LONDON LETTER.

(THROUGH OUR PRIVATE WIRE).
101 Fleet Street, Tuesday Night.

Mr. Asquith and Mr. Macpherson.

Two things well worth noting were said by Mr. Asquith to-night at the meeting of the Eighty Club. One was his reference to the extraordinary speech by Mr. Macpherson in the House of Commons last week. "I have never heard or read a more deplorable or despairing speech," said Mr. Asquith. The second was his reference to the Chief Secretary's charge against Sinn Fein. "The chief revolutionary organisation in Ireland," said the Liberal leader, "I do not and will not associate without further evidence with the organisation of crime and outrage." But the chief point of Mr. Asquith's speech in relation to Ireland was its unqualified admission that Mr. Gladstone became a Home Ruler because he had tried coercion and it had failed, and that coercion always must fail. Another saying of Mr. Asquith which was an obvious reference to the Government's Bill was that it would be fatal to the future of Ireland. "For any system of Self-government to be forced by violence against any section of the Irish community." Finally, his most impressive utterance was the warning that everyone who came from America—one does not need to pause long to reflect which of Mr. Asquith's colleagues must have been in his mind—realised that the great obstacle to Anglo-American co-operation was the failure of Great Britain to apply to Ireland the principles which the Allies in Paris had agreed to be the governing principles of civilisation.

The Diamond Case.

Mr Diamond was found guilty at the Old Bailey to-day, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. It is therefore permissible now to offer a little comment on the case. The Judge, in his address to the jury, said that the whole question for them was whether in his article the defendant, after discussing the question of tyrannicide, had said in effect: "Go thou and do likewise." The jury found that the defendant was guilty, so presumably they answered the Judge's question in the affirmative, and the Judge in passing sentence said he agreed with them. Having read the article with some care, I find myself entirely unable to understand how Mr. Justice Coleridge arrived at his opinion. Among a number of witnesses whom Mr. Diamond put in the witness box to testify to their knowledge of him as a law-abiding citizen was General Sir Arthur Sloggett, the famous army doctor, who was Director-General of the British Armies in the Field. He gave it as his opinion that the article was a bit of "journalistic gas," and that to look on it as an incitement to murder was absolutely preposterous. This seems to me an absolutely sound view. The article was a very long and turgid affair, but its obvious aim and argument was to show that violence produced violence. If the Attorney-General, who worked with all his energy and ingenuity to secure a conviction, had been able to quote any words that meant clearly and unmistakeably an incitement to assassination, it is perfectly certain that a sentence of six months' imprisonment in the second division is not that which would have been passed.

By-Elections.

Horncastle by-election result was announced to-day, and although the Coalitionist only held the seat by the split vote of the opposition, Mr. George's Party feels in good spirits. Some Lobbyists at Westminster to-day were even inclined to believe the result might determine Mr. George to risk a general election fairly early. It was argued that while the Liberal and Labour Parties are still working independently, there will be innumerable cases of split voting, and so much the better prospect for Coalition candidates. It is almost inevitable in the long run that the Liberal and Labour Parties will fix up an arrangement, and it would therefore be a good policy to jump while this particular circumstance is to the advantage of the Coalition. Meanwhile something mysterious is happening in connection with the Irish vote at Stockport. It is a very strong vote, from three thousand to four thousand, I believe, so that it is of considerable importance. To-night's "Westminster Gazette" declares that the Irish electors have revolted against the arrangement by which Mr. T. P. O'Connor and other leaders allotted the Irish vote in British constituencies to Labour candidates. This is mere nonsense. There is no such arrangement. It was not Mr. T. P. O'Connor or any other leader, but the Convention of the United Irish League of Great Britain which decided that in British election contests for the future the Irish vote should as a general rule go to the Labour candidate. In the case of Stockport there is no "revolt," and there will be none. Of the candidates in the field, or in prospect, the Labour candidate, Sir Leo Money, is the only one for whom an Irish Nationalist could vote. There is a Bottomleyite candidate, and a Coalition candidate is to be nominated by Mr. George and Mr. Bonar Law jointly. Obviously no Nationalist could vote for either of these. One can understand the "Westminster Gazette's" petulance at the Irish vote being diverted from the Liberal Party, but it might try to deal more fairly—and intelligently—with the matter. To go on as it does, to talk of the Irish electors running an independent candidate of their own is moonshine.

Mr. John Redmond's Anniversary.

The anniversary of the death of Mr. John Redmond was remembered in many of the Irish centres in Great Britain, a number of Masses being said on Sunday. References were made in many places at the usual Sunday evening meetings of Branches of the United Irish League. Capt. W. Redmond, who arrived here this morning, on his return from Waterford, was deeply touched by the display of affectionate regard for the memory of his father which the anniversary evoked there.

A Welsh Tory.

In to-day's issue of the "South Wales Daily News" there is a rather remarkable article by Mr. J. C. Gould on Home Rule. Mr. Gould is a millionaire ship owner, who sits for the Central Division of Cardiff as a Coalition Unionist. He is only 38, but a very prominent figure in finance. In the article referred to he announces his desire to co-operate loyally with the Government in their effort to settle the Irish question, but the views which he goes on to express as essential to a settlement are calculated to give Mr. Lloyd George a shock. To begin with, he says coercion must stop. In the next place the kind of Home Rule he indicates as necessary does not in the least resemble the Government of Ireland Bill. It is likely that Mr. Gould will have to remember before long his position as a member of Mr. George's Party.

Another Correspondent writes:—

An Invidious Distinction.

I hear that a Labour M.P. is framing a Bill to bring down the working hours of journalists to those of the "working classes." It sounds funny, but there is an invidiousness in the liberty so largely practised by the captains of industry of applying themselves to 10, 12, or 12 hours a day for the making of trade and a living for the people. Such a proposal would hit very hard Mr. Edison, and indeed most inventors and heads of the great manufacturing firms who find the means of pay by wages out of their brains and sustained energy. These men take no account of overtime, and their example is obviously bad. But at present I really don't see that it is likely to do any harm, and nothing would induce them to be seven hours a day men.

The Decline in Exports.

The February returns of trade spoilt the upward curve of trade, but they are not quite so bad as appears on the surface. February, even in a leap year, is a shorter month by two days than January. Thus the drop of twenty-two millions represents more accurately a drop of about 11½ millions on the same number of days in January. The adverse exchange with America is the prime cause of the fall, and we have to face it. The import figures are largely weighted with imports of raw materials, and they should give benefit later in the export of manufactured goods. But everything of course depends on getting financial stability—on improving the exchange with America so that the market there is reasonably open to us, and on re-establishing credit in the Central Empires, so that business throughout Europe may be possible on a sound basis.

The "Anxiety" Loaf.

What is the true position in the vital matter of the dear loaf? To-day I obtained the views of a high Canadian authority, a gentleman holding an official position, and with unimpeachable knowledge, who emphatically declared that there was any shortage of wheat at all. Could we release the stores known to exist in the East, he said, there would even be a glut. "The dear loaf," said he, "might be called the anxiety loaf. It is the situation that inevitably arises when fear prevails. Suppose, for instance, there were a coal shortage in London—not a tragic shortage, but only just enough to go round comfortably. Once that fact became known human nature would assert itself, as always panic-stricken people would want to make quite sure they got their own share in time, and would offer any price for it. A precisely similar situation has been created internationally in wheat."

The New Type.

Miss Phyllis Dereham, the girl who is acting as personal Secretary to the Permanent Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, and was the first woman civil servant to prompt a Minister in the House of Commons, and to occupy one of the exclusively reserved seats under the Gallery beside the Speaker's chair, is by no means the blue stocking one might have imagined. She is the daughter of a very wealthy South African mining magnate, and until recently they had a beautiful country house in Kent, where some very entertaining house parties have been given. She went to the Board of Agriculture during the war, but now has no intention of returning to a life of leisure. In her spare time she dances enthusiastically, and is well known at Eastbourne, where she often spends week-ends in the spring. As she says, "A girl must do something." She has no sympathy with the girl who sits at home when she might be working in the world. Her brother is a very popular officer in the 17th Lancers.

MR. JOHN DILLON.

SIR H. PLUNKETT'S PLAN

DANGER IN DELAY.

Need For Full Measure Of Freedom.

(To the Editor, "Examiner").

Sir,—Any proposal for the solution of the Irish problem coming from Sir Horace Plunkett deserves the most serious consideration of all Irishmen. In his speech on Thursday, Sir Horace Plunkett put forward a scheme of action which I gather from his speech we may accept as the official programme of the Dominion League. It is contained in the following paragraph:

"More essential, perhaps, than the details of the settlement we propose is the manner in which we suggest it should be brought before the Irish people for their consideration, and, if approved, passed rapidly into law by the Imperial Parliament. The plan is quite simple. Parliament must make a firm offer to Ireland of the Government that she wants, subject to the two conditions of defence and safeguards to minorities. Therefore, let a Constituent Assembly of Irishmen, elected on a basis of Proportional Representation, be immediately given statutory authority to draft a constitution. To me it seems that this procedure would inevitably lead to the nearest approach that is possible to a Dominion status, and that is why we chose the name."

In my opinion, this is an unworkable and a very dangerous proposal to put forward. If the Government were to act on this suggestion, and, having repealed the Home Rule Act, to pass an Act constituting an Irish Constituent Assembly charged with the duty of drafting an Irish Constitution, what would be the result?

If the Assembly were limited to a constitution within the British Empire, would Sinn Fein take part? And, if the Assembly were authorised to act by majority decision, does anyone suppose that the Ulstermen would agree to come in? And, even if these difficulties were overcome—and I believe them to be insuperable—what security would there be that any decision arrived at by the Irish Assembly would be carried out by the British Parliament?

To me, therefore, it seems that such a procedure would result in releasing the Government from a very great difficulty; a further indefinite postponement of a settlement which is urgent; and, ultimately, in a fiasco which would furnish hostile British statesmen, with fresh excuses, for doing nothing.

The situation in Ireland is urgent and desperate, and demands an immediate remedy, and I do not believe that there is any hope of a solution either by the road of a Constituent Assembly or by attempting to obtain for Ireland the status of Cuba—not, I should have imagined, a very lofty ideal, or one worth the spilling of much blood.

The remedy for Ireland's desperate disease, if it is to be effective, must be applied promptly. It must be devised and carried by the Government which is responsible for throwing the country into its present condition. It must be based on a wholehearted and generous trust in the Irish people.

If the Irish people cannot be trusted to respond to a broad, full measure of freedom, with a fair financial settlement, then the problem is insoluble, and the bitter struggle between the two nations will go on for generations, with results to Great Britain as well as to Ireland of the most horrible and appalling character.

But time is of the essence of the case, and every month that passes with the present detestable regime in force in Ireland, and every fresh act of bad faith on the part of English Ministers will add to the already terrific difficulties of the Irish problem.—Yours sincerely,

JOHN DILLON.

2, North Great George's St., Dublin,
8th March, 1920.

THE POPE.

Sanctification Of Joan Of Arc.

Rome, Monday.—The Pope to-day asked a Secret Consistory for their placet for the sanctification of Joan of Arc and Marguerite Alacoque.

He announced the appointment of Monsignor Schuete, Bishop of Padeborn, as Archbishop of Cologne, and Monsignor Barlassinas as Patriarch of Jerusalem.—Reuter.

CORK STEAM PACKET CO.

Strike of Clerical Staff.

The strike of the clerical staff of the City of Cork Steam Packet Company continues, and the offices of the company were again picketed yesterday. Pickets also followed those of the clerical staff who have remained at work when they were going home last evening.

The s.s. Eblana and the s.s. Claddagh left last evening for Liverpool, each with a general cargo and some cattle and sheep.

CORK BREWERY STRIKE.

There is no change in the situation created by the strike amongst the Cork brewery workers. Picketting proceeded as usual.

THREATENED MILLERS' STRIKE.

Conference in Dublin.

Dublin, Tuesday Night.—A conference was held to-day in the Ministry of Labour between representatives of the Transport Union and representatives of the Flour Millers' Association in reference to the threatened strike of hands employed in Irish flour mills. Professor Bailie presided, and the proceedings were conducted in private

FROM TO-DAY'S "DAILY EXPRESS."

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.
(THROUGH OUR PRIVATE WIRE).

LABOUR M.P.'s AND BREAD.

Reduction Of Subsidy To Be Opposed.

The Parliamentary Labour Party yesterday discussed the bread subsidy, and resolved that although they are not in favour of subsidies as a general principle, the reduction of the bread subsidy is a blunder in the absence of drastic action on the part of the Government to deal with food prices generally. The Labour leaders will press their views strongly on the Government next week in the discussion of the vote on account. Several Labour M.P.'s declared in the Lobby yesterday, among them Mr. Henderson, that an inevitable result of the increased price of bread will be new wages demands by the various unions. The price of bread after April 12th, the "Daily Express" understands, will not be allowed to go beyond 1s. a quartern, and in some parts of England should be 11d.

MR. BALFOUR.

Gives Up His Room To Mr. Asquith.

An interesting story lies behind Mr. Asquith's installation yesterday in one of the large Minister's rooms behind the Speaker's chair. The room which the leader of the Opposition usually occupied in other days is now tenanted by Mr. Chamberlain, and there were difficulties in the way of his being transferred elsewhere. It was Mr. Balfour who came to the rescue. "Asquith," he said at once, "shall have my room," and he insisted on giving it up to an old colleague and a close friend. Mr. Balfour has contented himself with a less convenient apartment.—"Daily Express" Lobby Correspondent.

NO TRANSPORT STRIKE.

Workers To Submit Their Case To Arbitration.

The threatened strike of road transport workers has been averted. The dispute arose over a demand for a wage increase of 10s per week, which was refused by the employers' side of the Joint Industrial Council. Following the refusal, the Transport Workers' Federation sought authority from the Unions concerned to hand in strike notices, but an eight-hour conference at the Ministry of Labour yesterday, in which both Sir Robert Horne and Sir David Shackleton took part, resulted in a decision to refer the matter to arbitration. The hearing will take place on March 24th, after the officers of the Transport Workers' Federation have returned from their Continental trip which is to be undertaken for the purpose of re-establishing the International Federation. Difficulty has been caused by the fact that a large number of the transport employers are unorganised. Those on whom the wages claim has been made are to be summoned to the arbitration proceedings. Mr. Robert Williams last night expressed the hope that no section of the industry would prejudice the successful result of the arbitration by precipitate strike action.—"Daily Express" Labour Correspondent.

IRISH BANKS AND SINN FEIN.

Dublin Castle Inquiry.

OFFICIALS CLAIM PRIVILEGE.

Dublin, Tuesday Night.—Referring to the proceedings yesterday, the "Evening Telegraph" says it has excellent authority for the statement that when Mr. Bell began to question the bank officials as to certain transactions the officials claimed privilege and refused to disclose the secrets of their profession. Closely questioned by the special magistrate, the witnesses who did not produce any documents or books, stated that they were unable to answer. We understand that some of the banks will take a very firm attitude in this matter.

SINN FEIN BANK BARRICADED

By Military in Dublin.

The new premises of the Sinn Fein Bank, 3 Harcourt St., Dublin, were raided by a party of armed military and police. This is the second time within the last eleven days that the house has been searched. Having knocked up the caretaker, who, with his wife and family, live at the top of the premises, the military informed him that they had instructions to barricade up every door, and they at once set to their work in a skilled manner. They used large planks, and soon had all the doors barricaded, except those entering the caretaker's apartments, and one through which he could pass in and out to the house. The hall-door was firmly sealed. Before leaving the military warned the occupants at their peril not to attempt to remove any of the barricades.

In addition to the bank, the Workmen's Temperance Club have apartments in the building. It is a purely social and non-political organisation.

Having left the house, some of the soldiers proceeded to 6 Harcourt street, the old headquarters of the Sinn Fein Organisation, and proceeded to remove the brass plate on the halldoor, but before they had completed their task some persons appeared on the scene, and the soldiers stopped undoing the screws and went away.

TROUBLED TIMES IN IRELAND.

Tipperary Priest and Need for Prayer.

Rev. J. McCarthy, C.C., in St. Michael's church, Tipperary, said there was special reason at present to pray for the welfare of our country. The times were grievously troubled and anxious, and, worst of all, there seemed a real danger of losing the old spirit of faith and piety which had been handed down to them by their forefathers. An evil spirit of crime was manifest in the murders and other misdeeds committed. They had need to pray that Ireland's national apostle, St. Patrick, would exorcise this spirit from amongst us as of old he delivered Ireland from the errors and sins of paganism. For nations, as for individuals, the words of Christ were true: What did it profit a nation to gain the whole world, and lose its soul?

MR. MARSH'S CONDITION.

The condition of Mr. R. H. Marsh, auctioneer and valuer, who was fired at and wounded last week, was further improved last night, though his life is not yet completely out of danger.

MARINA ACCIDENT.

Condition of Rev. Father Barrett.

The condition of the Rev. Father Barrett, one of the occupants of the motor car which ran over the quay wall at the Marina on Monday, showed some improvement yesterday, but he is not yet out of danger.

SMALL FIRE IN CORK.

A small outbreak of fire occurred at No. 2, South Mall, Cork, yesterday, to which the Fire Brigade from Sullivan's Quay were summoned, but their services were not required, as the flames were extinguished by means of some water and an extinguisher.

KAY'S "LINSEED COMPOUND" for Coughs, Colds and Bronchial troubles. 11½d, 1s 3d, 3s.

CO. KILKENNY BARRACK SIEGE

CONSTABLE KILLED BY BOMB.

BALLYVOURNEY ATTACK.

SERGEANT WOUNDED.

IRISH SETTLEMENT.

MR. DILLON'S LETTER.

CORK HIGH SHERIFF APPOINTED

GOVERNMENT & IRISH BANKS.

OFFICIALS' SURDY ATTITUDE

Hugginstown Police Barrack, Co. Kilkenny, was attacked by numbers of armed men. A bomb wrecked portion of the barrack, and gravely wounded Constable Ryan, who has died. The police were compelled to surrender, and gave up their arms.

News reached Cork last night that Ballyvourney Barrack, Co. Cork, was attacked, and Sergt. Flynn wounded. Details are lacking.

A bank manager was held up in Meath, and £1,000 and a motor car taken.

Mr. John Dillon says that Sir H. Plunkett's plan of a Constituent Assembly is an unworkable and a very dangerous proposal to put forward. It would result in releasing the Government from a great difficulty; a further indefinite postponement of a settlement which is urgent; and, ultimately, in a fiasco which would furnish hostile British statesmen with fresh excuses for doing nothing. There must be a prompt settlement based on a whole-hearted and generous trust of the Irish people.

Mr. Asquith, speaking at the Eighty Club, said he had never heard a more despairing speech than that of the Chief Secretary. Until two years ago the chief revolutionary organisation, Sinn Fein, which he would not associate without further evidence with organised crime, was on the down grade. To-day it dominated the Irish nation. The insensate Irish policy must bear a large measure of responsibility for that. He would consider himself recreant if he asked the Irish people to accept anything less than that given by the Home Rule Act.

Sir John Scott has been appointed High Sheriff of Cork City.

It is stated that at the Bank inquiry the officials claimed privilege and refused to disclose the secrets of their customers or produce books or papers.

At Armagh, the trial of the Knocklong shooting case was adjourned till the Summer Assizes.

Mr. Chas. Diamond was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the second divison.

Ald. Beamish was elected Chairman of the Cork Public Works Committee.

The threatened strike of road transport workers has been left to arbitration.

Speaking at the reception to the Protestant deputation to America, Sir Edward Carson said all America, except hyphenated Irishmen, conspiring with hyphenated Germans, was on their side. He complained that a section of the English Press had operated a conspiracy of silence against the delegates, fouling their own nest through having swollen heads.

At a special meeting of Cork Corporation last night a Commission was projected to inquire into the standard of living and a living wage in Cork.

On the London Stock Exchange the feature was a sharp rise of War Loan to 89. Other markets showed the effects of selling, especially Oils. U.S. Exchange, 3.05. In Dublin the same conditions prevailed. G.S. and W.R., 66; Midlands, 28; Guinness, 33½; Dublin Distillers, 61s 6d; Coats, 68s 7½d; Spinners, 5 1-16; Calicos, 41s 6d; Dyers, 60s; Dundalks, 28; Rubbers, 12¼—12½.

POLICE BARRACK CAPTURED

IN COUNTY KILKENNY

Constable Killed, Sergeant Wounded.

Waterford, Tuesday.—Early this morning a large party of armed masked men raided the police barrack at Hugginstown, Co. Kilkenny. Sergeant Nolan and Constable Ryan were wounded, but it is not known whether there were any casualties amongst the raiders, who succeeded in capturing the barrack, afterwards making off.

A later Press Association telegram says:—Constable Ryan succumbed to the wounds received in an armed attack on the police barracks in Higginstown, County Kilkenny, early yesterday morning. Bombs and high explosives were used by the raiders, and portion of the barracks was blown away. All arms and ammunition were seized.

Constable Ryan was struck in the left arm by a bomb which completely shattered it, as he was defending the room wherein lay the wife and 5 young children of Sergt. Neylon, head of the force in the building. The barrack was attacked at midnight by between one and two hundred raiders with bombs, grenades and rifle-fire, bullets being poured through every aperture. The raiders, however, did not attempt to enter the building. Constable Ryan leaves a wife and two children.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Waterford, Tuesday night.—Information was received here to-day of one of the most determined attacks yet made in the South of Ireland. At 11.30 last night a party of 200 men, armed and masked, attacked the police barracks at Hugginstown, about 16 miles from Waterford. The barracks are isolated and situated in a very bleak portion of the country. Without any warning a fusilade of shots rang out, startling the entire village. The police barracks were attacked from front and rere. The police at once occupied defensive positions and replied to the fire, which was of an intense description.

The battle lasted from 11.30 till one o'clock. The attackers, being superior in numbers, overcame the police, who eventually surrendered. Several rifles, but no ammunition, were seized by the masked raiders.

In the course of the encounter, Constable Thomas Ryan, formerly of Waterford, had his right arm almost completely blown off. He succumbed to his injuries at 6 a.m. this morning. Sergeant Neylon, who was in charge of the station, was also wounded in the left cheek, in dangerous proximity to the eye. An inquest will be held on Constable Ryan, whose remains lie in the day-room of the barracks.

In the course of the encounter the attackers used rifles, revolvers and hand-grenades. The grenades were formed of pieces of gas-pipe and water-pipe stuffed at both ends with pieces of wood, containing explosive which has not yet been analysed. The attackers left behind them a number of grenades and some ammunition, which was found by the police after the attack.

There is no telegraphic or telephonic communication with the village of Hugginstown, but the raiders took precautions to prevent communication with the outside by cutting the telegraph wires at the nearest point to the village, which is Thomastown. Bottles of petrol were also found at various points around the barracks.

This morning the police barracks presented the appearance of having withstood a desperate siege. The walls were bespattered with bullet marks, and a gaping hole was seen in the roof of the barrack kitchen caused by the explosion of a hand-grenade fired by the attackers. Apparently the attack was well planned, and active preparations for carrying it into effect must have been made a considerable time prior to the affray.

On arriving at the village the raiders took advantageous position dominating the police barracks, and were thoroughly well entrenched before commencing operations. As a result the police fire, as far as can be ascertained, proved ineffective. During the entire raid no onslaught was made by the attackers, who contented themselves with a continuous fire and the throwing of improvised hand grenades.

Besieged on all sides, a hole having been blown in the back door by a grenade, which was responsible for the death of Constable Ryan, and the ammunition of the defenders coming perilously near exhaustion, and in addition two of the police having been rendered casualties, the gallant defenders, seeing that further resistance was hopeless, decided to surrender. The raiders then closed in on the barracks and one of the leaders demanded the rifles. Their attention was drawn to the pitiable plight of Constable Ryan, who had been carried by his comrades into the dayroom, and one of the raiders remarked—"You can now send for the priest and doctor if you like."

Having secured the rifles the raiders decamped and a messenger was at once sent for Dr Magnell and Rev. Fr. Hogan, who shortly arrived and rendered medical and clerical aid.

A ladder was placed on the roof of a store belonging to Sullivan's publichouse. From this point, which adjoins the police barracks several grenades were thrown, shattering the roof of the dayroom. The place now presents the appearance of a total wreck. The wife of Sergeant Neylin, with five children, were in the barracks during the attack and were terror-stricken by the conflict, and are now in a state of prostration.

The scene is within a stone's throw of the famous Carrickshock Boreen, where 80 years ago 10 police were killed in a cul-de-sac in connection with what is known as "the tithe war."

RAID ON MAGISTRATE'S HOUSE AT MALLOW.

(From Our Correspondent).

On Monday night a party of raiders attacked the residence of Mr. J. F. Williamson, J.P., at Summer Hill, Mallow. Having failed to get any answer to repeated knocking at the hall door they endeavoured to break through the drawingroom window, lifting the sash and tearing off the inside blind, but the bolted window shutters held fast, and though broken and battered, prevented entry.

Mr. Williamson was quite unprepared to meet the attack, having given up his guns and revolver to the police, but both he and Mrs. Williamson made good use of two police whistles and a belt out of the upper windows to attract help. He also had in the house an antiquated 20 bore fowling piece, one barrel of which being burst, was useless, but he was able to fire six rounds out of the other. This had the effect of making the raiders clear off, and they may also have been aware that although Mr. Williamson suffers from the disability of having lost his left arm he has the reputation of being a first class shot. Beyond the very natural shock to Mrs Williamson, no great harm was done, and Mr. Williamson is to be congratulated on his plucky defence of his home.

POLICE PATROL DISARMED.

Tralee, Tuesday Evening.—Two conflicting rumours reached Tralee this morning from the North Kerry district. The report which reached the Tralee police was that while three police from Causeway were on patrol duty between Causeway and Ballyheigue Constable Kennet, who was some distance in front of his comrades, was set upon by armed and disguised men and deprived of his revolver and ammunition.

A second version is that the three constables were suddenly set upon by armed and disguised men, who overpowered the patrol and carried off a rifle and two revolvers, leaving the police bound with ropes on the road. A large force of military and police left Tralee this morning for the scene, and are making minute searches through the district

RAID AT CLONMEL

BY MOUNTED MILITARY PARTY.

AN UNPLEASANT JOKE.

Clonmel, Tuesday Night.—A sensational raid of a rather unusual kind occurred in Clonmel when a number of mounted military men broke into the suburban residence of Mrs Malcolmson, Melview, in the middle of the night. The lock at the entrance gate was smashed, and the party, who kicked up a great din, using cat calls, rode up to the house. Mrs Malcolmson, who is a widow, resides in the villa with her children and one servant. They were aroused from their sleep, and as she had a large amount of money in the house, thought a raid was in progress. She 'phoned to the police stating—"House raided; send police." About thirty armed police proceeded to the place and were posted on the avenue and roads outside.

One of the horsemen rode up to the house and passed round. The others disappeared. Mrs Malcolmson, thinking they had gone to effect an entrance at the back, crossed to the back room and looked out, but could see nothing of the invaders. She then heard a great noise in a field close to the house, which is a training ground for horses. A dreadful din was kicked up, and after a while the horsemen came round to the front of the house. The occupants were considerably alarmed, and Mrs Malcolmson secreted some money.

The party then rode up to the door, formed a semi-circle and shouted "We want a drink." Mrs Malcolmson and her daughter recognised the voice of one of the horsemen, and throwing up the window said, "The game is up. I know who you are, and you can come in now.' She then left them in and recognised the parties, who said it was all a joke, and gave them refreshments. She spoke strongly of the seriousness of their conduct, and said they might have frightened the life out of her old lodge-keeper. She insisted on going down and found the gates open, the locks broken, and the family in one of the lodges in a state of terror. Remembering the police were on the grounds she went out and explained it was a hoax raid.

The police took the names of the parties and left. Further developments are expected. The affair caused a big sensation in Clonmel and is much commented on.

BALLYVOURNEY POLICE SERGEANT

Fired At And Wounded.

A report reached Cork last evening that the Ballyvourney police barracks was attacked, and that Sergeant Flynn who was in charge of the police station there, had been seriously wounded. Several rumours were current as to the nature of the attack and defence, but the only thing that could be definitely established was that the sergeant had been fired at and wounded. Inquiries at Cork and Bandon, the latter being the police headquarters for the Ballyvourney district, failed to elicit further information concerning the shooting, but it was ascertained that a military ambulance left Cork last night for Ballyvourney and had not returned up to a late hour.

Another report says that the sergeant was sent on his way to Macroom fair, but confirmation of this report is not forthcoming.

Ballyvourney police barrack, which is ten miles from Macroom, is situated at the junction of the Kenmare and Killarney roads. The usual number of police stationed there are a sergeant and four constables. Some months ago there was considerable unrest in the district and a number of men were courtmartialled at Cork for failing to give their names to the police when challenged.

On receipt of the news at Macroom a large force of police and military left that town for Ballyvourney, and it is understood that exhaustive investigations are being made into the occurrence.

POLICE CHIEF'S FAMILY.

Claim £20,000.

Notification of a claim for £20,000 compensation has been lodged with Pembroke Urban Council on behalf of Mrs. Ethel Redmond, the Nook, Malone road, Belfast, and Mr. John H. Redmond, in respect of the murder of Assistant Commissioner W. C. Redmond at Harcourt-street, Dublin, on January 21.

The hearing will take place before the Recorder on April 1st.

"CURFEW" ORDER IN DUBLIN.

On Monday night the "Curfew" Order operating in Dublin entered on its third week. Military cyclists and military on foot, accompanied by members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, were again unremitting in their vigilance, and armoured cars patrolled the streets. Six arrests took place, five men found abroad without permits being taken to the College Station, Brunswick street, and one to Store street Police Station.

R.I.C. BARRACKS CLOSED.

The Freemount police barracks, which since the arrests of three young men here during the conscription crisis for offences under the D.O.R.A. regulations, has been occupied by a sergeant and eight constables, has been closed during the past week. It is presumed that the building was inspected by a Government engineer and condemned as absolutely unstable in case of an attack on it. Since the rumour spread that a raid was contemplated on it—in fact, that the attacking party had surrounded the district about a month ago, but did not proceed—and there are some grounds for believing that an attack of some kind was about to be made, but for some unknown reason, did not take place—the barrack has been fortified by sand bags and steel shutters, and port holes have been bored in the walls besides. The men have been transferred to other stations, and it is but a matter of conjecture if the barracks will be used again—at least for some time.

MILITARY ACTIVITY ROUND FREEMOUNT.

The military have been paying much attention to this district recently, and though no searches have been so far carried out, they are pretty frequently patrolling the roads, sometimes during the night. On Saturday night they again paid a nocturnal visit, when two lorries arrived in the village about 11 p.m. Beyond tearing down some posters, which were only put up an hour or two previously, nothing more resulted.

TIPPERARY LAND DISPUTE.

In the Chancery Division, King's Bench, Dublin, yesterday, before the Master of the Rolls, an application was made on behalf of the plaintiff in the case of Callaghan v. Callaghan, in which the plaintiff, Thomas Callaghan, chauffeur and gardener, of Carrick-on-Shannon, sought an interim injunction against the defendant, his brother, Patrick Callaghan, of Ardfinnan, Co. Tipperary, to restrain him from trespassing on his (plaintiff's) land at Munroe West, Co. Tipperary, pending the trial of the action.

Mr. Roche (instructed by Mr. Pettit) for plaintiff, and there was no appearance for the defendant.

The order sought was granted.

FORGED ONE POUND NOTES.

In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. SHORTT, in reply to Mr. Grattan Doyle, who asked whether great numbers of false £1 and 10s notes were in circulation throughout the United Kingdom, said that there had been a few cases of the uttering of false £1 Treasury notes, but it is believed that they were all made in this country, and that the author of at least some of them was a person who was convicted and sentenced a few months ago. Though specimens of forged British notes, believed to have been printed in Russia, had been sent to this country from South Russia for identification, there was no reason to believe that spurious money was coming into this country from overseas. The forgeries were so badly done that they would scarcely have passed in England.

FROM TO-DAY'S "DAILY NEWS."

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.
(THROUGH OUR PRIVATE WIRE).

MINERS' CONFERENCE.

Decision To Be Taken To-day On Future Action.

The Executive of the Miners' Federation met yesterday to prepare for to-day's National Conference, at which the attitude of the Federation delegates to the Trade Union Congress on the direct action versus political action issue will be determined. It is possible that in the course of the Congress discussion to-morrow the suggestion will be made that the Trade Unions should concentrate for the present on an effort to induce the Government to take more active and effective measures to bring down prices. This matter is also to be raised at a conference of the rank and file shop stewards, which begins to-day at the Central Hall. This conference has been called for the double purpose of trying to influence the Congress to vote in favour of direct action, and of advocating a movement among the workers for the adoption of a Soviet system. In this part of its discussions the conference will represent a negligible proportion of British workers.—"Daily News" Labour Correspondent.

STEEL STRIKE NOTICES.

Welsh Employers Say They Have Not Been Tendered.

Swansea, Tuesday.—The South Wales steel manufacturers met yesterday at Swansea to consider the offer of the strikers to return to work and complete their 23 days' notice. A resolution was passed expressing satisfaction at the men's decision, but pointing out that notices to terminate contracts have not yet been tendered. The men contend that their Executive put in the notices in time by telegram. Meantime all the West Wales steel works are still idle, and there is no prospect of an immediate restart of work.—"Daily News" Correspondent.

RELEASED PRISONERS.

Frontier Welcome To British Subjects From Russia.

Helsingfors, Tuesday.—Lady Marling, the wife of the British Minister at Copenhagen, with a number of Red Cross workers, left Helsingfors last night for Terioki, near the Russian frontier, in order to make preparations for the reception of the British subjects expected to arrive soon from Russia. Both men and women will remain in quarantine at Terioki for 14 days. The Red Cross mission will provide clothing and comforts for those requiring them, as well as other assistance. After the expiration of the quarantine period, which will be spent in pleasant villas situated in groves of birch and pines, the British will sail for England on board an English hospital ship.—"Daily News" Special Correspondent.

APOLOGY TO FRANCE.

Berlin, Tuesday.—A representative of the Foreign Office visited the French Embassy this morning and expressed the regrets of Herr Muller, Minister for Foreign Affairs, for the incident at the Hotel Adlon. Herr Muller, in the afternoon, also paid a personal visit to M. De Margelly, and expressed his regrets, which he begged the Chargé d'Affaires to transmit to his Government.—J. C. SEGRIE, in "Daily News."

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC SITUATION.

Supreme Council's Deliberations.

IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS.

The result of the deliberations of the Supreme Council on the economic conditions of Europe, with special relation to the high cost of living, were issued last night. The Council review the situation at some length, and arrive at a series of recommendations with a view to the amelioration of the present difficulties. They insist that it is of paramount importance that peace conditions should be fully and completely restored at the earliest possible moment throughout the world. To achieve this object it is desirable that peace and normal economic relations be re-established as soon as possible throughout Eastern Europe; that armies should everywhere be reduced to peace footing, armaments limited to the lowest possible figure compatible with national security; that the League of Nations should be invited to consider proposals to this end, and that the States created or enlarged as the result of the war should at once re-establish full and friendly co-operation and arrange for the unrestricted exchange of commodities, so that the essential unity of European economic life may not be impaired by the erection of artificial economic barriers.

Not only all Governments, but all producing interests should immediately attend to the execution of all measures which will contribute to a full resumption of peaceful industry, to the encouragement of better output, to the improvement of machinery and means of transportation, and the removal of such disturbing factors as profiteering. Each Government should urge upon its nationals the necessity of suppressing extravagance and reducing expenditure, and early steps should be taken to secure the deflation of credit and currency by the reduction of current Government expenditure, by the imposition of the necessary additional taxation, by the funding of short term obligations, by means of loans subscribed out of the people's savings, and by the immediate limitation and gradual curtailment of note circulation. Provisions should be made to enable countries at present barred from purchase in the world markets by the conditions of international exchange, and thus unable to restart economic life, to obtain commercial credits for the securing of raw materials.

The conferring Powers, the recommendations continue recognising the necessity for continued co-operation, and for the removing of obstacles to the easy interchange of essential commodities, will continue conferring regarding the provisions and distribution of the necessary raw materials and foodstuffs. They have also decided in regard to the restoration of devastated areas, particularly of Northern France, that the necessary large sums cannot be provided out of current revenue, nor work be postponed till the reparation due from Germany has been received. Under these circumstances they recognise that the capital sums required for the restoration may properly be raised by market loans in anticipation of the reparation payments provided by the Treaty, and that the restrictions which they desire to see placed on new borrowing do not apply to loans and credits raised for the purpose of meeting this abnormal capital expenditure.

The Bowers represented at the Conference, observes the concluding recommendation, having considered the articles of the Treaty, and the passages in the Supreme Council's letter, of 16th June, to the German Peace delegates, contemplating that Germany shall make proposals for fixing the total payments to be made by way of reparation, are agreed that in the interests of Germany and her creditors, this total should be fixed at an early date. Observing that a period of four months from the signature of the Treaty was provided for the submission of her proposals, they agree that in the circumstances as existing to-day, such period should be extended.

Among the considerations which have led the Supreme Council to these conclusions, they remark that Government action may mitigate the effects of the rise in prices indicated by the excessive creation of tokens of prospective wealth, as compared with the volume of real wealth; but it cannot remove the root cause, which is the destruction of wealth, and the peoples of Europe, to expedite the healing process, must contribute to the works of peace the same ardour and devotion they gave to the prosecution of the war. Under production has resulted in acute shortage of essential supplies, and the energy thrown into the production of foodstuffs during the war must be revived and redoubled to restore the situation.

ASQUITH AND IRELAND

WORLD-WIDE IMPORTANCE.

SELF-DETERMINATION PRINCIPLE.

Mr. Asquith, the re-elected President, occupied the chair at the annual meeting of the Eighty Club held last night at the National Liberal Club, London. There were present—The Marquis of Lincolnshire, Sir John Simon, Mr. Augustine Birrell, and Sir Donald MacLean.

Mr. Asquith said he always told his friends in Scotland, and he repeated it now, that there was no more fallacious and misleading ant