

THE DRINK PROBLEM IN IRELAND.

Petition to Prime Minister.

Urgent Appeal of Irish Churches

The following petition has been addressed to the Prime Minister:—  
The Right Hon. H. H. ASQUITH, K.C.,  
The Minister and First Lord of the Treasury,  
Downing-street, London.

Sir,—We, the undersigned, beg to bring the following facts and petition to your notice. There is a strong feeling throughout the country that the example set by Russia and Germany, and in a smaller measure by Germany, in dealing with the drink traffic, should be followed in Great Britain and Ireland.

The country is more ready to submit to effective legislation in this matter than ever before, and we think that it is of vital importance that this opportunity, which may soon pass away, for a general service should be grasped by the Government.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's words, that "drink is doing more damage in the war than all German submarines put together," and that we have great powers to deal with drink, and mean to use them," raised hopes in the country that drastic measures were about to be taken with the root of the evil—i.e., the traffic, the mere occasional outgrowth, such as eating."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer also said (vide *Times* of September 19th)—"We have been too comfortable, too indulgent, many, perhaps, too foolish, and the stern hand of fate scourged us to a position where we can see the great evening things that matter for a nation—the great things of honour we had forgotten, duty, patriotism, and, clad in glittering white, the great noble of sacrifice, pointing like a rugged finger to Heaven."

Russia has seen that reformation in the matter of the terrible national vice of drunkenness is one of the great everlasting things that matter for a nation," and has attained to the great pinnacle of efficiency, health, and prosperity.

At such a crisis as the present, we cannot believe that Mr Lloyd George's words were a mere flight of rhetoric, and we would, therefore, urge upon the Government to make good the words of one of the great Ministers of the Crown, passing some strong and "fearless" measure restricting the sale of drink, such as the closing of public-houses and clubs on Sunday, abolishing the *ona fide* Travellers' Act, the prohibition of the sale of drink after 1 p.m. on Saturday and 6 p.m. on other days, and doing away with "wet" camps in military camps.

Your obedient servants,

MICHAEL Cardinal LOGUE.

JOHN B. ARMAGH, Archbishop.

JAMES BINGHAM, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

W. R. BUDD, Vice-President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

March 15th, 1915.

TRAGIC OCCURRENCE

IN COUNTY LIMERICK.

Farmer Shot Dead.

A tragic occurrence took place on Wednesday night at Miltown, some two miles west of Pallaskenry, through which James Carroll, a farmer, residing in the district, lost his life. The deceased resided with his brother, Denis Carroll, who is some 24 years of age, and on a farm in which it appears the mother of the two men, Mrs Mary Carroll, has a life interest, under an agreement come to as the result of the death of her husband, William Carroll, who died about 12 months ago. With the mother, the two sons, both unmarried, lived, and also an unmarried daughter. Under the agreement and by the will of the father, the farm at Miltown comprising some 30 acres, was to go to the son Denis Carroll, and also the residence thereon, another farm of about 16 acres being left to the son James Carroll. On the latter farm there was no residence, which led to the family no doubt living together at the Miltown residence. The brothers Denis Carroll, and James Carroll, were not, it is stated, on very friendly terms, owing it would seem to the arrangement made as to the tenancy of the two farms, but however that may be, it appears that there was a quarrel between them on Wednesday night, and with fatal result. Denis Carroll was in the house, and awaited the return of his brother James from Pallaskenry, who had been out during the day. Shortly after eleven o'clock the latter arrived home. Denis had remained in, his sister being on a visit to a married brother in the neighbourhood, and the mother apparently in bed. There was an altercation, the deceased, it is alleged, abusing his brother from outside the house. Denis Carroll, who a short time ago purchased a single-barrelled gun, accosted his brother at the door, and as a consequence of the high words which had taken place, brought the weapon, loaded as it was with a charge of powder and shot, to protect himself from any possible violence. Whatever the cause the weapon was fired point blank at James Carroll, taking effect in the left side of the chest, and inflicting a gaping wound, which caused instantaneous death. This was some time after 11 o'clock, and shortly before midnight Denis Carroll came to the police barrack at Miltown, stated what had occurred, and surrendered himself to custody on the charge of shooting his brother, a charge which was subsequently preferred against him. He was detained in custody, Sergeant Kerris and Constable Murphy proceeding to the residence of the Carrolls, where James Carroll was found, but life was extinct. A Doctor Cussen, Pallaskenry, certified on his speedy arrival, after being summoned. The Constabulary found an exploded cartridge, and also, as is stated, two other exploded cartridges on the premises. The prisoner showed signs of mental derangement during the night, and next day, at Pallaskenry, he was brought before Mr P. D. Sullivan, R.M., and remanded for a period of eight days, being subsequently removed under escort to Limerick prison.

TRADE UNIONS.

Important Conference at the Treasury.

About a hundred representatives of the great trades unions of the country attended an impor-

ST PATRICK'S DAY

The National Holiday was observed in a quiet and becoming manner on Wednesday in a quiet and becoming manner. All the principal business houses were closed the day being fine there were large numbers of people abroad to enjoy the respite from their work, which the Bank Holiday Act confers on the community. The shamrock, the emblem of national existence, was worn by every young and old, and in other ways the anniversary of the Festival was celebrated and symbolised. In the various parades and special services were held in commemoration of the day, at which large congregations were present. From the general appearance of the city it was evident that the inducement offered by the railway company, as largely availed of as they would be a period of the year, as in the earlier part of the year the streets presented an animated appearance which it could be deduced that the citizens preferred to observe the holiday at home, rather than to the city. In the forenoon the parades of the Volunteers through the streets in the afternoon the principal attraction was the way of outdoor amusements was a hurling match at the Markets Field, which constituted a big draw. At night the picture houses were crowded, and at St Michael's Temperance Hall the Festival was celebrated in the form of an Irish concert and theatricals.

WAR AND RACING.

Sport to Continue.

As already announced in these columns, an influential meeting of the Jockey Club was held in London on Tuesday under the presidency of Captain Greer (Senior Stewards) the purpose of deciding whether or not, in view of the fact that the country is at war, racing should proceed as usual. Among those who addressed the gathering were Lord B. Lord Durham, Lord Dunraven, and Mr. Chaplin, whilst letters were read from Lord B. others, the Duke of Portland, Lord Crewe, and Sir Hedworth Meux. The proceedings lasted about two hours, and a decision was arrived at that there was no reason to reverse the decision of last September to the effect that racing be carried out where local circumstances permit, and the feeling of the locality adverse to the meeting being held. Subject to the Stewards of the Ascot Meeting stating that the altered conditions under which the meeting would have place, they are considering whether it would be found practicable to hold the meeting or not.

GOVERNMENT AND THE RAIL

It was announced in Glasgow on Saturday that the Government and the railways had reached terms with respect to the compensation railways will receive as the outcome of the Government having taken over control. It was stated that the Government has consented to make up the difference in net earnings between 1913 and the current year, instead of as at first proposed, provided the railways bear one-quarter of the recent rise in men's wages.

HAY BAR.

MOTHER, YOUR CHILD NEEDS A LAXATIVE!

If Tongue is Coated, Stomach Sick or the Child is Cross.