

## GENERAL McCALMONT

### TWO ASPECTS OF A PICTURE.

#### A COMMENDATION FROM THOMASTOWN, AND A PROTEST FROM BENNETTSBRIDGE.

Our Thomastown correspondent writes:

An interesting feature of the sports which were brought off in Thomastown on Sunday last, was the competition for the best drilled Corps of Irish Volunteers. Of the seven Corps who entered for the competition, five competed, viz: Thomastown, Inistioge, Dungarvan, Stoneyford and Knocktopher. The local brass and reed band accompanied the Thomastown Volunteers to the sportsfield. Inistioge band travelled with the Inistioge Volunteers; Dungarvan Volunteers were accompanied by the Goresbridge pipers' band; Knocktopher Volunteers by the Hugginstown fife and drum band. The Stoneyford Volunteers were under the command of their Instructor, Mr. Andrew Whelan.

Shortly after 4 o'clock the judges, Major General Sir Hugh McCalmont, K.C.B., Mount Juliet, and Major J. H. Connellan, D.L., Coolmore, arrived. The different Corps having given the military salute, were put through the various drill exercises by their respective commanders.

In giving his decision, General McCalmont heartily congratulated the different Corps on the splendid knowledge of military drill they possessed, and was delighted to see that they had at their heads such highly efficient drill instructors. He was proud to see such a splendid body of men prepared to take their stand to defend the shores of their country against the enemy, Germany, and he hoped that before they were many days older each man of the different Corps would be in possession of a rifle to do his duty by his country. The allied forces to-day were fighting against the most formidable fighting power in the world, and they should take no chances. With regard to the competition, General McCalmont said while it was difficult to decide between the different Corps, he and Major Connellan had no hesitation in awarding the first prize to the Thomastown Corps, and the second prize to the Inistioge Corps.

The announcement was received with applause, and Mr. P. Ryan, D.C., Commander of the Thomastown Corps, and Mr. Bergin, Commander of the Inistioge Corps, were heartily congratulated.

In the evening the different Corps, accompanied by their bands, paraded the town, and the Thomastown brass and reed band played the different Corps outside the town.

The following firms very kindly presented prizes for the Thomastown Sports on Sunday last:

Mr. James Ryan, Thomastown, a pair of bicycle tyres; The Raleigh Cycle Co., a gold medal, per Mr. James Ryan, Thomastown; Messrs. James Bourke and Son, Kilkenny, a suit of Irish tweed; an acetylene lamp, presented by Statham and Co., Kilkenny; an acetylene lamp, presented by Kelly and Son, Irishtown, Kilkenny; a cheque, from Messrs. Hearne and Co., Wat-

## BENNETTSBRIDGE VOLUNTEERS AND GENERAL McCALMONT.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Committee of the above Corps, held on Tuesday, 1st September, a large number being present, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Patrick McDonald, D.C., President, and seconded by Mr. M. J. Westerman, Hon Sec., was unanimously passed:

"That this Committee hereby publicly protest against the action of the Sports Committee, or other body, in inviting General McCalmont, Mount Juliet, to act as joint judge in the drill competition in the various Corps of the Irish Volunteers at Thomastown Sports on 30th ultimo, to which we were invited. Various persons have asked why we failed to attend this competition, and in order to make our position quite clear to the public, we desire to state that we declined to attend for the following reasons: Some months ago General McCalmont gave his demesne in Co Antrim for the use of the Ulster Volunteers, and, furthermore, contributed generously to their funds to resist Home Rule. In doing so he proved his deep-rooted prejudice to the realisation of the aspirations of more than three-fourths of his countrymen. Though he lives among Nationalists, he has done nothing, either by contributing to the Irish National Volunteer funds, or lending his demesne for drilling purposes, to show that he has changed or modified his attitude towards the Home Rule Cause. We were, therefore, unable to see what claim this gentleman had upon the National Volunteers, to be appointed to the position of judge at a drill competition, particularly when it is remembered that old residents in the neighbourhood of Thomastown, who have a record of liberal conduct to look back upon, were ignored; and consequently we desire to draw public attention to the blameworthy and astounding conduct of those responsible for the appointment of General McCalmont. We also desire to add that at a specially convened meeting of the sub-committee of the Provisional Committee of the County Kilkenny, held in the Town Hall, Kilkenny, on Friday, August 28th last, General McCalmont was proposed by the Thomastown delegate as one of the Ex-Military Officers to organise the County Kilkenny Irish National Volunteers and failed to secure a seconder."