

IRISH NEWS

GENERAL.

The influenza epidemic is paying a "return visit" to Ireland. It is stated in the newspapers that the disease is less virulent but more contagious than on the occasion of its previous visit. Drastic steps have been taken in several of the cities to prevent its spread. In some cases it has been made a notifiable disease for a period of six months.

A White Paper issued by the British Home Office shows the coal yield of Ireland in 1917 was 95,646 tons, of which quantity 80,301 tons were anthracite, mined in Kilkenny, Queen's Co., and Tipperary. The value was £87,164. Iron ore was produced in Antrim to the extent of 54,533 tons, and in Sligo 16 tons of zinc ore from which 5 tons of zinc were produced by smelter.

The announcement that the larger liners of the Cunard and White Star Companies are no longer to call at Queenstown has caused little surprise, but a good deal of indignation, in Ireland. The new port is to be Southampton, where the mails will in future be landed. Before the war the Cunard Company received a large subsidy from the Government, and were compelled by the terms of their agreement to call into Cork Harbor.

The French "Croix de Guerre" has been conferred on Miss Dorothea Daunt, of Kileascan, Co. Cork. The French and American headquarters in Paris, where she was very popular in connection with her duties with the V.A.D., vied with each other in celebrating the event by holding festivities in her honor, and treating her as the heroine she had proved herself. Miss Daunt comes from a well-known patriotic family, her grandfather, O'Neill Daunt, having been secretary to Daniel O'Connell, and a well-known Repealer. He wrote several books on Ireland and Irish affairs.

Mr John O'Connor Power, a notable figure in Irish politics 40 years ago, has just passed away, in London. During the great obstruction scenes in the British Parliament in 1881 he was closely associated with Parnell and Biggar, and was one of those suspended after the great scenes arising out of the arrest of Davitt. In 1885, in consequence of differences between himself and the leading members of the Irish Party, he dropped out of Irish politics. Before joining the Constitutional Party Mr O'Connor Power was a prominent Fenian, and was connected with the raid on Chester Castle. He was one of the finest speakers in the House of Commons.

The *Daily News* special correspondent in Dublin says that a group of associated companies is being formed to carry through an ambitious scheme for the development of Irish mineral resources. The total capital is to be about £4,000,000, and all the money is in sight in Ireland or across the Atlantic. Prominent Irish peers and business men are backing up the venture, and Belfast is playing a leading part in the scheme. It is proposed: (1) To develop the water-power of the Erne, Shannon, Corrib, and Lower Bann; (2) the coal and iron fields of Arigna; (3) the coal areas of Carlow, Kilkenny, and Tipperary, and the iron and manganese deposits of Wicklow; and (4) the gypsum deposits and antimony and lead mines of Monaghan and Armagh.

The *Irish Independent* states that amongst the callers on Mr. Sean T. O'Kelly, the Sinn Fein delegate in Paris, were the representatives of some of the old Franco-Irish noble families, who extended to him a cordial welcome. At the same time he had letters from Irish residents in all parts of France wishing him success as representative of the Provisional Irish Government. Mr O'Kelly's demand for Irish representation at the Peace Conference is now being published in the principal French provincial newspapers. Some of these organs lay emphasis on the demand that the British military garrison should be removed from Ireland. It is stated that Mr. George Creel, head of the American

Press Bureau, who lately visited Ireland, is reporting in favor of the Sinn Fein demands.

Mr. H. Boland, hon. sec. of the Sinn Fein Executive, in an interview, refers to bogus interviews, letters, and reports regarding Mr. De Valera as portion of the British propaganda to defame Ireland. One of these reports was obviously intended to convey the impression that Sinn Fein was a kind of "Black Hand" business with mystic signs, passwords, and cypher messages. Most of the interviews with Mr. O'Kelly in Paris which appeared in the English press were "stories" written for British consumption. The most ridiculous of these was that Irish girls were brought over to flirt with English soldiers, in order to facilitate De Valera's escape. No Irishman would submit an Irish girl to such a humiliation.

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT IN IRELAND: THE IRISH BISHOPS SPEAK.

Most of the Irish bishops in their Lenten pastorals deal with the attempt to deny Ireland her rights of nationhood, and some allude in strong terms to the hypocrisy, tyranny, and Prussianism of the methods employed to keep her in subjection. We quote a few pregnant lines from some of the pastorals:—

"Wherever we turn our eyes, instead of freedom and justice, we are confronted by a militarism of the most up-to-date Prussian type, that makes its baneful influence felt in periodic ukases fettering the liberty of the subject, and in inhuman sentences inflicted for doings in themselves harmless which have hitherto been favored and fostered by a freedom-loving people. In theory, the consent of the governed is recognised as the only equitable basis on which just government can rest; but in practice, though this principle may apply to every other nation under the sun, black and white, Jew and Gentile, Ireland is to be debarred from a gift that is proffered even to the uncivilised heathen."—Most Rev. Dr. McHugh, Bishop of Derry.

"We rejoice that to-day Ireland stands knocking at the gates of liberty, not as a beggar, but as a nation, old in centuries, young in her manhood, strong in the justice of her claims, and calm in the Divine hope that truth must prevail in the end."—Most Rev. Dr. Gilman, Archbishop of Tuam.

"Ireland demands to be a free and independent nation, and all nations except England acknowledge the justice of the claim. Our rulers dare not any longer hold us in chains."—Most Rev. Dr. Hoare, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise.

"When all the world is talking of freedom, Ireland, which has not had one year's peace since greed and plunder brought a foreign Power amongst us 700 years ago, is being tortured and harassed by that alien rule to a point of exasperation which has become almost unbearable. In their insane attempts to extinguish the unquenchable fire of patriotism, they have given us martial law for government and turned our country into a prison. . . . And while they thus trample on Ireland at home, they sit amongst the nations in a Peace Conference demanding self-determination as a sacred right for all peoples—even for the colored races. We protest against this shameless hypocrisy."—Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty, Bishop of Killaloe.

"The country is held as in a vice, in the grip of a militarism worse than anything resembling that Continental brand, to end which so much blood and treasure were lavished. Almost daily we read of youths being arraigned before courts-martial or special courts and sentenced to long terms of severe imprisonment on trifling charges, sometimes nothing more serious than to have been discovered cycling in some kind of organised order to a football match, and to have given such proof of high military organisation as to be able to dismount, at a given signal, without serious risk of collision and broken bones."—Most Rev. Dr. McKenna, Bishop of Clogher.

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