouth, on January 12, when Miss Minnie Francis Moriarty, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Moriarty, of Stillwater, was united in the bonds of Matrimony to Mr. James Anthony Shelley, fifth son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Shelley, of Christchurch. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Dean Carew, who celebrated the Nuptial Mass. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a gown of ivory crepe-de-chine, and wore the usual wreath and veil. She was attended by her two sisters (Misses Kate and Christina Moriarty), both of whom were prettily attired for the occasion. Mr. Joseph Shelley carried out the duties of best man. After the wedding breakfast the happy couple left on a short honeymoon to South Westland, prior to leaving for their future home in Canterbury. Mr. and Mrs. Shelley carry with them the best wishes of a large circle of friends for their future happiness and prosperity.

### Napier

At the fortnightly meeting of the Hibernian Society, which was held on Tuesday night, Bro. J. Murphy (president) presided over a fair attendance of members. Bros. T. Cunningham and J. Murphy were re-elected delegates to the H.B. W.F.S. Hospital Council. They had been instrumental in getting some much-needed reforms carried out during their term as the societies' representatives on the above council. Bro. T. Cunningham, who was re-elected treasurer to the council, has held the office of president of the H.B.W.F.S. Hospital Demonstration Committee, thus showing the high position the local Hibernians hold amongst the various friendly societies in Napier.