ISLAND TRAGEDY

TWO MEN KILLED DURING RAID AT ARAN.

A MIDNIGHT LANDING.

TRAGIC SEQUEL TO SEARCH AT KILRONAN.

EYE-WITNESS'S GRAPHIC STORY.

Daring Dash Over Cliff Through Hail of Bullets.

Two men were shot dead on the hills beyond Kilronan, Aran Islands, during a "round-up" there in the early hours of Sunday morning, when 250 men in full war equipment took up positions on the heights, whilst the village was being searched.

At ten o'clock on Saturday night a mixed party of police and military in full war equipment with machine guns embarked on a cruiser at Galway, and steamed at full speed for the Middle Island of Aran, in Galway Bay.

During the darkness of the night, shortly after the moon had set, the cruiser landed the party on the island. Armed men silently took up positions on the hills overlooking the sleeping town, whilst others proceeded to search for men who are "wanted" or were supposed to be "on the run" there.

Some men were captured in the search; others are stated to have escaped in the night, which was dark and foggy.

In the morning the sentinels upon the hills saw men coming towards them. It appears that fire was opened. One man is said to have dashed through a veritable hail of bullets. He was pursued, and, putting up his hands, surrendered, and was taken captive.

Two men, however, were shot dead in, it is stated, attempting to escape on the hills about two miles beyond Kilronan.

Eleven prisoners were taken to Galway on the destroyer, and have been lodged in the recently established internment camp at the Town Hall.

It is stated that others were wounded during the firing, which appears to have taken place at intervals from dawn until mid-day on Sunday.

NAMES OF THE DEAD.

DARING DASH FOR LIBERTY OVER A CLIFF.

Galway, Tuesday morning.

This morning it was learned that the names of the dead in Aran are:—

Laurence MacDonogh,
Michael Mannister.

Both are believed to be natives of Aran Islands.

It is stated that Laurence MacDonogh was shot dead whilst trying to get through the outposts on the hills beyond Kilronan. Michael Mannister was shot in the chest, the bullet piercing the lung. He died subsequently from his wounds.

A third man, Michael Polly, also a native of Aran Island, received a slight wound during the shooting.

DASH FOR LIBERTY.

A sensational story is related of a daring dash for liberty made by a man named Folan, who is said to have been "on the run," and was amongst those "wanted." Folan escaped by jumping over a cliff, and no trace of him could afterwards be found. The ground at the foot of the cliff was boggy, and one of his boots, together with a revolver, is said to have been subsequently found during the search in the bog.

Two revolvers and two shot-guns were surrendered during the raid, and the raiding party is reported to have brought back from the island a quantity of ammunition found during the search.

Richard P. Chard, the clerk of the petty sessions at Aran, who was amongst those arrested, has been discharged.

It is added that M. Mannister received shot-gun wounds through the back and lungs, and was in a dying condition when the patrol left Aran.

A military inquiry was to have been held on the island on Tuesday, but the boat, which had a military doctor on board, was unable to land during the day on account of the heavy weather.

THE LANDING AT KILMURVY.

The full story of the sensational raid upon Aran Island reveals the fact that all details were kept secret until the last moment. Even the forces engaged were unaware of the mission on which they were bound until they had boarded the cruiser in Galway Bay. It is understood that the cruiser which left Galway about 10 p.m. did not land, in the first instance, at Kilronan pier which is the customary landing place for Inishmore, but put in at Kilmurvy, on the Connemara side of the island.

At this point a considerable force of infantry was landed, and, spreading in extended formation across the narrow neck of the island, it proceeded to work its way towards the hills between that and Kilronan.

The village of Kilronan itself is a popular summer resort lying in a secluded spot above the main pier at Killeaney Bay.

Having put its landing party ashore, the cruiser appears to have returned to Kilronan with the remainder of the party, which in all comprised 250 men. The cruiser arrived at Kilronan about 6 a.m. on Sunday, and its arrival is said to have been watched by some of the villagers. The search party proceeded through the village, and it is alleged that some "wanted" men fled on their approach, and that the beds were found warm, as it hurriedly vacated. The outposts had been placed on the hills for the purpose of preventing escape, and those who ran into them were apparently unaware of the disturbances that had been made during the night.

It is stated that during the search two shotguns and two revolvers were surrendered, and a third revolver was found upon a man who is taken into custody.

THE ARRESTS

The following ten men were arrested and taken to Galway where they are at present detained in the temporary internment camp at the Town Hall: Joseph Doyle, fisherman, Kilronan; Michael Joyce, fisherman, Kilronan; Edward Gill, fisherman, Kilronan; Patrick Gill, car man, nephew of Joseph Gill; James Henry Quinn, publican and grocer, Kilkeany; John Quinn, his nephew, shop assistant; Joseph Mullins, blacksmith; Anthony O'Rourke, labourer; Martin Walsh, fisherman; Patrick Fitzgerald, fisherman; Thomas Hernon, farmer.

THE TRAGEDIES.

It was in the early dawn of Sunday morning that the two tragedies of the search took place. Laurence McDonagh was escaping through the hills, several men in the official account, when he was fired upon, and shot dead.

Michael Mannister, another islander, was shot in the chest, a bullet piercing his lung, and coming out at the back. He was left by the patrol on the island in a dying condition, and has since been reported dead.

A third man, Michael Polly, received a slight wound during the shooting.

EYE-WITNESS'S STORY.

An eye-witness of the occurrence stated that the musketry fire on the hills recalled the war in France. The infantry had been placed in small groups extended across the island, with instructions that no one was to be permitted to escape through the cordon, and that anyone who refused to halt when challenged was to be fired upon.

Shortly after the second landing party came ashore at Kilronan pier, and when the first glimmer of daylight appeared, men were seen dashing through the rocks amongst the hills. They were called upon loudly to halt, and shots were fired over their heads. Then the shooting began in grim earnest. "It was a shocking spectacle," said the eye-witness, "and it seems inconceivable that there were so few casualties. I should not be surprised later to learn of others being wounded. In one case I saw a man moving rapidly amongst the rocks against the horizon. One group of soldiers fired at him from a distance of 300 or 400 yards, and the bullets seemed to be striking the rocks all round him. Suddenly he disappeared at the other side, but whether he was hit or not, it would be impossible for me to say. I do not know if this was Mr. Folan, who is said to have left his house only half clad and without his boots.

"Aran Islands have always been peaceable. Tourists loved the undisturbed quiet, the service detachment of the place. This is probably the first time shots have ever been fired at human beings with deadly intent upon the Island; and the sufferers appear to have been simple Islanders. The ostensible purpose of the raid, which eventuated in tragedy, was to get some men who were supposed to be 'on the run' on the island, but it was poor islanders who were arrested and islanders who were killed."

A party proceeded to the Island yesterday (Wednesday) for the purpose of holding a military inquiry.

A telegram received from Kilronan on Wednesday afternoon states that the inquiry dealt only with the deaths that have occurred.

CANON FARRAGHER'S HOUSE RAIDED.

At 11.45 p.m. last night, a party of military in charge of two officers, who acted most courteously throughout, entered the residence of the Very Rev. Canon Farragher, P.P., Athenry. A search ensued, which lasted for three hours. Canon Farragher was questioned as to whether he had been the parish priest of Aran for a number of years. The house was surrounded before the search. Nothing incriminating is said to have been found. Some documents were taken.

(Continued at End of Next Column).

TUAM CHAIRMAN

SAYS "ONLY PEOPLE IN FAVOUR OF BRITISH GARRISON WANT PEACE."

Criticism of County Council Resolution.

At Tuam District Council meeting on Saturday, Mr. C. J. Kennedy, chairman, presiding, reference was made to the resolution received from Galway County Council suggesting that delegates from Dáil Eireann and the British Government should negotiate a settlement.

The chairman said they had every reason to congratulate themselves in not being connected with such a resolution, and he suggested that it be condemned. It had received a tremendous amount of criticism—too much so because it was simply a camouflaged resolution. It wasn't official or in order because there was no quorum at the meeting at which it was passed. How it went forward as a motion of the county council was in jail, and the wad at a loss to know. The chairman of the county council is in jail, and the vice-chairman was at the time in Paris; from the moment the so-called resolution came under her notice she patriotically did as he would do: she repudiated it in a letter to the Press and sent a letter to every member of the council calling on them to repudiate the resolution, and it would come up for discussion later on. "I am very glad," proceeded the chairman, "that the proposer of the resolution does not belong to this board. I cannot understand what actuated him to propose such a thing because the time is not yet ripe for it. It is only people who are in favour of the British garrison in Ireland, who want Peace. No person outside Dáil Eireann has authority to make peace with the British Government. That resolution is most unfortunate, and I, as your chairman and a member of the county council, repudiate it. The greatest credit is due to Mr. M. Finnigan, Co.C., Dunmore, for his action in repudiating it as soon as he could. Both he and myself were prevented from attending the meeting. I had a most important auction on hands, and they all knew the inconvenience of travelling by motor. I will want to know at the next meeting of the county council who is going to pay the cost of sending out that bogus resolution throughout the country—I will take good care the ratepayers will not pay for it. Only for Mr. Finnigan that resolution would have done a damnable amount of mischief and harm, and the proposer and seconder will have to give an account of their stewardship at the next county council meeting, as will also the members present who remained silent and did not protest against it. The resolution was at variance with the convictions and principles on which they were elected" (hear, hear).

The meeting adjourned.

PARCEL IN A BEDROOM.

John Broderick, Co.C, Athenry, was, at a district courtmartial at Renmore on Wednesday, charged with having in his possession on November 4, 1920, a document purporting to relate to the administration of Galway bridage of the Irish Volunteers, an unlawful association.

When asked by the court as to whether he was guilty or not, accused said that he declined to recognise the authority of the court, but had no objection to its personnel.

A military witness swore that on November 4, 1920, he searched accused's house at Church-st., Athenry, and in a bedroom found a parcel containing a document relating to the Irish Volunteers, addressed from "brigade commandant" to "brigade quartermaster." He saw a private take another document out of a box containing the names of villages and persons. Accused was in the kitchen at the time. There was no indication that a man occupied the room in which the documents were found. The name Broderick was over the door.

Cross-examined by accused: Are you positive that there was a signboard over the door?—Yes.

A second witness said that on the date in question he found in a tin box a sheet of foolscap containing names of certain persons and villages.

Sentence will be promulgated.

PRESENTATION TO BANK MANAGER.

As Mr. Ruttledge's retirement from the position of manager of the National Bank, Clifden, did not take place as early as had been anticipated, the above committee, at their last meeting, decided to postpone its proposed presentation to him but to keep open the subscription list until after the bustle of the Christmas holidays. The committee wish to return their best thanks to the numerous friends who have already responded, and beg to inform them that it is intended to make the presentation in the beginning of the New Year.

Burning at Belclare.

We, the undersigned, beg to contradict a report which appeared in your issue of November 13 as claimants for a two-storey high slated house burned and destroyed at Sylaun, Belclare. We beg to state our names were misrepresented, and we withdraw our names from said claim.—Martin Commins, Tulrush, Belclare; Patrick Moran, Killower, Belclare; William Newell, Treenbane, Beiclare.

MIDNIGHT SHOOTING

GIRL STRUGGLES WITH ARMED MEN TO SAVE HER FATHER.

MAN WHO KNEW WHAT SHOTS WERE.

Wife Shouts "Murder."

John and Thomas Murray, Ardnaree, Ballina, Co. Mayo, were at a general district courtmartial at Renmore military barracks on Friday charged with unlawfully discharging a revolver at Patrick Murray, on May 24, 1920.—Accused pleaded "not guilty," and were defended by Mr. T. W. Ward, B.L. (instructed by Mr. Conroy, solr.)

A witness swore that on the night of May 27 he met Thomas Murray and recognised him. He was wearing a slouch hat at the time. Witness kept on moving and a shot rang out, the bullet passing over his right shoulder into an adjacent hedge. The revolver was directed dead level at witness. After he had proceeded a short distance he was again confronted by Thomas Murray, who said: "Hands up, you ——— or I'll blow your brains out." He distinctly saw the revolver in accused's hand. His daughter then came on the scene, and exclaimed: "For God's sake, Tom, don't kill my father," at the same time grappling with accused. While in that position he heard the click of a revolver as if it missed fire. His wife shouted, "murder!" from the window. John Murray then ran after witness and shouted, "If you go to the barrack, I'll blow your brains out, and if I don't it will be done." He took a revolver out of his hip pocket, but witness knocked him down and ran away.

A lady witness swore that on the night in question John Murray came to her and said: "You had better mind your father, or we'll finish him by Saturday night."

John Rushe, for the defence, swore that he was at a circus at Ballina on the night in question. He left about eleven o'clock. On his way home, he saw Thomas Murray in his own shop, who asked witness to assist him to catch a mare. Murray carried nothing at the time except a bridle and an overcoat. He never knew Murray to have a revolver. From the time he met Murray in his shop until they parted, he heard no shots. Thomas Murray wore a bright cap that night.

Michl. Halloran said that on the night of May 27 last he saw Rushe and Thos. Murray going towards Patrick Murray's house. Murray had a bridle in his hand, and Rushe had a coat. Witness heard no row of any description after that. Neither did he hear a shot. He had been through the South African war, and if a shot had been fired he should know what its sound would be like (laughter).

Michl. Murray said that on the night in question he saw Thos. Murray and Rushe trying to catch a mare at about 12 o'clock. Thomas Murray carried a bridle and Rushe a coat. Witness saw no weapon with Thos. Murray that night, nor did he hear a shot.

A police witness swore that he knew Thomas and John Murray, and, to his knowledge, they never possessed a revolver. The police had nothing against them, and they never belonged to any political organization.

Mr. Ward said the witnesses had given inconsistent accounts, and had contradicted themselves. It was an intolerable thing if those two young men had a case made against them owing to spite or some previous row. The story of the revolver may be a hallucination or spite. They had the evidence of a man confessedly drunk for a week previously. Even if the evidence for the prosecution were more reliable than it is, the court would have to hesitate for a long time before it would convict. He submitted that an acquittal was inevitable.

The prosecutor said that if the court believed that the assault was committed, it was its duty to convict. The witnesses for the prosecution so far as they had given evidence were entitled to be believed.

The accused were acquitted.

FOR HONOURABLE PEACE

APPEAL OF CARDINAL LOGUE.

Prayer for Country's Needs.

The following has been issued through the Irish Bishops:—

"Acting on suggestions made from various quarters and on the presumed consent and approval of all the Irish Bishops, we hereby invite all the children of Ireland to join in prayer for the needs of our country.

In particular we invite them to make a general Communion on the coming Feast of Holy Innocents for a speedy and honourable peace.

"As the time is so short, we hope that pastors and all who have charge of our children will take this as sufficient notice, and that they will do their utmost to organise a campaign of children's prayers and to organise a general Communion of children on the morning of Tuesday, 28th inst., for all the needs of our country, and especially for peace and prosperity.

"The provincial Press is respectfully requested to copy this appeal and give it prominence.

"MICHAEL CARDINAL LOGUE,

"Archbishop of Armagh and Cardinal of all Ireland.

"Ara Coeli, Armagh,
"18th December, 1920."

RAIDS AND SEARCHES AT MOYCULLEN.

On Thursday and Friday nights of last week a series of raids was carried out in the Moycullen district. Men who arrived in the lorries from the direction of Galway about midnight on Thursday night, and departed shortly after two a.m., raided a number of places in the interval. The local co-operative store was entered.

Again on Friday night, about 11 p.m., a party came from the Galway direction in a lorry. They were all dressed in civilian attire. One of them, it is stated, wore lady's apparel, and displayed a Republican badge. Several of the visiting party carried revolvers. They entered various houses and made exhaustive searches. In one instance they are reported to have torn up a boarded floor. It is stated that nothing of an incriminating nature was found in any of the houses.

It is alleged that a pig was shot on the village street during the raid.

CROWN COLONY GOVERNMENT.

LORDS AND THE PROSPECT BEFORE SOUTH AND WEST.

In the House of Lords on Monday, on further consideration of the Government of Ireland Bill as returned from the House of Commons.

The Lord Chancellor counselled the acceptance of the amendments made by the Commons authorising the executive within a period of three-and-a-half years after the institution of Crown Colony government in the area refusing to work the Act to hold fresh elections in that area, unless in the meantime a resolution had been passed by the Imperial Parliament expressly forbidding such course.

After a brief debate, the amendment was carried by ninety-one votes to forty-eight.

A further amendment by the Lord Chancellor was agreed to providing that before any Order in Council dealing with further elections was made, a draft thereof should be laid before the Imperial Parliament, and if, before the expiration of thirty days, both Houses presented an address against the draft, or any part thereof, no further proceedings should be taken thereunder.

HARBOUR BOARD

THE BANKS AND THE RAISING OF THE LOAN.

IMPORTANCE OF NEW GATES.

NECESSITY OF PROTECTION FOR PILOTS.

Board of Works Requests Information Regarding Increased Dues.

Mr. J. S. Young, J.P., presided at the fortnightly meeting of the Galway Harbour Board on Tuesday. There were also present: Messrs. M. J. Crowley, Martin J. Hynes, R. W. Mackie, and T. C. McDonogh.

The secretary said that he wrote to the different banks in connection with the proposed loan to be raised by the Galway Harbour Commissioners for the development of Galway harbour and docks, and had received no reply beyond an acknowledgment.

Mr. McDonogh: When did you write to the different banks?

Secretary: Immediately.

Chairman: And you have had no reply yet?

The secretary said he was speaking to the agent of the Bank of Ireland and gave him further information on the subject.

The following letter was read from the Board of Works, Dublin:

"Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 24th ultimo regarding a proposed loan for the improvement of Galway dock gates, I am directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to inform you that the question whether there are sufficient grounds for making a grant or a loan for the dock gates at Galway would appear to be entirely a matter for the Ministry of Transport, but the Commissioners cannot see that any advantage can accrue to the State as creditor by giving priority to one Government loan over another.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, J. J. Healy, secretary."

The secretary said that they must go through certain formalities and must satisfy the Board of Works.

Mr. Crowley: This is a strange thing how they are questioning the gates.

Mr. McDonogh: You ought to press the matter about the gates.

Mr. Mackie referred to the delay in docking vessels that arrive in the bay. "The Dragoon" was on the roads there on Sunday evening about six o'clock, but the pilots would not undertake t go out, and the reason given was that there was no protection. They refused to go out that night, and the ship did not dock until next day.

Mr. Crowley: If they had permits, could they go out?

Mr. Mackie said that special protection was needed for the pilots.

Chairman: It does not take very long.

Mr. Mackie: At least two hours.

The chairman said that what was needed was to make application to the police officer to afford protection to the men, and Mr. Mackie agreed.

Chairman: When the ship is coming, the pilot will give notice to the police authorities.

Mr. McDonogh: Mr. chairman, you ought to impress on the secretary to do all he can about the dock gates.

Chairman: It is most important.

Secretary: The permits about the gates?

Mr. McDonogh: I mean the permits about getting the money.

Secretary: They have been furnished with full particulars about the gates.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., wrote thanking the commissioners for their letter of the 11th inst., with copy of the resolution passed by the board, which was having his attention.

The following letter was read from the Ministry of Transport, Dublin:

"Sir,—With reference to your letter relative to the application which your commissioners wish to make for an increase of the existing charges at Galway harbour, to enable the Minister of Transport to give the application proper consideration, it is necessary that the detailed information contained in the enclosed document should be furnished by your commissioners and forwarded to this department at the earliest possible date.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, J. Ingram (for Director-General Transport (Ireland)."

MALICIOUS INJURY CLAIMS.

ALLEGED DESTRUCTION BY CROWN FORCES IN LOUGHREA.

Money, Whiskey and Groceries Claimed For.

Loughrea District Council has received from Dr. A. D. Comyn, solr., notice of the following claims for compensation for alleged destruction of property, etc., by Crown forces on the night of the 4th inst.:

Michael P. Nevin, Main-st., Loughrea, £3,987 for the taking away of £1 17s. 10d. in cash, £15 in bank notes, a large quantity of whiskey, wines, stout, ale, and minerals, wearing apparel, provisions, jewellery, clocks, glass ware, silver ware, keys, letters and correspondence.

John Fahy, West Bridge, Loughrea, £30 in respect of sixteen bottles of whiskey, twelve bottles of port wine, three dozen of ale, two dozen of dry ginger ale, £4 10s. in cash, one gent's soft hat taken away, and for the alleged breaking at the same time of a large quantity of bottles containing raspberry and dry ginger ale.

Michael Fahy, West Bridge, £8 6s., one watch and chain, and 6s. in cash.

William Hiskey, Dunkellin-st., £45 18s. for the taking away of two boys' caps, one girl's cap, one lady's hat, one lady's blouse, one silver fruit dish, one sugar bowl, one butter dish, one tea set, ornaments, vases, etc., one antique jug, table linen, bedroom linen, £7 in cash, and a quantity of whiskey, wines, and other shop goods; also for breaking of hall door on same occasion.

Michael J. Lally, Killimoredaly, £115 for injury to motor car, etc., and the taking away of £78 in cash.

Mrs. Mary H. Dillon, Moh Hill, Loughrea, also claims compensation (amount not yet ascertained) for the alleged breaking of the outer and glass door and one bedroom door in dwelling-house, for damage to household linen and wearing apparel, and for the taking away of boxes of soap, hair brushes, shaving brushes, shaving sticks, tooth paste, complexion wax, safety razor, brilliantine, etc., on the night of the 4th inst.

The claims will be heard at Loughrea quarter sessions on 5th prox.

READING LABOUR CRUX.

London, Tuesday morning.

The working classes at Reading have been hit hard by the suspension of Farrow's Bank. Several trade and slate clubs had deposits and lose Christmas shares out.

A petition for the compulsory liquidation of Farrow's Bank has been presented, and an application will be made for the appointment of an official receiver as provisional liquidator.

Mr. Chamberlain, in Parliament, said the suspension of Farrow's Bank had not been unexpected by the Government. It was clear the closing of the bank was due to the losses in trading and errors in management extending over a series of years. The Government could not usefully or prudently take any steps to support the bank.

Skating at Ballinasloe.

Availing of the frost, many devotees of skating enjoyed themselves on Loughbawn, Ballinasloe, last week.

All Drinks At at Heavey's, the Dublin Bar.

CHASE OVER HILLS

EXCITING CAPTURE OF A COUNTY MAYO REPUBLICAN.

D.C. COURTMARTIALLED.

Conserving of Food Supplies.

Michael McNamara, D.C., Newport, County Mayo, was at a district courtmartial held at Renmore on Saturday charged with (1) having in his possession on October 24, 1920, a written document headed "Irish Republic"; (2) a typewritten document headed "Sinn Fein"; (3) a document headed "I.R.A., Newport Batt.," relating to the affairs of the Irish Volunteers; (4) a written document headed "Irish Republican Army, Newport Batt.," addressed to "the food suppliers of Newport and district," and signed "Batt. Comdt."

When asked to plead, accused stated that he declined to recognise the court's authority, but reserved his right to cross-examine.

A military officer swore that on October 28, 1920, he searched accused's house. Accused was not present at the time, his mother being the only occupant. In a room he found a considerable number of seditious documents, including those mentioned in the charge sheet. On November 4, 1920, he went in a motor car to arrest accused. On approaching accused's house he saw a man working in a field close by. When they got closer, they saw a man running over a hill. They stopped the car, chased accused, and arrested him. He said he was MacMaranon, and inquired what he was wanted for. He then searched accused and found in his possession a document headed "Sinn Fein."

Cross-examined by accused: Did you charge me with being in possession of those documents when you arrested me in November?—I was merely sent to arrest you.—Did you find the other documents on me?—Yes.

A military sergeant bore out the testimony of the previous witness in connection with the arrest of accused, and the finding of a document headed "Sinn Fein."

Accused said that one of the witnesses swore that the document was got on the clothes he (accused) was wearing, while another witness swore it was not. As a public representative, he considered he was perfectly justified, and thought it was his duty, to guard the food supplies of the country owing to the closing down of the railways. He was in prison for six weeks and two days without knowing what he was charged with.

Sentence will be promulgated.

Puzzle: Find de Valera

A WORLD HUNT FOR THE IRISH LEADER.

SOUTHAMPTON STORY.

Is He A Stowaway On the Cunarder?

The world is agog with excitement regarding the sudden disappearance of Mr. Eamonn de Valera. Since he relinquished his rooms in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York, several days ago, international newsagencies have been speculating vainly as to his whereabouts.

The messages which we publish below give the various theories that are persistently put forward in regard to the cause of his sudden disappearance.

A telegram received from Dublin this morning, however, states that Mr. Harry Boland, T.D., Mr. de Valera's secretary, asserts that the Irish leader is still in America.

It will be recalled that Mr. de Valera is reported to have stated that he had not asked Mr. Lloyd George's permission to leave Ireland, and that when he decided to return, he would not ask his permission either.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Dublin, Tuesday morning.

Considerable interest is being manifested in the British and American Press regarding the whereabouts of Mr. Eamonn de Valera. Even the French Press is taking the matter up; and it is suggested that in view of the critical state of Irish affairs the President of Dáil Eireann is returning to this country by the Sinn Fein route, or, at any rate, that he is coming to France so that he may be near at hand in case he is wanted. The latest message from New York, however, would suggest that Mr. de Valera has not left the States. Mr. Harry Boland, when interviewed on the subject reasserted that Mr. de Valera is still in America.

REPORTED TO BE SAILING FOR SOUTHAMPTON.

London, Monday.

It is reported that Mr. Eamonn de Valera is on board the Aquitania which is due at Southampton at midnight on Monday.

CUNARD COMPANY'S CAUTION.

The Cunard Company give contradiction to the report that de Valera is a passenger on the Aquitania, though he may be a stowaway.

OTHER "PERSISTENT RUMOURS."

New York, Friday.

There are persistent rumours of a split in the ranks of Sinn Fein in the United States, says a P.A. telegram.

NOT THERE AFTER ALL!

Paris, Monday.

Mr. de Valera was not among the passengers landed from the Aquitania at Cherburg this afternoon.

WHERE IS De VALERA?

There is no further news about the whereabouts of Mr. de Valera.

ALLEGED KIDNAPPING.

STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE ALONG RAILWAY LINE.

How He Escaped.

At about 7.30 p.m. on Thursday night last, as a University student named Mr H. Dryden was proceeding to his home at Newcastle, Galway, he was suddenly pounced upon by three men, who caught hold of him, took him into the railway at Newcastle, and led him along the line in the direction of Moycullen.

A handkerchief or muffler was put across Mr. Dryden's face and mouth. One of the men, it is stated, had a revolver. When the party reached Ballyquirke lake, which is situated within about half-a-mile of Moycullen railway station, they stood, and two of the men went to hold a consultation, leaving one man in charge of their victim. On seeing a favourable opportunity, Mr. Dryden attacked his guard, and eventually succeeded in overpowering him, and made good his escape to Moycullen railway station. He was there admitted to the residence of the stationmaster, of whom he asked permission to use the telephone to Galway. He immediately 'phoned to the Galway railway station, from which a message was sent to the Galway police informing them of Mr Dryden's kidnapping. Two lorries with policemen left Dominick-street police station about midnight and proceeded to Moycullen railway station, where they found Mr. Dryden waiting, and took him back to Galway.

The affair is generally regarded as a clumsy and dangerous joke. Mr. Dryden is an ex-army man, and served in the late war. He does not believe that his captors intended to do him any serious harm.

BALLINASLOE ASYLUM

THIRTEEN HUNDRED TO CREDIT: EIGHTEEN THOUSAND IN DEBT.

THE QUESTION OF AUDIT.

WILL DO WHAT COUNTY COUNCIL HAS DONE.

TREASURER DISMISSED.

Dr. Mills Does Not Want to Go to Jail.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty, Bishop of Clonfert, and subsequently Rev. P. J. O'Loughlin, C.C., presided at the monthly meeting of the Ballinasloe District Asylum Committee on Monday week. Present: Messrs. P. C. Curley, J. McKeigue, and T. O'Flanagan.

Dr. Mills, R.M.S., submitted his estimate for adoption for the ensuing year, amounting to £150,000. This represented an increase of £35,000 over last year.

The chairman (Fr. O'Loughlin) was against the estimate being adopted. It should be sent to Galway County Council before being dealt with by the committee.

Dr. Mills: It does not matter to where it is sent; it would have to be passed as it was essential to have that amount to carry them through.

The chairman complained of the amount of the increase, and dissented from having it adopted.

Mr. McKeigue: Under the circumstances, what are you going to do? I think that you ought to adopt the estimate, and I propose you do so.

Dr. Mills explained that the £35,000 increase was in reality on £15,000 as it had to be taken into account the amount of grants stopped.—The estimate was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Mills reported that he had been served with a mandamus at the instance of the Local Government Board to enforce the production of books for audit. He (R.M.S.) was not prepared to go to jail.

Father O'Loughlin: We will all go.

Dr. Mills: It means the wire cage, and I am not prepared to go there. No matter how many were in the wire cage, it would not make it one bit more comfortable.

Mr. McKeigue: I never heard the resolution to refuse the books to the Local Government Board auditor being proposed or being put from the chair, and I was present at the meeting, but I was out of the boardroom when the resolution was passed. If I was present, I would have proposed that the books be submitted to audit in order that the people should get their money.

The chairman (Dr. O'Doherty), in reply to a member, said he was not served with a mandamus as he was not present when the resolution was passed.

Mr Tierney said that Mr. Nicolls, chairman, Galway County Council, had orders from Dáil Eireann to submit the books of that body to audit, and he gave those instructions to the secretary. As far as he knew, the books were submitted to audit.

Chairman: I think it is better to send back the matter to the Galway County Council and see if they have decided to submit their books to the auditor.

Mr. Tierney again stated that as a member of the county council he could state publicly that the books were submitted to audit.

Mr. McKeigue: Well, that is good enough for us, anyway, and I don't see why, when they submitted their books, that we should not. I, for one, will strongly insist that the books be given to the Local Government Board auditor, and that the people get their money and not be keeping things as they are now.

Mr. Tierney: I propose that if the Galway County Council have submitted their books that we do the same.

Father O'Loughlin seconded Mr Tierney's proposition, which was unanimously passed.

The Bank of Ireland, National, and Munster and Leinster Banks wrote stating they regretted they could not comply with the committee's request for accommodation to the extent of £9,000.

Father O'Loughlin said that no matter what banks refused he knew a private individual who would advance the necessary funds if the rates were given as a guarantee.

Dr. Mills: That individual must have seen our difficulties and never offered himself. Bills and salaries amounting to £18,555 were due and had to be met. They had only £1,300 to credit in the Bank of Ireland.

Mr. Tierney proposed, Mr. Curley seconded, and it was unanimously passed, that their treasurer, the Bank of Ireland, be dismissed, and that the Munster and Leinster Bank be appointed, to whom the credit balance of £1,300 be transferred.

The manager of the Munster and Leinster Bank was sent for, and on his arrival the financial position of the institution was explained to him, and that the Munster and Leinster Bank were appointed their treasurer. Amongst other questions the manager asked if the committee had decided to submit their books to audit, because, if so, he would be able to acquaint his directors of the fact and it would make matters easier. He was informed they would if Galway County Council did so.

Mr. Healy said he would lay the matter before his directors.

GALWAY PETTY SESSIONS.

WORKHOUSE INMATE SENT TO JAIL FOR INSUBORDINATION.

Poteen Behind the Counter.

At Galway Petty Sessions on Monday, before Mr. Jasper Wyne, R.M., Salina Gore, an inmate of Galway union, was charged with breaking two windows in the house on November 27 last.—Mr. Conroy, solr., appeared for the guardians.

Mr. Hanley, workhouse porter, in reply to Mr. Conroy, said he saw defendant come in and break two windows on November 27 last.

Mr. Conroy asked the court to sentence the accused to one month's imprisonment with hard labour as cases of insubordination were becoming pretty frequent in the workhouse recently.

Defendant was sentenced to one calendar month in Galway prison with hard labour.

Miss Connolly was charged with having a quantity of poteen on her licensed premises.

District-inspector McGlynn, who prosecuted, said he found the poteen behind the counter.

Mr. Conroy, who defended, said the poteen was left in by some person who intended to call for it again. He referred to how well conducted defendant's premises were, and pointed out that there was no charge against her for the past six years.

A fine of £100, mitigated to £6, was imposed, to be endorsed on the license.

RAIDS AT MAREE, CRANMORE.

On Saturday night armed forces visited Maree, and raided the house of Mr. Mun. Athy in search of his son, Michael. The search proved fruitless. Barke's, Kearney's and Flynn's, Seafield, were also raided. It will be remembered that one of Mr. Martin Athy's sons, Joseph, was killed in an ambush between Oranmore and Maree last September. It is alleged that geese and fowl have been missed by the people whose houses were raided.

JAPAN BUILDING HER OWN BATTLESHIPS.

A message from Tokio on Saturday states that a keel of 40,000 ton battle cruiser has been laid at Yokosuka.

BATTLE FOR BOOKS

EXTRAORDINARY INCIDENT AT LOUGHREA TOWN COMMISSIONERS.

A DOUBLE CAPTURE.

Midnight Seizure by Armed Men.

Mr. J. J. Hanafin (chairman) presided at a meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners on Monday. Present: Messrs. P. Keane, P. Cahill, P. Doyne, and P. Madden.

The clerk (Mr. Thomas Ryan) reported that on November 15 he attended the boardroom for the purpose of a meeting when he found the books were missing. He reported it to the chairman, who said he could do nothing in the matter. Three days later he was informed the books were in Mr. Ward's keeping. He called on Mr. Ward, who returned them, saying he had taken them "to prevent the children from interfering with them." On receiving the books at ten o'clock on November 23 he took them home to prepare them for audit, being accompanied by the town sergeant. They were actually engaged in the work when at about twelve o'clock two masked men entered. One of the men held them up with a revolver while the other removed the books, demanding that they should not leave the room for twenty minutes. The books seized were the financial receipt book, the financial expenditure book, the day book, the ledger, the minute book, the men's time books from March, 1919, to March, 1920, the town rate book, some vouchers from April, 1920, to November last, and the bank book.

Mr. Cahill: I would like to know if Mr. Ryan saw these men before they called at his house.—Clerk: No.—Mr. Cahill: You didn't see them late in the temperance hall?—Clerk: No.—Mr. Cahill: I am wrongly informed, so.—Clerk: Why don't you bring proof here for these statements?—Mr. Cahill: I mentioned the matter for the purpose of clearing the air.

The town sergeant said the only persons he saw near the temperance hall were Mr. Ward and Mr. Finlay. He mentioned to Mr. Ward that the clerk was taking away the books to prepare them for audit.—Mr. Cahill: Nobody called on you and the town clerk while you were in the temperance hall?—Mr. Finnegan: I saw no one there.—Mr. Keane: Were these two men very well disguised?—Mr. Finnegan: They had handkerchiefs over their eyes.—Mr. Doyne: Were they in uniform?—Mr. Finnegan: No. One of them wore an overcoat. I didn't care about watching them too closely. I saw how well prepared they were. Dame: Had they revolvers?—Mr. Finnegan: One of them had—the man who held me up.

Chairman: The question should we be able to get on without the books which contain reports from meetings? I suppose we shall get them back some time.—Mr. Keane: I suppose we can carry on temporarily. It would be a terrible thing to leave the men idle.—Chairman (to the clerk): Do you know from memory how you stand with regard to petty cash?—The clerk said he had almost £3 on hands at the time the books were taken.—Mr. Doyne: You must make an order condemning the action of those who took the books, which are quite useless to any individual.—Mr. Cahill: It would be well to make it clear at this meeting that in the event of the books not being returned, it will mean that we cannot continue payment to the men.—Chairman: If it gets publicity in that way, it may be an inducement to get them returned.

The following order was then made: "The Town Commissioners hope that these books will be returned as soon as possible in order to enable them to carry on their work."

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

Poems by the Rev. Timothy Hurley, D.D. The Educational Co. of Ireland, Ltd., Dublin and Belfast. Price 3s. 6d. net.

When in the spring of 1918, the Immaculate, invoked in a National Novena, under the title of Our Lady of Lourdes, threw her azure mantle around the young men of Ireland, and saved them from conscription, there were many who longed to see the Irish people's gratitude express itself in the form of some striking national memorial: a stately cathedral, dedicated to the Dispara in the capital, or a wonderful statue, visible far out to sea, dominating and hallowing the streets of Dublin from the crest of one of her beautiful hills. These things may come in God's good time. In the meantime, we must try to express our gratitude to Our Protectress in other forms, and I can think of none more likely to please her than the exquisite little book of sonnets which Dr. Hurley has laid at her feet—"a wreath in her honour twined solely by Irish hands." We can all have our share in the loving offering of homage by purchasing the book as a precious possession for ourselves, or as a gift for our friends. The artist, Mr. J. P. Hunt, whose lovely work, instinct with Celtic feeling, adds so much to its attractiveness, has provided an "inscription page" with space for the name of the giver and recipient, and the date of the gracious gift which suggests its extreme suitability as a "religious souvenir."

"The prudent lover considereth not the gift of the lover but the love of the giver," says the [illegible], but it is to be hoped that the fortunate person who receives this book—Dr. Hurley's, among his Christmas [illegible] Year gifts, will consider it very [illegible]. Its pages will unlock for him the door into a whole new world of thought and feeling, make him free of a very noble company. What Louis Veuillot has described as "the Wine of Rome" hangs around many [illegible] of the sonnets, and those of us who have lived in Rome even for a little time, will read them with that feeling of nostalgia which the too vivid memory of her holy places always inspires. The sonnet on "The Image of the Immaculate during the First Four Centuries" evokes for the present writer the remembrance of a wonderful morning in the Catacombs. Mass at dawn amid the [illegible] martyrs. Certain other of the sonnets, especially those beginning "I see the tender mother of our race," and "Soon from my radiant seat the Godhead [illegible] all equally potent to recall from [illegible] hours in the Sistine Chapel and the glories of Mich