

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE

MEETING AT GRANAGH, CO. LIMERICK.

On Sunday last a meeting was held at Granagh, for the purpose of reorganising the local branch of the United Irish League. Mr. John P. O'Connor, Organiser, was the principal speaker.

Mr. Richard Chawke was moved to the chair, and there was a good attendance, despite the inclemency of the weather.

The Chairman, who was cordially received, said that they had assembled there that day for the purpose of once again re-establishing their branch of the National Organisation. It was most essential for them to have a good, active branch in this parish (hear, hear), and he (Chairman) was confident that now, as in the past, the Nationalists of Granagh would take their stand with the rest of Ireland in maintaining their ranks unbroken till final victory was won (applause). They had there that day Mr. John P. O'Connor, who was well known to them all, and he (Chairman) was glad to have this opportunity of bidding him a hearty welcome to Granagh. He (Mr. O'Connor) has done good work for the National Cause, and everywhere Mr. O'Connor has, gone he has been received most enthusiastically throughout the country, and has placed the United Irish League on a good, sound footing (applause). He (Chairman) would now call on their secretary (Mr. C. Cagney) to read the resolutions and letters of apology.

Mr. Cagney said he received messages of apology from Mr. John Burke, M.C.C., and Mr. D. Hederman, Ballyneale, regretting their absence, and wishing the meeting every success.

The following resolutions were proposed by Mr. M'Earight, and seconded by Mr. W. Hennessy, and carried unanimously, viz. :—

(1) "That we, the Nationalists of Granagh, welcome Mr. John P. O'Connor to this parish, and take this opportunity of again expressing our entire confidence in the integrity of the Irish Party, so nobly led by the great statesman, Mr. John E. Redmond, in whom we have no fault to find, as he has distinguished himself at all times to secure for the people of Ireland the full fruits of victory, and of which a good many of them have been already achieved and put into working order by his wise statesmanship."

(2) "That we appeal to the people of this parish to support the National Organisations—the United Irish League and the National Volunteers—both of which, should occasion require, must be ready for any emergency that may arise or make its appearance, as it is only by combined unity, discipline and strength that we will win the great battles for which we are fighting for so long and so determined."

(3) "That we, the Nationalists of Granagh, in meeting assembled, once again declare our entire determination and attitude to keep on the fight, until such time as our own native Parliament is firmly established, and making our own laws according to Irish ideas in College Green."

Mr. J. P. O'Connor, in supporting the resolutions, said he was very grateful to the Nationalists of Granagh for their very warm welcome to him. He was anxious for a long time to have an opportunity of meeting the good and true men of that parish. He was also very grateful to their Chairman (Mr. Chawke) for all the nice things said about him, and which were not at all deserved (a voice—"Indeed they are," and applause). He (Mr. O'Connor) had heard a good deal about Mr. Chawke, and he was confident that as long as they had Nationalists of his calibre at their head there was no fear of the National Cause in Granagh (hear, hear). He was also deeply grateful to their secretary, Mr. Cagney, for the deep interest he has taken in the United Irish League and National Volunteers, and the great assistance he gave him to make that meeting a success. Now, fellow-countrymen, said Mr. O'Connor, there never was a time in the history of Ireland when it behoved the Nationalists of the country to be united and consolidated than this present year, 1915. The whole world was in a state of ferment; there was nothing in the air but war, war! There was a titanic struggle on the Continent of Europe for the rights and liberties of small nations. If by any chance the Allies were defeated in this struggle, then indeed was our own little nation in jeopardy (hear, hear). So while other nations were engaged in a fight to a finish struggle, they in Ireland must put their own house in order. They must not allow their machinery to get rusty and disused (hear, hear). They must keep their political machine in good working order, and be prepared for any emergency that may arise (hear, hear). Mr. Redmond (cheers) and Mr. Dillon (cheers) have warned the Nationalists of Ireland to be ready and bring the National Organisation up to high water mark (hear, hear). They have told us we must be prepared, have our forces the United Irish League and National Volunteers, ready to do their duty to the old land when they would be called upon to do so. Organise and prepare, said Mr. Redmond, for we know not the day or the hour when we would be called upon to uphold the cause of Ireland a nation (cheers). The speaker then went on to refer to the wonderful change which was brought about by the Irish Party supported by an active organisation. He compared the position of the farmers thirty years ago and what it was to-day, and he said that they (the farmers) would be most ungrateful to the Party and the National Organisation if they forgot the

great fight that was put up for them, if they abstained now from joining the United Irish League, and he (Mr. O'Connor) warned them that it was to their own interests to do so, because, as Mr. Dillon pointed out at the great Tipperary Convention, the question of land taxation would soon come on. The war was costing over three millions a day, and the Government must find the money somewhere, and in all probability the land would be taxed; but the Irish Party would see it wasn't taxed unjustly (hear, hear). Then look at the position of the labourers, evicted tenants, and the artisans twenty-five or thirty years ago and see the great change all over the country for the betterment of the people to-day (hear, hear). It clearly demonstrates to you what a united, pledge-bound Party can do when they are supported by an active organisation (hear, hear). And now, continued Mr. O'Connor, they had a charter of freedom won after a long and weary struggle; the Home Rule Act was law, and would come into operation as soon as the war was over, not for a portion of the country, but for Ireland, one and indivisible (cheers). Concluding an able address, Mr. O'Connor appealed to them to maintain their ranks unbroken; get all the men in the parish enrolled under the banner of the U.I.L., and to the young men he would appeal to them to keep up the National Volunteers, become well drilled soldiers in Ireland's National Army, learn all the various evolutions, and above and beyond all respect those placed over them, and be loyal to their commanders (applause), and be ready at a given signal to respond to the call of their leaders when the bugle note was sounded (applause). They need not fear that conscription will be enforced in this country no matter what the Northcliffe Press of England or its ally in Ireland—that so-called national journal, the "Irish Independent," a journal that is a wolf in sheep's clothing, and which never loses an opportunity to stab our leaders in the back. I say, do not take any notice of them, as the Irish Party will take good care that compulsory service will not apply to Ireland (cheers); be of good cheer, as the cause of Ireland was never brighter, and when the war clouds of Europe have rolled by, then Ireland will indeed take her place amongst the nations of the earth (loud applause).

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.