

Things That Matter

ONE of the remarks most frequently heard during the general election campaign was that it was arousing very little interest. The comment was a sort of refutation of itself, for the fact that it was made by so many showed that the people were alive to the importance of the occasion. What many were surprised at was that so few were expressing their views openly, but strong opinions can be held without shouting them out from the housetops.



That the contests were in general followed with considerable eagerness is evidenced by the fairly substantial poll in most parts of the country. It was presumed beforehand that widespread apathy would manifest itself, but the electors gave a somewhat definite lie to this suggestion. In a sense, the voting was quite good in the circumstances, because the issues, though important, were not such as to arouse any special keenness or enthusiasm.



Appeals were made from all sides to those who had votes to come out and use them. These exhortations must have some effect, for wilful and inexcusable extensions were not as numerous as they were on a number of former occasions. Interest in elections in this country is by no means as demonstrative as it was in years gone by. It takes a more reasoned and reasonable shape, and this is entirely to the good. Gone are the days, thank God, when people could not hold different political views without entertaining personal enmity for each other.



The best exemplification of the change in this respect is found in the fact that the same listeners go to hear all speakers and maintain decorum and a respectful attitude at all meetings. The same crowd that attends a demonstration at the O'Connell Monument in Limerick one night will turn up next night to hear an opposing set of speeches, and the closest observer can get no inkling as to where the sympathies of the gathering lies! The promoters of opposing meetings even agreed not to have their fixtures clash, but quite often arrange that both use the same platform.



All this surely shows a welcome change from the time when followers of rival parties could hardly meet without coming to blows. Violent physical clashes were of distressingly common occurrence during the Parnell Split and, indeed, they were common enough at a much more recent date. These instances, however, are now merely a bad memory and are to be recalled only to show how far the country has progressed in bringing sanity and calm consideration to bear on

What a Heroic Irish Martyr Endured

(By B. ROCHE)

THE tortures and sufferings inflicted on priests and bishops by the Communists to-day remind us of the persecutions of the Irish clergy during the Penal Days. One of the greatest martyrs of those terrible times was the Archbishop of Cashel, Dr. Dermot O'Hurley.

The O'Hurley family, now widely dispersed throughout Ireland, belong to the distinguished Dalcassian Clan with Kennedy, the father of Brian Boru, as founder. From this valiant race the Kings of Munster were chosen.

From the time of Brian Boru down to the War of American Independence this illustrious race produced intrepid soldiers and brave men. During the Jacobite campaign the clan O'Hurley took, of course, the side of the Catholic King James II and Colonel O'Hurley was outstanding for courage and valour. Joseph Louis O'Hurley, an officer of the Irish Brigade, distinguished himself in France. He was raised to the rank of Chevalier de St. Louis in 1756. We find names of the clan who fought bravely and heroically in the American Civil War and others are mentioned in the Roll of Honour of Meagher's Brigade.

THE SAINTLY DERMOT.

But, perhaps, the greatest member of all was the saintly Dermot, the Archbishop of Cashel. He was the son of William O'Hurley, who owned extensive property around the village of Lycodooon—of which there is now no trace. It was about three miles from Limerick City, in the parish of Knockea. His mother was Honora O'Brien, also a direct descendant of the Kings of Thomond. Dermot was born in 1519 and was from early childhood a lover of prayer and study, so his parents were not surprised when the youth told them he wished to become a priest.

It was about this time that the family removed and settled at Knocklong, in the east of Limerick. There still, on the Hill of Knocklong, looking towards the Galtee mountains, the ruins of their castle can be seen.

From Knocklong the boy Dermot was sent to the continent to begin his studies for the priesthood. Long before this, the Irish Colleges—the great centres of learning to which students thronged from all over Europe—had been destroyed and razed to the ground. But every Catholic University and school on the continent had a place and a welcome for the students from Ireland.

A BRILLIANT STUDENT.

Dermot O'Hurley began his studies at the University of Paris, which was then the most renowned in the world. He was a brilliant student, so he quickly completed his course there, and went to the University of Louvain, where he won his degree of Doctor of Theology and Doctor in Canon and Civil Laws.

At this University there were many clever students from every country in Europe, but Doctor O'Hurley was the cleverest of all and so he was chosen as Professor of Philosophy and taught there for four years. So successful was he at his work and results, that the great Cardinal de Guise selected him to teach at the University of Rheims. There he remained for many years a brilliant teacher, beloved by all.

While Dr. O'Hurley was on a pilgrimage to Rome, the See of Cashel became vacant by the death of Dr. McGibbon. His name was well known in Rome, and the Holy Father, Gregory XIII, wishing to appoint a pious and learned Archbishop, selected Dr. O'Hurley at a consistory held in Rome on the 11th September, 1581. He was consecrated there on the 27th November, and after some months he set out in disguise for Ireland. He landed at Skerries, but as he had sent his papers, Bulls and luggage to Waterford by a Wexford merchant he went there to collect them, in company with his faithful chaplain.

ARREST AND ESCAPE.

Unfortunately the merchant's ship had been attacked by pirates and the papers and goods of Dr. O'Hurley were seized and sent to Dublin Castle, where later they were used against him. Dr. O'Hurley remained at Waterford for some time, but a Government spy

named Walter Baal recognised, arrested and cast him into prison. The Archbishop escaped at night and went to the castle of a friend—the Baron of Slane—who received him kindly and concealed him for some days. Thinking all danger of finding him was gone, the Baron allowed him to dine with his family in public. The then Chancellor, Robert Dillon, came on a visit to the castle and met Dr. O'Hurley. Surprised to meet so cultured and educated an Irishman, his suspicions were aroused. He suspected that he was Dr. O'Hurley, so he reported to Dublin Castle.

Lord Slane was called to the Castle and while he was away Dr. O'Hurley escaped from Lord Slane's house, as he wished to save him from the penalties inflicted on those who harboured the clergy.

TRAVELLED IN DISGUISE.

He travelled in disguise throughout Leinster and as far as Cavan and Longford. Then southwards to Holy Cross—his first visit to his own archdiocese. From there he went on to Carrick-on-Suir. He invited his flock to come to him and confirmed and blessed them and gave them the Sacraments whenever possible. At Carrick-on-Suir he was warmly welcomed at the Castle of the Ormonds, where Thomas, the Black Earl, lived. This man had, through fear of losing his estate, become an apostate, but in his heart he hated the new religion and helped Catholics whenever he could. Spies were again busy and it became known where Dr. O'Hurley was hidden. The saintly Archbishop freely delivered himself up to the officers who came to arrest him. He was put into chains and marched to Kilkenny gaol.

Through the influence of the Earl of Ormond he was allowed visits from many of his flock who received the Sacraments at his hands.

UNSPEAKABLE TORTURES.

From Kilkenny he was marched to Dublin, suffering unspeakable tortures on the way, from hunger, thirst, and pain caused by the chafing of the heavy chains pressing against the naked flesh. He was cast into a filthy dungeon in Dublin Castle on October 7th, 1583. He was "tried" before the Lord Justices, Adam Loftus and Sir Henry Wallop, and questioned on his jurisdiction from the Pope and threatened with dire punishments unless he revealed his conspiracy against Queen Elizabeth.

Dr. O'Hurley stated that the Pope had appointed him to preach the Gospel and he denied any treasonable designs against the Queen. He was offered honours and dignities if he denied the supremacy of the Pope and acknowledged Queen Elizabeth as head of the Church, but this the brave prelate refused to do. He was returned to the dungeon, his sufferings increased and repeated efforts were made to induce him to conform, but all in vain. He bore the tortures with courage and calmness.

All inducements failing, he was condemned to the terrible suffering of "The Boots," which equalled that borne by the early Christians. But even this failed to get him to give up the Faith.

Exasperated and incensed, Loftus and Wallop signed the warrant of execution on June 29th, 1584.

HANGED WITH ROPE OF TWIGS.

At dawn on the following day Dr. O'Hurley was dragged from Dublin Castle to St. Stephen's Green, which at that time was a wood of osiers. A rope was made of these twigs, and where University Church now stands the Archbishop of Cashel, the good and fearless, was hanged.

That evening a good man named William Fitzsimons removed and buried the remains in the half ruined church of St. Kevin.

For many years afterwards pilgrimages were made to his grave, but these have long since ceased, and the resting place of the great martyr has been almost forgotten.

But the descendants of the flock over which he never ministered have not forgotten him. Throughout his Archdiocese many stained glass windows have been erected in his honour, and the name, sanctity and courage of Dr. Dermot O'Hurley, the great soldier of Christ, and worthy scion of Brian Boru, are always remembered.

DIFFERENTIAL FREIGHTAGE RATES

MR. M. W. McGUIRE, Chairman, presided at the meeting of the Limerick Harbour Board to-day.

The other members present were: Ald. D. Bourke, T.D.; Ald. J. Carew, Ald. G. E. Russell, Messrs. J. P. Goodbody, A. E. Goodwin, S. J. K. Roycroft, T. J. Loughrey, A. O'Dwyer, James O'Keefe, P. E. O'Malley, J. C. Hickey, T. Walsh, P. Whelan, M. Sheehan.

Mr. D. O'Brien, Manager; Mr. T. J. O'Sullivan, B.E., Harbour Engineer, and Capt. C. J. Hanrahan, Harbour Master, were the officials in attendance.

DIFFERENTIAL RATES

In connection with differential freightage rates fixed for timber by Irish Shipping Ltd., and which operates to the disadvantage of Limerick, and which the Company had stated could not be interfered with for this year.

A letter was read from Messrs. Morgan McMahon and Co., Ltd., stating that the only other Co. that makes a differential rate was one that had a working arrangement with Irish Shipping Ltd. on agreed rates. "We suggest," the letter continued, "that, perhaps, Irish Shipping Ltd. may afford an opportunity of discussion before they fix the rates for next season."

The Chairman said that Irish Shipping Ltd. would be asked to meet representatives of the Board and the timber importers before the rates for next year were fixed.

ONLY ONE TENDER

The Manager said that only one tender was received for the painting of the Swing Bridge and the Dock Clock.

The Board decided to re-advertise.

The Engineer, in a report, recommended the concreting of part of the quay roadway.

The Board approved that the work be carried out.

At this stage the meeting went into committee to deal with matters relating to the re-organisation of the pilotage service.

ALL-IRELAND WIN FOR SECOND YEAR IN SUCCESSION

For the second year in succession, the Limerick Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade won the Novice Cup for ambulance divisions, when at the Brigade's All-Ireland competitions held in Iveagh Park Centre, Bull Alley Street, Dublin, on Friday and Saturday last, they defeated the runners-up, City of Dublin Ambulance Division, rather easily.

The final points table read:—1, Limerick Ambulance Division (76 per cent.); 2, City of Dublin Ambulance Division (63 per cent.); 3, St. Patrick's Ambulance Division (59.7 per cent.).

The winning Limerick team comprised—Paddy Moloney, Noel Atkinson, Paddy McInerney, Martin McNamara and the substitute was Jack Phelan.

The officer in charge was Thomas Halvey.

JUSTICE AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

"Some women seem to think they can keep their children at home from school when they like and I must stop this by increasing the fines to £1 or £2," remarked Justice C. S. Kenny, at Dromcollogher Court on Friday, 1st inst., when dealing with a number of summonses against parents for failing to send their children regularly to school.

The mother of one of the children told the Justice that she had to keep her son at home because she was suffering from neuritis and was unable to look after the household at the time.

Justice—But you can't do that unless the law is changed.

Another defendant claimed she was entitled to absent her son who was 13 years and 9 months.

Justice—The law is that the child must go to school until he is 14 and there is no use in trying to argue otherwise.

Guard Hyland, who brought the summons, explained that if one child under 14 years was allowed to remain home from school other parents in the district would want to follow the example.

Justice—I can well imagine that,

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