

Kilkenny People 27/5/1916

Kilkenny County Council

General Amnesty Demanded

At the adjourned quarterly meeting of the Kilkenny County Council held in the Courthouse on Wednesday last, Mr. John Butler, J. P., Chairman, presiding, Mr. Fogarty proposed the following resolution :—"That we, the members of the Kilkenny Co. Council, while deeply deploring the recent outbreak in Dublin, protest in the strongest manner against the wholesale arrests that have taken place all over the country and especially in our own city of Kilkenny as being calculated to once more give rise to feelings of distrust and dissatisfaction which, happily, had in recent years begun to disappear, and further that we Call on the Government to grant a general aannesty to the rank and file of the insurgents, the majority of whom were quite unaware of the desperate nature of the enterprise in which they were engaged; and that a full and public trial, before a civil tribunal be accorded to those of the leaders who are detained. We further desire to express our entire confidence in Mr. Redmond and the Irish Party and promise them in the present crisis of our! country our cordial support"

Continuing, Mr. Fogarty said it was unnecessary for him to say anything in support of the resolution.- They all deplored very much what had occurred, but they were in hopes that out of what occurred, much good might come for Ireland, and it was quite possible that it would. Those men engaged in the insurrection, although in his opinion they were misguided and unwise, were men who, all must agree, were imbued with patriotic motives and who believed that their efforts, although misguided, were likely to do some good for the country. It was a very serious crisis for the country and they had every confidences that Mr. Redmond and the Irish Party would do everything possible to safeguard the interests of Ireland, and take every step possible to see that those men, the great majority of whom were detained very improperly would be released at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Drennan seconded the resolution.

The chairman in putting the resolution, said he could not add anything to the force and value of such a resolution coming from the Co. Council of Kilkenny at the present moment.. The occurrence was indeed very unfortunate and was wholly unexpected. Those men had lost their lives arid: equally good men in the .military had lost their lives by the unfortunate occurrence, which they all deplored but he certainly thought that the Government had not come quite out with clean hands (hear, hear). They had been treating Ireland and the Irish question—not with frankness certainly, and the people who expected legislation, had been disappointed; and even when legislation was effected by the Government it had not been carried out on proper lines.

Mr. Walsh said these poor men were the- victims of the headline set for them by Campbell, Carson, General Richardson, and the officers of the Curragh who preached general treason. They had arms and machine guns, and the Excise and police authorities took no notice when the guns were imported in Larne. Real trenches were dug in gentlemen's demesnes in defiance of the King, Lords and Commons of Great Britain. These men did all this, and the Government smiled.

Chairman—I think that is admitted.

Mr. Waísh said the men for whom they **were** appealing for mercy were unwise, but unfortunately they only copied **Carson** and the rest who preached the revolt and encouraged it in every way. Notwithstanding that Carson got a place in the Cabinet, Campbell got £8,000 a year and a Judgeship. General Richardson was now in the British Army; and he believed the Germans had disposed of Gough, the gentleman of the Curragh. All these gentlemen were condoned and connived at, and the least the Council could do was to ask the Government to overlook these young Irishmen and forgive those who had not been punished.