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### STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER.

In the course of his reply, the Prime Minister said the greater part of Mr. Long's speech had no relevance to the amendment demanding a General Election. The Home Rule Bill had passed through two sessions, and if it passed the third time under the Parliament Act it would become automatically the law of the land. Regarding the conversations between him and the Opposition leader, he did not despair of an agreement being reached even yet. After dealing with the impracticability and absurdity of excluding Ulster from the scope of the Home Rule Bill, the Premier went on to say—We have another plan put forward by Sir Horace Plunkett himself—a plan which, if it could be accepted, I say without hesitation, so far as its first principle is concerned, I shall be perfectly prepared to welcome—I mean the inclusion of Ulster with the option of exclusion after a time (hear, hear). I did not say, I was far from suggesting, it was a plan that was likely to find favour by those who represent the Protestant majority in certain Ulster counties. Still it is a plan put forward with high authority, and it certainly deserves to be respectfully entertained. There are many other plans which are in the air. What I want to say on behalf of the Government is this: We recognise to the full that as the situation has developed we cannot divest ourselves of the responsibility in this matter, and by responsibility I mean the responsibility of the initiative in the way of suggestion. But I must make two things perfectly clear in saying that. In the first place, whatever steps we take in the way of suggestions must not be construed, and cannot fairly be construed—there is not a man on this bench who would not repudiate that construction—as an admission on our part that a Bill which has twice received the assent of this House is a defective Bill (Ministerial cheers)—that it is not what we believe it to be, though capable of improvement, like all works of the human hand, a Bill which is a sound, statesmanlike, and workable measure. It provides, and was honestly intended to provide, and really adequately provides against the danger either of religious or political oppression. Therefore, I repudiate in advance, in the most emphatic and explicit terms, the construction which might, if it were not repudiated in advance, be put upon our action when we come to make such suggestions as I have referred to. The other observation I have to make is, I think, equally relevant, perhaps even more important. It is this, and it applies, as I admitted most frankly a few months ago, to the suggestions made from the other side, such for instance as the exclusion of Ulster that all suggestions of that kind are made for the sake of peace, and it is for the sake of attaining peace, and as the price of peace, that any suggestions that are made will be put forward (Ministerial cheers). What do I mean by peace in this connection? I do not mean merely, important as that is, the avoidance of civil strife, but I mean, if it be possible, that a new system of Irish Government, whatever it is which is set up, shall start under such conditions, and in such atmosphere as will give it from the first a fair chance of working successfully (Ministerial cheers). The avoidance of civil war and the avoidance of bloodshed everyone of us must desire and there is nothing we won't do, consistent with the maintenance of the fundamental principles in regard to the solution of this question, to avoid that terrible calamity; but I read the term of peace, and the expression of a pacific settlement in a larger and wider sense, and I cannot but think that it must be within the resources of British statesmanship, which has solved so many problems as intractable in appearance, as formidable in dimensions, as this, in all parts of the world, and under the most diverse conditions. I cannot believe that we are reduced to such an insolvency of statesmanship that we cannot, with an honest mind, a good will, and with a determination, avoid, if it be possible, the evils and dangers which lie before us. I cannot believe this problem also will not yield to the same treatment (Ministerial cheers). I will only add, in conclusion, that a responsibility, and a serious responsibility, a responsibility of initiative lies in this matter upon the shoulders of the Government (hear, hear). That I acknowledge to the full, though I think it is a responsibility shared not, perhaps, with the same degree, or to the same extent, but shared by men of all parties. I agree with one thing, the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Walter Long) said, "That this is a matter in which there ought not to be undue delay. Any impression that either we are, or anybody else is, trifling with the matter or seeking to gain time, or to put off to some more convenient season, in reliance of a chapter of accidents, the duty which lies upon us now, is wrong, and if true would be most discredit to the Government. We are not doing it; on the contrary, we believe it to be our duty to submit it to the House without avoidable delay." (Opposition laughter and cries of "Order.") I am speaking very seriously. Of course there is certain financial business which we are obliged to dispose of in order to keep within the law, before we can make any progress. I believe it is our duty, and I tell the House, on behalf of the Government, we intend to discharge that duty without avoidable delay, to submit to them with the spirit, and with the two reservations I have made, suggestions which will certainly be honestly put forward, which, we believe, will be reported by all fair-minded men, at any rate,

The tender of Daniel Crean, Cloughjordan, for supplying potatoes to the institution was accepted at £3 10s per ton.

### FUNERAL OF MR. J. O'DONOHUE, ABBEYFEALE

The death of Mr. John O'Donohue of Dromtrasna O'Brien, Abbeyfeale, which occurred from an acute attack of pneumonia, and almost in the prime of life, is very sincerely and widely regretted in the district. Deceased, who was himself an ardent nationalist and a stern supporter of the Irish Party, was a member of an old and patriotic family. His father was a member of the organising committee who established by public meeting the first branch of the local Land League in 1879, while his brother, for participating in what was known as the Dromtrasna riots, was sent to penal servitude, and on his release was obliged to leave for America, where the effects of his incarceration brought him to an early grave. His patriotism appeared to spring naturally in him, for on the maternal side he was descended from the "Auliv" chieftains of Duhallog fame. United to a kind and generous nature was a courteous and genial affability, which made him extremely popular with the public, and secured him many friends. By a peculiar tact and ability, which he exercised with effective discretion amongst the farmers resident in his district, he assisted in promoting the purchase of their holdings on generous terms, and was the leading organiser of the Meenahela Co-operative Creamery, of which he was secretary. The funeral was one of the largest seen in the Dromtrasna district for many years. The remains were conveyed from St. Mary's Parish Church, for interment in the Abbey Cemetery. The clergy who officiated were—Very Rev Canon Lee, P.P.; Rev C Halpin, C.C.; Rev D O'Riordan, C.C. The chief mourners were—Morty O'Donohue (brother), Mrs J T Leahy, Templeglantine (sister); J T Leahy (brother-in-law), John, Joe, Tom and Con Leahy (nephews), Geoffrey O'Donohue, Tom O'Donohue, John T. O'Donohue, John O'Donohue, Bedford, Listowel; Con O'Donohue, Ashford; Master M G O'Donohue (cousins). Amongst the general public were—Dr Phil M'Carthy, B C Collins, J P, Co C; M J Murphy, Brosna; P M Murphy, do; M J Moloney, West End Hotel; W D O'Connor, M Barry, J Barrett, T Barrett, Miss Moynihan, postmistress; D M'Auliffe, C O'Connell, Brosna; C J Leahy, Tour; J D Leahy, D C; D J Harnett, M J Curtin, Martin Sheehan, W Curtin, R Roche, creamery manager; E Leahy, Millstream; M L Harnett, J D Harnett, L C Harnett, J J Curtin, J P Fitzgerald, W Fitzgerald, D D Leahy, M Forde, D Fitzgerald, P Lyons, N Cotter, T Walsh, S M'Carthy, P Harnett, T Harnett, D C; J R Collins, D C; L T Collins, M W Harnett, W O'Connor, D C; W D O'Connor, M J Moloney, D E Leahy, L Collins, E W Forde, J P Fitzgerald, W O'Sullivan, E W Leahy, C T Leahy, E C Leahy, D Doody, C M'Auliffe, D M'Enery, J M'Enery, T Collins, J W Harnett, R O; L Harnett, W J Dalton, D D Harnett, Mill Farm; W D Harnett, James Fitzgerald, J T Collins, D J O'Connell, M Sweeney, J Murphy, J Harnett, J Buckley, D C; J Riordan, D C; C R Harnett, M R Harnett, J Keefe, M J Harnett, J Lane, M O'Donnell, W P Flynn, D Collins, J Collins, T J Collins, J Foley, D O'Brien, D D Collins, D P Collins, W Collins, D W Collins, J J Flynn, J P Flynn, T O'Connell, Maurice Ward, D Ward, D J M'Enery, D Leahy, Dan Leahy, P P Collins, J Leahy, M J Curtin, J Kelly, D C; J Curtin, D C; James M'Enery, D Daly, Maurice Harnett, Brosna; P J Leahy, Ballybeh; D Leahy, P Crowley, D Crowley, M Leahy, M J Curtin, J Collins, J Colbert, M M Leahy, Ballycommane; J Crowley, W M Harnett, E Forde, J Harnett, Mrs Eggleston, Mrs D Tobin, Brosna; P G Leahy, D Riordan, M Riordan, R Collins, J Lenihan, D C, Mount Collins; G Barry, D C; Miss Lily Doody, J Flynn, R Fitzgerald, M Harnett, J Barrett, Brosna; M Cotter, do; J O'Sullivan, do; D Horan, D Harnett, D Cullinane, J Cullinane, D Murphy, R J Woulfe, D C; Phil Woulfe, J J Woulfe, Tour; L Harnett, do; Mrs J Barrett, D M Moloney, M J Harnett, J J Harnett, Joe Colbert, J Curtin, J Doody, J O'Donnell, William O'Sullivan, T O'Donoghue, M O'Donoghue, James P Woulfe, T Leahy, James Forde, C D Harnett, President Co-operative Creamery, Meenahela; J Toomey, C Collins, R Fitzgerald, T L Curtin, M O'Mahony, Manager Creamery, Devon Road; Miss A T O'Connor, N T; J T Collins, J Barrett, P M'Enery, P O'Sullivan, R Collins, Miss B O'Connell, Miss M Barrett, M Collins, D Sullivan, J Cahill, D Curtin, P Curtin, M Lomasnie, J Roche, D Dee, Miss N Daly, Miss B Barrett, J Quirke, C M'Auliffe, D Horan, J J Barrett, etc., etc. A number of wreaths were sent by sympathising friends.

### Limerick Race Company

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Limerick Race Company is to take place at the offices of the company on Monday, 23rd inst. The directors have not yet agreed to the dividend, but it is anticipated that it will be up to expectations, in view of the successful meetings held during the year, which terminated on the 31st ult.

more serious or sincere conviction in this House, that so far as I and my colleagues are concerned we will not close an avenue, however

and final poll was taken as between Michael F Hassett and Laurence Buckley, when the voting was:—  
For Michael F Hassett—Messrs P Rohan, B Skehan, E Browne, J M G Foley, W J Hardy—5.  
For Laurence Buckley—Messrs H Lefroy, R G Parker, Thomas Hogan and the Chairman—1.  
During the latter poll Mr Hardy again declined to vote when his name was called in the regular way, but when it was ascertained that the candidates had four votes each he was unanimously requested by the magistrates present to vote, and he did so, supporting Mr. Michael F Hassett.

The court was crowded, and the result of the election was greeted with acclamation by the numerous friends of the successful candidate.

### Irish Party Meeting

#### ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At the annual meeting of the Irish Parliamentary Party, held on yesterday in the House of Commons, Captain Donelan presided, and 61 members of the Party were present.  
On the motion of Mr. John Dillon, seconded by Mr. William Abraham, Mr. John E. Redmond was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Party. The right hon gentleman then took the chair.  
Mr. Field proposed, and Mr. John Cullinan seconded, that Captain Donelan and Messrs Pat O'Brien, E Haviland Burke and J P Boland be re-elected whips, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.  
It was proposed by Mr T J Condon, seconded by Mr William O'Malley, and passed unanimously, that Messrs Wm Abraham and J P McInerney be re-elected hon treasurers.  
It was proposed by Mr J P Boland, seconded by Mr M Molloy, and passed unanimously, that Messrs W H K Redmond, R Hazleton, and Thomas Scanlan be re-elected hon secretaries.

### Irish National Volunteers

#### The Limerick Corps

Drills of the Abbey and Frishtown Districts Corps of the Irish National Volunteers, writes a correspondent, took place on Saturday night last in the new Hall of the Clare-street Workmen's Club, and will be continued each Wednesday and Saturday nights, commencing at 8 o'clock. The Dock District Corps drilled at the Fianna Hall on Sunday, and in future drilling will take place each Wednesday at 8 o'clock and each Sunday at 1 o'clock. Nine drill instructors in charge of a lieutenant were engaged on the occasion. The men of the corps were most enthusiastic and picked up the various movements quickly. Owing to the large number enrolled an amount of difficulty was experienced in securing suitable drill halls, but the Provisional Committee have now succeeded in making arrangements for the Grentworth, Shannon, Market, Customhouse, and Castle District Corps, and the men of those corps will receive notification of the time and place of drilling in the coming week.

### New Pig Market

#### IMPORTANT TO FARMERS

Farmers will receive as welcome intelligence the news of the recent decision of the Irish Pigbuyers' Association to re-establish in Limerick what is destined to develop into one of the most important pig markets in the South of Ireland. Buyers from Limerick, Cork, Waterford, Tralee, etc., will attend Limerick on the first and third Tuesdays in each month for the purchase of pigs by hand. The posters announcing the re-establishment of this important market request farmers not to put prices on pigs until they reach the fair. Buying will commence at 10 o'clock a.m. sharp. This latest decision on the part of the Association is sure to be of much convenience to farmers, and we hope they will make use of this splendid opportunity offered. The market is being established in response to the request of the Limerick and Clare Farmers' Association.

### Versatile Clare M.P.

#### COLONEL LYNCH, QUALIFIES AS ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

Colonel Lynch, M.P., returned to London from Paris yesterday in time for the opening of the Parliamentary session after a sojourn of a couple of months in the French capital. His visit was mainly for the purposes of study, and his friends will be interested to hear that to his numerous other diplomas Mr Lynch has now added that of an electrical engineer, which has just been conferred on him by the "Ecole Supérieure de l'Electricité de Paris." The diploma, which was gained as the result of examination, is the highest in the gift of the school. Colonel Lynch also took the opportunity afforded by his visit to arrange with the well-known Paris publishing firm of Figueire for the publication at an early date of a novel which he has written in French entitled "Poppy Meadows."

the preliminaries required by Article 28 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act had been completed with, and a proper election having been held.

Mr. O'Dwyer—You must proceed with the election.  
Clerk—Yes.  
Mr. Keane—After all the canvassing.  
Mr. Humphreys—When will the election take place?  
Clerk—This day fortnight.  
It was decided to proceed with the election of Matron on this day fortnight, and that the age limits of the candidates be from 21 to 35 years, and the salary £50 a year and rations.

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