

dismissed him. The convicted men were severely reprimanded and cautioned against a repetition of the offence, and were told by the President of the Court that the Volunteers were determined to protect the property of all citizens, regardless of class or creed.

Three cases were disposed of at a Volunteer Court held last week in the Town Hall, Callan. Two ex-soldiers were charged in connection with the theft of a gun from a farmer, while a third man was charged with stealing a bicycle. The prisoners were escorted to the Court by Volunteers, while the District Inspector and Head Constable of the R.I.C. looked on in open-eyed astonishment at (to them) novel way of preserving law and order. The man who stole the gun was fined 20s., and ordered to leave the parish for 12 months. The other man, who purchased the stolen gun for 10s., was fined 40s., and ordered not to enter any part of the Callan parish for 12 months. The men paid the fines and promised to leave the parish. The man who was charged with stealing a bicycle was fined 20s., and ordered to leave the district for 6 months. He obeyed the order. The bicycle has been restored.

Three men charged last week before a Volunteer Court at Newbridge with the larceny of oats pleaded guilty. They were heavily fined, and were ordered to pay the owner the full value of the stolen goods. The accused were told that if they offended again they would not be allowed to reside in the district.

The police having refused to do duty at Barronstown (Tipperary) races on Wednesday last, Irish Volunteers wearing armbands marked "I.V." acted in their stead, and regulated the traffic in an admirable manner. A bookmaker who acted suspiciously, and left the enclosure hurriedly, was followed by Volunteers. The bookmaker's liabilities proved to be £67 12s., and he had only a few pounds to meet them. He stated that he had had a bet with a bookmaker on the course. The Volunteers escorted their prisoner to where the bookmaker was. The prisoner duly drew the money coming to him on his bet, and out of this he was able to pay all his liabilities but £7 10s. He mentioned another bookmaker who would lend him the balance, but this bookmaker repudiated him. A third bookmaker whom he mentioned gave him the money. When all liabilities had been paid off the Volunteer officer in charge told him that in Ireland straight dealing was the rule, and that rule would have to be observed by all who came to Ireland. The bookmaker and his clerk were then ejected by the Volunteers from the enclosure. A young man who snatched and was making off with a sum of money which was being paid by a bookmaker to a client was also apprehended by Volunteers. On searching their prisoner, the Volunteers found a gold watch in his possession, and are making inquiries as to its owner.

The Volunteers recently effected three arrests in connection with a robbery which occurred at Crossneen, Co. Carlow. Last week they were brought up for trial charged with the offence. A Volunteer officer was assigned for the defence. Two of the men pleaded guilty, and were fined 20s. each, and ordered to find work, or leave the district. The third was honourably acquitted. The Volunteers have appealed to the people to furnish evidence in such cases. They have also caused certain licensed houses in the Carlow district to close at the recognised time.

A quantity of goods stolen some time ago from the haberdashery shop of Mr. P. Whelan, Wexford was recently recovered and restored to the owner by Volunteers, with an intimation of regret that the case was not placed in their hands sooner.

A Sinn Fein Court at Philipstown (King's Co.) on Wednesday week dealt with a case arising out of a disputed ownership of land. The case was settled amicably, and the defendant undertook to refrain from interfering with the plaintiff's management of the farm in question.

A large number of cases, including wages claims, trespass, larceny, and assault were disposed of satisfactorily last week in Mullaghrae (South Sligo) by a Sinn Fein Arbitration Court. A man put forward in custody charged with the larceny of a bicycle was allowed out on bail to come up for judgment when called upon after he had pleaded guilty and given a promise to amend. The bicycle was recovered. The protection of the court

was given to men who had their cattle driven. The owners of two farms agreed to surrender their lands and to leave the question of compensation in the hands of the Court.

Pending further inquiry, two men arrested by Volunteers in connection with the robbery of the mail car running between Ballymote and Tobercurry were remanded in custody. In connection with the recent raid on Knockvear (Co. Roscommon) Post Office, when £48 in cash, mostly old age pension money, was stolen, the Volunteers of that district effected arrests, and over £30 of the money has been returned to Mrs. McLoughlin, the postmistress. A shopkeeper in Boyle was raided recently when over £10 worth of goods were stolen. The stolen goods were recovered by the Volunteers and returned to the rightful owner.

In the Bantry district (West Cork) much activity has been displayed by the Volunteers in regard to the maintenance of law and order. Several cases of assaults, trespasses on lands, tramp nuisances, etc., which, in the ordinary way, would have gone before the local Petty Sessions (English) Courts, have been brought before the Volunteer Courts and dealt with to the satisfaction of everybody concerned. On Wednesday week several cases which were listed for the Glengriff Petty Sessions (English) Court were withdrawn, and tried by an Irish tribunal. Petty Sessions business is rapidly declining in West Cork and elsewhere since the establishment of the Volunteer Courts.

Two ex-soldiers recently tried by a Volunteer tribunal in Co. Louth, on a charge of misappropriating £570 were acquitted. Three Volunteer officers heard the case. Only the accused, witnesses and a Pressman were admitted to the Court. A Volunteer gave evidence to the effect that he and another Volunteer took the accused into custody in Dublin, and the accused immediately handed over the missing money. A sum of thirty pounds was also found on them. The advocate for the defence handed in a statement by the accused to the effect that they were to have handed over the money by appointment, but the person concerned failed to keep the appointment, and they proceeded to Dublin, as he had previously arranged to journey to Dublin with them. The advocate argued that there was no fraudulent intent on the part of the accused. The President said they desired to see justice meted out to the accused, particularly as they had served in the British Army and might, on that account, consider they were prejudiced before that tribunal. Such was not the case. The upholders of the Republican movement, as they demanded justice themselves, were prepared to do even-handed justice to all citizens. It had not been proved to their satisfaction that the accused acted with fraudulent intent. As the money had been recovered, the Court would inflict no punishment, and would direct that the £30 found in the possession of accused be handed back to them.

Last week at a Volunteer Court in Tipperary a man was brought to trial charged with various offences, amongst them being—stealing a lady's bicycle from outside a shop in Liberty Square, Thurles; stealing a man's bicycle in Limerick; beating his father; stealing fire-arms, stealing mail-bags, and being what is known as "a stool pigeon." The prisoner pleaded guilty. A Volunteer Officer appointed by the Court defended the prisoner, and made an able speech on his behalf. The President of the Court, in passing sentence, complimented the advocate on his brilliant defence, but for which the prisoner would have received a severer sentence. He warned the prisoner of the consequence of his failure to obey the Court's order, which directed him to leave Munster for a period of two years. Proceeding, the President said he was glad the property stolen by the accused had now been recovered almost completely and restored to its rightful owners. Some of it was most important and valuable, particularly that found in the mails, which comprised original deeds belonging to a local lawyer, bank cheques, and commercial correspondence. These had all been restored. The accused promised to loyally carry out the Court's sentence and try to keep straight in future. He has now left the locality. At the trial armed Volunteers kept guard and scouts maintained a watch in the district.

The arrest and capture of the accused proved difficult. His father first

complained of his conduct to the police, but no action having been taken, the father lodged an information with the Volunteers. The accused got word of it, and was preparing for exit when the Volunteers intervened. Armed parties scoured the northern end of the district. Strangely enough 200 military and R.I.C. were, at the same time, searching the eastern end of the district in quest of twenty local Volunteers, who were then leading the hunt after the accused. The military and police came from Tipperary, and returned again after seven hours' searching, but with nothing. At 3 a.m. the Volunteers tracked down their man.

Recently, the licensed house of Mr. P. Duane, Kylebrack, near Loughrea was broken into and goods carried away. The matter was subsequently brought to the notice of the local Volunteers, who proceeded at once to investigate the case, and on Sunday night four men were arrested in their beds at a late hour and taken by motor blindfolded to an unknown destination, where they were tried before a Volunteer Court. The accused pleaded guilty and were discharged on giving an undertaking to the court they would make restitution within 48 hours.

Volunteers were engaged at Kilmore (Co. Roscommon) on Saturday night in clearing the publichouses and patrolling the village. The local police force, who were confined to barracks, thinking, from the activities around, that a raid was about to be made on them, sent up very lights for help. Probably this will "develop" into an attack in the "Official List of Outrages."

Volunteers in Cloone, as in many other towns and villages in South Leitrim, are maintaining law and order. The licensed premises are carefully looked after, and non-bona-fide travellers are not permitted on them. Drunkenness is not allowed at the fairs, where the traffic is regulated by the Volunteers. The orders of the Volunteers is respected.

The "Clare Champion" says: "Fivolous and unjust claims were made to land in Co. Clare, and in some cases notices threatening summary eviction were received by the occupants. Sinn Fein Land Courts inquired into and dealt with the claims in a manner which has given general satisfaction. One complainant was an ex-member of the R.I.C., who had resigned after 14 years' service. He went to live with his wife, who has a farm of 35 acres. He was ordered to 'clear out'; his cattle were driven off the land, the herd intimidated, and a claim was made to the land. At the Sinn Fein tribunal his title was endorsed. A warning was issued to the parties making a claim to cease their interference. The complainant was highly delighted with the impartial manner in which his case had been heard. Having been a policeman he thought that it would prejudice his case before a Sinn Fein tribunal. It was pointed out to him that even if he had come wearing a policeman's uniform he would receive the same hearing."

At one of the many Republican Criminal Courts now in session in North Clare," says the "Irish Bulletin" of Tuesday week, a man was put on trial on a charge of larceny. When asked to plead the prisoner replied:

"I refuse to recognise the authority of this court."

The President—"That being so, will you kindly inform us which court you do recognise? We shall be pleased to hand you over immediately."

The prisoner, after a pause, said he would recognise the Republican Court, and pleaded guilty.

He was heavily fined, and ordered to release the stolen property. This was done, and he was released.

The "Irish Bulletin" of Thursday (June 3rd) devoted its entire issue to a summary of the activities of the Irish Volunteers and the Land and Criminal Courts in dealing with evil-doers in twenty-one counties from 15th April to June 2nd. Nearly a hundred cases have been dealt with by these Irish tribunals since they were established. There is likely to be a further boom in the white-glove industry until the time when England's Judges go on their long, long, vacation!

At the monthly meeting of the Ennis-corthy Urban Council on Wednesday week, it was unanimously decided to apply to the Commandant of the local Volunteer Corps to supply patrols for the preservation of law and order in the town.

Many other cases have been brought before Irish tribunals during the past week, and several prisoners are detained in different parts of the county pending trial.

During the Poor Law and County Council Elections the Volunteers in different parts of the county preserved that law and order which Dublin Castle pressmen are always telling us it is the express duty of the R. I.C. to preserve. However, as the R.I.C. seem to be so busy attending to their other duties—so eloquently alluded to last week by Mr. Walter Long in Westminster—they have no time to look after the Constitutional Side of things!

The "Drogheda Independent" of Saturday, 29th May, published the following:—

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

On the night of Sunday, 16th inst., my house was raided by a body of armed men, and a quantity of valuable silver and other articles stolen, as well as great damage done to furniture, pictures, etc. and shots fired in many of the rooms. I was away from home at the time, and the house was occupied by two servants, who were forced to show the raiders round the house. Two days afterwards I was informed that the Irish National Volunteers had taken the matter up, and that they would obtain information as to where the stolen property was and return it to me. They have been as good as their word and to my knowledge, have not spared themselves any trouble ever since. At time of writing I have recovered, through them, nearly all the stolen articles. I wish to publicly thank the Irish Volunteers for their action, and to pay them a justly deserved tribute for their methods. I understand that they have traced numerous small raids that have taken place in this neighbourhood to this same gang, whom they have arrested to a man. Please goodness, we will hear of no more outrages, whether agrarian or otherwise, now that the Volunteers have taken the field.—Yours,

G. DE STACPOOLE (Captain).

Tobertynan, Enfield, Co. Meath.

The robbery referred to by Captain Stacpoole was reported in the "official records of outrages," as was the arrests of the guilty parties by Irish Volunteers, and probably the above letter will find its way as another "outrage" into General Greenwood's or General Macready's editorial sanctum in Dublin Castle.

The English Post Office has given six months' notice to terminate the contract for the transmission of the mails between Ireland and England via Dunleary and Holyhead. This action is preliminary to depriving the City of Dublin Steampacket Company of the carriage of the mails. The next step foreshadowed is the transfer of the mails to an English Railway Company. This step is the last in the policy of absorption and destruction of all Irish-owned shipping. The cargo service of the City of Dublin Steamship Co. has already been sold to the English Shipping Combine. With the transfer of the mail service, which now appears inevitable, the last Irish-owned shipping service sailing out of Belfast, Dublin, or Cork will have disappeared from the Channel. The trade of the Irish Sea has become an English monopoly, both for mails and cargo.

One result of this monopoly is the recent rise of fifty per cent. in the Channel freights. Already the cost of sending goods from London to Dublin has become so great that in one case an importer of furniture, who arranged for test consignments of the same quantity, discovered that it costs 25 per cent. more to carry chairs from London than from New York by direct steamer. The tendency of this English monopoly of the Channel shipping trade is to divert trade from London to New York, as the rate of exchange, though unfavourable, is more than met by the lower cost of transmission.

While the situation is favourable for the importer of American goods, in spite of the adverse exchange, it follows that it is still more favourable for the exporter who is able to place Irish goods in the States against American dollars. Openings which exist for Irish exporters are indicated by Mr. J. L. Fawsitt. Writing from New York to the Dublin Industrial Development Association, he pointed out that a large market exists in America for granite blocks for paving, for which high prices are paid, and that the rate of exchange affords Irish quarry owners a decided advantage at present, while the large number of Irish-Americans connected with the building industry in the United States ensures an exceptionally favourable consideration for any offers

made. If Ireland can offer granite blocks of a suitable quality, suitably dressed, at a price, delivered, well within the limit of 120 dollars per 1,000, Mr. Fawsitt advises that business would seem to be possible. He added that Messrs. Moore and McCormick Inc. would offer specially favourable freight rates in order to encourage the trade. A sample of the stone at present used and a list of pending contracts were being forwarded to an Irish trading firm whose name and address will be supplied to persons interested.

Mr. Fawsitt sent considerable correspondence dealing with the possibility of securing adequate supplies of American Portland cement delivered c.i.f. at competitive prices in Ireland. Firms which are in a position to quote a suitable price are just at the moment held up by the transport difficulties prevailing in the United States, but expressing themselves anxious to be put in touch with importers when the present abnormal circumstances have come to an end. Further correspondence dealing with the market in America for Carrigeen moss and another substance known as sea moss, used for stuffing in upholstery, the state of the market as regards lace imports and the fraudulent misrepresentation of non-Irish made lace and crochet as Irish and a reference to the manufacture of paper pulp from seaweed in Japan, which Mr. Fawsitt advises is worthy of investigation by Irish paper makers, was also read and dealt with. The ss. Milwaukee Bridge is due in Dublin for outward cargo to New York about 14th inst.

The question of Spanish fruit trade is engaging the attention of the Council of the Dublin I.D.A. The Dublin Port and Docks Board have been invited to provide berthing facilities for fruit steamers arriving from Spain, and possibly from other countries. There are large imports of oranges, lemons, grapes, nuts, figs, and dried fruits, as well as onions, from the Mediterranean. Ireland buys annually some thirty to forty thousand tons of fruit, a quantity which would guarantee a direct Mediterranean service. In return for fruit, Ireland could ship other fruit, such as apples when in season, and also potatoes, for which there is a demand in Spain.

Some efforts have been already made to open up direct trade, and we find that in February three hundred and seventy-six tons of fruit were imported direct from Spain, all to Belfast. In March one hundred and seventy-two tons were imported from Spain to Belfast. In April there were no direct imports, but 1,621 tons were imported via Liverpool mainly. Of this quantity, exactly 1,000 tons came into Belfast, 455 into Dublin. These figures do not include vegetables such as onions, of which large quantities are imported in season.

The only difficulty which exists in the way of a direct trade between Dublin and Spain is the provision of suitable berthing and handling facilities, so that the market can be dealt with rapidly and the cargo cleared on arrival. There is a prospect that these difficulties will now be overcome with the assistance of the Port and Docks Board. In addition to berthing places, it is necessary to have auction rooms in the vicinity of the port, so that the fruit cargoes can be disposed of rapidly and the loss by deterioration, so heavy in this trade, can be avoided by prompt handling.

P. Marks writes:—Regarding the matter of gramophone records of Irish songs, music, etc., those interested will be able to procure such from America by communicating with Fr. Shanley, St. Benedict's Rectory, New York. Gramophone records of the "Soldier's Song" may be also obtained from the address which he knows, and which, for the none, I remember. Records for the cylinder type of talking-machines were the only ones procurable till some time ago. Now the disc record may be obtained.

The same correspondent writes:—"There came an appeal for help for the dependents of the martyrs of Milltown-Malbay, Kilmihil, etc., and for the dependents of the martyr-confessors of Mountjoy, Scrubbs, Galway, etc. It was the fourth collection in a very short time, yet it was one that could not be ignored. The hunger-strike suggested a thirst-strike, and a three-weeks' strike against intoxicating liquor was declared. The money saved goes to the fund.

A Dublin tobacconist writes to us:—"To stand behind a tobacconist counter in Dublin to-day (or perhaps in any other part of Ireland), retailing