THE "ONLY WAY" TO SOLUTION

CHAIRMAN OF IRISH CONVENTION CONVINCED THAT IRISH SETTLEMENT IS POSSIBLE.

SIR HORACE PLUNKETT ON AMERICA AS A HINDRANCE OR A HELP.

SIR Horace Plunkett told me on Tuesday, a few hours after his return from America, that he felt convinced even now that a constitutional solution of the Irish difficulty could be brought about that would be acceptable to Ireland, satisfactory to Great Britain and the Colonies, and agreeable to the United States. He outlined the means by which he believes this is possible (writes Warren Kenny in an important exclusive interview in this week's "National News.")

The Chairman of the Irish Convention was not granting interviews, but he courteously made one exception. I found him at Plunkett House immersed in an accumulated pile of correspondence, surrounded by secretaries and officials, but he was proceeding quietly with his work as if it had never been interrupted by a prolonged trip to Battle Creek and the States. And one noted with satisfaction that his health was quite restored, that the old energy and constructive enthusiasm had come back.

He swung round alertly and concentrated on me. What followed was a discussion rather than an interview; and as every sentence uttered had a definite meaning, and there was no straying from the main purpose, I record the conversation verbatim.

"What do you think of the Home Rule Bill?" I fired.

"I do not think," was the frank reply, "that the Home Rule Bill has anything to say to Irishmen. It is really only to Englishmen that it is worth saying anything in regard to it, because in Ireland the minds of the people are made up about it."

"But the Government have apparently determined to impose it?"

"If they are going to enforce it, if we are not going to govern ourselves but merely to be governed by military force, it seems to me irrelevant to discuss particular forms of government that the military are going to impose upon us?"

A MONROE DOCTRINE TOWARDS IRELAND.

"What do you think of Mr. de Valera's suggestion that Britain should treat Ireland as the United States has treated Cuba?"

"That does not help if there is any relevance in the military difficulty at all. While Cuba has some military importance to the United States you cannot compare it with the military importance of Ireland to England and equally of England to Ireland. I mean, as a geographical question that the analogy is hardly helpful to me at all."

In reply to further questions, Sir Horace continued: "Until the military are withdrawn from Ireland, it is not a political settlement. In the present difficulty the policy of imposing the Home Rule Bill would be full of danger. I do not think the Bill lessens the danger which the country is in."

"Do you see any immediate way out of the present situation?"

"If," answered Sir Horace, speaking slowly and deliberately, "the Government would show any disposition to listen to moderate men instead of closing their ears to all except extremists on one side or the other, I have not the slightest doubt that the weight of Irish opinion would quickly be formed in favour of a compromise upon reasonable compromise lines."

"Do not you think in the present state of Irish opinion that the very suggestion of a compromise would create an initial difficulty?"

"Whatever is done there will be difficulties in the present situation in Ireland. The only question is which is the line of least difficulty at the moment; and the experiment I want to see tried is to give a hearing to moderate men who reckon that the majority of the Irish people are right in the main, but that they (that is, the majority) must be prepared to make some concession to the different minorities in the country provided the unity of Ireland, control of our domestic affairs and of finances are conceded. The Irish people will show a way to solution if they are given the opportunity. The Irish Dominion League has shown what I believe, and what I find an immense body of opinion in America to believe is obviously the only way of settling the question. In spite of the difficulties of the time, I find on my return that the League has held its membership. It is not in any sense a political party, and never proposed to form itself into one. It comprises men who have belonged to different political parties in the past and will in the future, and who are anxious to get out of the present impasse."

THE INITIATIVE TOWARDS SETTLEMENT.

"But some one must take the initiative to bring about agreement, granted such agreement to be possible, on the lines you have just outlined."

"The initiative," said Sir Horace, "must be taken by the Government, because all power resides at present in the Imperial Parliament, and constitutionally that power can only be delegated where it properly belongs by the voluntary action of that Parliament."

"In view of the Government's apparent intentions at present, do you think they will be likely so to alter their course as to bring about a real and lasting settlement instead of imposing an Act that will not lead to settlement?"

"I think," answered Sir Horace, "the Government could be helped to approach a settlement that would succeed. The first thing is to make the definite offer to a body, democratically elected and representative of the whole people, of any constitution within the Empire which fulfils two conditions: (1), The military safety of the Empire; (2), The local control of purely local affairs by any homogeneous minority which demands it—in other words, to follow the precedent of Canada. I believe the constituent assembly which would meet to decide the constitution should be settled on the proportional representation system; and it would be futile to ask it to come together unless there was a binding undertaking that anything agreed to by it within the terms I have named should be given legislative effect to."

"Would not the introduction of this question of local control resurrect the Partition bogy, which held up the Government of Ireland Act in 1914, and is one of the primary defects in the present Bill?"

"That would certainly not mean partition," said Sir Horace. "It includes only partition in the sense that Canada is partitioned. I do not call it partition. The Canadians do not feel that Canada is partitioned in national affairs. There is no question of Canadian unity, nor would there be any question of Irish unity in Ireland if the Canadian precedent were followed."

"Despite the admitted difficulties of the moment then, you believe that a constitutional settlement could be brought about."

Sir Horace answered with conviction. "I have no doubt about it at all myself," he said. "I believe it can be done on the lines mentioned."

OPINION IN AMERICA.

"Do you regard the position of affairs in America at the moment as a help towards a settlement or as a hindrance to it?"

"Opinion in America is hostile to Great Britain for many reasons other than Irish, but the British treatment of Ireland is always set up as a justification for any attack upon England, or any defamation of England's character. It is self-evident that great benefits would follow for England if the Irish difficulty were out of the way. But I think that American opinion will be a great hindrance to any attempt on the part of Great Britain to enforcing military government in Ireland. On the other hand, American opinion would be immensely helpful to any honest attempt of Great Britain to give free institutions to Ireland. If England behaved fairly to Ireland, I am convinced that the opinion of America, now bitterly hostile to England, would be equally hostile to Ireland if she refused to respond to any generous approach."

"On the present outlook, what would the United States regard as a generous approach?"

"The American people would regard as a generous approach the giving to Ireland of a constitution which they have given to the self-governing dominions in the British commonwealth of nations with invariably satisfactory results."

"Would not a similar difficulty to that which resulted in the failure of the Irish Convention arise in the case of the constituent assembly you suggest?"

"No—and the Convention would have agreed had it been given a chance. The mistake of the Convention was that one section came into it pledged not to agree to anything without first submitting the question to a body sitting outside."—(Copyright).

Explosion in Barrack

EXTRAORDINARY AFFAIR AT BALLINAGAR.

GELIGNITE IN TURF?

GRATE AND FIREPLACE BLOWN UP.

Two Men Arrested.

On Thursday night an extraordinary occurrence took place at Ballinagar police barracks, situated about two miles from the village of Abbey, between Loughrea and Portumna. The barrack is located in a lonely part of the county and occupied by seven constables, with Sergeant Murphy in charge. On the evening in question a fire of turf was put down in the day-room and immediately one of the constables saw a peculiar glare. He gave the alarm and the men rushed out, when immediately a terrific explosion occurred.

The grate was blown to atoms and the walls surrounding it were shattered, making a wreck of the interior. Around the walls and woodwork were found embedded some steel ball bearings similar to those used in bicycles. None of the police was injured.

The turf used was only delivered at the barrack that day, and it is alleged it was charged with gelignite fuse and percussion caps.

On Friday morning a force of thirty police visited the village of Abbey and made two arrests, viz., Mr. Kilkelly, Irish teacher, and Mr. Hynes, natives of Kinvara. They were conveyed in a military car to Galway.

SEARCH FOR SINN FEIN LITERATURE.

On Saturday night the police again visited the premises at O'Finnerty-st. (Longhwn) of Mr. B. J. Fallon on the road, and asked for copies of Sinn Fein literature. Nothing, however, was removed.

PERMIT REFUSED.

Thos. Staunton, chauffeur, Tuam, has been informed that the County Inspector refused to sign his application for a permit to drive a motor. Mr. Staunton was prominently associated with Sinn Fein activities in Tuam, acted as secretary to Tuam Organisation Automobile Drivers whilst on strike, and spent four months in Galway jail for drilling.

POST OFFICE MONEY NOT FOUND.

There is no truth in a news item appearing in a Galway contemporary that the money taken from the mail-car between Ballinasloe and Mountbellew has been found.

MOYCULLEN BARRACK CLOSED.

Moycullen police barrack has been closed and the police sent to neighbouring stations.

THREATENING LETTERS.

It is understood that several graziers in the vicinity of Galway have received threatening letters. Malicious injury claims have been lodged by Mrs. Carr, Tonabrucky (for walls knocked and cattle-driving), and by Mrs. Meldon, Bushypark.

SINN FEIN HALL RAIDED.

BALLINASLOE DANCING PARTY HELD UP.

On Sunday night about thirty-five police entered the Sinn Fein rooms and found there a number of girls and women and girls together with some boys, assembled for the purpose of learning step-dancing. The boys, having been searched, were requested to leave the premises which they did, and were told not to frequent the place for the future. On the following night (Monday) a raid was again made, and some civilians and clergy were found in the rooms. It is alleged that on one civilians refusing to put up his hands when ordered a policeman placed a revolver to his head. He then complied on the advice of one of the clergy. There is local anxiety to know what will be the outcome of the raids. It appears, however, that the decision rests with the military who have been supplied with full particulars and names of those found in the building.

HOME RULE BY THE TON.

(Copies of the Irish Home Rule Bill which were conveyed from London to Dublin by Stationery Office officials weighed three tons.)

When Bobby asks his mother for a thumping currant bun
And the dear old lady smiles at him, as you see often done;
She does not say, "My little lad, I'll give you half-baked dough
And then expect you to declare I'm great as mothers go."

When Paddy asks for freedom, and he gets the other thing,
We need not be the least surprised he makes the welkin ring;
And if we send him tons of print and powder and tin hats,
We mustn't think he's naughtly if he only answers "Rats!"

And if we offer April Day half what we said in June,
We've got to reckon pikes will gleam at risin' of the moon—
Of course this poem is written by an Irishman with views;
I wonder if they'll have the pluck to print it in the "News."

T.C.

The Local Government Board gave notice on Friday that they had drawn up a scheme under the Irish Land (Provision for Soldiers and Sailors) Act, 1919, for the provision of cottages, with or without plots or gardens, as the case may be, for the accommodation of twenty-seven men who had served in the naval, military, or air forces in the war, and that they proposed to acquire, by agreement or compulsorily, certain lands in the Scariff rural districts, in the townlands of Knockycloraun and Shantraude, and in the County Tipperary, in the townland of Ballina.

GALWAY INDUSTRY

PROJECTED ESTABLISHMENT OF BOOT FACTORY.

MERITORIOUS ENTERPRISE.

PRACTICAL STEPS TAKEN FOR FORMATION OF COMPANY.

CAPITAL OF £10,000 REQUIRED.

GALWAY MANUFACTURER PREDICTS SUCCESS.

Widespread Support.

A project is under way to establish a boot factory in Galway.

Such a step has been under consideration by a few for some time, and the outcome of their informal discussions was a preliminary meeting in the Town Hall, Galway, on Sunday, in connection with the matter.

This meeting was attended by Rev. J. A. O'Meehan, B.D., C.C., Raheen (who presided), Mr. L. E. O'Dea, solr.; Mr. J. P. O'Neill, boot manufacturer; Professor T. O'Maille, Mr. O. K. Kyne, Headford, and Mr. M. Molloy, bootmaker.

After considerable discussion it was decided to bring the movement to establish the factory under the notice of the public by circulating those who would be likely to subscribe to the capital of the proposed company.

The persons so circularised, and all others interested in the scheme, are asked to attend a meeting in the Town Hall on next Sunday week, March 14, when the new business will be formally inaugurated.

The minimum amount of capital required for the establishment of the new company is £10,000. A portion of the capital, if found practicable, will be allotted to the employees of the company.

This will be made feasible by a small percentage being deducted each week from their wages until the payment of their shares is complete. The number of shares allotted to each worker will be commensurate with his, or her, status of wage-earning powers.

The Galway Electric Company have agreed to dispose of their disused building in Newtownsmith for the setting up of the factory, and, as directed by the meeting, an engineer has examined the site, and, it is understood, reported favourably on it.

All that is now required to have this praiseworthy undertaking established is sufficient capital.

LEADING MANUFACTURER'S VIEWS

OPINION OF ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PROMOTERS.

Interviewed by a representative of the "Tribune," Mr. J. P. O'Neill, the well-known and successful Galway boot manufacturer, said he had not the slightest doubt that the capital for the concern would be forthcoming. He himself, he said, had already secured promises of £1,000, and he knew of several wealthy traders and merchants in Galway who would be willing to invest in the enterprise. One of the largest leather importers in Dublin had promised generous financial assistance, and another wholesale leather dealer and boot manufacturer was willing to place £3,000 worth of leather at the company's disposal for a start, as well as to assist in placing the manufactured goods on sale with retailers throughout the country. Mr. O'Neill was also of opinion that all the retailers in the trade would be only too glad to have the opportunity of subscribing towards an Irish manufacturing company.

Mr O'Neill said it was almost incredible, but it was a fact that only five or six per cent. of the boots and shoes worn in Ireland were home-made. The rest were of foreign manufacture, and it was sad to think that some effort had not been made before then to capture some, at all events, of that trade, and so keep their money at home.

There was no reason, he asserted, why, under careful management, the business should not be made a good, paying concern. As local men they knew the needs of the people, and they knew the kind of footwear best suited for the town and country, having regard to work, districts, and climate. Their intention was to place the best value on the market at a moderate cost.

With regard to the capital-sharing scheme that it was proposed to put into operation for the benefit of the employees, he stated that it would be the first time that a start in that direction had been made in the commercial life of Galway. It would be organised on the same principle as that obtaining in the Lever Brothers' soap workers. It was the only remedy for the strike evil. Making the workers sharers in the profits which they helped to build up would give them a greater interest in the success of the establishment, and would allay discontent and dissatisfaction. They would be mere subscribers towards the capital in the first instance by a small proportion of their wages wages being deducted until the shares allotted them were fully paid up.

There would be about fifty hands employed at the factory at the beginning, and when things were got under way they hoped to have over one hundred workers. This, of course, might be largely increased as the employment would depend on the business done. Mr. O'Neill said that local labour would be employed, as far as possible. They would have no difficulty, he believed, in securing competent workers. Many girls who had been trained at the Galway glove factory were now idle, or at other employment, and from the knowledge these had already gained it would be easy to teach them the sewing and other work necessary for the manufacture of footwear. Similarly, the male and female workers who were employed at the munition factory could shortly be trained in the work required in the new manufactory. Experts would, of course, be required to superintend the work.

Mr. O'Neill thought the building secured would be highly suitable as a site for the factory. They would instal the most modern machinery and appliances, so that they would be able to turn out work of the most up-to-date pattern. The whole concern would be run on thoroughly sound business lines.

The least capital needed would be £10,000, but it would be well, he thought, to have £15,000 subscribed before starting the industry. In the possibility—which he dismissed as being utterly remote—of such a lack of interest in the project as that they would be unable to procure the required capital, the industry would be set going on a small scale by a few of those intimately connected with it. He thought the Congested Districts Board might also, in certain circumstances, lend assistance.

Spiddal and Menlo Tragedies

The men who had been in custody charged with the wilful murder of James Ward, Menlo, caretaker for Sir Thomas Blake, have been released, no evidence having been produced against them.

The four men charged with the murder of Patrick Thornton, an ex-soldier, at Longhaunbeg, Spiddal, have been returned for trial to the Assizes, bail being refused.

ORANMORE ARRESTS.

Three men from the Oranmore district have been arrested charged, it is alleged, with buying rifles, ammunition, and other articles, from soldiers in the Air Force depot at Oranmore. Seven others were taken into custody but were released yesterday (Thursday).

COL. NOLAN'S RAIDED.

The residence of Colonel Nolan at Ballinderry, Tuam, was raided on ast Friday and Tuesday nights, and a gun taken away. Some fruit was stolen from the orchard.

THE SPOILED BANK

MENLO TO BE BOUGHT FOR THE BENEFIT OF GALWAY.

QUICK ACTION NECESSARY.

Regatta Committee and Urban Council Move in Matter.

Sir Thomas Blake having offered his Menlo property for sale, it is proposed to purchase the spoiled bank (in front of the Castle) for the free use of the citizens boating on the Corrib in summer.

The Regatta Committee were the first to moot the project, and then the matter was taken up by the Urban Council, and it is stated that Sir Thomas Blake has consented to sell the bank for £500.

It is to be hoped that there will be no friction between the Council and the Regatta Committee, as both desire the place for the same purpose, viz., as a pleasure resort for the people of Galway and the visitors to the City.

But the beauty of Menlo would be gone without the wood, which has been purchased by an outsider for £1,000. He will, however, re-sell it to the Urban Council for the same amount, and it has been decided by the Council to ask the Bank to lend the whole £1,000 immediately for the purchase, to be repaid out of the proceeds of the Bazaar.

ACTION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

DECISION AT MEETING LAST NIGHT.

At the meeting of the Urban Council last night (Thursday), Dr. Walsh, Chairman, said their memory would be execrated by their children if they let Menlo out of their hands. He told of the action taken by the Secretary of the Council (Mr. Redington), who is agent for Sir Thomas Blake, in approaching the latter in reference to the sale. Contrary to their previous information they found that the purchaser of the trees had bought the entire wood, with the exception of six trees, and had intended setting up a sawmill and cutting down every foot of timber in the place, making firewood of such as he could not use for other purposes.—It was decided to interview the Bank manager in reference to the loan for the purchase.—Mr. Cooke: I hope you will not let Menlo go from the town.—Chairman: Well, we are doing our utmost.—Mr. Cooke: There may be others trying to purchase it, too.

MONDAY'S URBAN COUNCIL MEETING.

BRISK DISCUSSION ON THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY.

Mr. Young Advocates Regatta Committee's Claim.

The following members of the Urban Council were present at the special meeting on Monday which was called to consider the purchase: Dr. Walsh, Chairman (presiding), Mrs. Hardiman, Messrs. T. C. McDonogh, F. J. Bailey, J. Lee, T. Rea, J. Coogan, M. Walsh, J. Connolly, M. J. Cooke, M. T. Donnellan, P. Colohan, P. Naughton, M. Flaherty, J. S. Young.

The Chairman said that if there was one spot of value to the citizens of Galway it was the bank along by Menlo Castle. It had been a great drawback that the people had been excluded from that place, and as there was a prospect of acquiring it, he thought it his duty to call a meeting of the Urban Council to discuss the advisability of getting it for the City. Whatever value a park might be in any other part of the town, he thought there could be no question about that particular spot. He believed it could be made not alone of interest and pleasure but of value to the City.

Mr. Donnellan did not think that the Council should interfere with the movement of the Regatta Committee to purchase the place for the present at all events.—Chairman: I did not know of the Regatta Committee's action until after I had called the meeting. I do not care who gets it except for this reason—I am connected with clubs for twenty-five years, sometimes they exist and sometimes they do not exist at all, and you have to look forward to that—whether it is advisable that a body who may lapse for a time is the proper body to own a place like this; or whether a body such as the Urban Council that is always in existence should not be the proper body to have it for the citizens. I think it would be much better if the Regatta Committee arranged with the Urban Council to let us take it over.

Mr. Walsh proposed and Mr. Connolly seconded: "That the Galway Urban Council acquire by purchase, if the price be reasonable, the Menlo wood and the spoiled bank, provided that same can be done without infringing on the claims of the tenants on the Blake Estate, and that all questions concerning the purchase be referred to the solicitor for the Council."

Mr. Young said he was the first to bring the matter forward when he was told privately about eight months ago that the place was for sale. He brought the matter up at the Royal Yacht Club when, after a discussion, it was arranged that they ask the other clubs to join with them. The matter was then left in his (Mr. Young's) hands and he met Sir Thomas Blake, when he came to Galway, and spoke about it. He (Mr. Young) did not then attend the next couple of meetings of the Royal Yacht Club. He interviewed Mr. Redington (the agent) and afterwards went to see Mr Anderson, the captain of the club, and they called a meeting of the Regatta Committee. The committee had several meetings and had interviews with some of the tenants of the Blake estate to whom the committee would be agreeable to let the land at a price to be fixed later. They only wanted a rent that would cover rates and taxes and other expenditure. After all the committee's labours it would be now too bad if the Council stepped in. The Council had already enough on hands without adding a further burden to the ratepayers. When the Regatta Committee had it, it would be for the people of Galway, and he thought it should be left in their hands. "I was surprised and stunned," said Mr. Young, "when I got the notice yesterday morning calling this meeting."

Mr. Cooke, speaking as an old member of one of the boat clubs, said that for seven or eight years the regatta had been allowed to lapse and where was the Regatta Committee then? If they got the bank and it lapsed again, where would the people of Galway be? He would not grudge the committee if it got it, but would there be a guarantee that they would hold it for the people of Galway?—Mr. Young: I have stated that they will. We have practically agreed to buy it out. The regatta has been revived.—Chairman: I remember the time when the regatta was going very strong and in two years it fell through, and the same thing may happen again. The only thing to last is the Urban Council, representing the people. I am sorry there should be any trouble or ill-feeling between the people trying to get the place. We all mean the same thing, and I think it absurd that there should be any opposition. Would not the boat clubs be quite pleased if the place was bought by the Council or, at all events, that the ownership be vested in the Council?

Mr. Young: But why do you jump in at the eleventh hour after our hard work?—Chairman: We did not know of it.—Mr. Young: The Press had it last week.—Mr. Connolly: I think it was done very underhand. The committee should have notified the Council.

Mr. Young: Why should we have notified the Council, sir? The clubs knew it.—Mr. Connolly: It is very often these clubs do not run smoothly.

Mr. Young: If certain members are in it, I would not doubt it.

Mr. Donnellan suggested the appointment of a small committee to meet the Regatta Committee to discuss the matter.—Mr. McDonogh: As far as I can see, it does not make much difference whether the boat clubs or the Urban Council gets it, so long as it is secured for the people. I think the clubs and the Urban Council should meet and discuss the matter in a friendly spirit as soon as possible. It would be a pity to let it go, because, really, it is one of the nicest spots in Ireland.

Chairman: I can assure everyone that this meeting was not called in any spirit of opposition to the Regatta Committee.—Mr. Young: I am very glad to hear that.—Mr. Bailey said that if the thing had been going on for eight months he had not heard of it and he was on the committee of the Rowing Club.—Mr. Young: It is on the minutes of the meeting of the Royal Yacht Club.—Chairman: I think if the Regatta Committee looked into it they would prefer that the ownership of the place should be vested in the Council. It is a more permanent body than the committee, which does not pull very smoothly always.

Mr. Young: Neither does the Urban Council, as far as I can see (laughter).—The Chairman further said that the committee had no corporate existence in law.—Mr. Young: Where will the Council get the money?—Chairman: That is another question.—Mr. McDonogh said it was a great pity that there should be any controversy between the Council and the Regatta Committee.—Mr. Connolly: There should be no underhand work about it.—Mr. Donnellan objected to Mr. Connolly's remark, saying no underhand work came from the committee.—Mr. McDonogh said that, seeing all the trouble the Regatta Committee had gone to, it would be too bad for the Council to buy the place without consulting them.—Mr. Cooke said that the committee should have consulted the Urban Council, as the controlling body in the town, before they did anything to try to arrange what is a recreation ground for the people.

Mr. Young said it was his fault that the thing had not been arranged by the committee long before. If he had attended the meetings it would.—The Chairman said the committee would have to act as private individuals—and the place would, in fact, have to be bought in some individuals' names—and that was what the Council objected to.—Mr. Rea: Mr. Redington asked us to buy the place.—Mr. Connolly: The Council represents the people of the town, whereas the boat clubs represent only a certain number of people.—Mr. Young said he was not a member of the Regatta Committee but had been invited to attend the meeting.—Mr. Cooke: If the Urban Council take it over, I am sure there is not a member that will deprive any club of the right to the place. But it is right to have it vested in the interests of the town.—Chairman: The only thing I am anxious about is to have the ownership vested in the Council, and I think I am right. To have it vested in individuals is objectionable of itself—as objectionable as if Sir Thomas Blake, or I, or anybody else, had it, from the point of view of the people of the town.—Mr. Young: The clubs are buying it for Galway.—Chairman: I would have to take that with some salt (laughter).

Mr. Donnellan's amendment—to meet the Regatta Committee in reference to the matter—was put to the meeting and lost, only Mr. Donnellan himself and Messrs. Young, McDonogh, and Bailey voting for it, while all the other members voted for Mr. Walsh's resolution which was put and carried.

Chairman: Having passed that, the next question is how the money is to be got to buy the place.—After discussion, it was decided to borrow money from the Bank immediately for buying the place, and a suggestion was made that the next bazaar be held to provide funds to pay back the loan. It was mentioned that a gentleman had brought the greater portion of the Menlo wood, and it was decided to ask Sir Thomas Blake to stop the sale and include the wood in the purchase of the bank at the same, or a higher figure, than that already offered.

The Chairman, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Walsh, and Mr. Bailey were deputed to interview the Menlo tenants in connection with the sale.

Mr. McDonogh pointed out that the matter would have to come up at the general meeting, and Mr. Walsh then put his resolution in the way of a notice of motion.

It was agreed to get into telephonic communication at once with Mr. T. N. Redington, Clerk of the Council, who is agent for Sir Thomas Blake, and who was then in Dublin interviewing the latter in connection with the sale of the property.

All Drinks Al at Heavey's Back Bar.

THE MENLO MURDER

LETTER FROM THE MOST REV. DR. O'DEA.

"A SHOCKING INSULT TO GOD."

Public Atonement for "Cruel and Brutal" Outrage.

The following letter, from the Bishop of alway, addressed to the Rev. R. McHugh, P.P., Castlegar, was read at all the Masses in Menlo and Castlegar on last Sunday:

"Dear Fr. McHugh,—The recent murder in your parish is a shocking insult to God, which calls for public atonement from your people.

"When the Jews long ago offered a similar insult to God by their worship of the Golden Calf, their leader stood in the gate of the camp, and said: 'If any man be on the Lord's side, let him join with me' (Exodus XXXII., 26). A multitude joined him, and going through the camp from gate to gate, they finished the guilty by putting 23,000 of them to death.

"Let the atonement be the joint offering by priests and people of all the Masses in the parish on to-morrow for the purpose of appeasing God's anger, followed immediately, or in the course of the day, by the public performance of the Stations of the Cross.

"You will please read this letter after the first Gospel at all your Masses in the parish on to-morrow, and also the paragraphs on the same subject in the recent Lenten Pastoral.

"I pray God in His mercy to grant eternal rest to him who has been taken so suddenly out of life, and to spare the murderers and your whole parish, by not letting His curse, the curse of Cain, fall upon the murderer or upon any of your people.

"Your faithful servant in Christ,

"✠ THOS. O'DEA,
"Bishop of Galway, etc.

"Very Rev. R. McHugh, V.F., P.P.
"28-2-'20."

Fifteen Years for Shooting Detective.

The Headquarters of the Irish Command announces that James Hurley, civilian, of 21, Upper Kevin-st., Dublin, was tried by General Courtmartial in Dublin on February 6, 1920, on a charge under Regulation 32, Defence of the Realm Regulations—namely, on November 10, 1919, in Harcourt-st., discharging a revolver with intent to wound, and thereby wounding Detective Officer Wharton, D.M.P. The accused was found guilty, and was sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude.

[It will be remembered that Constable Wharton was shot in the back while passing along Harcourt-st. towards St. Stephen's-green at night. The bullet passed through both lungs, and the medical evidence at the courtmartial showed that the constable was unfit for further police duty, his heart having been displaced.]

DRIVE TO DEATH

EARLY MORNING MURDER ON COUNTY GALWAY ROAD.

MR. F. M. SHAWE-TAYLOR AMBUSHED AND SHOT.

STORY OF BARRICADE AND CONCEALED ASSAILANTS.

WOUNDED CHAUFFEUR'S NARRATIVE.

CONDEMNATION BY CORONER AND JURY.

DYING MAN'S LAST WORDS.

Bereaved Widow's Dreadful Ordeal.

Mr. Frank M. Shawe-Taylor, J.P., was shot dead at Coshla, a short distance from his house at Moorpark, Athenry, while motoring to Galway fair on Wednesday morning.

The details of the awful tragedy are short but gruesome, revealing a carefully-planned and calculated crime.

Being a large stock-owner, it was Mr. Shawe-Taylor's custom to attend nearly all the principal fairs in the county, and he started at a quarter to six on Wednesday morning to go to Galway. The morning was misty and cold, and it was scarcely past dawn when he left Moorpark in his Ford motor. With him was his chauffeur, James Barrett, a young man of thirty. Mr. Shawe-Taylor frequently drove his motor himself, and he did so on this occasion, Barrett sitting beside him in the front of the car. In the back was placed a box containing lunch, alongside which was laid Mr. Shawe-Taylor's stick and umbrella.

Moorpark is about five miles from Athenry, on the Galway road, and after driving down the avenue from his house Mr. Shawe-Taylor swung his car to the left in heading for Galway. For a half mile or so the road is skirted with trees on both sides. At the end of that distance it joins with the main road running from Galway to Belleville and Monivea. At the junction, in the wood, on the right hand side a police hut was formerly built, but is now demolished. Turning to the left again the car got clear of the wood, and the occupants settled themselves down for a straight run in to Galway. The day was already perceptibly clearing. Mr. Shawe-Taylor, as was usual with him, was driving at only a moderate pace, the bad state of the road, too, preventing any attempt at speed. The district was now bare and bleak with only a few houses in sight.

Having climbed a slight incline in the road they were into the village of Coshla, scarcely a mile from Moorpark. Ahead on the right was Egan's publichouse, about twenty yards off the public road. When within about forty yards of this publichouse those in the motor noticed a barricade across the roadway ten yards on the far side of the house.

Mr. Shawe-Taylor did not stop. "What is this for"? was his only remark to his chauffeur, until they got to within four or five yards of the obstruction which was composed of a donkey cart, one of the wheels of which had been taken off and placed on one side of the road and a wooden gate standing at the other side of the cart. Both were the property of a farmer whose small cottage is right opposite, on the left hand side of the road. The cart had been taken out of the yard, and the gate and gateposts (which were only a frail structure) had been pulled out of their position across the laneway leading to this house.

It was now almost exactly six o'clock. Mr. Shawe-Taylor stopped his motor, leaving the engine running, and directed Barrett to remove the obstacle. Barrett got out of the car, and the disconnected wheel was the first he went to take away. He was just proceeding to lift it when a volley of shots rang out, and, frightened, let the wheel drop out of his hands.

Barrett is unable to give any connected account of what happened as the shock and suddenness of the occurrence almost stunned him. But it is his belief that the first volley came from inside the stone wall on the left hand side. The wall on that side is higher than that on the opposite side, and there are two scraggy bushes just inside it opposite the small cottage. There are no bushes on the far side.

Barrett's first thought was for his master, and rushing back to the motor he saw him streaming with blood and asked him if he was wounded. Mr. Shawe-Taylor's only reply—the last words he spoke in this life—was: "Oh, ye——" Apparently he was unable to finish the sentence. He then leant over to one side and Barrett went round by the front of the car to lift him up. As he was passing by the engine he received five pellets in the left jaw from a shot that must, apparently, have been fired from the back of the car. He realised then that his life was also in danger, and he stooped under the front mudguard.

Another volley rang out, and then all was silent except for the noise of the hurrying footsteps. Shawe-Taylor was a lifeless corpse thrown sideways on the front seat of the car. Barrett crept out from under the mudguard and staggered to the sidewall where he fell on the grass on the side of the road.

How long he remained there he does not know, but it was probably only for five or ten minutes, until he heard somebody behind him, and felt himself being assisted to his feet. This unknown person first warned him not to look back, and Barrett, seemingly, had to comply with the order. The man then asked him if he was much hurt, and he replied that he thought he was. Again he warned him not to look back, but to walk straight on. Barrett did so and made his way to the house of the herd, Broderick, where he was admitted, and told the inmates of his dreadful experience.

A messenger from the house was immediately despatched to acquaint the dead landlord's widow of the frightful news. Mrs. Shawe-Taylor was in bed and did not know at first the cause of her being aroused so early when the servant called her. The dread news came as an immense shock, but she bore it very bravely, and immediately set about giving direction to have her husband's body taken home.

It is alleged that some employees whom she asked to go to take back her dead husband refused, their answer being that "where was the use when he was dead."

She did not wait to parley but ordered that her pony and trap be got ready, and she herself drove up to the scene of the awful tragedy, where she found Mr Shawe-Taylor lying dead in the car without a soul in sight.

Barrett and Broderick, the herd, soon after arrived. The chauffeur got into the driving seat, beside the body, and with Mrs. Shawe-Taylor standing on the step of the motor on the far side holding her dead husband, her burden of grief was borne swiftly back to the house he had left in perfect health less than an hour before.

The shots that killed Mr. Shawe-Taylor must have been fired at a range of scarcely a yard, for part of his face was burned black, and a gun wad was found embedded in his head. About eight men took part in the attack apparently. Fifteen gun cartridges were found at the place, which tallied with the two volleys fired. The attackers were masks. The deceased evidently received the brunt of the charge. His face, head, and left shoulder were riddled with pellets, while only one pellet struck the windscreen of the motor. There are many indentions also on the left side of the car made by pellets. A shot from the back of the car must have been fired with the muzzle of the gun actually placed against the motor. There is only one large hole through the canvas at the back, and the shot tore through the top of the cushioned partition between the two compartments of the car, and lodged in Mr. Shawe-Taylor's head. The front coat of the car contained a pool of blood, and one of the dead man's teeth had been blown out.

The inmates of the little cottage at the scene of the shooting say they heard the shots, but the people in Egan's publichouse state they did not hear anything.

BROTHER OF FAMOUS CAPTAIN.

Frank M. Shawe-Taylor was the last of the Shawe-Taylor family who have been prominently before the public or the last half-century. His father was a well-known landlord living at Castle Taylor, Ardrahan, the home of the family for years. But the late Mr. F. Shawe-Taylor was, perhaps, best known throughout the County Galway and, indeed, all Ireland, as the brother of the late Captain John Shawe-Taylor, the man who was mainly instrumental in getting the Land Act of 1903 passed. Captain Shawe-Taylor, who was through the South African War, was a young Irish landlord himself, but held views that were very much in advance of the majority of his class at that time. His greatest constructive work was the bringing about of the Land Conference of 1903, which made the agreed land settlement, as embodied in the Act of 1903, possible. The initial meeting in regard to the Conference took place at Kinvara, and subsequently Captain Shawe-Taylor got into close touch with Mr George Wyndham. Captain Shawe-Taylor contested Galway City against Mr Stephen Gwynn as an Independent—leaning to the Devolution scheme in politics—and was only beaten by a narrow majority. His defeat was attributed to the fact that he had refused to make a definite declaration Home Rule. Subsequently, in 1907, he organised, almost unassisted (except by voluntary local workers) the great Exhibition and Industrial Conference at Galway, to which delegates flocked from all parts of the world, and which was one of the most important and epoch-making industrial conferences ever held in Ireland. He died a few years subsequently.

The late Mr. Frank Shawe-Taylor was never under the public eye like his distinguished brother, but it is known that he was immensely proud of the captain's work, although he might not have agreed with his policy. He was, too, a Unionist in politics, while it is believed that Capt. Shawe-Taylor, as has been stated, was in favour of a Devolution scheme for the settlement of the Irish self-government question. Mr. Frank Shawe-Taylor grazed close on 1,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Athenry. It is stated that he received several threatening letters following his refusal to surrender portion of this land for distribution amongst the surrounding tenants.

In private life he was an extremely condescending and affable gentleman. He was a free and agreeable talker and companion, and was held in great respect and regard throughout the country. But as far as the distribution of his lands was concerned, it is stated that he was of an obstinate and unyielding character, and on one occasion it is alleged that he made the statement that if he had to surrender his land, he would give it to ex-soldiers. On the other hand, it is said that he intended shortly to give 200 acres of it for distribution among adjoining tenants. But he refused the demand to do so when was recently made by a deputation which waited upon him. He was a man of unflinching spirit and refused to be turned aside by the threats he received through the post. His murder, it is stated, was forecasted in some of these letters, but still he was not afraid to travel abroad, even at night and without escort. His only safeguard was his double-chambered revolver which he always carried with him. In this connection it is somewhat remarkable that he did not take it on the morning he met his death. Even if he had it, he would not, from the account of the attack made upon him, have had time to use it. He was shot at some years ago when driving home in a trap with his wife, and to the presence of the latter his escape from certain death on that occasion is said to be due, as the attackers did not wish to harm her.

With all those warnings and threats, it is a curious fact—which goes to show his indomitable courage—when he saw the barricade on the road when he drove to his death that he did not turn back and foil the trap laid for him. Whether any thought crossed his mind of what was in store for him is not known; his chauffeur never for an instant thought they would be attacked at the spot, even when he got out to remove the obstruction.

One sister of the Shawe-Taylor's—Mrs. Trench, of Limerick—is the only one of the family living. Mr. Frank Shawe-Taylor was married to a sister of Mr. Harry Usher, Loughrea, the well-known racehorse owner and trainer. They had three children—two sons and a daughter. The daughter was killed in a riding accident in 1911. The elder boy is about thirteen years, and is at school in England. The widow has received many messages of condolence.

The funeral will take place to-day (Friday) at three o'clock from Moorpark to Athenry.

The late Mr. Shawe-Taylor was fifty-one years ... e.

"OH, YE——"

LAST WORDS OF THE DECEASED.

Chauffeur's Account of the Tragedy at Inquest.

The coroner's district in which Moorpark is situated was the subject of much dispute, and the coroners for North, South and West Galway had to be notified of the necessity for an inquest. The district is in the barony of Clare (which is in North Galway), but it is in the South Galway Parliamentary division. Eventually, Mr. F. B. McDonogh, solr., Tuam, coroner for North Galway, decided to hold the inquest which he fixed for twelve o'clock noon on yesterday (Thursday). Fifteen jurors were summoned to attend at that hour, but it was half past one o'clock, p.m., before twelve of them could be got together, and that only after policemen had been despatched on bicycles with messages for their attendance.

The inquest was held in a room at the Moorpark residence, and the jury viewed the body which was laid out upstairs. The police are reticent about the whole occ