

# Dromcollogher Tragedy.

## BISHOP'S TOUCHING REFERENCES

### President Cosgrave Promises Full Enquiry.

At the conclusion of the solemn Requiem Mass in Dromcollogher Church on Tuesday for the souls of the victims of the Dromcollogher cinema tragedy, the Bishop Most Rev. Dr. Keane made touching reference to the dreadful calamity.

His Lordship, who spoke in a most affected tone, said that words failed him on such an occasion. He expressed his deepest sympathy with them in the great tragedy which had befallen them. It was well to know that they were not bearing their sorrow alone; the people of the whole world sympathised with them. The President of the nation had come there to sympathise with them in the terrible disaster.

Continuing his Lordship said he knew Dromcollogher since he was a boy, and knew its people, and he knew that it was not through words of his, no matter how well expressed, they looked for their chief consolation. He knew how devoted they were to Our Divine Lord, Whose Divine intentions they could never discover in the terrible tragedy which, like a heavy cloud, had fallen on the parish. He had many instances before his mind of those who were called suddenly before their God, but who were prepared to go before Him, and in many cases they were those who were the best prepared to go before the Lord. The victims of this terrible disaster were, if they were to pick them out of the parish, amongst the most upright, conscientious, and good-living Catholics which could be found. Those who had gone would leave behind them a memory which would be an inspiration and a consolation, and it was well to know that nothing had happened which would prevent their communion with the God who made them.

Proceeding, his Lordship referred to acts of heroism on the part of many individuals during the fire. "There were," he said, "men who went into this house to save the lives of their friends, and who lost their own lives in so doing. I am not going to compliment acts of heroism of that kind. It is enough for you to know that Our Divine Lord had said: 'Greater love than this no man hath who lays down his life for his fellow-man.'"

His Lordship, referring to the spirit of the injured in Croom Hospital, said their anxiety was to know who had gone and who had escaped. He did not know the full details, but he did think that some of the descriptions which appeared in that morning's Press were imaginative. They knew that the good God would accept the sufferings of those who had perished in payment for anything they owed. Therefore, they should bear their courage. The Lord had given and the Lord had taken; blessed be His name. I would say one word to those who have suffered no loss in this great disaster, continued his Lordship. They know those who have, and let them do all they can for them in the exercise of charity. Let them use every kindly word

may hope at the same time that this fire, by its very frightfulness, will burn into the minds of local authorities, even in the remotest rural districts, the imperative necessity of taking stringent precautions wherever cinema performances are licensed.

"That the wooden edifice on the upper floor, of which the fire blazed out, was utterly unfitted to be used for any public gathering need not at this moment be stressed. The fact has been made only too plain to all concerned.

"This experience should, however, silence in the future the complaints that are sometimes heard in this country against what is stigmatised as 'red tape' fussiness."

### Royal Sympathy.

#### Governor-General's Reply.

The following telegram was sent to his Excellency the Governor-General from Balmoral Castle:—

"The Queen and I are distressed to hear of the terrible catastrophe in the village of Dromcollogher last night, resulting in a grievous loss of life. Please assure the families of those who have perished, as well as the injured, of our heartfelt sympathy in their affliction.

"GEORGE, R.I."

The following reply was sent to his Majesty:—

"With my humble duty to your Majesty and to the Queen, I acknowledge with gratitude the Royal message of sympathy for the sorrowers and people of Dromcollogher, and have transmitted it to the clergy of the village for publication amongst their afflicted flock.

"HEALY, Governor-General."

#### Other Messages.

Amongst other messages received by the Governor-General, and the replies thereto, are as follows:—

"I am deeply distressed to hear of the appalling disaster at Limerick, and would ask you to express the sympathy of Northern Ireland with the bereaved.

"ABERCORN;

"Governor of N. Ireland."

"His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, Newtown Stewart.

"I thank your Grace for your message of sympathy, which I shall make known to our people.

"HEALY."

"To Governor-General, Viceregal Lodge.

"Please convey to Government and relatives of terrible cinema disaster my deepest sympathy.

"CLANCARTY,

"Porchester Lodge, London."

"To Lord Clancarty,

"Porchester Lodge, London, W.2.

"I shall convey your kind message of sympathy, for which I thank you.

collogher on 5th inst. The Synod feels the sincerest sympathy with those who have been suddenly and sadly bereaved, and respectfully begs the parish priest to convey to them this expression of the Synod's sorrow and the assurance of its prayers."

A message of sympathy was also sent to Canon Begley from the Limerick Methodist Synod.

### Cove Sympathy.

At the meeting of the Men's Confraternity, Cove, on Tuesday night, the Rev Dr Wigmore, spiritual director, offered up special prayers—in which the members joined—for the repose of the souls of the victims of the Dromcollogher tragedy.

### Waterford's Sympathy.

The Mayor of Waterford has telegraphed to Rev Canon Begley, P.P., Dromcollogher, expressing the citizens' deep regret and sympathy with the relatives of the victims.

### World-Wide Sorrow.

Very Rev Canon Begley, P.P., Dromcollogher, has received hundreds of telegrams conveying sympathy to the bereaved relatives and to him, including one from Most Rev Dr Harty, Archbishop of Cashel; the Mayor of Limerick, Mayor of Waterford, Mayor of Clonmel.

A Requiem Mass was celebrated in Youghal by Rev D. Scannell, C.C., who asked the congregation, especially those about to receive Holy Communion, to remember the poor victims of the disaster in their prayers.

At a meeting of the Confraternity in Nenagh on Monday night, prayers were offered for the victims.

Bray Urban Council passed a resolution expressing deep sympathy with the relatives of the victims.

The Munster Football Association's meeting adjourned after passing a resolution of sympathy.

Among the senders of many telegrams received in Dromcollogher are Mr R Clancy, T.D.; Mr Magner, Paddington; Bro. Lucian Reidy, Ballyshannon; T. Nelson, Cappoquin, on behalf of the teachers; Geo. McElligott, Rev Drake St. Charles, Rectory, Rishon; Messrs D. Murphy, Fermoy; Dwyer and Co., Cork; Galvin, Dublin; Browne and Nolan, Dublin; Canon Lee, P.P., Newcastle West; Grace, Thurles; O'Keefe, Chicago (who said he was cabling £10), and the Ladies' Flag Day Committee of the Cork Fever Hospital.

### Film Trade's Sorrow.

At a meeting of leading film-renters in Dublin on Tuesday, all the members present expressed their deep feelings at the occurrence, and a resolution was passed that a telegram be forwarded to the Very Rev. Canon Begley, P.P., and the Chairman of the U.D.C., Dromcollogher, expressing their deepest sympathy with the relatives of the victims of the disaster.

Mr J. J. Farrell, proprietor of two cinemas in Dublin, stated on Tuesday, in the absence of the President and Secretary of the Association, that the trade was shocked at the appalling disaster.

### London Sympathy.

At a meeting of the Deptford (London) Borough Council on Tuesday night, before the commencement of business, the Mayor referred to Miss Nora Mary Hannigan, the little Deptford girl who was killed in the disaster, and on his invitation the members expressed their sympathy.

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to those who have suffered no loss in this great disaster, continued his Lordship. They know those who have, and let them do all they can for them in the exercise of charity. Let them use every kindly word and perform every kindly deed they can to bring balm to their aching hearts, and to fill the void that has been made in their lives and hearts, so that in that way charity may live amongst those as it never lived before. He found it difficult to know what to say, or what to do, in face of that great disaster. He could only ask them to join with him in praying for the repose of the souls of their dear departed. He asked them to pray with him to their Divine Lord to admit their souls speedily into the Kingdom of eternal bliss, and not to look on their offences, but to wipe them out and forgive them, and in view of their sufferings to take them unto Himself.

His Lordship asked for the prayers of the congregation to console the wounded hearts of the relatives of the deceased in the terrible trial which had befallen them.

### President Cosgrave Promises Full Inquiry.

Subsequently President Cosgrave, in a statement to the representatives of the Press, speaking with regard to the occurrence, said—The disaster is a great shock to the nation. I can't express how deeply I feel for those who have suffered in this tragedy, nor how deeply I deplore the appalling loss of life. It may be of some comfort to those in distress, or to those who have suffered the loss of some one near and dear to them to know that the sympathy of the whole nation and the whole world is extended to them in this dark hour. I would like to draw attention to the fortitude and courage rarely displayed in such terrible circumstances, the full truth of which will never be known. Outstanding is the case of Mr. Aherne, who, having saved his wife, returned to save her mother, and perished in the flames with her. It is only typical of the courage exhibited. The details of individual cases of heroism will probably never be known.

The President said he would like to add that in some quarters that morning it was reported that women and children had been trampled on in the panic. His inquiries showed that such a statement had no foundation in fact.

The President promised a full inquiry into the whole matter.

### "Tragic Kind of Fame."

"Even in a great city," says the "Daily Telegraph," in a leading article on the Dromcollogher disaster, "a disaster of such magnitude would produce the profoundest grief, but in the country, where almost every victim must be known personally to all the district, tragedy wears its blackest guise."

"Nothing short of some terrible natural catastrophe, an earthquake, or a volcanic eruption could visit a little community with a more bitter measure of affliction. The circumstances of the affair serve rather to accentuate than to lighten the burden of sorrow. The whole village must have witnessed the conflagration.

"Every mourner must have been a helpless spectator. Sympathy in face of such an overwhelming horror will certainly be evoked from all corners of the world. By establishing its melancholy pre-eminence as the scene of the most far-reaching cinema disaster ever suffered in these islands, Dromcollogher has won for itself a tragic kind of fame.

"We may be sure that many years will pass before a village hitherto hardly heard of beyond Limerick will be forgotten. We

Porchester Lodge, London."

"To Lord Clancarty,

"Porchester Lodge, London, W.2.

"I shall convey your kind message of sympathy, for which I thank you.

"HEALY."

Mr H. M. Pollock, Northern Minister for Finance, in a message to President Cosgrave, said:—

"On behalf of the Government and people of Northern Ireland I desire to say how deeply grieved we are to learn of the appalling tragedy in Co. Limerick, and at the same time to express our profound sympathy with those who have suffered bereavement by this terrible calamity."

President Cosgrave replied:—

"Am deeply grateful for your kind expression of sympathy on behalf of the Government and people of Northern Ireland with the sufferers in the Dromcollogher tragedy. Your message will be sincerely appreciated by the bereaved relatives, to whom it will be at once communicated."

### Consul's Message.

The Dublin Consul of the Netherlands, C. W. Weenin, sent the following message to the President—

"Please accept expression of deep regret for Dromcollogher disaster, and convey sympathy to relatives of unfortunate victims."

The President replied—

"Am much obliged for your kind message of sympathy, which I am communicating to the relatives of the victims of the Dromcollogher disaster."

### Governor General's Message.

His Excellency the Governor-General sent the following telegram to Very Rev. Canon Begley, P.P., Dromcollogher—

"On my return to Dublin this morning I read with anguish of the disaster which has befallen your flock. I shall ask my son to offer the Holy Sacrifice for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed, and for the alleviation of the minds of their afflicted relatives."

### Cardinal's Sorrow.

His Eminence Cardinal O'Donnell, in a telegram to Canon Begley, said:—

"Words can scarcely convey how deep is the universal sorrow at the awful tragedy of Dromcollogher. The agony inside and outside the doomed building wrung every heart.

"God rest the dead and comfort the living."

### Hebrew Sympathy.

The following message, signed by Rev Dr Isaac Hertzog, M.A., D.Litt., Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community in the Irish Free State, and Rev A. Gudansky, Minister, Dublin Hebrew Congregation, has been sent to Canon Begley:—"Heartbroken at the appalling calamity. We ask you to convey the profound sympathy of the Jewish Community to the people of Dromcollogher, and to the sufferers in particular."

The following resolution was unanimously passed by the Belfast Presbytery of the Irish Presbyterian Church:—"We express our deep sympathy to all so terribly bereaved in the heartrending calamity that has befallen the village of Dromcollogher, and also to all the sufferers, and it is hereby resolved that this expression of sympathy be conveyed to the representatives of the religious communities in the district."

### Methodists' Sorrow.

Rev. J. A. Duke, Chairman Dublin Methodist Synod, sent the following message to Canon Begley on Tuesday:—

"The Dublin Synod of the Methodist Church in Ireland, assembled to-day, has learned with deep distress of the deplorable loss of life by the conflagration in Drom-

collogher. At the commencement of business, the Mayor referred to Miss Nora Mary Hannigan, the little Deptford girl who was killed in the disaster, and on his invitation the members expressed their sympathy by remaining standing a moment in silence.

### Labour Party's Action.

#### Searching Official Inquiry Demanded.

The following statement has been issued by the Irish Labour Party and Trades Union Congress—

"The National Executive of the Labour Party and Trades Union Congress, at its meeting on Monday night, adopted a resolution expressing its horror at the cinema catastrophe at Dromcollogher, and extending to the injured and the relatives of the victims its profound sympathy. In order that a repetition of such a holocaust may be rendered quite impossible, the National Executive calls for the most searching official inquiry as to the circumstances under which a building so obviously unsuited and wanting in safeguards was allowed to be used for the purposes of a cinema show."

### NON-FLAMMABLE CINEMA FILM.

The terrible cinema disaster in Ireland lends timely interest to the announcement that a non-flammable film has just been perfected. The inventor of the new film, which is known as "nonflam," is an Englishman who has successfully overcome the objections to non-flammable films previously discovered, viz.—want of strength and high cost. The new film, with which several important interests are associated, is stronger than the flammable nitro films at present in universal use, and can be produced at a cost not exceeding that of nitro films. Legislation prohibiting the use of flammable films exists in many countries, but has not been enforced owing to the absence of a satisfactory non-flammable film. Board of Trade regulations negating the use of flammable films have hitherto not been exercised for the same reason.

POPULAR  
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SIZE

Experience shows that pains after eating, flatulence, biliousness and constipation can be speedily banished and entirely prevented by taking

MOTHER'S  
**SEIGEL'S SYRUP**

For more than fifty years it has been the trusted family remedy in countless homes, because it

IS EXCELLENT FOR  
**DIGESTIVE DISORDERS**

As in the days of old, you can buy Mother Seigel's Syrup at 1/3 per bottle, though the 3/- size is more economical. It costs less than a ha'penny a dose.

FAMILY  
**3/-**  
SIZE

### WASP CAUSES CRASH.

A wasp was responsible for a bus accident at Penarth. In a petulant and spiteful way it flew over the windscreen and settled on the cheek of the driver, who momentarily took his hand off the driving wheel to brush it off, with the result that the bus crashed into a tree. The nose of the vehicle was damaged by the impact, and a lady passenger fainted.