

The Kerryman

All the news of interest to Kerry men

KERRYISMS.

The "Kerry Searchlight" is, we are informed, causing quite a commotion in certain quarters.

We feel sure it will accomplish an amount of good, and that it will stimulate the teaching of Irish along real lines in many schools in the county.

In our opinion, the real test of the value of a school relative to Irish is the number of Irish speakers it "turns out." If a fair percentage of its pupils can, in due course, converse in Irish to the extent of being able to use it instead of English then such a school is unquestionably doing great work.

If, on the other hand, a school produces no Irish speaker, although it may devote several hours a week to conducting Irish classes, it is merely playing at teaching Irish, and is of little or no value to the movement.

Every Irish speaker produced is an asset of the greatest value to the nation.

These are our opinions, anyway, and we take the liberty of giving them expression.

We have been told of a certain Intermediate School, the head teacher of which enjoined the boys of his Irish class to "mind their books"—that they would not be asked to speak Irish at the examination.

It is to be hoped that this story is not true. But should it be true, the said head teacher is a nice type of an Irishman, and we get an idea as to why it is that, although in many schools Irish is taught for a considerable time every week, they produce no Irish speakers.

That is a nice sample of consistency and fair dealing the Dingle Railway Committee gentlemen furnished the public with the other day.

It arose in connection with an appointment to be made to the position of storekeeper.

It seems that, last July, a resolution was adopted deciding that all vacancies in the clerical and engineering staffs should be filled by promotion, or, in cases where the man to be promoted would not be suitable, then by competitive examination.

The Committee gentlemen at their last meeting, by 3 votes to 2, determined they would have neither promotion nor competition—merely favouritism; some would call it a worse name; on the old lines.

They had better make hay while their sun shines. Next June will see most of them taking a holiday.

It is no wonder the old members of this Committee objected to the admission of the Press to the meetings—the exclusion of the Press synchronising with the accession to the chair of that noted democrat, Mr. Tom O'Donnell, ex-Pounder: there must have been some nice jobbery carried on in the good old days.

It is a nice state of affairs to see Committee men parading relatives, of greater or lesser degree, for jobs, despite a resolution passed to give competitors a fair show.

There is decidedly a nasty appearance about the whole business.

At the last meeting of the Kenmare Guardians, a strong resolution was passed about the inadequacy of the railway "facilities" provided.

It appears that it takes merely a matter of 5 hours to get to Cork—68 miles of a journey by rail. This gives a giddy rate of speed of less than 14 miles an hour. Certainly some steps should be taken to stop such "furious" driving. Reckless careering of this kind is calculated to injure the nerves of the passengers.

Listowel residents are anxious to find out if the fines imposed on the Electric Lighting Co. for failing to light public lamps are imposed at the rate of one penny per lamp or at the rate of 1s.

A penny a lamp certainly does not look a penalty sufficient to strike terror into the Company.

The Kerry towns now—Tralee always excepted—are fairly well supplied as regards Electric Lighting.

Listowel, Killarney, Caherciveen, Killorglin, Kenmare are equipped in this respect. The village of Knocknagoshel has its Electric Lighting service. Tralee, to be sure, doesn't count.

The London "Daily Express" is responsible for a statement to the effect that the Government will not finance the housing schemes—in Britain, of course,—but will let the municipal bodies raise the necessary funds themselves.

A deputation representing fifty of the principal municipalities in Great Britain waited on Mr. Lloyd George last Friday.

Needless to say, the Premier was most sympathetic—that's a weakness he has—but could not promise any money. He urged the deputation to realise the necessity for Public Bodies' accepting the responsibility of financing the schemes themselves.

If this is the condition of things in Britain, what chance have Irish Urban Councils of getting money from the Treasury? We don't think they have much.

Mr Chamberlain told the same deputation that the Government couldn't find the money.

The £300,000 Garden City project for Tralee looks a trifle shaky under the circumstances.

The affairs of the Tralee and Fenit Harbor Board received "honorable mention" at the last meeting of the Listowel Rural Council.

It was resolved that the necessary legal steps be taken to compel the Board to appoint an L. G. B. auditor; and it was further resolved that the County Council be asked to secure payment of the amount of the judgment obtained against the Harbor Board in the King's Bench over 7 months ago, and that, failing action on the part of the County Council, the auditor to the County Council be asked to surcharge the members for loss to the rates arising out of their "remissness."

We note that the Limerick Steamship Company, a firm which does a fairly big business with Kerry, and having a representative on the Tralee Harbour Board, have just made an important addition to their fleet.

The "Glenstall," a single screw steamer of 5,000 tons, is to be launched to-day from the yard of the Dublin Dockyard Co.

This is the largest steamer yet built by the Dublin Co., and the Limerick S.S. Co. are to be heartily congratulated on the support they are giving to a promising and important Dublin industry.

GLENBEIGH NOTES.

Labour organisation is the only subject discussed here at present. It is a subject which has created a good deal of public interest in these congested districts, amongst the working class, who are obliged to seek their livelihood around Tralee, Castletown, Listowel, and other Kerry districts, as well as places in the Co. Limerick.

On last Sunday, after Mass, Mr. Frank Grady, the present Acting Secretary of the I.T. & G.W.U., attended in the Parish Hall where a great number of the boys and girls who intended to visit the Tralee "slave" market very soon, handed in their affiliation fees and have become members of the Transport Workers' Union.

So the Farmers' Union, which we are told has been recently organised in North Kerry and Limerick for the purpose of smashing the combination of the workers, will have a rather tough proposition to tackle.

Glenbeigh, Cromane, Glencar and Killorglin are the districts which are supplying the Tralee and North Kerry markets with labour. I have learned that not a single boy or girl will leave these districts, this Spring who have not been enrolled as members of the Transport Workers' Union.

Last year we were branded as blacklegs and strike breakers. The longer we live, the more we learn.

Last week I was told rather a peculiar tale relating to the present scandalous condition of the main road between Craugh Bridge and the village of Glenbeigh. This road had been worked under the old contract system by a man named M. Grady until a few months ago, when he had to abandon his contract owing to his salary being deferred. Why was it deferred? Anyway, the fact remains that the road has since been left to see to itself, with the result that pedestrians have to wade ankle deep in sloughs. So there you are!

A meeting of the I.T. & G.W.U. will be held in Glencar on Sunday next.

NO ADMITTANCE TO DUBLIN LORD MAYOR.

NEW CASTLE DIRECTION.

CAN VISIT MOUNTJOY ONLY IF A SWORN J.P.

Dublin Castle has, it appears, taken steps to exclude any Lord Mayor, or Mayor, who, in their capacity as such, seeks to visit political prisoners in Mountjoy prison.

Hereafter, apparently, a Lord Mayor will be admitted as a visitor only if he has taken the two oaths which are required of a Justice of the Peace before he can officiate as such. Lord Mayor O'Neill has been continuously visiting political prisoners since 1917, even before the Thomas Ashe tragedy, although not a J.P.

From statements made by authorities on the point it is evident that the Lord Lieutenant has absolute power over Irish prisoners, the only body who may control his actions being Parliament.

DENIED ADMITTANCE—LORD MAYOR AND PRISON.

The authorities here, it is stated, taken steps to prevent the Lord Mayor of Dublin from paying further visits to Mountjoy jail in his official capacity. His lordship informed an "Irish Independent" representative that, as usual, he paid a visit to the prison on Monday evening.

He was met by the governor, who read for him a letter, which had been received from the Castle, pointing out that the Lord Mayor was not to be admitted in future, as a Justice, any Mayor or Lord Mayor who had not satisfied him as to having taken the necessary oaths of a Justice of the Peace.

DINGLE DOINGS.

We are glad to learn, that Mr. Owen O'Sullivan, Manager Co-operative Agricultural Society, Dingle, and Mr. Morris O'Callahan have been appointed organisers of Co-operative Fishing Societies for the South and West coast of Ireland. We cannot speak too highly of the ability of those two gentlemen.

They were connected with all Gaelic movements in Dingle, and were the chief promoters of the new Co-op Fishing Society in Dingle. We wish them every success in the important work they are appointed to perform. We believe when Co-op. Fishing Societies are started all round the coast, the Co-operative Federation will be immediately formed, and direct trade will be carried on with the different countries.

We hope this will be perfected by the time our local Fishing Society will be ready for work, so that the Dingle fishermen will yet have the services of those two gentlemen.

While the members of the Co-op Agricultural Society regretted the departure of their Manager, they wished him every success in his new sphere of duty.

The last reel of the serial of the "Circus King" has been screened and proved most interesting. A new serial entitled "The Master of Mystery" is now to be shown and promises to be as entertaining as its predecessor.

ROISIN DHUB.

The Ballylongford Shooting Case.

CORK SHOOTING SENSATION.

Mr. McSwiney's Condition.

ARM AMPUTATED.

NEW YORK ICE-BOUND.

CITY LIFE PARALYSED.

Horses Crippled, Lorries Injured.

MR WILSON'S THREAT TO ENTENTE.

THE SENATE AND PEACE TREATY.

GRAVE ACTION BY THE AMERICANS.

LABOUR AT REST.

THE SEASON'S RECORD.

GOVERNMENT PROFITEERING.

THE ALLIANCE BARRACK RAID.

BALLYLONGFORD NOTES.

Great excitement prevailed in Ballylongford on Friday night when it became known that a young man named John Heafey was shot.

From information to hand it appears that between 8.30 and nine o'clock a man, armed with a revolver, and wearing a trench-coat, made his appearance in Ballylongford street.

Luckily at the time an Irish class, which is attended by a large number of the young people of the parish, was being conducted in the Hall; so the place was practically deserted with the exception of some boys who were parading the flags.

Two of those were immediately confronted by the armed man, who, placing the revolver to their heads, ordered them to leave the street at once, threatening that if they refused, he would blow their brains out. Proceeding down the street he held up the others in the same manner, and questioned them, as to their identity. On coming to the cross he fired two shots up the street, and then seeing some men crossing the bridge, he fired several rounds in their direction. Hearing the whizz of the bullets passing near them, the men ran for cover. One man (Heafey) rushed into the house of Mr. Wallace, licensed trader, exclaiming, "I am shot." Blood was oozing from his waistcoat. Although suffering greatly from shock, he was able to walk to the doctor's residence.

After examination, the doctor pronounced him to be seriously wounded, a bullet having penetrated the right lung, which necessitated his immediate removal to Limerick hospital.

He was conveyed to Limerick in a motor car, kindly placed at his disposal by Mr. Boland, accompanied by his brother and Dr. Martin. Before being removed he was also attended by the Rev. Fr. Allman.

After discharging the shots towards the men on the bridge, the armed man next halted an ex-soldier, named Patk. Brandon. Covering Brandon with the revolver, he ordered him to come along with him; Brandon seeing no other alternative but to obey, went quietly.

If the shooting occurred five minutes later, it is probable that several lives would have been lost, as the people could not possibly escape coming from the Irish shops. Bullet marks can be plainly seen on the walls of several houses.

On last Sunday week, a young man named Larkin, in the employment of Mr. Buckley, Killelton, was fired at while cycling to Ballylongford. He escaped without receiving any wounds.

It is officially stated at Washington that the President has informed the Allies that he may have to consider withdrawing the Treaty of Versailles from the Senate if the Allies proceed with their plans without the consent of the United States.

White the British Press is endeavouring to minimise the gravity of the situation, it is evident that the Entente finds itself in a serious dilemma. It is stated in official quarters in Washington that the United States may cease its European relief work if the Treaty is modified in such a manner as to conflict with the principle of self-determination.

Another Cruz for Britain. A resolution has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives demanding an immediate investigation in the reported action of Great Britain in preventing the sailing from Buenos Ayres of an ex-German steamer loaded with fruit for the United States.

KERRY SENSATION.

CAMP BARRACKS ATTACKED. WALL BLOWN AWAY. FIERCE BATTLE. POLICE SERGEANT WOUNDED.

WIRES CUT.—ROADS TURN UP

An armed attack on the Camp Barracks commenced about one o'clock on Thursday morning.

The attackers used hand grenades, rifles, revolvers and crow bars.

Sergeant McDonagh and six men stationed in the barracks replied with rifle fire and hand grenades.

After a battle lasting over an hour the raiders succeeded in blowing up the end wall of the barracks and called for surrender of the police.

The latter, however, refused, and kept up a brisk fire on the attackers who ultimately withdrew, leaving behind them two guns, a colter revolver and a couple of crow bars.

Sergeant McDonagh was shot through the cheek, and so far as can be ascertained, this was the only casualty.

The telegraph and telephone wires were cut in a wide area at both sides of Tralee district, and the roads were blocked with trees and other barricades.

The road from Tralee to Camp was cut across near Anna, and the military motor lorries were unable to proceed.

The road leading from Tralee to Ardara was blocked with fallen trees and the telephone wires were tangled across the road. Military and police lorries proceeding in this direction, under the belief that Ballyheigue barracks had been attacked, were unable to proceed.

When the Blennerville road was made passable Sergeant McDonagh was removed to Tralee Military hospital, where it was found that the wound in his face is not of a serious nature.

Several houses were searched in Tralee early on Thursday morning.

LATER PARTICULARS. A THREE HOURS' SIEGE. Later information discloses the fact

that the attack commenced at half-past ten and was kept up for three hours.

When the end of the barracks was blown down the police held to their positions inside, replying sparingly with their ammunition which they were afraid may run out.

In the encounter the police believe that three of the attackers were wounded as two rifles and a colter revolver were found after the attackers had left.

The revolver bore the mark of a bullet indicating that it had been shot from the hand of the man who was holding it.

The police and military in Tralee were ignorant as to where the real attack was going on, owing to telephonic and telegraphic communication being cut off, and naturally directed their attention to proceeding in different groups towards O'Donoghue, Ballyheigue and Camp barracks, but, as previously stated, were unable to reach either side of the roads being blocked.

The widest rumours were prevalent in Tralee on Thursday morning, one being that Ballyheigue barracks was attacked and three police killed, but on inquiry it was found there was no truth in the rumour.

It was also rumoured that the O'Donoghue police barracks was attacked, but this rumour proved to be unfounded.

On inquiries at the military barracks information was received in the hospital from a sergeant of the R.A.M.C. that the sergeant of the Camp Barracks who was injured in the raid there last night was not in a fit condition for an interview.

The R.A.M.C. sergeant was asked the nature of the injuries received, and he stated that it was not for him to state that. It was outside his jurisdiction.

THE PICTURE COMMITTEE'S OFFER.

To Mr and Mrs Henry Dodd, Limerick, has the ticket offered by the Picture Committee been presented as the first from within the scheduled radius of the town. To them as well as to the other seventeen pairs we wish every happiness and success and prosperity during what we hope will be long wedded lives.

THE PICTURES.

Most popular are the picture entertainments at present. Very fine programmes are presented and the public are not slow to appreciate good pictures when shown. A special programme is being arranged for St. Patrick's Night, and we are sure of something seasonable being shown.

LABOUR AT REST.

Happy and content are the Killorglin members of the I.T. and G.W.U. The strike which, a few weeks ago, was threatened and looked imminent did not, fortunately, materialise. Negotiations were entered into with the happy result that the local rate of wage has been raised by 75%, which brings the present weekly wage to £2 2s. In justice it must be said that the employers were not very hard to deal with—all seemed anxious to meet the men half way, and we trust that the feeling which at present exists will long continue between employers and employees. The rate of wages can compare favourably with that paid in any other town, but it is not a farthing too much. Housing accommodation is what most of the workers now need.

THE SEASON'S RECORD.

With Shrove over it is interesting to note the progress made this year when the ladies had the great privilege. Figures are the best test—there is no getting away from them and the number of marriages solemnised here is not in the least beyond the usual, there being only eighteen to record—eighteen pairs made happy! No budding poet took it on himself to prepare a "Skelligs" list—perhaps the great amount of labour involved prevented any otherwise anxious recorder from embarking on the project—the extremely large number to be dealt with being indeed sufficient to ward off any willing rhymist. However, there are a few other events "in the offing," so that with Shrove the ladies have not ended.

THE ALLIANCE BARRACK RAID.

The police force from Allihies, the scene of the recent tragedy in Cork, have been removed to Castleisborne. It is stated at the time of the attack there was about a ton of gelignite for use in the Alliance copper mines in the barracks.