

Irish News

GENERAL.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin is to present in person an address to his Holiness the Pope from the Dublin Corporation.

Dublin Corporation has removed from its roll of honorary freemen the name of Dr. Kuno Meyer, a German *savant*, who formerly was very popular in Ireland because of his interest in the Gaelic revival.

Owing to the high prices charged for coal to the Dublin poor, the Local Government Board has prepared a scheme by which a bag of coal, weighing ten stone, shall be supplied for one shilling to persons earning less than £1 a week. The difference in the cost is to be made good by a Government grant.

At the last meeting of the committee of the Limerick City Regiment, National Volunteers, Mr. F. McNamara, V.P., presiding, a resolution was unanimously adopted expressing sincere sympathy with Mr. John F. Power on the death of his nephew, Lieutenant Power, who was killed in action at the front.

Lieutenant W. A. Redmond, M.P., Royal Irish Regiment, son of Mr. John Redmond, Leader of the Irish Nationalist Party, is now stationed in Tipperary, being attached to the Irish Brigade. With Lieutenant Redmond is Dr. Esmonde, M.P. for North Tipperary, who belongs to the R.A.M.C. of the Irish Brigade.

Mr. Ernest A. G. Ellis, J.P., Wellington, Spanish-point, Miltown-Malbay, has obtained a commission in the Army. Mr. Ellis is the second son of the late Captain Robert Westrop Ellis, formerly High Sheriff for Clare, and son-in-law of Dr. Ellis, ex-Local Government Board Auditor. Mr. Ellis was in training with the local Volunteers.

The annual meeting of the *Freeman's Journal* shareholders, Dublin, received a report that the net profit for the year amounted to £6197. A sum of £1440 was voted to pay debenture interest. The remainder of the surplus was mainly utilised in writing off certain items, and the balance remaining carried forward to next year. No dividend was voted to the ordinary shareholders.

On St. Patrick's Day thousands of women sold shamrocks in the streets of London in support of a scheme devised by the Countess of Limerick to provide free refreshments for troops at railway stations. The Queen sent a message of sympathy, and among the sellers were Lady Jellicoe and the famous French actress, Mdme. Rejane. This year Queen Alexandra sent her usual gift of shamrocks to the Irish Guards, but it was despatched to the front instead of being distributed as usual at their barracks in London.

Second Lieutenant Roderick de Staapole, R.F.A., who was killed in action near Neuve Chapelle on March 10, was the youngest son of the Duke de Staapole. Born at Mount Hazel, County Galway, in 1895, and educated at Downside, Wimbledon College, and Woolwich, he was gazetted in August last, on his nineteenth birthday, when he joined the 1st Battery Royal Field Artillery, which went to France in the 8th Division. One of his brothers, who had been three years in the Connaught Rangers, was killed in action on the Aisne, and his two eldest brothers are at present serving at the front in the Connaught Rangers and in the Leinster Regiment.

MORE IRISH HEROES.

Among those mentioned in Sir David Beatty's despatch for distinguished conduct in the Battle of the North Sea on January 24, when the *Blucher* was sunk, are Frederick Daly (chief carpenter, *Lion*), Patrick O'Callaghan (chief stoker, *Lion*), and James Keating (chief stoker, *Meteor*), and Michael Flood (stoker, *Meteor*). They have been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Amongst Irishmen mentioned in Sir John French's despatches is Major Edmund J. Mc-

Allister, Army Service Corps, son of Mr. Patrick F. McAllister, Dublin, and brother-in-law of Sir Joseph McGrath, Registrar of the National University. He was educated at Belvedere College, S.J., and University College, Dublin.

ULSTER UNIONISTS AND THE WAR.

Articles have been written in many countries and in different languages to account for the origin of the war, but a correspondent of the *Northern Whig*, a Unionist journal published in Belfast, points out that the views and theories put forward so far are all wrong. The war, he states, was arranged by Providence, in order that the Ulster Unionists might be protected. Ulster was on the verge of war and had prepared for the maintenance of her liberty. 'The very uniform of the women of Ulster was ready. . . . By a stroke, as it were, of lightning, war on the Continent, instead of in Ulster, broke out. Belgium became the scape-goat of Ulster. The latter to-day dwells in peace and security. It was the hand of God that did it as miraculously now as in Bible times.' That is to say (remarks the *Catholic Times*), the lives of the Ulster Unionists are so precious in the eyes of the Lord that by His design nearly the whole of Europe was set aflame and Belgium devastated to save them. If the suggestion is rather blasphemous, it at any rate serves to give an inkling of the vast importance the Ulster Unionists attach to their preservation from danger. Is this the secret of the Ulster Volunteers' slowness in going to the front?

DEATH OF CAPTAIN BELLINGHAM.

General sympathy will be extended by his fellow-countrymen to Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., of Castle-bellingham, County Louth, and to his family, on the death of the distinguished baronet's second son, Captain Roger Bellingham, who has met on the battlefield the gallant fate that has befallen so many men of his race and creed during the course of this momentous world-war. Sir Henry Bellingham is a brilliant and patriotic Irishman; the son was worthy of the father. Captain Roger Bellingham was a true lover of his own country, an ardent Home Ruler and Nationalist. It may be recalled that when he addressed a meeting of Irish National Volunteers in his native county some months ago, several Unionist members raised an angry agitation in the House of Commons, and clamoured for 'drastic measures' of some kind or another because the young officer was an A.D.C. to Lord Aberdeen, then Viceroy of Ireland. Every movement that made for the advancement of Irish ideals and the promotion of the people's welfare obtained Captain Bellingham's enthusiastic support. Now, in the flower of his age and the prime of his manhood, he is lost to the relatives and friends who loved him; but his memory will live in their hearts while life endures—and his actual services to Ireland and high aspirations for the nation's future will not be forgotten by his fellow-countrymen.

A writer in the *Freeman* pays warm tribute to the piety of the late Captain Bellingham. He was one of the Irish pilgrims to Lourdes, and at his own request he was given charge of a blind man there, whom he was to lead about everywhere, to Mass in the morning, back to breakfast, then to the Grotto, then round the Stations of the Cross, and so through the whole day's routine. The Captain discharged his duty with the devoutest fervor, and tried on his return to Ireland to provide for his blind friend in a home in Dublin. The tribute concludes:—

'And now he sleeps in the sunny land of France! Well, he was ready to go, for his soul was white and pure as a child's, and his heart ever burned with the love of the poor and the afflicted. Some will remember him as a companion in arms, some as a friend, some for a nearer and more sacred tie: but for me his name shall ever recall one picture—that of a soldier of our Lady, erect before her shrine, holding a blind man by the hand.'

WANTED AN APPRENTICE—None but a lad who will study need apply, and every assistance will be given to such apprentice to qualify.

H. LOUIS GALLIEN, Dispensing Chemist
By Exam.
NORTH-EAST VALLEY R: DUNEDIN