

of the Allied Forces in Belgium, the news received favourable and shows that along the battle line our troops are moving steadily, if necessarily slow.

The German artillery has great activity in the region of and on the Meuse heights, but no to the Allies have resulted

Serbia's amazing defeat of the is confirmed, and the Austrians by Germany, have been routed Russians south of Cracow with loss to the enemy. On the whole, everything goes well with the and there can be no question that moves on, the wearing down process is more and more marked on the armies both in the western and theatres of war.

## IRRENT COMMENT.

### Postal Traffic.

from the Christmas postal traffic to connection with which special arrangements are now being completed, the Yuletide post-office business is not likely to show decrease this year, in spite of the war. The alien Christmas mail, which has been heavier than usual because of the exceptional volume of sailings, is practically as heavy as it is expected that there will be the huge consignment of letters and parcels, and the other less remote dominions. Post Office traffic for the United Kingdom is expected to reveal a large falling-off, in respect of hampers of heavy parcels, and difficulties at the P.O. in London are the usual arrangements as regards an extra staff to cope with the rush. Nearly 100,000 extra workers either have been or are to be engaged in the Metropolitan postal service, and the usual temporary additions to staff made in the big provincial centres. This year there have been fewer applicants for the extra work, owing to mobilisation and recruitment, but by extending the age limit from 45 to 50 the Post Office hope to secure all the employees.

great stand for patriotism in the struggle." Mr. Redmond will arrive in the city on the previous day, and the procession will start from Cruise's Hotel, at one o'clock, for Greenpark. Here, as stated, the review will take place, and the occasion will be availed of to present colours to the Limerick City Regiment of Volunteers.

The Rev. Father O'Connor, Adm., St. Michael's has accepted the invitation to perform the ceremony of blessing the colours, which will be presented by Mr. Redmond, from the Limerick Ladies Volunteers' Association.

## DEATH OF SIR STANDISH DEANE O'GRADY ROCHE.

We regret to announce the death of Sir Standish Deane O'Grady Roche, which took place on Wednesday at his residence, Aghade, Tullow, County Carlow. Sir Standish Roche, who was in his 71st year, was the son of Sir David, the first baronet, and succeeded his brother, the late Sir David Roche, Carass, Croom, as the third baronet in April, 1908. He was twice married, first on October 27, 1874, to Mary Harriet Frances, daughter of Colonel Frind Cregoe Colmore of Moor End, Gloucestershire, and in June, 1910, to Sybil, the only daughter of Colonel Dyson Lawrie, of the Border Regiment. He was a Justice of the Peace for the counties of Clare and Carlow, and acted as High Sheriff in each county.

## COUNTY COUNCILS' GENERAL COUNCIL.

At the annual meeting of the General Council of the Irish County Councils in Dublin yesterday the question of the grants from the Roads Board was discussed.

The Chairman (Mr P J O'Neill) said that in order to earn the fullest possible grant County Councils should do all in their power to collect the motor licence duty. The difficulties in the way of collection were serious, and it was stated that owners of motor cars evaded payment.

A resolution was passed congratulating Mr John Redmond and the Parliamentary Party on the passing of the Government of Ireland Act. It was decided to ask each County Council if it was willing to co-operate with the General Council in the formation of a central bureau of inquiry for the collection of information as to how the Councils were transacting various details of their business.

A resolution was adopted regretting the approaching retirement of Lord Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Emphasis was laid on the valuable work for the health of the people which Lady Aberdeen had done. The resolution put it as a national calamity that the official connection of Lord and Lady Aberdeen with this country should terminate before the coming of the Home Rule Act into operation.

Hope was expressed that their Excellencies would continue to reside in the country, and that Lord Aberdeen would reconsider his intention to resign office.

The members present included—Mr. P. J. Linnane, Clare, and Mr. M. J. Nolan, Kerry.

war now raging in that unhappy land on the screen, and these helped the realise what havoc has been wrought by the less invaders against whom the Allies are striving to drive out of the little Kingdom. The audience could in a measure see the contrast it with the Belgium glorious works of architecture, mass its hives of industry, the abodes of desolation caused by a brutish enemy. The close of the lecture the hearty and unanimous approval of the audience were conveyed to Father by the Rev J O'Connor, Adm., St M who presided, and were suitably acknowl

## SOLDIERS' CONCERT

The programme presented at the house for the soldiers' concert was a very enjoyable one. Amongst the features was a choir of some 20 voices, some beautiful concerted pieces, trained by Mr Ealham, who contributed items during the evening. His singing "Good Bye" was an exceptional feature. Cahill's "Jack's the Boy for Work" was a pleasure, and he had to respond to a Hamilton sang "The Irish Emigrant" in a sympathetic manner, and also sympathetically rendered "Maid with a Delicate Air." Miss "For You Alone" very well was warmly encored. Miss gave great pleasure by her rendering of "The Little Damsel." Mrs McLoughlin contributed a very very finished style. Mrs Cliff gave a charming piano solo, and also accompanied singers throughout the evening. Some pretty Scotch songs very tastefully pleasing item was an Irish jig in costume. Norah Hogan, who, in response, danced a sailor's hornpipe. The concert was contributed by two of the formed a suitable variation programme, and were thoroughly enjoyed. Mr J Donovan gave a splendid exhibition of step-dancing, which was watched with interest. The comic element was supplied by Morley and Mr Harrison, who sang "The trains go out," and "I had a good time on other items on the programme to the numerous encores, had to be next Wednesday's concert.

## THE CORPORATION

A meeting of the Finance (special) which was appointed to inquire into the finances of the Corporation last night in the City Treasurer's office. The Mayor presided. Councillors and Donnellan were also present. The non-attendance were received from McNeice, and Mr Daudon, Lav Town Clerk and the City Treasurer. The meeting adjourned to the 10th January next to consider a statement from the Treasurer showing fully the financial position of the Corporation which the Comptroller has to prepare.