

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondents sending in letters or reports for insertion in Saturday's "Chronicle," and these should be brief, are requested to let us have them on Fridays, where at all possible. Otherwise insertion in Saturday's issue cannot, owing to pressure of space, be guaranteed.

## TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers will kindly send in all substitutes for standing advertisements on Friday mornings. We cannot guarantee to insert in Saturday's issue any advertisement received after 2 p.m. on that day

## THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE.

(ESTABLISHED 1766)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1926.

### THE SAORSTAT CENSUS.

The preliminary report of the Census of Saorstát Éireann was released for publication on Saturday, and is far from satisfactory, in view of the hope encouraged that the population would show an increase. The figures are, on the whole, very disappointing, for, instead of an increase, there is an alarming decrease in the Free State's population of nearly 167,000, or 5.3 per cent. Making allowance for the slight recovery in the North, there is a net decrease of one hundred and sixty-one thousand in the population of the entire country since 1911, when the last Census was taken. Connaught during the period lost 9.5 per cent of her people, and Munster 6.2 per cent, and the outstanding factor in the report is the tendency to concentrate in the larger centres of population, for instance Dublin, Cork, and Limerick being taken as an example of this exodus from the rural districts. Most of the cities and larger towns show small accessions of population, especially Dublin, where the increase has been consistent and substantial. Limerick City, as stated last week in the "Chronicle," shows an increased population of 1,172, or 3.0 per cent., which is a gratifying feature, while in the county the reverse is the fact. The population of the county has fallen from 104,551 in 1911 to 100,244, a decline of 4,307, or 4.1 per cent. There is a fall in the figures of every rural district in the county except Newcastle West, which shows an increase of 176; and while Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and Galway contain more males than females, Limerick has an excess of the gentler sex. In his excellent analyses of the report, Mr John Hooper, Director of Statistics, states the causes that contribute to the general decline in the population. It is, he sets out, due to the evacuation from the Saorstát of the British forces and their dependents, the loss in man-power suffered by Ireland in the Great War, the disbanded Royal Irish Constabulary that left the country, and went to reside cross-Channel, and emigration to the United States of America. Then, although he does not mention it, the number of people that were driven out of or left the country in the troubled period of four years ago. All these were causes that have contributed to the decrease in our population; but as against these causes, it must be remembered that

## DEATH OF THE REV. R. J. C. CONNOLLY, M.A.

The death, which we announce with regret, took place at his residence, 23 Barrington street, at seven o'clock on Saturday evening, of the Rev. Robert J. C. Connolly, after a few days' illness, and in his eighty-sixth year. The deceased rev. gentleman was one of the best known and most widely respected clergymen in the diocese of Limerick, where all his ministerial life was spent. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he had a singularly brilliant course in the domain of languages. He was a prizeman in Syriac and Irish, winner of the Primate's Hebrew Prize, and Wall Biblical Scholar. In addition he was Prizeman in Arabic, a first Biblical Greek Prizeman, and a like distinction in Ecclesiastic History and Divinity Testimonium, first class. The Rev. Mr Connolly graduated B.A. in 1862 and M.A. fourteen years later. In 1865 he was appointed Curate of the United Parishes of Shanagolden and Loughill, and in 1878 Rector, retiring in 1919. In Foyines and district he was held in the highest respect by all classes for his kindly manner and interest in the welfare of the people among whom he ministered, and his death has been learned with sincere regret, not alone by his former parishioners but in the city and diocese generally. Preaching at the morning service in St. Michael's Church on Sunday the Rev. Chancellor Swain alluded in feeling terms to the late Rev. Mr. Connolly, whom, he said, had been a regular worshipper in that church since he came to reside in the city. He was, he remarked, a very kindly Christian man, and very few were probably aware that in him they had such a brilliant and distinguished scholar in their midst.

### The Funeral.

The remains of the late rev. gentleman were removed at a quarter past ten this morning from 23 Barrington-street for interment in the family burial-place, Loughill. The funeral was attended from the city by several friends of the deceased, who accompanied it to Ballinacurra. Approaching Foyines the remains were met by a large number of people, who were present to pay a final tribute of respect to the memory of a clergyman who resided in the locality for more than half a century, and who was held in the highest respect and esteem.

The chief mourners were—Mrs J. Burton and Miss Connolly (daughters), Mr J. Burton and Captain T. W. Stirling (sons-in-law), and Mr Maurice Bailey.

The officiating clergy at Loughill were Rev. Chancellor Swain and Rev. Treasurer Abbott, Askeaton.

The general public included—The Bishop, Right Rev. Dr. White; Venerable Archdeacon Waller, Very Rev. Dean Hackett, Rev. Canon Robertson, A. Prossor, G. Patterson, Right Hon. Lord Monteagle, K.P.; Commander the Hon. F. Spring Rice, Miss Knox, R. Coplen-Langford, H. O'Brien, Mrs Abbott, J. Little, Mrs Little, W. M. Little, A. N. Little, Miss Little, Rev. J. Wallace, C.C.; J. T. Nolan, T.D.; R. Despard, Mrs Despard, P. Nolan, E. Scales, P. O'Brien, Mrs O'Brien, Miss Scales, Mrs McDonagh, Mrs McCarthy, Mrs Ryan, P. Jackson, Mrs Jackson, Miss McCarthy, V. McCarthy, M. O'Connor, P. Madden, M. Cahill, E. Morrison, Miss McNamara, M. Gallagher, etc.

Wreaths were sent by sons and daughters of the deceased; Mr M. Bailey; Mrs de Ros Rose; Joan, Pat, and Barney; Mr A. H. Prossor and the Misses Prossor, and Miss O'Sullivan.

## MINISTER OF DEFENCE IN LIMERICK.

## IRISH DEAD.

### War Memorial Unveiled in Belgium.

Wyttschaete, Sunday.—In the presence of Lieut.-General Borremans, Inspector-General of Infantry, who represented the King of the Belgians—who was unable to attend—the British Minister in Belgium, Sir George Graham, and the British Military Attaché, Lieut.-Colonel Daubeny, as well as the commercial representative of the Irish Free State in Brussels and an enormous gathering, the Celtic Cross which has been erected in memory of the 50,000 Irishmen who fell in the Great War was unveiled to-day. After the buglers of the Irish Guards had sounded the "Last Post," the Rev. Maurice O'Connell, the Catholic Chaplain of the 10th Irish Division, blessed the cross, after which the Rev. R. Bird, the Protestant Chaplain, said prayers. During the ceremony the pipers played "The Lament," and General Molitor, representing the National Ministry of Defence, paid a tribute from the Belgian Army to the Irish dead, after which the Burgomaster of Wyttschaete undertook the guardianship of the monument.

General Sir Bryan Mahon, former Commander of the 10th Irish Division, thanked those present and made a speech briefly recalling the battle of Wyttschaete. The buglers then sounded the reveille.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, General Borremans was asked by the Irish Generals to give the memorial tablets recording the history of the battle and the list of the names of those who were killed to the Loch Chapel. The ceremony ended with the British and Belgian National Anthems.

### Monument to Irish Heroes of the Somme.

The monument erected by Irishmen in memory of the Irish Volunteers who fell in the battle of the Somme in 1916, was inaugurated at Guillemont yesterday. Marshal Joffre presided, and he was accompanied by several high British officers and the former officers of the 16th Irish Division. Senator Klotz, the Bishop of Amiens, and the Mayor of Guillemont rendered tributes to the brave deeds of the fallen.

## CHRISTIAN BROTHERS PUPILS

### Enjoyable Reunion.

An enjoyable function took place at the Christian Brothers Schools, Sexton street, on Sunday evening, when the pupils who took part in the performance of "William Tell" at the Coliseum Cinema early this year were entertained by the Brothers of the Community. The company, which was large, included some well-known citizens including the Mayor (Councillor P. A. O'Brien) wearing his chain of office. Rev. Brother Donnelly, Superior, presided, and delivered an interesting address, in which he paid a well deserved tribute to the dramatic ability of the boys who had made the performance of "William Tell" such a success, and incidentally enhanced the schools educational standard. A varied programme of music, song, and dance followed, and during an interval the presentation of medals and caps was made to the teams that were successful in the domain of football and hurling. During last season the Christian Schools won the Dr. Harty Cup in the hurling competition for Munster secondary schools, the Dr. Keane Cup for Limerick secondary schools hurling teams, and the Munster Rugby Football Schools Cup, which gave them an interesting record.

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