

Irish News

Lieutenant-General Sir Bryan Mahon, who succeeds General Maxwell in the military command in Ireland, is an Irishman from Galway. He is not a Catholic, and is a Unionist and a relative of Carson. He joined the 8th Hussars (of which regiment he is now colonel) in 1883, at the age of 21, serving successively in India, Egypt, South Africa, and Salonika.

Replying to a question a few weeks ago by Mr. Hazleton as to how many Catholic chaplains were doing duty with the Ulster Division, and as to who was the Catholic chaplain doing duty with the 14th Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles attached to the Ulster Division, Mr. Lloyd George replied that there were two Catholic chaplains attached to the Ulster Division, and that Father C. J. Higgins was the chaplain doing duty with the 14th Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles.

The following cable, under date London, January 4, appeared in the New Zealand dailies of January 5:— 'The Belfast *Telegraph* denies the rumors that Sir E. Carson is negotiating for the settlement of the Irish question. The Ulster Unionist Council is not aware of any pourparlers. The Ulster Unionists, moreover, are not prepared to let their position in the Empire be decided by the dominion War Conference. Lord Wimborne's office as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland precludes his interference. Lord Wimborne is not responsible for the report that he is submitting a scheme to the Imperial Conference.'

WAGES TO RAILWAY WORKERS.

The question of the wages paid to Irish railway workers has for some time past been engaging the attention of Mr. John Redmond, M.P., and the Irish Party, in sympathy with the efforts in the same connection of Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P. Mr. Thomas (says a Home paper) recently visited Ireland, and was very much disappointed at the conditions under which the men were working there as compared with Great Britain. The men feel their position very keenly, and some are in favor of a strike; but Mr. Thomas would regard that policy as disastrous. He finds a disposition amongst the Irish railway companies to meet the demands of the men—their only difficulty being the financial one. Mr. Thomas is, however, hopeful that, with the assistance of Mr. Redmond, he will be able to effect a satisfactory settlement.

TRIBUTE TO IRELAND'S CARDINAL.

Mgr. Lenfant, who recently visited Ireland, has given a pleasing pen-picture of his Eminence Cardinal Logue, in the columns of *La Croix*. The French ecclesiastic says of the Irish Cardinal: 'This venerable prelate of 73 years possesses the beautiful simplicity, charity, and the exquisite sweetness of St. John. In his unassuming residence at Armagh he will allow no one save himself to feed his pet canary, and the robin red-breasts come from the fields to eat crumbs of bread from his hands. His intense, practical kindness, as well as his unchanging sincerity, have acquired for Cardinal Logue a popularity and an unequalled authority. He has had the happiness of finishing and blessing the new Catholic Cathedral of Armagh, a marvel of valuable treasures, and of irreproachable taste. . . . It is said that the Cardinal has a beautiful Cathedral and a poor archdiocese, and that the Anglican Archbishop of Armagh has a poor Cathedral and a very rich archdiocese. Since St. Patrick, Apostle of Erin, few Primate have so completely gained the affection of their flock as Cardinal Logue.'

IRISH DEBATE IN THE COMMONS.

Politically the chief event of the week (says the London correspondent of the *Adelaide Southern Cross*, under date October 20) has been the debate in the House of Commons on Mr. John Redmond's motion— 'That the system of Government at present maintained

in Ireland is inconsistent with the principles for which the Allies are fighting in Europe, and has been mainly responsible for the recent unhappy events and for the present state of feeling in that country.' The Irish leader, in the course of a weighty speech, said:—It was a plain and undeniable fact that at this moment the situation in Ireland was full of menace and danger—full of menace to Ireland, to her hopes and aspirations, and her entire future, and full of menace to the good understanding between the two peoples which had been the greatest result of the patient labors of the constitutional movement in Ireland for the last 40 years. It was full of menace also to the interests of the Empire at this moment. His object was to allay, not to influence, feelings, to minimise and not to increase difficulties, and to show how it was possible yet to save the situation. He would go back to the war. If he wished to make a party speech he would have to go much further back. Reviewing the situation in detail, he said: At the commencement of the war there was genuine enthusiasm in Ireland for the Allies, but harm was done by the official policy, and nothing did more harm to recruiting in Ireland than the suppression of all official mention of the Dublin and Munster Fusiliers at the landing at Gallipoli. From the day the Coalition Government was formed, recruiting in Ireland declined rapidly, and Sir E. Carson's inclusion in the Cabinet meant to thousands of Irishmen the belief that in the end they would be betrayed. In Ireland the delay in putting the Home Rule Bill on the Statute Book gave their opponents the opportunity of saying that they were about to be cheated. The promise made by Mr. Asquith in Dublin for the creation of an Irish Army Corps had never been acceded to. He begged Mr. Asquith to leave Ireland out of the Coalition, but he refused, and the result was fatal. As for the rebellion, the Government dealt with it with panicky violence. They were entitled to ask the Government to define their policy. Conscription in Ireland would be an aggravation of the situation, not a remedy. Mr. Redmond expressed the hope that the Government would take its courage in both hands, trust the Irish, and put Home Rule into operation. Messrs. Dillon, Devlin, T. P. O'Connor, and other Nationalists also spoke. Mr. Asquith, Mr. Duke, and Mr. Lloyd George spoke on the Government side. Sir John Simon for the Liberals, and Mr. O'Grady for the Labor Party. The motion was rejected by 303 votes to 106, and the following amendment was carried:— 'That, having regard to the importance of the United Kingdom combining with the rest of the Empire in presenting a united front to the enemy, it is undesirable at the present time to discuss matters of controversial domestic politics.'

VISIT OF FRENCH BISHOPS.

Canon Pierre Batiffol, who accompanied the French Bishops on their recent visit to Ireland, has written as follows to *La Croix*: 'The visit which the two French Bishops—their Lordships the Bishop of Orleans and the Bishop of Digne—in company with the Abbe Patrick Flynn, military chaplain to the Army at Verdun, and myself, have paid to Ireland, has been a visit of friendship. France has need of all her children and also of all her friends. She owes it to herself to go to her former friends, whose friendship appears to be slumbering, to those especially who have become uneasy at the more recent alliances which she has contracted and which have made them fancy that she thought less of their friendship, and that even her affection for them had changed. Is it true that Ireland was one of those old friends who doubted our loyalty? There was some fear of this; this was why we decided to yield to the desires of those who had become nervous on this point. The first cheering word we received was from an Irishman, who said to us: "It was time you came." We did not go to Ireland on any hidden or indiscreet political design. We went there to recall to her Catholic France of the 19th century, which has loved Ireland so much and of which Ireland has still a vivid memory, united with the names of Cardinal Perraud, Mgr. Dupanloup, and Pere Lacordaire.'