

Carson and the U.V.F.

By S. E. LONG

It is seventy years since Edward Carson and the Ulster Volunteer Force declared, in the most obvious manner possible, the Ulster Unionists' determination to stay British. That determination to withstand the pressures for Home Rule had been building up since 1886 when the first Home Rule Bill had failed to obtain parliamentary assent and the second of 1893 had suffered the same fate. But by 1910 it was apparent that a Third Home Rule Bill had the best chance of success.

James Craig, as leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, persuaded the Right Hon. Sir Edward Carson, K.C., M.P., the Dublin-born leader of the Southern Unionists in the House of Commons to lead it, and the unionist people, in the fight against Home Rule in parliament and in the country. Craig had perceived in Carson the qualities which were needed in an Ulster champion for such a time as that.

CRAIG'S CHOICE VINDICATED

His opinion of Carson could hardly have been shared by other leading Unionists, for he was in poor health and a hypochondriac; and his dramatic flamboyant style of oratory in law court and parliament was so different to that of the dour, cautious, tenacious Craig as to make the choice the more remarkable. Subsequent events were to

fully vindicate Craig and to justify his presumption in drawing into the Ulster cause a man of large stature in law and politics, for Carson had earned a proud reputation as an advocate at the Irish and English Bars.

Born in 1854, educated at Trinity College, Dublin, Carson was called to the Irish Bar in 1877 and made such progress there that Arthur Balfour, as Chief Secretary for Ireland, recommended him for the prestigious post of Irish Solicitor-General in 1892. Balfour was to say, "I made Carson, and Carson made me." The appointment meant that he had to have a seat in parliament. He obtained one when he was returned as M.P. for the University of Dublin. In 1893 he took a most important step when he transferred his law practice to London and took silk at the English Bar in time to become its leader.

When Craig chose Carson the southerner knew little of the North — he was to remain

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Determination and resolution in face and fist — Sir Edward Carson speaks at the great Balmoral UVF demonstration.

'BELFAST HOUSING AN AFFRONT TO HUMAN DECENCY'

Housing conditions in one of Belfast's staunchest loyalist areas has been described as "an affront to human decency," by the chairman of the Woodvale and Shankill Housing Association.

Mr. Jim Sands wants the area to receive preferential treatment for housing improvement and renewal as it has been some of the worst rioting during the "Troubles."

"If normality is ever to return to these confrontation

areas then the environment that children grow up in must be conducive to that mentality," he said.

Mr. Sands points out that the indoor toilet and bathroom is the "Impossible dream" of the people living in an area where, he said, "entire streets have been left to stagnate and become festering sores."

This is something that the "Orange Standard" has been saying for years. We do not ask for preferential treatment for Protestant areas in this matter, only a fair share of the housing cake, and in keeping with the percentage of the population.

A walk around Belfast's re-

development areas shows all too clearly the contrast. Bright new housing schemes go up in the Markets, Short Strand, Lower Falls and Oldpark-Cliftonville.

In contrast, vast areas of the Shankill, Crumlin, Sandy Row, Woodstock Road, and lower Oldpark Road are wastelands, with acres of flattened landscape.

Orange officers in Belfast have been in the forefront of the campaign to get a better housing deal for Protestants, and will continue to pressurise the Government and Housing Executive in this respect.

BRITISH FLAG IS BANNED

At the recent Irish open golf championship in Portmarnock the flags of all the many competing nations flew in the breeze, including that of Argentina, but with one notable exception.

The exception was the Union Jack, and the absence of the British flag was another example of how petty the powers-that-be can behave in the South. Hatred of Britain is never far from the surface, and it is manifest in so many ways, this flag incident at Portmarnock being just one example.

An item in a Southern Irish

newspaper mentioned the fact that the Union Jack was not flown at Portmarnock, and it added that it was the practice not to fly the British flag at this course.

The article added that the Cross of St. George was displayed to represent England, the Cross of St. Andrew for Scotland and a Welsh dragon flag. Quite a number of British golfers took part in the event, and one wonders if any or all of them noticed the glaring omission of from the flagpoles of fashionable Portmarnock.



The Imperial Grand

Master

Our congratulations to Most Wor. Bro. George Liddle, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., Grand Lodge Treasurer and County Grand Master of Fermanagh, on his election to the prestigious office of Imperial Grand Master.

This honour carries with it the recognition of a life-time of service to the Institution and to Northern Ireland. He has always been a towering figure in Orangeism and Unionism, a man of wisdom and courage whose contributions in peace and war was considerable and whose association with the Ulster Special Constabulary was such that he received the

highest commendation accorded to any member.

Bro. Liddle's work for the Orange Order has been of such sterling quality that he has graced the high offices he holds. His leadership of the County Fermanagh brethren has been an inspiration to his colleagues and the membership at large in days especially difficult and dangerous in the border county.

It is necessary to add, for there appears to be some misunderstanding in the matter, that the Imperial Grand Master's post is a titular one without executive authority, duty or responsibility. He represents in his person world Orangeism when occasion demands.

The post must not be confused with that of the Grand Master of Ireland, though it has generally been held by the current Irish Grand Master, for it is the top executive office in Irish Orangeism. The Grand Master of Ireland will be elected at the December meeting of Grand Lodge.

IS ROME LOSING ITS GRIP IN REPUBLIC?

The Republic of Ireland is still far from being a pluralist or secular society. But chinks are appearing in the once monolithic Roman Catholic society, where it could be said, until very recent times, that attendance at Mass was the highest for any Roman Catholic in Europe.

On the surface, expansion would still appear to be the name of the game, and statistics show that in the 10 years since Dr. Dermot Ryan took over from the ultra-conservative John Charles McQuaid, as Archbishop of Dublin, the number of new churches has grown by 35, and the number of parishes from 134 to 184.

The Dublin diocese, a vast one, has an estimated one million Roman Catholics, or one in three of the Republic.

But the statistics do not reveal all, as an interesting article in the Dublin "Sunday Tribune" shows.

Despite all the expansion of parishes, and the impressive

job that Dr. Ryan has done in administering his huge diocese, his zeal has not been matched as the "Tribune" puts it, in inspiring and motivating his priests to grapple with the missionary and pastoral problems "in an age where traditional Irish Catholicism is wilting."

The same article quotes a prominent priest as saying that only 25 to 30 per cent of Roman Catholics are practising in some Dublin suburban parishes, and he adds, "It would be comforting if all the people came back to church and once again we became a church-going people, but that may not happen." His estimates of the falling off in Mass attendance are shared by other priests.

Dr. Ryan clearly has problems which his predecessor did not have to face and not least is his relationship with the increasingly penetrative Southern "Irish Press" a Press far less inclined

to take a rigid Roman Catholic stance on the many social issues and problems which confront the Republic.

Subjects which were once taboo in Eire, such as censorship of books, contraception, divorce, legalisation of homosexuality and even abortion, are now debated openly in the newspapers, and on television.

Dr. Ryan has called for a "more effective Catholic press, an Irish Catholic paper of which we can be proud", but as the Tribune says he seems to have few ideas on how to get one. Hardly attempting to disguise his scepticism of the media, he closed the diocesan press office and now lets the hierarchy's office handle Dublin's affairs — "a somewhat odd decision."

After cataloguing many of the problems facing Dr. Ryan, the article concludes, "Who would want the job of getting a million Dubliners safely to heaven?"

The same newspaper, in another article, highlights the

appalling breakdown of law and order in large parts of urban Dublin. Several areas have attempted to set up "No go" restrictions on the Garda, and police often are pelted while on vehicle patrol by large gangs of youths throwing stones, and even petrol bombs.

Crime in general is soaring, especially in the cities, and the young people, many of them unemployed, are turning to the sort of outlets — drink, drugs and glue sniffing — so common in other Western societies.

None of this should give Ulster people any cause for satisfaction, as lawlessness and criminality are to be deplored in any society, but is there not a certain irony that in the land ruled by Charles Haughey and Fianna Fail, where talk of "police brutality" in Northern Ireland during the height of the troubles was so common, a crisis of confidence in the ability of the forces of law and order to keep the pot from boiling over in the cities and towns has arisen.



An historic name from Co. Armagh at the Moy rally — The Diamond Memorial RBP No. 393.



Enjoying the "Black Walk" in the Moy on the "Last Saturday".

R.B.P. Demonstration at Ayr

The Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland held their annual demonstration to commemorate the 293rd anniversary of the Relief of Derry, in Whitletts Playing Fields, Ayr on Saturday August 14.

Districts from Glasgow, Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire and the Lothians of Scotland arrived by special buses at King George V Playing Fields and after being marshalled moved off at 11.30 a.m. accompanied by flute and accordion bands.

Heading the large procession of Imperial Provincial and overseas officers was Sir Knt James H. Molyneux, J.P. M.P., who received applause from the general public as the march passed through the principal streets of Ayr.

On arrival at the field a

public meeting was held, Sir Knt. Allan Lindsay P.G.M. presiding. After that well known hymn "O God our help in ages past" was sung, prayer was offered by Sir Knt Robert Paul Grand Chaplain.

An address of welcome to the Provincial Chapter was given by Sir Knt William Crawford R.W.D.M. No. 10 Ayrshire. The usual resolutions were moved by Sir Knts Jas. H. Molyneux S.G.M., Rev. Victor Ryan M.A., C.G.M. and Thos. Orr M.W.G.M., Scotland.

At the close of the proceedings a vote of thanks was proposed by Sir Knt Peter Downie to Chairman and No. 10 Ayrshire Dist., for excellent arrangements.

The estimated attendance was 5,000.

POPE'S WELCOME TO P.L.O. CHIEF STUNS BEGIN

Embarrassment in Roman Catholic circles was widespread over the comments made by Israel's tough prime minister, Mr. Menachem Begin, over the visit of PLO leader Yasser Arafat to the Pope.

Whole most of the free world heard the news of the Roman Pontiff's decision to receive the terrorist leader, with dismay and unbelief, Premier Begin simply described it as part of the Vatican's traditional attitude towards the Jews.

The Israel Prime Minister was quick to recall that the

war-time Pope Pius had been less than forthright in his condemnation of the Nazi regimes and the Roman Catholic Church had been largely silent about the holocaust which resulted in the murder of six million Jews in the concentration camps of Europe.

Polish born Begin evidently does not forget the treatment meted out to the Jews of Warsaw and other cities by the Nazis, and the blatant anti-Semitic atmosphere of pre-war and war-time Poland.

Anyone who has studied the attitudes of the Roman

Catholic Hierarchies during the war towards the Axis Powers will endorse Premier Begin's attitude.

The Vatican gave backing to the terrible Ustashi regime of Croatia, the Roman Catholic part of Yugoslavia, when a puppet state was set up in the war years, and tens of thousands of Orthodox Serbs were slaughtered and others offered the alternative of forced conversion to Roman Catholicism.

After the war, many of the leading S.S. and Nazi murderers escaped to South America, supplied with forged passports provided

through Vatican agencies.

All this is part of history and cannot be denied, and it was the tough words of the Israeli prime minister which brought these facts to the forefront again.

Ulster loyalists will have been quick to see the significance of the Pope's meeting with the PLO chief, because not only does Arafat's terrorist organisation have links with the IRA and other world terrorist organisations, but IRA men and women have received training in PLO camps in the Lebanon, and several were captured during the Israeli advance into that country, a fact which has been strangely played down by British security authorities and the media.

WHY MUST IT BE 'DERRY'?

Is it official policy for the BBC to drop the prefix "London" so frequently from the title of Northern Ireland's second city?

People could certainly be forgiven if they were under that impression, because in recent months, on both radio and television, announcers and broadcasters have invariably resorted to the name "Derry" when describing events and organisations in that city.

Both Radio Ulster and Radio Foyle appear to be bending over backwards to use "Derry" in preference to the real name of Londonderry, and it is time that licence holders made it clear to the British Broadcasting Corporation that Ulster is not part of the Irish Republic, where names associated with the British way-of-life were scrapped following partition — Kingstown, Queenstown, Queen's County and King's County, as examples.

Rent arrears escalate in Poleglass

Despite assurances by the Housing Executive, and by Government Ministers, before the controversial Poleglass housing development got under way, that families would be handpicked, and that everything possible would be done to prevent rent arrears,

the situation is getting more serious week by week.

A recent article in the Lisburn newspaper "Ulster Star" shows that rent arrears are now believed to be in the region of £30,000 and there are fears that eventually the situation will be as bad as the Twinbrook and Divis estates.

Yet, as the "Orange Standard" has pointed out on numerous occasions, Roman Catholic areas continue to receive preferential treatment when it comes to new housing.

Large housing schemes are under way in many Roman Catholic areas of Belfast, and every attempt is being made by the Housing Executive to keep local community groups and organisations in touch with what is happening. In contrast, vast areas of the Shankill, Oldpark, Donegall Park and Sandy Row remain wastelands, with thousands of houses flattened, and no obvious attempt made to

replace them with substantial numbers of houses.

A recent article in the "Belfast Telegraph" on how Gaffilan Street, once a thriving thoroughfare, is being denuded of families, and how the area has been re-zoned for industrial and commercial use, typifies the housing situation in many Protestant areas of Belfast, and indeed some of the larger towns. Portadown and Lurgan, for instance, have been refused new housing schemes for years, because houses were sited in the new city of Craigavon, which has manifestly failed to attract a sufficient number of families.

Loyalist politicians must continue to spotlight the unfair treatment their areas receive in this respect, and especially in Belfast, where many people have claimed that there is a plan to restrict new houses for loyalists to the eastern side of the city.

November Meeting

The 20 November meeting of the Loyal Orange Lodge of Research will be held in the Tullygirvin Orange Hall, Ballygowan — it was recently dedicated as a memorial to the late Wor. Bro. the Rev. Robert Bradford, M.P. at 3.30 p.m. The speaker will be the Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. T. Lindsay Smith. Information about this specialist lodge may be obtained from the secretary Wor. Bro. Ken Watson, P.M., Tel: Maze 621309 (Home) or Dromore 692569 (Business).

G.B.C. Service in Glasgow

The annual divine service of Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland was held on Sunday August 8.

Members assembled in the East End of Glasgow and moved off at 5.30 p.m. accompanied by flute and accordion bands, through the various city streets, to Barony Church, Cathedral Square (better known as "the Orange Kirk").

Pastor Ron Campbell conducted the service and delivered a very appropriate sermon. Sir Knt Robert Paul G.C. read the Lesson.

A local band rendered appropriate music and the congregation sang well known redemption hymns.

A free will voluntary offering at close of proceedings in support of O.A.P. big day realised a tidy sum and Pastor Campbell expressed thanks to all who contributed.

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Memorable Trip to Canada for Belfast Juniors

(By Bro. Stephen Cousins)

During a three week period in July, sixteen boys and six officers from Ballymacarrett Juniors were having the trip of a lifetime in the Dominion of Canada.

They attended Orange functions and parades, played two soccer games and experienced a taste of Canadian life. The main objective of the tour was to carry the Colours in the Twelfth Processions at Lady-smith and Toronto and attend the centenary celebrations of Mountainview L.O.L. 1516.

After the parade in Lady-smith the Colour Party were awarded two prizes — one for Best Dressed Lodge on parade and the second for Best Colour Guard. Both of these judgements were not contested. After the parade in Toronto the Colour Party were paid numerous compliments from the leading figures of Orange-

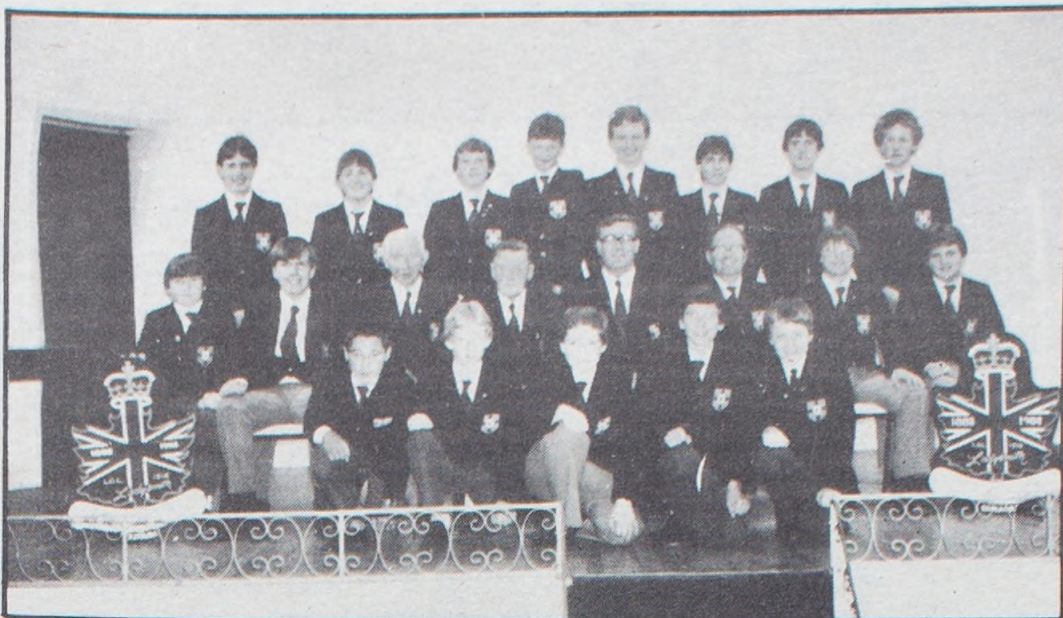
ism and this included a special mention in the speech of our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Rev. W. M. Smyth, B.A., B.D., M.P.

On both of these occasions the Colour Party performed their duty with pride and dignity and with undoubted perfection. Credit for this goes to Bro. T. Cherry.

While in Toronto the soccer team were in action under the watchful eye of Bro. D. Bell. Two games were played against Wexford F.C. and the scorelines read, 7-4 to the Juniors and a 3-3 draw.

The Party, on their free days, also visited Niagara Falls Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, the Science Museums in Toronto and Ottawa and the giant amusement park, Wonderland.

The centenary celebrations on the weekend of 24th, 25th July were majestic to say the least, and it was a great honour



Ballymacarrett Juniors who visited Canada recently display the Shields they won for best dressed Lodge and best Colour Guard.

and privilege that Ballymacarrett Juniors played a major part. The six officers attended a Centenary Lodge meeting and were made

honorary members of L.O.L. 1516. Other guests included our own Grand Master, who at times seemed to be a member of the Party wearing his

Ballymacarrett medal, our Grand Secretary and the County Master of Londonderry as well as numerous guests from within Canada, the

U.S.A. and New Zealand.

After the meeting a large banquet was held and Ballymacarrett Juniors entertained the guests with songs, jokes and a few tunes on the flute. The celebrations ended the following day with a church parade and wreath laying ceremony.

The party returned home on the 29th July with many souvenirs and addresses to write to but the most prized souvenirs were the two awards won at Ladysmith, the Canadian National Flag and the special Centenary Flag of L.O.L. 1516 which were presented to Bro. T. Haire and Bro. W. McClurg, tour organisers.

This was the first tour of Canada by Ballymacarrett Juniors but, God willing, it will not be the last. It was a great success for our Order and to all those who contributed to this success and made this dream a reality we say "Thank You."

"Oranje Bover"



Ballycarry RBP and their new banner.

RBP Banner Unfurled at Barr at Ballycarry

Over 100 R.B.P. members paraded the village of Ballycarry to the football field, headed by the Most Wor. Sovereign Grand Master Sir Knt. James H. Molyneux, J.P., M.P. for the unfurling and dedication of R.B.P. 371 new banner.

The Wor. Master of R.B.P. 371, Sir Knt. Gordon Scott, welcomed the Imperial Grand Officers, County and District Officers, visiting Sir Knts and members of the general public to the ceremony and invited the Lane District No. 4 Treasurer, Sir Knt. Ian Duffin, J.P. to preside.

The Sovereign Grand Master said that we should not leave protection and security to the Almighty; we must be prepared to play our part in being worthy of Divine protection.

Sir Knt. Molyneux went on to say that the present troubles

were a warning to Protestants of what would happen if they strayed from the straight and narrow Christian path.

He went on to pay tribute to the achievement of Ballycarry in getting a banner in these times of high unemployment.

"Here in Ballycarry as throughout the Commonwealth, there is a strong resilience and determination to defend the Protestant faith," he said.

These sentiments were echoed by the County Antrim Grand Master, Sir Knt. Arthur Templeton, who said he was pleased to see every district in County Antrim represented, and went on to say he believed in positive Protestantism and said he hoped there would be a strong resolve in Ballycarry to

give Protestantism a definite future.

He concluded by telling the Sir Knts. to remember their brethren on the Border, and that "their fight today is our fight tomorrow."

The Imperial Grand Lecturer, Sir Knt. Thomas Malcolm, gave a brief History of the Warrant of R.B.P. 371. It was first issued in June 26, 1875 to Fred Rankin Armstrong of Coulbourne, New South Wales, Australia, who held it for 22 years until it was cancelled on June 3, 1897.

The Warrant was reissued to Indian Head, Canada, in 1898. The exact date was not recorded or the name of the Worshipful Master. It was cancelled in December, 1940, this preceptory having held it for 42 years. It was then issued to Larne District No. 4 in the County of Antrim. The Imperial Grand Lecturer concluded with these words: "It is most important to remember that the crown of life can only be obtained through sacrifice faith and service."

The Banner was dedicated by the Imperial Grand Chaplain, Sir Knt. John Brown, M.A., B.D. and the prayer and scripture was read by the County Antrim Deputy

Grand Chaplain Sir Knt. Rev. G. L. McAdoo, B.A., B.D., M.Th. The praise was by the Magheramourne Silver Band.

This was the second banner the Preceptory has unfurled, the first being in 1948. The Registrar said he was pleased to have three founder members present on this occasion.

The banner portrays Ballycarry Village on one side and The Good Samaritan on the reverse.

Before parading the banner back to the Orange Hall the registrar Sir Knt. James Simmonds, proposed a vote of thanks to all the Imperial Officers, County and District Officers, and visiting Sir Knts for their support, also to the Ladies Committee and helpers, and to everyone who played a part in making this special event a success.

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CARSON AND THE U.V.F.

Continued

temperamentally deeply sympathetic of the aspirations of southern unionists — but "Craig was right. Carson burned his way into their confidence and affections. Craig himself was to prove the ideal adjutant providing impeccable staff work so that his leader's energies were not dissipated." ("A State of Disunion." Calton Younger. p165).

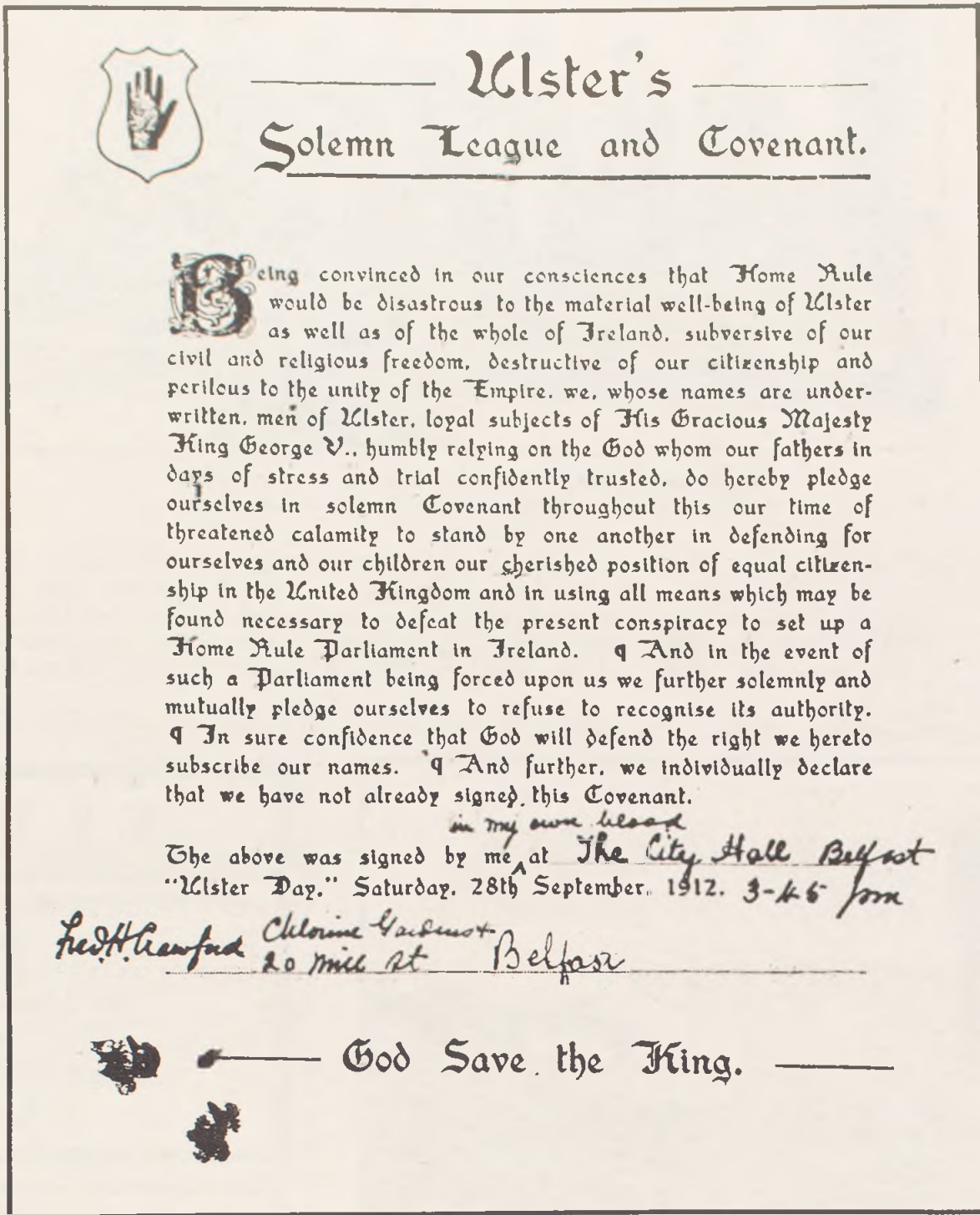
The choice of Carson as leader — he became leader of the Ulster Unionists in Westminster in July 1911 — coincided with such a resistance to Home Rule that hundreds of thousands of people crowded the centre of Belfast on 28 September 1912, queued up to sign the famous "Ulster Solemn League and Covenant."

This was the reply of the unionist population to Carson who wanted a sign from them of their sincerity in the struggle against Home Rule. He had said, "What I am anxious about is to satisfy myself that the people really mean to resist. I am not for a mere game of bluff and unless men are prepared to make great sacrifices which they clearly understand the talk of resistance is no use." (Letter from Carson to Craig, 29/7/11, quoted in "Craigavon Ulsterman." St. John Irvine. p185).

Craig had already answered Carson when he organised a massive demonstration of support on 23 September 1911 when 50,000 men marched from the centre of Belfast to Craigavon, Craig's home at Strandtown. They represented Orange Lodges and Unionist Clubs from the whole of the Province. They were not from the land owning classes but were ordinary working people shrewd, practical, obstinate folk, moved by fears of religious discrimination and economic disadvantage.

CARSON'S COMPACT

Carson gave a magnificent histrionic performance as the main speaker. Accepting his commission as leader he said, "I now enter into a compact with you and every one of you." He promised that with



Now a collectors piece this postcard was in circulation 70 years ago.

the help of God they would defeat "the most nefarious conspiracy that has ever been hatched against a free people." He told them that not only must they be prepared to resist Home Rule but they must "become responsible for the government of the Protestant Province of Ulster."

A Commission of Five, Craig and four others, was appointed to collaborate with Carson in the making of a constitution for a provisional government which was to have "due regard for the interests of Loyalists in other parts of Ireland."

The Liberal Government was shocked by such an attitude, but Winston Churchill made light of it when he declared at Dundee, "I dare say when the worst comes to the worst we shall find that civil war evaporates in uncivil words." He had a forced change of mind when in February, 1912, he got a hostile reception from the Protestants as he arrived in Belfast to address an Ulster Liberal Association meeting at Celtic Park football ground. "The meeting... was a washout both metaphoric-

ally and in fact." (Younger 168).

Present at the Craigavon march on 23 September 1911 were a contingent of well drilled, well disciplined men from County Tyrone. It transpired that on their own initiative they had undergone some serious military training. Soon the Orange Institution was to provide the opportunity for many such groups to be trained to defend their country.

The Grand Secretary of the Institution, Colonel R. H. Wallace, a lawyer/soldier, and a former commander of the 5th

Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles in South Africa, found with J. H. Campbell, K.C., (later Lord Glenavy) a loophole in the law which allowed any two Justices of the Peace to authorise drilling and other military operations within the area of their jurisdiction provided that they were intended to maintain the constitution of the United Kingdom and to protect the rights and liberties of its subjects.

U.V.F. FORMATION

Wallace put the scheme into effect when he made application to two Belfast magistrates on 5 January 1912. For some days before the date for signing the Covenant Carson inspected groups of volunteers throughout the country. In order to bring all such groups together the Ulster Unionist Council in January 1913 formed the Ulster Volunteer Force and limited recruitment to 100,000 men who had signed the Covenant and were aged between 17 and 65. Wooden batons were provided for drill and some volunteers had the "dummy rifles" which greatly amused the English Press.

One Belfast firm offered to supply a wooden rifle "Shaped as nearly as possible like a service weapon, at one-and-eightpence each in pitch pine and one-and-sixpence in spruce." The enthusiasm for the U.V.F. among Unionists was such that few able-bodied men were not encouraged to join.

Carson hearing of a threat of legal action by the Government against the U.V.F. declared, "Let them not attack humble men. I am responsible for everything, and they know where to find me." He encouraged his men, "Go on, be ready, you are our great army. It is on you we rely. Under what circumstances you will have to come into action you must leave with us... You must trust us that we will select the most opportune methods, or if necessary, take over ourselves the whole government of this community in which we live."

On the advice of Lord Roberts, that brilliant, diminutive, Irish born British Army General, Lieut-General Sir George Richardson was chosen as U.V.F. Commander-in-Chief. He had retired from the Indian Army. "He found himself in command of 50,000 men of no military experience but limitless enthusiasm." ("The Ulster Crisis." A. T. Q. Stewart.)

That Carson wanted and expected total commitment to the cause was made clear in a letter to Edward Selater, chairman of the Executive of the Unionist Clubs. "As Leader," he wrote, "my responsibility compels me to point to the danger of ANYONE holding aloof at this juncture, when it is necessary to perfect final arrangements. My request is that ALL our men should join the Ulster Volunteers. Even old men can help to guard their property... Victory comes to those who are organised and united. Those who are un-



organised cannot help and hinder our efforts."

The strength of the U.V.F. caused many reactions and in a letter to "The Times," the writer was Lord Loreburn. Bob Reid — Lord Chancellor until June, 1912, the man who had rebuked Churchill and Lloyd George for suggesting that Ulster, or part of it, should be treated separately from the rest of Ireland. He (Autumn 1913) proposed a conference be held to consider an accommodation on the Ulster question. I feared civil war if the Home Rule Bill became law in 1914. The letter was important because it marked a turning point in the crisis.

NO COMPROMISE!

Whatever the reaction there was no thought of compromise in Ulster and 23 September 500 delegates to the Ulster Unionist Council meeting in the Ulster Hall approved the setting up of a Provisional Government. Home Rule should be law.

The Council, with Lord Londonderry in the chair, delegated its powers to a Provisional Government of members with Carson as chairman of the Council Authority. A Military Council was set up and sub-committees to deal with finance, business, education, law, public works, Customs and Excise and Office.

An Indemnity Fund to compensate members of U.V.F. and their families any loss or liability they might suffer in the service of U.V.F. was founded and £250,000 was promised before the meeting ended. By 1 January 1914 the sum was £1,043,000. There had been no covenants from the businessmen of Belfast. Later they promised to refuse to pay taxes as a protest against Home Rule.

The announcement of plans for a Provisional Government was followed by U.V.F. parades throughout the Province with inspection of units by Richard Carson and F. E. Smith. The climax of the parades came on 27 September at Ballinacorney when there was a review of the Belfast Division. It was that Smith (Later Birkenhead) earned the name, "Gallopier." It is filled that role for Richardson, not very successful seems for some were angry by his inability to keep



A hitherto unpublished picture of the UVF on parade near Ballinamallard in Co. Fermanagh in 1912.

F.

The Old Town Hall in Belfast which had been the headquarters of the campaign against Home Rule housed Richardson's staff, under another ex-Indian officer, Colonel Hacket Paine. Craig was Political Staff Officer with four political secretaries, among them Dawson Bates and Wilson Hungerford.

Major Fred Crawford, who was to earn fame in the gun running adventure, was especially well qualified to be Director of Ordnance, and there was Englishmen, Captain Wilfrid Spender, who had angered the Army authorities when he signed the Covenant. Their treatment of him compelled Spender to retire from the Army after some hassle on 7 August, 1913. There had been useful contact between Spender and Carson over very difficult days for the young soldier. Spender's contribution to the U.V.F. was considerable, for he was a most able and widely used officer. His work on communications alone was especially worthwhile.

WOMEN'S ROLE

Women played a large part in the Volunteer movement. They had founded the Ulster Women's Unionist Council in 1911 which had 40,000 members in a year. On 18 January 1912 in the Ulster Hall the women enthusiastically declared their determination to stand by their men in whatever they had to do to defeat the tyranny of Home Rule. Many volunteered to become part-time nurses and they gave up their leisure to learn the rudiments of nursing. They paraded in their starched uniforms and caps. Others trained as signallers and motor cycle dispatch riders, and some were drivers of cars and ambulances, clerks and in intelligence work. In October, 1913, the Volunteer Medical Board co-ordinated the caring organizations of U.V.F. and the signallers and couriers came under the Ulster Signalling and Dispatch Riding Corps later in the year.

While the specialists paraded in their uniforms the ordinary Volunteer marched in his working clothes. He had a small bronze badge with a red band and the slogan, "For God and Ulster," a canvas armband with the name of his regiment and the number of his battalion.

Officers wore red canvas armbands. The Volunteer's equipment on the field was to be a bandolier, belt and haversack, a mess tin, knife, fork and spoon, towel and soap, socks, bootlaces, greatcoat and a tin of rifle oil.

The greatcoat was to be carried either en banderole by braces over the shoulders attached to the waist belt, or worn on the man. He was urged to have with him some food "such as tinned meat, sardines, chocolate, or potted meat, tea, etc.," which with bread or biscuits would give him rations for two days. Arms and ammunition would be issued on mobilisation.

How to obtain these for instructional purposes exercised the minds of the commandery and on 6 January

great dissatisfaction was expressed on the inadequacy of the "arsenal" to meet the needs of the men. A secret meeting of Carson, Craig, Richardson, Paine and Crawford was held in the Old Town Hall on 20 January, 1914, to consider the serious position. It was then that decision was taken to allow Crawford to run guns for the force. Ervine described Crawford as a man of fearless and incorruptible character, a shrewd, determined man who would let nothing daunt or divert him.

It was a very big decision for Carson who fully recognised the consequences of something which if it failed would destroy him and those with him and have repercussions beyond calculation in Britain and the world. But he had confidence in Crawford and backed him implicitly.

BRILLIANCE OF CRAWFORD

In the event the exciting adventure story of Crawford—hero of a brilliant exploit—and the Ulster Gun-running is a prime illustration of the contention that "truth is stranger than fiction."

"Who ran the guns, when landed

From Larne, North, South, and West,

Through a vigil-keeping Ulster, That had known that night no rest?

'Twas the gallant men of Ulster—

Then away with talk and cant,

For all are of the self-same breed

Who signed the Covenant.

So if e'er it comes to using

The guns that then were run,

Who can foretell the ending

Of the ghastly war begun?

To meet Thy searching trial grant

The faith that does not shrink,

And of the cup our fathers drank

Give us the strength to drink."

The parliamentary writer of Truth says: "When I mentioned the gun-running coup to a Liberal friend in the House, he answered that he wished the

Sir Edward Carson M.P. signs the Ulster Covenant in Belfast City Hall, on September 28, 1912.

War Office at Whitehall were half as efficient as the Provisional Government of Ulster." ("With the Gun-Runners of Ulster." p 9n.)

The Government was expected to move against Carson and Craig and the newspapers anticipated arrests of Ulster leaders, and numbers between 28 and 200 were mentioned. Plans were made to make it as embarrassing as possible for the authorities to make their arrests and to ensure that the U.V.F. had absolute control of the Protestant population. It was a time when Volunteers were asked to be ready to mobilise at a moment's notice and the people appealed to stay calm.

The appearance of the cruisers "Attentive" and "Pathfinder" at Carrickfergus where they embarked a company of the Yorkshire Light Infantry at the foot of the Castle walls and the movement of troops and police was ominous. But the decision had already been taken the evening before, 20 March, not to coerce Ulster by military force. That decision had been reached in the wake of the Curragh Incident when British cavalry officers refused to move against the Ulstermen and threatened resignation from the Army.

Carson had wrestled with this problem, always hoping that confrontation in arms would not be necessary, for he knew well that his U.V.F. would be overwhelmed in a collision with the forces of the Crown, and there would be shocking bloodshed for which he would be held responsible. He was as well aware that the Provisional Government would be hammered by blockade and economic sanctions.

CIVIL WAR FEAR

Worst of all would be the civil war between Unionists and Nationalists and the intervention of the Crown forces. He realised that victory must be political even while his politicians and soldiers were

preparing to seize control of Ulster as soon as Home Rule came into effect and had made detailed plans for such a situation even to the evacuation of refugees.

Political measures were being considered by the Government to make the Home Rule Bill more acceptable. And King George V showed his concern when he intervened on several occasions with suggestions which he hoped would settle the problem bloodlessly. At his 21 July Buckingham Palace Conference the King said, "We have in the past endeavoured to act as a civilising example to the world, and to me it is unthinkable, as it must be to you, that we should be brought to the brink of fratricidal war upon issues apparently so capable of adjustment as those you are now asked to consider, if handled in a spirit of generous compromise." Asquith, Lloyd George, Bonar Law, Lord Lansdowne, Dillon, Redmond, Carson and Craig tried for four days to reach agreement but failed.

Then came the War and the world was changed. Nevertheless the Government of Ireland Act became law on 18 September 1914, "but it was accompanied by a Bill which postponed its operation until the end of the war, a matter of months it was thought."



(Younger, 180) And it pleased neither North nor South. The Unionists had a veiled promise of future consideration of their case.

And there was the assurance of Lloyd George that Ireland would be divided into a Home Rule area of twenty-six counties and an excluded area of six Ulster counties. The loss of Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan was to be compensated for by the Lloyd George assertion that the new arrangement would be permanent. He gave an opposite assurance to the Nationalists.

"Carson who not so long ago had planned a rebel government in Belfast, now became First Lord of the Admiralty, and Craig was given a minor appointment." (Younger, 182)

Many U.V.F. men went to war with the 36th Ulster Division which won immortal fame, especially at the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916. Their losses were so heavy that it was said there was hardly a home in Ulster which did not suffer bereavement of relative or friend.

In May, 1917, Lloyd George, perhaps to please the Americans who had entered the war in April, and to counteract the growth of Sinn Fein, suggested to John Redmond, the southern Nationalist leader, and Sir John Lonsdale, the new leader of the Ulster Unionists, another Home Rule plan. It had the twenty-six and six county arrangement but with a review of the Six Counties position after five years, and a Council of Ireland with equal representation from North and South.

CONVENTION — AN ALTERNATIVE

As an alternative he offered an Irish Convention. The first suggestion was refused by both parties whilst the second was accepted by them, reluctantly, though, by the Unionists who made a condition that no scheme should be foisted on them if their representatives had not voted for it. The Convention had a first meeting on 25 July, 1917, and it produced a majority report of

little value, and while Lloyd George hoped for Unionist agreement with the majority after concessions, and co-operation from Sinn Fein — it was never on the cards — it all came to nothing.

Historians have come to regard the Irish Convention as one of the major failures of Irish history. The Unionist and Nationalist attitudes proved irreconcilable. The Convention's Committee of Nine had in it Lord Londonderry and H. M. Pollock, the Northern Ireland Government's first Minister of Education and Finance, and Hugh T. Barrie, Orangemen and M.P. for North Derry, 1905-1922, Ulster Unionists.

Three of the Nationalists were Ulstermen — "Wee Joe" Devlin, Dr. Patrick O'Donnell, Roman Catholic Bishop of Raphoe and George Russell, (AE) the author from Lurgan.

When the Government of Ireland Act 1920 became law and the island was partitioned it was seen by some then "that the mutilation of Ireland was not a wicked British plot but a weary compromise tinged with optimism. (Younger p188).

The loss of the three Ulster counties angered many Unionists but "Carson and Craig repeated the arguments they had used four years earlier when their exclusion had been agreed upon, and they were accepted again, although there was bitterness about them." (Ervine).

And so "In May 1921 the Parliament of Northern Ireland was legally established under the terms of the Government of Ireland Act 1920. As expected the Ulster Unionist Party dominated the elections held late in May, capturing 40 of the 52 House of Commons seats. The man who headed the new government was Sir James Craig. Sir Edward Carson who had led the Ulster Unionists from 1910 onwards, had withdrawn enigmatically from the Unionist leadership in 1921 and subsequently accepted a Lordship of Appeal in Ordinary." ("Education and Enmity." Donald Harman Akenson, p39).

COMMENT — COMMENT — COMMENT

A NEW FEELING OF SELF CONFIDENCE

Wor. Bro. Harold McCusker, M.P., in a speech at the Glasgow "Twelfth" demonstration is quoted as saying, "I detect in the Province something I have not felt for some years — a new self-confidence and self-respect, a growing awareness that our future as ever still rests in our own hands."

We have that feeling, too, for in spite of an economic situation which hurts and angers all sensitive people and a continuing unease, the legacy of terrorist evil, there are signs of a new confidence that Ulster has a good future. Perhaps the most obvious evidence of this is the great number of new houses throughout the country many of them owner occupied, well designed and expensively maintained by people who have pride in their homes and joy in their society.

Without making too much of that situation and acknowledging most regretfully that there are far too many citizens who are living in conditions so opposite as to divide society into the haves and the have-nots it appears that there is a returning pride in being who we are in this place which has so much good in it.

Bro. McCusker cited a few reasons for present pride — the performances of "Hurricane" Higgins and the Northern Ireland World Cup team among them. In many fields of human endeavour men of Ulster have made their mark. And it is an amazing thing that such a small geographical area should have affected so much of the world by those of its sons who as soldiers, politicians, preachers, business and professional men indelibly influenced their adopted countries. It is a greater importance of the moment that Ulster men and women should be determined to make their own Province the good country of its potential.

With that thought in mind we are happy to hear of those government sponsored schemes and privately organized competitions which are aimed at helping Ulster people with ideas and initiative to set up their own businesses to give much needed employment to their fellow citizens. We have learned that dependence on multi-national corporations and British based industries is often misplaced. Many of them have gone to leave in their wake a very disturbed situation and a feeling of let-down by employees who gave of their best in work which they thought had permanence to it. And often the Province has felt it has been conned when a business from outside has taken all the benefits of Government assistance for coming to Ulster only to run away when the grants dried up.

There is reason for gratitude to those industrialists who came and stayed, and to those who came and were compelled to go for

reasons that they deplored deeply. The contributions of such businesses to our society has been considerable, and not least for the examples they set in management/employee relationships and general working conditions.

The new enthusiasm for "home" industries is a sign of that independence of spirit which once characterised the Ulster industrial scene. We shall encourage that attitude in parliament and people. One way to do that is to buy locally made products and to persuade others to show preference for what could give work to our own people. In a situation like ours this attitude is both rational and justifiable.

Another way the new confidence is showing is in the large number of people who are engaging in work training and adult education to enhance their prospects in and for employment. While the employment position remains as bad as it is there will be those who will undergo training and be disappointed that there is no job at the end of it but education in whatever sphere is easily carried and there is advantage in training and education beyond calculation. Anything which enlarges life is to be commended and anyone who is public spirited enough to help other people to a better way of life is to be encouraged. This is the present philosophy which should inspire us all.

Perhaps the most consequential "decision of the moment" was made on 9 September when the trade unions and political parties announced that they would meet the Secretary of State with the most high powered deputation ever to discuss with him the awful state of the economy. Such a united voice, for there are no two opinions about unemployment and the waste of human resources, must persuade the Government that Ulster has an emergency situation akin to that which compels administrations to make extraordinary provisions for the immediate alleviation of distress.

The deputation would not go unprepared to make positive suggestions about what could be done in a terrible situation, on the contrary they would suggest ways in which help could be given at once to improve matters consequentially. The interviewed trade union leader agreed that the deputation could have the sympathy of James Prior who is known to be in disagreement with the Government's economic strategies but it is Mrs. Thatcher who has to be moved.

This kind of togetherness is another sign of that growing determination to make Ulster a good country for all its people. We commend all those involved for their initiative.

THE UNEMPLOYED

The Trades Union Congress of the week 6-10 September had more than its usual quota of complaints against Government and governmental economic policies especially, for it was dominated by the strike of hospital workers and the gloomy prognostications of those economists who can see no improvement for the foreseeable future in the number, three and a half millions, of unemployment people in the United Kingdom. The shocking statistic is an indictment of the Thatcher Government's economic strategy for it is neither good for country nor citizens that so many are being defeated, dejected and devalued because no use can be found for them in the job market.

We have no sympathy for those who are so well placed that they can speak contemptuously of the unemployed when they misname as spongers, work-shy, lazy people without industry or initiative. The truth is that for every lay-about who lives by state hand-outs there are many whose lives are blighted by their worklessness. They are the victims of an economic depression which has destroyed many businesses and industries.

It is the tragedy of these times that some of them were allowed to

founder when state aid could have saved them. And many of them have been lost to unfair competition from countries who have the United Kingdom as a market without reciprocal benefit to us. This one sided advantage of foreign traders is so destructive of British industry that formerly great industries are gone forever. What they produced come to us now from Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong or an Eastern bloc country with whom our trading is minimal. There is hardly anything mechanical which is not foreign made even when it comes with a British label. Our manufacturers find it more profitable, regardless of the morality of the matter, to have their goods made abroad.

It is easy to blame the workers of the U.K. for their lack of production and firms for their non-competitiveness in a situation worsened because our attitudes are more humane and more scrupulous than that of our competitors. Something very big in thought and action is needed to extricate us from our present painful predicament. Big enough to involve everybody for the good of us all.

PRIOR — AND THE PROSPECTS

The election for the Assembly of 20 October promises to be the usual busy affair for the large number of candidates and party workers involved in it. Whether it has a better future than its predecessors time will advise us. There is no promise of permanence in the run up to it, for anxious as some are to be elected to membership in it they are most unenthusiastic about its possibilities.

It is difficult to see how the Assembly could be successful when so many who will be taking salaries from it are determined to thwart its objects. It is hard not to be cynical about political attitudes which are apparently so irrational as to be ludicrous except that the profit motive can make sense of any nonsense.

We are not enamoured of all the Prior proposals for this latest effort to give devolved government to the Province, but we are convinced of the need for such an administration so that we want those who subscribe to the principle by their presence in the Assembly to do what they can to make a government out of it. Because we have often declared ourselves as favouring the British model of majority rule we shouldn't need to restate our reasons for taking up that position. And we are sensitive enough to the realities of life here to accept that there must be minority participation in our society if it is to prosper.

That such participation must be from people who are prepared to contribute to the well being of the Province is so essential and so

elementary that it is to state the obvious. There can be no place in the Province for the wrecker of legally constituted authority or even for those who are reluctant citizens. We have suffered grievously from people who took to arms to destroy us in the name of Irish Nationalism; and from those who refused to make a positive contribution to this society because they resented aspirations other than their own.

It should be so obvious to everyone that Northern Ireland is not going to be part of a United Ireland that refusal to recognise that reality is a kind of stupidity which hurts all good people irrespective of class or creed.

It is necessary then for politicians and people whose concern is for the good of our common humanity to work together with that as a primary aim. How to co-operate if there is a willingness to share is what has to exercise the minds of those assembly members who are serious about making a devolved government which will work. We shall not encourage them to consider any accommodation which would endanger the Union. We would persuade them to try hard to adapt the Prior initiative to the needs of the Province, for it could be the case that there will be no opportunity of the kind for a long time if this one fails.

We claim no foresight in such a delicate matter, but the signs are not conducive to any other reading of those signs. Patience, and the patience of Governments, does run out.

Apprentices
Club formed in
London

Apprentice Boy's of Derry, Thames & Avon Branch, Murray Club was presented with their charter on 21st August, at the Landor Hotel, Clapham North, London. Representatives from the Parent Club, Murray Club were:— Bros. J. Noble (Gen. Sec.); D. A. Caldwell, Secretary; G. Atcheson, Sec. of Eglinton; J. Quigley, Vice President; Bro. McClay, President.

Members of Liverpool Branch Club of Murray and Campsie were present. Seven people were initiated into the Club. The following officers were installed: President, Ron Magee; Vice President, John Adams; Chaplain, Pastor Maurice Lawson; Lay Chaplain, Sid Black; Secretary, Archie Richardson; Treasurer, John McDowell; Tyler, James Young.

The newly formed Branch Club was presented with a set of Gavels, and Bible by the

President of the Parent Club, Campsie/Murray Club, Liverpool also presented a Holy Bible. Bro. R. Magee, President, presented a framed picture of Prince Charles and Lady Diana to the Parent Club. Bro. A. Richardson presented, on behalf of Brother Gordon, Past President of the Parent Club, with an inscribed stone, part of the Walker Memorial Statue, which was destroyed.

A social evening followed with a very fine repast and refreshments, provided by the Ladies of L.L.O.L. No. 1. Special thanks go to Sister Una Richardson, and Sister C. Jackson for all their hard work, also to the District Master, Bro. J. Nicholson, for allowing the use of the Hall.

A very enjoyable night was had by all. Meeting times and dates can be obtained from the Secretary, Brother A. Richardson, 5 Leybourne Avenue, Northfields, Ealing, London W.13.

OBITUARY

Bro. Matthew Smith
Bailey

There has always been reason to pay compliment to those public spirited citizens who serve their communities in local government. Council members have sometimes showed such a concern for the wellbeing of their constituents that they have earned their thanks.

One such was the late Wor. Bro. Matt Bailey, J.P., Dromara, well known in Orange, Black and Apprentice Boy's circles and among Official Unionists. He was a long serving member and past chairman of the Banbridge District Council. An extensive farmer, Matt Bailey was the son of the late W. Bro. John E.

Bailey, J.P., M.P., sometime Member for West Down at Stormont and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture. He leaves a widow, three daughters and two sons.

The interment was in St. John's Churchyard on 7 August after services in the home and church conducted by Canon S. E. Long, rector of Dromara, assisted by the Ven. Fred Gowing, Archdeacon of Armagh, and the Rev. Robert Hanna, minister of Dromara Reformed Church.

Contributions in lieu of flowers were sent to Canon Long for transmission to the Kidney Research Fund.

DEATH OF ENGLISH
STALWART

The Rt. Wor. Brother and Sir Knight J. Bradford H.D.G.M. who died on Sunday, 11th July was aged eighty years. John travelled over to attend the "12th" in Cookstown on the 3rd July, five days later he became ill and decided to get back to Coventry arriving on Friday 9th, and entering hospital where he died.

John was an Orangeman for over 60 years, joining the Chambre Orange Lodge in Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone, as a youth. When he went to England he transferred to the Rev. Dean Askins Memorial L.O.L. No. 250 in the Coventry District.

A stalwart and a hard worker

for the Cause, he held most Offices in the Coventry District and his Private Lodge. He was also the Midlands Provincial Deputy Grand Master until he had to resign through ill health. Never missing a meeting, he was honoured by the Grand Lodge of England with an H.D.G.M. for his energetic and faithful service.

John was a Sir Knight of the Royal Black Institution, once again joining in Stewartstown and transferring to the Burnham Bush of Birmingham R.B.F. 1043. He was also an Apprentice Boy.

His wife who died in January 1981, was an Orange Woman of 60 years standing.

Johnston's Heroes L.O.L. 264

Meets 4th Saturday in each month.
at 6.30 p.m.

in the James Gibson Memorial Orange
Hall, Victoria Road, Hebburn,
Tyne and Wear, England.

Royal Black Institution Rallies Indicate Growth

The success of the recruiting campaign initiated by the Royal Black Institution last year was evident on the last Saturday in August, when demonstrations by the Order were generally agreed to have been the biggest and best for the past 20 years.

Everywhere there was evidence of expansion and advance, with more men than ever on parade, and many of them young Blackmen newly initiated into the ranks of the Institution.

Now the Black Institution must continue the process, and build on the foundations laid in winter.

In this connection, would it be a good idea to try to revive a province-wide demonstration of the Institution, thus providing even further proof for the general public that the Black Order is the up and up?

Unlike the Orange Institution, the senior loyal Institution does not demonstrate completely on the one day. There are important processions of the Order on July — Scarva Day, and on August 12.

On the former, the preceptories from Portadown and other centres hold a very impressive demonstration at Scarva, and those from Lurgan to Bangor. On August 12, Fermanagh Sir Knights mark the Relief of Derry with their demonstration.

No-one is suggesting that over the County Armagh or County Fermanagh preceptorships should drop their own

que and very important demonstrations. But would it be possible for them to fit in Black Saturday as well? It would add greatly to the prestige of the day if they did,



Officers of Ballynahinch No. 5 District RBP who took part in the Dromore march.

and surely would not put them to any great inconvenience.

Indeed, many Sir Knights from the counties concerned paraded at the Moy and Dromore rallies with preceptories from other districts.

It is something surely worth

consideration, as the Black Saturday is now rapidly becoming almost as important as the Twelfth of July and Derry Day as a loyalist demonstration. This trend should be encouraged to the utmost.

It was encouraging to see the increase in numbers in the Belfast preceptories in recent years maintained once again this year. As in Portadown two years ago, and at Carrickfergus last year, the city Sir Knights turned out in very good

numbers at Antrim, and it proved that the fears of many loyalists that the Order was in decline in the capital a few years ago, were unfounded. Re-development and the troubles did make things difficult for many preceptories,

but they have shown great resilience, and with the return of many families to re-development areas, the preceptories have had an influx of members.

Many city Blackmen who have moved to other parts of the province have also been persuaded to keep their links with their preceptories, and this has helped as well.

Another very impressive sign of great loyalty to the Black Institution was at the Moy demonstration, where no fewer than 11 bands from Counties Monaghan, Cavan and Donegal accompanied the preceptories from those "lost" counties to the Field.

The Sir Knights from those areas, with their bands, had pride of place in the great procession, and it was very encouraging to see the men from Cootehill, Billyhill, Clontibret, Belturbet, and other areas on parade, with bands which are evidently in a prosperous state. Many young people were marching with the bands, and there was a very large contingent of supporters.

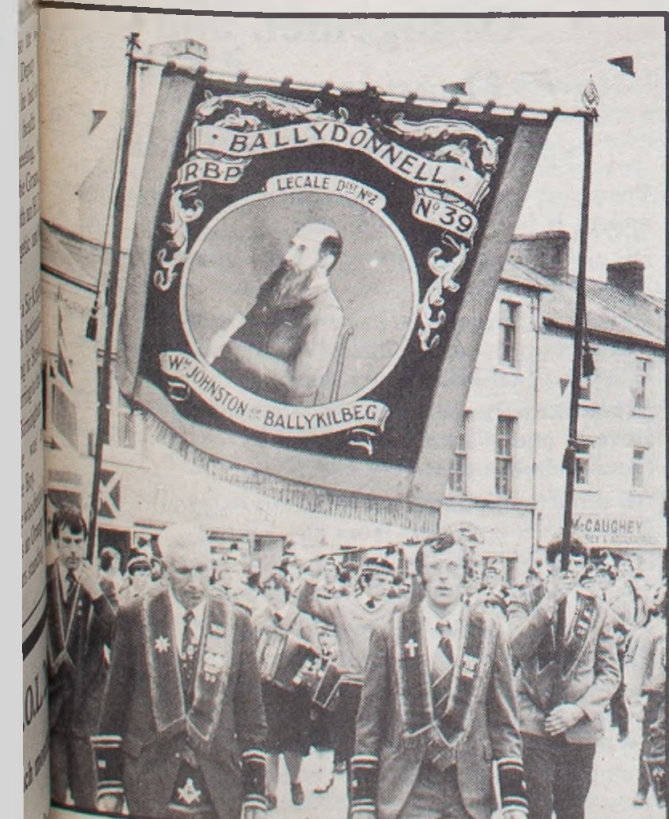
What a joy it is to see the manner in which the Orange and Black cause is being maintained in those areas, and indeed expanded, under difficult conditions. The brethren from these three counties, and their friends in Northern Ireland who try to encourage them, are to be commended, and their success puts to shame many of the apathetic parts in the "safe" areas of Northern Ireland where the Protestant majority is such that people can afford to ignore the intimidation and the pressure under which their less fortunate co-religionists have to carry out their day-to-day activities.



A fine turnout by Summerisland District Chapter No.6 at Moy.



Members of Newtownards District stepping out on the "Last Saturday".



Ballydonnell RBP No. 39 on Parade in Dromore.



RBP No. 251 step out at the 'Last Saturday' demonstration in Dromore, Co. Down.

RAPC AID FOR DUBLIN CHILDREN'S HOME

Four hundred Royal Arch Purple Chapter members attended two charity services held simultaneously in Tandragee during August.

They were joined by about 50 Orangewomen at the services in Ballymore Parish Church and the adjoining parish hall in aid of the Boley Children's Home in Dublin.

The RAPC members came from all parts of Northern Ireland and the Eire counties of Dublin, Cavan, Leitrim, Donegal and Monaghan.

The preacher in Ballymore

Church was the Rev. Samuel McCombe, of Ballinderry, and the Rev. M. Lavery who hails from the Portadown district was the preacher in the hall.

Four bands headed the parade — Prince of Orange Flute, Belfast; Magheragall Flute; Kilmore Accordion, Co. Cavan and Tullymacan Accordion, Tandragee.

Following the service visitors were entertained to tea.

The collection in aid of the Boley Home in Dublin was in excess of £550.



Bro. Samuel James Simmons receiving his 50 year Service Medal from Deputy District Master Wor. Bro. John Toal, Portadown, at Derrycarne Orange Hall recently.

Garvetagh Officers

Garvetagh True B.L.O.L. No. 1486 election was held in Garvetagh Orange Hall, Castledearg.

Bro. L. Cather, Ardara L.O.L. 758 conducted election and W. Bro. E. E. W.M. of 758 occupied deputy chair.

W.M., R. Montgomery B.E.M., D.M., E. C. Young, J.P.; Chaplain, J. Emery; Secretary, R. J. Montgomery; Ass. Secretary, Scott; Treasurer, W. T. Montgomery; Tyler, A. Young; Committee, B. Dunlop (foreman), W. Adams, Lowry, E. Montgomery and E. A. T. Young. Lecturers, T. McMullan and J. Emery.

'Troubles' hit Protestantism in Province

The effect of the "troubles" on the Protestant churches and congregations in Northern Ireland has rarely received the media coverage that it deserved.

The extent of the troubles on the Presbyterian Church alone has been substantial, and especially in the cities of Belfast and Londonderry.

A new book, giving details about every Presbyterian congregation in Ireland, sets out in an impartial and factual way the number of closures of churches, and the drastic decline in the number of families attached to others.

Closed in Londonderry last year was the Great James Street congregation, due to the massive movement of Protestant families to the Waterside, and this month a new church to serve that congregation was opened at Kilfennan.

In Belfast, well known Presbyterian churches including Broadway in West Belfast have closed, or the comparatively new Henry Teggart building on Springfield Road, which opened with such high hopes in the early 1970's and then had to close because of attacks and intimidation of its congregation.

Other churches on the fringe of West Belfast one is Suffolk, have had a large membership reduced through forced movement of families. The story is the same in North Belfast and even in East and South Belfast, where Ballynaveigh, Oldpark and Cliftonville among others have

had their character changed completely.

In the space of 10 years, Belfast's demographic face has changed dramatically and while vast areas of Protestant Belfast lie empty and derelict of population, the Roman Catholic areas are being re-developed with new housing and former Protestant areas have been taken over by Roman Catholic families.

The story is the same for Orange and Black lodges, and especially in North Belfast, where many brethren have been unable to travel to meetings, because of attacks on them and their cars.

The city's main Orange Hall

at Clifton Street now stands in the middle of republican territory, and it is a tribute to the determination of the North Belfast brethren that they have kept the lodges and preceptories going under the most adverse conditions.

All this could have far-reaching effects on the political and religious future of Belfast and the province. It is a vitally important issue for Unionist politicians and political parties, and the Orange Order has campaigned recently for maximum pressure to be brought on the Government and Housing Executive to build hundreds of houses in Protestant areas.

Thousands of families moved out of their areas on the promise that they would eventually be re-housed in their former districts. It is essential that the Housing Executive keeps that promise.

Who fares best in Portadown Housing

Not content with illegally changing the names of two housing estates in Portadown to honour the memory of dead hunger strikers, republican elements in the town have indulged in another display of rabid anti-loyalist activity.

This time the political activists of north Portadown seek to gain enough signatures in the housing estates and streets of their areas to try to pressurise the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Mr. James Prior, to ban Orange and Black processions from using the Garvaghy Road and Obins Street.

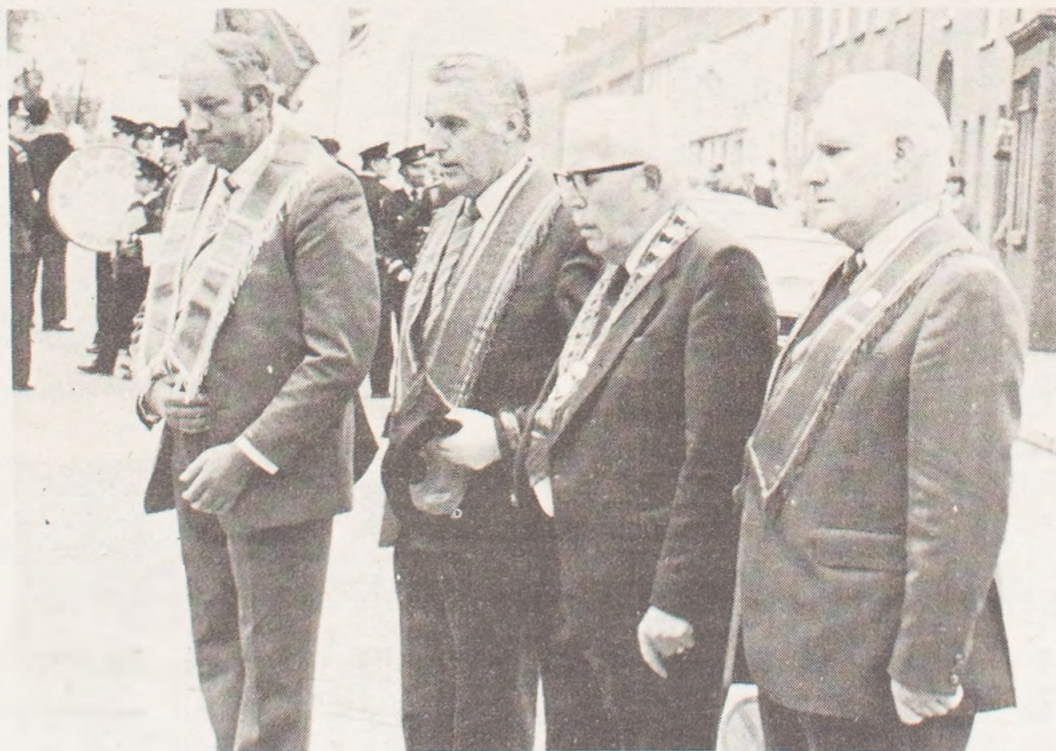
Despite provocative attempts by republicans the last two years along the route of the Orange and Black marches on the first Sunday in July and on July 12 and 13, the loyalist brethren refused to break their discipline and ignore the taunts and jeers of the hooligan elements which have stood safely behind police lines.

In a staunchly Protestant

town, where 25 per cent of population is Roman Catholic the republican element has been active in the past decade in forming as much strife as possible. Unhappily, they have caused divisions where none existed before, and their actions have resulted in polarisation to a large extent and the creation of ghettos.

One of the things which Sinn Fein element conveniently overlook is that the five largest housing estates concerned, Churchill, Garvaghy, Balloran Parks, Parkside and Obins flats containing some 1,200 families, were built by the despised Government which they purport to detest through the liberal use of public purse. Indeed, proportionally, Roman Catholics have received more public authority houses in Portadown than the majority population in a situation mirrored in the province at large.

Wor. Bro. J.A. Anderson, MBE, JP, Co. Grand Master, Co. Armagh, Grand Orange Lodge, second from right, at the RAPC Service in Tandragee.



Brethren on the march in Tandragee to the RAPC service in Ballymore Parish Church and Parish Hall.



Poems of interest to Orangemen and Orangewomen

appear in four different books

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(Book 1) Poetry Today 77 — poem of interest "Colours" by William Orange.

(Book 2) Summer Poets — poems of interest "Orangeism" and "Journey" by James Annett (Jnr.) W.M. L.O.L. 265 (Ballymacarrett).

(Book 3) An Easter Anthology — poems of interest "The Lovers" and "Peace Between Faiths" by James Annett (Jnr.) member of R.B.P. 688 (Comber).

All three books above are available in Comber Branch Library or on request from any library.

(Book 4) A Summer Anthology — poem of interest "White Rose of Belfast" by Lord Straidonn.

This book is available from Library Headquarters at Ballynahinch or on request from any library.

In the poem "The Lovers" could SERABO be a well known hill near Newtownards. Again in the poem "White Rose of Belfast" could SCARBO HILL be in fact Scarbo Hill. All four books are published by Regency Press (London and New York) Ltd., 125 High Holborn, London, WC14 6QA.

Help support Loyalist Books in our local libraries by requesting the above four books.