



IRISH NEWS



THE SEE OF LIMERICK.—DISTRESS IN BELFAST.—A POPULAR APPOINTMENT.—“NORTHERN” INTERNEES.—THE GAELIC LEAGUE.

The Bishop-Elect of Limerick, Very Rev. Canon Keane, has written to Limerick Corporation expressing grateful thanks for their congratulations on his appointment as Bishop. He adds—that though his former work in the city did not deserve the praise in the resolution, he regarded it as a duty to do what he could to realise the hope expressed regarding the maintenance of the traditions of the See of St. Munchin.

Right Rev. Monsignor O'Donnell, Vicar-General acknowledging the resolution of the Corporation with reference to the nomination of the Bishop-Elect, says its terms reflect the feelings of himself and the clergy of the diocese, and they were very grateful for it.

Rev. J. Reeves, P.P., presided at a meeting held at Ballygran (the parish in which the Very Rev. Canon Keane, P.P., Bishop-Elect of Limerick, was born), for the purpose of making arrangements for the presentation of an illuminated address on the occasion of his consecration. Father Reeves said Canon Keane's appointment was a high honor to the people of that parish. They were proud that he would be their Bishop.

Mr. P. Vaughan, Land Commissioner, said it was only proper that they should congratulate the new Bishop on his appointment to the See hallowed by St. Munchin and by so many holy and illustrious prelates since his time.

The Arch-confraternity of the Holy Family, Limerick, numbering nearly 7000 men and boys, will also present an address on the same occasion.

At the Children's Confraternity Mass at Glin, the Bishop-Elect delivered an instructive address full of sound advice. The Glin parishioners will present him with an illuminated address on the day he is consecrated.

The Ballygran and Castletown Farmers' Union passed a resolution congratulating the Bishop-Elect. "The farming community of your lordship's native parish," ran the resolution, "wish you many happy years to rule as the Bishop of your native diocese.

Notwithstanding its boasts of exceptional prosperity, Belfast is confronted with an unemployment problem. There are more than 17,000 jobless men in the city. They paraded the streets and at a large public demonstration they demanded sustenance for themselves and their children.

They waited on the Board of Guardians and asked for the admission of a deputation to state their grievances. Although the Guardians refused to accede to this request they nevertheless agreed to discuss the question subsequently at a special meeting of the Board.

In other parts of Ireland also there is a good deal of unemployment. Even the purely agricultural areas are affected. Along the seaboard of the west and south actual distress prevails. The causes of this distress are partial failure of the potato crop; a poor fishing season, and inadequate demand for the output of certain local industries. In this region of the country the agricultural holdings are of an uneconomic character. They are incapable of supporting a family. Hence the inhabitants have to rely upon other means of support. Sons and daughters of the household supplement the domestic income by money earned as migratory workers in England or Scotland. Fishing is in normal times a source of profit. A section of the population also earns money in local industries.

When these extraneous sources of revenue fail, as has happened this year, the people are in a sad plight. Although one of the main objects of the Land Act recently passed by the Free State Parliament is the relief of congestion, the problem cannot be finally solved under that measure for some years to come. In the meantime the inhabitants in many districts are urgently in need of relief.

General satisfaction has been expressed amongst the citizens at the fact that Dr. W. Lombard Murphy has been chosen to occupy the position of President of the

Dublin Chamber of Commerce, held some years since with such distinction by his honored father, the late Mr. William Martin Murphy. Dr. Lombard Murphy has shown that he inherits no small part of his father's public spirit; that, like him, he is ever ready to give his services whole-heartedly in any cause that has in it promise of usefulness to his fellow-citizens, whatever be their creed, politics, or class. As was the case with his lamented father, great business interests are in Dr. Murphy's capable keeping, so that his fitness in every way to hold the important and conspicuous office to which he has been elected cannot be gainsaid. We are confident (says a Dublin paper) that his term as President will be what those who know him know he will strive to make it—one of marked benefit to the metropolis of Ireland, and consequently to the country in general, to the welfare of which, undivided and unpartitioned, his solicitude extends.

All the internees who for many months had been on Craig's prison ship, the *Argenta*, have been transferred to Belfast prison. Sir Dawson Bates, "Northern" Minister of Home Affairs, informed press representatives that the removal of the internees, from the *Argenta* to Belfast, need not be taken as a forerunner of further developments in the near future. The *Argenta* had been found necessary because the Government lacked sufficient prison accommodation, but since the gaol in Belfast had been cleared the *Argenta* was not required. Including Mr. Cahir Healy, M.P., there are 170 internees in Larne Workhouse. "It is necessary to assume," says the *Irish Statesman*, "that in freeing some of the Larne internees on reasonable terms Sir James Craig's hand has been forced by the excitement at Westminster over the detention of Mr. Cahir Healy. Probably a more compelling influence was the revelation of Unionist opinion on the matter as shown in a recent meeting in the Belfast Y.M.C.A., where a member of the Government was vigorously heckled by his own supporters who demanded to know on what grounds these prisoners were denied their liberty."

A meeting was held some weeks ago at Rathdrum for the purpose of reorganising the Gaelic League in Co. Wicklow (writes the Dublin correspondent to the *London Catholic Times*). Mr. Frank Fahy, T.D., who presided, admitted that the Irish-Ireland movement had suffered severely as a result of the dissensions of the immediate past, but emphasised that the Gaelic League provided a platform on which the adherents of all parties could meet without compromising their political beliefs. No matter how sympathetic the Government might be towards the Irish-Ireland movement, the Gaelic League, Mr. Fahy said, should be preserved as an independent body—as an organisation aloof from politics, and interested only in cultural affairs. Although the difficulties of the Gaelic League are many, Mr. Fahy may congratulate himself on his successful work in Co. Wicklow. A strong Republican, though a known opponent of the civil war, he attracted to his meeting representatives of the most widely-separated party groups. Among those who promised him support were Mr. C. M. Byrne, T.D., a leading Ministerialist; Mr. R. Wilson, T.D., an outstanding member of the Farmers' Party; Mr. Roger Sweetman, a Wicklow landlord, with a very independent outlook on national affairs; and Mr. R. C. Barton, T.D., an orthodox, if not a consistent, follower of Mr. de Valera. In Ireland we profess to think that all our difficulties would vanish if we were united. It is a pleasant theory, though it may be fallacious. Yet unity, undoubtedly, gives strength, and surprising unity has been achieved in Co. Wicklow. Even those who question the wisdom of some points in the Irish-Ireland programme will welcome Mr. Fahy's triumph, since his work is calculated to lessen party bitterness and to assuage the angry passions evoked by civil war.

Irish Industries

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