

Organisations now produced can give an "opportunity" of showing the ease of the beliefs they profess, as the annexation which the German has ordained for Russia has just been effected. No democrat can justify the use of populations under a mass of spontaneous consent nor the use upon them of Prussian militarism. Classes of the German people are not accomplices of the Kaiser and the way they will take action against the way which their Russian and Polish friends have been victimised. But it will be doubted if the working class in the Kaiser's realm will demand anything more effective than double-faced protests in the street and in the Press. When they succeed the German Socialists fall behind them; dissension only appears when the militarists fail. Meanwhile the invasion of Russia, notwithstanding the humiliating "peace" terms conceded by the Kaiser and company, is continued with unrelenting vigor and meeting with no effective opposition from the Bolsheviks, who, to put it in their own words, put it on their own petard. Pskoff, but an eight hour journey by rail to the East, having been captured, the capital is now menaced. The enemy's strategic aggressive action in Russia is a repudiation of his "no indemnities annexation" guarantees given to the Allies.

Thus the position of Russia is under a cloud, as she is, is deplorable and extreme for the population of this vast Empire. Public attention is now directed to the possible action of the Allies in the circumstances. A Tokio report says Viscount Motono as stating would a Russo-German peace be easily concluded, it went without saying Japan will take steps of the most adequate character to meet the situation, and that "the fullest understanding exists with Great Britain, America, and other Allies."

CURRENT COMMENT.

Weather.

Some weeks past the weather has been so bad and unfavourable for tillage operations, having fallen heavily from time to time. It is as if March is coming in "like a lion," right or early this morning there was a fall in the hills and low-lands in this district presented a whitened aspect later on. The weather is very cold, and severe weather, if any, seems in prospect. To-day was bright and fine.

Italy and Austria.

Austria's refusal to take part in the new offensive against Russia is regarded in the circles as the first definite and open sign of disagreement between Berlin and Vienna. A diplomat of very wide experience expresses the view that the new German adventure against the crisis in the Dual Monarchy to a

It has been notified officially that the rank of Acting-Sergeant in the R.I.C. will be abolished as from March 1st. In future promotion will be made direct from the rank of Constable to that of Sergeant, and the curtailment of promotions, due to the gradual weeding-out of Acting-Sergeants, will now cease.

RED CROSS CONCERTS.

In the Thomond Hall, George Hotel, last night, by kind permission of Major Filgate and officers, a very enjoyable concert was given by members of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The Hall was crowded, and the programme, which was selected with the utmost taste, proved a great attraction. It contained some very taking vocal and instrumental items, all of which were given with delightful artistic effect, and elicited the unstinted plaudits of the audience. The entertainment was in aid of the Dock Ward Red Cross Society, an organisation that has very materially helped to supplement the funds of the Society which, since its initiation, has served to alleviate the sufferings of our gallant wounded soldiers. The Concert, which was promoted by Miss Doyle, Mrs Lloyd, and Miss Petty was in every respect an unqualified success, was repeated this afternoon, when the attendance was again large. The programme opened with an orchestral selection which was a very engaging number and heartily received. Private Grimison supplied a novel comic song, while Private Davies' tuneful tenor voice was heard to advantage in two engaging ballads. An instrumental selection by Lance-Corporal Bowden was greatly appreciated, while Lance-Corporal Oates and Harrop were a great success in vocal duets. Sergeant Denton was responsible for two comic songs of merit. A monologue by Sergeant Bloor was an appreciative addition to the programme, while Lance-Corporal Guthridge's baritone voice did ample justice to two delightful songs. In medley and comic duologue Sergeants Denton, Chatham, Corporals Papa, Haddon, Oates, and Private Harrop kept the audience in the best of humour.

FUNERAL OF MR W. T. ORMSTON.

The funeral of the late Mr W T Ormston, G.P.O., whose premature demise is so deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends in the city, took place on Tuesday afternoon from his residence, 2 Grattan Villas, to St Mary's Cathedral. It was very large and representative, and testified to the deep sympathy felt with the widow and family of the deceased in the great loss they have sustained. The Postmaster, Chief Clerk, Superintendent of Telegraphs, and the general staffs were represented, and the wreaths, of which there were many, included those from the Post Office, with which the deceased was connected for over thirty years, and where he was held in the highest esteem and regard.

The chief mourners were—Fred, Cecil, and Jack Ormston, sons; Charlie Ormston, brother; James and William Ormston, uncles; William, Thomas, and Henry Gale, James Burrowes and John Galbraith, V Moorehead, brothers-in-law; Fanny, Mollie, and Suzie Ormston, sisters; Vida, Ethel, May, and Hilda, daughters of the deceased; Mrs Hill, Mrs Gale, Mrs Burrowes, and Mrs Eakins, sisters-in-law.

Canon Waller was the officiating clergyman.

THE DUBLIN TRAGEDY.

A verdict of death from suffocation from carbon dioxide gas was returned in the case of the four men who went down to unload a vessel at the North Wall on Monday morning.

The death in action on December 3rd, 1914, of Lieutenant Francis Ber Gloster, A.S.C. (attached R.F.C.), fourth in the late Mr George Gloster, and of Mrs G. Parteen House, Limerick. He was twenty years of age.

ARRESTS IN THE CITY.

Early yesterday morning a party of Constables arrested at their residences in Limerick M P Colivet and James McInerney, under the provisions of "The Cat and Mouse" Statute, to the conditions caused by the prisoners going on hunger-strike. The prisoners were arrested months since under the Defence of the Realm Act and subsequently released, one of the conditions of discharge being that they should report themselves periodically to the district police authorities. Their failure to do so, it is alleged, was the cause of the accused being re-arrested yesterday. The two men were conveyed under an escort constabulary by the early train to Dublin committal to Mountjoy Prison.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

During the week seven additional wounded soldiers have been received at Barrington Hospital, and six have arrived for treatment at St John's Hospital, from Cork. There are thirty wounded soldiers now in Barrington Hospital at St John's.

LIMERICK SPRING ASSIZES.

The Limerick Assize Commission for the County will be opened on the 7th proximo by Mr Justice Pim, who will preside in the Court, and Mr Justice Gordon in the County Court. The criminal cases listed comprise from the city—Michael Doyle, larceny, and Houlihan, infanticide—and two from the County—James Ryan, larceny, and Patrick Fea, offence under the Whiteboy Act. There are eighty-three appeals listed for hearing.

THE PADDOCKS, LIMERICK.

Weekly Cattle and Sheep Market.

Wednesday, February 27th—Normal state in the store stock section; inclination to do on part of buyers put business on firmer lines than some previous markets; current values of heifers in active request, all lots cleared; three-year-old heifers, £17 10s; one-and-a-half-year-old bullocks, £15 to £18; heifers (small bullock calves, £12 2s 6d, £11 11s, £9 5s, £11s; heifers, £11 10s and £8 15s. In the department the usual weekly consignment forward. Early entries were a bit "up and so that prices were "in and out"; when the lots were reached operations assumed a particularly lively and active character, and it is plain that buyers meant business; rates reached the higher level; full values freely paid a quick exchange. The upward tender rates of last two markets was accentuated; prices must be quoted as indicating a steady advance on best rates, so that values stiffened considerably in vendors' favour. The choice for which there were a good many buyers sharp competition. Mr Norris Russell set another record for one of his heifers at 54 gu. Some of his other prices were £44 10s, £4 10s and £40. Tops from £10 to £51; first heifers, £35 to £40; useful medium-size, £41 10s; second class, £25 to £30; breeding £6 6s to £6 16s. Buyers present in strong trade ruled active and firm throughout the