

"However, I have another person inquiring, and I will send you on same immediately. By the way I did not receive the copy of the Australian paper which you said you sent me. I would like to see a copy of the paper.

"Things are going very well here. We have met many serious reverses here, including the loss of our gallant and fearless Chief of Staff, General Liam Lynch. —R.I.P.

"Since then things have got much better, and our military position is splendid. The men are wonderful with all the trials they have to put up with.

THERE ARE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON at present, and a truce has been arranged temporarily. The truce only applies to the I.R.A. The Free Staters are not recognising it, as they are raiding wholesale.

"The peace negotiations will be a great success. The Free State Government cannot accept it, as the terms are a breach of the Free State Constitution, but the Irish people will accept it, as at present they would take anything for peace."

"The truce will not last long, as we are expecting a reply from the Free State—a negative result of course. The war will then start again."

"There has been a lot of work done lately. I will now close, as I am very busy, and times are very dangerous. Hoping that everything will go on all right out there."

"Is mise le meas mor,

"C. O'M."

Ireland

Considerable attention has been attracted by a speech delivered at Tuam by Mr. Fahy, one of the ablest and most broad-minded of de Valera's friends. The speech is all the more significant because, on the platform with Mr. Fahy, were Professor Stockley and several other Republic T.D.'s. Mr. Fahy, who while supporting de Valera since 1922, never allowed party feeling to obscure his ideals for Irish Ireland, pleads that there ought to be a general return to ways of peace and to constitutional methods, declaring that a slight change in the Free State Constitution would enable all Irishmen to unite and take part in the nation's public life. He protested against the continuation of the senseless strife which is ruining the country and impeding its development in every direction. The speech has been interpreted as a hopeful sign of a return to constitutional agitation for ideals which so many Irishmen cherish in common with Mr. de Valera who, however, has obstinately resisted all warnings as to the folly of abandoning lawful methods for those of violence. The presence of Professor Stockley and other prominent Republican T.D.'s seems to be an indication that Mr. Fahy speaks for the sanest and most level-headed of the party, and, in that sense, his remarks are a welcome sign of the dawn of a brighter day for Ireland. We already pointed out that the Boundary Question seems to be a mystery to most people, and that Sir James Craig openly boasted that the British Government was going to prove unfaithful over the matter. In our opinion such an event would give Irishmen the chance of demanding reforms in the Constitution such as would be welcome all round among Nationalists. And in this direction there may lie the solution of the civil strife and of the disagreements of which it is begotten. That many in the Province of Ulster would welcome such a breach of faith for other reasons is clear from the following editorial note in the *Irish News*:

"The main facts," it says, "about the 'Boundary Commission' are (1) that it will never materialise, and (2) that if it could possibly be established its operations would be fruitful of mischief and barren of good.

"True, the 'Commission' is in the Treaty. It was put there by Mr. Lloyd George, and the device was accepted by Mr. Arthur Griffith and General Collins because, under all the circumstances of the situation, it seemed the only feasible way out of an impasse. Lloyd George was Prime Minister; his tenure of the office was not seriously threatened; he would have nominated the Chairman of the proposed Commission; he had promised—not on paper, but either directly or indirectly to General Collins—that if the appointment of a Commission became necessary, 'the terms of reference' would be wide enough to make possible the pass-

ing of Fermanagh, Tyrone, South Armagh, and South Down into the Free State.

General Collins' Death.

"When 'civil war began in Dublin ten months ago level-headed people realised that the prospect of any Commission had become dim, indeed. The hand that sped the bullet which killed General Collins killed the Commission. When Bonar Law succeeded Lloyd George, N.E. Ulster's Nationalists should have acted at once on the assumption that it was buried.

"Is it wise, or practical, or patriotic, to keep on talking of and hankering after the appointment of a Commission presided over by an English Tory nominee while everyone knows that, under the most favorable circumstances presently conceivable, proceedings before such a tribunal would resolve themselves into contemptible haggings, and squabbings, and wranglings, day after day and week after week, over fractions of baronies and fragments of parishes as pictured in maps?

"Bitterness would be inflamed and accentuated; dissatisfaction, weariness, disgust, and ultimate disappointment would be the only results of the experiment. In the name of Peace, Commonsense, and Ireland, let the 'Boundary Commission' vanish quietly from our minds. Those who pinned their faith to it during months of wasteful inactivity were not acquainted with essential facts.

To Heal Ireland's Wounds.

"There are 450,000 Nationalists in the Six Counties. There are scores of thousands not ranked as Nationalists who know, and have known all along, that the perpetual division of Ireland into two segments is impossible; and these sane Irishmen of the North will become active and potent factors in any well-considered, reasonable, broad-minded movement for the restoration of perfect peace and close relations between the sundered sections of the common country.

"But the initiative will come from the great Nationalist population of these North-Eastern Counties. Their interests are immediately and most injuriously affected by existing conditions. And they can make themselves the healers of national wounds that still fester, and the architects and guardians of the bridge that will ultimately span the artificial chasm now dividing the Six Counties from the Twenty-six. It is a high and noble mission; it means practical patriotism as well as self-preservation. Circumstances have placed the Nationalists of the North-East in a position to undertake that mission with an absolute certainty of success. The opportunity is within their grasp. Will they seize and utilise it?"

Answers to Correspondents

M. M.—We are absolutely indifferent to attacks of that kind. It is enough for us that the best judges regard the *Tablet* as one of the best Catholic papers, and that some of them say it is better now than it ever was.

M. E.—Glad to hear from you. Do not come near Dunedin until we notify you that it has ceased raining. No man who is not impervious to draughts ought to think of living in this climate if he is a free agent. We know of no room in this city wherein one can work without being exposed to neuritis, lumbago, neuralgia, tonsillitis and chilblains.

GAE.—You cannot do better than get Pearse's plays and train the children to act them for private entertainment. We saw what could be done in that way when St. Dominic's children produced *Iosagan* last year. The Manager of the *Tablet* has a large stock of Pearse's works in hand at present, published in a volume containing plays, stories, and poems. Every Irish boy and girl, man and woman, ought to have a copy.

TEACHER.—A neat little book on Irish History has recently been published by a Lismore priest. As it covers most of the ground of our syllabus for this year we are sending for a stock which will shortly be available for teachers and pupils. Later we will notify our readers as to price, etc.

SUTTON.—The *Tipperary Star* was certainly alive and well recently. There is no agent for it in Dunedin or elsewhere in New Zealand.