IRISH NEWS

GENERAL.

The death, at Cloonane, Mayo, of Miss A. O'Malley, a cousin of "Eva" of the *Nation*, aged 97, removes a link with the '98 Rising, her father having taken part in the "Castlebar Races," and two cousins fighting with the insurgents at Ballinamuck. One of the latter was executed, but the other escaped to France and became a General in Napoleon's army.

The death of Mr. E. J. Graham, M.P. for Tullamore Division (King's Co.), recalls the fact that his election was a staggering blow to the corrupt methods of electioneering due to the manipulation of conventions in the interests of the Irish Party. The Party candidate was Mr. P. Adams, who was nominated at a "packed" convention, and Mr. Graham as a protest decided to contest the division. Practically single-handed he fought against a mighty array of Party M.P.'s, U.I.L. organisers, and Hibernians (A.O.H.), and won, after an exciting contest, by 79 votes. The result was hailed with joy by every independent Irishman.

The [illegible] decorated officer in the British army is probably Temporary Captain James B. McCuddin, R.F.C., an Irishman, who has just won the Victoria Cross. He got the Military Medal while a [illegible] sergeant for destroying an enemy machine and [illegible] two to land. The Military Cross was won in February, 1917, and a bar to it [illegible] and driving down [illegible] in August and September. The D.S.O. was awarded [illegible] November [illegible] the British lines, the [illegible] He also fought [illegible] another [illegible] won a [illegible]

The [illegible] Nationalist [illegible] the House [illegible] large [illegible] A fight against [illegible] Great Britain [illegible] fight against [illegible] farmers at [illegible] the Nationalist M.P. [illegible] Orangemen [illegible] protested, [illegible] there, but the [illegible] would be [illegible] than among Catholics.

The [illegible] against the Irish bishops [illegible] have dared to take their stand with their people against the Bill that ought to be imposed upon Ireland by a purely British parliamentary majority [illegible] if it were not at the same time [illegible] The *Globe* and the *Daily Mail* are very anxious that the Vatican should come out with a pronouncement and bring the Irish bishops to the conscriptionist fold. If not, of course, according to their lying [illegible], the Vatican will have shown itself to be pro-German—a charge not now for the first time preferred by certain organs of English opinion. Not long ago publications of this kidney were always ready to fling the jibe at the Irish people that they were Pope-ridden and priest-ridden. If only the Pope would now pursue the path they have so condescendingly marked out for him, the Holy Father would possibly—for the time being at least—rehabilitate himself in their eyes. Even for so high a reward as this we more than doubt that the Pope will condescend to take the least notice of their raucous and rancorous clamor.

The intensity of interest with which the present critical state of affairs in Ireland is being watched by the Irish abroad is made very evident by the cablegrams sent to the Irish leaders from Sydney by his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly on the part of the Australian Hierarchy. It runs thus:—

"Considering the persistent failures of successive British Governments to grant Home Rule, in spite of the votes of the British people and the petitions of the Dominions, we, the Hierarchy of Australia, voicing Irish and Australian democratic sentiment, call upon the Government to grant Dominion Home Rule to all Ireland forthwith; and considering the invariable failure of coercion in Ireland we strenuously protest against any attempt of the British Government to conscript Ireland, believing that the most generous and effective assistance will come from the free voice of a free people."

The conscriptionists should recognise from this that, in Lord Lansdowne's words, they are "up against a very stiff fence."

THE *FREEMAN'S JOURNAL*.

Since its reconstruction the *Freeman's Journal* has lost £25,000, it was stated at the annual meeting of shareholders on Thursday, March 28, and this included £16,768 odd for 1917. No balance-sheet was submitted. *Nationality* of April 6 writes: "The loss on the past twelve months' working of the *Freeman's Journal* publications has swallowed up the bulk of the £63,000 subsidy granted by the English Government to that infamous newspaper, the circulation of which stands at zero. The total copies printed of all the *Freeman's Journal* publications—morning, evening, and weekly—in any one week does not equal the circulation of a single issue of the *Independent*. In addition to the subsidy of £63,000, the English Government gave a title to one of the directors of the Pall Mall Company in consideration of his handing over a sum of money to the *Freeman*. The state of the concern is now so bad that it must fall to pieces [illegible] unless further Government money is forthcoming. The Government is sympathetic, but it cannot directly [illegible] fund. However, any person in Ireland who [illegible] anonymity and does not mind paying for it [illegible] fear of something to his advantage by calling to the [illegible] of the Shaun Squire's organ."

CONSCRIPTION FOR IRELAND.

The special meeting of the Irish Hierarchy was held at Maynooth recently, in connection with the conscription proposals of the Government. His Eminence Cardinal Logue presided, and there was a large attendance. The following official report was issued:—

Statement on Conscription adopted by the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland on April 18, 1918. His Eminence Cardinal Logue in the chair.

"An attempt is being made to force Conscription upon Ireland against the will of the Irish nation and in defiance of the protests of its leaders. In view especially of the historic relations between the two countries from the very beginning up to the present moment we consider that conscription forced in this way upon Ireland is an oppressive and inhuman law, which the Irish shall have a right to resist by all the means that are consonant with the law of God. We wish to remind our people that there is a higher power which controls the affairs of men. They have in their hands a means of conciliating that Power by strict adherence to the Divine law, by more earnest attention to their religious duties, and by fervent and persevering prayer.

"In order to secure the aid of the Holy Mother of God, who shielded our people in the days of their greatest trials, we have already sanctioned a national novena in honor of our Lady of Lourdes, commencing on May 3, to secure a general peace. We also exhort the heads of families to have the Rosary recited every evening with the intention of protecting the spiritual and temporal welfare of our beloved country and bringing us safe through this crisis of unparalleled gravity."

GREGAN & OATES, LAND AND ESTATE AGENTS MORRINSVILLE.

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