



IRISH NEWS



DUBLIN PASTOR'S DEATH.—BELFAST PRIEST'S MEMORY.—THE FARMERS' PARTY IN THE DAIL.
IRISH ARMY DELINQUENTS.—CLAIMS FOR MILLIONS.—IRELAND AND THE DOCK STRIKE.
NATIONAL THRIFT.

Very Rev. J. J. Canon Grimley, P.P., St. Michan's, Hauston Street, Dublin, died recently, aged 75. Canon Grimley was a native of Rush, and was educated at Conliffe College and at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, where he was ordained over 50 years ago. He served for many years as curate successively in Terenure and Ballybrack parishes, and was appointed P.P. of St. Michan's about 20 years ago, being later appointed to the Chapter. He was essentially a churchman and devoted all his energies to his sacred duties, more especially in the domain of education. The provision of suitable schools, and the improvement of existing institutions formed a very material part of the good work which he accomplished in the parish.

At Milltown cemetery, Belfast, a memorial to the late Rev. D. O'Toal, the distinguished Irish scholar, was unveiled. Rev. C. O'Neill, C.C., St. Peter's, released the strings, and the ceremony was performed by children representative of the Catholic schools in the city. The design is after the ancient Irish Cromlech, a slab of Kilkenny marble resting on pillars. On the outer surface the cross, chalice, and stole are carved in relief, with a suitable inscription. Round the edge is inscribed a sentence from "Isogan," by Padraig Pearse—"Wonderful was his love for the fairest and most beautiful thing which God has created: the fair sweet soul of the child." One of the pillars bears a life-like image of the deceased priest.

The question is sometimes being asked as to the probable distribution of Parties after the next election to Dail Eireann. The Farmers' Party, if they were properly organised, rule the country. But out of 153 seats in the present Dail they hold only 15. At the commencement of the last election campaign Mr. Gorey, the leader of the Farmers' Party in the last Dail and in this, told me (writes the Dublin correspondent to the *Catholic Herald*) he expected to come back with 41 supporters. He had only seven in the last Dail. I cannot say that the increase in numbers was accompanied by any marked addition to the debating power of the Party. The present party of 15 includes some who are only thinly disguised "Irregulars." These are a source of weakness to the Party as a whole. The result is that the Party does not know where it is. Preeminently a Party of retrenchment, it is rather peculiar to see them voting against a reduction in national expenditure. But this is what some of them have done. They represent a class that has suffered most from the looter, the incendiary and the armed robber, yet most of them voted against all steps taken to deal with these worthies. A party that is unable to face facts cannot hope ever to come to much good. They are lacking in courage. This is a pity, because they contain men of good parts, and some men who showed in the old Dail that they were not to be intimidated. Unlike the Labor Party, the Government Party, the Independent Party and the De Valerites (all of whom contain some Protestant members), the Farmers' Party is entirely composed of the De Valerites (all of whom contain some Protestant them and to lead them, the Farmers' Party stands a pretty good chance of becoming the Government Party some day.

Some English Tory papers keep on writing censoriously of Irish Army shortcomings, their searchlight being directed not so much towards the Irregulars and their criminal associates as towards individual isolated cases of ex-National Army men. Everyone knows that out of the 50,000 men in the National Army there must have been at least a couple of thousand pledged followers of de Valera who joined the National Army with the deliberate intention of betraying it. Were it not for these the whole trouble of the last two years would have been over in three months. Then, in addition, there is in every army a certain pro-

portion of criminals. Such people are always attracted by war and fighting. No army is without them. Even though the weeding out process has been going on now for many months, there are still some criminal elements in the ranks of the National Army. Some press writers seem to spend a good deal of time in scanning the papers for the purpose of discovering some one who at one time or another served in the National Army and who has been found breaking the law. That most of the culprits also served at one time in the English Army is never mentioned. Lord Roberts once wrote of "the heroes and gentlemen" composing the British Army, not a few of whom finished their earthly careers afterwards on the gallows. The Irish Army was not free from such heroes. No army is. But Britain's experience should make British newspapers careful with criticism.

The provincial papers of Ireland are taken up latterly with pages of evidence given at the hearing of claims for malicious injuries in 1922 and 1923. They make very doleful reading. In whole districts the Ten Commandments would seem to have been as little regarded as "East of Suez." How well the injunction of de Valera that "Ireland is yours for the taking, take it," was carried out, the decrees for millions of pounds that are being awarded in the courts for months past testify. Rare mantelpieces, antique furniture, pictures of fabulous worth were destroyed or used as fuel.

An Irish correspondent discussing the Dock Strike in England says that it, like the occasional outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, brings home to the Irish people strongly how dependent one country is on another. Since the establishment of the Free State it has been easier to realise this than when Ireland was politically part and parcel of the United Kingdom. Unemployment returns in England and Scotland since 1879 show that distress in Ireland has always synchronised with unemployment in Britain. Ireland produces primarily what are only luxuries for the British table—bacon, eggs, butter, and beef. When employment in Britain becomes slack, the luxuries have to be cut out, prices fall, and the repercussion of the distress on the Clyde or in Lancashire is felt in the farms of Ireland.

It is in the matter of strikes amongst railway men and dockers that the farmer in Ireland feels himself particularly helpless. The year before last few trains ran in this country. Last year owing to the railway strike and the strike in the bacon curing factories, farmers who had their pigs ready for the market had to let them run around and go out of condition for want of food stuffs to feed them or for the want of a market to dispose of them. In this way poor men lost more than in normal circumstances they hoped to make in a successful year's working of their farms.

A savings movement has been launched in the Free State. The object of its promoters is to encourage the general public to buy State-guaranteed Savings Certificates. These certificates have been obtainable for some months, but until the other week no serious effort was made to acquaint the less-instructed members of the community with their attractions from the point of view of those who desire to invest small sums of money. The savings movement has already secured widespread support, and the central committee which has been formed to direct operations is representative of every national interest. Now that efforts are being made to popularise the certificates, sales should rapidly increase. If they do, a new element of stability will develop in the Free State. Small investors, individually interested in the soundness of the national finances, may, indeed, one day become an exceedingly powerful political force in Ireland.

Irish Industries

(No. 7 O'Neill's Buildings, Courtenay Place, Wellington). Come and buy Irish goods, Irish linens, Irish ties, Irish stockings. Irishmen, support your country. Nearly opp. Gas Co.'s Offices. Limerick Laces and Church Linen Stocked.