

Y, OCTOBER 21, 1914.

Irish Leader's Visit to Kilkenny.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION.

Great Volunteer Review.

Striking Demonstration of Loyalty.

Freedom of the City Conferred on Mr. Redmond.

Notable Address on the Present Situation.

The visit of Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P. to Kilkenny on Sunday last, for the purpose of reviewing the Volunteer forces in the city and county, was made the occasion of a public demonstration of loyalty and devotion to the man and the cause which he and his gallant colleagues in the Irish Party have been instrumental in bringing to a victorious conclusion. From an early hour on Sunday the streets presented an appearance of animation and enthusiasm. For hours prior to the arrival of Mr. Redmond, Volunteer Corps and representatives of the different public bodies in the county, accompanied by bands, poured into the city, and large contingents were also present from Carlow, Waterford, Tipperary, and all the adjoining counties, all vying with each other in marking their appreciation of the great work accomplished by the Irish leader. During the past few weeks Mr. Redmond has visited various constituencies, notably Waterford and Wexford, but nowhere did he receive a more wholehearted or enthusiastic welcome than that accorded to him in the City of the Confederation. Not within the memory of many has such an immense gathering been witnessed in Kilkenny; even the great Nationalist demonstration held on the Parade some years ago, could hardly compare with Sunday's gathering, in point of numbers or enthusiasm, a fact which speaks volumes for the spirit of unity and confidence which exists amongst the Nationalists of Kilkenny.

At about 12.30 o'clock the different Corps of our citizen army assembled at the Parade, and, under their respective commanders, marched to the Dublin Road, headed by the Kilmanagh Cavalry Corps. On arrival at the Dublin Road, the Volunteers, numbering about 5,000 men, lined up at each side, and on the approach of the distinguished visitor loud and prolonged cheers for Mr. Redmond were given by the vast gathering of spectators who had assembled in the vicinity of the Railway Station, and on his progress through the Dublin Road the Volunteers saluted in true military fashion.

FREEDOM OF THE CITY

CONFERRING CEREMONY.

LEADER'S MEMORABLE SPEECH.

For a considerable time before the arrival of the Irish leader the Council Chamber of the City Hall was occupied by a crowded audience. When Mr. Redmond arrived, accompanied by Mrs. Redmond, the Mayor of Kilkenny and members of the Corporation, he received an enthusiastic ovation, the assemblage rising in their places and cheering vigorously. The Mayor immediately took the chair, Mr. Redmond sitting on his right, and Mrs. Redmond on his left. The following members of the Corporation were present:—

Councillor John Magennis, P.L.G., Mayor; Ald. M. L. Potter, J.P.; Ald. Thos. Cantwell, J.P.; Councillors R. H. Smithwick, Co.C.; E. Morrissey, P.L.G.; P. Rowan, P.L.G.; John Slater, P.L.G.; E. T. Keane, James F. Hackett, R. H. Griffin, P.L.G.; D. Dowling, P.L.G.; John Morris, J.P.; Philip Clohosey, Wm. Comerford, P.L.G.

Mr. Wm. Deigan, Acting Town Clerk, was also present, and, at the request of the Mayor, read a letter convening the meeting.

RESOLUTION CONFERRING FREEDOM.

The Mayor said the first business of the meeting was the formal proposing of a resolution conferring the freedom of the City of Kilkenny on their illustrious Leader, John E. Redmond (applause). He begged formally to propose:—

In recognition of his life-long services and devotion to the cause of Ireland, we hereby respectfully tender the highest gift in our power, namely, the freedom of our ancient and historic city to John E. Redmond, the illustrious leader of the Irish people (loud applause).

Ald. Potter said it afforded him great pleasure to second the resolution. They in

ARRIVAL IN KILKENNY.

The Irish leader, who was accompanied by Mrs. Redmond, motored from Aughannagh, and reached Kilkenny shortly after 2 o'clock. He was received outside the city by the Mayor, who was accompanied by Mr. P. J. Morrissey, J.P., Borough Treasurer, and Mr. Wm. Deigan, Acting Town Clerk, and the Sword and Mace Bearers. A beautiful bouquet was presented to Mrs. Redmond by Miss May Magennis, the little daughter of the Mayor. Mr. Redmond then left the car, and drove in an open carriage, beside which a body of Volunteers marched as a guard of honour. The whole line of route to the Town Hall, a distance of about half a mile, was lined with companies of Volunteers who presented arms as the distinguished visitor passed. A number of mounted Volunteers who followed the carriage presented a very fine appearance. Crowds lined the footpaths and filled the windows cheering and waving Irish flags as the Irish leader appeared on the scene. Arches, containing mottoes welcoming Mr. Redmond, spanned the streets at various points, and the stirring National airs played by numerous brass and reed, fife and drum, and pipers' bands added to the enthusiasm which was everywhere manifested.

A RECORD GATHERING.

In addition to the public representatives of the city and county, a noticeable feature of the day's proceedings was the attendance of clergy from all parts of the diocese, and members of the United Irish League branches, Irish National Foresters and A.O.H. divisions from Kilkenny and neighbouring counties. Special trains were run in connection with the demonstration from Carlow and Maryborough, while the motor service from Callan, Castlecomer and Thurles was availed of to the fullest extent by contingents from the various districts "tapped" by this means of transit. A very large body travelled on motor busses from Thurles, headed by Mr. Hackett, M.P.; and Mr. Martin Murphy, M.P., accompanied the Waterford contingent of Volunteers, which constituted one of the most striking features of the review. Most of the contingents carried Irish and Belgian colours, and were generally headed by bands. Amongst the districts which supplied large contingents, in addition to Kilkenny City and the other centres mentioned, were—Carlow, Ballyragget, Kells; Bennettsbridge; Clara; Sevenhouses; Danesfort; Graigue; Dunnamaggin; Callan; Kilmanagh and Killaloe; Urlingford; Freshford; Johnstown; Bonnettstown; Tinryland and Bennekerry; Inistioge; Tramore; Thomastown; Slieverue; Castlecomer; Mothel; Troyswood; Ferrybank; Mooncoin; Gathabawn; Kilmacow; Ballyfoyle, New Ross; Dunmore, etc.

Never in the whole course of its history did Kilkenny present a more magnificent spectacle of loyalty to a great cause or devotion to a faithful leader than it did on Sunday.

The day's programme included the presentation of the freedom of the city to Mr. Redmond in recognition of his faithful services to the National cause and a review of the Volunteers of the city and county of Kilkenny. There was an extra item in the shape of a public meeting, which was addressed by the Mayor of Kilkenny (Mr. John Magennis, T.C.), Mr. Redmond, Rev. Father Delahunty, C.C., Callan, Chairman of the Co. Committee of Volunteers of the city

City Volunteers on the Cinema.

Thanks to the enterprise of the Brothers' Silverter—who for the past thirty years have provided amusement for the citizens of Kilkenny—the imposing demonstration of the city corps of the National Volunteers has been transferred to the film, and all the most striking features of one of the most memorable days in the history of Kilkenny is now being reproduced on the canvas at the Brother Silvesters' Theatre on the Fair Green, Kilkenny, where entertainments are being given each night, commencing at 8 o'clock. It is unnecessary to give a description of the different features of the Volunteers' display on Sunday, which have been cinemaed, as all who have attended at the Fair Green, since the opening of the theatre on Tuesday last, declare that the manner in which each event is shown could not be excelled. The Volunteers owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Bros. Silvester, for, in addition to rescuing from oblivion the events of a "red letter day" in Kilkenny by transferring them to the film, they have made the sportsmanlike offer of the receipts of one of their best night's takings for the Equipment Fund of the city corps of the National Volunteers.

The benefit night for the Equipment Fund of the Volunteers has been fixed on for Sunday evening next, the 27th inst.