

OMAHA'S IRISH UNITED in PRAYER for BETTER DAYS for ERIN



JERRY HOWARD



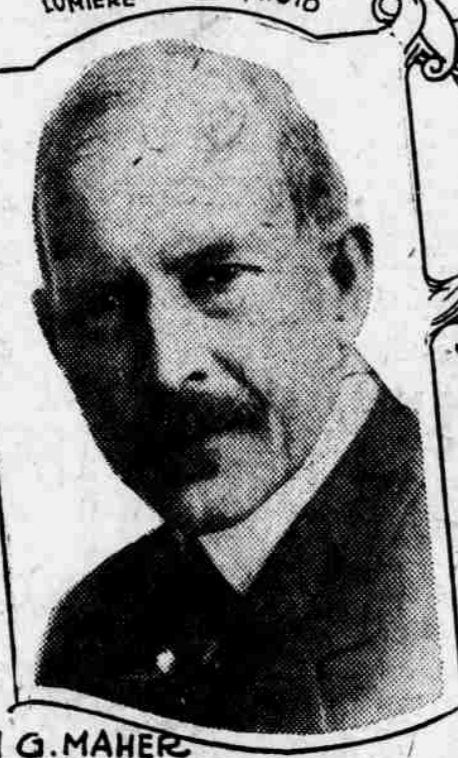
CLINTON R. MILLER LUMIERE PHOTO



THOMAS LYNCH RINEHART MARSDEN PHOTO



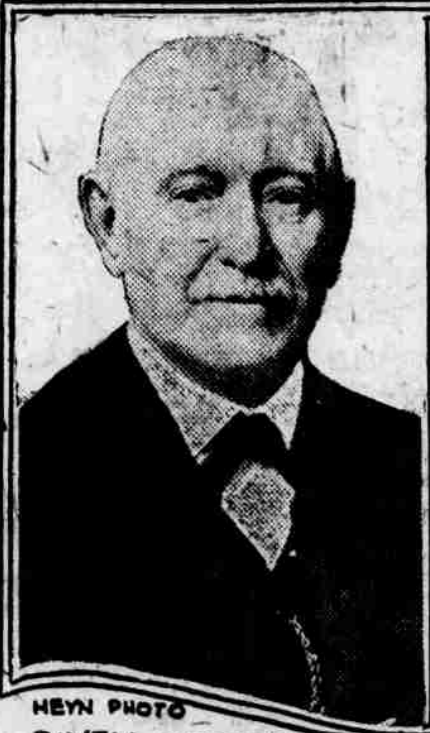
DR. T.R. MULLEN CODY PHOTO



JOHN G. MAHER



DAN BUTLER



OWEN MCCAFFERY HEYN PHOTO



M.P. O'CONNOR HEYN PHOTO



REV. PATRICK J. JUDGE



THOUGH OPINIONS DIFFER AS TO WHAT DESTINY SHOULD BE, HEARTS OF CHILDREN OF EMERALD ISLE BEAT AS ONE IN HOPE FOR PEACE

ST. PATRICK'S DAY THIS YEAR MORE MEANINGFUL THAN EVER BEFORE — FOR FUTURE OF ERIN TREMBLES ON SCALES OF THE GODS

OUT of the chaos in Ireland today will a twentieth century St. Patrick arise to drive the Black and Tans where St. Patrick of old drove the snakes? Will peace in some way come to the stricken isle, so that St. Patrick's day, 1922, may dawn on an Ireland no longer writhing in a maelstrom of raids and retaliations, ambushes and executions, imprisonments and plots? Will it, perhaps, dawn on an island recognized the world over as a new nation, the Irish Republic? These are questions to the fore these days in the thoughts of Omaha men and women of Irish descent. The recent celebration of St. Patrick's day and the simultaneous start of a national drive for \$10,000,000 for Irish relief work have served to give added force to the declarations of many Irish leaders that the future of Erin now hangs in the balance, dependent largely upon history making events of the next six or 12 months. Favor Independence. Seeking bright green shamrocks along the paved stretches of Farnam street would be a venture no more vain than a search today among Gate City Irish for individuals not intensely interested in present conditions in Ireland and their possible solution. They differ—these Omahans—on what the solution should be. Most of the shades of opinion that have grown out of the long struggle for Irish freedom are represented, though among active leaders sentiment appears overwhelmingly in favor of complete Irish independence. But, whatsoever their convictions on the best solution of the Irish problem, they are unanimous in this—wishing for Ireland better days,

What Some Omaha Irish Leaders Think of Struggle in Ireland

Clinton R. Miller, superintendent Omaha Printing company: "Perfect peace between Ireland and Britain can be brought about in 24 hours by the withdrawal of British troops. It is for Irish that all peace-loving people should raise their voices. The Irish question is a world problem and needs a world solution. As we look back over the centuries we see that the wider the dispersion of the Irish race has been the stronger and more compacting has grown the world demand for national and racial independence of Ireland." Thomas Lynch, attorney: "Sentiment for Irish freedom is now at its highest ebb the world over. The Irish question will not be settled until Ireland is free. Then there won't be any Irish problem anywhere." Dr. T. R. Mullen: "I believe Ireland is going to get independence in a very short while. England cannot much longer stand the enormous expense of military occupation of the island and that is the only way England ever will be able to maintain rule over Ireland." John McGowan, contractor, 1015 Georgia avenue: "Justice and humane treatment of a struggling race demand that Ireland have independence. As private in the ranks I am doing all I can to further the cause of Irish freedom." John Rush, Nebraska chairman for Irish relief fund: "Ireland never has been governed by England. Since Henry II invaded the country in 1172, there has been a continuous period of conquest. Many attempts have been made by the Irish to regain freedom, but England always has proven too strong. The present attempt is evidently the most momentous in Irish history. I believe it will succeed." Dan B. Butler, city commissioner: "I believed in Irish independence long before the world war. My advocacy is even stronger now, because one of the reasons for which the war was fought was to help small countries obtain their independence. I believe in self-determination for Ireland, as for other nations." Father P. J. Judge: "The simple solution of the Irish question is for England to withdraw her troops and leave the Irish people to govern themselves through their duly elected representatives. The Irish republican parliament was elected by a majority, representing 40 per cent of the Irish people, and is fully qualified to govern the country. Withdrawal of English troops will bring peace to a long-suffering people and put into practice the policy of self-determination for which the world war was fought." Jerry Howard, former state legislator: "America's recognition of the Irish republic would settle the Irish question. There can be no world peace until the troublemaker is disposed of. Another way this country could aid in solving the Irish problem would be the recalling of the American loan to England. Then that bankrupt country would be unable to maintain the Black and Tans in Ireland. During my recent tour of Ireland I was thoroughly convinced the Irish race cannot be conquered. Every man, woman and child is imbued with the same spirit of patriotism. There is no thought of compromise." Michael P. O'Connor, secretary Powell Supply company: "The republic of Ireland exists through the choice and the support of over 90 per cent of the people of Ireland. No government in the history of the world has ever had more united support. We in America, with our government founded upon the principle that all just government is derived from the consent of the governed, may not consistently withhold recognition from a sister republic organized upon the same basis. There can be no compromise upon the nationhood of Ireland. The ultimate recognition of the Irish republic is inevitable. Why not act now and save suffering and loss of property and life?" that peace and prosperity may come St. Patrick's day prayer of Omaha's order out of chaos. And that, led— Men and women who express

gling for complete severance of ties with England are joining with pronounced advocates of an Irish republic in pouring money into funds for relief work among the suffering in both north and south Ireland. Nor, of course, is this generosity confined to Omahans of Irish descent. Thousands of dollars have been sent from this city in contributions, which included many subscriptions, large and small, from persons of non-Irish forebears. The visits to the United States of De Valera, Mary McSwiney, Donal O'Callahan and others, together with daily newspaper reports of new disorders in the Emerald Isle have awakened in Omaha, as in other cities, a deep and widespread interest in Irish affairs. No Hatred of England. That, say Omaha Irish leaders, is why the United States has on its hands an "Irish question" just as surely as England has. It is a question, they insist, which cannot be dismissed by a characterization as "meddling in European politics and the domestic affairs of England." Hatred of England, they declare, is not involved in the plea for settlement of the Irish problem and the stirring of anti-English feeling, they assert, is not a part of intelligent promotion in this country of the views of even the most pronounced advocates of complete Irish independence. "But," says Thomas Lynch, Omaha attorney, "there'll be an Irish question in the United States as long as Ireland remains in the throes of civil strife. When Ireland's status is permanently fixed, Irish agitation in this country will disappear." Mr. Lynch is convinced the only successful solution of the problem

is complete Irish independence, the recognition of a free and independent Irish republic. Other Means Sought. That the situation is not likely to be settled that way is the opinion of other American Irish in Omaha, who are advocates of peaceful compromise. It is hopeless for Ireland to struggle for complete freedom in the face of bitter English opposition, they believe. In the interest of peace the Irish should concentrate on something more attainable, is their position. There are some Irish here, too, who insist there is no legitimate field in this country for agitation in connection with the present Irish tangle, but they are not numerous, or at least not vociferously so. The large majority of men and women of Irish descent in Omaha, investigation indicates, feel their interest in Ireland should find expression and that they would be neglecting their duty if they did not attempt to use their influence in the present Irish crisis. This sort of agitation, they assert, is legitimate expression of public opinion. They feel it may have its effect in indicating to leaders in England the desires of the large body of Irish descendants in the United States. Devoted to Cause. The great majority of Irish in Omaha, leaders point out, are of the "second generation variety." But it is among these, leaders explain, that there will be found the most radical advocates of the use of force against what they term "brutal English oppression." "These second generation Irish often appear more Irish than the Irish in Ireland," was the way one man put it. But men and women born of the "old sod" are not less devoted to the Irish cause. There are Father P. J. Judge and Owen McCaffery, both born in Ire-

land, on St. Patrick's day. Father Judge was 63 last Thursday and Mr. Caffery was 62. Both of them are sincere and zealous advocates of Irish freedom. Father Judge is convinced the cause of the Irish republic has not yet received a fair hearing through the American press. British money is being used in this country to influence many newspapers, he charges. Desire for Freedom Deep. Then there is Jerry Howard, former state legislator from Omaha, just back from a visit to his birthplace in Galway. There is no more vigilant and active propagandist of Irish independence than Mr. How-

ard. His trip through Ireland convinced him, he says, that the desire for liberty is so deep in the hearts of a majority of the Irish people that they never will be satisfied with anything less than complete independence. Omaha women, too, are showing a deep interest in Irish affairs, both from the standpoint of aiding in relief measures and as partisans of Irish freedom. Many of them are taking an active part in work of the Nebraska branch of the American Association for Recognition of the Irish Republic. 3,000 Members in Omaha. This association effected permanent organization at its state convention in Omaha yesterday. Col. John G. Maher of Lincoln, who has been active in directing association policies, is enthused over the amount of interest shown in Irish affairs in communities throughout the state. The trend of public sentiment is overwhelmingly in favor of Irish independence, he asserts. The organization now has 3,000 members in Omaha and has established branches in 15 other Nebraska cities, officials report. Its object is to obtain from the United States government official recognition for the Irish Republic. Invite "All Americans." "This endeavor," says L. D. Kavanaugh, secretary of the association, "is in harmony with this country's established policy of recognition, without intervention. That policy was initiated more than a century ago in our recognition of the French republic. The association invites the aid and active support of all Americans, regardless of race or creed, to accomplish for the Irish Republic the recognition which this nation in its infancy once sought. To how wide an extent the general public of non-Irish ancestry will respond to this appeal remains to be seen. But the response already has been gratifying, officials of the association say. They assert religious and racial lines are being eradicated in discussion of the Irish problem and the question of complete independence considered on the basis of self-determination for the Irish people. Undoubtedly there are throughout Omaha thousands who know little—and care not a whit—of the history of Sinn Fein, who is Ulster, and of the bitter rivalry between Belfast and Dublin, but whose heartfelt sympathy goes out to stricken Ireland. They join always in extended cheers for "Ireland, God bless her and in offering what aid they towards restoring peace and p once more in Erin.

Spring, the Car and the Countryside

By James J. Montague The ads will tell you that spring is the time to roll leisurely around the countryside and list to nature's teachings. "Nothing like the great outdoors," according to the ads, "to bring a man into touch with waking mother earth, to see the little birds billing and cooing on the tree tops, and to watch the primrose springing by the river's brim. And the way to go is in your new car." The ads are perfectly right about this. Spring is a fine time to get out doors. It is a far better time than winter, when the pleasure of touring is somewhat marred by the necessity of taking a snow shovel along and getting out every 10 feet to clear the drips away. Then, too, there are many things that are more enjoyable than changing a tire in zero weather. One of them is going to jail. After reading these ads, and restraining ourselves with difficulty from buying the new car that it recommended, we decided that it would be a good thing to give spring the up and down, even if we had to do it with the old car. So we let down the jacks we had put under it to keep the weight off the shoes, filled it up with about \$15 worth of gasoline, embarked the family and started. It would have been alright if we had stuck to the highways. But no birds were billing and cooing on the highways, and the stunk cabbages that sprouted beside them were nothing whatever like the primroses by the river's brim. So we turned off into the country roads in order to see spring close aboard, and thereby coming into more intimate touch with her. This we did. The country roads were not all that could be wished for, in fact, they were nothing whatever that could be wished for. In the spots that were not still covered with chocolate covered snow, they were soft with that softness for which New Orleans molasses has won an enviable reputation. It was hard to get through them. But we did it. We kept the car in the two rutts which had been worn down by more adventurous tourists than ourselves, and although we momentarily expected the wheels to be wrenched off, this didn't happen. We would have been happier if it had happened, for on a country road you can sometimes get help. In a field you can't. And it was in a field where the trouble started. Lure of the Fields. It was a crisp frosty morning, with winter's goodbyes still lingering in the air. The fields near the road were smooth and snowless. After 10 miles of a road most of which was picked up by the tires and came right along with us, we were tempted to try something else. So when we found a place where the grass was smooth and the surface hard, we turned out. For a time it seemed as if this was the life. The segments of the road that adhered to our wheels fell away chunk by chunk, and left them free. We stepped on the gas, and bowled happily over the frozen surface. And then we came to a place where there ought to have been a

(Turn to Page Two, Column One.)