

105

(K.I.)

O'S'K E E F E, Patrick.

'INDEPENDENT' 12-10-21.

'Freeman's Journal'
20-5-22.

Mr. P. O'Keefe, T.D., expressing the hope that we would not have war again, said the only way to prevent it was to give Ireland freedom. They had only a section of the people fighting in the last war, but if there should be war again it would not be confined to a small and gallant band, but Ireland, from Donegal to Kerry, would be fighting.

'FREEMAN'S' 9-1-22.

"ANOTHER WEAPON"

Cork Deputy Fears People's Will May be Stifled

Mr. Patrick O'Keefe (Cork), who spoke for a considerable time in Irish, called attention to the leaflets that had been scattered about containing the words "Ratify the Treaty. Free State Army. England Wants Volunteers to Crush Egypt and India. Ratify the Treaty and Join Up." Addressing the assembly in English, Mr. O'Keefe said he defied any deputy there to say at that date that when they struck a blow at the British Empire in Easter Week, 1916, they did so for any other purpose than to save the soul of Ireland. (Applause.)

He rose to support the Treaty, because it gave this country the chance of living, and if they rejected it he believed that Ireland would be thrown back into the wilderness for 100 years (hear, hear).

MADE NO APOLOGY.

He made no apology to any man or woman in Ireland for voting for the Treaty, and he should say that they had not been given a fair run by their Cabinet. First of all, they had been told that they were compromising, but he thought that particular argument had been sufficiently dealt with already. Had they sent their delegates to Lloyd George to get a Republic they should have got that in plain English or in plain Irish (hear, hear). Their delegates had been sent over to see how best the association of Ireland could be reconciled with the group of nations known as the British Empire. The Plenipotentiaries were over in London for close on two months. At the end of that time they came back; he could not say what happened at the Cabinet meeting, for he did not know any Cabinet secret, but this he knew, and all the world over knew, that there were four for and two against.

BACK-BENCHERS' COMPLAINT.

He complained that the people of Ireland and the Deputies had been treated unfairly in that matter, and the "Back Benchers," as he called them, should have been called together to discuss the matter (hear, hear). Under that Treaty they could get control of the teaching of their native tongue, and it could be fostered. Since 1893 they had been talking about the Irish Language. What progress had they made since that time? Well, he could say that all the speeches and all the words used, as well as all the misfortunes they had, were caused by the use of the English lan-

guage. He claimed that they could make their language with the powers under the Treaty a universal language in their country inside a dozen years (hear, hear).

A lot had been said about war, but he could not find a number of these war merchants for the past two years (laughter). While the fight was going on the civil population were helping the enemy by trading with him, by buying £132,000,000 of goods that could be produced in Ireland. The Munster Fusiliers, the Dublins, and Leinsters had fought for England to beat the Germans, but if they ratified the Treaty there would be none of these.

A Member—What about the Cork Militia?

NINETY-NINE PER CENT.

Mr. O'Keefe—Don't mind the Cork Militia (laughter). The Irish banks, he proceeded, had lent England 50½ millions to win the war. The Republic was not dead: it was in the distance (laughter). If they accepted the Treaty Ireland would be like a bather perpetually in togs, prepared to take a dive (laughter). He did not think the will of the people counted now. He was afraid another weapon would be used to stifle it.

He hoped that he was wrong. Ninety-nine per cent. of the people were in favour of the Treaty, with the exception of the counties in Munster, where there were 95 per cent. (laughter). Ninety-nine per cent. of Leinster was in favour of the Treaty, and if they were not they were the biggest hypocrites (laughter). Twelve months ago he had asked that the pressure should be taken off Cork and brought up to Leinster—to Rathdrum—but that was not done because Leinster would not fight.

THE REGISTER SOUND.

Mr. Patrick O'Keefe said in the name of the nation and the Irish people, he would like to know why the peace negotiations broke down. When they asserted the right of the Irish people to pronounce on the Treaty he knew what they would do. If there was to be civil war the people should know what was the reason for it. With regard to the register, it was as sound, he said, to-day as it was when their representatives were returned unopposed.

ALSO 7. RATHMINES TERRACE. (REF. D.M.P. 8-4-22.)
O'KEEFE. Patrick. 21, Lower Camden Street, Dublin.
Nohavaldaly, Rathmore.

Description. Small and dark.

Age, 34

Occupation, Farmer's son.

Elected Sinn Fein M.P. for N.M.W.S. & S-E. Cork, May 1921.

Prior to May 1921 Election, was Member of Fisheries and Forestry Committees, Dail Eireann.

Member I.R.B.

Important member of the I.R.A. (Rank unknown).

*DESCRIBED AS A COMDT.
(REF. 'IRISH INDEPENDENT'
16-8-22.)*

General Secretary of Sinn Fein Organisations.

Director of Elections.

Took up post as clerk in G.P.O. Dublin about 15 years ago.

Took part in the Rebellion of 1916.

Deported in 1918 by Order of Government on account of his political activities.

Arrested 17th September 1919 for making an inflammatory speech at Charleville. Sentenced to two years imprisonment. Released under "Prisoners Temporary Discharge for Ill-health Act 1912".

Is connected with the work of Civil Administration.

Extract from "Irish Bulletin" Vol.5. No.20. dated 29-6-21.
"Imprisoned 1916, 1918 and 1919. "Wanted" ".

General Secretary of Sinn Fein Organisations and Member of I.R.B.
Director of Elections.
(Epitome 53/6011 dated 21-6-21 para31.)

Made a fiery speech at Kanturk 9-10-21. (IX/6223). *9/26/811/1*

Voted for Ratification of Treaty at the Dail on Saturday, 7th January 1922.

TREATY
Re-nominated as a ~~Republican~~ Candidate for N.Cork. (Ex. 'Irish Independent' dated 30.5.22.)

Defeated at Poll for 3rd. Dail.

One of the men who represented G.H.Q. at the funeral of Arthur GRIFFITHS. (Ref. 'Irish Independent' dated 16.8.22.)

Appointed Deputy Military Governor at Mountjoy Prison. (Ref. 'Freeman's Journal' dated 19.8.22.)

O'KEEFE. Patrick. (Contd.)

Alleged to have stated that the P.G. meant to 'plug' at least two Republicans for every man they lost. (Ex. from the (Fenian' No.40. dated 29.8.22.)

