POST OFFICE RAIDED AT MIDNIGHT.

DARING EXPLOIT IN LIMERICK.

REVOLVER HOLD UP'

VALUABLE HAUL MADE BY RAIDERS.

£1,700 IN CASH ALONE

A band of between 16 and 20 armed men, headed by a masked leader, raided the General Post Office at Limerick shortly after midnight yesterday, and having held up the staff, decamped with the following booty:—

£1,700 in cash for old age pensions

A large number of registered letters and packets which may have contained hundreds of pounds.

Between £250 and £300 worth of Postal Orders.

As one of the raiders was leaving with the bag of silver he wished the staff "a Happy New Year after their hard Christmas work."

The raiders, after warning the staffs not to leave the building until after 1 a.m., cycled in the direction of Ballinacurra.

The Post Office is now guarded by military and police, but none of the raiders has been traced.

A DARING EXPLOIT.

RAIDERS' RICH BOOTY.

It was shortly after midnight yesterday that a masked man, accompanied by four or five undisguised men, all being armed with revolvers, entered the post office premises from Henry street, and proceeded to the postmen's room. The leader of the raiders appeared to be familiar with every department of the building. Two of the carriers were seated in the room, and the raiders' chief asked them where were the other two postmen, four being the number who should be on duty.

CLERKS LOCKED UP.

In the meantime the two postmen appeared and were placed under guard with their comrades. The raiders then proceeded to the retiring room of the clerks, where four of the staff were at tea, and informed them that they had come for money, and not cause any harm to them, and that they would have to be confined for a short time, while a search was made. The door of the room was then locked and a guard was placed outside.

The next department was the pensions office, where the clerk-in-charge was placed under "arrest" and confined with his colleagues in the retiring room.

The masked man then asked for the keys of the safes, and, on being informed that they were not on the premises, he appeared quite satisfied. These safes contained £3,500, and just a few minutes before the raiders entered an official had placed £660 in one of the safes and had left. He, however, appropriated £1,700 in cash, which had been made up for country districts for the payment of old-age pensions.

REGISTERED PACKETS SEIZED.

The raiders then visited the registry office, where they seized the registered letters and parcels for all parts of the United Kingdom. It is possible that these packets contained money or articles to the value of many hundreds of pounds. Between £250 and £300 worth of postal orders were also taken away.

During the raid, the post office was picketed outside by armed men.

The raid occupied only about 20 minutes, and when the raiders were departing they cautioned the staff that if they made any move before 1 a.m. they would be shot. The silver was placed in a post office bag, and as one of the raiders shouldered this portion of the booty he wished the staff a happy New Year after their hard Christmas work. It is stated that the desperadoes then cycled in the direction of Ballinacurra.

Police and soldiers were on duty at the Post Office yesterday, but up to last night no arrests had been made. It is not an uncommon thing now for persons to be held up in Limerick at night and relieved of their money.

NATIONAL MILK SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT

DAIRYING INSTRUCTION IN IRELAND.

Important recommendations for the improvement of dairying instruction in Ireland have been made by Lord Astor's Committee on Milk Production and Distribution.

Professor R. Houston, in an interview, emphasises the importance of improving the standard of purity in the Dublin milk supply.

The final report of Lord Astor's Committee on Milk Production and Distribution gives considerable space to conditions in Ireland, which in many respects, are apparently in advance of those in England and Scotland. The Committee recommended more comprehensive courses of scientific instruction in Ireland for teachers of dairying, and that a suitable scheme for research in dairying should be initiated and assisted to the fullest possible extent. Their recommendations are based on the report of the sub-committee on education in dairying, which reviews the present provision of education in dairying in Ireland. The sub-committee note that while the Department have no power to enforce its scheme of education, such schemes have been put into operation by every Co. committee in Ireland. Having outlined the Irish schemes, the report adds that the highest stage of dairy education consists of 4 years's course at the Royal College of Science. It appeared to the sub-committee that facilities for dairy education in Ireland meet to a greater extent the requirements of the country than is the case either in Scotland or in England and Wales, but in their opinion teachers in dairying should have the opportunity of a more comprehensive course of scientific instruction.

RESEARCH WORK.

In respect of facilities for research nothing appears to have been done, and the committee recommend most strongly the giving of all necessary assistance for carrying out research work that further progress may be made in the dairy industry in Ireland.

The sub-committee on labour in dairying point out that the Irish dairy herd is maintained to a much greater extent on small farms than in the case of Great Britain—56 p.c. on holdings under 50 acres, and 81 p.c. on holdings of under 100 acres. In Great Britain over 28 p.c. of the dairy herd is maintained on holdings of under 50 acres. In this connection it is pointed out that farms in which the entire work may be carried out by the farmer and his family are working in unfair competition with those on which outside labour has to be employed.

LOW STANDARD OF DUBLIN'S SUPPLY.

Arising out of Lord Astor's Committee's recommendation that additional facilities for instruction on milk production and distribution be provided in Ireland, an "Irish Independent" representative yesterday interviewed Prof. R. Houston, F.R.S., on the Dublin milk supply. What he was interested in especially, he said, was to get pure milk. His experience of the Dublin milk was that there are some dairymen who have quite good milk, but the majority of the milk supply is inferior. That was of course, from a purity point of view. He was not now talking about the relative amount of fat and water. When he talked of impurity he meant bacteriological impurity. From May to October of 1917 the last systematic detailed analysis of Dublin milk was made, and things are hardly unchanged since then.

In a report which he made then he stated that there seemed to be quite an erroneous impression in the mind of the public as to the real meaning of "clean milk." A milk may be free from floating particles of dirt or from dirty sediment, and yet be unclean in the hygienic sense. "It is not the inert dirt substance itself," the report stated, "that is really harmful to milk, but the living germs that are carried by dirt particles and get washed out into the milk, where they set up undesirable fermentations either in the warm nutritive fluid or in the alimentary tract of the consumer. Straining may remove the grosser particles of dirt, but not the extremely minute bacteria. Furthermore under a well regulated system of milking there ought to be no real necessity to strain the milk at all. It is surely much better to spend one's effort in preventing the dirt from falling into the milk than to spend it after the harm is done in removing the dirt by straining."

Prof. Houston

DUBLIN MILK UNDER STANDARD.

If the general milk supply could be kept under 1,000,000 bacteria per cc. it would not be bad to start with. There could be no denial of the fact that the greater portion of the milk supply of Dublin fell short—and often far short—of this reasonable standard of purity. The reason, he thought, was not far to seek

"Milk, which is one of the most vital articles of diet—indeed, by far the most vital in the case of our children—is the only food that we refuse to recognise as having a varying quality, and to regulate the purchasing price accordingly."

Could we really and honestly expect a dairyman to spend extra time and money on the production of a high standard commercial milk if we just as willingly pay the same price per quart or gallon for a very much inferior grade of the same article.

A NEW YORK EXPERIMENT.

A very instructive series of feeding experiments from New York Infants' asylum conducted during two successive summers, 641 babies were fed on milks having average bacteria counts of 1,000 to 50,000 per cc., and upon milks having average counts of 250,000 to 20,000,000. All the milks were apparently of good quality when used. Of the 41 babies it had good health all the summer while of the 51 in the other group only 12 remained well during the same time; indeed, of these infants were so badly attacked with severe diarrhoea that they had to be transferred to the first group as a measure of safety.

The analysis of Dublin milk in the vast majority of cases showed counts over one million, and going as high as 64, 79, and 33 million.

Prof. Houston strongly advocated the control of bacteriological purity of milk, especially in connection with infant feeding. It was done in all civilised countries practically. It would be best for the citizens to organise the milk supply in some way through an association, or something of that sort. It should be treated at a central place in the country, or at a receiving station in Dublin. He added that at the moment they are investigating at Plunkett House a new Danish method of treating milk.

THE JAMESON RAID IN THE TRANSVAAL

KAISER'S COMMENTS ON BRITAIN.

(Press Association Foreign Special.)

The Press Association is permitted to quote the following extracts from the third instalment of the Kaiser's letters to the late Czar, published in the "Morning Post" to-day

Writing after the Jameson raid, the Kaiser said:—"The Blue Book in Parliament in London has once more proved how England has tried to get you and us and others into trouble in the Transvaal. There a coup de bourse has miscarried by the Will of Providence, and, though some lives were lost, yet revolution, bloodshed, and general pillage have been stopped.

"They have behaved very improperly to me, but that leaves me untouched, whereas their mobilising their celebrated flying squadron against us, who have hardly anything to speak of, made them supremely ridiculous."

Two months later he was saying: "I quite agree with what you say in the end of your letter about the Britishers. Their fanfarronades against us make them supremely ridiculous, and no impression on me. The worse they are hampered in Africa the better for us in Asia."

Another letter, dated Nov. 12, '96, says—"I am deeply sorry for the awful Bismarckian behaviour, which—though it is Count Bismarck's conduct alone I condemn—nevertheless represents a breach of loyalty to your Government, and casts a slur on the memories of my beloved grandfather, as well as on that of your beloved father. I suppose that by this last stroke of the Prince, and by the shameless way he is treating me in his Press—especially trying to make the people believe that I was and still am under English influence—the clearer heads will begin to understand that I had reasons to send this unruly man, with his mean character, out of office.

"Will you kindly accept a drawing I have sketched for you showing the symbolising figures of Russia and Germany as sentinels at the Yellow Sea for the protection of the gospel of truth and light in the East? I drew the sketch in the Christmas week under the blaze of the light of the Christmas lamp."

Serious Danger to Paris.

The Seine rose 2 feet yesterday, and the level of the river is now 8 feet above the normal. At one point the Louvre is seriously threatened. Cardinal Amette has appealed to the public for special prayers.—Reuter.

THREE MOTOR CARS FIRED ON.

MULLINGAR SENSATION

SERIOUS DEVELOPMENTS OF THE STRIKE.

Sensational incidents took place near Mullingar on Thursday night, when three motor-cars were fired on near the town.

Nobody was much injured, but the cars were somewhat damaged.

When Capt. Batten, a director of the Mullingar Motor Co., and Capt. Bayley were returning in a motor-car from Baldoyle races, about six shots were fired at Clongowney, about two miles from the town. The back of the car was riddled. Capt. Batten was uninjured, but it is stated Capt. Bayley received a slight wound on the tip of one ear.

About the same place a car from the motor garage of Messrs. Daly Bros., Mullingar, driven by a man named Brodar, was also fired at and struck in several places, Brodar getting a shot in the elbow.

A similar occurrence took place at Lynn, when Mr. Jack Forran had his motor hit by shots.

CARS, NOT OCCUPANTS, ATTACKED.

No explanation of these incidents is forthcoming, but they are believed to be in connection with the Moter Permits strike. There seems to be a feeling that Mullingar has been exceptional in its compliance with the Order, and this is the only suggested explanation. It is clear that the attacks were made, not on the occupants, but on the cars. The police are investigating the matter, but so far there have been no arrests.

GRAVE SITUATION.

THE FIGHT EXTENDING.

There was an unconfirmed rumour yesterday that the Government intended to suspend the Order for six months. The police stated they had received no notification to that effect.

In consequence of the strike of 200 men employed by the Anglo-American and Shell companies, their North Wall stores have been closed down. Only a few horse-drawn loads of parafin oil were taken from the premises yesterday. There was no interference with these.

A city medical practitioner, who has been using his car under permi from the union, giving his view of the present situation, said that it would cause the profession great inconvenience. *It would also be a great hardship on the sick, who could not be attended as expeditiously as their cases demanded.* It would be a great advantage if the medical profession could have been exempt, if only for the sake of suffering humanity.

DOCTORS TAKE SERIOUS VIEW.

Another medical man said that it would seriously inconvenience the private practitioner, but to a far greter extent the dispensary doctors, who had, as a rule, extensive districts. The poor would suffer great hardships through the inability of the doctor to administer to their requirements.

Another consideration, this doctor pointed out, was that frequently cases occurred in the country where it was of vital importance that patients should be removed to the city for treament as expeditiously as possible.

In the absence of motors, in many cases a delay would occur of 12 hours, which might mean death to the patient.

A dispensary medical officer declared he would be left practically at a standstill. If, he said, he could not get petrol he could not get through his work.

OTHER UNIONS INVOLVED.

Mr. O'Connor, Secretary of the Drivers' Union, told an "Irish Independent" representative that the point aimed at was to cut off distribution of motor spirit. Members of a trade union on the railways would refuse to handle petrol supplies, and the N.U.R. would also be involved, he declared. The National Union of Dockers and I.T.G.W.U. controlled Irish ports, and their members would be involved in carrying out the decision of the joint committee not to handle either petrol, motors, or any parts.

A minority of city doctors, Mr. O'Connor said, applied for union permits, but these would be cancelled. The Fire Brigade motor ambulance would also come within the scope of the decision. Although the Anglo-American Shell stores had been closed, every precaution was being taken and strong pickets had been stationed at the stores, while picketing throughout the city goes on more vigorously than ever.

RAILWAYMEN NOT YET AFFECTED.

The general situation, he added, was good, and Thursday night's decision would enormously strengthen their hands. The appeal for funds had been well supported, the latest amount being £68 from Galway Branch. Country returns showed the men were more determined than ever to persevere with the fight. The latest from Carlow was that not a single car was being used.

Interviewed regarding possible non-handling of goods by railway men, Mr. Birmingham, General Secretary, N.U.R., said: "So far we are not affected. We do not know what circumstances may arise."

PROVINCIAL DRIVERS SEEK PERMITS.

Considerable surprise has been caused by the news that Waterford motor drivers had decided to apply for permits. Our correspondent states he was informed this decision was come to at a private meeting on Thurs. night. Numerous applications were yesterday made to the police, and it was stated it was "only a matter of time" till all the drivers apply. All motor vehicles will be running to-day. At several meetings local motor men already decided against applying, and the new development caused resentment in some quarters.

The majority of the drivers in Wicklow and Rathdrum have sought permits, and the strike in those localities is practically ended. Wicklow police removed the vital parts of the delivery van of Messrs. Morrisey and Wedick, bakers, Rathdrum, who were refused a permit.

Newtownbarry (Co. Wexford) Transport Union protested against the Order, and condemned the action of drivers who applied for permits. Midleton U.D.C. agreed to give every support to a fund for East Cork drivers, who have been idle for the past month. Drogheda banks have closed their branch offices in Slane, the operation of the Order preventing their officials reaching there by motor.

AUTOMOBILE CLUB ARRANGEMENTS.

"The Times" announces that the Touring Dept. Royal Automobile Club, in conjunction with the Irish authorities, through the Royal Irish Automobile Club, has made arrangements by which members who proceed to Ireland with their cars can obtain permits beforehand.

University College Election.

At University College, Dublin, the election takes place on Wednesday, 7th inst., of 8 members to the Governing Body. The electors are the N.U.I. graduates registered as voters in the Dublin College. Nominations closed on Dec. 17th, when the following were proposed:—Miss Agnes O'Farrelly, M.A.; Mr. John W. Bacon, M.A.; Prof. T. Corcoran, S.J., D.Litt.; Prof. Eoin MacNeill, B.A.; Prof. R. Donovan, B.A.; Mrs. S. T. O'Ceallaigh, B.A.; James M. O'Connor, M.D.; Mr. Patrick M'Gilligan, M.A.; Mr. T. Fitzpatrick, B.A., B.Com.; Sean O'Dea, B.Sc.; Prof. Hugh Ryan, M.A., M.Sc.

U.S. SENATE AND IRELAND

AN IRISH-AMERICAN'S PLEA.

CONDITIONS "WORSE THAN CUBA."

PROTESTANT MASON ON RELIGIOUS ISSUE.

In August last the case of Ireland was stated before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the American Senate with a lucidity and strength which merit for the official report of the proceedings a place side by side with Molyneux's famous book, a work which, at the time of its publication in 1698, was, on the order of the British Government, burned by the common hangman. The first proposition maintained by Molyneux was: "That Ireland should be bound by Acts of Parliament made in England is against reason and the common rights of all mankind," and in the course of his proof and elaboration of this principle, he wrote, "I have no other notion of slavery, but being bound by a law to which I do not consent."

Before the Senate Committee of the United States the principal spokesmen on behalf of Ireland were Judge Cohalan, Mr. Frank T. Walsh, Mr. M. J. Ryan, Mr. E. F. Dunne, and Mr. W. Bourke Cockran. In the Congressional Record there is contained not only the speeches but a multitude of documents, among the latter being many the publication of which was prohibited here in Ireland. Besides the "Congressional Record" there is another official report, containing only the proceedings in reference to Ireland, and this is also issued by the American Government printing office at Washington. This document must have been circulated in millions among the people of the United States.

IRELAND'S CLAIMS.

We now proceed to indicate briefly the arguments and facts that were put before the Senate Committee, and the information regarding our country and its misgovernment which has been put broadcast before every American. A memorial was presented by Mr. P. J. Lynch, of the Supreme Court of Indiana, on behalf of people from practically every State in the Union of all walks in life, claiming independence for Ireland. The memorialists took as their text the following words addressed by Mr. Wilson to Congress:—

"National aspirations must be respected; peoples may now be dominated and governed only by their own consent. 'Self-determination' is not a mere phrase. It is an imperative principle of action which statesmen will henceforth ignore at their peril."

Any question, they proceeded to state, which disturbed the peace of nations was not domestic but international.

As American citizens loyal to the Republic of America the deputation protested against ratification of the Treaty and the League of Nations' Covenant, particularly Article 10, on the ground that under the terms assented to by President Wilson the United States was bound to guarantee and defend all the conquests of England, whether just or not, and to support her in keeping Ireland in bondage

JUDGE COHALAN.

Having referred to the sufferings of Belgium, Judge Cohalan said:—"Ireland today, after seven and a half centuries of greater suffering, still lies prostrate at the feet of England, while English statesmen, with a smug hypocrisy all their own, dilate with well-stimulated astonishment, on the dreadful fact that England cannot leave Ireland to be governed by Irishmen, because, forsooth, the Irish cannot agree politically among themselves." He went on to point out that there was in Ireland to-day a degree of political unanimity greater than existed in any other country on earth. He cited the testimony of Gladstone to show that the Act of Union was the most corrupt Act ever passed. Ireland wanted only that which was her own. She wanted to govern herself and her own people in her own way, according to her own standards, and with absolute religious freedom and political equality for all of her children.

"She," he said, "appeals to the free people of the earth for the opportunity to go her own way, in peace and harmony with all the rest of mankind. She offers not alone to forgive, but so far as she can, even to forget past dealings with England, and to dwell in peace and amity and concord with England as a neighbour." England, he asserted, did not remain in Ireland for Ireland's good; she remained there for England's profit. Under British Government Ireland was crippled and repressed industrially as well as politically. England simply wished to use Ireland for a great dairy farm and a dumping ground for her surplus manufactures. Were Americans, he asked, to join forces with Lloyd George, that "artful dodger of English politics," in his efforts to further deceive the people and put off till another generation the settlement of the question of Ireland.

He concluded his statement of Ireland's claim and his exposure of the hypocrisy of England in her varied attempts to confuse the issue by saying that Ireland sought for herself a form of government which would do justice to all the people within her shores; injustice to none; that the people of Ireland insisted that *the majority should rule*, while they were satisfied that the minority were entitled to guarantees, but not to control.

Judging by the applause with which it was greeted Mr. Walsh's speech must have made a deep impression upon the Senators. He made it plain at the outset that, in his view, President Wilson was weakened by flattery. Although he had been a pacifist, he rendered, in conjunction with ex-President Taft, all the help he could in organising the United States for war; and, he added, "when we threw in our mighty resources the war was won." He asserted that the best friend the President had in the United States was the man who would stand up and "preserve him from the wreck of the great mistake he seems about to make after coming from Paris." Every word uttered by Mr. Wilson in regard to the rights of small nations, applied, he contended, to Ireland. He wanted the people of the United States to understand that that was what they fought for. Correspondence passed between the Commission appointed by the Irish Race Convention and the American Commission to negotiate peace; in addition the former made reports on the state of Ireland, showing how indefensible was the system of British government, and when a question arose as to the publication of the documents—a course which would be embarrassing to some gentlemen"——

NOTHING SECRET.

Senator Johnson, intending, no doubt, to be sarcastic at Mr. Wilson's expense, said they wished to observe one of the fourteen points, that of open covenants of peace openly arrived at, and that the communications, if printed, ought to be open to the public as well as to the Senate. It was decided to publish them, and they are incorporated in the report of the committee's proceedings.

In scathing terms Mr. Walsh went on to show how Mr. Wilson, to the shame and dishonour of America, abandoned his principles and abetted the imperialistic aims of the Allies. He charged that the purpose of England was to keep Ireland and the other races subject to her in practical slavery. Every excess, said Mr. Walsh, that applies to an army engaged "especially in an unjust war is being practised upon the Irish people.

"Everything is done to break the spirit of these people"; and he appealed to the Senate to do nothing that would make the chains stronger upon Ireland.

WORSE THAN CUBA.

Mr. W. Bourke-Cockran, a leading American orator, friend of Mr. Balfour and Lord Lansdowne, reminded the committee that a worse system prevailed in Ireland than the abominable system in Cuba which was ended by the sword of the United States. The conditions existing in Ireland, were, he declared, "a scandal to civilisation." The abominable system could, he said, be terminated "so far as we can see now, by no means except the influence of this American Republic, and we are here to protest against any treaty, League of Nations, or whatever it may be called, that will exclude consideration of the monstrous conditions that afflict Ireland from the jurisdiction of the conscience of civilisation, of which the Senate of the United States has always been the foremost and best exponent."

Either English rule in Ireland should, he observed, be ended, or the Irish people should be exterminated, but, extermination being impossible, "emancipation is imperative." Peace must be established in Ireland before it can be made permanent throughout the world. The Irish people, who had resisted foreign domination for eight centuries, would not submit to it, even though an attempt to force it upon them was made by a thousand leagues of nations. This is some of the plain speaking of Mr. Cockran, which won frequent applause from the Senators.

RELIGIOUS ISSUE.

An "Ulster" deputation has been sent to America to beat the Orange drum; to persuade Americans that the Irish issue is only a religious feud, and that under native rule persecution would be the lot of all outside the Catholic fold.

Mr. D. C. O'Flaherty, a lawyer, a Protestant and a Mason, addressed the Committee on behalf of Ireland, and referring to the argument "Ulster is Protestant and the rest of Ireland is Catholic, and, therefore, the majority should not rule," he said that that was democracy with a reservation which the American people could not understand. If Article 10 of the Covenant was adopted Ireland and every other nation that was under the hoof of England would be bound hand and foot to the cross. "It is," he concluded, "no longer a fight between Ireland and England, but a fight between England and the enlightened opinion of mankind, and she is fast learning that the world will no longer let her hide behind the false cry of protection for Ulster."

In a written statement presented to the Committee, Rev. J. Grattan Mythen insisted that there was no question of religion in the Irish situation. This article is but the barest outline of the statements, addresses and correspondence contained in a report extending to 170 pages of closely printed matter.

"SANE NATIONALISM."

TACTICS OF THE OLD IRISH PARTY

Commenting on Mr. Dillon's letter to the Blackrock U.D.C., the "Westminster Gazette" observes that his attitude towards Sinn Fein is made sufficiently clear, and conveys to British readers that in a medley of cross-purposes there are elements of settlement as well as of chaos.

"The situation," it declares, "would, perhaps, be still more hopeful if Mr. Dillon admitted the possibility that the domestic tactics of his own Party had not been faultless in the years preceding the war, and the sensational swing of the pendulum to Sinn Fein may have had something to do with Nationalist management. But even without such an avowal, the reminder that Mr. Dillon and his friends are still for many the recognised leaders of sane Irish Nationalism is full of encouragement. Mr. Dillon and Sir Horace Plunkett are old antagonists. They will live, we trust, to collaborate."

As to the "one entirely hopeless attitude" taken by Mr. Jellett, M.P., in an interview, the "Westminster Gazette" dismisses that gentleman as "speaking only for the unreasoning remnant of the Ascendancy party in Ireland."

CITY GARAGE ENTERED.

Yesterday morning the garage of Mr. Stritch, S.C.R., Dublin, was broken into, some damage done to a motor car. Entrance was effected by lifting out the glass window, the glass of which was taken away. Some brass caps were missed from the car.

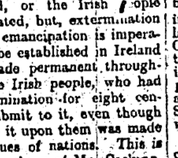
On inquiry at Messrs. Dawson and Sons yesterday it was learned they had received no tidings of the whereabouts of their Ford car, driven away from Great Brunswick street, the previous day, by four or five unknown men.

PRESBYTERIAN DIVINE.

DEATH OF REV S. PRENTER, D.D.

Rev. Samuel Prenter, M.A., D.D., ex-Moderator of the General Assembly, died at the residence of his daughter at Dundrum, Dublin. Deceased was a native of Balleney, Dromore.

He graduated at Queen's College, Belfast, in 1868, and in 1882 received the hon. degree of M.A. For two years he was a Barrington lecturer on political economy. His early missionary life was spent in Bolton, but in 1881 he returned to Ireland as minister of Ormond quay Church. In 1894 he was Moderator of the Synod of Dublin, and 10 years later Moderator of the General Assembly. In 1902 he received the hon. degree of LL.D. from T.C.D. In 1909 he retired from active duty. One of his sons, Rev. J. R. Prenter, M.A., is minister of St. Mark's Parish Church, Dundee.



Rev. S. Prenter, D.D.

FIRES IN DUBLIN AND BELFAST

About £100 worth of damage was done by a fire at 64 William St., Dublin, the premises of Mr. D. J. Murphy. Two sections of the Fire Brigade arrived, and promptly checked the blaze. The premises are used for the storage of travellers' samples, and the fire is said to have originated in a parcel of hosiery.

As a military motor ambulance was being driven through Belfast the engine took fire. The driver ran his car to a beap of sand which was left for use in the tramways. Dashing the sand over the engine, he saved the ambulance, but the fire seat crippled the engine. The ambulance was empty at the time.

Insure with the Hibernian Fire and General Insurance Co., Ltd., Head Office, 49-49 Dame St., Dublin. for Friendly Settlement.

RAID ACTIVITY IN DUBLIN.

POLICE AND MILITARY.

CLOSING SINN FEIN AND DAIL HEADQUARTERS.

There was much police and military activity in Dublin yesterday, raids being made on the New Ireland Assurance Society and the residence of a Donnybrook man, who is a Sinn Fein candidate at the Municipal elections, while at the headquarters of Sinn Fein and Dail Eireann a document was produced directing steps to enforce the orders recently made for the closing of these premises.

The New Ireland Assurance Society's office, 56 Lr. O'Connell St., was raided at 2.30 by military and police. The former came on three large lorries, fully equipped. An exhaustive search was made in the office (which is situated over Messrs. Kapp and Peterson's well-known establishment) but apparently nothing was removed.

A large crowd on O'Connell bridge and Bachelor's Walk loudly booked the military as they drove away. Mr. M. Staines, M.P., chairman and treasurer of the company, told our representative he was taking cash at the counter from an agent, when a police inspector, with detectives and military, invested the premises.

TWENTY MINUTES' SEARCH.

They waited till he was finished with the agent, a detective then pointing him out to the inspector, who explained he had instructions to search the place, and refused to give his name when Mr. Staines asked it. He promised, however, to comply with a request for a receipt for anything taken.

The visitors proceeded to examine documents and books, and after a thorough search left in 20 minutes. Raiding premises showed, added Mr. Staines, the disordered state of the minds that directed such operations.

The society was started after 1916 with the object of stopping the flow of Irish money to England and creating a purely Irish insurance company. It had made satisfactory progress, having branches all over the country.

Police and military about 3 o'clock visited the house of Mr. B. O'Connor, 1 Brendan Rd., Donnybrook, a well-known building contractor, who was deported after the rising. The various apartments, out-offices, and garden were closely examined, drawers, etc., being ransacked for a considerable time. Some election literature and canvassing books were seized. Mr. O'Connor, who was not at home at the time, is one of the S.F. candidates at the municipal elections.

ENFORCING CLOSING ORDERS.

At noon a D.M.P. inspector and two constables called at the Sinn Fein headquarters, 6 Harcourt St., and read to Mrs. Clarke, the caretaker's wife, a document stating that as the Order of Nov. 29 closing the premises had not been complied with, the competent military authority directed the police to take action to enforce it.

The inspector inquired how many children Mrs. Clarke had and when she could leave. She answered she had three children, and could not say when she could go. Mr. Robt. Kelly, manager, Sinn Fein Bank, which is on the ground floor, was next visited, and the notice read to him.

Mr. Kelly replied that they were a properly registered company, carrying on business with the other banks of the city, and he had no power to close the place, except by the direction of the shareholders—remarks which the inspector noted.

THE SINN FEIN BANK.

The bank was established 10 years ago by a limited company to assist in developing Irish industries and to promote popular credit. It is described as the Sinn Fein Co-operative People's Bank, but apart from the fact that a number of Sinn Feiners, in addition to people of other shades of political opinion, deposit savings there, and the majority of the shareholders are Sinn Feiners, the bank has no connection with Sinn Fein.

Afterwards the police went to 76 Harcourt St., Dail Eireann headquarters, for the closing of which another Order was made some time ago, and read a similar document, asking the number of the caretaker's family and when he could leave. He replied he could not get a house, and having taken a note to that effect, the inspector left.

BATTLE OF THE TREATY

U. S. SENATOR'S CONFERENCES

(Reuter's Cablegram.)

Washington, Friday.

It is reported that Senators Lenroot and M'Norry are both urging Republican leaders to make effective efforts towards a compromise, intimating that otherwise the "mild reservationists whom they represent will be obliged to support the appointment of a partisan Conciliation Committee.

Senator Lodge conferred to-day with several more Senators on the subject of the proposed modification of the reservations, among these Senators being Senator M'Norry There was also a meeting between Senator Hitchcock and Senators Swanson and King. The latter voted last session for the reservations. The main subject upon which a compromise is difficult is stated to be Article 10 of the Treaty.

PRESIDENT'S ATTITUDE.

President Wilson, according to the correspondent of the Associated Press, says an Exchange message, has decided to resume the fight in the Senate for the ratification of the Peace Treaty.

It is stated that Mr. Lloyd George informed the Washington Government that the reservation proposed by Senator Lenroot, with regard to the equalization of the voting power of Great Britain and the United States, disfranchised the Colonies and must be opposed by Great Britain.

Lord R. Cecil, speaking at Leeds last night, after remarking that they wanted the League without delay, said that they might think as much as they pleased of Germany, but they would be foolish if they did not think her safer inside the League of Nations than outside.

MORE IMPERIAL CANT.

A New Year's message signed by the Premiers of the British Empire, including Mr. Lloyd George, and which is circulated by the "National Laymen's Missionary Movement of Great Britain and Ireland," concludes:—

"We would therefore commend to our fellow-citizens the necessity that men of goodwill who are everywhere reviewing their personal responsibilities in relation to the reconstruction of civilisation should consider also the eternal validity and truth of those spiritual forces which are in fact the one hope for a permanent foundation for world peace."

Col. Lynch and Sinn Fein.

Col A. Lynch is reported by the London "Daily Express" special correspondent in New York as having told a meeting of Irish Republican sympathisers, amid strong protests, that the Sinn Fein movement was futile and harmful to Ireland. He prophesied that Ireland would eventually be independent, adding that "physical force is inadequate at present."

BOLSHEVIK TERRORS IN KIEFF.

EXPERIENCE OF IRISH LADIES.

HARROWING TALES

STAIRCASE OF DEATH: TORTURE JAILS.

"A LONG NIGHTMARE."

(Press Association War Special.)

Two Irish ladies, the Misses May and Eileen Healy, daughters of the late Mr. T. J. Healy, formor Nationatist M.P. for Wexford, and nieces of Mr. T. M. Healy, K.C., who have arrived in London after escaping from Kieff, told a Reuter representative a terrible story of the Bolshevist regime. They brought nothing with them but the clothes, thin linen dresses, they were wearing.

These ladies had been in Russia for 5 years as governesses, and had been there during each period of Bolshevist rule. The Bolsheviks were driven from the city before they left, but had since announced their recapture of the city.

The Misses Healy wer frequently turned out of their homes into the streets, and although never subjected to personal violence, were repeatedly threatened with death. Miss E. Healy lost three stone in weight as a result of her suffering.

RELIEF OF KIEFF.

She states that after the Bolsheviks had been driven from Kieff by the Volunteer Army in Sept. the crowd surged round General Bredoff, wrapped his charger in the Russian flag, and carried him and his horse on their shoulders through the streets.

Miss E. Healy said it was found that the various chresvoichaik, or extraordinary prisons, scattered through the city were veritable torture houses. They were usually fine villas or "Park Lane kind of houses." Many who entered them after the Reds had departed to look for missing relatives came out mad. One lady friend of hers dropped dead on reaching the street from one of these places.

"Sadavoce 5" was an attractive villa with a small garden. In a side building she saw the wall covered with blood and brains. In the middle was a channel full of congealed blood, and in the garden were 127 nude mutilated corpses, including some women.

STAIRCASES OF CORPSES.

A man who had removed the bodies told a horrible tale of what he described as the staircase of death. It seems the victims first had to strip and form up in a line with folded arms. The first line had to lie on their faces and were then shot. The second row took their places behind, and so row after row of corpses was piled up, until there was a staircase of bleeding bodies reaching almost to the ceiling. Opposite this slaughterhouse was the Governor's house. On fine evenings Commissionaries, after dinner, used to go into the garden where they sat, smoked and drank champagne. Some prisoners would be invited to walk about the garden, and as a form of sport drunken Bolsheviks potted at them with their revolvers, sometimes killing, sometimes wounding, their victims.

CRUESOME FINDS.

"In the cellars of this prison," added Miss Healy, "were found large boxes containing naked bodies. Outside these houses it was customary to place a motor car with its engine running in order to prevent dwellers in the adjoining residences from hearing the groans and cries of the tortured inmates. The rooms in these prisons where the victims were detained were so crowded that often prisoners were unable to sit down, and were kept closed for days. The sufferings of the people can be imagined, and inscriptions I read on the wall were heartrending. Even when I left Kieff the authorities had not completed their excavations, but already between 4,000 and 5,000 bodies had been identified. Quite apart from these atrocities, life in Kieff during the Red occupation was a time of terror and one long nightmare."

"ACCURSED BOURGEOIS."

Women of the better class dared not appear in the streets well clothed. So they made themselves as shabby as possible to avoid being classed as the "accursed bourgeois." But even so Bolshevik agents, wearing their red rosettes, were suspicious, and so asked "show your manicure," and it fared ill with any woman whose hands showed signs of not being of the working class. The woods round Kieff were filled with people of the professional classes who, in order to avoid being requisitioned for some purpose or another, fled from their houses

The Bolsheviks only occupied Kieff for about 24 hours in Oct., as the working people drove them out, but about 65,000 of the population, men, women and children, had streamed out sobbing to the other side of the city. The Bolsheviks in the city, re-assured by the return of their brother murderers, threw boiling water and vitriol on the terror-stricken refugees.

Miss May Healy was living in a house just outside Kieff, where she was hiding some Russian officers. Bolshevist agents heard this, and she only escaped a few hours before the whole place was gutted. She and her sister had to run 5 miles. Eventually they succeeded in travelling by train via Taganrog and Novorossiisk, to Constantinople, whence, owing to the courtesy of the British High Commissioner they travelled by steamer to England. The Misses Healy have with them a number of terrible photographs showing the horrors of the Red regime.

THE COMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

MANY DUBLIN CANDIDATES

Nominations for the Dublin Municipal elections must be lodged with the Town Clerk before 5 p.m. on Monday next, and withdrawals may take place up to 5 p.m. on Tuesday next.

There will be 20 polling centres, one for each ward, and these wards are subdivided into 10 election areas. At best 20 candidates will contest each ward, making a total of 40 candidates for 30 vacancies. The following is a list of the borough electoral areas, with the number of members to be elected for each, compared with the number in former elections:—

Electoral Area	No. of members New	Old
No. 1 (Arran quay)	9	4
No. 2 (Clontarf E., Clontarf W., Drumcondra, and Glasnevin)	8	16
No. 3 (Fitzwilliam, Mansion Ho., Royal Exchange, and S. City)	9	16
No. 4 (Inns Quay and Rotunda)	10	8
No. 5 (Merchants' Quay)	7	4
No. 6 (Mountjoy)	7	4
No. 7 (New Kilmainham and Usher's Quay)	9	8
No. 8 (N. City and N. Dock)	8	8
No. 9 (Wood Quay)	6	4
No. 10 (Trinity and S. Dock) ...	7	8
Total	80	80

SINN FEIN PREPARATIONS.

Sinn Fein is putting forward about 70 candidates, but owing to the difficulties under which election committees have to work, a complete list of candidates is not yet ready. In all, the electoral areas' agents have been trained in the details of the P.R. system, and these have enlightened the voters and instructed secretaries of clubs. A series of model elections have also been held in the 20 city wards, and the electoral machinery is claimed to be perfect. Sinn Fein organisers feel confident that they will have a substantial majority in the new Corporation. In the townships they also claim that their candidates will win easily.

The following is a list of the candidates:

Arran Quay Ward.—Messrs. M. Staines, M.P., P. M'Hugh, Derrington, M'Intyre, T. Nolan, and Mrs. Ashton. **Glasnevin.**—Drumcondra and Glasnevin.—Mrs. C. Gifford Wilson, B.A.; Mrs. M. J. M'Kean, Messrs. T. Loughlin, S. MacCloille, P. M'Cree, Sean M'Garry, Sean O'Shea, and R. Mooney. **Royal Exchange, Fitzwilliam, Mansion House, and S. City.**—Messrs. Thos. Atkins, Joe. Clarke, Ald. T. Kelly, M.P., Laurence Reid, M. J. Walls, Mrs. Sorchy Markievicz. **In