

CONNRAÐ NA ÆEÐILÆ,

ÐRÐ ÐOISÐE CORCAIÆ.

Ðán na nÆeðeal,

1 ÆCORCAIÆ,

20ÐÐ Ðealæine, 1914

Ð Çara,

Since we addressed a letter to you a fortnight ago with regard to the use of the national language in public notices and signs, a further instance has cropped up in which a Sub-Committee of the Corporation has made a decision inimical to the language. At a meeting of the Hackney Carriages Committee recently it was decided that notices regulating the traffic in the city should be erected in English only. The minutes of that Committee, as well as the minutes relating to the automobile signs, will come up for ratification at the Corporation meeting on Friday, and we therefore beg to address some further remarks to you on the subject.

In itself, the question of a few signs here and there is a small matter, but all these small matters are very important in the aggregate, and they are all the more important now, because we are on the eve of a change in the conditions of government in this country, and every public decision taken by a representative body of Irishmen is of importance in the determination of future policy and principles. The matter of the signs then is to be judged rather on the question of principle involved, than on the intrinsic question of the signs.

The question of principle involved is the question whether a self-governing Ireland is to base itself upon its own language, or whether it is to deliberately throw that

aside, and adopt the English language finally, and, with it, English habits and customs and thought, gradually losing its distinct individuality, and eventually being swallowed up in England. That is the broad question which is involved in the language movement, and it is a question upon which the majority of our countrymen are certainly agreed, that the Irish language is the language upon which this nation must be based.

That principle is so well recognised now, that we do not think it necessary to labour the point ; but we might remind you that it has already been recognised by the Corporation in the erection of street names in Irish, and that the questions at present pending are questions exactly analagous to the street names.

A whole people cannot, even with the best will in the world, be made Irish-speaking in a day or in a generation ; and the language movement does not ask public bodies to adopt any proposals which are in any way drastic, which would hamper public business, or which can give legitimate offence to any legitimate interest. It does ask that, as the majority of the people are convinced of the rightness of the movement, of the soundness of the claim that the permanent Irish civilisation must be based on the language, public bodies shall give as much countenance and support and recognition to the language as they can. The erection of public signs in Irish in this country is a recognition publicly of the national language, and is a necessary and a patriotic action.

English was made the language of law, of public business, of the Corporation, and of the professions, at a time when 80 per cent. of the inhabitants of this country knew nothing but Irish ; and it has not been the language of a majority of the people for more than half a century ; a very short time in the life of a nation. The Irish people had at that time

no control whatever over any of the public affairs in the country, and they were forced into English unwillingly by all the strength and influence a big organised engine could bring to bear on an unorganised people. Now that the people themselves have some control over public business and public administration, it is not inconceivable to expect that the language which was the only language of Ireland until a comparatively short time ago, which is her own, the product of the country and of the people, the language most suited to them, shall be given as much recognition as it can be given.

The change from English to Irish in Ireland must necessarily be slow, but we submit, Sir, that the erection of public signs in Irish as well as in English is one of the first steps in the process of change, a necessary step and a reasonable step; and we earnestly appeal to you to attend the Corporation Meeting on Friday and, by your vote and influence, to record your adherence to the principle of the Irish Language for the Irish Nation.

On behalf of the Cork Executive of the Gaelic League,

P. S. Ó h-Éideartaigh,
Chairman.

S. Ó Conraeabáin,
Secretary.

Sir Cornus Mac Teige Mac Carthy, became lord of Muskerry
in 1570

6th Oct. 1577

Surrender & regrant

Grant under Queen's letters (Edo) to Sir C. of Woley

Inchevaloghe alias Inchegeylegh

Grant under Queen's letters in May XIX the Edo to C.

of the whole country of Muskerry, & the territories of

Incheary, ac^{ts} --- and Carracknegylegh,

Carrackcorne

(Sir was Teige Mac Carthy)

D. S. O. H. G. S. O.
S. O. G. S. O.
S. O. G. S. O.