

...announced on Tuesday that he "has definitely refused to consent to the formation of a War Council which he would not be a member," and that his decision might be regarded as final. This is, doubtless, the rock on which the Cabinet split has occurred, but until we have Mr Asquith's own statement in the House of Commons we cannot be in possession of the full facts, which induced the premier to resign. The right hon gentleman, however, made it perfectly plain in the course last Monday evening, that whatever reconstruction of the Cabinet might be placed it would involve no departure in shape or form, from the policy pursued since the beginning of the war. What is desired is a more vigorous policy, and it is felt rightly, that a small War Council with a free hand will be the best possible and the most timely step in that direction. It has been well said, that a Government, like any other vital business, can only be effective if its directing members are few and harmonious, and in the closest possible touch from hour to hour, bringing quick and intelligent stock of the situation and its remotest results, and making more than ample preparation to deal with them. And it may well be hoped that reconstruction will proceed on such lines as these. Rumour is, of course, busy with the probable leading figures in the new Government—a general election under existing circumstances is naturally discounted—and the names of those most likely mentioned are those of Mr Bonar Law, Mr Lloyd George and Sir Edward Grey. What will be the position of the Prime Minister? The "Daily Telegraph" asks the question—"Will he consent to serve a Government in any subordinate position after having been for 8 years Prime Minister? Some of his friends may answer with an indignant negative, but we are far from sure that Mr Asquith's high sense of public duty will not lead him to a different and much nobler reply. If it is believed that he could usefully serve his country in any other position than that of the Minister no sense of offended dignity would keep him back, and he would add lustre to an already splendid record." The morning's news shows that the political situation is still complex. Mr Bonar Law has declined the honour proffered

Lady Wimbome has now completely recovered from her recent indisposition, and has returned to the Viceregal Lodge.

Mr J F Bennis will deliver a lecture on "Astronomy" at to-morrow night's meeting of the P. Y. M. A Literary Class.

The restrictions as to supplying drink to soldiers in Tipperary, which were removed a fortnight ago, have been again enforced.

At the Athlone December Pig Fair yesterday best quality bacon pigs reached the extraordinarily high price of 91s per cwt (dead-weight). Fat pigs realised 88s per cwt.

The Countess of Limerick has returned to London from America, where she has been on a visit to her daughter, Lady Victoria Cox Brady, for the last two months.

Most Rev Dr Foley, addressing a congregation in the Carlow Cathedral, strongly condemned abuses arising out of Sunday sports at considerable distances from their home leading to profanation by drunkenness and row.

The Portrush Urban Council passed a resolution in favour of amending the Health Resorts and Watering Places (Ireland) Act, in order to enable each district to increase, if necessary, the present rate of one penny in the £ for advertising.

### WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN LIMERICK.

A draft of fourteen wounded soldiers arrived in the city last evening from Cork. They were met at the station by Capt Curran, R.A.M.C.; Dr W. Fogarty, Mrs O'Connor, and Miss Wallace, V.A.D.

Mrs Goodbody, Lady Shaw, Mrs Ievers, Messrs J S Gaffney, C.S.; Richard Harris, James Flynn, and William M Kidd kindly supplied motors for the transfer of the men to Barrington's Hospital. All are sitting up cases.

The County Limerick branch of the Red Cross Society made all the arrangements for the reception of the wounded men.

### DEATH OF MR JAMES NOLAN.

We announce with extreme regret the death of Mr James Nolan, which occurred at his residence, Newcastle, last evening, in his forty-fifth year. The deceased gentleman had been ailing for some time, and, despite the best medical skill, he passed away last evening. He was one of the most extensive farmers in the county, and a large raiser of dairy stock. For many years he took an active part in county affairs. He was a member of Limerick No 1 District Council and Limerick Board of Guardians up to a few years ago, and took a keen interest in the working of these bodies. He was also a member of the Limerick and Clare Farmers' Association, where his wise counsel was a great help in the deliberations affecting the well-being of his class and the ratepayers in general. His death in the prime of his life is very deeply regretted by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and the sympathy of the public will be extended to his widow and family in the irreparable loss they have sustained. The remains will be removed to St Patrick's R.C. Church this evening, and the funeral will take place at one o'clock to-morrow for the family burial place at Ballysimon.

### BISHOP OF CLOGHER AND RED CROSS.

"Whatever tends to assuage the sufferings of the wounded and helps to lessen in some degree the horrors of this atrocious war must necessarily appeal to our charity and command our sympathy and support," says his Lordship the Most Rev Dr McKenna, Bishop of Clogher, in a letter forwarding a subscription to the Red Cross Supply Depot at Castleblaney, County Monaghan,

Leinster Regiment—Second Lieutenant M.C. Service Battalion, to be Acting whilst commanding a company.

Royal Munster Fusiliers—Captain C Special Reserve, to Acting Major whilst as Major, headquarters of a battalion; Acting Captains whilst commanding a Second Lieutenant F M F West, Special Reserve T H Poingdestre.

#### REGULAR FORCES. INFANTRY.

Royal Munster Fusiliers—A Brock temporary Second Lieutenant (attached temporary Lieutenant E R H Orford to be Captain.

#### War Office, December INFANTRY.

Royal Irish Regiment—Captains to be M R P W Gledhill, M.C.; Brevet Bourke, D.S.O.; F O Bowen. Lieutenant Murphy to Acting Captain.

Royal Munster Fusiliers—Temporary Lieutenant A Keevil relinquishes the acting rank on ceasing to command a company.

#### GARRISON BATTALIONS.

Royal Irish Regiment—Temporary Lieutenant H Cornock, from general list, to be Captain.

#### SPECIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS

From officers' Cadet units to Second Lieutenant on probation:—

Connaught Rangers—T C Wallis. Royal Munster Fusiliers—J W I Robinson.

### IRISH RAILWAYMEN.

An crisis appears to have been reached in the relations between Irish railway companies and their employees. Until quite recently, a temporary, the Government has not taken seriously the men's demand for a war bonus to that of the British railwaymen. The reason to believe, however, that conditions more changed, and that both the leading Railwaymen's Unions and the Government representatives concerned in the negotiations opinion that the war bonus demand cannot be deferred much longer. That a grave unrest prevails among the Irish railwaymen is doubted, and it is felt by delegates to the conference sitting in London that unless such concessions are made stoppages are inevitable too early yet to say how far the Government are prepared to move in the matter. Certainly is the case that the whole of Irish railway control is being examined in a more sympathetic spirit than has been hitherto, and the general expectation is that the Government will show more consideration, is that the Government will show over the Irish railways on terms identical to those on which the British lines are controlled.

### THREATENED IRISH RAILWAY STRIKE.

The Cork correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company states that the drivers of the G. S. and W. Railway have to hand in strike notices next Monday men ask a 6s a week war bonus, which the company refuse. The strike is to take effect on December 18th unless an agreement is arrived at.

### MILITARY SERVICE ACT.

A young man named Shanshan was arrested at Athlea, and charged at Abbeyfeale before C Harnett, J.P., with evading military from Birmingham Registration Area. The man stated he was exempt, but had no exemption papers, was handed over to a military escort.