

THE IRISH RACE CONVENTION

MEETING AT INVERCARGILL.

A meeting of Irishmen was held at St. Mary's on October 26, to link up with the spirit and purpose of the Irish Race Convention to be held in Melbourne on November 3. When the chairman, Dean Burke, had explained the object of the meeting Mr. Sheehan proposed and Mr. Condon seconded the following resolution:—"This meeting, representative of the people of Southland of Irish birth and Irish descent, declares its heartfelt sympathy with the Irish people at Home in their present intense struggle for self-government; the meeting expresses the hope that those efforts will soon attain fruition, and that the great democratic principle of national self-determination, for which so many men of the Irish race recently fought and died on the battlefields of Europe, will be speedily and fully realised in their own Homeland."

In proposing the resolution, Mr. Sheehan said that Ireland's history since the English invasion in the twelfth century has been a record of tyranny, oppression, and plunder. Edmund Burke compared the sufferings of the Irish people under English misgovernment to the early Christian persecutions. But the persecutions of the Christians had an end in pagan Rome; the persecution of the Irish people has gone on for over seven centuries, and to-day, in the full light of the 20th century, it goes on as cruelly, bitterly, and meanly as before. True, the methods have changed. The Castlereaghs and Beresfords and the pitchcups and triangles have gone; but the Frenches and Macphersons and the handcuffs and machine-guns and even aeroplanes remain! The thought of barbarities in the distant past makes us shudder. The thought of oppression and military dragonades amongst a peaceful people at the present time—things done to rouse them to retaliation and rebellion in order to give excuse for shootings and massacre—is revolting to the sentiments of the masses of the people of our time. All they need is to know it, and the public opinion of a democratic world will end it. The great meetings held at present by de Valera in the United States will rouse the liberty-loving people of America and the great Convention to be held in Melbourne in a few days is already moving Australia. Lloyd George and the dukes and the landlords with their batons, rifles, and machine-guns, with their wealth and financial influence, will get something to think about from this rising mass of enlightened popular opinion. With all their power, it is not the dukes and landlords, but the great masses of the people, who will in future rule.

Mr. Collins proposed and Mr. J. Maher seconded:—"That this meeting declare its full sympathy with the aims of the Convention of the Irish Race to be held at Melbourne on November 3, and pledge its moral and financial support to the decisions of the Convention." Mr. Collins said that it was sad to think that the old, old story was still being acted out in Ireland. The Irish people had had hundreds of years of it, and still it goes on red-handed, savage, revolting. Mr. Lloyd George is but a repetition of the English Prime Ministers who have preceded him and who have been the tools of dukes and landlords, of religious bigots, and wealthy reactionaries. Lord French may appear wanting in humanity, tact, common sense, and regard for the nation over which he is placed; but he is only the same as the Viceroys who went before him, playing the game appointed for them—mere tools of the Carson crowd—mere tools of the duke and landlord interest. Four years ago the British Government passed a miserable Home Rule Bill; later there was a Convention to settle Irish difficulties; now there are more promises; but all these moves are mere camouflage. The present British Government could not keep its promises, even if it wished to, for Carson and the dukes and the blind and stupid bigots of Belfast stand in the way. They must be supported, and that at huge expense to the country. Ireland is made to pay for her own disappointments and oppression! Troops have been poured into the land at the request of the Carson crowd. The army of occupation is now one hundred thousand! Between raids and arrests, threats by armed police and soldiers, the shooting of harmless peasants, imprisonment even of ladies and children, proclamations of towns and whole districts, prevention of meetings and even innocent country sports, the maintenance of a brigade of spies, cavedroppers, and traitors, why! such a state of exasperated feeling must exist as that which prevailed in Russia under the Czar and his grand dukes and liveried officials. Now, it is high time to end this state of things, and who are to do it but the Irish race all the world over by their loud, emphatic protests, by their material aid, and by their appeals to the sympathy of the liberty-loving democratic popular masses of the world?

Mr. Brogan proposed and Mr. Stephen Shepherd

seconded a motion that cablegrams declaring the readiness of the Irish people of Southland to support the aims of the great Convention be sent from the meeting to Archbishop Mannix and Premier Ryan.

These resolutions were all carried with one voice.

O A R E.

Peace and put off all care from thee
Endure a little, and be strong.
And lo! this ever rising sea,
This mounting tide of misery,
Shall sink, shall ebb, e'er long.

What though the years have brought to grief
The days of warmth, the days of ease,
The blossom odorous and brief,
The bursting and ephemeral leaf;
Good fruit shall follow these—

Gifts, that whate'er the gods may send
Shall lift us high and bear us far.
And these are Labor without end
And Courage, which is man's last friend,
And Honor, his one Star.

GEOFFREY HOWARD, in the *New Witness*.

CHURCH OF ST. ROCH, HANMER SPRINGS

The long-looked-for blessing of peace came to us well nigh 12 months ago, November, 1918. For more than four years the angel of death brought his message to thousands of homes. Thousands of our boys are buried in many lands. Their priests, careless of danger, stood by them, and through their ministrations prepared them to face death fearlessly. The blood of priests and boys flowed in the same stream, their last remains rest in the same grave. Their memory shall never die. The last words of St. Monica to her son St. Augustine would be, if possible, their last words to us: "Bury my body anywhere; I desire nothing but a remembrance at the altar of God."

I promise, each time I stand at God's altar in the Church of St. Roch during 1919 and 1920, to offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for all your friends who have died as a result of the war and the epidemic, also all your intentions.

I beg to acknowledge the following donations, for which I am very grateful:—£2 each, Miss De Troy (McKenzie), trustees late Duncan Rutherford; £1 each, Miss E. Orange (McMaster Street, Invercargill), Miss E. Furlong (Greymouth), Miss J. Heffernan (Greymouth), Grateful Client (Dunedin), Miss B. Corcoran (Harapepa); 15s, Three Grateful Sisters (Ashburton); 10s each, Mrs. Rowe (Hotel, Ranfurly), Reg. No. 23, 1st Battalion (Wellington), B. Haughey (Marshland), Mary McCarthy (Ngaere, Taranaki), Mrs. M. Coffey (St. Bathans), Mrs. John Stack (Lyaldale, St. Andrews), Miss Annie Fowler (Greymouth), Mr. John Boyle (Heddon Bush), Mrs. Traynor, Miss Foster, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Heath (Wyndham), Gratitude (Waiau), J. Fennell (Hawera), Mr. and Mrs. Rohan (Orawia, Southland), Mrs. C. Angus, Miss Sheedy, Mrs. A. E. Martin (Greymouth), A Friend (Makikihi); 7s 6d, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss McLaughlin (322 Rattray Street, Dunedin); 5s each, Mr. Markham (McKenzie), M. Cleary (Waimate), L. Kano (Studholme Junction), Client of the Sacred Heart (Wellington), Miss M. E. Clarke (30 Wilson Road, Geraldine), Friend (Waitahuna), John Dwyer (St. Bathans), Client of St. Roch (Winton); 2s 6d, Mrs. S. Tohill (322 Rattray Street, Dunedin).

Are you a client of St. Roch? I want thousands to join. Your names are to be placed in the Church of St. Roch. All donations will be acknowledged in the *Tablet*.—Yours very gratefully,

REV. J. P. O'CONNOR,
Hawarden, Canterbury.

HAWARDEN PARISH.

Masses as follows:—November 1—Hawarden, 9 o'clock. November 2—Culverden, 9; Waiau, 11; Hanmer Springs, evening devotions, 6.30. November 3 (All Souls' Day)—Hanmer, 7 o'clock, and at the same hour every morning during the week. November 9—Hawarden, 9; Brackenbridge, 11. November 16—Cheviot, 11. November 23—Brackenbridge, 9; Hawarden, 11. November 30—Culverden 9; Hanmer Springs, 11.

J. P. O'CONNOR.

CYRIL K. WHALE, Jeweller, Cashel Street, Christchurch, (Ballantynes Buildings)
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Gold and Silver Wristlet Watches. All Guaranteed.