MIDNIGHT RAID ON A CORK HOSPITAL.

STAFF ROBBED AND MADE SING 'GOD SAVE THE KING'

RAIDERS FROM LONDON THEY SAID.

THE ARTICLES RESTORED

The most novel raid story yet reported comes from Cork.

Shortly after midnight yesterday morning four armed and disguised men entered Glenvara private hospital, Wellington Road, announcing they came from London, relieved the nurses of their money and jewellery, and before leaving compelled them to sing "God Save the King."

The terrified nurses pleaded they did not know the words, but were obliged to repeat them after the raiders, each nurse singing in turn. The stolen articles were mysteriously returned to the hospital yesterday evening.

'WE ARE FROM LONDON' AND ARE MAKING MONEY

Seven nurses were in the sittingroom when the raiders entered and, presenting revolvers, ordered them to put up their hands. Some of the nurses at first thought it was a practical joke, and one of them grabbed the mask from one man's face, saying, "I know you." "Do you?" was the threatening reply, and at the same time a revolver at her.

Another nurse asked, "Why come here? We are all Sinn Feiners here." The answer from the man who appeared to be leader of the party was:—

"You will be sorry for that. We are from London. We have come to Ireland to make money, and we are making it."

She said the others spoke with an English accent, and, if they endeavoured to disguise their faces, they made no attempt to conceal their nationality.

They disconnected the telephone the moment they entered the sittingroom, and warned the nurses not to scream. The nurses appealed to the raiders not to search the hospital, saying there were in almost every room patients seriously ill. One of the raiders asked to be shown where the safe was, and the nurses pointed out that note was kept.

In order to prevent a search of the hospital they produced receipts of the previous lodgments, and

delivered up their watches, money, and jewellery. The raiders next ordered them out to the garden.

This order, too, was obeyed under menaces of revolvers, but it caused more fear amongst the staff than the summons to deliver up their money and jewellery. "We were in terror going out," said one of them,

"as a horrible thought occurred to us, and one of the girls appealed to them to allow us make an Act of Contrition before being shot.

"STAND AGAINST THE WALL."

"They did make some remarks about shooting us, but we didn't catch the exact words used. They ordered us to stand against the wall, and then they had another consultation. Meanwhile we were praying, thinking it was our last moment. Then one of the party turned round and said:—

"You are only women, but you said when we came in that you were all Sinn Feiners. Now you must sing 'God Save the King.'

"We said we didn't know it. Neither did we, but they said they would sing it and we should repeat it afterwards. The first nurse they singled out is an ardent Sinn Feiner, and, terrified as we were, the humour of the situation appealed to some of us when we heard her repeating the words of England's national anthem. When she had said them, they went on to the next, and the six of us had to sing [illegible]

DEPARTED BY MOTOR.

"Imagine the sort of singing it was, but we were satisfied, as we were fairly certain then that we would not be further molested. The singing over, they directed us to remain where we were for 10 minutes. They left, going out by the basement door. One of the maids, who happened to be upstairs, says that she saw four men outside during the time the raiders were here, and that all drove away together in a motor car.

The raid occupied about an hour. Late yesterday evening it was stated that a parcel addressed to the matron had been delivered at the hospital, which contained all the articles taken, with a note stating: "We don't want to take these things from poorhouses."

VICEROY AND WORK OF THE POLICE.

DIFFICULTIES FACED.

GOVERNMENT TO CRUSH DISORDER FORCES

Lord French declared at a police parade at the Viceregal Lodge yesterday that the Irish Government were determined to crush the forces fighting against law and order.

In doing so, he said, no effort would be spared to give the police every support in carrying out this work, and he congratulated them in their successful fight against rebellion and anarchy.

LORD FRENCH'S SPEECH

Lord French, after conferring decorations, congratulated the R.I.C. and D.M.P. on their work, and said that these forces *"have been fighting with the utmost gallantry against a common foe who are the sworn* enemies of law, order, and good government, and whose cowardly and diabolical *methods* have put the courage, tenacity, *and endurance of the police forces to the* highest test."

More than once in the past two years had he warned them that they would be *subjected to greater tests of loyalty,* devotion, and courage, and the past autumn and winter proved that his warnings were *not unnecessary, and* he had been justified in his *expressions of confidence that* they would meet high tests in courage and *ability.*

EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE LOYALTY.

Determined efforts had been made to *undermine* their loyalty, many of their *comrades* had fallen, and outrages of every kind had been directed against the forces; their barracks had been violently attacked in all parts of the country by men who *could sometimes be counted in hundreds* armed with revolvers, rifles, and explosives.

Thirty or 40 such attacks had been made in the last 6 months, but in most *cases they had been gallantly repulsed* by a handful of disciplined, determined, *and* brave men. Police barracks have not been built for defence against such numbers *and such weapons, villages had grown up* round them, and their defence was a matter of the utmost difficulty.

LACK OF INFORMATION.

Another terrible drag on them, continued Lord French, had been the impossibility of inducing people, otherwise loyal, to come forward and give information to establish the guilt of these men.

In this connection he quoted from Lord Justice O'Connor's charge to the Clare Grand Jury a few days ago, and, continuing, said it was unnecessary for him to remind them of the tremendous denunciations of these terrible crimes by several of their greatest spiritual leaders. Concluding, Lord French declared that

"The Irish Government are just as determined as ever they were to crush these forces which are fighting against law and order, and I can assure you that no effort will be spared and no sacrifice considered too great to give you every help in carrying on this great work."

He was sure they would not allow threats and intimidation to influence them or turn them from the performance of their duty. They had been tried to the utmost, and he congratulated them on the splendid and successful fight against the forces of rebellion and anarchy.

TIPPERARY POLICEMAN KILLED

DAYLIGHT ATTACK IN VILLAGE SHOP.

EYE-WITNESS'S STORY.

ESCAPE OF UNDISGUISED ASSAILANTS.

Constable Heanue died yesterday morning in Tipperary military hospital from a bullet wound received in a daylight encounter with civilians in the village of the Ragg, near Thurles, the previous evening.

Constables Heanue and Flaherty were returning from patrol, and entered a shop, where they were suddenly fired upon by three undisguised men who were in the shop.

The policemen returned the fire, but in the conflict Constable Heanue was severely wounded, being later removed by motor to Tipperary. The civilians made good their escape.

The inquest on the deceased constable, who was a native of Co. Galway and only *22 years of age, was adjourned yesterday,* only medical evidence being tendered.

EYE-WITNESS AMAZED

GRAPHIC STORY OF FIGHT

A graphic story of the attack was told to an "Irish Independent" representative who interviewed Mr. Laurence Fanning, the owner of the licensed premises where the constable was shot.

Shortly after 5 o'clock on Thursday evening, Mr. Fanning stated, three men, who were not disguised, came in and had a drink at the bar. A few minutes later the policemen entered and called for a drink, which was supplied. After taking the drink Constable Heanue asked for 20 eggs. The policemen were then at one end of the bar and the civilians at the other, the distance between them being about 12 feet. Mr. Fanning was counting out the eggs

when suddenly the men rushed from their places shouting "Hands up!"

Constable Flaherty stood in his place whilst the other constable cleared the counter, which was about 3 feet high, and got behind a small desk near the "snug." The desk provided him with some cover, and with the boarded partition it placed him out of view of his assailants. Leaning on some ledgers, he fired out on the assailants, who returned the fire.

The bullet which struck him, Mr. Fanning thought, must have been fired from near the shop-door leading to the road, as the bullet came through a glass partition running parallel with the front window, piercing the partition over the desk from behind which the constable was firing and cutting in two the handle of a pen stuck in an ink bottle on the desk. Just as Constable Heanue fell the attackers retreated, being followed by Constable Flaherty, who continued to fire, and who states that he struck one of the men.

When the uproar started Mr. Fanning ran for cover. Mrs. Fanning, who was also in the shop, ran into the "snug" for safety. The men were entire strangers to him, Mr. Fanning stated. About 8 shots were fired during the affray. Mr. Fanning added that so far as he knew no words passed between the civilians and the police before the attack.

THE DEAD CONSTABLE.

The wounded constable bled profusely, the blood oozing through his tunic. He was fully conscious all the time, and stated he did not feel much pain. Before being removed to Tipperary military hospital by motor his Confession was heard by Father Hayes, C.C. Dr. Callanan, who attended the wounded man before his removal, states the bullet penetrated the body, almost coming out at the back.

The dead constable was a native of Letterfrack, Co. Galway, and before joining the police in 1917 he was a clerk in Kingstown.

A Press Association message states that one of the attackers was severely wounded.

THE FATAL WOUNDS

MEDICAL EVIDENCE AT INQUEST

The inquest was opened in the military barracks, Tipperary, yesterday by Coroner Cummins. Mr. Williamson, D.I., said that *as the affair occurred in another district,* and as he had only meagre details, he would apply for an adjournment, after calling evidence of identification and medical evidence.

Constable Michael O'Flaherty, who was with deceased when he was shot, identified the remains, adding that the dead constable was aged 22, unmarried, and had 2 years' and 7 months' service.

Dr. J. Dowling deposed that at 11.15 on Thursday night he attended deceased after his admission to the hospital. Deceased was suffering from shock and hæmorrhage. Witness found a bullet wound in the upper front part of the right armpit, and could feel the bullet beneath the skin at the back of the chest. Deceased rallied somewhat during the night, but died about 7.30 on Friday morning. In a post-mortem examination witness found considerable extravasation of blood in the tissues round the armpit. The bullet had passed downwards and backwards to the left, fracturing the third rib and perforating the right lung. Death was due to hæmorrhage.

The inquest was adjourned.

Police and military were all day yesterday scouring the Ragg district for miles around, many houses being searched.

SIR E. CARSON IN "ULSTER."

"SHAKE HANDS" POLICY

AN EXPRESSION OF SOME PIOUS HOPES.

Sir Edward Carson yesterday attended a private meeting in Belfast of Ulster Unionist delegates to consider the Home Rule Bill.

At a luncheon given by Lord Londonderry in honour of the leader and delegates, Sir Edward said if the South and West would organise to give the Government proposal a fair trial Ulster Unionists would shake hands as brother-Irishmen, but he saw no sign of such a happy solution. The Government must say at the second reading whether they anticipated a Sinn Fein majority refusing the oath of allegiance or a small minority of Moderates undertaking to govern the South and West.

THE LAST LAP REACHED.

They had come to what might prove the last lap in the race they were running. He only wished the proposal of the Government had been brought in under happier *surroundings* than prevailed in their unfortunate country. No man who called himself an Irishman could but view with *the gravest anxiety, and, indeed, alarm,* the conditions under which the Government found themselves in regard to the South and West of that island. Their *country was fast becoming a by-word* among the nations of the world, and he was bound to say that nothing filled him *with more alarm than when he read* speeches, and often heard them delivered in the House of Commons, by men who *called themselves responsible statesmen,* who tried to palliate murder and assassination, and who did not hesitate to use language which could only *tend to aggravate* the difficulties of those who were trying to govern this country.

THE UNION.

Reference had been made just before he (Sir Edward) rose by Lord Londonderry to Capt. Wedgwood Benn's comments in the House of Commons on Irish administration. It was said that that gentleman had solved the whole Ulster question by attending one of their meetings—by their permission—in Belfast.

If the Union was in any sense a failure it had been a failure, in his (Sir Edward's) view, in consequence of the incompetence and, he was afraid, the dishonesty of certain politicians.

He earnestly hoped that, whatever might be the fate of the present Bill, no Government would take the responsibility of setting up a *Parliament* in the South and West of Ireland until the country had been brought to a state of responsibility, in which the people would see that the liberty of the subject depended upon the maintenance of law and order.

OUTRAGES IN ULSTER.

He greatly deplored to see that there had recently been in Ulster outrages committed which he should have thought *were impossible in that province. All he* could say was that it was their duty to see that they did not occur again; it was their duty to see that the law was supported, and that those police who were put among them for the preservation of life and property were not there as enemies but as the best friends they had. It was their duty to see that whenever any of these outrages occurred in the country no stone was left unturned until they brought to justice the perpetrators, and he took it that in their name he could make a promise to the Government that if there was an attempt, even on a small scale, to bring about that kind of terrorism which prevailed throughout the South and West of Ireland, they were prepared, under their licence and toleration, to organise the whole society of Ulster to put an end to those crimes. They were *not going to tolerate* that kind of thing in the Imperial province.

BROTHER IRISHMEN.

Alluding to the Home Rule Bill, Sir Edward said he wished he could approach it *with the idea that it would be accepted by the whole of Ireland as a settlement.*

Nothing would give him greater pleasure than to find the whole sentiment of the South and West of Ireland had organised to accept, and give a fair trial to the proposals of the Government.

In such a state of facts as that they could undertake to govern that province with a toleration and an efficiency that would be well worthy of consideration of *any Government in the whole Empire.* He was perfectly certain that if those who had hitherto been their opponents were going *to work the Parliament in the South and* West of Ireland for the benefit of all classes, creeds, and conditions of men, and *with a pride in the Empire,* they, Ulster Unionists, would be the very first to shake hands with them and say:

"As brother Irishmen, we wish you well."

THE ALTERNATIVE.

What was the alternative? What would the Government do? Did they imagine that the Sinn Feiners would work the proposed new Parliament in Dublin in the best interests of the Empire? Or did they anticipate that those men, who went openly proclaiming themselves enemies of the Empire, would go to that Parliament at all? Or did they imagine that some small minority of what they were pleased to call "moderate men" would undertake the government of the South and West?

"These," said Sir Edward, with emphasis, "are *solemn and serious questions,* and questions which the Government must be made to answer when they come to the *second reading of the Bill. We can only* say that, for our part, we have had this morning a serious consideration of the *position, and our one and only desire is to* do what is best for our country, and for the Empire, in which we *take so much pride.*"

NO SURRENDER.

He wished to make it perfectly clear that they were as confirmed Unionists to-day as they ever were. At no time in the whole fight—since the first betrayal in 1885 down to the present Bill—did they believe more firmly that no solution had been put forward which equalled the solution of Pitt when he proposed and passed the Union (applause). They believed in the Union, and were more deeply confirmed in their belief by the fact that never yet had any *Home Rule Bill* been brought in—and one of them had been passed—that in a year or two it had been found out by the consent of everybody that it was the worst solution that had ever been brought forward. But they had to accept circumstances as they were.

They were not in a position to say that they were as before the Act of 1914 was passed.

They had to see what was best to be done, having regard to the fact that that Act came into force the moment peace was finally concluded.

PIOUS HOPE.

"May we have wisdom from on high," said Sir Edward, "in coming to a decision; may we bring the best of our abilities to the solving of these vital problems; may all unselfishness be absent, and may we all be guided in what we ought to do by the patriotism of those who desire to do their best in everyway for the service of their country."

Mr. E. Archdale, D.L., presented Sir Edward with a handsome christening bowl as a token of their respect and affection for him, and of congratulation on the birth of his son. In his reply Sir Edward assured the company that his son was "a good loyal Ulsterman."

COUNCIL MEETING.

Before the luncheon Sir Edward Carson attended a private meeting of the Ulster Unionist Council. It is understood that at the outset it was made

(Continued at end of next column.)

SHOCKING TRAGEDY NEAR TUAM.

SHOT IN RAID ON A NEIGHBOUR'S.

A PITIABLE SCENE

INTENSE INDIGNATION IN LONELY VILLAGE.

VIVID STORY AT INQUEST

A shocking story of tragedy comes from Co. Galway, where, in a lonely little village 10 miles from Tuam, a farmer named Martin Cullinane was shot in a raid on a neighbour's house.

Three men were searching for a gun *in a room, 2 others being seated* in the kitchen, when Cullinane was shot from the door of the house, his death ensuing soon afterwards

A *theory* is advanced that the shooting was not deliberate, and that the tragedy was due to the inexperience in handling firearms of whoever let off the shot.

So that as it may, a terrible tragedy ensued, and intense indignation is expressed at the occurrence.

THE STORY OF THE DEED

GRAPHIC NARRATIVE.

A terrible tragedy, comparable in some respects to that near Gorey recently, occurred at Ardskeamoe, Corofin (Co. Galway), about 10 miles from Tuam, on Thursday evening, when, in the course of a raid by masked men on the house of Patrick Lardner, a neighbour, Martin Cullinane, a small farmer, was shot, receiving such injuries that he died a few hours later.

Cullinane, it is stated, called at Lardner's to ask one of the latter's sons to accompany him to Athenry fair the following day. When the raiders called the door was bolted, but they presented revolvers at a window and demanded admission. The occupants were too frightened to open the door, and the raiders, becoming impatient, endeavoured to force it, and 9 marks of the butt-ends of shot-guns appear on it.

THE SHOT AND THE FLIGHT.

One of the Lardners then opened the door, and 5 men entered, others being left outside. A demand for a gun was made. Lardner replied that there was no gun in the house, which they might search if they liked, and no opposition was offered to the intruders.

Deceased stood by the fireplace when the raiders commenced searching in a small room. A shot was fired from the door, and Cullinane received the discharge in the left breast, falling on his knees and becoming unconscious.

The raiders in the room came out on hearing the shot, looked on the fallen man, and made off without saying a word.

Those in the house—all men—got into a frantic state, and Cullinane's brother hearing their cries, ran to the house and immediately hurried to Tuam for priest and doctor, both of whom arrived before the poor man died, within an hour of receiving the last rites of the Church at the hands of Canon Curran, P.P.

John Lardner (19), also got some of the shot in the face while he sat near the fire, but he is not badly injured.

The people of the lonely and peaceful village became most excited, feeling enraged that such an occurrence should take place in their midst, especially as deceased, who was about 45 years of age, and farmed about 30 acres, was of a quiet, inoffensive disposition. He leaves a widow and 4 young children.

The sight in the little village and in the house where deceased was laid down on a straw bed on the floor, with villagers weeping and lamenting, was pitiable in the extreme.

Our Tuam correspondent adds that it is believed the occurrence was accidental, and due to inexperience in the use of firearms. The district was searched yesterday, but up to last night no arrests were made.

INQUEST AND VERDICT.

OCCURRENCE ALLEGED TO BE ACCIDENTAL.

At the inquest held by Coroner McDonagh, the jury returned the following verdict:—

"That death was due to hæmorrhage and shock caused by gunshot wounds inflicted by some person unknown," and they expressed sympathy with Mr. Cullinane's widow and family.

Thos. Lardner, in evidence, stated Mr. Cullinane entered his father's house about 7.15 p.m.; witness, his father, and two brothers being then there, while 2 men named Ward came in about the same time. *An hour and a half later footsteps were heard* and witness bolted the door.

An attempt being made to take the door off its hinges, he opened it and saw a *crowd, whom he asked what they wanted,* and they replied "Arms." He told them there were none. Five men entered, 3 *with revolvers and 2 with shotguns.* Two sat in the kitchen and 3 went into a room. A sixth man stood at the door with something bright in his hand and with which he prodded the door until one of the men in the kitchen went out and told him to step, which he did.

THE FATAL SHOT.

When the 3 men finished in the room they opened a press in the kitchen, and deceased, who had been sitting at the fire, stood up to make way for them. They then went into the other room. Deceased was partly *facing* the door, and witness's brother, John, was sitting on a chair. **The shot which killed deceased came from the door, where the sixth man was,** and there were then also others outside opposite the door and in the yard—about 11 in all.

Deceased fell and did not utter a word, and John Lardner fell off his chair. Deceased turned over on his back, and witness saw blood on the right breast of his waistcoat. Martin Ward went for the priest, who attended deceased, as did also Dr. Thompson. Deceased died about 12.30.

After the shot all the men cleared away, without saying a word. Witness did not know any of them, as they were masked. They got no gun in the house. The masks were coloured, but he could not say whether the cloth produced was one of them.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

Drs. Hosty and Thompson made a post-mortem examination, and found a gunshot wound in the right side, beneath the nipple, about 2 inches in diameter. The fourth and fifth ribs were fractured, the upper part of the liver and lower part of the right lung lacerated. Death was due to hæmorrhage and shock.

Constable B. Murdy deposed to finding a piece of cloth (produced), which looked as if used as a mask, having holes for the eyes and nose, in the laneway leading to the public road, about 30 yards from Lardner's house.

TERRIBLE STATE OF MATTERS.

Mr. Comerford, D.J. Tuam, asked the jury for a verdict of murder. Several jurors said they believed the occurrence accidental. The coroner thought it a terrible state of affairs when the life of an inoffensive harmless man, who appeared to be popular, might be forfeited at any moment for apparently no reason, and he deeply sympathised with his relatives. The jury brought in the verdict set out above.

THE ALLIES AT LOGGERHEADS.

REVISION OF TREATY.

GERMAN CONTRA ACCOUNT OF WAR CRIMES.

There is apparently a serious conflict of opinion between the Allies regarding the proposed revision of the Versailles Peace Treaty.

While it is stated that the Italian Premier has persuaded the Supreme Council to accept a programme for the revision of the Treaty, the President of the French Foreign Affairs Committee says that France demands that the Treaty shall not be subjected to revision.

ALLIES AT VARIANCE.

REVISION OF THE TREATY

There is apparently a conflict of opinion between the Allies regarding the revision of the Versailles' Peace Treaty.

According to the "Frankfurter Zeitung," an Exchange Co.'s Amsterdam cablegram, Signor Nitti, the Italian Premier, has succeeded in persuading the Supreme Council in London to accepting the programme of the revision of the Versailles' Peace Treaty. M. Barthou, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee, speaking in the French Senate yesterday (says Reuter), said the whole country demanded that the Government should apply all the firmness necessary for the execution of the Treaty, which could not be subjected to a revision.

The Press Association says the U.S. Ambassador in London has received a telegram from his Government containing the President's latest Note on the Adriatic question.

It is learned, says an Exchange Washington cablegram, that **President Wilson may warn the Allies it will be necessary to withdraw the Versailles Treaty if the Turks are allowed to remain in Constantinople.** The issue regarding the Sultan may overshadow Adriatic developments.

GERMAN CONTRA ACCOUNT

Exchange Co. Cablegram.)

Berlin, Friday.

The "National Zeitung" (Berlin) reports that the list has now been completed of those, whose punishment for war crimes Germany proposes to demand as a counter-request to the demands of the Allies regarding the trial of war criminals.

The list is very extensive, and **contains more names than the list handed to Germany by the Allies.**

The greater number of those included in it are British and French officers and men who are arraigned for ill-treatment of German prisoners of war in camps during the war.

HOLLAND AND EX-KAISER

A FIRM REPLY TO THE ALLIES

(Reuter's Cablegram.)

The Hague, Friday.

The Dutch Government in its reply to the Allies' Note of Feb. 14 says it is unable to arrive at any other conclusion than that outlined in its Note of Jan. 21, stating its inability to accede to the wishes of the Powers.

It would, it states, be incompatible with the national honour if it consented, at the request of the Powers, to violate the laws of justice by abolishing the rights which they afforded to a fugitive finding himself within the country's territory. The history of Holland to which the Powers referred when they quoted the disregard of justice which Holland had suffered and her struggle for freedom furnished a strong protest against the accuracy of such a doctrine.

The Dutch Government points out that it is mindful of its obligations, and was in a position in the free exercise of Dutch sovereignty to take on the spot all necessary effective measures of precaution and to subject the freedom of the ex-Kaiser to necessary limitations.

AMERICA AND SHANTUNG

(Exchange Cablegram.)

Washington, Friday.

By 48 votes to 21, the U.S. Senate adopted Senator Lodge's Shantung reservation withholding assent from the agreement by which German rights in Shantung are transferred to Japan, and reserving full liberty of action in future Shantung controversies.

An amendment was adopted eliminating specific reference to China and Japan.

MISSING CASTLE MAILS.

POLICE ORDERED TO RECOVER

The Castle mail bags, which were carried off by armed raiders in Dominick St. on Wednesday, are the subject of an official memorandum issued to all the Dublin police stations, which contains instructions to take steps for their recovery. The Press Association says the bags contained letters and documents for delivery at the offices of the Chief Secretary, the D.M.P., R.I.C., Prisons Board (Ireland), the Inspector of Finance, the Labour Exchange, and departments in the Upper and Lower Castle Yard. It adds that the memorandum attached particular importance to the missing bags intended for the Chief Secretary's, R.I.C., and D.M.P. offices, as they contained letters of a confidential nature directly concerned with the administration at Dublin Castle.

A SCANDALOUS SUGGESTION.

The "Morning Post" makes the scandalous suggestion that Lord French should issue a warning that after a given date any offender will be tried by court martial, and if he is adjudged guilty, shot." Has Lord French," the journal asks, requested the Government to authorise that measure? If he has not, he is unfit for his position. If he has done so, and if the authorisation has been refused, it is the duty of the Viceroy to resign and to make public the reasons for his resignation. Lord French, the "Post" adds, was appointed to govern Ireland. He has failed, and he must know that he has failed, and we are, therefore, at a loss to conceive how Lord French, who is not a politician, but a soldier, justifies his continuance in office."

The Dublin correspondent of the "Daily Graphic" says that any increase in the rigour of martial law is inevitable, precipitate a crisis, causing dangerous complications to England and America.

Charge of Murder.

Bernard Farrelly and his son, John, of Clogherhead, Co. Louth, were remanded at Balbriggan on Saturday, the former charged with the murder of a young farmer named Thos. Carroll, of Mountnugent, on Nov. 2, and the latter with being an accessory after the fact.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS.

VALUE OF THE POUND INCREASING

(By special arrangement with "Daily Chronicle.")

Yesterday the £ was quoted at 3.65 dollars in New York, being worth 14s. 11d., as against 13s. 3d. a few weeks ago.

"This means," writes an Economist, "that we are getting 1s. 7d. worth of food and raw materials without having to work any the harder for it, but we still lose heavily on exchange transactions with America. The latest piece of good news is that at the end of the financial year it is likely the Chancellor of the Exchequer, instead of facing a deficit of nearly £274,000,000 as estimated last October, will find himself with a balance sheet that balances. This result is due to an unexpected increase in revenue, a satisfactory decrease in expenditure, and the sale of surplus war material. If this estimate should be accurate it will affect public opinion in America, which will react on the exchange.

"British revenue is rolling in at a rate that exceeds anticipations, and the income for the financial year which ends on March 31 is likely to be £100,000,000 more than the revised estimate, while the expenditure would it looks as though the expenditure would be at least £100,000,000 less than was anticipated."

An official announcement is expected within 24 hours of the inauguration of one of the greatest gold movements in American history. The present plans provide for the shipment from England and France of a quarter of a billion dollars worth of gold.

THE IRISH SHIPPING SCANDAL

An official report of a conference which took place yesterday in Dublin between representatives of the Ministry of Transport and of the Dublin Chamber, Mercantile Association, and the shipping companies, stated that it had transpired that the regular cross-Channel routes had been seriously depleted of boats by reason of the curtailed sailings, the lesser carrying capacity of the boats available, the new conditions of labour, and the increased export of perishable goods.

All possible energy was being used by the shipping companies to provide sufficient tonnage, and the question of taking emergency steps to promise space will be raised by traders with the British manufacturers. The conference was adjourned for a month.

INCREASE OF RENTS ACTS

DEMAND FOR CONTINUATION OF PROTECTION.

Mr. Edw. M'Hugh, solr., who presided at a largely-attended meeting under the auspices of the Town Tenants' League in the executive offices, 43 Parnell square, Dublin, called attention to the alarming situation caused by the clause in the recent Act, which terminated on July 1 the protection afforded to town tenants against profiteering and other hardships. It was necessary to extend the Rent Acts, both as to the time of their operation and as to the limit within which they were to apply. The limit of £26 was ridiculously small, and the limit of £52 was also very much too small. A state of affairs had arisen with regard to middle class houses which was a great temptation to profiteering, and the middle classes, even in a greater degree than the poorer classes, urgently required protection.

THE RESOLUTION.

On the motion of Mr. E. J. Mallins, solr., hon. sec. of the Middle Classes' Union, seconded by Mr. J. Wallace, Dame St., a resolution was passed, viewing with alarm the serious situation which will arise in urban Ireland if the section of the Rents Act prohibiting the making of orders for possession, is allowed to expire next July, and calling on the Government to extend the Rents Act, and so amend it as to put a stop to the evil of profiteering in houses.

Correspondence and telegrams dealing with the situation were received from Mr. Rosenthal, K.C.; Ald. Dawson, Waterford; P. J. Walsh, Ballina; Mr. D. D. Burke; Mr. J. J. Callan, ex-Mayor of Drogheda; Mr Deighan, Inchicore Branch, T. T. League; and from Tralee, Kilbeel, Birr, and Balbriggan branches. The attendance included merchants and tenants from Dublin, Bray, Kingstown, and other towns.

THE HARDSHIPS OF THE CURFEW ORDER

MR. MACPHERSON'S "FACTS"

The amount of importance to be attached to Mr. Macpherson's statements regarding the operation of the Curfew Order in Dublin can be estimated from inquiries which an "Irish Independent" representative made yesterday.

Mr. Macpherson's statements were:—

(1) No complaints of hardships, especially on the part of the poor requiring medical attention.

(2) No refusals by Dublin hospitals to send out nurses to maternity cases.

(3) In the case of the Coombe Hospital, where permits had been applied for, police escorted nurses to their destination.

(4) The new regulations were rather welcomed than otherwise.

THE FACTS.

An official of the Coombe Hospital stated emphatically that the Chief Secretary's statements were inaccurate. **Not one of their nurses had been escorted by the police, nor had they attended a case between midnight and 5 a.m.** The matron's orders were being strictly observed. But for the Curfew Order the hospital would have attended on an average 4 or 5 maternity cases each morning. The poor persons were afraid they would be arrested and searched, and their illness made worse by anxiety.

In one or two cases where the husband went to the hospital he had to go to the police station for an escort, because they could not allow their doctors to be held up on their way to the patient. A man from Peter street called at the hospital at 1 a.m. on Feb. 24, and the doctor went to his house and returned. He came again at 3 a.m. and said **he had been a long time trying to get a police escort, and his wife in the meantime had been without medical attendance.**

A man from James's street who visited the hospital had to go to Thomas street Fire Brigade Station to telephone for the police at Newmarket. The police went to the hospital and rang up the Fire Brigade Station for the man's address, and escorted the doctor to it, but said they would not guarantee to wait to escort the doctor back.

Within the past few days, it was understood, the secretary of the hospital had applied for permits for the night staff, but the nurses are not attending cases during the Curfew hours.

The Matron of the Holles St. Maternity Hospital said the nurses had permits, and were prepared to go out if persons came for them. Formerly five or six calls were received between midnight and 5 a.m., but **since the new order was enforced there were only two or three calls, because the people were afraid to run any risks.**

MR. J. BOHAN, T.C. ARRESTED

Councillor J. Bohan, T.C., while returning home yesterday morning before 1 o'clock, was arrested for not having a permit. He was at first removed to Chancery lane police station, and later to Gardiner's Row. He has been detained without any charge being preferred against him, while others who have been arrested for not having permits were subsequently discharged.

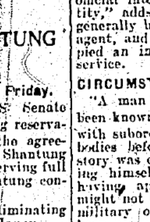
An "Irish Independent" representative who visited Mr. Bohan's house, 36 Blackhall place, yesterday found his family of two young girls and four boys in a great state of fright.

This morning the police and military were as active as usual, and 7 persons were arrested for not having permits.

MR. SIEVIER'S ACTION

COUNSEL'S STRONG STATEMENTS

On the further hearing in London of Mr. R. S. Sievier's action against Mr. R. Wootton, racing horse trainer, for alleged libel, Mr. Patrick Hastings (replacing Sir Edward Carson for the defence), said there were only 4 ways of dealing with libellers like the plaintiff, and they were:—bring an action for libel, make an arrangement with him, pay him to stop, thrash him. Mr. Wootton once adopted the most peaceful course, and brought an action, but Mr. Sievier would not go into the box, so nothing was gained by that, as the attacks by Mr. Sievier continued. Mr. Wootton played him at his own game, and deliberately libelled him in return.



Mr. R. Wootton.

"Mr. Sievier," said counsel, "is a scoundrel who should be stopped in his activities." It was not right in these days that he should be allowed to continue his criticism of other people and say: "You will pay me or square me or go into the witness box and have your past raked up."

The Lord Chief Justice said the main issue was whether the justification was established.

DEFENDANT IN THE BOX.

In his examination, Mr. Wootton said he had no alternative but to write the pamphlet. He hoped by that means to "pay him back in his own coin." Cross-examined, he stated the assertions in the pamphlet were true—the matter was most reliable. The reason he did not go to law with Mr. Sievier was that he could not get him into the box, and that on the last occasion he could not get his expenses. He admitted that he got his costs, but only after great trouble. Witness did not think Mr. Sievier was even a good judge of racing.

There was no foundation for the suggestion that he and a Mr. Escott served that Welsh, an apprentice, should "pull" The Gunyah in 1917, so that a horse named Bloenground should win; it might be true that witness's apprentices had warned of more than others for foul riding; but that was a case of over-anxiety to win and taking risks.

The case was adjourned until Tuesday.

American Loan Not to be Renewed.

The British and French Governments decided not to renew the Anglo-French 1915 loan raised in the U.S., and are taking the necessary steps for its repayment. So says an official announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, after conversations in London with the French Finance Minister.

A YEAR FOR A REVOLVER

SEQUEL TO A CLARE RAID.

"Andrew Holt, civilian, of Ferrybank, Arklow, was tried by district court martial in Dublin, on Feb. 24, on a charge under Reg. 9AA D.O.R.R., of having in his possession a six-chambered revolver without a permit. He was found guilty and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment with hard labour."—Official.

Meath.—At Summerhill Petty Sessions James Fagan, farmer, was fined 20s. and costs for having a single-barrelled gun without a permit. Defendant said he wanted the gun to protect himself as he said his house had been twice fired into recently.

Ennis.—At Clare Assizes yesterday, Mr. Justice Samuels reversed the decision of *the Co. Court Judge in awarding £50 damages* in an action by Mr. N. Neylon, Inchagh, against Lt. Basil Carter, of the *Scottish Horse. The Co. Court Judge had* awarded the £50 for trespass and for the removal of a quantity of meat alleged to have been taken by the soldiers while raiding Mr. Neylon's farmhouse.

Donegal.—A passenger on the train which was held up at Kincasslagh, Co. Donegal, on Tuesday morning, states that the raiders got some arms and ammunition.

COL. LORAINE, ACTOR AIRMAN, SAFE

(By Special Arrangement with "Daily Chronicle.")

News of the safety of Col. Robt. Loraine, D.S.O., the actor-airman, and his Swiss pilot, who set out on Thurs. to fly from St. Moritz to London, was received yesterday. The aviators lost their way in a fog after crossing the Alps, and landed safely at Marburg in Hesse Nassau on Thursday evening. As Germany is not a signatory to the Air Convention, she would have the right to detain airmen landing in her territory. In a flight of this nature, however, it is unlikely that any difficulty will arise.

Lt.-Col. R. Loraine.

Col. (then Mr.) Loraine was the first to fly the Irish Channel from Holyhead in 1911. His machine fell into the sea a quarter of a mile off Howth, the aviator and aeroplane being rescued by the Tedcastle steamer Adella.

Oxford Union Society President.

Mr. J. W. Russell (New College), who has been elected president of the Oxford Union Society, is a son of a retired judge of the Indian Civil Service, who formerly belonged to Portadown. He is a nephew of Mr. R. Russell, M.A., Professor of Mathematics, T.C.D.

GROWTH OF THE WORLD UNREST.

FERMENT IN PORTUGAL

THE JAPANESE MYSTERY.

(By special arrangement with "Daily Chronicle.")

Portugal is cut off from communication with the rest of the world. No news has reached London from that country since Wednesday night, when a telegram was received reporting the outbreak of a railway strike.

It was feared that the stoppage would *extend to other industries, and some* anxiety is now felt regarding the internal situation. On inquiry at the Portuguese Legation last night a "Daily Chronicle" representative was informed that reliance is not being placed on alarmist messages from Spain.

BOLSHEVIST REVOLUTION.

"There is no reason to credit reports that a Bolshevik revolution has broken out," one of the secretaries stated. "Interruption of communications suggests that the telegraph workers are on strike," he said, "but it is probable that the trouble is due merely to the decision of the Prime Minister to close down all gambling saloons in the country."

A Reuter's Madrid cablegram of yesterday says the Minister of the Interior states that a general strike of railway, postal, and telegraph officials in Portugal had become effective. Another Madrid message stated that according to travellers disorders had broken out in Portugal, and there had been shooting in Lisbon.

DISTURBANCE IN TOKIO.

There is no solution of the mystery of Japan. It is known definitely (says the "Daily Mail") that disturbances have taken place in Tokio, and well-informed persons describe them as "serious labour outbreaks."

The Japanese Embassy, however, denies all knowledge of disturbances of this character, and attributes any trouble which may have occurred to the demand in Japan for general male suffrage. Commercial houses and banks with Japanese connections in London report a serious delay of cablegrams.

EXTRAORDINARY ACTION OF AUTHORITIES

EX-SERVICE MEN ROUNDED UP IN DUBLIN CITY.

At least 6 ex-service men were amongst those arrested by the military on Thursday morning, viz.—Mr. P. H. Beatty, Church Ave., Dublin's Bank; and Myles Graham, late H.M. Mineswepers; Chas. Cooksey, a London man, and a recruit in the E. Surrey Regt.; and John Mooney, late of the Leicester Regt., and all of Thomas St.

Mr. Beatty is a civil servant who joined the Irish Guards at the outbreak of the war, and was through much of the fighting in France, being in the battles of Loos, Ypres, etc., and winning a commission in the field at the Somme. With the R.I. Rifles he was at the battle of Messines, Paschendaele, Cambrai, and those of the Germans' 1918 offensive. He was demobilised in Jan., 1919, as Lieutenant, then returning to the civil service. He is a member of the Bohemian F.C.

On Thursday morning he was awakened about 3 o'clock by loud knocking at the door and on asking "Who is there?" got the reply