

## IRISH NEWS

## GENERAL.

John O'Connor, Knocklong, Co. Limerick, one of the few remaining Irishmen who fought under the Papal banner against Garibaldi, died in April last.

It is pointed out in the Irish papers that Mr. Edward Shortt, K.C., M.P., the new Chief Secretary, on the report stage of the Military Service Bill (taken April 16), supported Mr. Dillon's amendment to exclude Ireland from the scope of the Bill.

There is an extraordinary shortage of silver in many districts in Ireland. The shortage in Cork recently was such that it was detrimental to public business. The Lord Mayor called a meeting of the citizens to consider the question.

The *Carlow Nationalist* mentions receipt of a letter from Mr. Paul T. Kenny, New York, a native of Cappoquin, in which Mr. Kenny states he was the inventor of the gun ("Big Bertha") used by the Germans in shelling Paris. The patent was offered to the American Government and refused. It was accepted by the military authorities in Berlin just before the war.

On March 26, Mr. Ginnell, M.P., at the Dublin Police Court, was bound over to keep the peace, with the alternative of six months' imprisonment. The charge was one of inciting to cattle-driving. Mr. Ginnell refused to recognise the jurisdiction of the court or to give bail. When being removed from court a disturbance arose in which Mrs. Ginnell, who was present, was roughly handled by the police. The Lord Mayor had to interpose for her protection. A son of Major McBride (executed for the Easter Week insurrection) also suffered ill-treatment. Mr. Ginnell, M.P., on being committed to prison as an ordinary criminal in connection with a political offence, went on hunger strike. He is now being treated as a political prisoner and is taking his ordinary food.

The Donegal Flaxgrowers' and Farmers' Association, which is largely composed of Unionists, oppose the application of conscription to Ireland, on the ground that it will diminish the amount of food and flax required by the Government, if available labor is diminished.

The Irish newspapers are full of reports of trials and sentences of young men for illegal assembly, for drilling and for wearing uniforms. The accused in every case refuse to recognise the authority of the courts, which they declare to be illegal. Amongst those recently charged with illegal assembly was George Plunkett, sentenced to death after the Dublin Insurrection.

## CONSCRIPTION IN IRELAND: FUND FOR RESISTANCE.

The special meeting of the Irish Hierarchy at Maynooth in connection with the Conscription Bill, requested the clergy to announce a suitable date for collecting funds outside the church gates for supplying means to resist the imposition of compulsory military service. The *Irish Independent* says:—

The parochial collections are being taken up all over Ireland with the greatest enthusiasm, and large sums are in all cases being realised, subscriptions being

given generously and freely, and the totals constituting records in most instances. It is believed that when the collections are complete over £100,000, or probably £150,000, will have been realised, though the subscriptions are in the majority of cases regarded in the light of first instalments.

The *Cork Examiner* says the scenes at the church gates were "unparalleled even in the history of this country." Over £5000 was subscribed in Cork City alone, most subscribers intimating that their donation was a first subscription.

## THE OLD WAR-CRIES.

Sir Edward Carson has retired from the War Cabinet, and Sir James Craig from the Government. Sir Edward Carson points out that the Irish question has reached a stage at which the Government may have to take a decision on grave matters of policy:—*Westminster Gazette*. ...The concluding verses of the well-known "Ode to Bluff" by Miss Susan Mitchell, reflecting on Sir Edward and his Ulster satellites fittingly describe the situation:—

Behold the Ulster boy,  
His mother's darling joy!  
Hear the dear child blaspheme  
When Home Rule is the theme.  
Between each tender kiss,  
Taught at the Pope to hiss,  
This child who blusters all he can  
Is father to the rampant Ulster man.

With sure good stuff our victory is sure;  
With Craig, with Londonderry, and with Moore  
And Carson at their head  
Redmond and Devlin are as good as dead.  
But if in spite of the loud Orange drum  
Home Rule should come,  
Ulster will be in flight,  
And Ulster will be right.

## THE LAKE ISLE OF INISFREE.

I will arise and go now, and go to Inisfree,  
And a small cabin built there of clay and wattles  
made:  
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honey  
bee,  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.  
And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes  
dropping slow,  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where  
the cricket sings,  
There midnights all a-glimmer, and noon a purple  
glow,  
And evening full of the linnet's wings.  
I will arise and go now, for always night and day  
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the  
shore:  
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements  
grey,  
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

—WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS.

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