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C.3.

O' C A L L A G H A N, Kate. (Mrs).

'INDEPENDENT' 18-10-'21.

Speaking at an aeridheacht, at Hospital, Mrs. M. O'Callaghan, T.D., commented on the influence of the Gaelic League in bringing about the conditions of to-day. By loyally obeying the decrees of An Dail they would strengthen the hand that Arthur Griffith is playing across the table to Lloyd George.

Speeches on Ratification by O'CALLAGHAN. M^{rs} K.

'FREEMANS' 21-12-21.

MRS. O'CALLAGHAN'S VOTE

Declares Herself a Separatist Since Girlhood.

Mrs. O'Callaghan (Limerick East and City) said she rose to support the motion for rejection, and lest anybody might question her right she wanted it to be understood she had the clearest right. Since she came to Dublin for the session she had been told her husband was never a Republican. She challenged any person in the Dail to deny her husband's devotion to the Republic. Her husband sealed that devotion with his blood, and she asked the gentlemen who said they were Republicans to leave her husband's name out of the matter (hear, hear).

Her views had always been well known in Limerick to the people of Limerick, who voted her deputy to the Dail after her husband's murder.

She protested against the suggestion that no woman in the Dail would vote merely because she was a Republican, but because of deep personal loss.

WOULD VOTE FOR PRINCIPLE.

The women of the Dail were women of character, and would vote for principle—not for expediency (hear, hear).

For herself, since girlhood, she had been a separatist. She wanted Ireland to be separated from the British Empire and she assured them her life in Limerick, culminating in the murder of last March, had not converted her to Dominion status in the British Empire.

It hurt her to have to vote against the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He was a friend of her husband, but in this matter she was determined to show no devotion either to leader or party. This was a matter purely of principle and conscience—a matter of right and wrong.

From a study of the private documents she had no hesitation in admitting that the delegates had full powers to go and conclude a Treaty, but she understood they were to submit the final draft to the Cabinet and President before signing.

BLUFFED BY THREATS.

The delegates were—although she did not like to use the words—bluffed by threats of war to signing the Treaty. She had reason to believe that some of the delegates' supporters were trying to use the same bluff there (hear, hear). She still remained a separatist and her objection to the Treaty was founded on principle. The Treaty would put Ireland definitely into the British Empire. That being so, what had all the hundreds of years of struggle been for?

On the question of the oath she had raised the matter, and ever since every legal man in that assembly had been giving her advice, and explaining it to her.

She still failed to see how in swearing the oath of allegiance to the Free State she could avoid King George. She could not avoid him, because he is in the Constitution. Even if she found the terms of the Treaty satisfactory and consistent with national honour, the joy of the British Press would have made her suspicious

A CRIME.

There had been much talk of the splendid action of England in settling her centuries old quarrel with Ireland. If these statements were all that the papers pretended, it might be an admirable thing, but this Treaty would not be a settlement and would not make for peace, because it did not recognise the sovereign independent status of Ireland, and it was a mean thing to patch up the rottenness of the Empire by a pretended gift of freedom to Ireland. It was more than mean—it was a crime, for it left England's hands free for places like Egypt and India (hear, hear) in the name, she supposed, of our common citizenship (laughter). Those who knew her (Mrs. O'Callaghan) and her story would know what little bitterness she felt against the actual murderers of her husband.

They walked the streets of Limerick for weeks, and she never asked, as she could have done, to have that murder revenged by Irish Republican bullets, but she did feel bitter now when all that her late husband and she cared for and worked for, and for which she lost her happiness, was going to be voted away by the young soldiers in whom he had sunk hope.

APPEAL TO THE DEAD.

Her husband lay in Limerick in the Republican Plot, and although the Deputies of An Dail might vote this country within the British Empire, that plot could not be touched. Where he lay buried was Republican ground, and she defied them to violate it (applause). They were making history there

that day, and their decision would have far reaching effects, and if there were any Deputies who had not yet made up their minds she asked them to think well. Let them stand for principle and against the Treaty (applause).

'FREEMANS' 3-1-22.

MRS. O'CALLAGHAN'S RETORT.

Mrs. Michael O'Callaghan, T.D., having received a copy of a resolution passed by Limerick Chamber of Commerce in favour of ratifying the Treaty, has written to that body stating that while she would respect any opinion expressed on trade and commerce, she declined to accept its advice or guidance on a question of the future status and honour of the nation.

Some of those reported to have been present at the meeting, Mrs. O'Callaghan wrote, did not help the national movement guided by Mr. de Valera, Mr. Griffith, and the Cabinet of the Dail, and "to common knowledge during the term fraternised with enemy forces."

'FREEMANS' 9-1-22.

ATTITUDE OF THE ARMY.

Lady Deputy's Remark Leads to Interruptions.

Mrs. O'Callaghan, who was most imperfectly heard at the reporters' benches, was taken to say that several men had spoken for the army, and she noted that they made certain statements, and every one of them used three or four arguments in practically the same words.

Mrs. O'Callaghan's voice here dropped so low that only an odd word was heard, but it was evident, she observed, that these men who were supposed to speak for the army were either right or wrong.

Mr. Sean McKeon jumped to his feet at once (Mrs. O'Callaghan sat down) and said, "The officers of the army, having had the same facts before them, could only come to the same conclusion, and that accounted for the similarity of their statements." (Cheers.)

Mr. R. Mulcahy sprang to his feet and said: Am I in order. Statements have been made. The army has been referred—

Mr. de Valera, without rising—The Minister of Defence will be here in the afternoon and it can be raised.

The topic at once dropped and the Speaker called on

Mr. Seumas Lennon (Carlow) who said he had been

in receipt of communications from his constituents asking him to ratify the Treaty or resign. He was neither going to ratify nor resign (cheers).

His co-deputy, Mr. Gearoid O'Sullivan, declared in their constituency that if he were in charge of the English Army he would smash the Republic in a fortnight. Was it any wonder that the public bodies of the constituency should send him the resolutions that they had sent him? The people of his constituency were citizens of the Irish Republic. To-night at 7 o'clock if the Treaty were ratified they would no longer be citizens of the Irish Republic, but they would be citizens of the British Empire. (A Voice—Not quite so soon). He, at any rate, would not cast his vote to bring these men into the British Empire, no matter how many resolutions he got to the effect that he should ratify or resign (cheers).

CO-DEPUTY'S CHALLENGE.

His co-deputy issued to him last night what he considered a challenge. He would deal with him in his own county, where he was born and reared and lived all his life, and he was prepared to take him up on that challenge. His co-deputy said if it was a question of the ratification of the Treaty he (the speaker) would be beaten by 100 to 1. He would stand on the principle of the Irish Republic against his co-deputy on that (cheers). He further declared that if his co-deputy had gone down last May and said he would vote for this Treaty he would not have got the number of votes he said that he (Mr. Lennon) would get now. He went forward as a Republican in 1918. He was elected as a Republican in 1921, and there were people who said that the Republic was dead. He held that it was not dead.

"UNDOUBTEDLY DEAD."

When the Plenipotentiaries went to London the Republic was undoubtedly dead, but he held that the Republic never got right into its stride and into the hearts of the Irish people until the delegates went over to London. The people looked to the Republic for guidance and assistance, and if he were to vote so this Treaty he would regard it as an absolute negation of his life for the past three years. He was going to stand on the principle he stood on in 1918 and 1921, and he was going to vote against the Treaty (applause).

AT D. E. 28-4-22.

'IRISH TIMES' 29-4-22.

ATTACK ON MR. MULCAHY.

Mrs. O'Callaghan proposed at yesterday's meeting of the Dail that the report should be not adopted, and said that she regarded herself as one of the "plain people" to whom an appeal was so often made by the Dail.

One of the very few consoling things which she had taken away from the January assembly was the assurance of the Minister for Defence that he would maintain the Army as the Army of the Irish Republic. Knowing the record of the Minister for Defence in fighting for the Republic, she had told herself that all would be well. She found, however, that the "war among brothers" had begun. She had listened to the Minister to know what excuses he would give for the present terrible condition of things, due to the Army trouble. When he spoke the Minister gave one the impression of being a man of strength and character and, above all, a man of his word. She submitted that his report did not bear out that impression. One could not see how he had maintained the Army as the Army of the Republic. It seemed to her that the whole trouble arose over the holding of an Army convention.

Mrs. O'Callaghan described the circumstances in which the convention had been held, and asked members to ask themselves whether the setting up of an Army Executive, even if it meant scrapping the Treaty or "immediate war," would not be better than civil war. She would say that all the disturbances which were taking place at present were in consequence of the unstatesmanlike manner in which this Army trouble had been handled by the Minister for Defence. Unless they all bent themselves to settling the present trouble they would lose something precious—their national honour.

"Irish Times" 27-10-22

A RIVAL DAIL PROCLAIMED.

REPUBLICANS' SECRET SESSION.

MR. DE VALERA AGAIN "PRESIDENT."

The daily bulletin issued by the irregulars makes the following announcement under Thursday's date:-

"DAIL EIREANN, the Parliament and Government of the Republic, met yesterday in secret session - the former Deputy Speaker presiding.

"A Clerk of the House was appointed, and the following resolutions passed:-

"1. WHEREAS the Speaker (Ceann Comhairle) and the other appointed Executive Officers, in disregard of their duty, and in open disobedience to the mandamus of the Supreme Court, have refused to summon Dail Eireann, the duly elected Parliament and Government of the Republic;

"AND WHEREAS, notwithstanding their oaths and public pledges to maintain the Republic, these officers, abetted by other members of Dail Eireann, have in this, and divers other ways, endeavoured, illegally and unconstitutionally, to subvert the Republic and its Government, Dail Eireann; and with foreign aid have joined in a traitorous conspiracy and armed revolt with that intent, pretending to establish a so-called Free State and a Provisional (Partition) Parliament, the creatures and subordinates of an alien Legislature, and purposing thus to destroy the independent sovereignty of the nation and the integrity of its ancient territory;

TWO Rival Dail.

"THEREFORE, we, the faithful Deputies of Dail Eireann, assembled to maintain the Republic and to secure the continuity of independent government for the whole of Ireland, in the name of all loyal citizens of the Republic, and by the express wish of the soldiers fighting in its defence, call upon the former President, Eamonn de Valera, to resume the Presidency, and to nominate a Council of State and Executive Ministers to assist him in carrying on the Government until such time as the Parliament of the Republic is allowed freely to assemble or the people are allowed by a free election to decide how they shall be governed.

"2. That Eamonn de Valera be hereby appointed President of the Republic and Chief Executive of the State.

"3. That the following, nominated by the President, be hereby appointed the Council of State:-

The President.

Austin Stack, T.D.
Robert Barton, T.D.
Count Plunkett, T.D.
J.J. O'Kelly, T.D.
Laurence Ginnell, T.D.
Sean T. O'Kelly, T.D.

Sean O'Mahony, T.D.
Mrs O'Callaghan, T.D.
Mary MacSwiney, T.D.
P.J. Rutledge, T.D.
Sean Moylan, T.D.
M.P. Colivet, T.D.

"4. That, pending the next meeting of the Dail, we hereby empower the Council of State to sanction such Ministers and Executive Officers of State as the President may nominate and may have the Council's approval.

NOTE. Reports indicate that about the last week in October, 1922 considerable activity was noticeable near the residence of DeValera, at "Glenvar," Blackrock, and it is possible that Sean Moylan took the opportunity of using the safe conveyance reported to have been issued to him by Major Gen. Dalton of the P.C. Forces to interview DeValera and other Republican Leaders with the result shown above.

O'CALLAGHAN. Kate. (Mrs). St. Margaret's Strand, Limerick.

Age,

Occupation,

ELECTED SINN FEIN M.P. FOR LIMERICK EAST AND CITY, MAY 1921.

A Cumann-na-mBan Leader in Limerick.

Widow of Michael O'CALLAGHAN, late Mayor of Limerick, who was murdered in March 1921.

A clever and dangerous woman who makes the most of propoganda and her fanatical hatred of the Crown Forces.

Closely related to notorious rebel families in Co. Cork.

Her sister, Mrs O'Donovan, 2, Eden Terrace, Limerick, is even more bitter.

Ext. "Irish Bulletin" Vol.5. No.20. dated 29-6-21. "Widow of the late Councillor O'CALLAGHAN assassinated by British Forces 7-3-21".

One of the Committee of Direction of a paper entitled the "Republic of Ireland" which made its appearance 3-1-22. (D.D. W.I.S. No.146) (IX/0896).

Voted against ratification of the Treaty on 7th January 1922.

Re-selected as republican candidate for present constituency to contest in elections June 1922.

Returned unopposed for above constituency

Signatory to the Republican proclamation published in the Press reaffirming the existence of the Republic and appointing a Council of State to be nominated by DeValera "to assist him in carrying on the Government until such time as as the Parliament of the Republic is allowed to assemble or the people are allowed by a free election to decide how they shall be governed. ("Press 27-10-22.)

Delivered a speech and denounced the Free State Government at a meeting held in Manchester. (F.J. 22-1-23).

Arrested in Tipperary on way to LYNCH'S funeral, 12-4-23. (F.J.13-4-23)

Released from Kilmainham 30-4-23 after being on hunger-strike for 16 days, and taken to private nursing home. (F.J. 1-5-23).

