

IRISH FREE STATE.

CITY PUBLICHOUSE TRADES LIMERICK HARBOUR BOARD

President Cosgrave's Review.

"The Times" of yesterday publishes a special contribution from President Cosgrave on the Irish Free State and its achievements and problems. But twelve short months have sped by since the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed in London and duly ratified by the Parliaments of the two countries, states Mr Cosgrave. The New Year finds Ireland emerging in triumph through her agonising ordeal with a host of achievements, under the most difficult circumstances, to her credit. The agreement which the Irish delegates brought back from London was the joint product of British and Irish statesmanship, arriving through just and fair compromise on both sides at terms which both parties could recommend to their respective peoples as offering an honourable basis for reconciliation and peace between neighbours so long estranged. And the peoples crowned that agreement with their unhesitating approval.

But in each country that small and simple-minded minority, whom a misunderstanding public calls "Dis-hardes," registered their simple hate and decline any compromise dictated by statesmanship. In England, fortunately for her, the "Dis-hardes" are men with whom the pen dipped in gall is mightier than the sword; but, unhappily, in Ireland the "Dis-hardes" are women, whose fanaticism at their extremest can find no outlet so satisfying as destruction—sheer destruction. Weak men in their atmosphere seek peace in compromise with their frenzy, and even children are exalted by having revolvers thrust into their little hands. No doubt, these people can create, and, in fact, have created, a position of much trouble and difficulty—the difficulty of Bedlam out of bounds, but the difficulty can be, and is being, dealt with effectively.

Mr Cosgrave goes on to refer to the challenge against democratically constituted authority which has been made by the armed irregular bands, a challenge which, he says, "no Government could afford to ignore. This challenge," he proceeds, "had to be resisted and the uprising against the people's Government suppressed, and, with deep sorrow, the order was given to the young soldiers of the National Army to assert, by force of arms, the supremacy of constitutional authority—a most distasteful duty, which they have performed with great courage and heroic self-restraint, in spite of the terrible provocation. In this tragic conflict, wantonly forced on us, we have lost priceless and irreparable lives and much valuable property. But the Irish nation has been saved, and our Treaty obligations with Great Britain have been faithfully kept. The New Year, therefore, finds our nation in a condition of greater peace and security than it has enjoyed for a long while.

"In the face of the difficulties which I have endeavoured to outline, we can, I think, claim that we have safely laid the foundations of the Free State, and have gone far towards restoring normal and ordered conditions, essential for the great work of reconstruction which will presently follow. To-day, in spite of the dismal forebodings of wretched Cassandra and the wicked folly of those who should have been our greatest allies, the Irish Free State, shorn at Birmann, with its status and authority no less than that of any of the great free nations which are members of the British Commonwealth, is established in law and in fact."

"A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

President Cosgrave's Message to Ireland.

"To-day we celebrate the first New Year's Day in Saorstat Eireann. In our new-found liberty we can restore unshattered the language and culture of the Gael; develop our country and its trade; improve in every way the lives of our citizens; and, as a co-equal member in a

Labourer's Death

Inquest To-Day.

In the Town Hall to-day, at 12 o'clock, Mr J. S. McNeill, City Coroner, and a jury, returned the inquest on Thomas Hastings, (43), labourer, married, White, Wine lane, John-street, who died from a bullet wound inflicted on him while in a public house in Mangret-street on the evening of the 22nd December.

At the inquiry held on the 28th ult, evidence of identification was given by Mary Hastings, widow of the deceased, and on the application of the military an adjournment of the investigation was granted for a week to ascertain how the revolver, alleged to have been fired by a man named McMahon, who is under arrest, came into his possession.

Superintendent Dineen represented the Civil Guard.

Daniel Doyle, Watergate, in his evidence stated on the evening in question he was in Hickey's publichouse, Mangret-street, with the deceased. While conversing with others, McMahon walked in and pulled a revolver out of his pocket. He put the revolver close to witness's left arm, and remarked "Would ye like to see this." Witness turned his head away for a moment, and next saw a flash and heard a report, Hastings falling to the ground, saying "I am shot." McMahon walked out of the shop.

To the Superintendent—There was no controversy or argument with McMahon. The occurrence was then reported to the Civil Guard at John Street Barracks.

Michael Dandon, labourer, Old Francis-street, deposed to being in the publichouse when McMahon came in. At the time witness was speaking to Doyle and others, McMahon, after making a remark about the compliments of the season, stood in front of Hastings and pulled out a revolver and said, "Would you like to see this?" At the time McMahon was in the uniform of a National soldier, and the next thing witness heard was a report, and deceased, falling, said "I am shot."

To the Superintendent—McMahon said nothing after shooting Hastings, but walked away. He appeared to be under the influence of drink, but had no controversy with anyone in the place.

Sergeant M Braddish, National Army, deposed to being in the licensed premises with others, at half-past six on the evening in question. He saw McMahon pass into the shop, and a minute later witness heard a shot, and saw McMahon walk out and put the revolver into his pocket. Witness ran at him, put him against the counter, and with the help of Volunteer Moran, witness disarmed McMahon. The revolver was fully loaded, with one round discharged. Witness arrested McMahon, who was under the influence of drink, and brought him to John Street Barracks, where he was handed over to the Civil Guard.

James Downey, who was in the publichouse when Hastings was shot, stated that when McMahon came in he said to deceased "Do you see this," producing a revolver. In a moment a shot went off, Hastings said "Oh, I am dead," and McMahon replied "You are not dead, man."

Dr W. P. Dandon, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, stated he examined the deceased on admission to hospital. On examination of him he found a small rough circular wound immediately to the left of the breast bone, between the sixth and seventh ribs. The skin was discoloured. Deceased was promptly operated on, and it was found that the base of the left lung was lacerated. An effort to find the bullet failed, and Hastings died the following evening at five o'clock. Death was due to shock and hemorrhage, resulting from the laceration of the left lung by a bullet wound.

The jury found that the deceased died from the effects of a bullet wound inflicted on him by a man named McMahon. They recommended the widow and family of the deceased to the consideration of the military authorities.

Election of Harbour Master

The Deputy Mayor (Councilor P. A. C. Bri) presided at the meeting of the Limerick Harbour Board yesterday. The names of the other members present are given in the appended dividend list.

The officials in attendance were—Messrs J. Power, Secretary, and H. V. Morony, Engineer. Applications for the position of Harbour Master, and Dock Master, at an initial salary of £46 year, with house and uniform, were read by Mr B. Mescall, 17 Upper Mall w street, and present an employe of the Galway Bay Steamship Company; Mr T. A. O'Hanrahan, Frederick street, the holder of a foreign-captain's certificate; Mr Carlo Hanrahan, A Terrace, at present a captain in one of the Limerick Steamship Company's boats, and Mr Joyce, The Moorings, O'Connell Avenue, ex-Member of the Harbour Board.

The Deputy Mayor—You have four candidates before you. Are all the candidates eligible? The Secretary—Yes.

To Mr Russell—The ages are given in the cases, those of Mr. Mescall, Mr T. A. O'Hanrahan and Mr C Hanrahan. Mr Joyce does not his age.

Mr Holliday proposed the election of Joyce, who, he said, was well known to the one of them. If he required a testimonial felt sure he would get an excellent one from the Board, upon which he served for a number of years. That he was entirely qualified for the position he was satisfied, or wise he would not have stood up to propose for the post. He had worked for the interests of the Board without fee or reward both Parliament and outside it. Whenever a suggestion had to go from that Board to enter the Board of Trade Ministry, Mr Joyce always there to meet them and help in putting their views before the Ministry, and always successful. No doubt, Mr Joyce suffering from the incurable disease of a Demingo, but he was still energetic and a quite capable of discharging the duties of Harbour Master if elected. He had very pleasure in proposing him for the position, at least compliment they could pay him.

Mr O'Flynn, in seconding the election of Joyce, said he had served his country and faithfully and well.

Mr D. Griffin, in supporting the candidate Mr Joyce, remarked that he deserved the post. He was still active and hard, and if elected he (Mr Griffin) felt sure that would give every satisfaction.

Mr M. Griffin also supported the candidate Mr Joyce, who, he said, would do credit to the position if appointed.

Mr J. P. Goodbody proposed the election of Carlo Hanrahan, whose testimonials were none. He had the advantage of his large steamers, and in an intricate dock Limerick that was absolutely essential.

Mr Herriott seconded the nomination of Carlo Hanrahan. His testimonials were lent, and during the submarine war Carlo Hanrahan never failed the city of Limerick brought his vessel in and out of port during four years of the war, and in that way saved people.

There was no other candidate proposed. Mr D. Griffin said although not proposing Timothy Hanrahan for the position he liked to pay a tribute to his ability and industry.

In the division the voting was—For Mr Joyce—Messrs D Griffin, P O'Flynn, Holliday, and M Griffin—4.

For Captain Carlo Hanrahan—Messrs Roycroft, F J Cleve, A Cleve, G E Geddy, H Roche, F J Herriott, P Wallace, J I body, and J N Russell—9.

The Deputy Mayor declared Captain Hanrahan elected and congratulated him on his success. Captain Hanrahan in reply thanked the Board for electing him. He hoped to give the Board the same satisfaction as he had given recent employers and merit the same approval.