

WHAT AMERICAN WOMEN CAN DO To HELP IRELAND?

By Katherine Hughes,

Secretary Irish National Bureau.

"What can American women do to help Ireland?"

This question, coming from every section of the United States to me as Secretary of the Irish National Bureau at Washington, evidences a keener and wider interest in the Irish cause than this country experienced even in the days of Parnell and his gifted sister, Fanny Parnell.

It is apparent that while a large part of America's womanhood is moved by personal kinship with the men and women struggling so valiantly for Irish Freedom, all of America is conscious now of the debt this greatest of Republics owes to Ireland. America's debt to France has been paid in blood and treasure; her debt to Ireland is unpaid, and at the greatest moment in Ireland's century-long struggle against a foreign power it now seems that America is destined to play the part of Liberator to her first friend.

While many women are still asking in what way they can help to make Ireland free, hundreds of thousands of women have already entered upon the movement for Irish Freedom. Their action is historic in this—that while France had her Joan of Arc, Prussia her Queen Louise and Ireland her Grace O'Malley, no country in the world has ever before shown an array of women in times of peace directing their energies toward the freedom of another country than their own.

Many men have gone to battle for the freedom of another country than their own; Lafayette, Dillon and Barry came to America; O'Higgins to Chile; Byron to Greece—but it is prophetic of the New Era heralded by America's President that this army of women enlisted for Irish Freedom should be fighting for liberty only with the weapons of peace.

Not all of these women are of Irish blood, or spurred by the personal reproach of neglecting their kinsfolk at the most critical time in modern Irish history. They are Americans of every race. Mrs. John A. Logan, widow of the late General Logan, left the quiet of her home in Washington last June to address a mass meeting in that city urging the right of Ireland to freedom. She did this first, she said, as one of Protestant Irish blood and finally as an American who could not do otherwise if she would be true to her country's ideals.

In Boston 900 public school teachers have formed a group to express themselves as Americans for Irish Freedom. The executive of these gifted young women joined with groups of professional women and business women, all definitely organized for this one purpose, and all uniting in a mass meeting of women called early this summer. The wife of an Admiral at Washington has undertaken to do anything she can—eliminating only public speaking from her possibilities.

Chicago's women-lovers of liberty have evolved the "Daughters of Martha Washington," an associate society of the Friends of Irish Freedom. Among the Daughters are women of almost every race represented in America, business women, society women, professional women; the wives of multi-millionaires like Edward Hines and of men who weigh sadly the rising barometer of High Cost of Living.

These Chicago women form an organization as comprehensive and democratic as the Gaelic League of Ireland or the Cumann na Bmairín in which Irish women from castles and cottages work side by side as sisters for Irish Freedom. They have adopted as their slogan that grateful tribute to Ireland by Park Custis, son of Martha Washington: "Let the Shamrock of Ireland be entwined with the laurels of the American Revolution—Eternal gratitude to Irishmen!"

In a campaign this month for funds to aid in Ireland's educational propaganda in America—the Daughters dotted the streets of Chicago with their workers, among whom were two Chinese Americans educated in American Universities, who have decided views upon the Justice of Ireland's Cause, as they have upon the Shantung question.

The Friends of Irish Freedom, a comprehensive federation of Irish-American clubs in America, numbers among its branches and associate societies in every State, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the largest women's organization in America, and one presided over by a woman "who has a statesman's mind" as a well-known Washington man said recently.

This army of American women at work for Irish Freedom is daily developing its works, which includes the distribution of literature to inform the public on Ireland's claims and to disabuse their mind of hostile propaganda, securing speakers on Irish questions—collecting funds for the work and canvassing people not yet interested.

It is notable that some of the best articles appearing in America this year upon conditions in Ireland have been written by an American newspaper woman in Ireland. From every side there comes to the Bureau proof that American womanhood has still all the elements that so distinguished it in the history of Martha Washington's time; and it is not possible that the women of America will leave unpaid the debt they owe to the Mothers of the Irish race.

For 150 years these Irish women have given of their best—of their own flesh and blood to this country. In Revolutionary days they gave their sons to fight for American freedom, knowing that even if successful they could never return to Ireland again. In peace time they have given of the sturdiest of their children to the upbuilding of this country. In the last 60 years 4,399,350 persons of Irish blood emigrated from that unhappy land, and the overwhelming proportion came to this country; more emigrated than remain in Ireland today. Well might Begbie, the English writer, declare

that something of the very fibre of the desolate old Irish mothers he saw in Ireland "was inwoven into the destinies of America."

It is a debt of honor the women of America are paying today, and they who are not roused to the justice and needs of this work for Irish Freedom, fail both in womanly honor, in gratitude and traditions of American political life.

The various clubs of American women dotting every State have, since their establishment, been a vitalizing force on many issues. It would be a practical way of advancing the cause of Freedom in the world if each of these clubs should hold a special meeting early this autumn to consider suggestions as to ways in which each group can best help the Irish Cause. Study-clubs will find in the ancient Brehon Law of Ireland, in Irish History and Irish Literature, a study that is not only unsurpassed in dramatic interest, but one of the greatest help in developing the mind politically. For the passion for liberty and independence evidenced the world over by people of Irish blood is only a natural trait in a race which had, until hindered by force from outside, evolved the most developed democracy in the Old World.

The example set by those women of America who are already at work for Irish Freedom should inspire every woman in the length and breadth of these States. There is no woman so busy or circumscribed in her life that she cannot help to spread as they are doing an intense interest in the demand now being made by President de Valera for the Government of America to recognize the new Irish Republic.

It is possible for most women to reach and influence their own Senators and Representatives to forward such action, and it is only the plain duty of every American woman to do this. They can continue the good work already begun of forming groups whose activities will be primarily for this purpose, who by meetings, rallies and personal canvass will relight in America the great passion for human liberty and personal service which swept America in the high and holy days of 1776.

And at the end America can say with pride—"Ireland, we have paid our debt. You are FREE."

FOURTH DEGREE, K. OF C. DINES AND ELECTS OFFICERS.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Rochester Fourth Degree Assembly, Knights of Columbus, was held Thursday evening in their rooms. The business session was preceded by a dinner.

The following officers were elected: Faithful navigator, William Smith; captain, James C. Connolly; admiral, George T. Boucher; pilot, John T. McIntyre; comptroller, Cyril J. Statt, who has been serving as a secretary in the army camps; inside sentinel, William H. Ginnity; outside sentinel, Leo J. Fennell.

The Fourth Degree is the patriotic degree of the order and patriotic addresses were delivered by Rev. George Kettell, of the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary, and William F. Love, assistant district attorney.

A series of monthly social meetings this winter for the women of the members of the Fourth Degree is being planned.

The catacombs under Rome number about forty-two. In them were laid approximately the bodies of over 1,700,000.



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Reading from left to right: Cardinal Mercier, of Belgium, and Cardinal Gibbons, of America.

Late News of Ireland

Cork

Cork R. D. C. passed a vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Dr. Daly, Ringaskiddy, Cork County Council and the County National Insurance Society passed votes of sympathy with the country secretary, Mr. Callanan and other members of the family on the death of his mother.

Rev. M. Brew, senior curate, Maccroom has been promoted P. P. of Banteer.

Dublin

The death took place suddenly at Westpark, Glasnevin, of Ed. Doyle. Coming from West Wicklow 25 years ago, he carried on a provision business in Cornmarket, and subsequently conducted a successful dairy farm at Glasnevin. He was prominent at race meetings and one of the best known men in the city.

Kerry

Killarney Guardians have decided to put up a bust of Mr. de Valera in the board room.

Kenmare Guardians passed a vote of sympathy with S. A. Aldwell on the death of his mother, who was a sister of the late Rev. A. Moynihan, Adm., Listowel; Rev. Mother Elizabeth, Mercy Convent, Tralee, and Mrs. J. M. Donovan, Kenmare.

Died—At Kenmare, Mary, widow of the late Richard C. Aldwell of Kenmare and sister of the late Rev. Arthur Moynihan, Adm., Listowel.

Galway

The Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty, Bishop-elect of Clonfert, has taken over charge of the Clonfert Diocese from the Right Rev. Mgr. Cunningham at Loughrea. The consecration of the new Bishop took place in the Cathedral, Loughrea, on Sunday, August 17.

Limerick

Archdeacon Roche, P. P., Glin, is steadily recovering from the effects of a recent accident.

Married—At St. Joseph's Church, Limerick, with nuptial Mass and Papal blessing, by the Rev. P. McGrath, assisted by the Rev. J. Carroll, St. Joseph's, Limerick, Neil Philip, elder son of the late Richard Fogarty, Bruff, Co. Limerick, to Christina Francis (Teena), elder daughter of Michael Sheehan, 12 Lower Mallow street, Limerick.

Louth

To open a fund for erecting a marble altar and a sanctuary in the Franciscan Church, Drogheda, a meeting was held in the Friary on Sunday. Father Mullen, O. P. M., Guardian, said £550 had been subscribed anonymously.

Mayo

Ballina A. O. H. presented a well filled silver mounted Treasury note case to T. O'Donnell on his departure for Dublin to take up an appointment on the staff of the Irish Independent. For six years he had been connected with the staff of the Western People.

Most Rev. Dr. Naughton has made the following changes in the diocese of Killala: Very Rev. Canon Tully, Adm., Ballina to be P. P., Askeigh; Rev. W. J. Greaney, C. C., Ballina, to be Adm. and V. F., Ballina; Rev. M. Feehey, C. C., Ennisconrone, to be C. C. Ballina; Rev. L. Molloy to be C. C. Ennisconrone.

Married—August 4, at the Parish Church, Crossboyne, with nuptial Mass, by the Very Rev. M. J. MacHugh, P. P., John, third son of Michael Fitzgerald and Mrs. Fitzgerald, Hollybrook, Hollymount, to Mary Della, eldest daughter of P. J. Burke, N. T., and Mrs. Burke, Caltra House, Crossboyne, Claremorris.

HOSPITAL AT AUBURN IS FORMALLY OPENED.

Auburn, Sept. 14.—Mercy Hospital, to be conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis, was formally dedicated by the Right Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, bishop of the diocese of Rochester, Sunday. The bishop declared the hospital officially open for the immediate reception of at least twenty-five patients. Bishop Hickey was accompanied by his secretary, Rev. John Sellinger, of Rochester.

The hospital has been the dream of the Catholics of the city for several years and the site was purchased a few years ago by the bishop at the request of Rev. William Payne, pastor of St. Mary's Church, who was formerly pastor of the Catholic Church at Charlotte. The bishop spoke briefly, calling attention to the beneficent work done by the sisters of the various religious orders in alleviating suffering humanity in peace and war.

Many of the priests in the city were present at the dedicatory exercises, which Rev. Father Leo, provincial of the order of Syracuse, with Rev. Father Domalek, of the order, also of Syracuse; Rev. James Gibbons of Newark, and Rev. Walter McCarthy, of Moravia, represented the outside towns in the diocese. It is the plan of the sisters to eventually erect a \$100,000 plant with a capacity of over 100 beds. The institution, while conducted by the sisters, will be non-sectarian and all the physicians of the city have been notified that their patients will be welcomed.

K-C PROTEST

Against Outing of Activities by War Department—Is Applauded by Service Men and Veterans.

Several hundred letters and telegrams from all parts of the country have been pouring into the Knights of Columbus Committee on War Activities, endorsing the organization's stand recently taken in regard to the expressed desire of the War Department to terminate the camp work of all welfare organizations. Recently the Commission on Training Camp Activities of the War Department sent word to the Knights of Columbus to ascertain their attitude regarding "the cessation of activities in the camps, which work was to be turned over to the Army officials." Although all the welfare organizations received the query, the Knights of Columbus was the only society which came forth with a definite public statement.

In this statement it was made perfectly clear that the Order wished to continue its welfare work at all camps and reservations. In Siberia, France, Panama, Alaska and other remote places the Knights since the armistice have increased their efforts and furnished entertainment and innumerable comforts for the soldiers who have on many occasions been practically isolated from the homeland.

Many of the letters which have been received point out that the welfare organizations have attained a maximum of efficiency in taking care of the troops which could not be duplicated by the Army for a period of months; others protest the action stating that the relief societies are better equipped to know when their functioning should cease than the War Department or any other official body.

"The men in the service welcome the relief and willingly respond to the services of civilians to whom they owe no special duty of military deference and obedience," reads the official reply of the K. of C. to Major Joy of the War Department. "It is a relief from the restraint of official supervision for them to receive a touch of home life and neighborly assistance within the camps. The services in spiritual matters by outside ministers, rabbis and priests have also been a grateful relief from military life. Ready to leave the service, if so ordered, we never the less wish to record our protest against the proposed new policy and feel that the action of Congress in refusing funds asked for these purposes by the War Department, the very willing contribution of the public for the maintenance of this work by welfare societies, the hearty response and appreciation of the men in the service, the very inherent contrast between military rule and discipline and recreational and educational work at the hands of friendly civilians all speak against the taking over of their work by the Army as one of its regular functions."

CARDINAL MERCIER COMING

Will Visit This City on October 12.

Cardinal Mercier will visit Rochester on Monday, October 12, according to an announcement made by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey. He is expected at 11 o'clock and during his stay here will be the guest of Bishop Hickey.

Plans for welcoming the Cardinal have been discussed by the Bishop with Mayor Edgeron and C. C. Beahan, president of the Chamber of Commerce.