

to take out clothing. Griffiths answered that he only meant the clothing which we stood in. One incident may be mentioned. Amongst the objects thus carried back to the house was a small box containing silver and copper change to the value of about £3. This box was subsequently handed to us, and then it contained only the coppers. Another incident: I asked to be allowed to remove a small barometer in the hall which had associations with my deceased father. Griffiths refused, saying: 'What associations have we but those of hatred?'

"Cheerio, Mother"

"Before the hour was up my mother decided to go away, as she could not bear to see our home burning. As she was leaving she said to Capt. Thomas: 'I am leaving my home for the last time, and I can say that I am as innocent of this ambush or of any previous knowledge of it as Our Holy Redeemer on the Cross.' He answered: 'So was Hickey an innocent man.' Sergeant Hickey, R.I.C., was taken prisoner during the ambush and was executed some hours later. When going down the avenue she had to pass some soldiers, and they jeeringly called to her, 'Cheerio, mother,' and some of them wanted to shoot the little dog that followed her.

The Orgy of Destruction

At four o'clock the order to begin destruction was given. All the soldiers, armed with hatchets, axes, heavy iron hammers, etc., were let loose on the house. My sister and myself wished to go away, but Turner stopped us and ordered us to wait to see the destruction carried out. He placed two soldiers as guard with rifles to prevent our leaving, and we three women—ourselves and the little maid-servant—were alone with the soldiery during the terrible scenes that followed. We were kept standing on the grass in front of the house, and it is impossible to imagine our feelings as we listened to the crashing and cheers from within. Sometimes a large piece of broken furniture or a hammer would come smashing through the windows.

"Some of the soldiers put on our dresses and masqueraded in front of us wearing them. One of them thus attired came dancing up to us with a mandoline, and then proceeded to smash it on the side of the motor-lorry. Another placed my sister's bear fur around his neck, and came up to us with sneering remarks. He then placed the fur on the ground in front of us and proceeded to hack it to pieces with a hatchet.

"Lieut. Turner came up to us several times jeeringly asking: 'Where are your rebel friends now?' etc. At one time the same gentleman came up close in front of us with a rifle and proceeded ostentatiously to clean it, placing the clip of cartridges in front of us, and then reloading it under our very eyes.

Common Christian Charity

"In conclusion the following points should be noted:—

(1) This destruction was carried out as a penalty for not having given notice of an ambush. We knew nothing of this ambush.

(2) The military implied that we had nursed wounded in the house. This is false. None were brought to us, but if they had, whether Republicans or British, they would have been tended equally, as this is a mere duty of Christian charity.

(3) The military implied that Mr.— had been staying in the house. This is false; we had not seen him for years.

(4) Before this penalty was inflicted, no form of trial and no opportunity of answering possible charges was afforded.

I hereby certify that all the above is absolutely true.

"21/5/21."

"(Signed) ELIZABETH DUNLEA.

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR IRELAND LEAGUE OF NEW ZEALAND

CONVENTION IN DUNEDIN.

A Convention, having for object the advancement of Ireland's claims to be allowed to determine her own form of government, was held, under the auspices of the Otago (Provisional) Provincial Council of the Self-Determination for Ireland League of New Zealand, in Dunedin, on Friday, August 12. The president (Mr. T. J. Hussey) presided, and the following branches were directly repre-

sented:—Dunedin Central (members of the Provisional Council); Dunedin South, Mr. J. J. Marlow; North-east Valley, Mr. Harris; Otautau, Mr. T. A. Mooney; Outram, Allanton, and Holy Cross College, Rev. D. Silk; Riverton, Orepuki, and Te Wae Wae, Rev. Father Buckley; Roxburgh and Millers Flat, Rev. D. O'Neill; Balfour, Mr. H. McLaughlin; Middlemarch, Mr. W. D. Mason; Mosgiel, Messrs. D. O'Brien and J. P. Walls; Invercargill, Mr. P. J. Kelly; Milton, Mr. J. P. Lynch; Riversdale, Mr. P. Cody; Mataura, Mr. L. Cooney; Hyde, Mr. R. O'Connell; Wrey's Bush, Mr. L. Cody; Gore, Very Rev. P. O'Donnell; Port Chalmers, Mr. C. Connolly; Waikiwi and Rakahouka, Very Rev. J. O'Neill; Lawrence, Mr. M. Fahey; Oamaru, Mr. F. Cooney; Arrowtown, Mr. D. Beard; St. Bathans, Mr. W. Kemy. The delegates appointed for Riversdale (Rev. W. Monaghan) and Hampden (Mr. M. Joyce) wrote apologising for their inability to be present. At the request of Alexandra and Queens-town for the appointment of proxies, Mr. P. J. Byrne and Mr. J. Robinson represented those branches respectively. The returns of branch membership revealed the very gratifying fact that a large proportion of those enrolled are non-Catholics; one branch showing 75 per cent. and another 50 per cent., the president of the latter being an Englishman and a Protestant. In a brief address the president welcomed the delegates, and trusted their deliberations on matters tending to assist Ireland in her present struggles would prove helpful. It was very gratifying (he said) to see representatives present from some of the most distant districts of Otago and Southland. This went to prove how deep was the sympathy felt for the Irish people, and how ardent was the desire to see their legitimate aspirations fully realised. Mr. Hussey expressed the hope that the present movement towards a satisfactory settlement of the Irish question would prove fruitful, but at the same time urged that there should be no slackening off in effort on the part of our organisation.

At the meeting of May 5 the following provisional council was set up and confirmed at a meeting on May 8: Patron, Right Rev. Dr. Whyte; president, Mr. T. J. Hussey; hon. treasurer, Very Rev. J. Coffey; committee, Rev. Father Silk, Mesdames Baker, Jackson, Coughlan, Miss Duhig, Messrs. Shiel, Marlow, Robinson, Murrow, Whelan, and O'Neill; minute secretary, Mr. J. J. Wilson. Since this date the council has, for various reasons, lost the services of some of its original members, and has been fortunate in the addition of several valued helpers. The council as at present constituted is as follows: Patron, Right Rev. Dr. Whyte; president, Mr. T. J. Hussey; hon. treasurer, Very Rev. J. Coffey, acting-secretary, Mr. J. J. Wilson; committee, Rev. Father Silk, Mesdames Baker and Jackson, Miss A. Brennan, Messrs. C. A. Shiel, J. Robinson, H. Murrow, J. O'Neill, P. Wilson, D. Whelan, A. G. Neill, P. Cummins, R. McStay, J. B. Callan, and Dr. Milligan.

The work of the provisional council was generally eulogised, a special tribute to the splendid work accomplished by Mr. Hussey as president being paid by Rev. Father Silk. As the provisional council would, from the date of the convention, cease to function, the formation of a provincial council was proceeded with by the election of the following office-bearers: Patron, Right Rev. Dr. Whyte, Bishop of Dunedin; president, Dr. Milligan; vice-presidents, Messrs. R. McStay and C. A. Shiel; hon. treasurer, Very Rev. Father Coffey; minute secretary, Mr. J. J. Wilson; committee, Mrs. M. A. Jackson, Miss A. Brennan, Rev. D. Silk, Messrs. J. B. Callan, J. Robinson, H. Murrow, D. Whelan, A. G. Neill, T. J. Hussey, J. J. Marlow. From the above it will be noted that both the new president and senior vice-president are non-Catholics of marked ability who have taken a great interest in the League's activities. It was unanimously decided to recognise the ladies' auxiliary as part of the League. Rev. Dr. Kelly and Messrs. J. B. Callan and H. Murrow were elected delegates to represent the Otago Provincial Council of the Dominion Council to be held at Wellington, a proviso being adopted permitting delegates (if necessary) the right to nominate substitutes. The convention adopted a motion to the effect that a remit be sent to the Dominion Council urging the formation of juvenile branches of the League.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings of a memorable and most successful gathering.

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