

IRISH NEWS

GENERAL.

Mrs. Mullen, Corcreevy, Tyrone, has died at the age of 104 years, and John Harkin at Colhaine, Letterkenny, Donegal, at the age of 108.

The Local Government Board has surcharged the Cork Corporation the sum of £35, being the expenses of the delegates to Mr. Redmond's funeral.

The Belfast *Northern Whig* understands on good authority that the Irish Government is considering the appointment of additional paid magistrates to take the place of the ordinary Justices at Petty Sessions.

Philip McGrath, an Irish laborer resident for many years at Dundee, has inherited £10,000 through the death of a brother in Australia. A brother and two sisters who emigrated to America could not be found. The family formerly resided at Bellinham, Co. Tipperary.

Mr. Horatio Bottomley, on being told by Mr. Bonar Law in Parliament that the Government did not intend to take any action regarding the non-attendance of the Sinn Fein members, gave notice, amidst laughter, to move "in accordance with the ancient practice of Parliament, for a 'call of the House,' and that those members who do not respond be brought here in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms."

The Proportional Representation Bill, which applies to the Irish local government elections, was carried on its second reading by 170 votes against 27. Sir Edward Carson and his following opposed the Bill, and Mr. Devlin, Captain Redmond, and the two Southern Unionist members supported it. It is understood that the object of the Bill is to prevent the exclusive return of Sinn Feiners at the county and district elections. By combining the electorates in groups, the Government hopes to aid in the return of some supporters of the former National Party.

Macroom, the chief town of Mid Cork, is under martial law, the reason being a little squabble between the military and some unknown civilians. No one is allowed to pass into or out of the district without a police permit. No public meeting is permitted, and all fairs and markets are strictly prohibited. So strict is the prohibition against meetings that the Town Council has been informed that its meetings, if held, will be dispersed by force. The council is not in favor of Sinn Fein, having been elected three years ago. At Ballycourney, a few miles distant, a lecturer from the Irish Board of Agriculture was not allowed to address his classes, and for attempting to do so was threatened with severe pains and penalties. The position at Macroom is typical of several places in Ireland.

IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS: BISHOP'S PROTEST.

A meeting attended by several thousand people was held recently in the Cathedral grounds, Killarney, to protest against the treatment of the Belfast political prisoners and to demand their immediate release.

The Very Rev. P. J. Fitzgerald, Adm., V.F., presided, and after announcing that the meeting had the complete approval of the Most Rev. Dr. O'Sullivan, received the following letter from his Lordship:—

The Palace, Killarney, March 23, 1919.

Dear Father Fitzgerald.—I cannot be present at your meeting to-day, but the object for which it is called together is one that commands my sincere and whole-hearted approval and sympathy.

It is almost incredible that in this twentieth century the atrocities that have been perpetrated on our Irish political prisoners, in violation of a deliberate and solemn agreement, would be tolerated by a Government of any civilised country. Many still living can remember a time when the thunders of Gladstone's eloquence were launched against the King of Naples for actions not a whit more cruel or inhumane, in circumstances that might seem to offer far more justification than the present political situation in Ireland can be supposed to do. To do anything like justice to the cruel and fatuous policy of our present Government in this and other related matters an eloquence and a power of denunciation such as Gladstone's could alone suffice.

I earnestly trust that you will have a large and successful meeting, and that your protest will have the desired effect.—Believe me, yours sincerely,

*CHARLES O'SULLIVAN, Bishop of Kerry.

SINN FEIN AND PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

At the Ard Fheis (convention) of the Sinn Fein Party held in Dublin in April, an interesting discussion arose on a motion to oppose the application of proportional representation to Ireland, as proposed in the Government Bill which applies to local government elections in Ireland only.

Mr. McEnri, who had charge of the motion, stated that the intention of the English Government was to smash

the influence and power of Sinn Fein. Sir Henry Robinson would rule the local boards under the new scheme, and Mr. John Dillon would be able to say: "Sinn Fein is losing; I told you so."

Mr. Ginnell, M.P., who seconded, said he would be a supporter of proportional representation in a free Ireland. At present they might gain in Ulster, but would lose in the other provinces.

Mr. Blythe, M.P., said the Bill would help them in spite of the jerry-mandering. In Ulster it would help Labor to break up the Unionist Party.

Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington was of opinion the Bill would help the Sinn Fein Party in the North. In any case, minorities were entitled to representation.

Mr. Darrell Figgis also opposed the motion. The change would break up the North-East block, and Labor would have representation where they now had none.

Mr. John MacNeill, M.P., opposed the motion.

Madam Markiewicz, M.P., also opposed. She said principle should always be put before expediency.

Mr. De Valera, M.P., was delighted the motion was brought forward, as it gave them an opportunity of voting against it. Minorities had rights, and if the Sinn Fein Party had control of the machinery of government they would give them full rights. Whether it favored Sinn Fein or not, he was in favor of the principle of proportional representation. They knew well the object for which the Bill was designed. It was a crooked object. They would meet it in a straight way, and they would win. They would not safeguard their organisation, even from a trick, by opposing a project in accordance with the principles of justice.

Mr. A. Griffith, M.P., said that proportional representation was necessary to a democratic system. The British Government was not thinking of justice for minorities, but of embarrassing the Sinn Fein Party. Even if it reduced their power, he was still in favor of the change. Those who were using it against them might find it a boomerang.

Mr. McEnri's motion was dropped, without further discussion.

Paeroa

(From our own correspondent.)

After conducting a mission, extending over a week, from Sunday, June 1, at Karangahake, Father O'Leary (Marist Missioner) gave another over a similar period at Waikino. Another week was divided between Netherton and Komato, and thus the whole of the district benefited by the mission, which was very successful throughout. Prior to leaving the district, Father O'Leary was entertained at a social gathering held in the Central Theatre, Paeroa, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. Mr. H. Poland, M.P., in presenting Father O'Leary with a handsome travelling rug and a suit case, referred in eulogistic terms to the good work done by the guest of the evening during the four weeks he had been conducting missions in the parochial district. In acknowledging the honor done him, Father O'Leary feelingly expressed his gratitude for the valuable though unexpected gifts and for the great kindness extended to him by all classes of the community. An enjoyable programme of a varied nature was contributed to by Mesdames Dady and Budd, Messrs. Donnelly, Farrelly, Wood, Halliday, Judd, and Staunton (songs), Mrs. Lennon, Messrs. Harris and Redfern (recitations), Mr. Curran (Irish Jig), and musical items by Mesdames Budd and Lemon and Miss Lemon. An excellent supper was provided by the ladies.

A verdict of accidental death was returned in the case of two mentally defective boys, victims of a fire at a home in Dunmow, Essex. The evidence showed that the Mother Superior (Sister Mary Anne Ryan) fought her way through the flames, and, while dragging out one of the boys, was overcome by smoke, and had to be herself rescued.

W. E. CANDY

Wholesale and Retail Rabbit Merchant.

31 JAMES STREET, TIMARU.

WE BUY HORSEHAIR AND RABBITSKINS.

RABBITS! RABBITS! RABBITS!

WANTED TO BUY, UNLIMITED SUPPLY OF FRESH TRAPPED CRUTCH-GUTTED RABBITS.

HIGHEST PRICES. ————— CHEQUES WEEKLY.

FIRE
ACCIDENT
MARINE

The **Phoenix**

(Established 1782)

Funds, £17,000,000.

Claims Paid, £98,000,000.