



Orange 30p STANDARD

LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE Isaiah 62:10



Mourne R.B.P. No 208, the biggest preceptory in the world on parade in Comber.

Blackmen impress with magnificent spectacle

The 'Last Saturday' parades of the Royal Black Institution proved a magnificent spectacle of marching men, bands, and banners, and reflected the great strength of the Senior branch of the Orange Order.

The Black Institution is strong right across the province, and nowhere more so than in the counties of Down and Antrim.

The Co Down parade in Comber was an awesome demonstration of RBP might, and reflected the strongest county in the Institution.

Preceptories were very large, including Kilkeel RBP No 208

which had 200 men out of a membership of 250 on parade, making it the largest preceptory in the world.

The preceptories came from every corner of the county, ranging from the town and district of Newry and the seaside port of Warrenpoint to the North Down strongholds of Newtownards and Comber, and the town of Bangor where

interest in Orangism is growing steadily.

Bangor has often been called lukewarm and apathetic towards the Loyal Orders, and is regarded as a moderate area in political terms. It certainly may have been in this past, but there is evidence that more and more of its citizens are showing a great interest in the Orange and Black Institutions.

The four preceptories from the town made an impressive sight as they paraded through their own streets before

leaving for Comber, and it was not long after they left that Bangor found itself invaded by the preceptories of the seven districts of the city of Belfast.

How good to see a new buoyancy and confidence in the city chapters, and the 105 preceptories and over 70 bands on parade proved that Belfast Black has met and overcome the daunting challenges of the 1970s and early 80s when some districts experienced particular difficulties caused by the troubles and the depopulation of Protestant areas due to housing redevelopment.

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BIGGEST

There was a time not so long ago when the City of Belfast was the undisputed leader as regards numerical strength, but that proud position is now held by Down with 120 preceptories.

However, Belfast has shown an upward trend in the past decade, and the preceptories are now pulling in new members. Sandy Row, the pride of Belfast Orangeism was

the strongest district on parade at Bangor with 23 preceptories, while the growing Ballymacarrett district was second with 19 preceptories.

Though not as strong, it is good to see the North Belfast and Shankill preceptories on the up and up again, along with Ballynafeigh, proving the resilience of city loyalists.

In Lisburn, the magnificent parade of Antrim preceptories was not far short of that of Comber in numbers. It was highly impressive, and proved that the men of Ulster's most densely populated county are solidly behind the Loyal Institutions.

If Comber, Lisburn, and Bangor hosted the biggest processions and the largest number of spectators, those in the other demonstrations were not far behind.

At Ballygawley there was a tremendous turn-out of preceptories from South and East Tyrone and parts of Co Armagh. So many people travelled to see this parade that there was a four-mile tail back of traffic from Ballygawley, roundabout in the direction of Dungannon.

It was good to see the preceptories of Counties Monaghan and Cavan joining with the Northern Ireland Sir Knights in this parade, and they certainly showed that the Order south of the border is far from a spent force.

Also significant was the fine turn out of bands from Monaghan and Cavan, with a high proportion of young people. Their deportment and behaviour was splendid, and an inspiration to all who watched this great parade, where most men wore bowler, apron and white gloves. Surely there is no more respectable parade in this island than that of the Co Tyrone Blackmen.

At the other centres in counties Tyrone and Londonderry it was the same story, while Scarva and Bangor on July, 13 where most of the County Armagh districts were on parade, and Fermanagh on August 10, also reflected the depth of strength in the Black Institution.

The Sovereign Grand Master, Sir Knight James Molyneux, MP, has given magnificent leadership, and his recruitment drive of a few years ago has yielded excellent results. He has an enthusiastic and talented band of officers in all the Irish jurisdictions under his command, and they are to be congratulated on their leadership.



The head of the Belfast County Grand Chapter parade in Bangor.

Picture courtesy of News Letter.

Standard Sales boost

The circulation of the Orange Standard has increased dramatically during the past year, both in regard to general sales, and in the number of regular subscribers.

This reflects the increased coverage of topics of Orange, Protestant and Unionist interest, and the success of the drive aimed at individual counties, at county, district and private lodge level. There have been some really

dramatic increases in sales, especially in counties Antrim, Armagh and Down, and in future months it is the intention of the Standard to publish a sales league table.

There are of course areas in the province where sales are

not as satisfactory, and it is hoped that this situation will improve as lodges realise the importance of supporting a newspaper devoted entirely to Orange and Protestant news.

Londonderry city has a tremendous record in regard to sales, with 88 per cent of lodges in the city jurisdiction taking copies of the paper.

Some parts of Belfast County set a fine example, notable Sandy Row and Ballymacarrett Districts No. 5 and 6 respectively, but others lag far behind.

Hopefully, the coming year will see the steady increase in sales continue, and those counties who trail far behind others in this respect should respond to the challenge.

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Donaghmore hall gutted

Sir. Knights of King David's Chosen Few RBP No. 323 from Donaghmore in Newry District paraded defiantly at Comber on Saturday August 31, hours after their Orange Hall was gutted in a malicious fire.

The two-storey Rantin Memorial Hall, situated off the main Belfast - Newry road about five miles from Newry and about seven from Banbridge, had its roof and top floor extensively damaged in the blaze which started in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The first member to spot something was wrong was Sir. Knight Samuel Cowan, the ex-chairman of Banbridge District Council and former County Grand Master of the Orange Order in Co. Down.

Sir. Knight Cowan, who had arrived shortly before 8 am to get ready to attend the Last Saturday RBP Demonstration in Comber, was shocked at the sight of the smouldering building. He alerted other members and while some stayed at home to help clear up the mess, others headed into Newry with Donaghmore Accordian Band for the District parade. They then proceeded

to the County Demonstration at Comber.

Luckily, banners belonging to the preceptory and Donaghmore Orange Lodge were saved. But damage is so severe that the hall may have to be demolished.

However, Donaghmore Lodge and Preceptory officials have pledged that a bigger and better hall will be erected on the site.

In addition to the lodge and preceptory the Rantin Hall is used by Donaghmore Accordian Band, an Apprentice Boys of Derry club and an Ulster Unionist Branch.

Police have confirmed the fire was started maliciously and the arsonists have been condemned by Bro. Andrew Moffett, the Ulster Unionist Chairman of Newry and Mourne Council, and party colleague Bro. Danny Kennedy, who both represent the Donaghmore area on the Council.



NEW BANNER FOR BALLYCLARE LODGE
Brethren of Tildarg True Blues LOL 632 Sixmilewater District No 10, Co Antrim pictured with their new banner which was unfurled on Friday June 14 by Mrs A Strange, the Worshipful Master's Mother.

The County Grand Master Wor Bro. Kenneth Watson chairs the platform proceedings on the evening, with guest speaker being Bro. Robt. McLlroy, D.C.G.M., Bro. John Dooris, C.G.M., Bro. J. Crothers W.D.M. and P.M. of LOL 632, and Bro. James Brown, D.D.M. 1C

An exile's impression of Ulster in the 1990s

Recently, an Orange brother home on holiday in Northern Ireland for his first visit in nearly 60 years had some illuminating comments to make on the Province as he saw it, compared to the society which existed when he emigrated in the late 1920s, writes an Orange Standard correspondent.

This comments, coupled with those of Orange leaders, notably the Grand Master, Worshipful Bro. the Rev Martin Smyth in recent speeches, presents Ulster Protestants in general and Orangemen in particular with some challenging and thought-provoking

That brother, home from Ontario, was fulsome in his praise for Northern Ireland's progress on many fronts, and he could find no comparison in this respect from the Ulster of the late 1920s and what he found today.

He could scarcely believe the prosperity and affluence of Northern Ireland and could find very few obvious differences in housing, roads, hospitals, schools,

recreation facilities, etc compared to Canada.

If anything, he believes that Ulster has passed Canada in its social and welfare provision, as well as the standard of public house in Belfast and other Ulster towns.

"Ulster is very prosperous and in this respect it makes me proud to see the great strides it has made compared to the rather backward province of the late 1920s, when housing was poor, and the province was the poor relation of the United Kingdom", he said.

On the surface therefore, Northern Ireland presents to that Brother a very impressive face and one which bears no relation to the province of the late 1920s, when the relatively new Northern Ireland Government was struggling with daunting industrial and social problems, and had just defeated an armed conspiracy aimed at overthrowing the new State.

Where the Brother has found disturbing evidence of decline in aspects of Ulster society is the abundance of social clubs, of breakdown in marriage, of single-parent families and other signs of materialism. He has friends in working class Protestant areas of Belfast, and is alarmed by the incidence of drinking which takes place in social clubs.

In the great campaign against Home Rule from 1912 to 1914, Ulster Protestants took their stand for the Union, and they did so as a disciplined God fearing people. The movement which represented their determination to fight for their liberty and freedom, the Ulster Volunteer Force, epitomised that discipline, and men serving in its ranks would not have contemplated doing anything outside the law, or against the strong religious and moral code which governed its behaviour.

Ulster Protestants occupies the high moral ground in the struggle for freedom in 1912 - 14, and the blood sacrificed at the Somme ensured that when Ireland was partitioned in 1921, that Ulster's place within the United Kingdom would be guaranteed.

From 1921 until 1972 Ulster has its own measure of self government with a Parliament at Stormont, and those Unionist administrations generally enacted legislation which reflected the strong religious feelings of the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland.

Sunday opening of public houses was prohibited by law and few sporting activities took place, apart from those with a

strong Roman Catholic and nationalist flavour.

Since Westminster assumed complete control over Ulster's affairs since it abolished the Northern Ireland Parliament in 1972, there has been a gradual erosion of aspects of Ulster society held dear by the majority.

Public houses are now open again on the Sabbath, increasingly there is evidence of sporting activities, and many leisure facilities open their doors on Sundays.

All this provides competition for Sunday Schools as well as churches, and it dilutes the strong Protestant tradition of the Province. It is not too late to prevent a slide into secularism or the sort of general indifference which permeates so much of English attitudes towards Sunday.

But as the Canadian Brother commented, there is not a moment to waste if the tide is to be reversed.

Orangemen must be in the vanguard of opposition to any further erosion of Sundays as a special day set aside for worship of God and as a rest day from the pressures of the working week.

Protestants must stand for the traditions which have made this Province great in past

years, and that means no truck with social clubs on Sundays, a rejection of the new moral code which encourages easier divorce, and increase in common-law liaisons.

FEARLESS

Orange leaders have not hesitated to speak out fearlessly and the Orders clerics have given the lead. One Orange Chaplain speaking at the Twelfth demonstration at Market Hill referred to large scale drinking which had taken place in the town while the Orangemen were parading to the Field, and he made it clear that people indulging in this were not witnessing for the Reformed Protestant faith, but were in effect nominal Protestants.

The Protestant Churches must take a firm stand in opposing any further attempts by the Government to weaken the Reformed tradition in the province. They must give a lead, and the clergy and ministers cannot be unaware that the 1990s have been designated as the decade of evangelism.

That is a fine objective, but it will require a stand on matters which will often be condemn-

ed and described as unpopular. The Orange Order can assist the Church in this crusade which could be crucial in the bid to maintain Protestantism as a citadel of Ulster.

The alternative, as the Canadian Brother warned, is to allow Ulster to slide into a materialistic and secular decline which eroded the hitherto strong Orange Protestant position to the extent that it is now almost irrelevant as a force for political and social influence in the great Metropolitan area.

That must not happen in Ulster, so the need is for all to cherish the Protestant heritage and traditions of the province rally to the cause and resist any further changes not beneficial to the people of Northern Ireland.

Political Protestantism of our own will not achieve the desirable aim but the Reformed and evangelistic Protestantism can, by rejecting the materialistic and secular trends, and restoring Sunday worship and the Bible. Ulster's greatest weapon in the battle against Rome, republicanism and materialism.

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Bro. John Blair, of Magheraglass L.O.L. 270, Cookstown District L.O.L. No. 3, who joined the Orange Order in 1916 and has been a member of his lodge for 75 years! He is now 93 years old. His first memories of attending the Twelfth were as a 10-year old. He lives at Wellbrook Road, Kildress, Cookstown.

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Comment — Comment — Com

A CASE WELL PRESENTED

THE August edition of the Ulster Unionist's Party's 'Unionists Voice' carried the submission which the leader James Molyneux, presented at the Brooke Talks. It is well presented, a carefully constructed work which spells out in detail the aims, attitudes and aspirations of Unionist people here. It would be hard to find a single thought of substance which if added could have improved it. Critics of Unionism and Unionist politicians were made to recognise that not only is there a case for the maintenance of the British connection but those who are competent to plead it. Our readers have been well acquainted with the several points made in the submission for we have covered the ground in these columns over the years and Unionists involved in its production have expressed their views in these pages. We know that we want and believe it to be best for the Province, a continuing link with Britain, but without the uncertainties and ambiguities which have bedevilled the thinking of people here especially since 1985 and the Anglo Eire Agreement. The proper kind of British, Ulster and Republic of Ireland relationships have been plainly described in the UUP document. While it is singularly free of recrimination there can be no doubt where blame is placed for a situation which is itself an indictment of those whose abuse of power in insensitivity in their dealings with people for whom they have responsibilities makes them guilty of gross misdemeanor. There is an underlying plea for honesty and trust among those who

have their places as negotiators with the aim to 'settle the country'. It can hardly be questioned that where these virtues are absent there can be no settlement of that desirable permanency of government which is needed here. If the Brooke Talks helped participants to be honest with one another - and the claim has been made - they have had a value for the future. The question is if and when Talks resume can we expect the promise which was given to us at times by party representatives? It must be that the agenda will be such that there will be no hurdles to be jumped which were not in place on the

course from the start. And that is to say there can be no repeat of what happened last time. We have sufficient confidence in our unionist representatives to believe that there will be movement only when there is satisfaction with the programme. It should be emphasised, as the submission does, that about 20 per cent of our Northern Ireland population would want a break with Britain. It is not clear to people generally here and elsewhere in the world that the vocally and physically violent republicans represent a small minority. The recognition of this reality would provide a better balance in perception to those who make media comment of the Irish situation. It is a strange anomaly that after 22 years some incontrovertible facts are ignored. Among the reasons

for that most annoying situation is the success of republican propagandists and the unwillingness of media people to research adequately to ensure that their material is true to life. And there has always been the comparative inability of the Unionists to procure the sympathy of the world. There is reason to believe that nowadays more people everywhere are listening to what the Unionists have been saying all along and are now hearing and listening. Republican terrorism has brought a reaction of abhorrence against the planners, and perpetrators and those who shelter and succour them and vote for their political wing, for acts of incredible cruelty, bestiality and destruction of property and jobs. No rational person will accept that violence can be allowed to dictate the political change in an ordered society like ours. Another well-argued case in the UUP document is for a Westminster Parliamentary Select Committee to scrutinise the performances of administrators in Northern Ireland. That such a committee would have been beneficial from the beginnings of devolved government here and since the prorogation of Stormont is stressed and that a future administration should have that constant and in-depth examination of its conduct. We commend this document and not least because it clarifies and encapsulates the thinking of Unionists who want a Northern Ireland in which all its citizens can find happiness, prosperity and peace

RESISTING THE IRA'S GENOCIDAL CAMPAIGN

The Provisional IRA continues its campaign of genocide directed against the Protestant people of Northern Ireland. The dastardly bombing of Markethill, and other loyalist towns is but the latest manifestation of a savage campaign which has continued undiminished in ferocity since 1969. The Provos will no doubt assert that the bombing of Markethill and other towns like Kilrea and Castlederg is concentrated against the Army, the UDR and the Army, but Ulster loyalists are not so easily fooled. They know the IRA campaign is highly sectarian, and that the murders and wounding of policemen and soldiers is coupled with a reminder to the Protestants and loyalists that their presence constitutes a barrier to the setting up of a 32-county Irish Republic. Provisional IRA and its political counterpart Sinn Fein has no time for Protestantism and Unionism, and would be happy to see their presence eradicated from Ireland, through forced emigration if necessary. The so-called military campaign of the Provisional IRA is a calculated attempt to force enough Protestants to quit Ulster so that a republican majority can be achieved within a reasonable short period of time. Provisional IRA terror has resulted in the border being unofficially moved further inland, by the movement of thousands of Protestants from the city of Londonderry, town of Newry, and the border regions of Fermanagh, Tyrone and Armagh. When Protestant farms are vacated it means another victory for the Provos, because their campaign is all about territorial acquisition. Just as Hitler and the Nazis had an insatiable appetite for stealing other country's land and territory in the years before and during the Second World War, the Provos are set on gaining control of bigger chunks of Ulster territory. The Protestant presence on the West bank of the Foyle in Londonderry has been removed, apart from the Fountain stronghold. In the process, over 15,000 Protestants have been forced from their homes in the past 20 years. That suits the Provos, as does a similar if smaller and less dramatic migration from small towns and villages in Fermanagh and Tyrone. In the areas of Northern Ireland where Protestants are safer, because of their majorities, the Provos and republican

allies concentrate their efforts on extending those ghettos in which they have a foothold. In towns like Portadown that means establishing 'No Go' areas for Orange parades. The republican influence is strong in many areas of Ulster life, and this applies also to the Universities. The political turmoil which is not very far beneath the surface at debating societies in the Ulster universities has resulted in a large proportion of talented Protestant students going to universities in England and Scotland to further their education. This also suits the Provos tactics, because a large proportion of Ulster youngsters who move to the mainland stay there, even when their education is completed. Every Protestant who leaves Northern Ireland permanently, and every family which emigrates, strengthens the republican and nationalist position in the province. This is a cynical and calculated attempt by the Provisionals and Sinn Fein to extend their influence and is geared to their plan for a take-over. It is also seen in the current struggle going on for political control in Belfast City Hall. The controversial nationalist parade allowed by the authorities recently, when the Soldier's Song was sung outside the City Hall and the tricolour waved, is a foretaste of what Belfast Protestants and Unionists could expect if the small Unionist majority in the Chamber was overturned. The Oldpark by-election victory for Sinn Fein was a lesson for so-called moderates who have argued that support for the IRA's political wing has been in decline. Unionists must stand together as never before and be united in the political fight to retain control of the City Hall. The Unionist Church and political leaders must campaign vigorously for more houses to be built in Protestant areas of the city, thereby bringing more loyalist families back into the inner working class districts of the city. It is also time to consider a campaign for a boundary extension of Belfast, something denied to the city for over 50 years. The extension of the city, taking in many adjoining areas, in which people of mostly Belfast origin live, would strengthen the Unionist voting position. Protestants must do their utmost to resist the Provisional IRA and

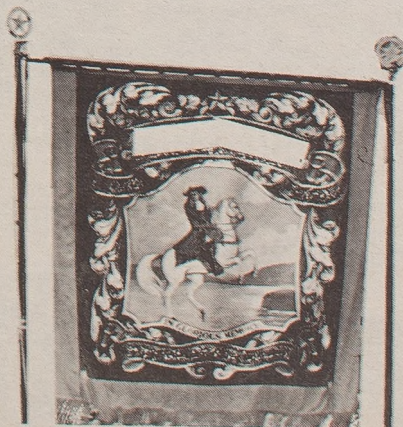
Sinn Fein campaign to force them out of their homes, and to influence their children to leave the province for a future elsewhere. This is not easy advice to hand out, given the fact that many Protestants living in areas where there is little security protection, but the alternative is to see further inroads into the loyalist majority, the moving of the border further inland, and the increasing concentration of Protestants east of the Bann. The need is also great to focus European and world attention on the IRA campaign for what it really is - a campaign of genocide directed against a free people. The Government has the prime duty to defeat this, using the security forces of the State to defeat the campaign of terror. The closure of the UDR base at Glenties has given the Provos the incentive to concentrate their attentions further inland, hence the devastating attack on Markethill. Unionists and Protestants in the safer areas of the east must realise that if republican influence spreads to take in more territory, it will be their turn tomorrow. Despite the IRA onslaught, morale among the attacked Protestants and Unionists and their communities is still high, but they deserve more backing from the Government by way of a realistic and forceful security policy.

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Her Majesty the Queen is
seen inspecting the U.D.R.
in Lisburn in June.

Sun shines for Royal Black Demonstrations

CASTLEDERG

CASTLEDERG District Royal Black Chapter No 6 celebrated its centenary in style when it hosted the Royal Black Institution's North Tyrone demonstration.

An estimated 6,000 marchers and spectators flooded into the gaily decorated town from mid-morning for the 'big day' with brilliant sunshine providing the 'icing on the cake'.

The border town, so often the scene of grief and heartbreak as terrorists claim another life, took on a totally different and joyous feel as locals and visitors revelled in the carnival-like atmosphere which prevailed.

County officers and visiting dignitaries stepped out proudly at the head of the parade along with Tempo Silver Band. Pride of place was also given to the new Co. Tyrone Grand Black Chapter standard.

In all some 28 preceptories took part in the parade of the town and through Bridgetown to the demonstration field on the Castlederg to Edenderry Road.

Preceptories from the Omagh, Strabane and Castlederg districts were joined by visitors from Donegal and Fermanagh.

Cross-border Sir Knights included members of Moyne and Laghey Star of

Peace RBP 397 led by Moyne Pipe Band, Killymard RBP 400 led by the Red Hand Defenders Flute Band, Newtown Stewart, and Pettigo Covenant of Peace RBP 549 led by the U S C Memorial Flute Band, Lack.

From the lakeland county came members of Ardess Crimson Star RBP 463 led by Ardess Accordion Band and Tubrid Royal Marksmen RBP 1235 led by Tubrid Pipe Band, both from the Kesh area.

Taking part in the religious service were Rev James Stewart, Tyrone County grand chaplain and Mountjoy RBP chaplain who led in prayer, while Rev Maurice Armstrong of Cloughfin RBP 58, read Scripture.

The closing prayer and benediction were by Rev Gordon Roycroft, chaplain of Tubrid Royal Marksmen RBP 1235.

PEOPLE power will win in Ulster as it has in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union, a Presbyterian Minister said at the Royal Black Institution demonstration in Castlederg.

The Rev Robert Coulter, a deputy grand chaplain of the Institution and an Ulster Unionist member of Ballymena Borough Council, said that was the clear message from the demonstration to Secretary of State Mr Peter Brooke.

THE warm summer sunshine brought out huge crowds on Saturday for the six major demonstrations of the Royal Black Institution.

An estimated 200,000 marchers and spectators gathered in Comber, Bangor, Ballygawley, Bellaghy and Castlederg for the Last Saturday parades, traditionally the most dignified and impressive of the loyalist marching season.

Saturday's parades fully lived up to expectations with more than 400 bands heading the 500 preceptories which included a number from the Eire border counties and Scotland and England.

BALLYGAWLEY

ABOUT 30,000 people saw pride of place in a colourful procession go to several preceptories from Monaghan and Cavan.

Seventy preceptories, almost all headed by a banner, were on parade, taking in Armagh city, Aghnacloy, East Tyrone, Killyman and Summerisland districts. There were also visiting preceptories from Fermanagh.

Before the demonstration, a new banner was unfurled in Dungannon for Star of the East RBP No 523 by two members with over 50 years service - Sir Knight Tom Leaney and Sir Knight Jack Hobson.

Sir Knight The Rev Tom Taylor, former rector of Tynan, said Ulster folk were greatly blessed with civil and religious liberty and they should stand up for that freedom.

There were, he said, those who wished to deprive them of that freedom - the IRA and the Tory Party.

BELLAGHY

THREE preceptories from Raphoe in Co. Donegal were given pride of place at the Bellaghy demonstration in Co. Derry.

The Donegal men joined the members of 33 other preceptories from Londonderry city, Coleraine and South Derry, in a highly colourful parade headed by 30-odd bands.

Sir Knight Alan Lindsay, the Londonderry County Grand Master, presided and the service was conducted by Sir Knight the Rev Hugh C Connors, County Grand Chaplain.

The main address was given by Sir Knight the Rev Edward Smyth, minister of Gilford and Tullylisk Presbyterian Churches in Co. Down.

The main resolutions were proposed by Sir Knight Campbell O'Neill, the Coleraine-born Grand Master of England, and Sir Knight Gerald Wallace, Londonderry Deputy Grand Chaplain.



Father Castlederg Councillor Derek Hussey and son Robert paraded together in Castlederg Flute Band. 2E

Sir Knight Jim Emery, second from left, Castlederg District Chaplain, and Sir Knight William Montgomery, second from left, Castlederg district registrar, with copies of Castlederg District Royal Black Chapter No. 6 centenary booklet of which they were co-editors. Also pictured from left, are Sir Knight Rev. Robert Coulter, Ballymena, guest speaker at Saturday's Royal Black Institution demonstration in Castlederg. Sir Knight Glasgow, County Grand Master, and Sir Knight Jackie Burke, Castlederg deputy district master, with one of the special centenary ties.

Members of Cloughfin RBP 58, Pollock Anderson, Jim Pollock, Tommy Clarke and John Lyons, pictured in Castlederg.



The officers of Seskinore RBP No 304 parade in Castlederg.



Members of Killen RBP leaving the assembly field to parade

Belfast Sir Knights in Bangor

SCOTTISH and English Blackmen joined the 105 Belfast preceptories at their demonstration which was one of the biggest parades seen in the North Down borough for many years.

Ulster Unionist deputy mayor of North Down Councillor Leslie Cree was given a VIP place at the head of the procession which began at Castle Park Road and after covering most of the town centre, ended at Valentine Playing

A special service was held in St. Columbanus Parish Church at Ballyholme where the preacher was the rector Canon Desmond McCreery. He was assisted by Sir Knight the Rev Victor Ryan, the

Belfast County Grand Master.

Seventy bands, including a number from Scotland, headed the preceptories from seven districts. Members from London were among the visitors.

The preceptories had travelled in special trains to Bangor after parading through the city in the morning. On return in the afternoon, they paraded back to the various areas of the city.

Sandy Row district, with 23 preceptories, had the largest turn-out, followed by Ballymacarrett district with 19.

The four preceptories of Bangor District No. 13 paraded through the town before travelling to Comber for the Co. Down demonstration.



The Belfast County Grand Chapter parade in Bangor.



Cavehill Temperance RBP No 81 at Bangor.



Shirt sleeved accordionists at Bangor.



Cooling ice cream and shirt sleeves for George Clarke and Raymond Spiers of RBP No 561, Ballymacarrett.



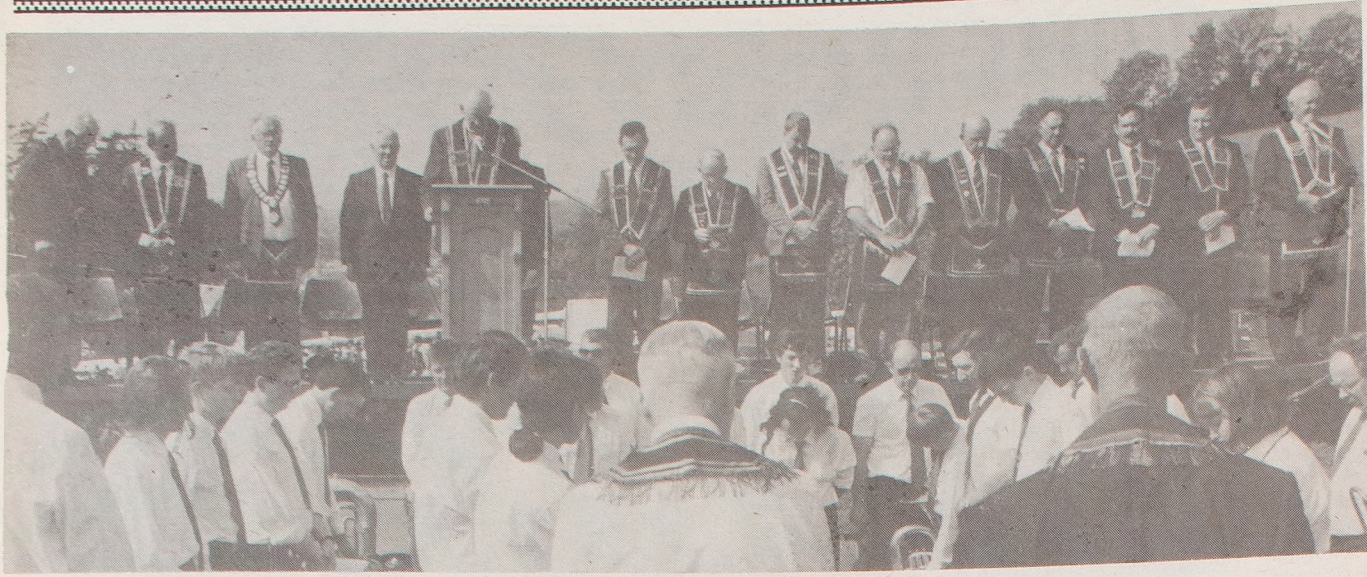
Bowler Hat and shirt sleeves for this ex serviceman at Bangor.



David Keenen and Stanley Kee, of Donegal and Tyrone RBP 327, Ballynafeigh District at Bangor.



Robert Oliver, the standard bearer for Shankill District Chapter No. 6.



The platform party at Ballygawley on August 31.

Our trust in government has been shaken — Foster

Unionist politicians and clergy in Northern Ireland should stop making 'noises' about talks with Eire because it is strengthening the position of those who want to destroy the Province, according to Sir Knight, Sammy Foster, Imperial Grand Lecturer who was speaking at the Last Saturday parade in Ballygawley.

In his address, the Fermanagh Ulster Unionist councillor, said that the recent visits by members of the Royal Family were encouraging at a time when there was disillusionment with the 'antics' of the British Government.

"Loyalty arises spontaneously from the hearts of people who love their country, their Head of State and a Government the people can trust. Our trust in our Government and its officials in the Foreign office understandably has been shaken many times, because our Government has allowed the sovereignty of Her Majesty to be breached by allowing a foreign state to have influence into the realms of our monarch," he said.

"That action in 1985 was a 'Kiss of Judas'. It was defection. It is demeaning to Her Majesty, it is demeaning to us".

The councillor questioned the recent Brooke Initiative, describing it as bartering of citizenship.

"That is offensive to us, who, year in and year out, election

after election, have emphatically said through the ballot box where our citizenship lies - and that is within the British family.

"Yet, preposterously we have been forced into a situation of getting around a table, basically to talk ourselves out of that family.

"We in this Institution and citizens of Northern Ireland wish to be friendly and neighbourly with anyone who is friendly to us - and -thank God the majority of citizens in this Province, whatever their religious affiliation, are able to work and do business with each other.

"We are not however, going to allow our rights as members of the British Family to be thrown away because of the wiles and cunning of those who are out to destroy our citizenship, whether that be attempted by honeyed talk or terrorist violence," he added.

Sir Knt. Foster said Unionists had come out of the 'web' they had been nudged into 'blackened and castigated as wreckers'.

"Yet John Hume, James Mallon and their surrogates the Eire Government, are the real wreckers of progress in Northern Ireland - they always have been. Their stance is; you do as we demand or not at all.

"We had an assembly,

They refused to participate. Without an Irish dimension they will not talk. Yet Hume says, and gets away with it too; 'We have no pre-conditions for talking'. How dishonest. He has his pre-condition - Eire's involvement of course.

"Again if Hume and the



Sir Knights of RBP No 1147, Killyman, parade through Ballygawley.

Freedom like peace is indivisible

The same bulldozer which destroyed the Berlin Wall and Communist rule in Eastern Europe must crush the Anglo Eire Agreement, James Molyneux told Blackmen at Lisburn on Saturday August 31.

"The events in Eastern Europe have really put the skids under governments and groups who for 20 years have denied Ulster people the right to real democracy", said Sir Knight Molyneux, in his role as Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution.

"See how our former critics jumped for joy when Russians defied the dictate of their would-be Masters and asserted their right to say 'No'. Mrs Thatcher went over the top and broadcast to call to Russians to come out on to the streets to destroy a diktat about which they were not consulted and from which they withheld political consent.

"In response only 200,000 Muscovites out of 17 million turned out, whereas 250,000 Ulster people out of only one and a half million rallied at the City Hall in Belfast to reject the Thatcher diktat.

"When the Berlin Wall came down Unionists were told to look to the East for an example. Well we have been looking and we say; skids under governments and groups who for 20 years have denied Ulster people the right to real democracy. What's good for Eastern Europeans must be

"Implementation of this modest programme will be possible only if the security forces are shielded from outside interference and accorded the widest support in suppressing the terrorist threat to good order and settled conditions.

"We recognise the urgent need to stabilise the situation



Sir Knt. and Councillor Derek Irwin from RBP No 99 Derrycreevy, Killyman at Ballygawley.



Glentimon (Sion Mills) preceptory on the march through Castleberg.

Eire Government were honest brokers and, as the say in the pious fraud platitudinous rhetoric, the seek peace, progress and reconciliation, then Hume and his cronies should despatch the Eire Government because Eire's interference aggravates and stifles the possibility of trust".

Sir Knight Foster called on the Eire Government to relinquish its claim of jurisdiction on the Province.

He said that the Unionists were not going to give way. "We are British and British intend to remain".

And he called on local politicians and clergy to stop making 'noises' about talks. "Stop your overtones of Eire and their politicians by noise of talks at low level, because while you may not weaken, resolve to oppose the insidious methods to undermine the position, you are underpinning and strengthening the position of those who are out to destroy our way of life. Our citizenship must not be bartered. Our way of life cannot be defiled.

"We bear no malice toward anyone, we seek as any good citizen would, an unblemished loyalty to the State. Opposition to this state. Nationalists percolate

ours by right"

"Therefore the Anglo Eire Agreement must yield to the same bulldozer, to clear the way for an acceptable British Irish Agreement based on the totality of a free relationship between the peoples who live on these British Islands.

Sir Knight Molyneux added; "When that day comes there will be no need for redundant 'KGB' men. Maryfield to tell us what to think, say and do. Freedom like peace is indivisible".

The main resolutions approved at the Royal Black Institution's six demonstrations on Saturday August 31 sought to restore democracy to Northern Ireland by means of practical improvements to existing institutions of government.

"Implementation of this modest programme will be possible only if the security forces are shielded from outside interference and accorded the widest support in suppressing the terrorist threat to good order and settled conditions.

"We recognise the urgent need to stabilise the situation

in the aftermath of the Brooke Initiative, which was doomed to failure by reason of its seriously flawed structure".

Another resolution pledged the Institution's continued loyalty to the British Crown, as represented by the Queen, and a third reaffirmed dedication and defence of the evangelical Protestant.

Last Saturday pictures courtesy of Ulster News Letter, Down Recorder, Tyrone Courier, Tyrone Constitution, Rathfriland Outlook, and Northern Constitution.



Dungannon RBP No 1168 at Ballygawley.

grisely and gastly murders to cease, must come forth and actively support the security forces in ridding all of the scourge. Cardinal Daly is quoted in his condemnation of the murder of Mr. Oliver near Dundalk, that it is the patriotic duty of everyone in Eire to support and have good relations with the police. I have yet to see where he has made a similar statement in Northern Ireland that it is the patriotic duty of everyone in Northern Ireland to support the R.U.C.

"If he cannot do that without hesitation, then I suggest his condemnation of the terrorists is deceitful, plain hollow rhetoric.

"So we need all citizens, together in the fight against those who deny people the right to life, to come forth without hesitation and oppose the evil in our midst, because a greater trust in each other, eith peace coming forth," said Sir Knight Foster.

through the majority of their people. Our way of life cannot be weakened to placate, that would be dishonest."

Sir Knight Foster said that the British Government was sacrificing human life because it was failing in its duty to protect its citizens.

He said all citizens in the country should unequivocally support the security forces in its drive to eradicate those who slink and sneak around, planning evil, doing evil and raping a people and its country.

"We look at the support Sinn Fein still has, it we take the recent by-elections as samples. Evidence that so many support the murderers. How base they are. Where have the watersheds of Enniskillen, La Mon and the Ballygawley massacres gone? Words of condemnation are just not enough from whatever quarter.

"Words that tend to skate over the real need that all citizens who profess they want peace, and, want these

A government that destroys democracy

The Government has been accused of being a party to the destruction of democracy in Northern Ireland, while at the same time supporting the struggle for democracy in Eastern Europe.

The Rev. Edward Smyth, of Tullylish and Gilford Presbyterian Churches, told Londonderry Blackmen in Bellaghy that the carnage of destruction they had witnessed in the Province over the past two decades, "the blood of the slaughtered innocents' cried out to them to do something."

"When our government constantly compromises and surrenders to those who use violence to advance their arguments, when it bends over backwards to placate those whose gods are the bullet and the bomb; when it admits to having contact directly or indirectly with the murderers and assass-ins of our men, women and children, then something is wrong and needs changing fast.

"How can things be normal when government officials talk of acceptable levels of violence? What self-respecting power would publicly support the Eastern struggle for

democracy within its own territory through its illogical and unworkable Anglo Irish Agreement?"

Sir. Knight Smyth, a leading RBP chaplain in Belfast, added, "Thank the Lord that Nations can be changed and changed for the better. The recipe for change is so simple. It begins with an individual change of heart and attitude to the things of God.

"Are we right with God or are we resisting His call and His demands; is Bible reading, prayer, and church attendance the norm of our existence? Are we rich towards God or are we merely paying Him lip-service? Do we know Christ as our Personal Saviour? If not, we are hypocrites if we wear these colours for the Black Institution is based on the message of forgiveness through the blood of Christ. Only by a sincere acceptance of His saving grace can we overcome certain destruction".



Sir Knights of Dr. Cooke Memorial RBP No 1138, Maghera at Bellaghy.



Members of RBP No 592, Portadown and RBP 373, Loughgall, at Ballygawley.



Britannia Accordion Band, Garvagh in the Bellaghy parade on August 31.



Members of Bellaghy Scarlett Line RBP No 573, Londonderry.

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COMBER

Up to 50,000 people crammed into the historic north Down town of Comber for the largest demonstration of the day.

Every vantage point over the three mile route was taken up for spectators to view the parade of 120 preceptories and 110 bands; (44 flute, 10 silver, 21 pipe and 35 accordion) as it passed from the Newtownards Road through the town centre to the demonstration field at Glen Road.

The marchers were led by Co. Down Royal Black Chapter officers and the Grand Master of the Orange Order, the Rev. W. Martin Smyth, MP, the main speaker.

Districts taking part were Comber, Lower Iveagh, Lecale, Castlewellan, Newry, Ballynahinch, Banbridge, Rathfriland, Mourne, Largymore, Newtownards, Saintfield and Bangor.

Elijah's Chosen Few RBP No. 208 from Killeel, the biggest preceptory in the world with 250 members, made an impressive sight with most of the members out walking three-deep

Other large preceptories, Largymore and Hillhall from the Lisburn area, also had impressive turnouts.

The bands taking part were of a high quality, too, with senior grade flute combinations Ballygowan, Hunter Moore from Newry and Lord Londonderry's CLB from Newtownards leading the way. Oldpark Silver Band from Belfast was also in the ranks, together with the county's top pipe bands.

A number of County Armagh bands led preceptories. They included Tullyvallen and Poyntzpass Silver, Pride of the Birches, Tullymacan (Tandragee), and Edgarstown (Portadown) Accordion and Kilcluney (Markethill) and Bessbrook True Blues' Flute.

Scottish members joined various preceptories in the six-mile round-walk.

A religious service at the field was conducted by Sir Knight the Rev. William Frame, the Deputy Grand Chaplain.



Two groups from Elijah's Chosen Few R.B.P. No. 208, Killeel the biggest preceptory in the world.



The main speaker at the Comber Black demonstration Sir Knight Rev. Martin Smyth, the Grand Master of the Orange Order, with the officers of Co. Down.



Members of Bessbrook Crimsom Arrow R.B.P. No. 38 at Comber.



Red Cross Knights of Annalong R.B.P. No 34 at Comber.

Standing up for democracy

Ulster people live in the only part of the United Kingdom which does not have equitable democratic government, Orange Order Grand Master the Rev. Martin Smyth said on Saturday August 31.

Speaking in Comber at the Co. Down Black Demonstration, Sir Knight Smyth said that while the mother of parliamentary democracy hails the changes elsewhere in the world Westminster denies proper accountability to the people of Northern Ireland, both locally and nationally.

"Some 145 quangos, unaccountable to the electorate, in addition to the monstrosity of Maryfield and the Hillsborough Diktat masquerade for real democracy. Those who serve on such quangos, doing the Northern Ireland Office bidding, will sooner rather than later face the wrath of a people as well as ultimately answering at the Judgment seat of Christ."

"Let our people, faced with terror and inept government for 23 years take courage. The people of the USSR some 74 years after the Red Revolution show that forces of democracy which sprang from the Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation must prevail."

Sir Knight Smyth said any government, more especially one claiming to be democratic must keep covenant with its citizens. "Under God, the purpose of government is to protect its people and punish evildoers."

"The sword of the state, the security forces, must be shielded from outside forces, whether well-intentioned dogooders or representatives of a government which shares the same ultimate goal as the IRA terrorists."

"Citizens must arise now, particularly churchmen of whatever hue, and throw off the terrorists' yoke and support lawful authority."

"Those who as loyalists to do the task unlawfully must remember that justice is equitable and impartial. Anarchy can never prevail in a truly ordered society which is the goal of our Institution," Sir Knight Smyth.

Speaking in support of monarchy, Sir Knight Smyth said in Britain, they are spared the extremes of presidential elections, where passions rend a nation apart.

"There is a stability in a system where the Queen takes Her proper place, above party politics. Some misguided people have betrayed the people of Ulster."

"Tom King knew other women as she regularly asked, what the government were going to do to respond positively to the petition from Northern Ireland seeking democratic rights?"

"Her grant of regimental colours and tribute to the men and women of the Ulster Regiment epitomised Her concern for the people facing the terrorist threat and expressed the feeling of Ulster people. Sir Knights give place to no one but their loyalty to Her Majesty and our Nation."

"Sir Knight Smyth said: "But we have a higher loyalty. That loyalty is to Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour. He is the rock on which our faith is based. While some may misrepresent Protestantism a political slogan or denigrate it as sectarianism, we affirm our loyalty to it. In the words of Jude, 'We are seen in the Defence of the Gospel, the best form of defence is a strong attack. It was in this context that our King and Head said, 'The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"



Dromore Sir Knights at Comber.

Preceptories on parade

LISBURN

MORE than 8,000 Blackmen converged on Lisburn where thousands braved the hot sunshine to watch the second biggest demonstration.

The County Antrim contingent comprised of 82 preceptories from Lisburn, Ballymena, Antrim, Larne, Ballymoney and Ballyclare. Ironically, while Sir Knight from Co. Antrim were arriving in Lisburn, the 13 Largymore preceptories from the Co. Down side of the town were heading out for the Comber rally.

Eighty bands took part in the march from Wallace Park to the recreation centre in Warren Park on the Hillsborough end of the town.

Earlier, the Mayor, Alderman Ivan Davis, hosted a civic reception in Lisburn Museum for the Sovereign Grand Master, Sir Knight James Molyneux MP, and County and District officers. Before the march, the officers lunched in Christ Church Hall.

On the way to the

demonstration field, a wreath was laid on the cenotaph in Castle Gardens where the salute was taken by County Grand Officers.

Members of McMichael Memorial RBP 338 carried their new banner - unfurled only a fortnight earlier. The preceptory was formed in memory of a Co Cavan Blackman who was a bus conductor in Lisburn and died before his ambition of forming a preceptory in the town was fulfilled.

Sir Knight William McCambley WDM No 1, presided over the platform proceedings and a religious service was conducted by Canon Kenneth Cochrane, rector of St. Paul's, Lisburn and Deputy Imperial Grand Chaplain, who also gave the address.

Taking part were Sir Knights, the Rev Charles McKinney, Ballymoney, Deputy County Grand Chaplain, and Sir Knight David Niblock, PDM, now Lisburn District's lay chaplain.

The resolutions were proposed by Sir Knight George Arthur County Grand Master, seconded by his Deputy Sir Knight Gardner Kane.



Ballymena District preceptories in Lisburn.



Members of Ballymena RBP No 43 at Lisburn.



Sir Knight Desmond Tolerton and Son, Ian from R.B.P. 579 Brookhill Star and Garter look the part in the Last Saturday's big parade in Lisburn.



Broughshane Sir Knights at Lisburn.



Sir Knights of Dunloy Scarlett Line RBP No 594 (Ballymoney District), at Lisburn.

CASTLEDERG

A call for improved security in the trouble-scarred Castledearg area came from the platform at the Royal Black Institution demonstration in the town on Saturday August 31.

It was made by the Castledearg district chaplain and Ulster Unionist member of Strabane District Council, Dir Knt. James Emery.

Referring to the Roll of Honour in the special booklet to mark the centenary of the Castledearg District Royal Black Chapter No 6, Sir Knt Emery said that sadly the name of Sir Knt Ronnie Finlay had to be added just as proofs for the publication were being read.

Sir Knt Finlay was murdered in front of his wife, Kathleen, and two young sons, as he arrived for work at a farm near Victoria Bridge - an attack which Sir Knt Emery described as horrific.

He said that the Roll of Honour, which bears the names of five other members of the Royal Black Institution in the Castledearg District who were murdered during the present Troubles, showed the signs of the times in the area.

"It is an area which has been so hard-pressed and under siege and I call this day again on the British Government from the bottom of my heart to redress the security situation in this area and give us the security that we on the frontier deserve," said Sir Knt Emery.

"For over 20 years now the Protestant people of the Derg Valley have borne the brunt of the present IRA campaign, with the murders of more than 20 of our fellow citizens and countless car bombs which have damaged our property.

"Today again with all our visiting sir knights and all you loyal supporters who have given so much encouragement on our way to the field we demand the defeat of the terrorist and to be recognised at citizens of the UK," said Sir Knt Emery.

THE REALITY OF ULSTER'S TROUBLES

Security or rather the lack of it, has reached frightening proportions in Northern Ireland, and the situation was vividly underlined on Tuesday, September 10, when the latest IRA bomb exploded in Shorts.

A large pall of smoke hung over the Shorts complex in East Belfast, flames shot high into the air, while many of them fortunate to escape just before the explosion.

That same day, the IRA murdered a 19-year-old Protestant in the Donegall Road in broad daylight, and forced their way into dwellings in Annadale Flats in South Belfast and Old Westland Road in North Belfast in unsuccessful attempts to kill other Protestants.

That is the harsh reality of the current scenario in Northern Ireland, and no amount of whitewash from the Northern Ireland Office can disguise the fact.

Yet, listeners to the BBC radio, and viewers of the BBC and ITN national programmes would have found it difficult that day to appreciate just how horrendous were the events taking place in Belfast.

Instead, the lead story concerned street disturbances in a housing estate in North Shields, and the Prime Minister, Mr John Major was so concerned that he asked for an immediate report from the Home Secretary.

How bad do such things have to be in Belfast or in Northern Ireland before there is such a display of determination on the part of the Government to bring things under control?

The loyal people of Northern Ireland, the vast majority of them law-abiding citizens, no longer have any faith in promises by Government Ministers or spokesmen that things will improve, or decisive action taken to deal with the murderers, the gunmen and the bombers.

The people know, as their Unionist leaders have told them so often, that the Anglo-Irish Agreement has allowed the British Government to sidetrack firm action with the excuse that co-operation with Dublin has never been better.

NORMALITY

The mainland British public are bluffed on the question of Ulster security by being assured that the Dublin Government shares the concern of Westminster in bringing about peace and normality in the Province, and that they are playing their full part in achieving this.

News items on Ulster, when they do appear on national television or on the radio nowadays to support this view.

Another point constantly hammered home in support of the Anglo-Irish line is that things would improve immensely if the Ulster politicians would just get round a table and talk about their

differences. If only those Unionists would agree to share power with the SDLP, there would be an amazing transformation, as the minority would then be able to identify with the administration.

The line is also tossed out that such agreement would render the IRA meaningless and, practically remove them from the Ulster equation.

If only it were that simple. Ulster people know from hard experience what is required to defeat the IRA and restore real peace and normality to the streets of their province.

It is not achieved by cosmetic security policies, by constant appeasement or by looking South to Dublin to provide the answer to a problem which is the responsibility of HM Government to solve.

Words are not the answer either, or by pretending, as some Government Ministers have suggested recently, that the IRA campaign is 'mindless' and merely criminal.

If only it were that simple. The IRA campaign is evil, and it is unjustifiable, but it certainly is not mindless. It is well planned and executed, and its purpose is designed to destroy the Ulster economy, to turn it into an industrial wasteland, and to put more and more people on the dole.

Public relation exercises will not solve it, nor will mere dialogue between politicians. The nettle of security must be grasped by the British Government, and decisive action taken to defeat the IRA.

Ulster people know this, but in the light of all the promises they have been fed by successive Governments and Secretaries of State in the past 22 years, few of them have any real faith in the Government implementing those promises.

YUGOSLAVIAN CONFLICT

It sounded like Ulster 1969 all over again, when one listened to some of the BBC television and radio broadcasts from Croatia earlier this month.

The BBC bombarded listeners and viewers with news from behind the Croatian lines, and their reporters showed clearly they had swallowed the Roman Catholic Croatian majority line about the trouble in that Yugoslavian state.

Serbian guerillas were described as 'rebels' invading Croatia with the help of the 'Federal Army', those self-same commentators omitting to mention that Croatia itself was in rebellion, having seceded from the Yugoslavian state.

They also underplayed the fear and the harsh memories of the 600,000 Serbian minority living in Croatia of the dreadful atrocities of World War Two

when up to a million Serbs, gypsies, and Jew were murdered by the Roman Catholic Ustashi Movement in the Nazi puppet state of Croatia.

There was very little in the way of interviews with Yugoslavian Government spokesmen, or of Serb fighters. Nothing about the fears of the Serbian minority of what their fate might be if Croatia was to achieve independence with Serbian areas at their mercy.

Instead, the television and radio commentators, many of them based in Croatian militia held towns concentrated on the aspect that Serbian guerillas and the Yugoslavian Army were trying to seize as much of

the territory of Croatia as possible before a EC inspired ceasefire would be brought into effect.

Of course, the suffering of innocent Croats cannot be minimised, and many civilians were killed in the attacks on their towns. That is to be deplored, as is the deaths of innocent people in any conflict.

But the fact cannot be ignored that Slovenia and Croatia broke away from the Yugoslavian state in June, and that prompted fears of the Serbian Orthodox Christian minority of what their fate might be.

Less than 50 years have elapsed since the Serbs were massacred in the Nazi puppet state of Croatia by the Roman Catholic Ustashi movement, so it is hardly surprising memories are still vivid.

Ulster Protestants commemorated the massacres this year under the feeling only too well.

It is also significant that many of the arms which found their way into Croatian militia hands have come from sympathisers in the United States and Canada. One arms shipment intercepted at the Yugoslavian Army Zegreb airport came from Canada, shades of American support for the

SYSTEM

Communism is not a system which Ulster Protestants admire or hold any brief for. The fact is that Orthodox Christians in Yugoslavia enjoyed more freedom under the Communist system since than they did in Croatia 1941 to 1945.

In fact, there was not a deal of ideological support for Communism among the Serbs, Slavs, and many of them little admiration for Tito, of that country for so many years, because he was a Communist.

It also alarms Serbs for much of the pressure for independent Croatia comes from Germany and Austria. Serbia experienced a lot of persecution in the days of Austro-Hungarian Empire while the German occupation of Yugoslavia, and identification with Pavelic Croatia in the Second World War left a bitter legacy.

At the time the Ulster troubles boiled over in 1969 Ulster people were lectured years by many people on need to submerge their loyalties and divisions in some sort of cosy new political arrangement.

The days of racial, religious and ethnic differences in Europe were gone for good. It was time Ulster got on with everyone else, was the theme of these people.

Well, events in Europe since the collapse of Communism have shown just how deep bitter are racial and religious differences in other parts of the Continent, and the passion run far deeper in some of the countries on Eastern Central Europe than they do in Northern Ireland.

Remnants of Orangeism in Eire

There are many fascinating souvenirs and items of historical interest with an Orange background on display in the various museums in Northern Ireland, including the Armagh County Museum in Armagh City, the Orange museum in Loughgall, and of course in the House of Orange in Belfast.

But many of the most fascinating items with an Orange emphasis are to be found in an unusual setting — the Irish National Museum in Dublin.

Here, among the various sections recalling every phase of Irish life and society are to be found a handsome collection of Orange artefacts.

They include goblets from the 18th century bearing the logo of the prince of orange, plates, drinking glasses, badges, certificates, and many other items.

They recall the days when Orangeism had a strong

membership in what are now the 26 counties of the Irish Republic. Today, the Orange membership south of the border is largely confined to the border counties of Donegal, Monaghan and Cavan, the city of Dublin, and Co. Wicklow.

Up until 1921-22 Orangeism flourished in many other centres of the South. There were strong lodges in King's County, Queen's County, Kingstown, now Dunlaoghaire; West Cork, where Bandon was a noted stronghold, and Sligo.

The city of Dublin had many large lodges, and the

headquarters of the Orange Order were then situated in Dublin, in the Fowler Hall, which was seized by the IRA irregulars on the outbreak of the civil war after the signing of the Treaty with the British Government.

The town of Bandon in West Cork once boasted the fact that it was the venue for the only other Sham Fight in Ireland, — the other being the famous Scarva event.

The Protestants in Bandon and other areas of the South suffered great persecution and intimidation in the 1920s, and over half the population were forced out at gunpoint. A substantial number were shot, and others had their homes burned.

Protestantism still has a firm hold in West Cork, in Dunlaoghaire, and parts of South Dublin, as well as the three border counties, but the Orange influence has declined greatly compared to what it was 70 years ago.

Yet there are still reminders of that proud Orange heritage in the South, and a visit to the National Museum will provide proof of the firm hold which the Order once enjoyed among the Protestant folk in the 26 counties.



The newly formed Ardbarron Junior L.O.L. No 43 from Killen District in Co. Tyrone. The inauguration took place in Ardbarron Orange Hall. The Worthy Master is W. Bro. Robb Moore holding the warrant (on left back row) Photo: courtesy of Gerald Montgomery, Castledearg.

Northern Ireland's right to democracy

How right Ulster Unionist Leader Wor. Bro. James Molyneux was in exposing the hypocrisy and double standards of British politicians in their comments on the toppling of Communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe, and their avoidance of facing up to the lack of democracy on their own doorstep in Northern Ireland.

When the events in Russia reached their heights recently with the toppling of statues in Red Square, and the displacement of Communism, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and others referred to the 200,000 people who crowded that Square calling for freedom and democracy.

Wor. Bro. Molyneux and others did not miss out on such an opportunity, and quickly reminded Mrs. Thatcher that she had ignored a bigger crowd — 250,000 at least — who turned up at the City Hall in Belfast after she had signed the treacherous Anglo-Irish Agreement.

At a time when Russia's grip on countries held in domination for so long, like Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and when the talk is all about the need for small nations, for ethnic and racial minorities to express themselves, there is a readiness on the part of the

British politicians to overlook the moves by the Republic of Ireland to involve itself more than ever in the affairs of Northern Ireland and to seek to establish a "Greater Ireland" state, with over one million Protestants and loyal British subjects incorporated against their will into a Republic where their freedom would, without doubt, be extinguished.

Eire has no legal or moral right to acquire Northern Ireland, which remained part of the United Kingdom in 1921 when the 26 Southern counties of Ireland broke away after armed rebellion.

Her Majesty's Government has an obligation to promote this viewpoint vigorously in all the influential forums, not least the assemblies of the EC, but instead they prefer to court Dublin in the forlorn hope that it might influence the Eire Government to take measures to put the IRA out of business.

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SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

The McCrea Memorial Trust held an open-air service of thanksgiving in Donaghadee on Saturday September 14 to mark the 25th Anniversary of the opening of Warren House. The service was preceded by a parade of juniors accompanied by senior members of the Order. It was conducted by W. Brother Rev. W. S. K. Crossley, Grand Chaplain, assisted by Wor. Bro. Rev. J. J. Wilson, Junior Grand Chaplain. The special preacher was the Grand Master of Ireland, Most Wor. Bro. Rev. W. M. Smyth, M.P.

At the conclusion of the service many senior members of the Order were entertained to afternoon tea and the chairman of the Trust, Bro. Thomas R. Haire took the opportunity to thank the Treasurer of the Trust, Bro. Hugh Conn for giving 20 years steady service.

A special commemoration cut glass rose bowl was presented to him by Rt. W. Bro. Walter Williams, Imperial Grand Secretary.

DONEGAL PASS RESIDENTS GROUP IN CONJUNCTION WITH SOUTH BELFAST YOUNG CONQUERORS FLUTE BAND

invite all Bands to

SPECIAL LOYALIST BAND PARADE

to be held on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1991

Bands to assemble at Donegal Pass
Parade shall start at 2.30 p.m.

GRAND CITY OF LONDON DISTRICT L.O.L. NO. 63

CHURCH PARADE AND SERVICE

on Sunday, April 15, 1992

The above District will hold their annual Church Parade and Service on the above date.

Assembly will be at 12.30 p.m. at Stafford Place (near Victoria Station). Route details will be published when known, but will take in Central London including Victoria, Pall Mall, Trafalgar Square areas.

The service will be held at Orange Street Congregational Church, Leicester Square, at 3 p.m. and will be conducted by Bro. Rev. Ian Meredith, Grand Chaplain Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

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Quite simply, you ask your employer to deduct a small sum from your pay and give it to charity. Many employers and their employees have been doing it for years. Over 260 firms in Northern Ireland do date.

What's so different about Give As You Earn?

It is an Inland Revenue approved scheme. This means you can beat the tax-man by not paying tax on what you give.

Any Conditions?

Your employer must operate GAYE. Your limit of giving is £600 in a tax year and you must give to charities recognised by Inland Revenue for tax relief purposes.

How will I know if it is acceptable?

The McCREA MEMORIAL TRUST has been granted charitable status by Inland Revenue.

What is the Agency?

Inland Revenue ensure that tax benefits are not abused by insisting that (a) your employer operates an approved payroll giving scheme (b) your employer passes your donations to an approved agency (c) the agency checks that your chosen charity is acceptable before passing over your donation.

Have I got it right? I decide which charities I want to help, tell my employer how much to deduct each pay day, my employer passes it to the agency who passes it to the charity who passes it on to the charity?

You've got it. And you save at least 25% in tax!

Ah yes, the tax saving. How does it work?

Your employer deducts your donation before calculating your taxable pay. In effect you are reducing the sum on which your tax payment is calculated.



ORANGE & BLACK TRIBUTE

FOUR unionist politicians along with leaders of the Orange and Black Institutions were among the congregation at a remembrance and thanksgiving service in Mall Presbyterian Church, Armagh, in September for the city's top Orangeman blown up by the IRA in May.

Robert Orr, a 56-year-old accountant who lived at Ashley Park, was killed when his booby-trapped car exploded in Gaol Square on his way to work.

His wife Phyllis and daughters Deborah and Linda led relatives and close friends at the service attended by members of the Orange and Black Orders from all over the Province.

Bro. Orr was District Master of the city's Orange Order. Treasurer of Co Armagh Grand Orange Lodge, Treasurer of Primatial District Royal Black Chapter No. 4 and Worshipful Master of Wilson Memorial RBP 1077.

The service was organised jointly by the two institutions. Among those present were Ulster Unionist MEP Bro. Jim Nicholson, Grand Master of Ireland Wor. Bro. the Rev Martin Smyth, Upper Bann MP Bro. David Trimble, close friend John Taylor, MP for Strangford, Co Armagh Grand Master Wor Bro Norman Hood and County Grand Master of the Black Samuel Gardiner.

Former minister of the congregation Bro. Dr. John Lockington, Deputy Grand Chaplain of Ireland and Imperial Deputy Grand Chaplain, gave the address. The service was conducted by the minister Dr Joseph Thompson.

Later, at a ceremony in the Orange Hall, Mrs Orr unveiled a portrait of her late husband in the lodge room.

Before leaving for the "Black Saturday" demonstration in Ballygawley, wreath was laid by Primatial District Officers at the "Orange Tree" close to the spot where Bro. Orr died.

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Assume your take home pay is £100 and you pay the basic rate of tax. A donation of £5.00 without using GAYE means you take home £95. The same donation using GAYE will 'give' you a take home pay of £96.25.

The other £1.25 being paid by the taxman.

How do I join?

If your employer operates GAYE they will have charity choice forms at the personnel/pay office. The Trust also has a supply of specially printed forms for easy use. Fill in the form and give in to your personnel/pay office.

What if my employer doesn't operate GAYE

If you complete a charity form the agency will invite your employer to join the scheme. There is however no obligation on the employer to provide payroll giving facilities.

Why should I give through this scheme?

Apart from the tax you save the regular donation you make saves the Trust a lot of time and effort devoted to fund raising. Time that can be put to a better use to benefit the Trust.

That is the real bonus of this scheme.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE

Only you can answer that. But the test is how much would you comfortably miss from your pay packet. That is, could you give regularly each pay day and not grudge the size of the amount? You can give as little as you like but we ask you to consider a minimum per charity of 50p a week or £1 a month.

Don't forget you can give to up to eight charities.

Further details available from:
McCREA MEMORIAL TRUST, WARREN HOUSE, 84 WARREN ROAD, BALLYWILLIAM, DONAGHADEE, CO. DOWN.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:-

If 2,000 of our brethren donated only 50 pence per week the benefit to our Trust would be in the region of £50,000 a year! 2,000 brethren is not even 2% of our total membership! Can we really bury our heads in the sands and do nothing? Act NOW and lay the foundations to a secure future.

For the self employed, companies and individuals who like to give single donations there are other more suitable ways of doing so which would enhance your donation at no additional cost to those concerned — **Cheques for Charity — or — Gift Aid.**

DETAILS ALSO AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SMEAR ON THE SHANKILL

In the dreadful carnage of the Somme of July 1, 1916, few areas of loyal Ulster made a greater sacrifice than the Shankill Area of Belfast.

Only a handful of the 800 men of the West Belfast Battalion of the UVF which had joined the Army, and served in the 36th (Ulster) Division survived.

That thought must have been uppermost in the minds of many people from the famous area of the city, and a great many others whose ancestors came from the Shankill, when they read an astonishing news story recently when it emerged that two members from the RAF regiment had appeared on disciplinary charges.

It seems that the Shankill, renowned for being the most loyal part of the former British Empire, is regarded as being out of bounds to members of the security forces serving in Northern Ireland.

The two off-duty RAF men had apparently violated the new rules which insist that the Shankill is now out of bounds to security force personnel, by taking photographs of loyalist wall murals.

The charge against the men was dismissed, but it still left a bad taste in the mouth of many Ulster people.

Have things reached such

a sorry state in this Province that a district which has been renowned for having so many of its menfolk flock to the colours in wartime should now be regarded as 'no go' for British servicemen?

Street parties for returning servicemen during and after the Second World War were a common occurrence in the Shankill, and no district took a greater pride in the sacrifice made for the Empire than this district.

One of Ulster's great Prime Ministers, Sir Basil Brooke, later Lord Brookeborough, constantly referred to the loyalty of the Shankill, and he was given a rapturous reception when he visited the area.

The Shankill has suffered terribly in the present Troubles - as it did in those of the 1920s - with many people losing their lives.

It would seem, if the astonishing facts revealed in the RAF disciplinary case are accurate, that it is time many of those in charge of security matters in the Province studied the history of the Shankill and the part it has played in the Defence of the Realm, and against the republican onslaught on Northern Ireland.

Belfast-made banner unfurled in Canada

A new banner for the 40-member Purple Hill LOL No. 399 has been unfurled and dedicated at a ceremony at Blackstock Recreation Hall in Ontario, Canada.

Actual cost of the banner was about \$1,900, plus \$277 for duty, \$400 for shipping and \$116 for GST, for a total of \$2,600. The lodge raised the funds through dances and Burns night suppers.

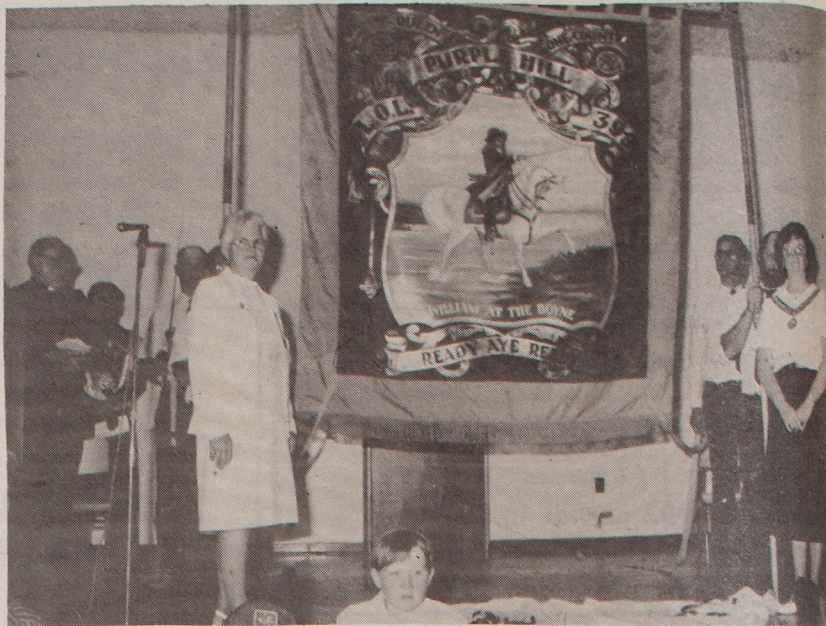
Special guests for the unfurling were the 42 member Ardrossan Flute Band from Scotland. Also present were Most Wor. Sister Christeen Calvert, Grand Mistress of Scotland, Sister Muriel Wotten, Worthy Mistress of Blackstock L.O.B.A., Bro. Mac Story, Grand Master - Ontario East and Rev Douglas Hall, of Newcastle, acting as Chaplain.

Master of Ceremonies was Bro. Ron Thertell, Worthy Master - Purple Hill L.O.L., who welcomed and introduced the visitors, especially the flute band from Scotland.

Past County Master of Durham West Bro Geoff Taggart, in his dedicating address explained the history of banners, such as the one about to be unfurled.

Purple Hill's original banner, which was donated by several members of Eglinton Lodge in Toronto, had gone beyond the point of repair, and the lodge decided to purchase a new one.

Unwilling to settle for a mass produced banner available here, they commissioned a well-known Belfast banner maker, Tommy Robinson, to produce a unique banner, especially for Purple Hill. After many phone calls and personal visits, the banner was



The new banner of Purple Hill Lodge L.O.L. 399 is unveiled for the audience to see and admire. At left is Sister Muriel Wotten, Worthy Mistress, Blackstock L.O.B.A., and at right is Most Wor., Sis. Christine Calvert, Grand Mistress of Scotland.

completed and had now arrived.

Banners have long been associated with the Orange Order, said Bro. Taggart. And second only to bands, they are a major attraction at all our parades and gatherings. They date back to the very beginnings of the Orange Order as they were first used as a rallying standard and an easily recognised identification source. Some eager scholars have attempted to trace the banners' origins back to the original banners of the 12 tribes of Israel.

They are not only interesting pieces of art, but they perform several important functions as

well. First, they establish the name and number of the lodge. Rare is the banner that does not depict our leader, King William (Prince of Orange) whether in portrait or more commonly, crossing the Boyne on his white horse.

Illustrations on the other side of this single sheet of cloth fall into several categories - biblical scenes, historical events, local landmarks and portraits. Some specialised lodges display certain aspects of their uniqueness such as rail-way men's lodges, shipyards, military units, etc. Whatever the illustrations are, they can

be traced back to the principles of the Orange Order.

The Banner, once dedicated, becomes an almost sacred symbol to be carried with dignity and pride as lodge members strive to uphold and promote equal rights for all, special privileges for none, fear of God and honour the Queen, and never surrender.

After the benediction by Rev. Hall and the playing of God Save the Queen by the Ardrossan Flute Band, the gathering left the hall and formed us for a parade around the village, with the new banner held high by Purple Hill lodge members.

Protestant tenants press case for a fairer deal

Tenants of neglected Protestant housing estates in North and West Belfast seized the opportunity of getting media attention for their cause when the Northern Ireland Housing Executive launched its annual report in Belfast.

The tenants from estates like Glencairn, Alliance, Tyndale and Benview produced placards calling for a new deal for their areas, outside the Executive offices.

They had plenty of facts to back up their case that Roman Catholic estates in Ardoyne and other areas have been receiving preferential treatment.

The Executive, in denying the charges, had to admit that there had been a decline of 37 per cent in Protestant areas of North Belfast in recent years, although a spokesman claimed that housing was not the main factor.

That's a charge hard to refute, as Protestant protesters claimed that many houses in estates like Glencairn are bricked up when they become empty.

Others pointed to the failure to rehabilitate places like Glenbryn and Alliance, to knock down houses and replace them with open spaces while over the peaceline gleaming new

estates in Ardoyne and other nationalist areas provide homes for hundreds of families.

The Protestant tenants stressed that they were not claiming preferential treatment, or denying the rights of Roman Catholics in adjacent areas to have new homes, but merely seeking a fair slice of the cake.

The Unionist and Protestant case is an irrefutable one, and anyone taking the bother to walk through North Belfast will see evidence to support it.

For instance, large areas of the middle Shankill, between Matchett Street and Tennant Street have been cleared of housing and now forms a huge wasteland. Yet the Executive has still to announce definite plans for more housing in the middle of Shankill.

The same situation obtains in York Road, Shore Road, Duncairn Gardens, and other Protestant districts, while the pressing need for renovation in existing estates like

Glencairn and Glenbryn has already been mentioned.

Much has been made in the media recently about the rise of Sinn Fein and the narrowing of the gap between the Unionist and nationalist parties on Belfast City Council.

One of the most obvious reasons has been the denuding of Protestant areas, and the gulf in the put-back of new housing in them compared to Roman Catholic districts where

every effort has been made to meet the wishes of the Church and the nationalist political parties.

More housing in the Unionist areas would mean more votes, and a better chance of returning enough councillors to ensure that the Union Jack continues to fly over the City Hall, a point not lost on an increasing number of loyalists in the city who are aware of the crucial factor housing plays in the balance of power in Belfast.

Warren House Anniversary

Five hundred members of the Junior Orange Order attended a parade service in Donaghadee on Saturday September, 14 to mark the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Warren House Home in the town.

The service was conducted by the Grand Master of the Orange Order Wor. Bro. The Rev W. Martin Smyth, MP, assisted by Bro. the Rev William Crossley, a senior grand Chaplain, and Bro. Rev John T. Wilson, Grand Chaplain of the Junior Order.

Lodge members present represented the various counties in Northern Ireland and in a parade of

the town they were headed by three bands.

Among those taking part was Belfast County Grand Master Wor. Bro. John McCrea, whose father's name is given to the McCrea Memorial Trust which runs the Warren House Home, and the Grand Master of the Junior Order Wor. Bro. Tom Haire and Executive Officer Bro. George Patton.

AUGHRIM VISIT FOR GILFORD BRETHERN

Over 30 Orangemen and friends from Gifford travelled recently to the West of Ireland to visit the site of the Battle of Aughrim.

The Orangemen are members of Ballymacanallon LOL No. 2013, and they travelled along with their wives and friends in a coach provided by Poots, Portadown, to the battlefield which is near Ballinasloe, near Galway.

On their way, the Orangemen stopped for a meal at Ardee, and on their arrival were welcomed by the Rector of Aughrim, Canon Trevor Sullivan, formerly of Portadown.

Accompanied by a guide, Joan Pettigrew, the Orangemen visited the various vantage points of the battlefield, which was the bloodiest fought in the successful Williamite campaign.

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