

78

F.I.

F A H Y, Frank.

THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE

EXTRACT FROM FREEMAN'S JOURNAL
DATED 18-8-21.

Report Presented to Dail Eireann by Mr. Sean S. O Ceallaigh

The report of the Minister of the National Language (Mr. Sean S. O Ceallaigh) was presented by Mr. Frank Fahy.

This Department had been concerned very largely, it stated, with the promotion in the schools of the Dail's Scheme of Education since the scheme was approved. They had taken counsel with most of the Bishops in the Irish-speaking areas, where the Hierarchy wield most influence in educational matters, and, with two exceptions, they had promised their active co-operation in the revival of Irish. As evidence of this it had been made the rule in at least three dioceses—those of Tuam, Kerry and Waterford—to appoint no teachers henceforward who had not satisfactory certificates for the teaching of Irish. The determination to abide by this rule was made abundantly clear in Kerry recently.

SCHEME IN OPERATION.

At any rate, their scheme was already in operation in many of the schools, and there was a marked improvement in the attitude of others, judging by their organisers' reports. The children, too, had taken the liveliest interest in the competitions for the silver medals. What militated most against efficient teaching in the rural schools was the unsatisfactory attendance of the pupils; organisers and teachers complained of the frequent absence, and the Dail must find a remedy for it. It would be a matter for the Dail also to convince the people of the Irish-speaking areas that henceforward those who know Irish would have equal opportunities to obtain appointments with those who know English. Until this was established, English would have an enhanced value and Irish would be relatively neglected. Those in the Irish-speaking areas had long felt that poverty and destitution follow the use of Irish. This feeling must be dispelled, and no better means of dispelling it could be adopted than the giving preference to speakers of Irish when appointments were being made, provided they were suitable in other respects. From the Dail itself the initiative of good example in this respect would most naturally come; though it was realised that others besides Irish speakers had been giving their lives and their substance for Irish liberty, and they, of course, were entitled to due recognition.

WHAT CHURCH CAN DO.

Each advantage could be conferred on Irish through the Department of the Dail, through the new Courts, and through every other institution under the auspices of the national Parliament. Moreover, the Church alone could restore and perpetuate the national language if only it so willed. How the public Boards could advance the interests of our native speech had been explained through the Department of Local Government, and some of the fruits were already visible. Public Boards had been urged to choose Irish speakers as Chairmen of the various Councils in the Irish-speaking areas and elsewhere, as far as feasible, and to have persons with a working knowledge of Irish on their staffs, so that the public might transact their business through the medium of the vernacular. This advice was being followed extensively. They had also been counselled to have cheques, addresses, titles, and the like written and printed in Irish, minutes and accounts kept and correspondence conducted in Irish, advertisements and announcements published in Irish, and preference given to newspapers in sympathy with Irish and accustomed to report Irish speakers at the public Boards.

EXTENDING VISIBLY.

And, in spite of the disturbed state of recent times, the use of Irish in all these spheres was extending visibly.

As indicated in the third report submitted, this was the present position of our Department. Two of the eight organisers were in prison. The organiser for West Cork was thrice arrested before his final incarceration in the spring. The organiser for Kerry was later arrested and had not been since released. Still later the organiser for Mayo was seized and imprisoned, but released after three months. The parish, district and county committees established at the outset have not been able to meet for some time, except in a few places in the Deise, and the inter-family competitions which they had arranged would have to be abandoned this year owing to the impracticability of holding Feiseanna. But the school competitions for the silver medals had been very successful, and managers and teachers have co-operated heartily in the turning competitions to the utmost advantage. The silver cup competitions in the intermediate schools, now completed, did not attract so many entries as they anticipated. But their inspectors visited them all, as far as feasible; and in spite of serious obstacles in the way of the examinations they had reports of the state of the language in most of them. Very many intermediate teachers had been imprisoned, with effects which would be obvious.

CERTIFICATES.

In deference to widespread complaints concerning the certificates given in the Colleges of Irish, they summoned a conference of

representatives of the leading colleges of White Monday, and following a full and frank discussion of the matter, a decision was reached which, in the general opinion, would prove an adequate remedy. This conference would re-assemble as might be deemed desirable.

As had been repeatedly pointed out, a lack of suitable texts was felt in connection with every grade of education. In this connection it might be said that practically every available writer of Irish is now at work to remedy this want. The results of their labours were reaching them speedily, and the matter had now assumed a distinctly favourable aspect.

Last year they recommended to the Dail the establishment of a number of scholarships, value £50 each, for the benefit of native Irish-speaking boys anxious to attend a course of training to qualify them as teachers or organisers in the Primary schools. To their surprise, there were no candidates from Tir Chonnall or the Deise; a Co. Galway student, they regret, had died in the course of the year; and a Co. Cork student, for reasons incidental to the national struggle, was obliged to abandon his training and return home. But they were satisfied that the scheme was worthy of development, and they had accordingly offered 50 scholarships, value £30 each, this year:

24 for boys from the Irish-speaking area.
16 for girls from the Irish-speaking area.
6 for boys from the Anglicised area.
4 for girls from the Anglicised area.
These fifty scholarships represent an outlay of £1,500.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS.

The entrance examinations were in progress that day. The successful students would go first to a preparatory school, and later to a training college. Had the times been less disturbed, they contemplated the establishment of a preparatory school under the auspices of the Dail; but as things stand it was thought better to defer the project. They also promised a subsidy equal to last year's to the school of organising conducted by the Gaelic League; but the state of the times obliged the League to abandon its school this season.

All questions concerning education in general submitted to the Dail were referred to this Department, and more than one County Council had asked them to prepare a scheme of National Education in all its grades, for the whole country. This was a big undertaking in face of the transition now in progress, but they were not neglecting it. In the past six months, an experienced Committee had been investigating the state of primary education, and had now issued what promises to be a satisfactory scheme for the primary schools. The Dail would be well advised in bearing constantly in mind that the alien estimate for primary education in Ireland this year exceeds £5,000,000.

They also summoned a conference in the beginning of August to discuss the position of intermediate education, and lay down a suitable programme. This Conference made appropriate recommendations to ensure the status of Irish in the Secondary School Programme for 1921-2, and appointed a Commission to inquire into the defects of the existing secondary system and suggest a suitable programme as in the case of primary education.

N.U.I. STATUS.

They were altogether dissatisfied with the status of Irish in the National University, and not without good reason. The proposals they made in this connection last year had been almost entirely disregarded, more particularly in Dublin. The governing bodies of the Cork and Galway Colleges had, however, promised to arrange for evening lectures in Irish. The remedy lay with the Senate; unless applied, the Senate itself must receive attention. The Head of the State would soon be personally at the head of the National University. By that time the existing primary and secondary systems would have been dealt with by the Committees referred to, and the occasion might be favourable for a similar Commission on University Education.

The County Councils were in a position to utilise their Scholarships for the Gaelicising and nationalising of the University. They had not urged these Councils to apply any of their funds to education in the circumstances which had recently confronted them, and the corresponding difficulty of providing money for other essential services. For the same reason their demands on the Dail last year were as moderate as possible, and even the money voted them had not been all expended. It was a great advantage and a great financial saving that the Gaelic League was co-operating actively in the work which was their main concern. As in their own case, the League had suffered grievously through the attentions of the army of occupation. But the people's interest in the language had not lessened on that account; quite the contrary.

Since the establishment of the Ministry of Irish he had addressed great hostings in Omagh, Dromahaire, Ardee, Drogheda, Carrigrohane, Wicklow, Newbridge, Maryborough, New Ross, Cork, Tralee, Roscommon, and elsewhere, and he was glad to be able to report that the language was advancing everywhere. When they were again free to urge and advise our people to do their duty by their mother tongue, prompt and satisfactory results might be safely anticipated.

On the motion of Dr. Ada English, seconded by Mr. P. O'Donnabhain, the report was referred to the Private Session.

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL LAUNGUAGE
GIVEN AT DAIL MEETING ON 17-8-21.
BY FRANK FAHY FOR J.J.O'KELLY
MINISTER OF EDUCATION.- TAKEN
FROM FREEMAN'S JOURNAL DATED
18th. AUGUST 1921.

1921. 17-8-21.
FRANK FAHY FOR J.J.O'KELLY

'FREEMAN'S' 26-9-21.

THE LANGUAGE FIGHT

Mr. Fahy at Bray and Mr. Beaslai at Killarney

Mr. Frank Fahy, T.D., was the principal speaker at the inaugural meeting of the Bray branch of the Gaelic League last evening.

He said since they got control of the schools they intended to put into force a programme that will give the Irish language its proper place. In the programme that has been sanctioned, the infants will be taught in Irish only, and the schools in Ireland will be practically bilingual.

At Killarney, Mr. Piaras Beaslai said that after years of work against what seemed hopeless odds, he was now satisfied that Irish would be saved. It was safe because the freedom of the Irish nation was safe (applause). Whether they had to fight again or take over control without compulsion, whether they had to effect their purpose by forcible means or by peaceful means, the Government of the Irish Republic would not tolerate their children being turned into West Britons in the schools of Ireland.

Irish, which was the official language of the Republic, must be made the medium of all kinds of instructions in every school of Ireland. With the aid of the language they would turn the bitterest Orangemen into good Irishmen in one, or at most two, generations.

'INDEPENDENT' 3-1-22.

GALWAY MEMBERS DIFFER

Deputies Who Support and Oppose Ratification

Mr. Frank Fahy, a member for Galway, opposing the Treaty, admitted that the Comhairle Ceannair of Sinn Féin in South Galway favoured ratification. Allusions by him to followers of the Welsh Wizard brought Mr. Griffith to his feet to claim that Mr. Fahy had called the Irish plenipotentiaries such.

Mr. Fahy denied it, but the Chairman of the Irish Delegation heartily exclaimed that he had, and could not get out of it. Mr. Fahy withdrew amid cries of "What, then, did you mean?" He eventually apologised.

'FREEMAN'S' 4-1-22.

Mr. Frank Fahy here made a personal explanation. He said that if any words of his bore the interpretation that any of the plenipotentiaries were followers of the Welsh Wizard he begged to withdraw those words. He would be very sorry to say it of any member of the Dail.

The remainder of Mr. Fahy's explanation was not clearly heard by the reporters.

'FREEMAN'S' 5-1-22.

THE WELSH WIZARD.

MR. FAHY EXPLAINS.

The Speaker (Mr. John MacNeill) took the chair at 11.20 o'clock.

At the outset, Mr. Frank Fahy referred to the words alleged to have been used by him on the previous day, that certain members were followers of the Welsh Wizard. He said that he admitted that these words might bear the interpretation put upon them by the Chairman of the plenipotentiaries. He did not, when he said that, suggest for a moment that there were any supporters or followers of the Welsh Wizard in that assembly, because, if anyone outside that assembly suggested such, he would deal with him as sternly as was in his power.

'IRISH TIMES' 5-1-22.

MR. FAHY'S WITHDRAWAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE IRISH TIMES.
Sir.—When speaking at Tuesday's session of Dail Eireann, I stated that Mr. Kevin Higgins, T.D., had been admitted to certain Cabinet meetings "as an act of grace." Mr. Higgins, rising on a point of order, replied that he had been present at Cabinet meetings by direct order of the President. The President signified assent to this correction. I, therefore, withdrew the offending words and apologised to Mr. Higgins.

The metropolitan papers of this date (Wednesday) state that my remarks in this connection were inaudible to the reporters. Hence I thank you in anticipation for publishing this explanation.—Yours, etc.,

PROINSIAS O'FATHAIGH (T.D., Galway).
Dublin, January 4th, 1922.

'IRISH TIMES' 4-11-21.

SINN FEIN M.P. AND PEACE.

UNITY AND READINESS.

Mr. Frank Fahy, M.P., at an aeridheacht at Athenry on Sunday, said that he wanted peace; they all wanted peace, but it must be peace with honour. They did not want peace at any price.

He called on the young men to be sober, steady, and reliant, and especially to attend to discipline—not merely the Irish Republican Army, but all the men of Ireland. To make a decent peace was to be ready for war if it came. To be sure of peace was to stand together in one phalanx behind the men negotiating in London. Ireland had a right to be free. They bore no enmity towards England or the English people. They were enemies of the rule England had forced on them. They would have peace to-morrow if they were to have peace with honour. They would be England's best friends—their best market would be England, and England's best market Ireland. He believed that this was the last year of the struggle. It might be the outcome of the present negotiations, but the people were on the high road to their freedom. Meantime they were fighting for their existence, and could not afford to have dissensions.

LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS.

On inquiry at the office of the Chief Liaison Officer, I.R.A., Dublin, last night, there was no official information regarding the statement issued by the Press Association to the effect that new Irish Republican Army liaison arrangements for the South of Ireland had been made; that Munster had been divided into several districts, each to have its liaison officer responsible to Dublin; that there will be no chief office in the South, and that each officer will make his reports direct to Dublin Headquarters.

'FREEMAN'S' 19-11-21.

SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE.

Monaghan Convent Secures Dail Cup.

St. Louis Convent, Monaghan, has secured the challenge cup presented by Dail Eireann for the secondary school in each province whose pupils displayed the greatest knowledge in the speaking of the Irish language. The competition was open to all secondary schools (boys' and girls') in Ulster. An inspector of the Dail carried out the examination in June last, every pupil in the school being examined. The Convent came out on top and was awarded the cup.

Mr. Francis Fahy, T.D., Galway, on Tuesday attended at St. Louis Convent, Monaghan, and made the formal presentation of the beautiful cup. The occasion was made one of rejoicing among the Sisters and the students, and a most successful concert was given entirely in Irish. The beautiful concert hall of the boarding school was tastefully decorated.

WOULD RATHER LET THE FREE STATE WIN

THAN SEE ARMY DIVIDED

Mr. Frank Fahy, T.D., made some plain and welcome declarations at an Athenry Republican meeting on Sunday.

In the election bitterness might arise, he said, but he would rather let the Free State win without a contest than see a divided army—see Irishmen who fought side by side turn their arms against one another in fratricidal strife.

He had, however, too strong a faith in the good sense of the I.R.A. to fear that such might happen.

Capt. S. Jordan, presiding, said the people elected Mr. E. Fahy by the big majority of 9,000 in 1918. Mr. Fahy stood again for the same principles. That meeting would be conducted in an orderly manner.

Representatives of any section of the people were at perfect liberty to hold their meetings there in freedom and security from hooliganism,

or whatever it might be called, which he was sorry to see had taken place in some parts of Ireland. No tactics would be allowed to give a chance for anyone to talk against the movement. He had mobilised the local I.R.A. to attend the meeting, but previously had told them that anyone not in favour of their policy could remain away. Out of 83 men 50 had mobilised.

NO BITTER WORD.

Mr. Fahy, T.D., said that during the election he did not intend to say one bitter word against those in favour of the Treaty, as he knew the splendid record of many of them, and believed they were honestly doing their best for Ireland.

As he believed in freedom of the Press and freedom of speech he hoped those opposed to him would get as patient a hearing as was given him. It was to secure a Republic he trained his men there in 1915. He and those with him in the rising of 1916 took seriously the declaration of the Republic.

If the people wished by acceptance of the Treaty to turn down the Republic he was willing to give place to somebody who would better express their changed opinions.

It was entirely a question to be decided

by the people, for the people were their masters; but it should not be decided by the comparatively small proportion of the people represented on the register. Should not every adult in Ireland have a voice in this vital decision? This Treaty proposed to partition Ireland perpetually.

The people had a right to say that, actuated by fear or any other motive, they accept this Treaty, and he would consider himself bound not to give active opposition to a Government selected on those principles if there was a full and proper Register. Personally he was not prepared to admit himself a British subject. He had a right to those opinions; so had the I.R.A.

Neither he nor they would, however, have a right actively to oppose the Government freely elected by the majority of the people.

Did they think, asked Capt. Fahy, a settlement based on fear would be permanent? Those Dail members advocating the Treaty were perfectly honest, believing that was the best way to attain the Republic. It seemed a strange thing to try to gain a Republic by disestablishing the existing one.

If they voted for Republican candidates he would not guarantee it would not mean war, but if they were afraid of war they should vote Free State, letting it be known it was fear or self-interest or business interests that made them so vote.

DISCIPLINE ESSENTIAL.

Discipline was absolutely essential for the soldier. The people looked to them to protect life and property, and he knew they would not look in vain. Such acts as the shooting of ex-R.I.C. men, no matter how bad their record might have been, were indefensible. No true soldier would shoot an unarmed enemy, except such as were captured as spies in time of war.

Miss Cashel and Mr. T. Arkins, solr. also spoke.

A rumour gained currency in Loughrea on Sun. that a settlement between supporters and opponents of the Treaty had been arrived at in Dublin, and that the anti-Treaty meeting there would not take place. Mr. Fahy, T.D., announced to the gathering that the rumour was unfounded, and suggested it was circulated for the purpose of keeping the people from the meeting, but he would address every parish in his constituency.

Irish Times.
2/5/22

"Irish Times" 6-5-22

POLITICAL LEADERS.

MR. FAHY'S VIEW.

Mr. Francis Fahy, a member of Dail Eireann, who was the principal speaker at an anti-Treaty meeting at Loughrea, spoke of the policies of the two political leaders. He said that the Constitution of 1782 was good enough for Arthur Griffith, and it was only after much persuasion that he became a Republican. De Valera was pre-eminently a leader, who stood head and shoulders above them all; and the fact that the Republic existed to-day was largely due to his great personality. Mr. Fahy gave a number of reasons why he voted against the Treaty, one being that he was elected by the people of South Galway on the Republican mandate. Having all his life advocated the principles of Fenianism, he was now consistent in telling them that, because he wanted peace, he voted against the Treaty. The Treaty would not bring peace to the country.

"If we had adult suffrage and the threat of war was removed," he said, "I am quite satisfied then to abide by the result, even if I am turned down at the election. If you turn me down, be honest and admit that it is not because you accept the Articles of Agreement, but because of the fear of war or of injury to your business."

In conclusion, Mr. Fahy spoke of the job-hunting which is now in vogue, and said that he had never looked for a favour either for himself or for his friends.

CORK SHOOTINGS CONDEMNED.—Preaching at the Cathedral, Loughrea, the Rev. J. J. Heagney, Adm., spoke in condemnatory terms of the shooting of the Protestants in the South of Ireland, as also did Mr. E. Fahy at an anti-Treaty meeting.

FAHY. Frank. 17, Norfolk Road, Phibsboro' Dublin. (P.A. 102/13/i).
and Lurgan, Peterswell, Co. Galway.

Age, 39. (1921).

Occupation,

ELECTED SINN FEIN M.P. FOR GALWAY, MAY 1921.

Assistant Irish Minister.

Assistant Minister of Education, Dail Eireann.

Prior to May 1921 Election, was on Local Government Board Committee,
Dail Eireann.

Captain, I.R.A.

Considered a very active Sinn Feiner.

Was born at Kilchrust, near Loughrea, in 1882.

Brother to Patrick FAHY.

His father was a National School Teacher.

About 1900 he entered a College in Dublin, and in 1910 was appointed
Professor to a College in Co. Kerry where he remained until 1914.
He afterwards filled a similar position until the Rebellion.

In 1915 was actively engaged in organising the Irish Volunteers at
Peterswell and Derrybrien.

Took part in the 1916 Rebellion, was arrested, and sentenced to
death. Sentence afterwards commuted to penal servitude.

Released at the General Amnesty (1917).

During a raid carried out at 17, Norfolk Road on 30th May 1921 a
small brass plate was found engraved as follows:-
"Presented to Capt. F.A. FAHY by the Officers and men of "C" Coy,
1st Batt. Dublin Brigade, Irish Volunteers, in recognition of his
valuable services while in Command of the Company. 7th June 1921."
A letter was also found signed D.Lloyd George requesting his pres-
ence at the opening of Parliament. (Ext. Ep.53/5592. 5-6-21).

Has only visited his Constituency five or six times since the 1918
Election for very short periods, and only once since the Truce, July
1921.

Extract "Irish Bulletin" Vol.5. No.20. dated 29-6-21. "10 years P.S.
1916. Imprisoned 1918-19. Wanted. S.F., M.P., Galway"

Monthly salary £33-6-8 (Ref. Requisition 76).

/Activities since Truce

ACTIVITIES SINCE THE TRUCE.

Attended a Sinn Fein Court at Loughrea 14-9-21. (IX/0026).

Speaking on 30-10-21 said he was a gun-man and would have no hesitation in becoming one again, and asked the I.R.A. to be prepared for war. (IX/0437 10-11-21).

Voted against ratification of Treaty on Saturday, 7th January 1922.

Re-nominated as Anti-Treaty candidate for his present constituency to contest in elections June 1922.

Elected member of 3rd Dail.

