

a week passes in which extended operations over a wide area of surrounding country are not carried out, and in several of these the full strength of the Brigade has taken part. Day after day bodies of troops are out practising scouting, outpost work, night attack, trench warfare, and the other essentials of the soldier's profession. Captain W. H. K. Redmond, M.P., on being interviewed, said:—'The men are in great spirits, and the sinking of the Lusitania has blooded them up tremendously and made them more anxious than ever to get to the front and do their share in avenging the victims of that horrible act of German savagery. Some of the men had relatives on board, and this has had the effect of angering them more and more.' As to the question of recruiting, Captain Redmond said that all that might be stated on the point at present was contained in the letter of the Irish Leader. Captain Redmond's tribute to the men's conduct was couched in the most flattering terms. He referred to their high sense of discipline, their cordial relations with the townspeople, and the entire absence of any complaints either by the military authorities or by the police. The tribute was fortified by the testimony of the Rev. Father O'Callaghan, the Administrator at Fermoy, who stated that the men had given an excellent example during their stay at Fermoy. They were most faithful to their religious duties, and only during the week many of them attended a mission in the town. Their behaviour, he said, was splendid, and all the time they had lived on the best understanding with the people, by whom they were regarded with particular good will.

Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

July 12.

One of our local boys, Lieutenant P. W. G. Spiers, son of Mr. J. J. Spiers, Kurow Hotel, left for Trentham on Saturday. His friends here have presented him with muffler, Sox, belt, balaclava, etc. For the last few years Lieutenant Spiers has been in the employ of the National Bank of New Zealand, Ltd., and on leaving was presented with a handsome set of pipes and a pouch, both suitably inscribed, and also received from his fellow officers of the Defence Department, Dunedin, a very handsome eight-day wristlet watch, as a token of esteem. His fellow-boarders at the Terminus Hotel, Dunedin, presented him with a fountain pen. For the last two years he has been a lieutenant of the Coast Defence Detachment, Dunedin, and is now leaving as lieutenant in the 8th N.Z. Reinforcements. The best wishes of the community go with Lieutenant Spiers, who was an Old Boy of St. Patrick's and Waitaki Boys' High School.

The Excelsior H. met Celtic on Takaro Park, before a good crowd of spectators, and the match resulted in a draw, each side scoring a try. In the first spell Celtic had slightly the better of a straggling game, and led at half-time through the agency of Fennessy. The Blues livened up in the second spell, and Brien equalised the score, the attempt to register the major points being a failure.

Temuka

The quarterly meeting of the local branch of the Hibernian Society was held on Monday week, the president (Bro. J. Scott) presiding over a good attendance. Nominations for the various officers for the ensuing term were received. On Sunday, the quarterly Communion of members took place, and there was a large attendance. There was an increase of 24 in the membership roll during the last quarter.

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People We Hear About

Sir Timothy Coghlan, I.S.O., who recently retired from the Agent-Generalship of New South Wales in London, has been succeeded by the Hon. B. R. Wise, K.C. Sir Timothy Coghlan has accepted the Chairmanship of the War Office Trade Committee. This important appointment is honorary. He is a Catholic of Irish descent, and was at one time connected with the H.A.C.B. Society in N.S.W.

Mr. William Lennon, Queensland's Minister for Agriculture, who is a Catholic, was born in Dublin in 1849. He was for a time in the Mines Department, Victoria, and in 1874 joined the Bank of Australasia in Melbourne. When he severed his connection with the bank in 1885, he occupied the position of sub-inspector in Sydney. In 1886 he became manager of the business of Burns, Philp, and Co., in Townsville, from which he retired ten years later to start on his own account as merchant and auctioneer.

Captain and Adjutant Geo. E. Weatherhead, son of the late Anglican minister, Canon Weatherhead, Seacombe, Cheshire, who has been killed at the front, was, writes 'Ulster Scot,' a great-grandson, through his mother, of the late Matthew Steele, the kindly old Protestant of Hannahstown, near Belfast, mentioned by the late Father Lavery in his book on the diocese of Down and Connor. In the troublous times of '98 the old man allowed his Catholic neighbors to have Mass celebrated in a valley on a part of his estate, and used to warn them in case of danger by blowing a horn. He also sheltered and fed hunted priests in his hay loft.

Of the eight Royal Knights of the Garter now 'degraded' only one, the aged Emperor of Austria-Hungary, is not directly and closely related by blood or marriage to King George V. (says the *Glasgow Observer*). The German Kaiser is the King's first cousin. King William of Wurtemberg is related to the British Royal Family through his marriage with Princess Marie of Waldeck-Pyrmont, who was the sister-in-law of the late Duke of Albany. Prince Henry of Prussia is the Kaiser's brother, and is, therefore, a grandson of the late Queen Victoria. The Grand Duke of Hesse is a first cousin of King George and a brother-in-law of the Czar and of Prince Henry of Prussia.

Mr. Asquith's notable record of having been Prime Minister without a break for a longer period than any other statesman since the Reform Act, renders it of interest to mention that the two oldest members of the Government are the two Irish Ministers who sit in the House of Commons. Mr. T. W. Russell is the oldest member of the Government. He is now in his 75th year, and he has only secured the distinction of seniority in the ranks of the Ministry since the war broke out, as Lord Morley, who then resigned from the Cabinet, will be 77 years old on Christmas Eve. Next in age to Mr. Russell is Mr. Birrell, who is in his 66th year. Lord Kitchener comes third. He was 65 in June. Mr. Asquith is comparatively a junior amongst them, as he will not be 63 until September.

The venerable Cardinal of Baltimore has his name not writ in the water on the annals of history (says the *Catholic Record*). We are well within the bounds of propriety when we say that no American Churchman has rendered such services to the faith, and has exercised such compelling influence over thousands not of his creed as Cardinal Gibbons. Gentle always with the strength of a virile manhood, knowing when to speak and when to be silent, clear-visioned as to the needs of the age, and clad as with a garment with the kindness that disarms suspicion and wins hearts, he goes his way a sower of infinite seed. He may be remembered by his books; but his enduring monument is, in our opinion, his success in convincing his fellow-citizens that the Church encourages the legitimate aspirations of the age and blesses anything that can be conducive to the good of the world.

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