LONDON LETTER.

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

Lord Mayor.

The weary agony of Brixton Prison continues. To Irishmen of course that Lloyd George "offer" is *merely an insulting trifle*, characteristic of the man from whom it emanates, and worthy of no notice beyond *a searing sentence in which Mr. Arthur Griffith* has pricked its falseness. The Irish papers however comment on it at length. The *"Morning Post" says what* is quite true, that Mr. George "has made an offer, and has in no way varied his original attitude." The "Westminster Gazette" argues out elaborately the meaning of Mr. George's words and shows their serious futility; and while observing that the public are overwhelmingly on the side of relaxing the hunger-strikers and finding a new departure in Irish policy, declares: "The Government cannot engage before the whole world in a series of prolonged duels with men willing to die for their convictions"—the words attributed to Mr. George by the "Times" Swiss correspondent—"without dragging on itself almost universal condemnation either for the insanity which drives it on that course, or for the ineptitude and lack of statesmanship which has rendered it inevitable. If the Government lets the Lord Mayor die and if it pursues the same course with other hunger-strikers, it may be sure that on one or other of these counts it will everywhere be condemned, and that the British name will suffer a heavier discount than from any other incident in its career during the last half-century." In relation to this passage, I should like to refer to a pungent cartoon in the "Star" of *to-day*, entitled "The Irish Ventriloquist." It represents Sir E. Carson with a figure on his knee of the type which ventriloquists have made familiar. One of the man's dolls bears the features of Mr. Bonar Law, and to it is attached the legend "Let him die." The other is Mr. Asquith, with an expression of his refusal to change his attitude.

Downing Street?

Mr. George arrived home last night unannounced and almost in secrecy. To-night's "Pall Mall Gazette," which is usually well-informed as to his movements, states that he had a long conference with Mr. Bonar Law, who earlier in the day, it may be remembered, had a consultation with Sir Hamar Greenwood and Sir N. Macready. Both the Commander of the Forces in Ireland and the Irish Secretary are still in London. The "Pall Mall" adds that "the two topics which Mr. Lloyd George is devoting peculiar attention to-day are the threatened coal strike and the position of the Irish hunger-strikers." As to the latter it says that "important developments are to be expected. The Chief Secretary has prepared a memorandum on the subject, which Mr. Lloyd George will carefully consider."

Cooling Warmer.

Already the approach between the parties on the *coal crisis—the Government* and the miners—which I foreshadowed yesterday is beginning. The inevitable conference will take place at Downing Street to-morrow, and though there may be bodies of greater or less importance it is highly improbable that the outcome will be a solution of the crisis by the method of compromise. The Trade Union Congress has diplomatically broken ice by expressing its judgment that the claims of the miners were reasonable and just, and should be conceded forthwith. It is considered likely that Mr. George is holding himself back for a time at which the miners and Sir Robert Horne will come to grips, and a serious deadlock, and that he will then step into the limelight, as on so many previous occasions, in his famous role of "the saviour of the country" to settle the difficulty by a diplomatic compromise. Sir Robert Horne had a clash with the Prime Minister this week, and posted him in the situation up to date, so that agile politician will have no difficulty in recognising the cue for his appearance on the stage. The calling of the National Conference of the miners to receive the report of their delegates as to the result of the Government conference is taken as a favourable symptom of the ultimate *doom of the coal crisis, and the fact* that it has not been overlooked at Downing street that it will help the imminenceness of the background when the Prime Minister comes forward.

Lord Hardinge.

The new Ambassador to Paris is an example of the truth of the old saying that one man may steal a horse while another may not look over the hedge. This is the same Lord Hardinge who made such a botch of things in India as Viceroy, and who was chairman of the Hardinge Commission, the report which on the Rising of 1916 fell so far and reflected such little credit on its authors. Even so far back as the time of the Commission Lord Hardinge was mentioned as the next best Ambassador to France, but in the face of the Mesopotamian report which came a little later the Government concluded that it was wise to hold him back. Now it is tacitly assumed that all that is forgotten. The coat of arms of the new Ambassador conveys a somewhat dubious compliment to the nation to which he is accredited. It shows a dismantled French castle with the French flag below the British ensign being towed by a British lion *in token of its capture.*

Building in England.

A little while ago it was not possible to rent a house on rent, and impossible to buy a house except at an inordinate rent. In spite of the muddling of the Government which has been almost incredible, the energy of local authorities and private individuals has at last got a start in the direction of new dwellings, and there is clear evidence that the boom in house property has reached, *and passed, its zenith.* One of the evidences is that people who six months ago were being told by house agents in a very off-hand way that the house that could be done for them was to be done at the end of a long waiting list are now being bombarded with circulars from the same house agents. One still sees the "House to Let" boards, which were once so familiar, but "To be Sold" boards are *becoming more and more* frequent. Tramway journeying through country shows many schemes for house building on a large scale being carried out, and almost every London suburb presents a spectacle of new cottages or villas—but chiefly the latter—arising. All this will tell in a little time. Nevertheless one comes frequently upon such pieces of administrative folly as that which can be seen in Woburn Place, where a dozen or so housing houses are being pulled down by the London County Council for the purpose of widening the road for a tram thoroughfare. The tram lines cannot possibly be laid for a long time, yet large numbers of people are being added to the victims of the housing difficulty.

Ford's Inn.

This picturesque old building off Fleet street, "Clifford's Inn," is for sale. It is a relic of the original Inns of Chancery belonging to the Inner Temple. It was purchased by the London house of the Barons Ford, from whom it takes its name, and was dedicated in 1345 to be an inn for students of law. The 600 years old hall and chambers for £100,000 by Mr. William Willett some years ago. Mr. Willett was a healthy London estate agent and house builder, who is best remembered by the fact that he was the inventor of the "summer time" idea, about which there are still differing opinions. Negotiations were concluded more than one and the Society of Knights' Bachelors for the sale of the hall to that Society, and they actually occupied it for years, but they were unable to raise the funds to complete the purchase, and the property has now reverted to Mr. Willett's estate, and his representatives are looking *for a new buyer. The site of course is enormously valuable,* but the historical value of the place is so great, that it would be a pity if the ancient building were put *in* any peril.

Another correspondent writes:—

The Coal Crisis.

I am advised that in the worst event the Railwaymen's Executive would be unlikely to exercise their power to call out their members without a ballot to support the coal miners, and, as has already been stated, the transport men can only be called out after a ballot. *My information is that the members of* the Railway Executive, though in sympathy with the miners' demands, recognise that in the rank and file there may be divisions of opinion in regard to such a momentous step as stopping all railway services, and for that reason would prefer not to exercise their authority without explicit directions. It is regrettable there has been so much indirect controversy between the parties through the Press before meeting. It has for instance led Mr. Hodges to say that he attaches more importance to reduction of *coal prices than to increase in shift pay.* The Government could hardly yield on that point. It is pleasant, however, to note that Mr. Smillie has again declared emphatically that he does not desire a strike and wishes to avert it.

Mr. Cochrane Disgusted.

The announcement that Mr. C. B. Cochrane has severed his association with the boxing interest has caused an immense flutter in sporting circles. For one thing the news means obviously that *we may abandon any hope there ever* was of seeing the fight between Dempsey and Carpentier for the world's heavyweight championship in this country now. And Mr. Cochrane's retirement from the financial side of the fistic arena must seriously affect the sport in this country generally. His advent was hailed with amusement at first, but he speedily made good. He not only sent the value of the "purse" offered to pugilists for big fights soaring up from the hundreds to the thousands of pounds, but the fighting fraternity found somewhat to their astonishment that the full money was actually forthcoming. Moreover he made the "game" infinitely more respectable and fashionable by his methods of promotion. He lifted it out of the rather dingy atmosphere it occupied before the recent revival—when pugilists even went the length of holding a meeting to form a boxers' trade union, with seven-and-sixpence as the recognised minimum wage for a "show." All sorts of speculators will now no doubt be eager to assume Mr. Cochrane's mantle, but if they are straight men of business their *experience may speedily be the same as* his. The star pugilistic performers assume more airs nowadays than operatic *tenors, and are as ticklish to deal with* as prima donnas. The great difficulty in the way of the successful boxing promoter is the shyness of the champions whenever it is proposed to get them into the ring against a man who may beat them.

A Tobacco War Coming.

There is a very interesting suggestion in the "Tobacco Trade Review" that we may soon have the benefit of a new American invasion for the cutting of tobacco prices. Some of the leaders in the United Drug Co., with which Boots Ltd. recently amalgamated, are said to have close relations with some of the leaders of the Tobacco Products Corporation Ltd. of Great Britain and Ireland. It is hinted that when the Boots' shops develop into stores they may take up the retail trade in the fragrant weed. The presumption is that it would have to be with fresh brands, as *the present business associations in the* United Kingdom would doubtless hold together. But competition would at least *have the effect of checking any advance* in standard qualities if such a thing were contemplated. So much money now goes in duty that I suppose no very material reduction could be expected, but even a little difference to the good might be welcomed.

LORD HARDINGE.

Paris, Wednesday.—The French Government has notified its assent to the appointment of Lord Hardinge as Ambassador in Paris.—Reuter.

CURFEW IN CORK.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

Curfew, night of September 7th-8th.
1.—*10 (ten) arrests were made;* of these 7 were released and sent home.
2—The city was quiet, and no shots were fired.

F. R. EASTWOOD, Major, Brigade Major, 17th Infantry Brigade.
Cork, 8-9-'20.

LAST NIGHT.

Throughout last night there was a complete absence of military activity, so far as the flat of the city was concerned. The armoured cars and lorries, allocated for duty in outlying districts, passed through the principal streets about a quarter to ten. At that time, and until the public lights were extinguished at the customary hour, large crowds paraded Patrick street, George's street, South Mall, and the Grand Parade, and the adjoining thoroughfares. Though the weather was delightfully fine, however, pedestrians began to proceed homewards at 10 o'clock, and five minutes afterwards the flat of the city was practically deserted. Between a quarter past ten and a quarter to eleven, not a single military vehicle visited Patrick street. Two hackney cars were driven, without interruption, through that thoroughfare at twenty minutes past ten. Ten minutes afterwards, a young man singing "It's a long long way to Tipperary," proceeded along Patrick st. from the Grand Parade direction and turned into Prince's street. This vocalist had only disappeared into the latter-mentioned thoroughfare, when four young men, who were very merry, walked along the principal street from the Patrick's Bridge direction. On the way they sang a number of popular choruses, and appeared to be quite unconcerned about the Curfew regulations. At the corner of Academy street the party halted and participated in drilling operations for a few minutes.

Such orders as "Attention," "One, two, three, four," "Easy," and "Mark Time" were given by one member of the quartette, and were apparently carried out. The young men then continued their songs, and proceeded towards the Grand Parade. Their singing could be heard in the distance, and they must have proceeded beyond the Grand Parade without having been challenged by any soldiers. Whether they were successful in completing their journey could not, of course, be ascertained.

Approaching eleven o'clock two military lorries made their appearance in Patrick street, and passed through Winthrop street. Quarter of an hour later an armoured car, followed by a large lorry, passed through Patrick street, and without making any stop went towards the Grand Parade. They were followed by two other lorries which came through Princes street. These vehicles were evidently conveying some arrested persons to the Bridewell.

For an hour after midnight searchlights, manipulated from outlying districts, were played on the uppermost portions of the buildings in the flat of the city. What is commonly termed the "staff" car made tours of the Curfew area at intervals. This car is the motor in which a few officers of higher rank to the officers engaged in leading soldiers in the regular Curfew duty, travel for supervision purposes.

In the Northern and Southern portions of the city patrols were engaged in searching the different streets, by the aid of searchlights, for offenders against the Curfew regulations. No shots were heard. It was a very quiet night, though some arrests were effected.

THE LORD MAYOR.

A LITTLE SLEEP.

IN CONSTANT PAIN.

London, Wednesday.—A Press Association message, received at 1.15 this morning, states:—

The condition of the Lord Mayor of Cork was reported this morning to be practically unchanged.

His brother told a Press Association *representative that he had a little sleep, but* he was in constant pain.

He was quite conscious this morning, but was troubled with slight dizziness at intervals.

The Deputy Lord Mayor received the following telegram yesterday morning:—

"London, 11.24.—Fair night. Still conscious. Otherwise unchanged. Asked for comrades in Cork Prison, and sends them greetings.—Father Dominic."

Outside the prison the position remained practically the same, save for the increased police stringency, which does not much assist, but rather hampers, the waiting Pressmen's endeavours to secure the latest information.

The "Examiner" representative saw one *visitor to the prison, who said, on leaving,* that the hunger-strike policy of the Lord Mayor was being closely watched by Sinn Fein members already imprisoned for political crimes. Should Alderman MacSwiney be allowed die, they would all endeavour to follow his example. This is an interesting illustration of the temper of the Irish race, which, for temperamental reasons, perhaps, Englishmen fail completely to understand. Anxiety remains the dominant note of the Lord Mayor's friends. His resolution is unaltered.

SUDDENLY MUCH WEAKER.

Doctors Forbid Conversation.

A Press Association midday special, received at 2 p.m., stated:—

The Lord Mayor of Cork has suddenly got much weaker. The doctors are very anxious, and have forbidden his relatives to converse with him.

SPIRIT STRONG AS EVER.

The Deputy Lord Mayor last evening received the following telegrams:—

"Brixton, 5.45.—Terry very weak. Dizzy and faint this evening. Spirit strong as ever.—Muriel McSwiney."

"London, 5.55.—Six o'clock, situation practically unchanged.—De Roiste."

INQUIRIES FOR CORK COMRADES.

Handed in at Brixton at 11.34 yesterday morning:—"Fair night; still conscious. Otherwise unchanged. Asked for comrades in Cork Prison, and sends them greetings.—Father Dominic."

"STILL CONSCIOUS."

Mrs. MacSwiney visited her husband at 2.30 p.m., and remained till 5 p.m. On leaving, she said that the Lord Mayor had almost swooned several times, but had never lost consciousness. The doctor told her that he was now living on his wonderful vitality.

WONDERFUL VITALITY.

A Press Association telegram says:—*Mr MacSwiney was visited yesterday* evening by his sister, Miss Annie MacSwiney, his cousin, Father Patrick MacSwiney and his chaplain Father Dominic.

Father Dominic who was the last to leave, said the Lord Mayor appeared much about the same.

Miss Annie MacSwiney, who left the prison earlier, stated that her brother appeared to be much weaker. He asked her to read to him for a short time, but he soon got tired and requested her to stop.

Father Patrick MacSwiney, whose first visit it was, said he was surprised to find the Lord Mayor so well after what he had read in the newspapers. He seemed to have wonderful vitality. Father Patrick *was of opinion that he would last for three* or four days.

MANY MESSAGES.

The following, addressed to the Lady Mayoress, has been received in Cork:—

"Town Clerk's Office, City Hall, Dublin, Sept. 7th, 1920. The Lady Mayoress, Cork. Madam,—I beg to inform you that the Municipal Council, at a special meeting held yesterday, adopted the following resolution: 'That this Council do now adjourn for one week as a protest against the slow murder of the Lord Mayor of Cork and his colleagues, *which is being committed by the* British Government in Brixton and Cork Gaols. That the heartfelt sympathy of the citizens of Dublin be tendered to the Lady Mayoress of Cork and the MacSwiney family in these hours of desolation. That to the citizens of Cork we also express our appreciation of their brave, giant-hearted citizen, *Lord Mayor Terence MacSwiney.*'—I am, yours faithfully, Henry Campbell, Town Clerk."

The Deputy Lord Mayor has received the following:—

"The Irish National Foresters' Benefit Society, Waterford Branch. To the Deputy Lord Mayor. Dear Sir and Brother,—At the first meeting of the Annual Convention Committee held yesterday, the following resolution was passed unanimously: 'That we, the members of the Irish National Foresters Annual Convention Reception Committee, protest against the cruel and inhuman treatment meted out to Lord Mayor MacSwiney and to his fellow-prisoners in Cork and other gaols. We offer our sympathy to the Lady Mayoress and relatives of other prisoners, and place on record our appreciation of the noble fight they are making on behalf of the Irish Republic. Copies of the resolution to be sent to the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork and to the various branches of our Order in Cork City.'—J. S. O'Neill, T.C., Secretary."

The following, addressed to the Lady Mayoress, has been received in Cork:—

"Poor Law Offices, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. The Lady Mayoress of Cork. Madam,—At the meeting of Letterkenny Board of Guardians held yesterday, I was requested to forward to you the subjoined copy of resolution passed by the Board, and to tender to you the sympathy of the Board in your hour of trial.—I am, madam, your obedient servant, R. S. Watters, Clerk:—Proposed, seconded and passed: 'That we, the members of the Letterkenny Board of Guardians, denounce the barbarous treatment meted out to Mr. MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork, by the British Government, which protested so strongly against the arrest and deportation of Belgians by the German Government during the late European war, and we demand his immediate release.'"

A similar resolution, passed by the Letterkenny Rural District Council, was also received.

REPLY FROM MR. ARTHUR GRIFFITH.

In reply to a telegram from the London "Daily Graphic," as to Lloyd George's reported statement about the release of Irish political prisoners, Mr. Griffith telegraphed last night to that journal:—"It is amazing. Your Government having tortured Irish patriots in your prisons for four weeks, now, when they are at the point of death, offers to release them if they proclaim themselves murderers, and suggests it will kill them in prison if they do not. You English are, indeed, as Tolstoi said, the most barbarous of all peoples pretending to civilisation."

PREMIER SAYS NO.

ANOTHER BLANK REFUSAL

TO RELEASE UNTRIED CORK PRISONERS

REPLY TO MR. HAROLD BARRY'S APPEAL

TRAGEDY CLOSE AT HAND.

LORD MAYOR'S BAD TURN.

DOCTOR'S SIGNIFICANT WARNING.

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY DECLARED

MR. ASQUITH FOR RELEASE.

LABOUR CONGRESS SUPPORTS MINERS.

CONFERENCE WITH GOVERNMENT TO-DAY.

Last night the Premier's reply to Mr. Philip Harold Barry's appeals for the Cork untried prisoners was issued. It amounts to a flat refusal.

Yesterday several of the prisoners were in a very critical state. Mr. Hennessy's relatives were called to his bedside. He has collapsed, and may not last the night. Mr. Bourke was also so bad that his death was expected at any *moment.*

Mr. Harold Barry, after visiting the Gaol, sent another vigorous protest to the Prime Minister and Chief Secretary.

The Lord Mayor had a little sleep during Tuesday night, but was in constant pain yesterday morning.

At half-past twelve it was announced that he had suddenly got much weaker. The doctors are very anxious, and have forbidden his relatives to converse with him.

At five o'clock the Lady Mayoress said that her husband had almost swooned several times. The doctor told her that he is now living on his wonderful vitality.

The Lord Mayor sent greetings to his comrades in Cork Gaol.

Italian women have appealed for the release of the Lord Mayor.

Mr. Asquith describes the intention of the Government to allow the Lord Mayor to die in prison as a political blunder of the first magnitude.

The Prime Minister yesterday saw Sir Hamar Greenwood and Sir R. Horne.

An inspired statement was published by the news agencies saying that there had been no direct offer from the Premier. The position of the hunger-strikers, it states, up to the present is that their *demand is for unconditional* release, and never once has any suggestion reached the Government that improved conditions in Ireland would result from clemency.

The Miners' Executive decided to accept Sir Robert Horne's invitation for a conference to-day.

The Trades Union Congress at Portsmouth yesterday adopted unanimously a resolution in the same terms as that of the Triple Alliance, supporting the Miners' claims as reasonable and just, and expressing the opinion that they should be conceded forthwith. Mr. Thomas said the miners were not standing on pride or dignity, and had agreed to meet Sir Robert Horne to-day. They were determined, as were the Triple Alliance, to explore every avenue for peace.

Commodore Raikes, who is doing duty in the temporary absence of Admiral Tupper, had his house at Castleview, Rushbrooke, raided for arms.

Caligula (100—6) won the St. Leger.

London Stock Exchange welcomed the news that the Miners and the Government would meet to-day. Business, however, kept small.

In the Irish Amateur Golf Championship those remaining in after the fourth round were—Robertson, Soulby, Timbey, Holmes, Carter, Mann, Bretherton, Martin.

At the Waterford Corporation, Alderman Patrick Brazil resigned membership, and was unanimously elected Town Clerk.

RAID AT COVE.

Acting Admiral Held Up.

Our Cove correspondent wrote yesterday —In the absence of Admiral Sir Reginald Tupper from Cove, Capt. C. S. Raikes, R.N (Captain Raikes is now Commodore) is doing duty for him. Last night about ten o'clock, just after dinner, while seated in his dining-room, with two lady visitors, a party of armed men entered his house at Castleview, Rushbrook. Two of them pointed revolvers at him and gave the order "hands up," and saw to its enforcement, while a number of the other raiders made a thorough search of the house. Even if the captain were at liberty to do so there were no means available for calling outside help as the telephone wire had been cut. Having secured their booty the *amount or character of which has not* been made public, the raiders disappeared into the exterior darkness which then prevailed. Other houses in the vicinity were also visited by the raiders.

Shots were fired in the eastern portion of the town on Monday night, but no injury, it appears, has resulted therefrom.

THE RAID ON BELLEEK BARRACK.

Five Men Arrested.

Five men have been arrested in connection with the raid on the Belleek Police Barracks on Sunday.

ATTACK ON POLICE PATROL.

Heavy Courtmartial Sentence.

Philip Fitzpatrick, of Belturbet, Co Cavan, has been found guilty and sentenced to five *years' penal servitude* by a military courtmartial, held in Dublin. The evidence showed that accused, who refused to recognise *the court, took part in an attack* on a police patrol at Kilcorry Bridge, on July 22nd. One member of the patrol was injured.

MILITARY RAID AT KINSALE.

The soldiers attached to the Essex Regiment stationed here, accompanied by two policemen, called on several persons in the town who had permits, and requested them to hand over their guns, etc., which were taken to the police barrack under heavy escort.

TIPPERARY ARREST.

Tipperary, Wednesday.—In the small hours of the morning a large party of military and police knocked at the door of the grocery establishment of Mr Daniel Doherty, St Michael Street, Tipperary. There being a slight delay in answering the knock the military entered the windows on the *ground floor, and arrested in bed* a shop assistant named Daniel Noonan, searched his room and brought him to the military barracks. The charge is not stated.

MR. ASQUITH'S VIEW.

The Press Association says Mr Asquith has sent the following message in answer to the appeal from Mr Whitehouse, M.P.—"I think decision to allow Lord Mayor of Cork to die in prison a political blunder of the first magnitude. I would gladly intervene if any appeal of mine would lead even now to wiser councils prevailing, but I fear that the latest declarations of Ministers preclude any such hope."

OUTRAGE NEAR CHARLEVILLE.

Farmer's House Raided.

WOMAN KICKED AND BEATEN.

Our Charleville Correspondent writes:—An outrage of a particularly callous nature was perpetrated in the Charleville district, *on Tuesday night,* when the house of a respectable farmer named John Bennett of Kippane, was raided by a number of masked men, and his sister, Miss Ellie Bennett brutally assaulted. *From particulars* available, it appears that late on Tuesday evening, the raiders knocked at the door of Mr. Bennett's house, demanding admittance, stating that they were *military,* and also intimating that they had raided the residence of Mr. R. M. D. Saunders, D.L., a few days previously. The door was subsequently broken in when the *raiders quickley demonstrated* to Mr. Bennett that they wanted money. Mr. Bennett handed them £2, but apparently they were not satisfied with this and reiterated their demand for more, which was not forthcoming. Miss Ellie Bennett, sister of the owner, was then knocked down, dragged by the hair of the head, kicked and ill-treated in a merciless fashion by some of the men, while a cloth saturated with some liquid was pressed down her throat.

Some of the men knelt down on her and threatened to shoot her if she did not give them more money. She told there was some money in the room which they searched. Meanwhile Mr. Bennett endeavoured to light a candle for the purpose of ascertaining whom the visitors were, but a volley of stones from outside knocked it out of his hand. In a struggle with one man he succeeded in pulling off *the mask and subsequently recognised the* assailant. Miss Bennett states she recognised a number of her assailants who are ex-soldiers, one man being of very low stature. During the raid the attacking party broke several articles and did considerable damage.

It is also stated that the house of another farmer in the district was also visited, presumably for the same purpose. The whole matter has been reported to the District Commandant of the Irish Volunteers, who are now closely investigating the matter.

Owing to the imposition of Curfew Law in the district the local Vigilance Committee which did useful work in checking the epidemic of robberies has had to be disbanded, with the result, that midnight raids for money are again being renewed.

MILITARY RAID AT MILFORD.

Windows Shattered By Bomb Explosion.

Our Charleville correspondent writes:—On Tuesday night, a lorry containing armed soldiers, arrived in the village of Milford, near Charleville, when a number of houses in the vicinity, including those of Mr. Eugene Lynch, Milford, and Mr. Denis Cremin, Kilbolane, were searched. The local creamery was entered, and a thorough search made, but in no case was anything of an incriminating nature discovered.

Some time after midnight, it is alleged, a bomb was thrown, which caused considerable damage. The shop windows of Mr. Maurice Fitzgibbon, Mr. P. Walsh, and Mr. M. Murphy, including the Post Office, were completely shattered by flying splinters.

CORKMEN'S FATE.

PREMIER'S BLANK REFUSAL.

UNTRIED MEN TO DIE?

The Press Association telegraphs:—The *Prime Minister has received the following* telegram from Mr. P. H. Barry, Ex-High Sheriff of County Cork:—

"*Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street,* London.—Press most strongly on you eleven untried and unconvicted men *dying in Cork Goal. Even Mr. Bonar* Law's letter in answer to Labour Party's appeal does not attempt to justify the detention of untried men. *Issues at stake so far-reaching in*evitable result of delay disastrous. Immediate action imperative."

To this the following reply has been sent:—

"His Majesty's Government have given careful consideration to the appeal contained in your telegram of September 8th on behalf of the 11 untried prisoners now on hunger strike in Cork Prison.

"These men, all of whom are awaiting trial, were arrested either in the act of making murderous attacks upon police or soldiers, or upon direct and clear evidence of complicity in such attacks, or for other very serious offences.

"It is clear they are engaged in a combined effort to make their trials impossible, *as all of them, though arrested on* various dates, commenced to hunger strike simultaneously on the 11th of August. By this means they have reduced themselves to a physical condition which renders them unfit for trial, and the Government are advised that it is legally impossible to try them for the grave offence with which they are charged in their absence or until they are certified to be fit to undergo trial.

"But for their refusal to take food they would now all have been tried, and would be tried forthwith if they consented to take food, as soon as they had sufficiently recovered.

"The evidence in each case has received most careful individual consideration.

"It is impossible for the Government to allow men charged with such grave offences to escape trial by their own act. If this were permitted there would be an end to any possibility of the enforcement of law and the administration of justice.

"A list is enclosed, says the Government's statement, of the men in question, and particulars of the offences for which they are awaiting trial.

"Michael Fitzgerald is charged with having murdered Private Jones at Fermoy on Sept. 7th, 1919. He was arrested in Sept. 1919, and at Cork Assizes on July 21st a true bill was found against him, but it was impossible, owing to the non-attendance of the jurors, to proceed with the trial. In consequence of his hunger-strike, it was impossible to bring him before the court constituted under the authority of the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act.

"John Power. On the night of the 1st August a military patrol from Fethard alleged that it found three men, of whom John Power was one, lying behind a hedge with two guns and cartridges from which the shot had been extracted and replaced by heavy lead slugs. He is awaiting trial by courtmartial, but his condition at the moment is such that he is not certified as fit for trial.

"Thomas Donovan, Matthew Reilly, John Crowley, Peter Crowley, Christopher Upton.—On the night of the 16th of July, a party of police entering Ballylanders were heavily fired upon from several houses. A patrol of military and police, attracted by the firing, came to their assistance. They entered the houses from which it is alleged the police were being fired upon, and arrested several men, one of whom was seriously wounded. These men are awaiting trial by courtmartial in connection with the occurrence.

"Michael Burke was arrested on August 9th under a charge of being found in possession of an automatic revolver which had been taken from Constable Malone, who was in company with Sergeant Tubin when Tubin was murdered. Burke lives about three miles from the scene of the murder. He is awaiting trial by courtmartial.

"John Hennessy—Arrested on 29th July, and charged in connection with an attack by a party of armed men on a detachment of troops in charge of a military lorry at Inchimore on the 23th July last. The lorry was captured and burned.

"Joseph Murphy—Arrested on 17th July, and charged with being in possession of a bomb. Awaiting trial by courtmartial.

"Joseph Kenny—Arrested on 13th July, and charged with being in possession of service rifle and revolver ammunition. Awaiting trial by courtmartial."

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Fishing For "Guarantees."

London, Wednesday.

The Press Association is officially informed that there had been no direct offer from the Prime Minister of the conditional release of the Lord Mayor of Cork. There is no suggestion that the interview published yesterday is inaccurate, but it simply *repeats what Mr. Lloyd George said in* conversation in the nature of an elaboration of the position of the Government, which was, and is, that if a guarantee were forthcoming that the Irish murders would cease the Government would be perfectly willing to consider the question of the release of the Lord Mayor of Cork and the other hunger-strikers.

It is pointed out officially that this third person conversation is an entirely different matter to a direct approach to the hunger-strikers, whose position up to the present is that their demand is for unconditional *release, and never once has any suggestion* reached the Government that improved conditions in Ireland would result from clemency.

BISHOP'S APPEAL.

Immediately on his return from Belgium where he has been the guest of Bishop Dewachter, Auxiliary to Cardinal Mercier, the Right Rev. Dr. Amigo, Bishop of Southwark, dispatched the following telegram to Mr. Lloyd George:—

"As Bishop of many Irish priests and people in the large Catholic diocese of Southwark, I ask clemency for Cork's Lord Mayor, who is dying in my diocese. Resentment will be very bitter if he be allowed to die."

APPEAL BY ITALIAN WOMEN.

Rome, Wednesday.—The newspapers publish an appeal to Mr. Lloyd George by *Italian women for the pardon of the Lord* Mayor of Cork. The appeal concludes:—"We will eternally bless your name, and teach our sons what kindness and greatness of soul there is in the people of this noble nation."—Reuter.

CLONMEL CORPORATION.

At the adjourned monthly meeting of the Clonmel Corporation the following attended: Alderman D. F. O'Connor presiding; Councillors J. Morrissey, J. P. Cooney, D. Mackey, W. Mackey, P. Mullins, W. Wilmount, Joseph Power, J. J. Harding, R. Stapleton.

The Chairman said that since their last meeting on Thursday when they adjourned in consequence of the dangerous condition of the Lord Mayor of Cork, and as a protest against the Government's treatment of him and the other Irish prisoners, the condition of things were unchanged, but were accentuated, and the torturing of that gallant Irishman, the Lord Mayor of Cork, still continued. Under the circumstances he did not think that the members of the Council were in any better state of mind to deal with the business of the Council, and he proposed that the Council again adjourn until such time as they would be in a position to resume their business.

Councillor W Mackey seconded the motion, which was supported by Councillor Harding, and passed unanimously, and the Council adjourned for the second time without transacting any business

KILLORGLIN VOLUNTEERS TO RESCUE.

Our Killorglin correspondent writes.—The change in the times was very noticeable in Killorglin a few days ago, when a young man, certified by the M.O. to be insane was conveyed to the Killarney Asylum by an escort of Volunteers

HEROIC STRUGGLE.

VERY WORN OUT.

Mr. Asquith's Message.

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, Wednesday Night.—For 27 days *now the Lord Mayor of Cork has been on* hunger strike. It is a tremendous ordeal *for any man to pass through.* Yet Mr. MacSwiney is still living, and, to the surprise alike of relatives and friends, has occasional intervals even of cheerfulness. This is in spite of *the fact that the strain,* both mental and physical, is excessive, and that the Government's attitude remains adamant, save on guarantees which no man in the Lord Mayor's position could possibly give.

To-day's bulletins vary between "Condition *still weaker*" and "periods occasionally bright." The Lord Mayor's remarkable vitality surprises all who have been brought into contact with him.

This afternoon, his visitors included Father MacSwiney, his cousin, who, with Miss Mary MacSwiney, has been for some time at the bedside.

In all other respects the situation remains just as before—a determined patriot still confined within prison walls, and a Government outside which steadfastly declines to alter its decision, no matter what humanitarian pleas are presented to it.

Now that Mr. Lloyd George is back in London, there is a revived hope that even at the eleventh hour greater humanity will be shown; but there was no indication of any change in this direction when this message was despatched. The Lord Mayor was then not quite so well, suffering from giddiness. Conversation was necessarily restricted since, in the terms of the doctor, he was "living now on his own vitality."

Yesterday I mentioned the views expressed on the situation by Sir Donald Maclean, Mr. Asquith's chief lieutenant in the House of Commons. Mr. Asquith has now himself come forward. He minces no words in referring to the matter, describing the decision to allow the Lord Mayor of Cork to die in prison as "a political blunder of the first magnitude." But even Mr. Asquith is not sanguine of any reversal of policy in this particular case. *For himself,* he says he would readily intervene in the hope that wiser counsels would prevail, but fears that the latest Ministerial declaration precludes any such hope. And that practically sums up the situation in London to-night.

The latest available bulletin from Brixton Prison is that the Lord Mayor's condition has not undergone much change, but he appears very worn out

ANOTHER APPEAL.

MR. HAROLD BARRY'S MESSAGE

To Premier And Chief Secretary.

Mr. Philip Harold Barry, ex-County High Sheriff, who, with the Deputy Lord Mayor, visited the eleven men on hunger-strike in Cork Gaol last evening, and found them in a dying state, has again appealed for their release. He wired as follows to the Prime Minister and the Chief Secretary last night:—

"*I send this message as an eleventh-hour warning.* Have just visited Cork prison. Eleven prisoners are dying and in extremis. Six committed July 20th; one July 15th; one July 16th; two August 9th, and one committed twelve months. Men walked to Service 25th August; therefore, every opportunity to try them. In the interests of humanity, justice and peace between the two countries, and to avert a national calamity I strongly urge their immediate release.

"PHILIP HAROLD BARRY,
ex-County High Sheriff."

MR. REDMOND HOWARD'S PROPOSAL.

The Central News says:—Mr. Redmond *Howard addressed* a letter to the Premier suggesting a truce of God, and offering himself as hostage for the Lord Mayor to serve his sentence. He makes the offer in the hope that men of greater standing will follow, whose position would be a guarantee that the extremists would use influence towards peace. "Surely," the letter ends, "the possibilities of such an occasion do not institute too weak a claim for truce, if only for a month, when the whole future of the solidarity of the Empire depends on it."

R.I.C. AND LORD MAYOR.

Letter From Secretary of Police Union.

Writing to the "Daily News" regarding the suggestion that 400 R.I.C. would resign if the Lord Mayor of Cork were released, Mr. J. H. Hayes, General Secretary Police and Prison Officers' Union, says those supposed to have sent the ultimatum to the Chief Secretary are members of the "black and tan" section, who are not Irishmen. Large numbers of Irishmen in the R.I.C., he points out, have resigned "as a protest against the manner in which the Government is using the Constabulary to achieve its political objects; and therefore it behoved the Government to counteract this by engineering a protest diametrically opposed to the spirit of the former resignations."

BEREHAVEN R.D.C.

At a meeting of the above, the following was passed unanimously:—Resolved—"That we, the members of the Castletownbere Rural District Council, adjourn our meeting this day as a protest against the inhuman treatment meted out to the Lord Mayor of Cork and his comrades; that we tender to them our assurance of loyalty to their cause, and also to their relatives our sympathy."—Signed, Cua Ni Mhurchadha, Cleirce.

CAHERAGH.

At the request of the Volunteers and Cumann Na mBan of Caheragh, the 9 o'clock Mass on Friday, September 3rd, and on Tuesday, September 7th, was offered by the Rev. P. O'Donovan, P.P., for the Lord Mayor and his co-sufferers. Large congregations attended.

KINSALE.

The early Mass at the Parish and Friary Churches on Monday were offered up for the speedy release of the Lord Mayor of Cork and other Irish prisoners on hunger-strike, at the request of the children attending the Convent Schools, and on Tuesday morning, also for the same good object, at the request of the members of the Drapers' Association.

MASSES AT MIDLETON.

On Thursday morning at 8 o'clock Mass was celebrated in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Midleton, at the request of the Midleton Sinn Fein Club, for the repose of the soul of the late Mr John Buckley, Midleton. On Friday morning Mass for the same intention was offered at the request of the Midleton Young Men's Society, and on Saturday morning at the request of the Midleton Cumann na mBan. On Monday morning, at the request of the local ex-service men Mass was celebrated for the Lord Mayor of Cork and other prisoners. On the Thursday and Friday mornings the employers of the town kindly permitted their employees to attend the Masses, closing their establishments for the purpose from 8 until 9 o'clock on both mornings. The clerks and workers attended the Masses in large numbers, and there were many Communicants.

MASSES IN DUBLIN.

Dublin, Wednesday.—Impressive scenes were witnessed at the Pro-Cathedral, Marlborough street, at 11 a.m. to-day, when a special Mass was celebrated for the Lord Mayor of Cork. Rev. Father Farrell, C.M., who officiated, asked for prayers for the Lord Mayor. The Rosary was recited by the vast congregation, numbering over 300 employes of the goods departments of the L.N.W., the M.G.W., and the G.S.W. Railways, including lady typists. Prior to the Mass, the various staffs marched four deep to the Pro-Cathedral.

At the conclusion of the service, the men immediately formed up into different contingents, and marched in processional order back to their work.

The employes of Messrs. Pim Bros., Tailor and Tailoresses' Societies, George's street, and William street, attended a special Mass in the Carmelite church, Whitefriar street, on Monday at 11 o'clock, for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Lord Mayor of Cork and his fellow-prisoners.

CORK PRISONERS.

TEN UNTRIED MEN.

A Month Without Food.

The eleven men on hunger strike in Cork Ga