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"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 137

Saturday, 11th May (De Sathairn, 11 Bealtaine), 1974

Seán Mac Diarmada

THE Fenian Tom Clarke had spent one of his 15 years of torture in an English jail when back in Ireland, high up in the Leitrim mountains at Carnmor, a child was born whose fate was to cast its destiny so close to that of Clarke's and whose names are entwined in our history with honour, love and devotion for ever more.

This child was named Sean Mac Diarmada. He became one of the greatest leaders of Easter Week and for his part paid with his life.

Born in such magnificent surroundings with breathtaking views of such vast expanses of the Irish countryside, was it any wonder that he learned from an early age to love his native land and long for its freedom and independence?

However, like most Irish boys of his day in that part of Ireland, he was forced to seek a living far away from his own home and family.

At the age of 15 years he was at work in Glasgow. Three years later he returned to Belfast, where he joined the Gaelic League and became a fine Irish speaker. It was there he met such men as Denis MacCullagh, Sean MacGarry and Bu'ner Hobson, who were then leading members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

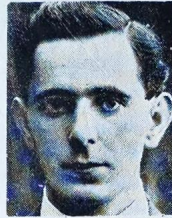
With his great personal charm, sincerity and capacity for hard work, Mac Diarmada was the obvious choice as organiser for the Dungannon clubs when they were launched to help spread the Republican faith.

In 1907 Tom Clarke returned from America, where he had been since his release from the English hell holes. He opened his famous shop in Parnell Square, Dublin, and Sean Mac Diarmada was one of his first visitors, and from that first visit they became life-long friends.

Clarke had such a high opinion of Mac Diarmada that he asked him to become National Organiser for the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1903. Clarke picked the right man for the job. The organisation needed overhauling and above all new blood. Sean travelled the length and breadth of Ireland preaching and teaching, and everywhere he went he left a lasting impression. Together with a few other sincere and dedicated people he blazed the trail to 1916 and saved Ireland from almost certain Anglicisation.

Sean Mac Diarmada was a member of the Military Council which planned the Rising, and as such held a position of great importance and trust. He was one of the seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. He was one of the last of the leaders to die. At 4 a.m. on 12th May, 1916, he was executed by a British firing squad in Kilmainham Prison yard and buried with the others in a quicklime pit at Arbour Hill.

The last persons to see him alive, apart from his jailers and executioners, were the sisters Mary and Phyllis Ryan. (Phyllis later married Sean T. O'Kelly and Mary married Dick Mulcahy.) In her account of this last meeting Mary wrote: "The last time I saw Sean Mac Diarmada was in his prison cell in Kilmainham Jail at 3 o'clock on the morning of 12th May. He was shot at 3.45 on the same morning. The cell was small with white-washed walls. There was a plank bed in a corner. On the bed were a couple of soiled blankets. Mac Diarmada had a smile on his face. He was cheerful. There were two soldiers there all the time.



He sat on the plank bed and talked of the revolution. He told of the insults hurled at them by the British after they had laid down their arms—the inhuman treatment they got in Richmond Barracks. He did not complain—almost as if he did not expect any better from them. He preferred to talk of casual matters, asking for different people we knew, enjoying little jokes. The most pathetic scene was where he tried to produce keepsakes for different girlfriends of his we mentioned. He sat on the bed and tried to scratch his name and the date on the few coins he had left and on the buttons which he cut from his clothes.

"His beautiful head bent assiduously over the work. At 3 o'clock we bade him farewell for ever as the prison chaplain arrived. He had a beautiful head, black hair and deep blue eyes, dark eyebrows and long lashes. He had wonderful charm. He had worked and planned for Irish independence since boyhood. His last words aside from prayers were 'GOD SAVE IRELAND'. At four o'clock when the shooting was done, a gentle rain

began to fall—the tears of DARK ROSALEEN."

It is 58 years today (Sunday, 12th) since Sean Mac Diarmada was added to the long list of murderers by the Crown in Ireland. His memory is ever-green. His name is revered and each year large numbers gather in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim, to honour him.

His birthplace at Carnmore has been preserved for posterity and a sister of this patriot lives there still.

Once again this year the people of the North West will gather at Kiltyclogher on today, Sunday, at 3.00 p.m. to honour his memory, and the oration will be given by Mrs. Maura Drumm of Belfast, Vice-President of Sinn Féin, and no stranger to British jails and British brutality.

JIM MURPHY, R.I.P.

(A TRIBUTE BY A FRIEND)

Justice and freedom for every
Irishman and Irishwoman
Must have been his dream.

May we who have been spared
Unite and help the patriot cause,
Remember our great leader,
Pray for one who cared.
History will recall his name,
Youth in his footsteps will be
reared.

SOUTHERN DIARY

PANDEMONIUM reigned in the Dail during the week when it was announced jointly by Mr. Paddy "Kick 'em up the transom" Donegan, Minister for Defence (?), and Mr. Paddy "Cockroach" Cooney, Minister for Justice (?), that three men had been caught red-handed undermining the institutions of the State. T.D.s screamed and roared their applause and the sales of gin and brandy even exceeded the record set the night the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act was bombed into being. Drunken and maudlin T.D.s of all parties lay where they dropped or kicked their legs in their air shouting "Up the Republic".

Came the dawn of a new day and the wan, booze-soaked T.D.s gingerly shook their heads in disbelief. A chastened Mr. Donegan and Mr. Cooney, faces the colour of beetroot, confessed there had been a monumental error. The three men had proved to Special Branch interrogators, in between the usual "knuckling" given to suspected "terrorists", that they were American mining prospectors working under licence from the 26-county Government to steal Ireland's mineral resources.

Worse, Mr. Donegan and Mr. Cooney had also to admit that one of the prospectors was a favourite nephew of a prominent Yankee politician named Nixon, famed for deviousness, and this had

triggered off a major international row. Henry Kissinger's Jumbo Jet had turned round over Tokyo and was heading for Dublin and tapes of private conversations between Nixon and 26-county parliamentarians were being distributed to the Press Corps at the White House.

In addition, an other of the prospectors was a cross-Atlantic cousin of an influential English parson, someone named Wilson, and trouble was also emanating from that direction. Abject apologies had been made immediately and Conor Cruise O'Brien, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, had personally kissed the polished shoes of each individual British Cabinet member—but to no avail. Conor had done this before with great success on more than one occasion.

T.D.s hung their throbbing heads with simulated shame as the sorry tale unfolded and their numbed minds could hardly take in Paddy Cooney's final statement: "The American and British Governments," he howled, "have cancelled all our handouts and taken back the stock market shares they gave us. The loot is lost." T.D.s could only gaze stupidly, a fact which prompted one observer to write that they took the news normally, but more experienced correspondents noted the seriousness of the situation—Garrett

(Continued on page 2)

Fermanagh Citizens' Advice Bureau—1971-74

How It All Began

INTERMENT

On August 9th interment was introduced and most of those connected with the Bureau became involved in the campaign against interment. But more important, the Bureau was inundated with problems concerning the Rent and Rates Strike and Mr. Flatley had a busy time. The need for such an office had no plain to be seen.

FIRST A.G.M.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Advice Society was held in Killesher Hall on 13th March, 1972 and almost one hundred delegates from all over were present. The meeting adopted a new and more attractive fund-raising drive which included the selling of membership cards of the Society costing £1 each. In the past two years the Society has paid out over £600 each year in prizes. There is a special £100 prize each Christmas. Since then the Bureau has gone from strength to strength and past debts were cleared. Last year (1973) the A.G.M. was held in Enniskillen and the 1974 A.G.M. was held in Killester last Sunday.

BUREAU NOW AN ESTABLISHED INSTITUTION

1974 FUND DRIVE UNDER WAY

By now the Bureau has become an established institution known to virtually everyone in the country. It is well and truly an Advice Centre, and Mr. Flatley has a 70-80 per-cent rate with all the problems he deals with. The 1974 fund-raising drive is now under way and membership cards are being sold throughout the country. The Fermanagh Citizens' Advice Bureau is certainly given an unrivalled service to the citizens of Fermanagh. Frank McManus who founded the Bureau is obviously very pleased by its success: "The committee and I are determined that it will continue to serve the people of Fermanagh and I am delighted it has helped so many thousands", he said to our reporter at the weekend.

THE Fermanagh Citizens' Advice Bureau was officially opened on 12th January 1971 and since then has dealt with 4,591 recorded cases, but the true number is much higher—it may be ten or fifteen thousand, but no one can be certain of the exact figure because only the more involved and detailed cases are recorded. The primary aim of the Bureau is to give all possible free help, advice and assistance to residents of Fermanagh in matters of employment, Government grants, subsidies, housing and social and welfare benefits. In 1971-72 the Bureau dealt with 1,006 cases, in 1972-73 1,582, and in 1973-74 2,003 recorded cases. It is a full-time office open Monday-Friday 10a.m.-5p.m. but at times its full-time director, Mr. Tom Flatley, has to be away representing clients at Tribunals or dealing with housing problems which take him to the home of the particular client. It is the only full-time Bureau of its type in Ireland. Most other Citizens' Advice Bureaus are open only on a part-time basis, say on one or more evenings a week.

BUREAU AN ELECTION PROMISE OF

FRANK McMANUS

The Citizens' Advice Bureau was founded by Mr. Frank McManus who was helped by many other people who had also realised the need for such an Advice Centre in Enniskillen. During his election campaign in June 1970, the united candidate in Fermanagh S. Tyrone, Frank McManus, promised the electorate that if elected he would immediately try to set up a full-time Citizens' Advice Bureau in Co. Fermanagh. Fulfilling his pledge, Frank McManus called a meeting in Enniskillen Town Hall in September 1970 for the purpose of setting up an Advice Bureau and electing a committee to run it. Mr. McManus explained his proposals to a representative meeting which approved them and elected an Executive Committee of twenty people to run the Bureau.

The committee was made up of four representatives from Enniskillen and one each for any area of reasonable size within the county. Mr. McManus hoped that ample finance would be available for the running of the Bureau if each Anti-Unionist voter was to contribute a mere 5/- (25p) per annum. This he estimated would raise up to £3,000 per annum. (Subscriptions from Unionists would of course be more than welcome). However for a variety of reasons, this fund drive never really got off the ground, and only about £800 was collected.

PREMISES ACQUIRED AT 3 QUEEN STREET

Premises were acquired at 3 Queen Street, Enniskillen and the Executive Committee held its first meeting in September 1970. Officers elected were: chairman James Lynch (R.I.P.); vice-chairman Frank McManus; secretary Breege Thompson; treasurer Johnny Cox; press officer Frank Martin.

Main business at the meeting was the appointment of a full-time organiser for the Bureau. There were only a few applicants for the post and the committee decided to readvertise the position.

At the meeting a sub-committee comprising Brother Hiliary, Frank Traynor and John Kearney, was appointed to draft a constitution for the Bureau and it was decided that the Executive should be called the Fermanagh Citizens' Advice Society. About this time also Frank McManus embarked on a tour of every parish in Fermanagh where he held meeting at which he explained the purpose and function of the Advice Bureau and its Society. Collectors were appointed for every electoral division. The next Executive meeting was held in October and the applicants were again considered and Tom Flatley was unanimously appointed as full-time director and organiser.

BODY BLOWS FOR BUREAU

On 5th October 1970, the Advice Society received severe body blow when its chairman James Lynch (R.I.P.), full-time director Tom Flatley, committee member John Joe McCusker and Alderman J. J. Donnelly, were arrested and jailed for their sit-in of Fermanagh County Council offices which was a protest against the corrupt and gerrymandered council. The rest of the committee decided that the Advice office in Queen street should be kept open on a part-time basis at least and volunteers were found to make this possible. Following Mr. Flatley's release in December the Executive decided to have the Bureau officially opened in January 1971. However body blow number two came on 18th January, when the brain child of the Bureau, Mr. Frank McManus was jailed for four months for taking part in a banned civil rights march in Enniskillen the previous November.

DEATH OF JAMES LYNCH

Misfortunes never came single and councillor James Lynch from Roslea, the chairman of the Advice Society was incapacitated by a very severe illness from which he has since died. Tom Flatley began working full-time in the Bureau on 12th January 1971. Frank McManus was not released but shortly after that the committee lost its very efficient secretary, Miss Breege Thompson when she got married and Mr. Frank Martin became secretary. In the Cong Cogy days of summer 1971, the committee was almost totally inactive. However the Bureau remained open full-time, but funds were very low, and Mr. Flatley received no salary.

SOUTHERN DIARY

(Continued from page 1)

Fitzgerald was speechless!

The evening newspapers reported the prospectors as saying: "We were operating under licence and didn't know we were digging under the State Institutions. You people should signpost them better. It is no satisfaction to us that the Special Branch men that arrested us were executed at dawn in an accidental shoot-out with the S.A.S., whatever that may be.

"We had paid dropsey all round to be allowed to undermine Ireland and a pretty big dropsey it was.

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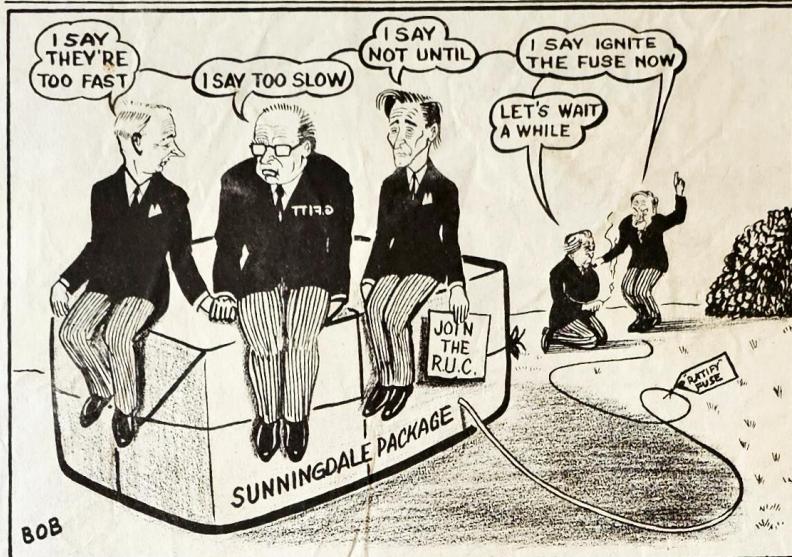
Your Irish politicians are no cheap-jacks when it comes to the bribery bit. In fact they held out so long we began to think world opinion was wrong and they were honest. However, it turned out to be greed and we are plenty used to that back home. We intend to press this incident to the limit. Ireland has been the mecca for mineral thieves in recent years and we have the welfare of our colleagues to consider."

Later editions of the evening papers reported that Donegan and Cooney had been set upon as they left Leinster House. A speedy post-mortem, held because the bodies stank so badly of corruption they had to be cremated immediately, showed that they had died from lacerations of the throat. Teeth marks proved conclusively that the killers had been mongrel foxes.

★

THE first victim of the extra-territorial Courts was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in Dublin this week. She was a 13-year-old Fermanagh girl who was heard to hum the air of "Kevin Barry" in O'Connell Street while on a shopping expedition with her mother.

A 14-year-old Belfast boy who was heard to shout "Up the SDLP!" in Sackville Place was given a similar suspended sentence after a solicitor explained that people with his regional accent always emphasised the first syllable of every phrase. The Judge said he would give the lad the benefit of the doubt this time, but Belfast residents need not rely on such generosity again; they must learn to speak like Dubliners if they wished to stay out of jail.



SEE, THEY'RE UNANIMOUS!

Pressing for Barney's release

DERRY's gas workers, about evenly divided between Catholics and Protestants, are demanding the release of Barney McFadden, the Sinn Féin leader in the city.

When he was "lifted" some 2,000 workers left their places of employment and marched into the city centre. Traffic was brought to a standstill and business suffered a complete close-down as workers marched in protest against internment in general and the treatment of McFadden, in particular.

Due largely to the organising ability of Barney, Derry boasts of a dozen very active Sinn Féin cumann and they lost no time in mounting a very vigorous campaign for his release.

Trade union officials, shop stewards and other people genuinely concerned with this unjustifiable action against a fellow worker have expressed disgust at his arrest which, it is felt, is mainly because of his political activity in opposition to the Sunningdale charade and its self-seeking pushers.

S.A.S. men in Derry hold-up?

THE British Army has been involved in another S.A.S. or Littlejohn-type incident, including stealing cars and money in Co. Derry, according to the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. The claim comes at the end of an extensive five-week inquiry by the Association into a robbery at the home of Mr. James McNicholl at Coolcoscreaghan near Garvagh.

At 6.30 a.m. the McNicholl house was ransacked by three armed men in civilian dress who fired several shots one of which narrowly missed Mr. McNicholl. Two of the raiders were unmasked and spoke with English accents. The third man wore a hood over his head and did not speak.

The intruders stole a total of £135 from the house including £60 belonging to

Glenullin G.A.A. club.

Shortly after the robbery Mr. Hugh Logue, SDLP Assemblyman for the area, was told by the RUC that three men — two soldiers and a civilian — had been arrested in Derry City in a stolen car and would be charged with the robbery.

But when the case was later heard in court, three soldiers appeared on the charge. All three are still

on remand.

The CRA suggests that the civilian originally arrested had the charges against him dropped as he was a local involved in British Army intelligence work.

They infer that a "more expendable British soldier" was charged in his place. They describe this as an attempt "to prevent the course of justice."

Stagg's 23 days' fast for rights

Lenar dTuairisceoir



AT the weekend Pádraig Stagg, of Hollymount, Co. Mayo, and Coventry, England, had been 23 days on hunger strike for political status.

He was sentenced to 10 years jail last October on conspiracy charges and for a while was confined in Winson Green Prison, Birmingham where he was treated as a normal prisoner. Just before Christmas he was transferred to the Isle of Wight (Albany).

When his wife and sisters went for their first monthly visit to him they found that they could see him only through a glass partition. If they wished to speak to him they had to use a grille so constructed that one could not speak to him and look at him at the same time.

Also, each visit was supervised by police and prison warders. Pádraig decided that these conditions were unacceptable and refused further visits.

He applied for open visits, even for his wife; for political status; and a transfer to a Northern Ireland prison.

All three applications were rejected. He was required to do prison work and refused, as he maintained it conflicted with his Republican principles. That was in January last.

Since then he has been in solitary confinement in the punishment cells. His outgoing mail has been curtailed to one letter per week; his transistor radio was taken from him; his newspapers were withdrawn, except whatever the prison

authorities let in from time to time, mostly reading matter of no interest to him.

On April 7 information reached relatives in Dublin that Pádraig had been on hunger strike for nine days and was about to be removed to the hospital wing.

Strike confirmed

The prison authorities confirmed by 'phone on April 9 that he was, in fact, fasting. When asked why, the prison spokesman replied: "He has had plenty of reasons here to go on hunger strike."

Shortly afterwards two letters, written by Pádraig a week or so earlier, reached his wife.

They had been delayed by the prison authorities because they announced his hunger strike which the prison tried to keep secret.

His father and mother are too old and infirm to go to the Isle of Wight to see him; they have not seen him since he was arrested.

His wife has been advised by her doctor to sell her house and return to Ireland; she attends the doctor daily and is a victim of nervous tension.

It is understood that three other Republican prisoners are on hunger strike with Pádraig.

One way of helping Pádraig is to write letters of protest to British M.P.s and ask them to raise this matter in Parliament.

Prisoner's hunger only too real

MR. Charles Billings, father of Mr. Donal Billings (a Long Kesh prisoner), in a statement protests against the recent Merlyn Rees statement regarding the hunger strikes.

"I wish to refute absolutely the lying insinuations made by Merlyn Rees on Thursday, April 11, that my son Donal Billings and 19 other Republican prisoners, were not, in fact, on hunger strike but only pretending to be," the statement begins.

"Donal went without food from March 9 until April 12 in protest against the refusal to grant parole to his friend and comrade, John Johnston, for the funeral of his mother, who was buried in Dublin on March 8."

"When I last saw Donal, on Saturday April 6, his tongue was

white and swollen and his speech was indistinct. He said that he felt very cold and drowsy and no longer felt like smoking. He had lost a considerable amount of weight, was very pale and shuffled along like an old man."

"He was fully determined to continue his fast until death if a written agreement permitting 24-hour parole in the case of a family bereavement was not granted."

Congrats, Roscommon V.E.C.

THE Black List prepared by Cockroach Cooney and circulated to employers of many sorts is a shameful document. It lists those convicted of political offences and ensures they get no jobs. This was done in 1923-24 as well and forced hundreds of Republicans to go to the U.S.

I hope no one is forced to emigrate this time, but Dick Burke and Jimmy Tully have a lot to answer for to the wives and children of men

who have been victimised. They have discretionary powers, but they chose not to use them. Anyone I talked to here was delighted at the courage of the Roscommon V.E.C. in refusing to sack Ruairí Ó Brádaigh.

If Mr. Ó Brádaigh were actually teaching and passing on his political views to his students, a case could be made to fire him. Such a case could be made against any teacher. But he is on leave of absence. Firing him is just a dirty tactic.

Third Annual General Meeting of Fermanagh Citizens' Advice Bureau

OVER 2,000 CASES DEALT WITH IN 1973-74

"BUREAU A PERMANENT PHILANTHROPIC INSTITUTION"—McMANUS

THE third Annual General Meeting of the Fermanagh Citizens' Advice Society was held in Killesher Hall recently. Over one hundred delegates from all over Fermanagh attended.

The Society which has over five thousand members is the body responsible for the Fermanagh Citizens' Advice Bureau, 3 Queen Street, Enniskillen, which was founded following an election pledge in 1970 by former M.P. Mr. Frank McManus. In a lengthy report Mr. Tom Flatley, the Bureau's director stated that he dealt with 2,003 recorded cases in the past year, of which 1,301 concerned Social Welfare, 462 Housing, 182 farm grants and subsidies, and 58 complaints against the behaviour of the security forces. Mr. Flatley claimed 70-80 per-cent success in the two thousand cases he had dealt with. The A.G.M. unanimously re-elected the outgoing Executive Committee to serve for the year 1974-75 and Mr. Terence Maguire the Society's Chairman presided and welcomed all present to Killesher.

The Society's Treasurer Mr. Johnie Cox of Garvary in presenting his report pointing out that the Citizens' Bureau costs an estimated £3,000 per year to run. At last Sunday's meeting the Society's membership cards, which cost £1 each, were distributed to sellers who will be selling them all over Fermanagh in the coming weeks. The Society pays out about £100 a year in prizes.

Mr. Flatley was given trunderous applause when he delivered his report and Mr. Frank McManus was warmly applauded when he praised the Bureau for its great work and tribute to Mr. Flatley and the committee.

Mr. McManus warmly welcomed everyone present and said that with such an enthusiastic attendance the next year looked very promising for the Bureau. Mr. McManus said that in the final analysis, the Bureau's future depended on the response to the fund drive. It was up to EVERYONE present to see to it that adequate finance was provided. If the Bureau was maintained, and he was sure it would, it could go from strength to strength and broaden its perspective.

"INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND AMENITIES"

Mr. McManus said that if the Bureau continued on a sound financial footing and became really established it could broaden its scope and expand

its outlook to help provide such essential things as new industry which brought employment and amenities for Co. Fermanagh. The Bureau was now scoring great success with social welfare, housing and farming problems, but if it could expand its outlook to the problem of providing industries as used it would be serving Fermanagh even greater, Mr. McManus went on. The former Fermanagh-South Tyrone M.P. went on to say that Fermanagh was an underdeveloped area and needed as much industry, employment and amenities as possible. Mr. McManus concluded: "I am sure that by now the Citizens' Advice Bureau has become a permanent philanthropic institution in Fermanagh and is publicly recognised as such. My wish, and the wish of all those genuinely concerned about the welfare of the people of Fermanagh and is that it will continue as such. When he had finished speaking the former M.P. received a standing ovation from the present.

MR. FLATLEY'S REPORT—2,003 RECORDED CASES

Mr. Tom Flatley, the Bureau's full-time director, said that he was delighted that every corner of Fermanagh was represented at the A.G.M. — Belleek to Roslea, Enniskillen to Lisnaskea, Ederney and Irvinestown to Derrylin. Here are extracts from Mr. Flatley's report:

In the year March 1973 to the beginning of April 1974, I dealt with 2,003 recorded cases, that is over 400 cases more than last year or an average of almost eight each day. People have come to the Bureau from all over County Fermanagh and from parts of Tyrone. By recorded cases I mean cases which are of such an involved nature that people sit down and give me a detailed account of their problem which I write down in full. These cases take one or two days, a few weeks, or even months to deal with completely. The figure of 2,003 does not include the hundreds, possibly thousands, of cases which I am able to deal with on the spot by giving immediate advice or making a telephone call. You may wonder what all these cases are about.

VARIATION IN CASES

"They vary as wide a field as is conceivable. WELFARE (1,301)—Under this heading are included problems of employment benefits, redundancy payments, family income supplement and supplementary assistance. HOUSING (462)—The problems concerning housing are mainly from who want a council house, and also from people who want to be transferred from one area to another. Dealing with these problems is the most time-consuming work of all. It means visiting the areas and the people concerned, and taking statements and relaying all this information to the Housing Executive. It means organising an information network and keeping in continuous touch with the people concerned. FARM GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (182)

These cases comprise mainly of requests for aid in the completing of application forms for various grants, aid towards the speeding up of delayed payments and information farmers of subsidies they do not know they are entitled to.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE SECURITY FORCES

In addition to all this and to the unrecorded cases

I referred to earlier. I have also given help and advice to a large number of people on Rent and Rates strike. During the year I have had a 70 to 80 per-cent success rate with all cases and I am glad to report that I have had considerable this year with Tribunals. Please God this success in all sections continues. In short the Bureau has become what we all hoped and expected it would become—a centre where all people from all sections of the community can come with their problems. In this connection I am very pleased indeed to report that just over 10 per-cent of the people I dealt with in the past year said they were or are known to be Protestants and that the Bureau is playing its part, even in a small way, bridging the traffic sectarian divide.

The Bureau has filled a vacuum that had existed for far too long. People in trouble, people without hope, people oppressed, and people with everyday problems can come to the Bureau for help and advice. They are promised a confidential and sympathetic hearing and I pledge to do everything I can for them. I hope that in the future, as I become more experienced, I will deal with problems speedier and more efficiently. Since the Bureau opened on 12th January 1971, and particularly in the past two years, I have had the great pleasure of receiving and helping people not with the ordinary everyday problems, but of being able to help a few people who were almost without hope—people who, in spite of the Welfare State, were without money, and in some cases without a roof over their heads.

"EVERYONE KNOWS OF CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU"

Mr. Flatley's report continues: "It is now clear that everyone in Fermanagh knows of the Citizens' Advice Bureau in 3 Queen Street, Enniskillen. It is firmly established and is recognised as a centre of help and advice not only by the people of Fermanagh but by the Government Departments, where I am achieving increased success, and by countless national and international bodies. We have received numerous circulars, publications and information sheets from several Government and international bodies. My hope for the future is that the Bureau will give a better and more comprehensive service to the people of Fermanagh in the coming year, Mr. Flatley concluded amid loud applause.

DIRECTOR THANKED FOR COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

Many speakers rose to thank Mr. Flatley for such a comprehensive report and for his able stewardship during the year. The outgoing Executive Committee was unanimously returned for another year. It is as follows:—Terence Maguire (Killesher); Patrick Maguire, J. J. McManus, Frank McManus, Gabriel Maguire, Eddie Brogan (Enniskillen); Johnny Cox (Garvary); C. Mulligan, Mrs. E. Mulligan, Miss Paula McManus (Lisnaskea); Martin O'Brien (Arney); James Gallagher, Peter Burns (Irvinestown); John Joe McCusker (Newtownbutler); Pat McKenna (Tempo); Tom Smith (Cooman); Tommy O'Hara (Roslea); Maurice McGrath (Ederney); Benny Keon (Garrison); James Carey (Maguiresbridge); Joe McConnell (Mackean); James Murphy (Derrylin).

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