



PROCLAIMED MEETINGS IN IRELAND.

COUNTY CORK.—Dublin Castle has taken the most effective means of proving the grip which the United Irish League has taken on the minds of the people of the County of Cork, of the Dublin "Freeman." A meeting was called at Newmarket, five miles from Kanturk, to forward the new organization; and in the hope of preventing the spread of the new movement in the South, the Executive issued a surprise proclamation on a recent Saturday, and assembled a force of a couple of hundred police under a resident magistrate and several police inspectors, with a view of suppressing it. The people showed splendid spirit in answer to the proclamation. In place of one meeting, a half dozen were held in the neighborhood, winding up with a short address from Mr. Crean, M.P., in address from Mr. Flynn, M.P., in Newmarket itself, before the police turned up to disperse the people. When a copy of the proclamation was served on Mr. Flynn, the member for the division, in Cork, on Saturday he at once wrote to the County Inspector denying that the object of the meeting was for the purpose of either boycotting or intimidation, and protesting against his being prevented from addressing a lawfully called public meeting of his constituents. To-day he was handed the following reply by a head constable in Kanturk:—

"County Inspector's Office, R.I.C., Kanturk, 25th April, 1900.
"Sir,—In reply to your letter of this date, I beg to inform you that I shall attend at Newmarket tomorrow with a large force of police to enforce the orders of the Government prohibiting the holding of a meeting in Newmarket or its neighborhood. I wish to state very clearly that under no circumstances will a meeting be permitted. If necessary I shall use force to prevent it. — I am, sir, your obedient servant.
A. GAMBLE,
County Inspector, R.I.C.
To J. C. Flynn, Esq., M.P."

That Mr. Flynn was right in his contention that the meeting was not to be of an intimidating character is proved by the fact that long before any unpleasantness arose about the taking of a farm the committee of the Newmarket Branch of the United Irish League had taken steps to hold a public meeting. That it was to boycott and intimidate was then an afterthought of the authorities, anxious for some tangible reason to proclaim the meeting. A rumor, too, was pretty general during the day that someone in authority was heard to say that the police were getting rusty for want of some work in the suppression of meetings, when rumor was strengthened by the knowledge of the means adopted during the previous week to procure facts upon which to base information to suppress the meeting. Then the conduct of the police in Newmarket on Sunday during Divine service was severely commented on by leading townsmen and others. Only a laurel hedge separates the Courthouse yard, where the police were drilled, and the Catholic Church. As the men jolled about after drill, and before proceeding to the streets, they indulged in loud conversation and laughter, which was easily heard at the Church doors, and which was certainly calculated to excite in the hearts of the worshippers feelings the reverse of peaceful.

Messrs. B. Crean, M.P.; J. C. Flynn, M.P., and Mr. William McMahon, journeyed from Cork by the 10.45 a.m. train, and on arriving at Mallow were met by a large number of Nationalists of the town. Cars and waggons were in waiting, and without loss of time a start was made for Kanturk. Reinforcements were picked up on the way, and Kanturk was reached at half-past one o'clock. Here they were received by the local Nationalists.

After a short delay a move was made for Newmarket, five miles away. Meantime contingents from other districts were converging on the town, and amongst these was one headed by Mr. John Cullinane, Banskane, and another by Mr. Flavin, M.P., Kerry, who early in the day addressed a meeting at Banteer. When the other members of Parliament got within a short distance of their objective a halt was called and a division of forces was made. Mr. Flynn, M.P., and a few others were allowed to go on direct to Newmarket, into which nearly a couple of hundred policemen were drafted the previous night. These were under the command of Mr. J. A. Hardy, County Inspector Gamble, and a number of district inspectors. All the approaches to the town were blocked by constabulary cordons, and when Mr. Flynn arrived about 2 o'clock, he found his progress barred by District Inspector Howe, of Malton, and about thirty constables. The hon. member directed his car to drive on until he was stopped. The driver obeyed instructions, and when the car had got within a yard or two of the line the District Inspector made a sign, and four constables stepped forward and grabbed the horse by the head. Mr. Flynn at once jumped out of the car, and asked by what right his progress on the public highway was stopped. The District Inspector said his orders were not to let him pass, and he could not pass. Mr. Flynn claimed his right to walk into the town, and

moved closer towards the cordon as if to pass through. He was immediately collared by three or four policemen and pushed back, but not roughly. He next turned to the District Inspector, at whose instance the police acted, and asked if he was the County Inspector. The officer answered somewhat curtly that he was not, whereupon Mr. Flynn observed that he did not want any of his impertinence, and that he did not wish to hold any communications with him, but with Mr. Gamble.

The County Inspector came on the scene, and Mr. Flynn at once addressed him, said he was the Parliamentary representative of the division. He had, he said, just received his letter, and was surprised at its contents, as it was no answer at all to the letter which he had addressed to him. The meeting had been proclaimed on a sworn falsehood. It had not been called for the purpose of boycotting or intimidation, as alleged. It was called for a legal purpose, and the people were fully entitled to hold it, and he was within his right in addressing it as Parliamentary representative of the division. He insisted on his right to speak to his constituents.

Mr. Gamble listened to this, and then broke in with the remark that the Government had proclaimed the meeting, and he was there to carry out the Government instructions, and he would not allow Mr. Flynn to hold or address any meeting at Newmarket that day.

Mr. Flynn again reiterated his claim to address his constituents on questions of the day, a right which had never been disputed. He should, however, be sorry to expose the people to the attacks of armed police, but at the same time he should make the strongest protest he could against the suppression of a perfectly lawful meeting on an information sworn on falsehood. Would Mr. Hardy, he asked, state who made the information?

Mr. Hardy—At present I will not give you that information, but you have heard what the County Inspector says, and I can add nothing more to it. The Government has proclaimed the meeting, and I am here in connection with the Constabulary to see that the proclamation is carried out.

Mr. Flynn said he could understand the action taken by the Government if the information was based on truth or if there had been any substantial grounds for it, but it was an information sworn by an anonymous individual, and made obviously false statements, amongst others the statement that it would lead to a breach of the peace. The presence of the police was far more likely to lead to a breach of the peace. He, of course, recognized Mr. Hardy's position, but he should protest against the course which had been taken. It was a most infamous act on the part of the Government. He supposed it was a kind of Queen's legacy, now that Her Majesty had left Ireland. However, having made his protest, he would not attempt to hold the meeting.

This conversation took place in front of the cordon of police, and when he had finished his remarks to the Resident Magistrate, Mr. Flynn intimated that he intended going into the town to see some friends.

Mr. Gamble said he did not think he could allow him enter. He was one of the speakers announced to address the meeting.

Mr. Flynn asked if he would not take his word of honor that he would make no attempt to hold any meeting in Newmarket.

Mr. Gamble—If you give your undertaking that you will not hold any meeting I have no objection to let you, as an individual, pass through.

Mr. Flynn—And, I suppose the reporter and a couple of local friends may come with me.

Mr. Gamble said he did not know about that.

Mr. Flynn—I am not going to attempt to hold a meeting in Newmarket, and I have already said so. I am simply going to visit my friends.

Mr. Gamble—Do you undertake that you or anyone now with you will not hold a meeting in Newmarket?

Mr. Flynn—I will. I have made my protest, and I cannot do any more.

Turning to Mr. Hardy, R.M., he asked if he had seen the poster convening the meeting. It was an absolutely legal and lawful poster.

Mr. Hardy answered that he had seen it.

Mr. Flynn said that possibly the only illegality about it was that it wound up with "God Save Ireland" instead of "God Save the Queen."

The County Inspector and the Resident Magistrate then consulted for a few moments, and the former addressing Mr. Flynn, asked him if he would give a clear undertaking that neither himself nor the people who were with him at the time would hold a meeting in Newmarket or its neighborhood that day. Mr. Flynn replied that he would give an honorable undertaking that he would not attempt to hold any meeting in Newmarket.

Mr. Gamble—Or in its neighborhood?

Mr. Flynn—I am not going to address any meeting in Newmarket to-day or its neighborhood.

Mr. Gamble—Do you undertake

that none of the parties here with you will hold a meeting here? Mr. Flynn—Absolutely so. The police cordon were then drawn aside and Mr. Flynn and his friends were allowed to pass.

IN GALWAY.—The meeting of the United Irish League, which was held on Sunday at Newbridge, Co. Galway, 13 miles from Ballinasloe, was proclaimed by the Government. There was nothing in the programme, or the purpose of the meeting, to justify the extraordinary statements set out in the proclamation as to its objects being boycotting, and that its effort would be to lead to intimidation and a breach of the peace. The proclamation was, however, not issued to the public until Sunday morning, but on Saturday night, shortly before nine o'clock, Mr. John Roche, M.P., and Mr. Kilbride, M.P., who arrived at Ballinasloe, were served with copies, as was also Mr. J. Manning, hon. secretary of the East Galway Executive of the United Irish League. The people of the district had no information of the intended suppression of the meeting, except those of them who were so circumstanced as to come across one of the few copies of it on Sunday morning.

The proclamation itself is an interesting document. The poster appears to be one of a number sent down by the Castle to the West of Ireland to be kept handy for the purposes of such proclamation. There are blanks on the posters for the name of the county, and of the place, for the day, the month, and the year, and for the "object and effect of such meeting," as well as for the signature and office of the person who proclaims it. This shows that the stipendiary magistrates all over the West are authorized to proclaim the meetings at a moment's notice.

The people in the Newbridge district are huddled together on miserable patches of land, their little holdings being mixed up in a confusing way, some holdings being divided into three patches, between which portions of other holdings intervene. The Congested Districts Board, recognizing the difficulties of life in the district, recently acquired a farm of 120 Irish acres, which will be available for distribution early next month, but it is admitted that this, while doing much good in the immediate surroundings of the farm, will be as nothing in the way of relief to the district. It was to urge the Government to extend the good work here begun that the meeting was called. Large tracts of the best land in the neighborhood are without a single soul living on them; they are used for sheep grazing chiefly, and for the fattening of cattle. This land is let under Lord Clonbrock on the eleven months' system, and could easily be acquired for the much needed enlargement and redistribution of the existing small holdings.

The notices were all served late on Saturday evening, but if the Castle authorities considered that their little game would succeed they reckoned without such past masters; in the art of flank movements and counter-marches, as old campaigners like Messrs. Roche and Kilbride. By one

of these mysterious resources of the Land League days, these gentlemen disappeared from Ballinasloe some time in the small hours, turned up at Newbridge and Ballygar, and having, with assistance of their friends, made the necessary arrangements, carried out a series of most successful meetings. Large numbers of policemen were drafted into the district under Mr. A. C. Newell, R.M., County Inspector Rogers (Ballinasloe), and the District Inspector from Mount Bellew. A cordon of policemen were drawn around Father O'Keefe's residence at Newbridge all day and until a late hour at night, but the meeting was held before they arrived, and the place was turned into a very effective base of operations by the League, some of whom were always in the locality keeping the authorities on the run, while the others were holding meetings in different places. A large crowd of people who had attended the meeting early in the morning remained around the platform all day, and this tended to keep over 60 policemen in the locality—a fine covering movement which worked excellently. A large number of policemen were also scouring the country on bicycles, but although they found meetings being held often enough, they were powerless to bring the news to headquarters in time to have the proceedings interrupted. Altogether the authorities, in spite of the most elaborate arrangements, were completely foiled, and made nothing but a "laughing-stock" of themselves for the people, who sarcastically cheered them when they came up in "time to be late," or departed in hot haste after a deary party of the League. After first Mass, at Newbridge, and long before a policeman had arrived on the scene, Father O'Keefe and Mr. Kilbride, M.P., addressed a very fine meeting.

The Rev. Father O'Keefe, who on coming forward, was loudly cheered, said he advocated all the objects of the United Irish League, and was there to raise his voice in support of "the land for the people," a Catholic University, and National independence.

IN THE COMMONS.—In the House of Commons the suppression of the meetings came up.

Mr. J. Redmond (for Dr. Tanner)—I beg to ask the Chief Secretary if he will explain why a meeting at Newmarket, County Cork, was proclaimed when called together by the member for the division at his constituents' desire.

The Chief Secretary—The meeting referred to was not called by the member for the division at his constituents' desire, but was convened by placard under the auspices of the United Irish League. It was proclaimed because the Government had reason to believe that it was intended to denounce and intimidate a particular individual who is in occupation of an evicted farm in the immediate neighborhood.

Mr. Dillon—Can the right hon. gentleman say who swore the information upon which the meeting was proclaimed?

The Chief Secretary—The District Inspector.

HAPPENINGS IN ENGLAND.

ANCIENT IRISH DRESS.—At St. George's Hall, Southwark, recently, says a correspondent of the Liverpool Catholic "Times," a lecture on the "Ancient Irish Dress" was delivered by the Hon. Wm. Gibson (son of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland), in the presence of a large audience. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Sheehan, B.A., who formally introduced Mr. Gibson, attired in the ancient Irish kilts (saffron), add dark green coat. Mr. Gibson, who was received with loud applause, said that he owed a slight word of explanation as to his published interview in the "Daily Chronicle." The point which was raised in that interview relative to the new Regiment of Irish Guards was not the point that he was inclined to raise himself; but the matter was put before him by people who had other interests to his, and he supplied the interviewer with facts, and also with an opinion. He wished those present to understand that his chief interest was not in connection with anything of the kind, but with the large question of the Gaelic revival in Ireland, a question which interested them all, and about which there was very little difference of opinion. Some people in Scotland seemed to imagine that this was an idea to rob them of the privilege of wearing the kilt. He (Mr. Gibson) had no such intention. He simply suggested what he considered to be the legitimate outcome of the Gaelic revival in Ireland—namely, that the Irish should return to their ancient and prized costume. Mr. Gibson then went on to trace the ancient Irish costume, quoting authority after authority to show that the kilt was Ireland's by right—not the plaided kilt worn by Highlanders, but saffron, with a dark green coat, colors used to denote nobility. Irish language and Irish literature were being revived, and was it too much to ask that some thought ought to be given to the question of our National dress? In conclusion, Mr. Gibson moved: "That this society deplores the hideous monotony of the present tubular system of male attire in this country, and also the

fact that it has been forced on the Irish people against their wills; and would welcome the adoption by the people of Erin of the costume of the Gael." An interesting discussion followed, in which Mr. Gibson's proposal was supported by the Rev. Father Williams, O.S.S.F.; Mr. P. O'Carroll, and others, and eventually the motion was carried by a large majority.

A RECTOR DEAD.—The Right Rev. Mgr. Denis, one of the most popular priests of the Catholic Church in the diocese of Southwark, died on Tuesday morning, after a very brief illness, at Westgrinstead, in Sussex. The deceased prelate occupied the unique position of Rector of the only Catholic parish in England which, from the time of Queen Elizabeth, did not secede from the Catholic faith to the religion of the Established Church. Mgr. Denis, during his rectorate of Westgrinstead, which extended over 36 years, took a prominent part in philanthropic efforts, notably that of the rescue and education of destitute children. The deceased prelate had resided for many years in a house which is honeycombed with secret chambers, in which fugitive priests were in the habit of hiding from Government spies in the days of the persecution of Catholics.

LACK OF LEADERS.—The Bristol correspondent of the Dublin "Freeman," in his last weekly letter writes:—

Political activity has become almost a thing of the past in several Welsh towns that formerly were amongst the best supporters of Irish Nationality, and from a very long experience and from a recent visit I have come to the conclusion that the cause of it is not a great wanting in the patriotism of our people but rather lethargy on the part of those who should take the lead. As a rule the Irish population in the towns I refer to consist of colliers or men employed in the huge iron-works, etc., and though they are willing enough to join the League

there is unfortunately a dearth of local leaders, while in many places the old leaders have, from one cause or another, given up political work or transferred all their energy to work connected with the Church. This seems to be the case to a certain extent in a great number of places at one time famous for the success of the local branches.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the Catholic Truth Society was held last week at Archbishop's House, Westminster, Cardinal Vaughan presiding. The annual report showed the work of the year to have been exceedingly satisfactory, and referred with special gratification to the establishment of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, between which and the English Society the most cordial relations existed. Father Goldie, S. J., mentioned the matter of the scarcity of Catholic chaplains in the navy, to which attention has recently been drawn by Cardinal Logue, and said he hoped that justice would soon be done in this important matter. Cardinal Vaughan made an interesting statement. He said that when the Catholic Truth Society held their conference, three years ago, at Canterbury, the members of the Society were very kindly shown over the Cathedral there by Dean Farrar, and it was then noticed into what a dilapidated state the tomb of Cardinal Pole had fallen. That tomb had now been renovated at a cost of £100, and Dean Farrar suggested the erection of a tablet setting forth that this excellent piece of artistic work had been erected by the Catholic Truth Society.

Mr. Holland King, hon. treasurer, read the financial statement, which showed that the sale of books, etc., had amounted during the year to £3,213; subscriptions, £473; contributions by Associates, £8 18s; donations, £171; life membership account, £87; total receipts (including balance in hand and at the bank on January 1st), £4,622. On the payment side were £1,919 for printing and paper; £400 for binding and blocks; £254 for books and pictures purchased; £18 for magic lantern slides; £121 for copyright, etc.; £494 for salaries and wages at depot; £210 for rent, taxes, insurance, and gas; £221 for postages. A balance sheet appended showed the financial position of the society to be sound.

THE VALUE OF A MAN'S LIFE.

The question, recently discussed in New York as to the commercial value of a man's life, brought out some very strange statements, and amongst them that of Judge W. S. Gummere, of the New Jersey Supreme Court. Judge Gummere said:— "It is hard to ascertain what loss children sustain in the premature death of a father. In the death of a laborer the loss in sorrow may be just as great as in the death of a millionaire. But the pecuniary loss would be greater in the case of the death of a man making \$1.50 a day."

Judge Gummere attracted general public attention a year ago by holding that the value of an infant's life might be from six cents to one dollar.

Chief Judge James M. Fitzsimons, of the City Court, discussed the value of a human life at considerable length when spoken to on the subject. He said:— "It is certainly true and good law that the pecuniary loss to the family is greater when a man in good circumstances is killed than when a laborer is killed. The measure of the loss depends upon the man's earning capacity in his lifetime."

"Do you believe that the pecuniary value of a human life is ever as low as six cents?" he was asked.

"It seems to me unquestionable that the value of a life must always exceed six cents," returned the Judge, "though the standard is that of earning capacity. Of course the amount of compensation may depend upon circumstances in the case, and may, for instance, be aggravated by malice or extreme gross negligence, and a verdict may be intended not only to compensate for injury, but to deter wrongdoing which has repeatedly occurred. If a man lost a tiny portion of his finger through negligence, a judge would be justified in setting aside a six cent verdict regardless of the effect on earning capacity. If that be so in the loss of a limb or part of a limb, why not for the loss of a life? In the death of a minor the future pecuniary possibilities could be considered."

We might go on quoting for a couple of columns similar opinions, or rather expressions upon the same subject from a like standpoint; but for our purpose the foregoing will suffice. That a commercial value should be thus placed upon a human life is, in a sense, very natural; that a man's value to the world may be gauged by his earning capacity is something that we cannot gainsay; but what forcibly strikes us, is the materialistic spirit that governs so universally in the world to-day. We have here an example. The value of a human being is calculated as you would calculate that of a horse or an ox. While this may satisfy the general industrial or commercial world, it falls far short of pleasing others—those who see beyond the physical limits of existence and who can estimate a person by the higher measure that combines the spiritual with the material.

SENATORS DISCUSS THE USURY BILL.

Ottawa, May 16.—The Senate on Monday, discussed the Usury Bill. Hon. Mr. Power suggested that the title should be "The Money Lender's Bill," and the promoter, Hon. Raoul Dandurand, accepted the suggestion. On clause two Hon. Mr. McMillan moved that to amend "who makes a practice of lending money at a higher rate than ten per cent," by making the rate eight per cent.

Hon. Mr. Dandurand thought this would prevent his reaching the class he wanted to reach.

Hon. Mr. Scott asked why the principle of registration was abandoned. Would the court take two or three cases as establishing the practice of lending money?

Hon. Mr. Dandurand wanted to reach a certain people. He did not want to disturb the public at large or those who occasionally made loans.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell instanced a case in Montreal where a man borrowed \$100 for fifteen days. He gave the lender \$1, and on a renewal had given another dollar. "This came high in the course of the year, but it was better the man should get his money in this way than by going to a regular money lender."

Hon. Mr. Power thought money lenders should be registered just as pawnbrokers were. He read the registration provisions of the English Act, which inflicts a fine of one hundred pounds for a first conviction, and imprisonment for the second. In the case of corporations the penalty for a second conviction was five hundred pounds. It might be difficult to prove the practice of money lending without registration.

Hon. Mr. Dandurand objected that if one wanted to get at a money lender for not registering they would have to prove that he lent money at more than ten per cent. "That was all they had to mind in this bill. He would establish a second offence in this way. Ninety-five per cent of the men he wanted to reach would not register."

Hon. Mr. Power did not think Mr. Dandurand had strengthened his case. Registration would be a proof of practice.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell thought the registration would destroy the bill. There were men who would lend money legitimately. Those men whom they wanted to reach did not. They would not register, but would lend money surreptitiously. That was the case under the old usury laws.

Hon. Mr. Mills did not think registration would help this bill. If this bill became law and proved successful, it might be necessary to provide for registration and inspection. Clause two stood unamended.

On clause three, providing that the rate of interest on sums not exceeding \$300 shall not exceed 20 per cent, and 10 per cent, after judgment, Hon. Mr. McMillan moved an amendment that the rate be "12 per cent, per annum, nor shall such loan be made for any longer period than 30 days." He moved the rate of interest after judgment be 6 per cent, and not 10 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald seconded this amendment. Without every borrower could get judgment in order to avoid the 20 per cent, why was \$300 the limit?

Hon. Mr. Dandurand was willing to accept the amendment as regards the rate per cent, after judgment.

Hon. Mr. McMillan withdrew his amendment as far as the reduction of 20 per cent, was concerned.

Hon. Mr. Power thought the limitation of time would prove confusing.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell advocated the 12 per cent, rate.

On a vote the rate was reduced from 20 per cent, to 12 per cent, by twelve yeas to eleven nays.

Hon. Mr. Dandurand urged reconsideration, and asked a withdrawal of the 90 days clause. This was done, and the reduction of judgment interest was reduced to 6 per cent. The clause as amended was reported.

On clause five a discussion arose as to what is a bona fide holder. Mr. Dandurand pointing out that this was intended for cases where usury was disguised in the discount.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell understood that if a man made a note for \$100 and received but \$50, could the lender sell the note and the purchaser recover as a bona fide holder the full \$100.

Hon. Mr. Mills—Yes. Sir Mackenzie Bowell—Then can the maker recover from the money lender?

Hon. Mr. Dandurand—Yes. The clause was put in to protect the bona fide holder.

Hon. Mr. Bernier thought all notes would be made in this way.

This clause and clause six were reported.

Clause seven, Mr. Dandurand explained, covered all transactions maturing after the sanction of this act, and brought them under its operations.

Hon. Mr. Bernier thought the clause should cover negotiable instruments executed before the passing of the act and maturing after the date of passing.

Hon. Mr. Dandurand agreed. The clause was amended, and reported.

The bill as amended was reported as "An act respecting money lenders," and the amendments were concurred in.