

REDS PUSH ON WAS BIG FIGURE TOWN TOPICS

Nearer The German In International Life Frontier

FIGHTING IN ALSACE

An official announcement received in Moscow to-day from Marshal Koniev's Headquarters says that the Red offensive continues and that the Russians are now less than 65 miles from the German border.

A Moscow commentator to-day states that Marshal Koniev's forces are holding the Nida River line, and while maintaining a rapid advance towards the German border the Red forces are mushrooming out towards the German position in Crocow and Kielce.

The Soviet forces have now established a 40-mile front to the north-east of Cracow, and all indications are that the three-day-old offensive will prove to be one of the most momentous of the war.

Reports from Allied Headquarters on the Western Front are to the effect that new Allied attacks in the north-east of the Ardennes salient are meeting with little progress. Allied air formations report preparations by the Germans on a large scale, traffic and movement of troops being observed.

The German communique comments on fierce fighting in the northern Alsace region. It also refers to a new drive by Field Marshal Rundstedt south of Malmedy, the village itself having been already captured. In a fierce battle yesterday to the south of that town, twenty-seven German tanks were hurled against Allied positions. As resistance was encountered and some of the tanks driven back fifteen more were thrown into the battle, forcing the Allies to forsake many positions of strategic importance.

MURDER TRIAL

HOSPITAL TRAGEDY RECALLED

In the Central Criminal Court, Green Street, Dublin, to-day, before Mr. Justice Overend, John W. Moloney, Bridge House, Knocklong, former Technical School teacher, charged with the murder of Mr. Joseph Kirwan, Technical Schools Inspector, at Hospital, was ordered to be kept in custody during the Government's pleasure.

MADE NEW FRIENDS

THE SWAN AND DEED OF KINDNESS

Little deeds of kindness, little deeds of love,
Help to make earth happy, like the heaven above.

The well-known lines (writes our Ennis correspondent) may be aptly applied to the Ennis Gardai and the swan of the River Fergus. As a result of a deed of kindness the swan made new friends after her kith and kin had forsaken her and left her a deserted widow. Some time ago the swan broke a wing; it trailed after her in the water and she found it difficult if not impossible to make progress on land. This injury confined her movements to a stretch of water running by the Garda Barracks and the Christian Brothers Schools. Kindly hearted Gardai seeing the sad plight of the bird, which was gradually becoming more handicapped, caught and brought her to

MR. T. ST. JOHN GAFFNEY

A prominent Limerick-born figure of international repute has passed away in New Jersey, U.S.A., in the person of Mr. Thomas St. John Gaffney. The deceased, who was aged 81, was third son of the late Thomas Gaffney, J.P., Limerick. He was, therefore, brother of the late Mr. James S. Gaffney, solr., of this city, and uncle of Mr. Niall Gaffney, solr., the present Limerick representative of the family.

Mr. St. John Gaffney had a very brilliant career. Born in Limerick in 1864, he went to the United States in 1882 and later became a member of the New York Bar. In 1902 President Loubet of France named him Chevalier of The Legion of Honour. In February, 1905, King Leopold of Belgium conferred on him the Officer's Cross of the Order of Leopold II. In March, 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt nominated him U.S. Consul-General to Dresden. He was re-appointed by President Taft, and in 1913 was promoted to Munich, Bavaria, by President Wilson. After the outbreak of the war Mr. Gaffney repeatedly protested to the State Department against what he called the lies appearing in the English, French and American Press as to conditions in Germany and the origin of the war. He also vigorously denied the statements published in Entente papers as to the ill-treatment of Americans sojourning in Germany and Austria. The English Government took exception to Mr. Gaffney's attitude and influenced Wilson to demand his resignation in November, 1915. Mr. Gaffney requested a hearing at Washington or a copy of the charges against him, which was refused under Wilson's orders. In December, 1915, and again in August, 1916, Mr. Gaffney returned to the United States for the purpose of demanding an investigation of his case, but without success. On three occasions while on neutral steamers travelling between Denmark and America (which was then supposed to be neutral) the steamship was held up and boarded by British officials who deprived him of all his personal papers.

After the re-election of Wilson, Mr. Gaffney returned to Germany, where he remained with his family until the armistice. When Wilson declared war on Germany, all the property and money of Mr. Gaffney and his family in the United States were sequestered, and held by the Alien Property Custodian for four years before they were returned.

After his resignation from the Consular service in November, 1915, King Ludwig III. of Bavaria conferred on Mr. Gaffney the Distinguished Service Cross in recognition of his work in founding the American Hospital in Munich.

SUPPORTED THE "CHIEF"

DEATH OF OLD LIMERICK NATIONALIST

An ardent Limerick Nationalist of the old school, one who was deservedly held in high regard by all classes, passed away in the early hours of yesterday morning in the person of Mr. James O'Donovan, 47 Henry Street, and late of 3 Castle Street. The deceased, who had reached an advanced age, was an active and thoroughly fearless supporter of Charles Stewart Parnell both before and after the Split, and was one of those who

A COMPARISON.

Comparisons are, it is said, always odious. This dictum, however, did not deter Judge Barra O Briain at a sitting of the Limerick Circuit Court some time ago from drawing a comparison between our shop windows and public monuments. During the hearing of an action for compensation for damage to a shop front, Judge O Briain remarked: "the display windows in Limerick are a credit to the city, but I cannot compliment the city on the condition of its public monuments." This judicial remonstrance would seem to have escaped the notice of the proper authority, for the public statues are in as drab a state now as when the Judge made the comments quoted above.

IN NEED OF ATTENTION.

That the different public memorials in the city are in urgent need of attention there can be no doubt whatever. Indeed, notice has been directed several times to this matter, but it would appear that those in charge of the purse strings would rather save a few pounds than have the monuments renovated and refurbished. It is no credit to the city—indeed, it is a serious reflection—to have our statues in a drab and filthy condition. There is no excuse whatever for such inattention and neglect, and it is to be hoped that the City Council will provide a small sum when the estimate for the coming financial year comes up for consideration for the purpose of giving the "once over," as the saying goes, to the six public monuments in the city.

COURT OF CONSCIENCE.

It is not generally known that the Court of Conscience—a tribunal over which the Mayor of the City for the time being used to preside—is abolished. Yes, the powers, duties and functions of this Court were terminated under the provisions of the Courts of Justice Act, 1924. The Court of Conscience was brought into existence in 1840 as part of the machinery, as it were, of the Municipal Corporation (Ireland) Act, passed in that year. The jurisdiction of this Court was limited to the recovery of debts not exceeding £2, and in years gone by it was extensively availed of. The Mayor had power to issue writs, warrants and summonses, and to order the arrest of parties who deliberately disregarded any orders made by him in respect of his judicial functions.

THE SWAN SONG.

A correspondent, signing himself "Inquisitive," wants to know what is the origin of the expression, "Swan Song." Naturalists say that when the swan is dying it utters some exquisite notes. Erman, who is regarded as an authority on bird life, says "when the swan is wounded it pours forth its last breath in notes most beautifully clear and loud." Shakespeare, in his Othello, makes Emily say—"I will play the swan, and die in music." Hear one of our poets on the subject:—

"What is that, mother? 'The swan, my love;
He is floating down to his native grove.
Death darkens his eyes and unplumes his wings;
Yet the sweetest song is the last