

expressions, though expressed in the most lucid Russian, might be a Pushkin lyric recited backwards. Considering world politics, then, the case for an international language appears to be a good one. This speech estrangement is an unplucked briar in the undergrowth of political entanglement which calls for immediate attention.

#### THE AGE OF TRAVEL.

Leaving the lofty halls which shelter the makers of the world's future and surveying man's penetration of the more stable entity space, one again finds language difficulties in the centre of the picture. This is the age of travel, and Limerick has ample illustration of this from the nearness of Rineanna. Although monetary considerations still limit the number who journey by air, much evidence points to the conclusion that the day is not far off when travel from one country to another will be as commonplace as holidaying in a different county is to-day. A necessary adjunct to such movement must be the smoothing out of speech difficulties. At the moment the average traveller landing in France experiences little more pleasure and ease in listening to a Frenchman's directions to the post office than he would, had he landed in Basutoland by mischance and put the same question. Frantic thumbing through the pages of "French in a Fortnight" seems an unattractive method of mastering the advantages of international communication. In the present state of affairs, a well stocked library of guides to conversations in the Teutonic and Latin languages is a must to a holiday or business in a few European countries. It may seem useless to write about travel on the Continent when it is difficult to get to Lahinch, but it is misguided to wait for the realisation of practical travel facilities before putting the operation of an international language into effect.

#### DISTINGUISHING GIFT OF MAN

Language is a distinguishing gift of man. The sounds which other animals emit may serve to convey a meaning within broad categories, but humans alone have organised speech into the subtle instrument of intercourse which serves us now. In the course of time, war, geographical barriers and other factors have divided nation from nation, people from people, and this separation became very obviously marked in the evolution of speech. Advantages and disadvantages of this process are evident in the end-situation to-day. It is true that the world's store of linguistic beauty has been diverse and full. There are lines in Heine which cannot be justly rendered in English, and philosophy has relied for centuries on the clarity and compactness of Latin. But, on the other hand, this diversity has resulted in the disruption of peace and amity among nations. It is reasonable to suppose that misunderstandings which have led to wars in the past might never have arisen, or might have been avoided, if individuals had had that more intimate knowledge of one another which accompanies direct speech. There is, of course, a cynical opinion held by some that the less well people know one another the better; that greater contact between peoples leads not to better understanding but to more widespread greed and exploitation. To accept this view is to accept the necessity of war and the dominance of evil.

#### NO THREAT TO NATIONAL LANGUAGES.

In the suggestion that the time has come for an international language there need be no threat to existing national languages. Each nation might still preserve its peculiar speech characteristics and adopt the new language as an auxiliary. This seems to be the only practical way to deal with the Babel which hampers mankind at the present time.

Next week, some of the rival claimants for the position of super-national language will be considered.

#### ARMY HONOURS FOR LIMERICK

In the Army Command Shooting Championship, which concluded on Sunday at Kilworth Range, Co. Cork, the Limerick "A" team took first place in the F.C.A. Rifle Competition.

## NEVER COUNTED THE RISK

### LIMERICK OLD I.R.A. MAN PASSES

Yet another of the "old brigade," in the person of the late Maurice Johnson, has passed to his reward. Maurice gave life-long service to the cause of Irish freedom and was one of the first to parade as an Irish Volunteer in his native city of Limerick. When yet little more than a boy he joined the Volunteers, was intensely serious and enthusiastic from the outset, and continued to serve loyally in the cause of the Irish Republic right down to the last shot in the unfortunate Civil War. Away back in 1916 he was in his place to fight during Easter Week, but "the fatal countermanding order" issued by Commander-in-Chief MacNeill deprived him, as well as his companions who were at Killonan, of the opportunity of striking a blow at British Imperialism. Subsequent to this time, when the I.R.A. (as the organisation had become) trained in quiet places early every Sunday morning, Maurice was a regular attendant and one of those who kept the torch of nationality alight when gloom and despondency were enveloping the hopes of the young men of Ireland, as the outcome of the judicial murders carried out by General Maxwell, as well as the wholesale arrests and filling of internment camps. He always felt that the tide would turn and that the day would come when the soldiers of the I.R.A. would march openly and fearlessly through the streets of their own land in the soldier's garb to learn the trade of soldier so that their next blow would be of an effective kind.

In 1918 he transferred to the 2nd Battalion and became attached to one of the Companies. He was an expert mechanic, eminently capable of repairing defective rifles or revolvers, and those of us who were his companions in those far-off days can remember seeing him in the midst of broken revolvers which needed his skill, or making bombs which, if crude in pattern, were useful in service.

Maurice was of the retiring, shy type, but possessing a keen sense of humour. As a companion he was loyal and affectionate, ever ready to do a kindly act and say consoling word. No one ever heard him utter a hurtful observation, not to say do a hurtful thing. For many months during the Anglo-Irish War he dare not sleep in his own home, but yet kept at work in the old Powerhouse, where every minute he could snatch from his work as an electrician was devoted to his task as armorer.

When Maurice breathed his last at his home at Fort Green, Ballinacurra, Ireland lost one of her best and bravest sons, one who never counted risk or danger when she called for his services. He bore a painful illness only as a brave man could, and accepted the Will of God without question. Dear, faithful Maurice, we shall miss you from our midst, but are confident that your soul soared to Heaven at the moment of its release from this earth. With those other patriots who went before you, you will be remembered by your companions with love and pride. You did your duty nobly and well and we shall feel better for having known you. M.H.

#### LATE THOMAS CHERRY, CRATLOE

The following names were omitted from the list of clergy in the choir at Requiem for the late Thomas Cherry, Cratloe:—Rev. P. Hickey, O.S.A., Dublin; Rev. Father Barry, P.P., Sixmilebridge; Rev. Fr. McLoughlin, Brooklyn; Rev. Father Kinnane, P.P., Kilfenora; Rev. Father O'Grady, C.C., St. John's, Limerick.

From the list of Mass cards the names of David and Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Power, Limerick, were also omitted. Amongst the telegrams was one from Patrick McInerney, Rahaline, Sixmilebridge (not Patrick McNamara, as previously stated).

There are, however, nowadays four types of greens suitable for planting after the early potatoes in July. They are kales, sprouting broccoli, late savoy and a newcomer cabbage called January King.

The "early" "Hungry Cap" and other kales, together with the white and purple sprouting broccoli are well known. They are very hardy and filled a gap this last frosty spring when all other greens were killed, and before the spring cabbage was fit to use.

The real late savoy and January King cabbages are less known, but should be included in every garden where it is necessary to have cabbage all the year round.

For many years now the Dublin market gardeners have been able to produce fine savoy that heart up in January, February and March. They have worked up a strain of their own that matures late.

There is, however, a variety called the "Model" on the market which when sown on or about the 10th of May and planted out from the middle to the end of July will heart up at Christmas and afterwards proving a boon at this time of year.

To obtain this late hearting two essentials are required, the seed must be of a good strain from a reliable source, and it must be sown and the plants put out at the correct time.

January King is a recent introduction. It is the result of a cross between the savoy and the red cabbage, and there is a twinge of red in the leaves. This undesirable feature is offset by the fine, large, solid heads produced from January to March, and January King cabbage has come to stay. Like the late model savoy, it is sown in May and planted out about the 21st of July.

All winter greens should have adequate spacing, i.e., at least 18" between the plants, and the rows should be from 18" to 2' asunder. They should be planted comfortably, head sitting on the ground, in firm, well manured soil. Some superphosphate and some hoof and horn should be hoed in before planting, and lime should be added to old garden soils which have been heavily manured in the past and not limed for some time.

#### SPINACH.

Another winter and spring greenstuff which is too little used is spinach.

It is a grand tasty bite when served with butter on toast for the tea.

There are four kinds, summer, winter or prickly, spinach beet, and seakale spinach.

The first two are annuals and quickly go to seed. Therefore they should be sown frequently if a constant supply is required. The winter or prickly spinach is really not a winter spinach at all, as it is not quite hardy, and will require the protection of a frame if it is to continue producing useful leaves right into the winter. A crop of it sown now outdoor will give a crop from August to the middle of October, but then it will need glass protection.

These two spinaches are real true spinach, but the two I am about to mention belong to the beet family and are not so rich in food value as the former. They will, however, give a bigger and a longer yield of leaves, and the spinach beet is absolutely hardy, for it stood unharmed with me during last spring's very severe frosts.

To obtain a crop of spinach beet for next spring, the seed should be sown thinly at once, and the plants thinned out to 8 or 10" apart, as soon as they are big enough to handle. The thinnings may be transplanted to give a later crop.

The seakale spinach is a dual-purpose vegetable. Sown in June or immediately and grown in the same manner as spinach beet, it will produce the largest leaves and biggest crop of all. The stalks of the leaves are large and silvery white, and are supposed to taste like seakale when cooked. I tried them once, but it tasted more like poor quality celery to me. Seakale spinach is not quite hardy. It was killed outright in my garden by the frosts last spring.

All spinach requires a deeply dug, well manured soil to do well, especially the summer sorts. In shallow, poorly dunged soil, this crop goes to seed very quickly and does not make the necessary big