

LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE Isaiah 62:10

**In this issue . . . . .**

- \* Protestantism – a definition ! . . . . .Page 2
- \* Around the Lodges in North Down . . . . .Pages 3-4 and 8-9
- \* Fight for Union in Scotland . . . . .Page 10
- \* Stumbling block to democracy . . . . .Page 12
- \* Illustrious names in Orangeism . . . . .Page 14

## Brethren must stand behind their leaders

**PARADES are certain to be one of the most contentious issues in the coming months. It would be foolish to ignore that fact, however deplorable, and the Orange Standard certainly does not believe it would serve any useful purpose to do so.**

The nature of the Sinn Fein/IRA targeting of parades during these past three years makes it so – a plan exposed in courageous manner by RTE's Prime Time programme. Indeed, RTE has performed a public duty and won widespread admiration within the Unionist community by its willingness to expose the planning which has gone into a campaign which has caused so much misery and disruption during the past two summers. This was no spontaneous reaction by Roman Catholics towards harmless traditional Orange parades. The vast majority of Roman Catholics were indifferent towards Orange parades through areas in which they formed a majority. Few Roman Catholic people, who actually lived in places like Garvaghy Road or lower Ormeau Road, were among those shouting slogans and trying to block the route of parades. Most of the latter were republican activists, and the majority travelled

from other areas to be "offended". More and more this is being realised, and by many people and organisations could not be termed "Unionist" by definition. These Roman Catholics, like most Protestants, just want to live and let live, and respect one another's traditions and cultures. In spite of the commendable improvement in attitudes, there are parades which will figure in controversy in the coming weeks and months, and it will be the sincere hope and prayer of all right-thinking members of society, including Orangemen that solutions can be found which will avoid the events of last July. Orangemen from private lodge level right through to Grand Lodge, will be active in the coming weeks and months in a bid to achieve this. Those conducting these negotiations on the Orange and Unionist side deserve the support and not just the good wishes of the rank-and-file loyalist population. Issues will be debated within lodge, and there will be proper input by the rank-and-file Orangemen into decisions taken. But it is vital to bear in mind that officers are elected at every level – private lodge, district lodge, county grand lodge, and Grand Lodge of Ireland – to discuss issues in a rational manner and take decisions. That is what they were elected to do, and after democratic discussion and a vote, the majority decision should be followed.

Brethren have put their trust in the officers they have elected – officers who carry a heavy burden of responsibility. These officers are prepared to give of their time and talents in the cause of the Orange Order, and of the well-being of Northern Ireland and its people. They deserve support and are entitled to receive it. That does not mean that valid and sincerely held opposing views should not be heard. Indeed, this is the essence of democracy, and the Orange Order is a democratic organisation. But brethren must follow the procedures laid down to express their views and to bear in mind that the dignity of the Institution to which they belong must be upheld at all times. Opposing viewpoints can be made, but for goodness sake let these be put within lodge and not in the full glare of public gaze and attendant publicity. The sight of Orangemen berating Orangemen and condemning decisions made by officers after debate, is not an edifying one and does nothing to advance the cause or to help the morale of brethren. No-one would want to stifle genuine debate, discussion and rational argument, but brethren must stand foursquare behind their leaders in the very difficult weeks and months ahead and give maximum support as they seek to reach constructive and realistic decisions. That is what they elected their leaders to do – so for goodness sake let them get on with it.

## Flawed legislation

**THE new proposals unveiled by the Government to lengthen the advance notice period for parades and tighten curbs on drinking by those taking part are a clear indication, yet again, of the involvement of the Eire Government in the internal affairs of the United Kingdom.**

This is the view of Wor. Bro. John McCrea, Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, expressed at a meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. "The decision of the Secretary of State demonstrates the considerable pressure that he has come under from the Dublin administration following the publication of the North Review body report. The hand of the Maryfield Secretariat is clearly visible in the decision to reduce the consultative period of these two issues." Bro. McCrea told the meeting that he had lost hope of any good coming out of the consultative

period suggested by the Secretary of State. He said, it is regrettable that the Secretary of State listens to those outside our country rather than the legitimate views of organisers of peaceful parades. "Once again, it appears the Government will only pay lip service to any constructive suggestions made during the consultative period. "The RUC were well aware of all the annual dates for the Orange Order's traditional parades. What we are concerned with now was a further erosion of the civil liberties of the people of Northern Ireland. "We are a religious Order with temperance beliefs and the proposals on alcohol had no effect on Orange parades, where it is already an offence under the laws of the Institution to have alcohol in a parade. In many cases parades pass through city centre areas which are already alcohol free zones and spectators are subject to the existing laws."

## Eire meddling

**THE continuing interference in the affairs of this part of the United Kingdom by the Dublin Government has been condemned by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.** Bro. George Patton, Executive Officer, stated that the government of this country is not a matter for the Irish authorities. "There are unanswered

questions regarding Dublin interference in last year's parades and the best way forward is through recognition that parades in Northern Ireland are an internal matter and not something which the Eire Government should be involved in. "The right to free assembly and peaceful parade is a basic civil right and must be recognised as such."

## Orange tradition

THE Lambeg Drum has been associated with Orange parades and demonstrations for generations. That still continues to be the case in rural parts of Northern Ireland, although it no longer forms part of the Belfast Orange procession. There is no greater stronghold of the Lambeg drum than County Armagh where there are many

enthusiasts. Places like Markethill, Hamiltonsbawn, Richhill, and of course the large towns of Portadown, Lurgan and Tandragee often play host to drumming events. Our photograph shows two Markethill brothers, Richard and Roland Sterritt tightening a drum following a recent match in Hamiltonsbawn, while Billy Boyce, right, lends a helping hand.



Bros. Richard and Roland Sterritt, pulling a drum during a recent drumming match at Hamiltonsbawn, in Co. Armagh. Bro. Billy Boyce, right, lends a helping hand.

# PROTESTANTISM?

THOSE who call themselves Protestants are often indicted by their critics for attitudes to Christianity which are out of keeping with the teaching and practice of Jesus Christ; that what they say and do bears little or no resemblance to how he spoke and acted in the testing circumstances and situations of his earthly life.

Their responses in human relationships are often selfish, intolerant, antagonistic, negative and unco-operative. They lack the Christ-like qualities of selflessness, tolerance, gentleness; the magnanimity which treats everyone with respect and the willingness to help them, and each other to better understand the meaning and purpose of life as seen from a Christian perspective.

The charge is made that the Protestantism of many Protestants is something other than the Christian faith as exemplified in the life of Jesus and those who were and are truly and obviously committed to him as their Saviour and Lord of their lives.

There is no doubting that in many cases Protestant

and Christian are not interchangeable terms. To be a Christian and a proper Protestant is to take seriously the necessity of commitment to Jesus Christ which finds expression in that Protestantism which is the faith of the Protestant Reformers and that illustrates their devotion to Christ. And this has its basis in the worth and work of Jesus in the days of his flesh and the faith in him of the first Christians and the church of the New Testament.

So that there is the Protestantism, avowedly Christ-centred, and which is expressed in the worship and witness of the Christian churches. And a Protestantism which sometimes has the words of Christianity but neither the faith nor the conduct of the Christian believer.

In Northern Ireland we are well acquainted with both kinds of Protestantism and the effect the one has on the other. The diminishing influence of many Protestant churches means that there is an increasing secularism in our society, a growth in the number of those who are Protestants

**PROTESTANTISM:  
A Definition**

*The system of Christian faith and practice based on acceptance of the principles of the Reformation.*

*At the Diet of Speyer (1526) a new stage was marked in the consolidation of reforming influences in Germany. It determined that each prince should order ecclesiastical affairs in his own state in accordance with his conscience.*

*The Diet of Speyer (1529) with a Catholic majority took a different decision when it passed legislation to end all toleration of Lutherans in Catholic districts. Six princes and 14 cities made formal protest - a "Protestatio" of the reforming members - and thereafter the Reformers were known as Protestants.*

*The main characteristics of original Protestantism was acceptance of the Holy Bible as the only source of revealed truth; the doctrine of justification before God by faith in Christ alone and the universal priesthood of all believers.*

by definition - that may mean only that they are other than Roman Catholics - but not Protestant in the original use of the word.

Attempts are made to distinguish Protestant from Protestant those who are truly Protestant from those who have the name but apply it differently. The sep-

aration is not made easier in that many who do not publicly practice their religion refuse to be called unbelievers. They have a Christian heritage from home, school and Sunday school, which provides them with the consolations of faith in crisis moments in their lives.

The position being as it is it is the duty of the committed Christian to bring his fellow citizens to faith in Christ; to an acceptance of the Christian faith and the ethical standards, precepts and principles of that faith. That submission confronts us with the question, "How are Christians, and the Christian churches, meeting their obligations in this society; fulfilling their commissions to represent Christ to the people?" The answer has to be in many cases less than complimentary, for all the weaknesses listed in the letters to the Seven Churches in The Revelation of St. John in the New Testament are evident here. There is often a lack of enthusiasm which characterised the early church; the pulsating sense of excitement at the revelation of God in Jesus Christ; the wonder of the power of Christ to change lives and the emphasis on the benefit of the Gospel.

There are snares for the churches which prevent them meeting their potential as the vehicles of Christian communication to the world. Not the least of them is the satisfaction of so many with

the situation as it is, reasonable congregations financially viable, happy fellowship and a contented membership. And there is the regretful acceptance of the reality that many relations and friends are indifferent to the Christian faith and what it has to offer them. There is the separation of church people and others as a fact of life. It shows in attitudes and antagonisms on specific issues with religious, political and ethical connotations. But there is a problem here for not infrequently the thinking of believers and others is the same, or alternatively the Christian voice is muted so that it goes unheard and unheeded. Too often it is not one voice but several voices saying different things on the same subject.

If the impression we give is of a diverse and divided Protestant community, that is an accurate account of the position as it is. And the reason why - it is so very hard to find a unity of plan and purpose among Christians who are truly Protestants and proud to be named as such.

REV. S.E. LONG.

FOR the last few years the contention over Orange parades has heightened. Is it as Gerald Rice claims, because incidents like Sean Graham's on the Lower Ormeau Road has encouraged residents not to stand for parades going through their areas anymore or is it that Sinn Fein has turned tragedies like Sean Graham's into political advantage.

Protestants feel a strong attachment to the Loyal Orders. This leads to feelings of isolation and alienation when the right to march is disrupted. Villages or areas like Pomeroy are not Roman Catholic villages, they are mixed villages with Roman Catholic

## The rights of residents or ethnic cleansing?

majorities. Many of these areas were Protestant at one point until the IRA amongst other things drove them out. When Orangemen etc., are not allowed to march through these areas it has an ethnic cleansing effect as Protestants do not wish to live in areas in which their own distinct British and Ulster-Scots culture is not respected.

The IRA wish to drive out the last few Protestants in villages like Dunloy. This can be seen by Prods Out daubed all over the roads and orange halls of such villages. The question of why Orangemen are offensive to Roman Catholics is more important than whether they are offensive or not.

There is no doubt that Orangemen are not wanted even by constitutional nationalists, this would not change if residents appointed SDLP instead of Sinn Fein spokesmen. The question is Why? Could it be that too many (not all) nationalists do not recognise the

right of Protestants to be here. We are just planters who stole their land and we should go home, i.e. Brits/Prods out.

This begs the question what can Orangemen do to accommodate nationalists? They have offered not to play music or to play hymns, to remove offensive symbols or to walk in silence. In some cases they have offered to walk at the most ungodly hours of the morning, but republicans have merely offered to get up earlier. Orangemen have cancelled nine out of 10 parades in the Garvaghy Road area alone, six of

which went down the Garvaghy Road. This is a 90 per cent compromise by the Orange Order in the Garvaghy Road alone, not counting the above-mentioned concessions. The IRA is mimicking an ANC tactic to confront marches in South Africa which was seen to cause disorder showing that the IRA's real agenda is to cause disturbance, not to represent residents.

In 1975 (November 28) the IRA declared in an addition of An Phoblact "that Ulster would be ethnically cleansed of Protestants by the year 2,000". Are we really to believe the IRA has changed its ways. This planters go home attitude is

reinforced by attacks on Orange halls and Protestant churches both north and south of the border, often daubed with Prods Out or Brits Out. The IRA's intentions are clear. Recently an IRA man was arrested in Castlederg for organising a campaign against Protestant property, i.e. churches with the purpose of intimidating Protestants out of the area (ethnic cleansing). It has been suggested by well respected sources that Sinn Fein was organising boycotts before Drumcree even occurred. This in conjunction with Gerry Adam's recent comments that Drumcree did not happen by accident shows what the IRA's real agenda is. It is an extension of the IRA's ethnic cleansing campaign.

In conclusion the IRA is a thoroughly fascist movement with aspirations of genocide and the marching controversy is another tool for them to cause that genocide.

R.G. McDowell.

### Lodge installation

Wor. Bro. Kenneth Watson, County Grand Master of Antrim, centre, was a special guest at the installation of officers meeting of Drumcon True Blues LOL No.970, Rasharkin.



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Cost of small advertisement remains the same. £1.00 per single column x one centimetre.



Bro. Jim Reid, chaplain of L.O.L. No. 1973 Craigantlet presents a lodge Bible to Bro. Sandy Hanna in appreciation for his work carried out for the lodge over the last 50 years.

(Photographs courtesy of Newtownards Chronicle).



Bro. William Reid, LOL No.1758 Millisle, receives his Past Master certificate and jewel from the Deputy Master Upper Ards L.O.L. No.11, Bro. Victor Harrison.



Bro. Victor Harrison, Deputy Master Upper Ards LOL No.11 presenting a Past Master's certificate to Bro. Kenneth Angus from LOL No.1900 Kircubbin.



Bro. Victor Harrison, District Master Upper Ards No.11 District presenting a Past Master certificate to Bro. S. McConnell, LOL No.1951. Looking on WM, Bro. Michael Meredith, LOL 1951.



Greenwell Street, Newtownards LOL No.1363 held their installation dinner at which Harry Edmonds received his Past Master's certificate and jewel from WDM, Bro. Billy McIlroy. Looking on are Bros. J. Jamison, Tom Carson, John Curry, DM, Michael Rainey, WM, Colin Kennedy, Secretary, and Jimmy Boal, Past District Master.



Bro. William McCullough, LOL No.111, receives his 50-year jewel from WDM No.11, Bro. Billy McIlroy. Looking on are Bro. John Campbell, WM and D. Walker DM.



# Orange hall arsons

Arson attacks on Orange Halls have struck a blow against attempts to negotiate agreements on parades, it was claimed yesterday.

Bellaghy in Londonderry and Glenleslie Orange hall in Co. Antrim were extensively damaged recently. Also at Tullintrain Orange Hall, Claudy, Co. Londonderry there was also an arson attack. This hall had two petrol bomb

attacks in which seating and part of the interior was badly damaged. The alarm was raised by a local man who spotted smoke pouring from the hall and an adjoining band practice hut.

Londonderry Orange Grand Master Alfred Lee visited the Bellaghy Hall and said the fire attack coming so close to the marching season, would make negotiations on parades by the Loyal Orders in Bellaghy virtually impossible.

"I cannot see any useful purpose being served through negotiations on parades while incidents of this nature continue," he said

DUP councillor Jim Wilson agreed with Bro. Lee on the parades' issue. He said: "The people who carried out these atrocities are only stirring the pot with a view to keeping the conflict going before the parades' issue comes up."



## Stalwart Orangeman

Bro. Robert McCormick, LOL No.552 Portavogie, receives his 50-year jewel from Upper Ards No.11 DM, Bro. Victor Harrison, included is DDM No.11, Bro. Tom Stratton.



Master of Carrowdore LOL No.1051, Bro. Brian Dickson with members at their installation. Included are Bros. P. Fitzsimmons (Chaplain), Brian Dorrian (District Lecturer No.11) and Robert Ennis (Secretary).



David Palmer of LOL No.1058 Carrowdore receives his Past Master certificate from DM No.11, Bro. Victor Harrison. Also included is DDM, Bro. Tom Stratton; WM, Bro. Raymond McCormick and Bro. James Edmunds, Deputy County Grand Master from Scotland.

Bro. Ivan Thompson LOL No.1973 Craigantlet with brethren and special guests at their lodge installation. Included are WDM No.4, Bro. Billy McIlroy; WDM No.11, Bro. Victor Harrison; No.4 District Treasurer, Bro. A. McKee and Bro. N. Brown, No.14 District.



# Editor's Correspondence

Dear Sir,

The article in last month's issue of the Orange Standard, commenting on the slanted propaganda and the false picture it portrays, much to the detriment of the law-abiding citizens and the security forces, certainly got me thinking.

While the article in question terms the events in Londonderry on the January 30, 1972 as controversial, the conclusion quite correctly asks that in the interest of fair play and a balanced history, the entire story is told.

As one who had the good fortune to attend a state

controlled school in Belfast, where Protestants, along with a small number of Roman Catholics, Jews and others, safeguarded against the probability of priestly-inspired child abuse, were educated together, I am sure that my former teachers would be quite pleased to know that whatever my shortcomings, they instilled in me the knowledge that there are seven days in every week and that in the context of terrorist campaign of the past 28 years, while there might have been one Bloody Sunday well documented and internationalised, we should never forget that there has also been Bloody Mondays, Bloody Tuesdays, Bloody Wednesdays, Bloody Thursdays, Bloody Fridays and Bloody Saturdays.

It seems strange, or does it, that those who campaign so vigorously for public inquiries and apologies for Bloody Sunday, conveniently ignore the call for public inquiries and apologies for similar tragic events. I wonder why, for the enlightenment of the readers of the 'Orange Standard', let us not forget the events of the undernoted days when innocent men, women and children were murdered by an organisation that was spawned, financed and armed by the Government of the Republic of Ireland, and of them I demand a full and unequivocal public apology - Bro. Greg. Hopkins, LOL No.1932, Belfast.

- Aldershot, England - February 22, 1972: 7 killed in bomb explosion.
- Donegal Street,

- Belfast - March 20, 1972: 7 killed in bomb explosion.
- Oxford Street, Cavehill Road, Belfast - July 21, 1972: 9 killed in multiple bomb explosions.
- Claudy, Co. Londonderry - July 31, 1972: 9 killed in multiple bomb explosions.
- Yorkshire, England - February 4, 1974: 12 killed in M62 coach explosion.
- Birmingham, England - November 21, 1974: 21 killed in multiple bomb explosions.
- Kingsmill, South Armagh - January 5, 1976: 10 workers shot dead in ambush.
- La Mon Hotel, Castlereagh - February 17, 1978: 12 killed in blast incendiary explosion.
- Narrow Water, Warrenpoint, Co. Down - August 27, 1979 - 18 killed in double bomb explosion.
- Hyde Park, London - July 20, 1982: 11 killed in bomb explosion.
- Ballykelly, Co. Londonderry - December 6, 1982: 17 killed in bomb explosion.
- Newry, Co. Down - February 28, 1985: 9 RUC officers killed in mortar attack.
- Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh - November 8, 1987: 11 killed in Remembrance Day explosion.
- Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone - August 20, 1988: 8 killed in bus bombing.
- Deal, Kent, England - September 22, 1989: 11 killed in bomb explosion.
- Teebane, Co. Tyrone - January 17, 1992: 8 workers killed in bomb explosion.
- Shankill Road, Belfast - October 23, 1993: 9 killed in bomb explosion.

"Seven Springs",  
Pembury Road,  
Royal Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent.  
March 14, 1997.

Dear Sir and Brother,  
1997 marks the 30th anniversary of the U.K. Parliament enacting the 1967 Abortion Act which legalised abortion on demand in England, Scotland and Wales (if not, thankfully, Northern Ireland). In spite of widespread opposition to proposals to legalise abortion in the Province there remains a constant threat that, in future, the 1967 Abortion Act will be extended to Northern Ireland or analogous legislation will be introduced to permit the mass murder of unborn children in the Province.

Since 1968 over three million abortions have been carried out in England, Scotland and Wales, and the ever-increasing annual totals now exceed 180,000: the vast majority of which are being done purely for social reasons. Indeed, the most recent statistics show a 14.5% increase in the number of abortions carried out in Great Britain

between April and June 1996 (over the same period for the previous year) following an earlier scare about the contraceptive pill, thus confirming that in the eyes of many, abortion is perceived as merely another form of contraception rather than the destruction of human life. This genocide of unborn children must stop!

Rather than seeking to bring the law in Northern Ireland into line with legislation in England, Scotland and Wales, either by extending the 1967 Abortion Act to the Province - as the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP) recently proposed at its annual conference - or introducing analogous legislation in Northern Ireland, the law in Great Britain should be amended to ban all abortion except in emergency either to save the life of the mother or prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the mother.

Northern Ireland has had enough killings by the thugs in the UFF (whom the UDP are purported to represent) without their political representatives calling for the legalisation

of mass murder of unborn children. Pro-abortionists like Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam and others take note!

In recent weeks the Church of Rome has, once again, been allowed to steal "the moral high ground" on abortion following the announcement by Cardinal Thomas Winning, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland that he intends to offer financial assistance to pregnant mothers to discourage them from having abortions, at a time when many so-called "Protestant" denominations are at best mute, and at worst divided, over the whole issue of abortion. Unlike the Church of Rome which opposes abortion purely on the grounds that it believes that any child which dies without being baptised in the Roman Catholic Church is doomed to hell, all true Protestants should oppose abortion as it is, in effect, the murder of defenceless unborn children.

Yours faithfully and fraternally, **Bro. Christopher Luke, member, Lord Carson Memorial LOL No.20.**



292 Hibernia Street,  
Stratford, Ontario,  
Canada N5A-5W1.  
February 15, 1997.

Dear Sirs,

My wife and I are travelling to Northern Ireland in July for two weeks and we are very interested in looking for family connections. Most of our ancestors were Orangemen and we have some information to that effect but are interested in finding long-lost relatives who are living in Northern Ireland and may be Orangemen.

Ancestors of Stewart Martin's children's names John, William Alexander, Elizabeth Florence, Anne Mary, Emily Frances and three other children. They were farmers near Scotstown, Urney Post Office in Co. Tyrone. They belonged to the Church of Ireland.

Sam Warnock belonged to LOL No.117,

Co. Armagh District of Newtownhamilton held at Tullyvallen. He was born in Alsmead Township, Monaghan County. He emigrated to Ontario around 1857.

David Lennox belonged to Orange Lodge No.334 Ballyderna, Ballintra District, Co. Donegal. This is his certificated dated March 26, 1866. We would be very happy to visit with other Orangemen in the Strabane, Belfast and other areas of Ireland.

Yours truly, Bro. Graeme Martin, Downie Orange Lodge No.313, 292 Hibernia Street, Stratford, Ontario, Canada, N5A 5W1.  
Tele: 1-519-271-5152.



Bro. R. McCormick, WM LOL No.1058 Carrowdore, with members and special guests, including WDM of No.11 District, Bro. Victor Harrison at the installation of the lodge.



Worshipful Master of Millisle LOL No.1758, Bro. D. Crawford, DM, B. Sword with members and visitors at their lodge installation, included is WDM No.11, Bro. Victor Harrison.



Bro. Michael Stone, WM LOL No.1884 Ballywalter, at the lodge's installation of officers. Also included are Bros. Jim McDonald, DM and Victor Harrison, WDM No.11 District.



Greyabbey LOL No.1592 at their installation of officers. Included are Bro. George McCutcheon (WM), Bro. Hugh Dorrian (DM), Bro. Tom Stratton (DDM No.11), Bro. David Mawhinney (Dist. Secretary), members and visitors.

# Comment - Comment - Com

## Proper place for religion and politics in society

A LOCAL writer in a plea for the separation of religion and politics made the point that King William III of Orange, never allowed his religion to interfere with his politics. He used the King of "immortal memory" to argue that the trouble in Ireland has often been because Irishmen have not been able to make this distinction. And in what he said he echoed the sentiments of those politicians and others who say that the separation of religion and politics makes for better government and happier people. The contention has merit but only when politics and religion have been misused in the struggle for power the one over the other. And for the reason, too, that religion is often undervalued in the life of the individual in order to have him accept a political philosophy which offers him material advantages. It's to deny the reality that when religion is really important to a person, it means everything to him. What he believes theologically affects how he thinks and acts politically, for his life is governed by his religious convictions and his politics are coloured by what he believes about God and man and the meaning and purpose of life. To him there is no separation of religion and politics for they are inter-twined in the minds of those who have that commitment to faith in God which requires their loyalty to him to be of first importance in their lives. Where religion is of consequence to people it is effective in its influence on their behaviour. They are controlled by their faith and the practical, ethical, social and economic demands it makes on them. There are always the duties and responsibilities of faith for every faith has its rules and regulations, ideals and expectations and so we see the effects of religion everywhere in the world. Sometimes these effects are not good, for religion can be made to be an intolerant, militant and destructive force by those who use it for selfish ends to compel patterns of conduct repugnant to true believers in any of the great world religions. The manipulators of religion are always in number and to be found everywhere in the world. Sometimes they are little people with enough charisma to impress and delude those who trust them, but often they are the rules and powerful people who on the world stage play on the ignorances, superstitions and fears of their people. And evil conquers good and manipulated religion becomes a weapon of disaster and doom, war and strife, disease and death. There is always good and bad religion.



### REAL CHRISTIANITY

The influence of Christianity in Ireland has been good and bad. Good when it has been honestly practised; bad when it has been misused to ferment bitterness and strife among people for reasons that have little to do with faith in God but much to do with the struggle for survival or control in this country. There are antipathies among people which in the name of Christian denominationalism belittles their humanity, brings ridicule on them and shame on the faith by which they are called. Much of what has happened in the name of religion is alien to Christian belief and practice. The violence in our society is a painful illustration of man's inhumanity to man. It is not an argument for the inadequacy of Christianity to satisfy the needs of people but an observation on their unwillingness to accept a real and true commitment to Jesus Christ. It is evidence of the exceeding sinfulness of man and not proof of the insufficiency of God. It may be seen more readily here than elsewhere that it is easy to utter the words of the Christian faith and hard to live out that faith in practice. The words of Jesus, "By their fruits you shall know them," means that people are not to be judged on what they say but on what they do. The effect of good religion on politics and the work of Christian men and women has been intensive and extensive when moral issues have been in question. And the Christian voice has been raised against policies and practices by government, local government, social services and others which are seen to weaken and impoverish people and the most vulnerable among them. Regardless of the protests of some politicians against the Church's "interference" in politics Christian men and women, Bishop David Sheppard is only one of them, to have highlighted the distinct and proper emphasis of the Christian "bias to the poor". Many good party political policies owe their existence to Christians who wanted to see their fellow citizens treated with respect and dignity regardless of race, creed or class. The Christian ethic with its concentration on the person and work of Jesus Christ has the answer to the deepest needs of people. Christianity, properly understood, provides the framework for a political programme not to be bettered by the most enlightened and humanitarian political theorists in their concern for the well-being of the people. True religion and sound politics complement one

another. We need politics sensitive to the spiritual wants of people and the effects of religious faith on them. They are devalued when regarded primarily as physical beings to be satisfied fully with material possessions. People are victimised when the spiritual in them goes unrecognised whether by themselves or others who refuse to accept the efficacy of religious faith.

### MALIGN INFLUENCE

The debate continues unabated on what to do to prevent the intolerable and deplorable goings on of the summer of 1996. The pleas of fearful people for a peaceful settlement of disputes which have wrought havoc with community relations are intermingled with the restatement of rights of those at the points of disagreement. The causes of confrontations have been described in such precise and dogmatic language that a meeting of minds appears to be impossible in the few areas of conflict. The situation is not improved by the media assertion, RTE, TV, March 4, that behind the objectors to the parades of the loyal orders is the intense pressures of Sinn Fein/IRA to persuade residents to disrupt them or prevent them for party political advantage. It is described as another tactic effective in creating ill-feeling and being pursued with the ruthlessness common to any action of Sinn Fein/IRA. The media "disclosure" has been an assertion of the loyal orders since local resident associations came on the scene. We make one point again here when we deplore the huge concentration on the few places in dispute when nearly every parade and demonstration passes off year by year without the occurrence of any untoward incident. We join with all reasonable people in the hope that the Province will have a peaceful summer. It is never the intention of the Orange Institution to contribute to the unease of a society too easily inflamed by uncontrollable passions, and antipathies which make enemies of people who should be neighbours sharing common space in a good land. We shall continue to want and work for good relations among people who worship at different shrines and whose cultural and political aims and aspirations are dissimilar. Our purpose is to live and let live. Impressions given of community tensions, and we can never deny their existence, must be balanced by the evidence that in this country there is a better picture of people co-operative, friendly and sharing happily with others regardless of the differences which are used to destroy personal and community relations here.

## Willowfield War Memorial Replacement Committee

59 Breda Road, Belfast. No.1321 - £20; Templemore True Blues LOL No.1205 - £10; Cross of St. Patrick LOL No.688 (Saintfield) - £25; Temperance Guiding Star LOL No.265 - £20; Orangefield Temperance LOL No.1974 - £10; Leggygown LOL No.1516 (Saintfield) - £25; Defenders of the Realm LOL No.710 - £60; Pride of Ballymacarrett LOL No.1075 - £10; Banner of the Cross LOL No.1310 - £25; Young Men's LOL No.747 - £20; Witherow Memorial LOL No.1337 - £25; Old Boyne Heroes LOL No.633 - £20; Past Grand Master Wor. Bro. the Rev. Martin Smyth, MP., (personal) - £100. Total - £490.

Dear Sir and Bro.,

I would like to thank through your newspaper, the following lodges and Black preceptories for their most generous donations to the above fund.

The memorial now in place on the Woodstock Road, Belfast, replaces one which was erected by local people after the 1914-18 war. The original memorial was destroyed in the early 1980s when the Willowfield Unionist Hall was demolished, in a redevelopment scheme.

The memorial lists the names of 64 men from the Willowfield district who lost their lives in the Great War and is a reminder to the people of the area of the sacrifice made on their behalf.

The fund now stands at £6,280.10 which brings us close to our target figure of £6,500, all of which was achieved in nine months, with the help of the following subscribing lodges.

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## Long service in Lurgan

Three members of Tamnificarbett Orange Lodge which belongs to Lurgan District have been presented with their 50-year service jewels. The brethren who were presented with their jewels by County Grand Master, Wor. Bro. Dennis Watson, are Bros. Fred Parks, Alex Russell and Mervyn Simpson. Pictured at the ceremony are, front row, left to right: Bros. Robert Guy, Samuel Gardiner, Dennis Watson, Fred Parks, Mervyn Simpson and Harold Gracey.

Picture: Portadown Times

# Book Review

Lucy, G (1996) - *Stand-Off! : Drumcree : July 1995 and 1996*; Belfast : Ulster Society (Publications) Ltd.

Few, if any, would disagree with the statement of Bro. Jim Nicholson (1996) to the European Parliament (1): "Northern Ireland has come through many difficult times during the past 27 years." (p4).

However, the immediately following statement has caused many in Northern Ireland to pause for thought: "Last weekend we faced an abyss so deep we could see no bottom." (p4).

The subject of course was Drumcree.

The pan-nationalist front and their propaganda machines seized upon the subject of Drumcree and through misinformation sought to denigrate Orangeism and many in the British majority community in Northern Ireland. Foster (1995) noted (2). "Irish political and cultural nationalism has had an impressive innings - now it is time for reason and reality to go to bat".

Gordon Lucy proves to be an excellent opening batsman, to continue the above cricket analogy, for reason and reality in this excellent book on Drumcree. This work pro-

vides not only historical fact but informed lucid analysis which dismisses much of the pan-nationalist propaganda to the boundary.

Al Ghazali (1058-1111) asserted: "He who does not doubt, does not investigate, and he who does not investigate does not perceive, and he who does not perceive remains in blindness and error".

It is clear from what has come forth in the local media that many journalists did not doubt or investigate the pan-nationalist propaganda on Orange culture and parades, consequently the reader and listener was left with their blindness and error. That being said it was noticeable that the UK national press did investigate the Drumcree issue and in particular the quality press was more favourable to Orangeism and Unionism generally.

Lucy's 107-page consideration of Drumcree is divided into three principal sections: (i) events at Drumcree, 9th-11th July, 1995; (ii) the Impact and Significance of Drumcree 1995 and (iii) epilogue: Drumcree revisited 1996.

In terms of an accurate, detailed, and at times almost hour by hour histori-

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cal record of the events at Drumcree sections (i) and (iii) are invaluable. Of particular interest is the analysis of section (ii) which is a wealth of interesting material. Specifically one is drawn to concur with the evaluation that there is an unambiguous relationship between the Orange in Portadown being faced down and the signing of the discredited Anglo-Irish Agreement. This view led many in the British community to ensure that a decade later there would be no further Orange humiliation or encouragement for John Major to embark upon further reckless and irresponsible ventures.

Lucy brings to the debate on Drumcree quality historical analysis. This analysis is underlined by well-referenced source information provided in the notes section. For those of us who were concerned that the arguments in support of the Orange cause were lacking in coherent lucid examination will find a distinguished response in this work.

Enoch Powell in a review of ATQ Stewart's admirable book, *The Narrow Ground*, suggested that a pro-Union benefactor would do well to place one in the hands of every MP. Similarly the Orange and indeed British community would do well to ensure that those in positions of power and influence, particularly opinion formers in the media, had access to this worthy work on Drumcree.

Footnotes:

(i) Nicholson, J (1996). In *Europe*. Belfast : Glengall Street.

(ii) Foster, J (1995). *The Idea of the Union: Statements and Critiques of the Union of Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Canada*. Belcouver Press.

Book review compiled by Jonathan F. Bell, BA, MSW.

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The annual installation of officers, Newtownards LOL No.4 District took place in Newtownards. Also attending were district officers from Upper Ards, Bangor and Holywood. Included are WDM No.4, Bro. Billy McIlroy; WDM Upper Ards No.11 District, Bro. Victor

Harrison; District Secretary, Bro. Clifford Barton; DDM No.4, Bro. Paul McKeag; District Treasurer, Bro. Alfie McKee and District Treasurer, Markethill, Co. Armagh, Bro. Jim Reaney.



Bro. John Carr with officers at installation. Also and District Se



Officers and members of No.4 District Royal Arch Purple at their recent installation. Included are WDM, Bro. Roderick Elliott; DDM, Bro. Robert McCullough and County Grand Master, Bro. William Robinson.

# Around in No

Pict  
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Bro. Paul Consig receiving his Past Gareth Fulton (Dist Frank Crawford, Act



Bro. Harry Edmund, Master LOL No.555, Portavogie with Upper Ards LOL No.11 WDM, Bro. Victor Harrison, DDM, Bro. Tom Stratton, members and visitors at their installation.



Bro. S. Moorhead cate and jewel from McIlroy and District No.4 District. Included LOL No.111 and D





Newtownards LOL No.111 who attended their annual WDM, Bro. Billy McIlroy and District Secretary, Bro. Clifford Barton.



Officers and members of Newtownards Scarlet Crown LOL No.1919 at their recent installation, also included are District Master, Bro. Billy McIlroy and District Secretary, Bro. Clifford Barton.

# Lodges Down

by [unclear] Chronicle



Bro. Michael Meredith, WM LOL No.1951 Newtownards, at their lodge installation, included are Deputy Master Upper Ards No.11, Bro. Victor Harrison; DDM, Bro. Tom Stratton, members and guests.



19 Newtownards officiate from Bro. [unclear] looking on is Bro. [unclear] No.1919.



Master LOL No.878 Ballyhalbert, Bro. Samuel Pyper with members and visitors at their annual installation. Included are DDM, Bro. Tom Stratton, Bro. the Rev. J.M. Batchelor (Chap); Bro. Robert J. Edmond

(Deputy District Grand Master, Ayrshire); WM, Bro. John Baillie, Bro. James Rush (Secretary), Bro. L. Robinson (Treasurer).



Master's certificate from Bro. Billy McIlroy and District Secretary, Bro. Clifford Barton and Bro. John Campbell, WM

# Scottish Orange fight for Union

**SCOTTISH Orangemen will be in the forefront of the political fight to keep Scotland as part of the United Kingdom as nationalism flexes its increasing muscle.**

That's the firm forecast of many observers of the political scene in Scotland where the Act of Union of 1707 which binds the two nations of England and Scotland together is certain to hold centre stage in the years ahead.

The Orange Order has long been the main bulwark of Unionism in Northern Ireland, and its uncompromising pro-British stance has also been a factor in countries like Canada and Australia.

In Canada, the Orangemen were always in the vanguard of the Empire link and their assertiveness to play no small part in helping to keep Canada within the British family of nations during the last century when there seemed a danger of the Dominion being submerged into the growing giant, the United States on its doorstep.

In Australia, where the Orange influence is much smaller than Canada, nevertheless the well-organised Orange Order played a key role in the recent successful pro-Monarch debate which defeated the attempt of Irish-Australian and anti-Crown premier Paul Keating to break the links with Britain.

Scotland is much, much nearer home and the struggle to keep that nation within the United Kingdom will have profound effect upon the future of the nation, including Northern Ireland.

There has always been a strong sense of nationhood in Scotland, which is hardly surprising given the proud history of the people and nation - a country whose ties with Ulster are extremely close.

But Scotland, by a voluntary action, joined in equal nationhood with England in 1707 and until recently it would have been unthinkable that a break-up of the UK could ever take place.

Now, many people are not so certain, and it is obvious that the majority of Scots who are still Unionists, will have to be more vibrant and more forceful in putting forward their argument that the United Kingdom membership is preferable.

The immediate priority of Scottish nationalists is to get a separate parliament for the country, and it is believed Labour will favour some form of Home Rule for Scotland.

A separate Parliament, perhaps on the lines of

Stormont, would in itself not deal a shattering blow to the Union. But the fear is that it could eventually become a Trojan Horse, and a means of facilitating the dream of Scottish republicans of breaking the Union.

There are many genuine, and well-meaning people within the Scottish Nationalist Party and movement. Their objective is not founded on anti-English or anti-British sentiments, but they believe that Scotland could do at least as well as the Republic of Ireland as an independent country within the European Community.

There are other people, however, whose aim of breaking the Union is based on sheer anti-British principles. Their thinking can be seen in films with an anti-British theme like Braveheart, which was a distortion of Scottish history of the period.

The SNP has grown to be a major party in Scotland, but Labour, which is the largest political party in the country is pro-union, as of course are the Tories, whose once strong power base has been eroded during the past 30 years.

Britain's rejection of the Commonwealth and Empire concept and the decision under Edward Heath to ditch this, and countries like Canada and Australia, in favour of Germany, France, and Italy, has hastened and accelerated the nationalist and republican concept in the former Dominions.

Now its effects are being seen closer to home and Scottish nationalism is not going to disappear.

It must be opposed and Scottish Orangemen will undoubtedly be totally committed to preserving the Union. It is true that London Governments have behaved badly towards Scotland - as they have in relation to Northern Ireland - and have brought this about through their indifference, neglect, and parochialism of London and Home Counties thinking.

But the Union is still of paramount importance and it is essential that it is preserved in order to maintain

political and constitutional stability within the United Kingdom as a whole.

For over two centuries Irish Orangeism has had to battle to preserve civil and religious freedom in Ireland - and since 1921 in Northern Ireland. Now it looks as though Scottish Orangeism will be called upon to do battle for the same cause in that country.

The Orange Order is numerically very strong in Scotland, but unlike Ulster, has not had to battle too strongly on the political front, leaving brethren to decide for themselves whether to support Labour or Conservatives, happy in the knowledge that both parties were for the Union.

In today's climate, Scottish Orangemen will have to be more discerning and more politically aware, as the mounting challenge of SNP to the existing system puts a question mark against the future of the United Kingdom in its present form.



Seated, left to right are: Sir Knights David Gibson, Amos Cromwell and James Kelly who received 50-year medals. Standing: Sir Knights John Smyth, WM RBP No.15 and Mervyn Proctor, DM, RBP No.15.

**FIVE members of Castlewellan RBP No.15 who had attained 50 years membership of the Royal Black Institution were presented with medals. They were Sir Knights David Gibson, Amos Cromwell and James Kelly. Unable to be present for health reasons were Sir Knights Billy Pyper and Jack Trimble.**

## Long serving Sir Knights honoured

Special guests were Sir Knight Raymond Adams, Assistant Sovereign Grand Master and County Grand Master of Down, Sir Knight Victor Harrison, Deputy Grand Master of Down; Sir Knight Robin Imrie, Imperial Deputy Grand Master and Sir Knight Johnston Blair, District Master.



**Sir Knights of the Castlewellan Preceptory pictured with guests at the presentation evening held to honour long serving Sir Knights.**

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# Orange role in 1798 rebellion

## Successful gospel concert

BENRAW Orange Hall in Co. Down was packed to capacity when the local lodge hosted a very successful concert.

This was the first such concert held by the lodge and the member are delighted at the support received.

The audience enjoyed a splendid evening of music and song and chairman for the evening was Bro. Joe Peden, who did a splendid job.

Paul Berry sang from his latest album; 13-year-old John Shields from Kilkeel, was excellent on the flute and David and Isobel Ferguson (Dromore) on pipes and organ were stars in their own right.

**THERE** may have been raised eyebrows in some quarters at the news that Orangemen are campaigning for the Southern Government to acknowledge the part members of the Order played in the 1798 Rebellion but anyone who had studied that period of history will accept the argument.

Protestants and Orangemen were deeply involved in the rebellion of United Irishmen in the Northern counties of Antrim and Down and also in the Wexford area where most of the fighting in the south took place

Next year will see many commemorative ceremonies, and a lot of publicity centred around the 1798 Rebellion and it is essential that the Protestant role in the event should not be overlooked or go by default.

The Rebellion was a bloody affair with an estimated 30,000 people losing their lives and it had profound effects on the Irish psyche for generations.

It wasn't a clear-cut affair of Protestants fighting Roman Catholics, either in the northern or southern areas of conflict. In the

North, the main participants on the United Irish side were Protestants, almost exclusively Presbyterians, and they came mainly from Antrim and Down.

In Wexford and adjoining area the rebellion was mainly, but not exclusively led and supported by Roman Catholics.

It is true that Father John Murphy was one of the leaders of the Wexford rebels, but so also was well-known Protestant landowner Bagnall Harvey, and there were other members of the Established Church in the vanguard of the rising.

However, in Wexford and adjoining counties, Protestants generally opposed the rebellion. Many young Protestants fought in groups who confronted United Irish detachments, and of course most of the militias from the counties in that part of the country had large numbers of Roman Catholics serving.

But the Rebellion in Wexford deteriorated into a largely sectarian affair, and victory in a number of minor battles and skirmishes encouraged the rebels to engage in sectarian mur-

ders against Protestants on a large scale.

The most obvious examples were Scullabogue barn where several hundred loyalists, mostly Protestants, but including a few Roman Catholics were put to death, and at Wexford Bridge where Protestants were killed by the pikemen of the United Irishmen.

### SUPPORT

Orangemen serving in the many Yeomanry detachments in Ireland served in most of the engagements. They were strongly in support of the Regular Army units in the fighting in the south, and earned a fearsome reputation in battle as well as in the clearing-up operations afterwards.

In the North the disaffected Presbyterians of Antrim and Down were dismayed by reports of the sectarian nature of the Southern conflict. They were fighting for genuine grievances - the restoration of their full civil rights. Some of the more politically active leaders had a wider agenda - the end of British rule in Ireland and the establishment of a republic. But the large

majority of Presbyterian United Irishmen were fighting for their rights and did not comprehend, far less support the concept of ending the link with Britain.

In counties Armagh, Tyrone, Fermanagh, and most of Londonderry, the overwhelming majority of Protestants did not subscribe to the objectives of the United Irishmen. The reasons were diverse, but among the most compelling were the fact that most were Anglicans or members of the Established Church's breakaway sect, the Methodists.

These Protestants of Armagh mainly of English descent had vivid and painful folk memories of the 1641 massacre of Protestants, and attempted pogroms of the settlers.

They were the men who had provided the bulk of the membership of the newly formed Orange Order just three years earlier in 1795 and while they shared the religion of the Protestants of Antrim and Down, their political allegiances were less radical and they were foursquare in their allegiance to the Crown.

The Orangemen of Armagh and Tyrone flocked

into the yeomanry units and in 1796 were reviewed by the British Army commander in the North, General Lake at Lurgan.

General Lake was very impressed, and although he had misgivings about their discipline he had no hesitation in calling on their services as the Rebellion developed.

The Orange contribution to the Rebellion was immensely significant, and that applied in the southern theatre of war as well as the northern conflict.

It is a valid argument therefore for Orangemen to ask the Southern authorities that the contributions be acknowledged, and it was a perfectly reasonable request for them to ask that the names of the Protestants murdered in Wexford be included on plaques to be erected next year.

Too often in the past the Protestant participation in Irish historic events has gone by default and it is encouraging to find that this will not be the case in regard to the 1798 Rebellion if the Orange delegation which presented their case in Dublin has their way.

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**KILLEN District LOL No.12 held its annual table-quiz in Drumbawn Orange Hall on February 24, 1997.**

A total of eight teams competed for the Robert Montgomery B.E.M. memorial trophy - Kirlish LOL No.380, Ardbarron LOL No.758, Drumquin LOL No.853 (two teams, A and B), Killen LOL No.1272, Garvetagh LOL No.1486, Lislaird LOL No.1488 and Aghyaran LOL No. 1641.

## Killen table-quiz

The question master was Bro. Maurice Clements and the scorekeeper was Bro. Bobby Sommerville both from Cookstown District LOL No.3.

After various rounds Kirlish with 54 points emerged as leaders over Lislaird with 51 points at the tea-break.

After the interval it was

much the same pattern and Kirlish became eventual winners with 85 points, with Lislaird runners-up on 80 points, closely followed in third place by Drumquin A on 79 points.

Wor. Bro. James Emery, Killen District Master, proposed a vote of thanks and invited Bro. Clements to present the trophy and

medals to the winners, Kirlish Chosen Few LOL No.380 who were represented by Bros. Malcolm Gordon (captain), Steven Patterson, Bertie Gordon, William Mitchell, and the runners-up Lislaird Purple Heroes LOL No.1488 were represented by Bros. Sam Hunter (captain), Uel Harpur, Winston Hunter and Desmond Thompson.

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## Long service honoured

Ballygawley RBP No.281, Co. Tyrone, has presented 50-year jewels to two Sir Knights. Front row, left to right: Sir Knts T. Culbert (recipient of 50-year jewel), James Cochrane (Aughnacloy District Master), and B. Coote (recipient of 50-year jewel). Back row, left to right: Sir Knts S. Somerville (Lay Chaplain), D. Mulligan (WM), D. Brush (DM), M. Little (Treasurer), and H. Erskine (Registrar).

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# Need to sell Ulster's message in British mainland

**A FEW weeks ago following the signing of the infamous Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985 – the document which gave Dublin a foot in the door and has been the biggest single factor in the undermining of Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom – the writer was talking to an astute observer of the political scene in the Province.**

My friend, like everyone else, was highly impressed by the huge attendance at the rally outside Belfast City Hall when an estimated 300,000 Orangemen and loyalists showed their contempt and opposition to the Diktat.

But he made the point that such demonstrations would cause no more than a ripple on the London political scene and if Orangemen and Unionists hoped to really get their message across to the mainland Britons they would have to change tactics.

"They must take their propaganda campaign across the water, especially to England and Wales. A thousand Orangemen walking through London would cause more shock to the English political system than 100,000 parading through Belfast," he said.

I couldn't help recalling my friend's comment during the past few weeks following the impressive parade by over 200 Portadown and Co. Fermanagh Orangemen and two bands through the capital during the City of London District LOL No.63 Orange weekend.

From reports received, the impact made by the Orange parade has been considerable and Portadown District deserve high praise for their initiative in carrying through such a project and getting so many Orangemen and Orangewomen to London.

It represented quite a considerable financial outlay and the Orange brethren met their own

costs – proof of their willingness to stand up and be counted.

Full marks to the London and Essex Orangemen who invited the Portadown and Co. Fermanagh brethren to the capital as a 'thank you' for the reception they received at Drumcree last July when a sizeable contingent travelled over for the stand-off. The spill-off effects long-term should be considerable and already there have been reports of inquiries from a number of men in London interested in joining the Orange Order.

That's not surprising, as one of the biggest areas of Orange expansion in the last two decades has been the South of England.

It reflects the continuing dominance of this part of the United Kingdom, especially London – the nerve centre of the nation and Commonwealth.

London and the Home Counties have drawn thousands of young Ulster peo-

ple, many of them Orangemen and Unionists during the past 20 years and more.

Gone are the years when Canada and then Australia were the destinations for Ulster families making a new life. In the last century and in the early part of this century, including the period between the two World Wars, Canada attracted tens of thousands of Ulster Protestants.

## INCREASE

This corresponded with a huge increase in Orange membership in that Dominion. In the 1920s there were some 200,000 Orangemen in Canada, and Toronto's 'Twelfth' rivalled that of Belfast.

Earlier migrations had given Orangeism a solid Canadian base and played a leading role in strengthening the pro-British section of the population. Many Canadian Orangemen served in the Great War and several were awarded the Victoria

Cross.

England was not a common destination for Ulster people until the years just before the Second World War. Since then the trickle of movement of people has exploded into a flood and there is hardly a city or town of any consequences which does not have a sizeable Ulster population.

Unlike the Southern Irish Roman Catholic population the Ulster Protestants have not tended to gather together or play an ethnic role in London or the capital.

But that is slowly changing and there is increasing evidence of more Ulstermen taking out Orange membership when they move across the water.

Sinn Fein supporters have long realised the importance of making an impact in London. Their provocative marches in Kilburn and other areas, and even in the centre of the capital have earned them publicity.

The London and Essex Orangemen are determined that Orangeism will play an increasing role in the political and religious affairs of the capital and Home Counties.

That should be encouraged and as the 'Orange Standard' has said before, Orangemen when they move to London or other parts of England should make a point of taking out membership of lodges on the mainland.

The Orange Order is on the march in England and it has enormous potential, so the challenge must be accepted by Ulstermen and women to play their full part in spreading the Orange and Unionist message in the capita and South of England.

Orangemen are making their mark in places like Southampton, Portsmouth, London, and in Essex suburbs like Woodford Green, Chingford and Hainault, as well as towns like Chelmsford – a very encouraging and welcome

## Sinister cover for ethnic cleansing

**THE involvement of Sinn Fein in so-called residents groups opposing Orange parades has been denounced as a continuing part of the campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Protestant people of Northern Ireland.**

Speaking to Orangemen in Portadown on March 5, Bro. George Patton, Executive Officer of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, said that R.T.E.'s Prime Time programme had injected a degree of reality into the debate on parades.

He pointed out: "The orchestrated attempt to prevent peaceful parades is simply part of the process to ensure that any vestige of our faith or our culture is removed from parts of this country.

"The authorities who have in the past ignored claims by the Orange Order that the illegal protests against parades were Sinn Fein orchestrated must now accept their responsibilities and ensure that freedom of assembly and the right to process is upheld.

"In terms of the situation in Portadown the local District Lodge have acted responsibly at all times and will continue to do so. They have given much in the past with regard to their parades and there is no more to give. The authorities must ensure their traditional route from public worship at Drumcree Parish Church".

At the same meeting a spokesman for County Armagh Grand Lodge said

Sinn Fein's presence in the residents' groups exposed the so-called consent principle espoused by these groups. "It is simply part of the propaganda war where a glib phrase is used by people who do not apply it themselves. Where was the consent for Tullyvallen, Kingsmills, Darkley..."

Bro. Patton said that the Grand Lodge of Ireland has repeatedly asserted that opposition to peaceful parades has been orchestrated by Sinn Fein. "The evidence is quite clear and Prime Time simply reinforced this.

"What was important about last night's programme is that the great and the good who have tried to apportion blame for every ill affecting this country on Drumcree and the Orange Order will now have to join us in the real world. It will be interesting to see if they are capable of grasping reality.

"Furthermore no one should be surprised by Sinn Fein's attempts to deflect the truth of the situation and to once again try to blame everyone else. That has been their message for the last twenty seven years. Whilst there will be those who attempt to give them credence right thinking people will yet again see them for what they really are."

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Wor. Bro. John McCrea, meanwhile, said the facts revealed by R.T.E. on their Prime Time programme would have been very revealing to many people but not to the senior officers of the Grand Orange

Lodge of Ireland.

Bro. McCrea said: "Over the past few days I have held meetings with senior officers of the Orange Order in England, and with people who have business interests in Northern Ireland. I have warned them of the Sinn Fein/IRA involvement in residents' associations.

"The appearance of Gerry Adams in the Ormeau and Garvaghy areas last week, plus the television pictures of him with Gerard Rice of L.O.C.C. in Ormeau, and with Brendan McKenna of Garvaghy residents group, were a clear indication of the Sinn Fein/IRA involvement. Gerry Adams was only visiting his leaders to 'rally his troops' for the summer programme.

"The revelations from R.T.E. totally vindicated the decision of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland not to talk with such residents groups whilst Sinn Fein/IRA are involved. The continued presence of Messrs Rice and McKenna will not permit an improvement in broad community relations.

"There are, however, some residents groups which have not been tainted by the poison of Sinn Fein/IRA, and the officers of these associations must rise to the occasion and seek to improve community relations to reduce tension."

In response to an article carried in some newspapers County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge places on record that it has never entered into negotiations with residents groups in

respect of parades.

"It is true that the County Grand Lodge are willing to inform people about our heritage and culture and

why parades are such an important part of that culture. However, negotiation is not and never will be a part of this process.

"The County Grand Lodge believes that the right to basic civil liberty and is determined to maintain civil liberties."

## Dublin meddling – threat to stability

**THE negative influence of the Dublin Government in the internal affairs of Northern Ireland has been one of the greatest factors in creating instability in the Province.**

This fact is recognised by almost everyone in Northern Ireland, and by many informed sources on the UK mainland, but it has unfortunately not influenced HM Government in its pursuit of closer ties with the Republic of Ireland, at the expense of Northern Ireland.

Several recent statements have reflected the concern of the Grand Lodge of Ireland at the continuing influence and input by Dublin into Ulster's affairs.

In a hard-hitting statement earlier this month, Bro. George Patton, spokesman for the Grand Lodge, rightly pointed out that the government of a part of the United Kingdom is not a matter for the Irish authorities.

"There are unanswered questions regarding Dublin's interference in last year's parades, and the best way forward is through recognition that parades in Northern Ireland are an internal matter and not something which the Irish Government should be involved in," he said.

Bro. Patton and the Grand Lodge are quite right, and the final Anglo-Irish conference in Dublin before the General Election proved the point.

This meeting – Sir Patrick Mayhew's final conference – had an agenda heavy laden with items which were clearly an interference not only in the internal affairs of Northern Ireland, but of the United Kingdom in general.

Dublin had its say about Orange parades in Northern Ireland, about alleged sectarian discrimination in Baroness Denton's office, about the treatment of IRA bombing accused Roisin McAliskey, and a range of

similar items.

That has been the tone of all previous Anglo-Irish conferences – items which are to the detriment of the Ulster Protestant and Unionist people, and to the British State.

The Anglo-Irish Agreement gives Dublin a say in the running of a part of the United Kingdom, but there is no similar provision for a British Government to make representations about how society in the Republic is governed.

Just imagine the uproar if a British Government was to express outrage about the release of the man convicted of the murder of Lord Mountbatten. Or if a British Government was to ask for reasons for the decline in the Protestant population of the Republic to its present insignificant proportion.

Or closer to home, where is the evidence that Dublin is concerned about the ethnic cleansing of Protestants in large parts of Northern Ireland? Do they know anything about the movement of 15,000 Protestants from Londonderry's city side during the past 20 years, or the attacks on Protestant churches on that side of the Foyle?

And if they do know, is there the slightest evidence that they care?

No, the Maryfield Secretariat continues to beaver away with all sorts of trouble-to-beaver proposals and suggestions, which, if implemented by HM Government would cause even greater instability in this part of the Realm.

There will be a new Secretary of State installed following the General Election – and it perhaps a new Government – and it would be an opportune moment for the United Kingdom to tell Dublin to stop meddling in the affairs of an integral part of the Kingdom and concentrate instead on its own problems.

# Oxford lodge expands

THE Martyrs Memorial LOL No.213, Oxford, initiated four new members at their February meeting. The Oxford lodge belongs to the Metropolitan Province of the Grand Orange Lodge of England which covers the south of England where there has been a significant increase in membership in recent years.

"To have four new members in one evening is very encouraging," said Bro. Dr.

the annual Protestant Alliance meeting in the Town Hall to commemorate the Oxford Martyrs Cranmer, Ridley and Latimer. In recent years the lodge has also held an annual church service with members joining with a Church of England congregation for morning worship.

The Oxford lodge was formed nearly 35 years ago and for many years a good proportion of its members were Ulster and Scottish

new lodges being established in areas local to the members. The lodge has been the parent lodge for lodges established at Bristol and Newbury, and it is planned that some of the new members will help reform the Bedford lodge later this year. The Oxford lodge sees this in a positive light even though they have to build up the membership again when a new lodge is formed elsewhere.

In recent times the lodge



Ian Mackey, the Worshipful Master of the lodge.

"We work hard at building contacts with individuals, groups and organisations in the Oxford area," he added.

Last November the lodge members organised a successful public meeting which was addressed by a speaker from the Ulster Society. This success has encouraged members to aim to make this an annual event. The lodge supports

brethren who worked at the British Leyland car factory at Cowley near Oxford. However, as the factory reduced its workforce the lodge needed new sources of members. Now many of the members are loyal Englishmen who share the same values as their Ulster and Scottish brethren.

The lodge draws its members from a wide geographic area and as it has grown this has resulted in

has had Oxford University students as members. One of these who graduated last year has won a scholarship at a leading American University to undertake a Doctor of Philosophy degree on the subject of the Scots-Irish contribution to the United States.

"The lodge is moving forward with confidence," said W. Bro. Mackey, "and we look forward to achieving more in the future."

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Left to right, Sister Florrie Shaw, 50 years, treasurer; Sister Ida Patterson who presented the bannerette and Sister Louise McManus, 50 years, secretary.

The lodge realised the ambition of the late Bro. Alfie Shaw at that time secretary of County Cavan Defenders LOL No.1327 to see the formation of a sister lodge. His wife Sister Florrie Shaw is a founder member of Cavan Women's and remains active in the lodge.

Sister Louise McManus, another valued member of the lodge, was its first secretary and in 1996 the lodge was still fortunate in being composed of members who had its interests very much at heart led by

# Eire's neutral position in war unforgiveable

EIRE'S neutrality in the Second World War earned notoriety and the abhorrence of most of Europe after victory over Germany and Italy had been secured in 1945.

The sight of Eire's premier Eamon De Valera going to the German Embassy in Dublin to express his country's condolences on the death of Adolf Hitler caused revulsion throughout the United Kingdom.

Tens of thousands of Southern Irishmen and women, to their great honour and credit, crossed the border to join HM Forces in Belfast and serve in the war for freedom - many of them giving their lives.

That must never be forgotten and these brave men and women deserve to be remembered, as did those gallant Southern Irish men who died in the Great War.

But it was the neutrality of the Irish Free State which made the biggest impression on the British public, and many found it hard to forgive, remembering the many brave sailors who perished in the waters of the North Atlantic.

This was due in large measure to the Royal Navy being denied the use of the Southern ports during the

war, and Britain's great war leader Winston Churchill expressed his own and that of his people's gratitude to Northern Ireland when he paid tribute to the part the Province played in achieving victory.

But for the Ulster ports, especially Londonderry and Belfast, the balance might have been tipped in Germany's favour, especially during the U-Boat offensive in 1940-42.

That gratitude of the mainland British helped Northern Ireland enormously in the postwar years. Even though Labour won the 1945 election, Clement Attlee and his Cabinet Ministers like Bevin and Shinwell remembered Ulster's role in the war, and the Labour Prime Minister had a fine understanding and indeed friendship with Ulster's Prime Minister, Sir Basil Brooke.

The passing of time and the changing status of the United Kingdom in the world scene had diluted the wartime memories, and of course the Republic of Ireland has milked the publicity it has received since the European money began to pour in and transform its economy.

But there are still memories not all that far beneath the surface about Eire's

shameful stance in the war. An excellent article by historian Andrew Roberts in the Sunday Times of March 16, revealed the thinking which still dominates a lot of British society.

Roberts, in his article, referred to the role of various neutral countries during the war like Portugal and Turkey which were pro-British, and Switzerland and Sweden.

Turning to Eire, Roberts recalled the De Valera visit to the German Embassy, and he also made a very valid point about Eire's failure to condemn the German bombing of Belfast in 1941.

And the Irish Free State even criticised the stationing of American servicemen in Northern Ireland as an "occupation army."

Eire had been so determined to avoid any semblance of anti-German attitudes that it did not even condemn the bombing of people it so often wanted to portray as part of the Irish nation.

It is a chapter in Southern Irish history that politicians and people will not want examined too closely, but Eire's continuing refusal to join NATO and play its part in the defence of the West is bound to revive memories every so often.

## 50th anniversary for East Belfast lodge

CAVAN Women's LOL has celebrated its 50th anniversary. The lodge held its first meeting in Albertbridge Orange Hall on Saturday, July 6, 1946.

the Worshipful Mistress Sister Helen Scott.

They celebrated its 50th anniversary in a fitting and memorable way. It was appropriate that the first commemorative event for a lodge with a strong representation of committed Christians should be a thanksgiving service.

This was held in Albertbridge Congregational Church on Sunday, May 12.

Bro. the Rev. Ronnie Johnstone preached an inspiring and informative sermon. A highlight of the service was the unfurling

and dedication of a beautiful bannerette presented to Woman's District Lodge No.2 by Sister Ida Patterson, whose generosity and loyalty to Cavan Women's L.O.L. have known no bounds.

The anniversary parade around East Belfast on Saturday, May 25 last gave members the opportunity to walk with their new bannerette.

The lodge wish to thank everyone who contributed to the enjoyment of the anniversary year in particular our sincere thanks to the officers and members of Ballymacarrett District LOL No.6 for turning out on parade.

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# Illustrious names in Orangeism

TWO names dominated the fledgling Orange Order in the early days following its formation after the Battle of the Diamond in 1795 - Colonel Blacker of Carrickblacker House, near Portadown, and Colonel James Verner, from Churchill estate, on the border of counties Armagh and Tyrone.

The Blackers were very prominent in the Orange Order from the earliest days as were the Verners and they were aristocratic families - a factor which brought prestige and importance to the new Institution.

One of the crucial factors which ensured the success of Orangeism has been its ability to attract recruits from every sector of the Protestant population. It has been an Order where class and privilege have not counted for much and in lodge assembled the squire and aristocrat could sit alongside the farmer, weaver and labourer in equality.

Of course the middle class and professional classes have played a large role in the expansion of Orangeism - they are traditionally the sector which provides leadership.

But the aristocracy has also had a crucial role, especially in those early days when the Order's headquarters were in Dublin, then the centre of British power in Ireland.

Men like Blacker brought a respectability to the Order which was often unfairly portrayed as an organisation of ignorant bigots, caught up in a squalid little sectarian land war in Co. Armagh.

Many young Dublin grandees joined the Orange Order and its prestige and popularity grew enormously with lodges springing up throughout Ireland.

The names Verner and Blacker are still remembered with pride and affection throughout Northern Ireland, especially in counties Armagh and Down, where several lodge bear the name of these famous families.

The brethren of Colonel Verner's LOL No.162 recently celebrated the 200th anniversary of the formation of their lodge - the foundation date was October 31, 1796.

No other lodge in Ireland has played a greater record of service to the Loyal Orange Institution of Ireland

or played a greater record of service to the Loyal Orange Institution of Ireland or played such a central role in its development and the spread of the Order.

Colonel James Verner, MP, was born in 1746 and in due course became agent for Lord Charlemont, an officer in the Volunteers, and a Member of Parliament in the Irish Parliament in Dublin, representing the borough of Dungannon, and he was High Sheriff for counties Armagh, Meath, Monaghan, Dublin and Tyrone.

In 1788 his uncle, Thomas Verner, of the Churchill estate, died without children and left the estate to William, the five-year-old son of his nephew James, on condition that James acted as caretaker until his son reached the age of 25.

In 1795 Churchill estate on the River Blackwater found itself in the front line of the growing sectarian conflict in Co. Armagh.

Members of the militant Roman Catholic organisation, the Defenders, were converging from the south and west on the beleaguered Protestants of the Diamond, and Colonel James Verner was deter-

mined to prevent them crossing the Blackwater.

He first moved all the boats, and then with his five sons and a detachment of the North Mayo Militia from Charlemont Fort patrolled the river bank preventing Defender reinforcements reaching the battle.

Colonel Verner did not himself become an Orangeman but remained a keen supporter and took a great interest in its affairs. He died in 1822 and is buried at Loughgall.

Colonel Thomas Verner (1774-1853), the eldest of five brothers was a man of vigour and initiative. On October 31, 1796, he persuaded his brothers to found a new lodge at Churchill which numbered 162.

His twin brothers David and John, aged 16, were elected Master and Secretary respectively.

Leaving his brothers to look after affairs at home, Thomas turned his attention to developments further afield. Colonel William Blacker had become the first County Grand Master of Armagh so Thomas provided leadership by becoming County Grand Master of Tyrone, Fermanagh and

Londonderry.

It was now 1797 and Thomas decided that if the Orange Society was to play a role at the centre of affairs it must organise in the Irish capital, Dublin.

Dublin was then a city with a Protestant majority, headquarters of British rule in Ireland, and its great Georgian squares and fine houses provided fitting testimony to the initiative and contribution of the Protestant Ascendancy families in the affairs of the country.

The Verners had a town house at Dawson Street and it was in this building - now a restaurant - that a gentleman's lodge, number 176, was founded with Thomas Verner as its Master and all five brothers members, while remaining on the roll of L.O.L. No. 162.

Within a year LOL No.176 had 300 members, which included the Earl of Annesley, the Earl of Athlone, grandson of General de Ginkill of Aughrim fame, the Earl of Belmore, Viscount Northland of Dungannon, Earl Kingston, Earl of Aldborough, and the Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin, to name but a few.

On March 8, 1788, Thomas called a meeting of all Masters of Orange lodges to meet in Dublin in order to form a Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Thomas was elected as first Grand Master of Ireland, and immediately sent a set of 12 resolutions covering the whole organisation to every lodge in Ireland for ratification.

In 1799 Thomas gave up his three counties portion and became the first county Grand Master of the city of Dublin.

Before the year was out he had installed 22 County Grand Masters across the country and had drafted the first set of Rules and Regulations with a ritual of opening and closing Lodge meetings with the prayers still in use.

In 1800 the Grand Lodge of Ireland met 27 times dealing with the effects of the Act of Union and the introduction of a new system of initiation.

However, in 1801, Thomas was outvoted and replaced by a Wexford man, Colonel George Ogle, MP.

More on this fascinating Orange family and on Churchill LOL No.162 in the next edition of the Standard.



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The victorious Curlagh team, left to right: Jack Williamson, Alfie Bedford and the WDM Ivan Duff.



The runners-up, Aughnacloy LOL No.156, left to right: Bro. John Brush and Bro. William Singleton.

## Bowls championship in Clogher Valley

CRILLY Orange and Black hall was once again the venue for this year's Annahoe District LOL No.6 sports committee Pairs Bowls Tournament.

This tournament continues to grow in popularity, and the hall was filled to capacity with competitors and local bowls enthusiasts.

Forty teams participated and the nail-biting final went to the last bowl of the last end. Curlagh LOL No.1191 just pipped last year's champions, Aughnacloy LOL No.156, by seven shots to six. Thus Curlagh regained the title they last won in 1993.

At the conclusion of the tournament the chairman of the sports committee, Bro. G. Busby addressed all present, and thanked all those who worked so hard

behind the scenes to make another memorable sporting occasion such an outstanding success. A special word of thanks was conveyed to the tournament organisers, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Leitch, whose administration and organisation were superb. The tournament referee Bertie Morrow and the scorekeepers Albert Bartley and Nigel Robinson, also came in for special mention. Also the sincere thanks of the committee were conveyed to the Crilly ladies for their magnificent catering arrangements throughout the evening.

The Worshipful District Master, Wor. Bro. Ivan Duff, made the presentations. Bro. Duff presented the winners with the shield and trophies, and the run-

ner-up trophies to the beaten finalists. Presentations were also made to Mrs. Lydia Leitch, and to Mr. Bertie Morrow, for outstanding services rendered.

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### BAND WANTED

Donaghadee Lodge requires band for July 12, 1997  
Contact the Secretary  
195 Millisle Road, Donaghadee  
Telephone : 882794

### BAND WANTED

Band required to accompany Lodge from Armagh District L.O.L. at 1997 July 12 demonstration in Armagh City.  
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## Unfair Government budgeting

NORTHERN Ireland has been treated shabbily by the Government which has been clawing back vast sums of money from the budgets for housing, the health service, and education on the grounds that the community must pay for the policing of Drumcree last year.

The latest example of the effect on the community comes with the news that a residential home for the elderly in the Edenderry area of Portadown is threatened with closure. This has caused anguish and worry to senior citizens who wonder what will be their fate if their home is closed.

It is the latest example of the penny-pinching approach of the Government and of course it is felt in the education field where new schools

and improvements especially in the State sector have been axed or put on the longer finger.

The Government has made great play about the cost of policing Drumcree and other marches last year and has "punished" the citizens of Northern Ireland by making them pay for this.

Why then was there not the same furore over the 25-year IRA campaign which cost billions? Ulster cities and towns were wrecked by the IRA bombs and yet the financial aspect was not spelled out by the Government in the way that the cost of policing Garvaghy Road during the Drumcree stand-off last year has been spotlighted.

Orangemen were not responsible for the crisis last July - their lawful traditional parade was stopped by law-breaking 'residents'

of Garvaghy Road - a protest now bravely exposed by RTE's 'Prime Time' programme as the culmination of three years preparation by Sinn Fein/IRA.

Yet it is the Orangemen, the loyalists and the other law-abiding people of Northern Ireland who have been asked to pick up the financial tab - a stark contrast to the massive damage inflicted on the economy by republicans in the past quarter-of-a-century which was met through the general exchequer.

It is quite wrong for the Government to apportion the blame for Garvaghy Road in this way and to single out one incident out of a vast catalogue of destruction inflicted on Northern Ireland by the bombers and gunmen of the republican movement in the past 25 years.



Artists who took part in the Benraw L.O.L. No. 334 of Lower Iveagh District No. 1 gospel concert. Front, left to right: Bro. Paul Berry of Cargans L.O.L. No. 122, Tandragee; David Ferguson, Isobel Ferguson and John Shields. Back left to right: Bro John Herron, W.M.; Joe Peter, Bro. Geoffrey Bradford, D.M.

Picture: Rathfriland Outlook

# Stumbling block to democracy

**THE suspension of the Forum until after the General Election, and the failure of the British Government encourage the democratic parties to move the talks to a more advanced stage, leaving Sinn Fein behind, underlines the indecision and the pandering to republicanism which has been all too prevalent on the part of successive Governments since Stormont was abolished in 1972.**

Ulster people continue to have little or no say in the affairs of their Province - a situation unparalleled in Western Europe. The suspension of their Parliament which served Northern

Ireland so well for 50 years, the abolition of the office of Governor, and the rush into political chaos is something a proud and loyal people have not deserved.

British political parties emphasis their commitment to Scotland and Wales as part of the United

Kingdom and fall over one another in their bid to persuade Scots and Welsh that they will have a real voice in the affairs of their countries.

Not so Northern Ireland, and spokesmen for the parties make it clear that any form of devolution which the Province might eventually get would be very much diluted in com-

parison to Scotland and Wales.

In the absence of its own parliament the Ulster people have no say at all in their affairs apart from their MPs at Westminster. The Forum is merely a talking shop, but as several Unionists have said it is "the only show in town."

It must not be wound up on the grounds of cost, because money has been found for far less worthy causes and if there is any chance of the democratic parties progressing towards a political structure with real teeth, then the Forum is the place for pushing that point of view.

Meanwhile republicans

pursue their own agenda and pandered to by sections of the media and chattering classes. Sinn Fein tries to present to the world the face of a genuine political party while its militia wing continues to try and murder soldiers and policemen.

Ethnic cleansing of Protestants and loyalists from parts of Northern Ireland continues unabated, and largely unreported too, in contrast to the attention any equally deplorable, but far less sustained attacks on the minority community receive.

Truly, whatever Government is returned to

power after the General Election it will have a job on its hands persuading a disillusioned and worried Unionist population that there is a genuine wish to accommodate their valid

political aims and objectives, to end ethnic cleansing, and to defeat the republican forces which have caused so much misery to this Province.

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Annahoe District LOL No.6 Co. Tyrone honoured one of its longest serving members for outstanding service. Wor. Bro. Thomas Wright recently retired from office in the Annahoe District, after serving in the highly responsible and demanding office of District Treasurer for the past 14 years, and also as a faithful and dedicated member of the district for over 60 years. The District Master Bro. Ivan Duff visited Bro. Wright's home and presented him with a suitable inscribed clock, and a long service Treasurer's jewel, in appreciation of long and faithful service rendered.

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