

Leader condemns the 1916 Rising in Dublin

WHILE the *Leader* editorial of May 10, 1916, called on the Government to halt the executions of the *Leaders*, it vehemently condemned the Dublin insurrection.

Ireland is but slowly recovering from the stunning blow of horror inflicted upon it by the insurrection in Dublin on Easter Monday. That wholly insane enterprise had in its very element of sadness and tragedy, that there is not a man

of the Irish race the world over capable of realising facts but abhors and condemns with vehemence the 'mad campaign' as the most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross, aptly described it.

The solitary redeeming feature in connection with the whole uprising is that the outbreak was the work of a small minority, most of whom were themselves more innocent, if well-meaning, dupes of others, and that it is denounced by none more loudly or more

vigorously than by the vastly overwhelming majority of the Irish people themselves both at home and abroad.

Further executions as a deterrent are wholly unnecessary, for apart altogether from the disastrous failure of the insane attempt made by the insurgents the feeling and opinion of Irishmen at home and abroad may safely be relied upon to prevent any repetition of the madness that marked Easter Week, 1916.

An Irishwoman living in London, in the same edition, also condemned the Rising, believing in the justice of Home Rule. "I am sorry that some of my misguided countrymen have in open rebellion played into the enemy's hands," she said.

Locals die on Titanic

LIKE the later sinking of the Lusitania, there were several Limerick people involved in the Titanic disaster in 1912. The so-called unsinkable ship was on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York and hit an iceberg on the night of 14th April and sank with the loss of more than 1,500 lives.

The *Leader*, in its lead story on April 17, reported that several Limerick people had perished (including from the city) Nora Keane, Nellie O'Dwyer, Daniel Keane, John Kennedy, T. Morgan and Patrick Lane from Clare Street. From the county, Patrick Colbert, Kilconaha, Abbeyfeale; Patrick Cooley, Patrickswell, Ruff; James Scanlan, Athkeale, died.

Those lucky to be rescued included Bertha Moran and Mary Madin from Askeaton. As seen from the above list, it was reported that Nellie O'Dwyer of High Street, Limerick, perished but was later reported safe. "The news was greeted with great joy by her people and the tizenry in general. John Kennedy, of Rosemary Place, Limerick, also reported lost, was

later reported to have survived.

Another survivor, Englishwoman Mrs. Dick, stated that seven of the rescued died and were buried at sea and that the ship's band played "Nearer My God To Thee" on deck before the sinking.

Three Clare passengers had a providential escape. Patrick Tracey, Cratloe, and Daniel and Miss Mary Sullivan had travelled into the city to book their places on the ill-fated ship but changed their minds and booked instead for its second crossing.

Mr. Fogarty, proprietor of the Theatre Royal, announced that he would give the theatre free for one or two nights to those wishing to put on performances to raise funds for the dependants of the disaster. A Mr. Organ replied suggesting that the Limerick Operatic Society should repeat their recent staging of "The Gondoliers."

At the inquiry in England, of which details were published, the excessive speed of the ship was blamed for the disaster, being unable to avoid the collision with the iceberg.

The Leader suppressed

LIMERICK *Chronicle* reported in 1919 that a military lorry drew up outside the Limerick *Leader* office and a party of Welsh Fusiliers took up a position outside the building while the vital parts of the machinery were being dismantled under the supervision of police officers. The operation of dismantling occupied nearly an hour. Meanwhile, a large crowd had

assembled but nothing untoward happened. Having concluded the raid, which was in connection with the publishing of the "Irish National Loan" advertisement, the police and military withdrew, taking with them the parts of the machinery removed.

The *Leader* and *Chronicle* were separate newspapers at the time.

Home Rule is coming!

THE *Leader* reported a great Home Rule demonstration in Limerick on October 12, 1913. Hopes were high following the passing of the third Home Rule bill in the House of Commons that a native Parliament would soon be in Dublin.

Later on, John Redmond, *Leader* of the United Irish League, said the passing of the Home Rule Bill on the Statute Book was an epoch-making historical fact. He was in Limerick helping the recruiting campaign for the Irish National Volunteers, for the war.

In the run up to the war, there was huge optimism, not without cause, that Home Rule would be granted. In April, 1914, P. D. Bourke, Electrical Department, William Street had an advertisement headed BOLDLY HOME RULE. In anticipation of the final triumph when extensive celebrations will be a happy well universal, we remind our friends that now is the time to ask estimates free. Not a cent should be lost or disappointment will be

R. S. De Vere. "A 'Caw' from Curragh Chase" was the heading and it took to task the Co. Limerick gentleman for his vehement objection to Home Rule in an article published in an English magazine, "Nineteenth Century."

Mr. De Vere, in the article, had described Ireland as a most distressing country, with ill-drained fields, ill-kept cottages, untidy fences, broken gates. But in what the *Leader* writer described as his "Carion Crow" part, Mr. De Vere claimed that "there was an absence of public morality, and that bribery and corruption are rampant."

The editorial thundered: "If Mr. De Vere had not closed his eyes to obvious facts and his mind to the light of reason regarding the Irish situation, he would have seen that in making such a statement he was but delivering a striking indictment of that baneful system that he wants left untouched. If Ireland is backward and undevel-

1916: Limerick's part in the rising



The East Clare Brigade of the Old IRA pictured on manoeuvres. This brigade contained many Limerick people

THE *Leader* headlines of the 26th April 1916 brought the latest news of the Easter rebellion in Dublin. "Dublin Sensation. Position of Affairs Today. Gunboat in Liffey. Troops occupy Liberty Hall."

In the same page, reports of the capture and arrest of Sir Roger Casement on Banna Strand were printed, as was the tragic drowning at Killorglin of Volunteers who had a rendezvous with the German ship to take off the arms intended for the Rising. Their car went in over a quay. The driver, Limerickman Thomas A. McInerney, swam to shore but his three passengers were drowned. McInerney was detained in Tralee Goal.

There were several Limerickmen prominent in the Rising with Ned Daly of Limerick City and Con Colbert of Athea being executed after the rebellion. Eamon de Valera, too, had Limerick connections, having been reared in Bruree, and Dr. Richard Hayes, also of Bruree, Eamonn Dore of Glin, and Garrett Mac Auliffe of Newcastle West, were other prominent figures in the rebellion.

The *Leader* reported on April 26: "The overshadowing topic of conversation in Limerick since Monday is, naturally, the extraordinary situation in Dublin. No details of the terrible occurrences, as they appear to be, are yet available, but all sorts of rumours, all of a sensational character, are afloat in the city as to what has taken place and is happening."

Following reports said "the trouble in Dublin continues to be the one topic of conversation in Limerick and County as well as all over Ireland. On all sides there is an eager desire for information

as to what immediately gave rise to the outbreak."

Reports were then given from many quarters of what was headed "The Trouble in Dublin" and views of the international press were given, which unanimously condemned the insurrection "A German contrived plot" was the opinion of many of the American papers.

A report in a London newspaper said the Sinn

Féiners used the word "Limerick" as their password during the rebellion.

The *Leader* reported in later editions the arrest and execution of the *Leaders*. Volunteers in Limerick were all set to take part in what was planned to be a national uprising. On Good Friday, 1916, headed by their own band, approx. 120 volunteers left the Fianna Hall in the afternoon to proceed to Killo-

nan where they set up camp. They were under the command of Colonel Colvict and there was huge disappointment when the word eventually came through that the rising countrywide had been aborted.

Bishop O'Dwyer entered the fray later on about the rebellion and became a local and national hero when in a famous correspondence in the Irish Independent with the O.C. in Ireland,

General Maxwell, he condemned the executions of the leaders. Limerick Corporation showed their appreciation when making him a freeman of the city.

Following the rebellion, there were many arrests throughout the country of nationalists, and 150 prisoners, it was reported, were conveyed to Dublin by train under heavy military and police escort, to be tried in Dublin.

MILLENNIUM BRIEFS . . . MILLENNIUM BRIEFS . . .

Knocklong

THE *Limerick Chronicle* reported a "sensational happening" in Knocklong in 1919. "For sheer daring and reckless intrepidity, the rescue of Sean Hogan from a police escort at Knocklong Station was unrivalled. Hogan, a native of Soloheadbeg, was being conveyed by train from Thurles to Cork for court-martial. Constable Enright and Sergeant Wallace died from their wounds following the

shoot-out. The report said that when the train stopped at Knocklong about six men rushed into the prisoner's compartment and covered the police with rifles. Three shots rang out and Constable Enright collapsed in his seat. After the affray, the prisoner was bundled onto the platform and disappeared with his rescuers into the night.

Viceroy visit
THE visit of the Viceroy

to Limerick in 1915 was full of pomp and ceremony and thousands lined O'Connell Street to see His Eminence in the state coach on procession to the Town Hall. There he was presented with an address by the Mayor, Ald. Joyce. The hall and the main streets of the city, were awash with bunting and decorations of all kinds.

Tivoli opens
A NEW cinema opened in Assembly

Mall in Limerick in 1916 and was called the Tivoli. The proprietor was Mr. Paul Bernard, and the *Leader* report said the cinema replaced the former playhouse, the National Theatre.

A.B.C win
ATHLUNKARD Boat Club became the second club in the country to win the Irish Senior Eights Championship, in 1913.



The magnificent facade of Cannocks and McBirneys stores in O'Connell Street at the turn of the century.

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