

yet been taken by the members of the trade to adjust prices in connection with the Budget proposals as outlined by the Exchequer. The members are awaiting a lead from Dublin, and it is expected that the price of beer will be forthcoming in a day or two. It is, however, a course that may take, one way or the other, and that is that the price of beer will be considerably advanced on the present level. It is more than likely that a meeting of the trade will be held this week, when the price list will be decided upon and

## RMS IN IRELAND.

### New Order.

General Sir Bryan Mahon, Commander of the forces in Ireland, the Commander of the Forces in Ireland, has made arrangements for the Defence of the Realm Regulations to take effect as from the 24th April, throughout the Counties of Cork, East Tipperary, the Counties of Kerry, Limerick, Sligo, Roscommon, Kilkenny, Longford, Louth, and Westford, and the Cities of Cork and Limerick, being the whole of Ireland, in respect of which the provisions of Section One of the Defence of the Realm (Amendment) Act, 1915, is for the time being in force, the carrying, having, or keeping of military arms, ammunition, or explosives, by persons other than members of the Army, the Royal Air Force, the Royal Naval Reserve, and the Police Forces of the Kingdom, is prohibited, in writing, by the Secretary of State for War, in pursuance of the Order made by Sir Bryan Mahon on the 19th February last.

## POSTAL RATES.

It would be quite possible to have some postal changes made effective by the Budget, but the intention, I understand (says a London correspondent) is to leave the question to remain over until a Bill is passed in Parliament dealing with postal proposals as can only become operative after the Budget. Under these conditions the postage will obtain for a couple of years. Newspaper rates are not to be changed.

The new postal rates as proposed in the Budget:—On all letters up to 4ozs to be a flat rate of 1½d, with an additional 1d for each succeeding 2oz. Letters to the U.S. will cost 1½d per oz. A similar increase will be applied to letters for the British Isles. Postage on all postcards

for circulars, notices, etc., under 1oz to be 1½d, exceeding 1oz an additional 1d. Parcels, it is proposed to replace the present rates, which progress from 4d to 1s by 1d—Up to 3lbs, 6d; 3lbs to 7lbs, 9d; 7lbs to 10lbs, 1s. No alteration will be made in the postage until due notice has been given.

## FISHING AT CASTLECONNELL.

Clear weather did not prove favourable for fishing at Castleconnell during last week, and the strong southern winds were welcomed by the anglers and their friends who are staying at the hotel there. For the week ending last week the following were the catches:—Captain Vickers, on the Hermitage, caught with rod and line six salmon weighing 10, 30, 24, and 33 lbs. Mr. Moorhead, on the Broadlands waters, took four, weighing 10, 30, 24, and 33 lbs. On the Downs waters were taken five salmon, 27, 15, 33, 34 and 35 lbs. On the New Garden fishery Mr. Lane caught three salmon, 30, 22, and 32 lbs.

Amongst the War Honours mentioned in the "London Gazette" are the following:—

## The Military Cross.

Captain Albert Warren Scoble, Army Service Corps, attached to the Tank Corps, has been awarded the Military Cross "for gallantry in the field in face of heavy shell fire." Captain Scoble joined the Army under the Derby scheme in 1916, and has been for nearly two years in France. He is fourth son of Mr J W and Mrs Scoble, 15 Mountpleasant Square, Ranelagh, Dublin, formerly of Killinane, Co Limerick.

2nd Lt Clare Brayton Bouchier, R Muns Fus—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Volunteering to take part in a raid, he was in command of the left sections of the first wave, and, although the sections on his right were disorganised owing to enemy bombing, he pushed on and reached his final objective, where his party performed excellent work in bombing dugouts and killing numbers of the enemy. His splendid example of leadership and fine fighting spirit did much to ensure the success of the operation.

## The D.C.M.

7244 Sergt J McCarthy, Leins R (Cork)—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as transport sergeant during a very long period. He had done very good work at all times, frequently under most difficult and dangerous conditions. He displayed the greatest energy and devotion to duty.

5955 R.S.M A Parker, R.F.A (Clonmel)—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. After the battery had lost heavily he took over the entire duties of a subaltern officer, and did excellent work in reorganising the gun detachments. Whilst in charge of a working party at the forward position, although frequently interrupted by shell fire, he built four gun pits and the necessary dug-outs for the men in a very short time. He is a most efficient and capable warrant officer, and handles his N.C.O's and men in a very able manner.

## Priest and Nun Shot by Germans.

The frontier correspondent of the Amsterdam Telegraaf says:—Fourteen Belgians have been shot in Fort Wilryck, near Antwerp, for alleged espionage. Among them were a nun and a priest. Germans no longer announce these executions as formerly on red posters.

## FATAL BURNING ACCIDENT.

Mr J F Barry, J.P., City Coroner and a Jury, held an inquest to-day as to the death of Margaret Kelly, aged 3½ years. The only witness called was the mother of the child Mrs Kelly, who stated that about half-past twelve o'clock yesterday afternoon she went for some groceries, leaving the little girl at witness's residence in Thomas street. Witness returned at one o'clock to find the door closed, that had stood ajar, and the child inside lying on the floor her clothing burned, and her daughter dead. It was stated that the little girl must have set fire to her dress with lighted papers, and thereby originated the sad occurrence. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

## IRISH LAW OFFICERS.

Mr Arthur W Samuels, K.C., M.P., attended before the Lord Chancellor in his Chambers yesterday, and was sworn in as His Majesty's Attorney-General for Ireland. The Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper was in attendance, and administered the usual declaration.

The appointment of Mr J B Powell, K.C., as Solicitor-General has been officially confirmed, and he will be sworn in at an early date.

land valuation and by the effect of the liquor changes on the barley trade. As farmers form a larger proportion of the Irish than of the British population, the incidence will be disproportionately severe on Ireland.

A representative of a leading Dublin distiller told an "Irish Independent" representative that the increase in whiskey duty came as a big surprise to the trade in Ireland. They had reckoned on an increase from 14s 8d to perhaps £1, instead of to 30s. The price of whiskey, however, would not be increased either by manufacturers or wholesalers, but the duty would have, as usual, to be paid by the consumer. He calculated the increase would amount to 2½d or 3d a glass.

A leading member of the Dublin brewery trade said that the increased tax on beer and stout would occasion an increase of 30s per hogshead (52 gal) on the price charged by brewers to licensees and vintners.

"Since the beginning of the present month," he said, brewers have been supplying stout at a price to the licensed trade at £1 less per hogshead than they were charged hitherto. That was owing to the reduced gravity imposed by the recent Food Control Order. But the vintners did not lower the retail price to the consumer. It is that means they have been making about 1½d per pint more profit since 1st April than they were making up to that date. The Budget increase now amounts to 25s per standard barrel of stout, practically 1½ per pint. If the vintners increase their present retail prices by 1½d per pint and 1½d per bottle it should leave them slightly more profit than they made a month ago." He did not think the increased tax would reduce the sale of beer or stout or the trade generally, but the quantity allowed to be brewed was far short of the demand. The present retail prices in Dublin are 6d per bottle of stout (1½ pint) and 7d per pint of porter. It is probable, vintners will not raise the prices respectively to 6½d and 7½d.

## DEATH OF MOST REV DR HIGGIN.

The death occurred on Monday night, at his residence, St Mary's, Castlebar, of the Most Rev Michael Higgins, D.D., Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Tuam and Titular Bishop of Temi. The deceased prelate was also parish priest of Castlebar. Though not in robust health for considerable time, he was gradually improving and no danger was apprehended by his medical advisers. The announcement of his unexpected death came as a great surprise and regret to his townspeople. He was chairman of the Mayo County Scholarships Committee and the Mayo County Insurance Committee.

## CONSCRIPTION FOR WOMEN.

The "Daily Express" Lobby Correspondent says:—Conscription for women is to be brought before Parliament almost immediately by Sir W Bull, who is busy drafting the measure.

## ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCIL TO BE SUMMONED.

Sir F Carson writes to Mr Bates, Secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council:—"It will be necessary to make arrangements for the summoning of the Standing Committee of the Ulster Unionist Council at the earliest moment after the Home Rule Bill announced by the Government has been published. As the position to be taken up will be of the gravest possible character, I hope every available delegate will be present. It will be necessary to reorganise all our machinery throughout the province, which has been in abeyance since the war broke out."

## COST OF IRISH CONVENTION.

It is understood, says the Exchange Telegraph,