

## Irish News

### GENERAL.

Lieut. T. M. Kettle, in a letter written to his widow a few days before his death, said that 'it needed all the folly of England and of Ireland to produce the situation' existing in Ireland at present. 'In the name and by the seal of the blood given in the last two years' he demanded 'Colonial Home Rule for Ireland as an essential prologue to the reconstruction of Empire.' He also pressed for immediate withdrawal of martial law in Ireland and an amnesty for the Sinn Fein prisoners, adding—'If this war has taught us anything it is that great things can be done only in a great way.'

Mr. R. Hazleton, M.P., and Mr. John O'Neill, a leading business man in County Dublin, have been appointed members of Lord Balfour of Burleigh's Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy. Mr. Hazleton, although now a journalist by profession, has had a comprehensive business experience. His people were drapers in business, and before entering Parliament he had gained much experience as a member of local boards. In committee work also he is no novice, having acted as chairman of the National Holiday Committee. It was he who defeated Mr. Healy—at a second try—in Louth in 1910.

Lieutenant J. Holland, who was awarded the V.C. a few weeks ago, is an Irishman by birth. At the outbreak of the war (says the *Scotsman*) he was employed in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Department of the Central Argentine Railway at Rosario. Although, as a resident in Argentine, he was not liable for service, he voluntarily joined the Army in 1914, his company granting him special leave to serve. Lieut. Holland has the distinction of being the first volunteer from the Argentine to be awarded the V.C.

### IRISH PRISONERS.

The following cable, dated London, December 21, appeared in the Dunedin papers last week:—'In the House of Commons, Mr. Dillon moved the adjournment of the House, and urged the release of the Irish prisoners before Christmas, which would create a better atmosphere in Ireland. Mr. Duke, Secretary for Ireland, said the rebellion had been prepared all over Ireland. The policy had been that if a man's release would not detract from the peace he be allowed to go. Lately there had been an improvement in the appeasement. He could not authorise wholesale releases, but the Premier authorised him to say that he would approach the subject with a desire to release the prisoners. The Government hoped to reach an immediate decision.'

### A MANLY APPEAL.

The *Morning Post's* malignant puerilities and the vindictive attacks on Ireland and her people made by some letter writers (mostly anonymous) in the *Diehard* press were strongly countered on Tuesday by a remarkable appeal from Lord Henry Bentinck in the *Times* for a frank and manly recognition of Irish national sentiment and of the Irish people's right to a full and free expression of their own national ideals (writes the London correspondent of the *Irish Weekly*, under date October 28). The letter was all the more interesting and significant as coming from a Unionist M.P. and the half-brother of the Duke of Portland, who, by the way, was one of the great pillars of Toryism in the House of Lords. The Duke's brother has no delusions about the possibilities of recruiting in Ireland under present conditions; but he is hopeful for the future not only of recruiting but of the permanent relations between the two countries if the English mind can be divested of its proclivity for assuming that the intellects of other people are attuned with its own. Lord Henry made a special appeal to the people of

Ulster. His letter was one of the most 'sensational' yet contributed from any side to the discussion of Irish affairs, and it was a topic of discussion in political circles during the day and in the Lobby of the House of Commons that evening. 'We are all Home Rulers now,' said a prominent member of Sir Edward Carson's War Committee; and he was right in the sense that there are very few 'Unionists' now, apart from a bitter little group of irreconcilables gifted with a wonderful capacity for advertising themselves, and consequently possessing influence over certain jelly-fish politicians in inverse proportion to their number. A great, wholly satisfactory, and permanent settlement could be made under present conditions if there was at the head of the Government a man big enough and brave enough to formulate it on broad and bold lines, and say plainly that it must be done. But it is to be feared the Prime Minister and his colleagues will run away from their opportunity. Many Liberals have somehow received the impression that Sir Edward Carson is meditating a dramatic 'stroke': but on this point there is no authentic information.

### FRANCISCAN ARMY CHAPLAIN'S FUNERAL.

The remains of the late Rev. Father Raphael McAuliffe, O.F.M., chaplain to the Forces, whose death was recently announced, were conveyed from Netley Hospital to Limerick, and were met on arrival by a great concourse of citizens. The coffin, covered with the Union Jack, was borne from the railway station to the Franciscan Church in Henry street, and following the remains were Sir Anthony Weldon, D.S.O.; the band and service companies of his regiment, the 4th Battalion Leinsters; the battery of Artillery quartered at the Ordnance Barracks, and the local Constabulary in charge of District Inspector Craig. There were some thousands in the procession, including several clergymen; and as the remains were placed on the catafalque before the high altar, the trumpeters of the Leinster Regiment sounded the 'Last Post' and the troops presented arms. The funeral took place the following morning, in Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, after a Solemn Requiem Mass at the Franciscan Church.

### THE CAUSE OF IRISH DISCONTENT.

It is rather surprising to note the frank expressions of dissatisfaction with England's policy in various aspects that appear in our English exchanges. A case in point is offered by the *Mouth*, in a reviewer's comment on a book, *State Policy in Irish Education*, from 1536 to 1816, written by the Rev. T. Corcoran, of the National University of Dublin. We quote from the review:—

The perusal of such a volume is apt to fill the reader with amazement and indignation. For the volume contains, besides a record of native educational effort, a collection of official documents of various sorts, wherein are stated openly aims and projects so grossly contrary to religious and political justice as to call to mind Gladstone's denunciation of another policy—'the negation of Christianity raised to a system.' The authors of these various papers clearly proceeded on an assumption which no one would dare, to-day, to formulate as basis for action—viz., that zeal for Protestant ascendancy warranted the reduction to poverty and the intellectual starvation of those inhabitants of Ireland who chose to adhere to the Catholic faith. On these educational principles—to say nothing of persecution in other directions—the Protestant Government, sometimes through its own, and sometimes through the colonial Parliament, acted consistently during almost the whole period embraced by Professor Corcoran's researches; and yet people are astonished at what is called Irish discontent. It may be urged that these unhappy practices are by-gones and should be left in oblivion. We believe that the Irish would willingly forget if England would only remember, and that Ireland only remembers because England insists on forgetting. In any case a clear understanding of Irish history is requisite before one can fairly judge of present conditions.