

Irish News

GENERAL.

The Navan Board of Guardians have passed a resolution thanking his Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Gaughran, Bishop of Meath, for his handsome gift to the people of Navan and district, at a cost of £700, of the grounds and buildings of the old military barracks as a site for the new schools.

The damage caused by a serious fire at J. O'Donnell and Co.'s corn and wool stores, Market street, Clonmel, was estimated at close on £10,000. The stock alone was worth about £6000 and the building between £3000 and £4000. The stock was covered by insurance and the building partly.

At a meeting of the Athlone Town Council, on the motion of Mr. J. Lennon, J.P., a resolution of sympathy was passed with Mr. John Hickman, Athlone, on the death of his son, Private George Hickman, who was killed in action a few weeks ago. The gallant young soldier was one of four sons of Mr. Hickman serving with the colors. Two others have been severely wounded.

The death occurred on March 28 of Mr. Wm. Delany, M.P. for the Ossory Division of Queen's County. Born in 1855, he was one of the earliest promoters of the United Irish League, and entered Parliament in 1900, unopposed. Since then he has been re-elected in 1906 and 1910 without opposition. He was a farmer by occupation, and an unpretentious man of sound political principles and blameless life.

DEATH OF THE CROWN SOLICITOR.

Our Irish exchanges report the death of Sir Malachy Kelly, Chief Crown Solicitor for Ireland. A son of Mr. Ignatius Kelly, Crown Solicitor for County Mayo, Sir Malachy was born on May 25, 1850. He was admitted a solicitor in 1871, was appointed Sessional Crown Solicitor for County Mayo in 1881, a post which he occupied until his appointment as Crown Solicitor for that county in 1885. In County Mayo he enjoyed an extensive and lucrative practice, and was a highly esteemed member of his profession. In 1905 he succeeded Right Hon. Sir P. Coll, K.C.B., as Chief Crown Solicitor for Ireland, a position which he occupied until his death, and in 1912, a knighthood was conferred upon him, in recognition of his services. He married, in 1894, a daughter of his predecessor in office, Sir Patrick Coll, and leaves a son and two daughters to mourn their loss.

IRISH MUNITION WORKERS.

The figures elicited by Mr. Boland, M.P., as to the number of Irish people, men and women, engaged in munition works in Ireland, and taken from Ireland to Great Britain, are very interesting and worth noting. Dr. Addison, speaking for the Munitions Department, said that it was impossible to state the total number of persons employed in Ireland on munition works, but he stated that since the 15th August last 9316 men and 1074 women had entered munition works in Ireland. He said it was not considered desirable to give the number engaged in particular firms, but it is a matter of common knowledge that there are some 4000 men and women employed in Kynoch's at Arklow, and, of course, the number employed in the ship-yards in Belfast is well over 10,000. That would be some 24,000 men and women employed at the present moment in munition and similar war work in Ireland itself.

On the same occasion Mr. Boland elicited from the president of the Board of Trade the statement that there had been taken over from Ireland to Great Britain, through the medium of the Labor Exchanges, for the manufacture of munitions and the erection of buildings in connection therewith by the 11th March last 18,840 Irishmen. In addition to this, as is well known, the Munitions Department has had canvassers going through Ireland, who obtain workers quite independently of the Labor Bureaus, and it is safe to say that a good many thousands of Irishmen have in that

way been sent from Ireland for this work in Great Britain.

This all means that something not far short of 50,000 Irish people, four-fifths of them at least men, from Ireland are engaged in munition works, and this ought in fairness to be taken into account when people discuss the number of Irishmen who have recruited for the army.

THE IRISH BRIGADE IN FRANCE.

Right up to the firing line the Irish Brigade celebrated St. Patrick's Day in the good old Irish style (writes a correspondent). The sound of the big guns, trench mortars, rifle grenades, whizz bangs, and machine guns, had no terror for the brave boys of Limerick, Clare, Cork, and Kerry. Starting at 8 a.m. with church parade, headed by our Irish war pipe bands and drums, all gaily decorated with a lavish display of shamrock and green ribbon, we marched about two miles to meet our beloved chaplains, who celebrated Mass in the open.

At 12 noon athletic sports started, and any of the good old meetings in Ireland certainly would have to rest contented with second best as far as keenness of competition and enthusiasm went. The athletic events were—100 yards, 440 yards, relay race, two miles flat, 220 yards officers race, tug of war, band race, wheelbarrow race, boat race, sack bumping race, spar fight, gas helmet race, three-legged race, and several other events of a comical nature.

The feature of the day's proceedings was the success of the 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers, who romped away with the 100 yards (Private McNamara, Limerick); the relay race (Lieut. Nihill, Lieut. Dodd, Sergeant Hughes, and Private Lyons), the two miles flat (Sergeant Hughes), the spar fight (Sergeant Gibbons), the officers' race, and the tug of war—a big haul, taking into consideration that the pick of the Irish Brigade was competing. The tug of war created intense excitement, and was the event of the day. The 8th Munsters defeated the Field Ambulance Company by two tugs to nil, and beat the Royal Irish in the second round by two to nil. The Connaught Rangers, meantime, in another part of the field, had defeated the Royal Engineers and the Leinster Regiment. The final, therefore, lay between the Munster Fusiliers and the Connaught Rangers, who were old rivals at the game, and had many a hard pull together in Kilworth, Fermoy, Templemore, and Aldershot during 1914 and 1915. The Connaught Rangers were the first to enter the arena, headed by Captain Weir, and a finer body of men never toed the line in France. They averaged 14 stone, and looked trained to the ounce. Needless to say, they received a great ovation. Then the Munster Fusiliers appeared, headed by their trainer, Major L. Roche, and the pipes of the regiment playing 'Garryowen.' Their supporters were carried away with joy, and loud and long were the cheers and cries of 'Remember Limerick,' 'Good old Munsters,' etc, etc. The first pull lasted exactly eight minutes, and for the greater portion of the time the rope and men were simply immovable, so even was the pull. However, in the end the Munsters, inch by inch, succeeded in bringing their opponents to the line, and with one mighty heave landed them over amidst deafening cheers. The second and concluding pull was a repetition of the first, the Munsters thus winning the big event of the day. All the troops present were provided with dinners on the field, the four travelling field kitchens accompanying each regiment present, and full justice was done to the splendid meal provided. In the evening at 7 o'clock special prayers were recited for the success of our arms, and for our dear friends at home in good old Ireland at 8 p.m. Bonfires were subsequently lighted. Concerts and dancing were started and kept up with the greatest enthusiasm for hours, when all retired to rest to snatch a few hours sleep before proceeding to the trenches—once again—to meet in mortal combat the enemies of civilisation and small nations, and to show the world at large what Irish brains and muscle can do in far foreign fields when the cause of justice and humanity is at stake.