

MR. REDMOND IN LIMERICK

IMPOSING GATHERING OF VOLUNTEERS.

IRELAND'S DUTY IN THE WAR.

The largest review of National Volunteers yet held in Ireland took place on Sunday, December 20, at Limerick, when Mr. John Redmond, M.P., inspected a body of 14,000 well-equipped citizen soldiers, drawn from all parts of Munster (says the *Irish News*). Such a muster as that witnessed in the historic city on the Shannon demonstrated that the strength of the Volunteer movement in the South is being well maintained, notwithstanding the fact that a high percentage of the men of military age there are now attached to the regular forces, and despite the perverse influence, sought to be exercised by cranks and faddists in various parts of Ireland, against the development and spread of the organisation. That the sound common sense of the people, both in the agricultural and urban communities is solidly behind the policy of a well-administered, well-equipped, and well-manned Volunteer army, representative of the majority of the people of Ireland, was distinctively evidenced in the character, as well as the numbers, of the force which marched past the Irish Leader on Sunday, while the whole tone and temper of the monster public demonstration following on the review was a revelation of Irish sentiment existing on the issues involved in the present war. There could be no doubt about the intensity and earnestness with which the great gathering endorsed the views so finely and tellingly expressed by Mr. Redmond in a notable address.

Practically every corps of the National Volunteers in Munster was represented, a first class performance in 'mobilisation' of itself, having regard to the great difficulties involved by the distances to be covered from the more outlying portions of the province, whose divisional forces were consequently hampered in sending full complement on a Sunday morning. Considering the immense area to be covered, the assemblage of such a

Large Body of Volunteers

was truly remarkable, especially as it was representative in the very widest sense. Waterford on the one side, and Kerry and Clare on the other sent their Volunteers to join the ranks with those from Cork, Limerick, and Tipperary in a truly inspiring parade of military efficiency. The review took place at the Greenpark Racecourse, which provided an excellent parade ground, special arrangements having been made there for the occasion, and the march past took place in front of the Grand Stand. Advantage was taken of the Irish Leader's presence to present colors to the Limerick City Regiment, provided by the ladies of the Limerick Volunteers' Association; and after this picturesque ceremony came the general demonstration. This was held on another portion of the racecourse, and was attended by scenes of enthusiasm such as even Limerick, with its long record of famous National gatherings, has seldom witnessed. The Trade Guilds of Limerick, in addition to political, social, and athletic organisations connected with the famous borough, united in making this a most impressive display, so far as the city itself was concerned, and when it is remembered that the public bodies of every county in the Southern Province were also joined in paying tribute to the Irish Leader, some idea of the extent and significance of the assemblage may be obtained. From a spectacular point of view, the display was highly effective, and the music provided by over one hundred fine bands was a splendidly-spirited accompaniment to the day's memorable proceedings.

Addresses and Procession.

In the early part of the day, Mr. John Redmond was made the recipient of addresses of welcome, all of which expressed absolute loyalty to his leadership, from the public bodies and organisations represented. Sub-

sequently the Irish Leader left the city for Greenpark, accompanied by an imposing procession.

Though the morning was very wintry and snow fell, the afternoon proved delightfully fine, and both the parade through the city and the muster on the racecourse were witnessed to the best advantage by a great assemblage of the general public, including many military officers. The gathering which thronged the grand stand at the racecourse included members of the local aristocracy, while public men from every part of Munster were to be seen. The Volunteers were in great proportion armed, and all were smartly uniformed, and detachments of well mounted men 'kept the route' and also rode in the procession.

The operation of bringing the vast body into the required formations was carried out without a hitch by mounted officers, and when subsequently Mr. Redmond and Colonel Moore, C.B., accompanied by Captain the Hon. Fitzroy Hemphill, and a staff drawn from the officers of the Dublin National Volunteers, made an inspection of the ranks, the men were drawn up with military precision. After the impressive ceremony of the blessing and the presentation of colors, the review concluded, and an immense meeting was held on the hill overlooking the course, where a splendid platform had been erected.

THE IRISH LEADER'S SPEECH

THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF IRELAND.

Mr. John E. Redmond, on rising to speak, was received with enthusiastic and prolonged cheering. He said, people of Munster, it is quite impossible for me to put into words the impression created upon my mind by this vast gathering to-day. Its vastness, its enthusiasm, its order and discipline, and its spirit of complete confidence are proof conclusive that the people of Munster fully realise the position of triumphant power in which the national cause of Ireland stands at this moment. They realise that the Union is dead. They realise that Ireland has at long last won a free constitution, a better and freer constitution than that which Grattan won for Ireland in 1782. They know further, none know better than the men of Munster, they know the machinery whereby that struggle has been brought to success, they know the men who made that machine, they know the men who worked that machine against all odds, against abuse and calumny, in fair weather and in foul, and who have brought the cause to victory. Therefore this great gathering means to me the unity of Munster. It means to me the confidence of Munster, it means to me the determination of the people of Munster to stand by the men who have brought their cause to victory. Fellow-countrymen, we have won the victory, but do not let Ireland forget that we have still a period of anxiety before us through which we must preserve unbroken our unity as a party and our national organisation if we are to reap fully

The Fruits of Victory.

An interval of several months must elapse before the new Irish Government and the new Irish Parliament come into being. My hope and my fervent prayer is that that interval will witness a softening of animosities, a gradual disappearance of class and sectarian hatreds, a growing sense of responsibility and of the spirit of citizenship which will fit us for the grave and glorious task which lies before us in the immediate future. Fellow-countrymen, I beg to-day of the Irish people to take a really serious view of the position in which we stand. The old order has changed, the old era is ended, and to-day we are witnessing the re-birth of Ireland. We have been very apt in the past to attribute and, in the main, rightly to attribute to the carelessness, sometimes to the malice, oftener to the ignorance, of the English Government all the ills of Ireland—our poverty, our depopulation, our misery, our dissensions,

'Tis BONNIE DOON, sae fraith and fair,
'll mebbe soothe yer hairt gin sair,
Man, gie me a draw o' ver pipe aft aune.
Aye her he fills wi' RONNIE DOON.

There's a grand 'auld reekie' whiff about BONNIE DOON TOBACCO—a homely, wholesome aroma which tells of honesty and purity. Why not try it to-day! Any tobacconist sells it—lots of it.