

DUBLIN  
1911



Toque hat made of lime-green glossy straw with ostrich feathers. Fashionable life revolved around Dublin Castle, and hats were *de rigueur* with almost 600 milliners in Dublin.

DUBLIN  
1911

Edited by  
CATRIONA CROWE

with contributions from Paul Rouse, Mark Duncan  
and William Murphy

Researcher: Rosie Duffy

RIA

Dublin 1911

First published 2011  
by Prism  
Prism is an imprint of the  
Royal Irish Academy.  
19 Dawson Street  
Dublin 2

www.ria.ie

Prism aims to disseminate scholarship to a general readership.

Copyright © 2011 Royal Irish Academy

ISBN 978-1-904890-79-9

FRONT COVER: Group of children at the beach, paddling in shallow water (1890–1910). Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland (ref: CLAR 29).

FRONT FLAP: Chromolithograph from the Paris fashion house of Atelier Bachwitz. Youthful black British straw hat. Brim turned up all round and faced with a collar shaped flounce of cream lace. The latter is finished off with a smart bow of black ribbon on either side.

BACK COVER: Advertisement: 'Fry's Pure Cocoa'. *Irish Society and Social Review* XXIV (1249) (23 December 1911). Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland (ref: IR 05 i 33, p. 4194).

Advertisement: 'About 250 bakers wanted at once in Dublin'. *Irish Independent*, 4 October 1911, 4.

Advertisement: "So you are a cyclist?" (J.J. Kelly). *Irish Society and Social Review* XXIV (1216) (6 May 1911). Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland (ref: IR 05 i 33, p. 8622).

Advertisement: 'Schreier Ladies' Tailor and Habit Makers'. *Irish Society and Social Review* XXIV (1248) (16 December 1911). Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland (ref: IR 05 i 33, p. 4157).

Advertisement: 'Cole, 18 Lower Sackville Street, Dublin'. *Irish Independent*, 3 April 1911, 1.

BACK FLAP: Advertisement: 'Smith and Pearson Ltd'. *Irish Independent*, 6 July 1911, 1.

All rights reserved. The material in this publication is protected by copyright law. Except as may be permitted by law, no part of the material may be reproduced (including by storage in a retrieval system) or transmitted in any form or by any means; adapted; rented or lent without the written permission of the copyright owners.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data. A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.



**An Roinn**  
**Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**  
**Department of**  
**Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**

This publication has received support from the National Archives of Ireland and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Design: Fidelma Slattery

Printed in Northern Ireland by Nicholson & Bass

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# CONTENTS

A GUIDE TO THIS BOOK.....	vii
INTRODUCTION.....	ix
JANUARY.....	1
FEBRUARY.....	33
MARCH.....	53
APRIL.....	65
MAY.....	105
JUNE.....	113
JULY.....	127
AUGUST.....	143
SEPTEMBER.....	163
OCTOBER.....	181
NOVEMBER.....	199
DECEMBER.....	209
REFERENCES.....	231
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	242
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	245

## THE PASSING OF THE BARBER PERHAPS



It has been seriously suggested that the Coronation Year should be celebrated by the male citizens of the Empire adopting the example of certain illustrious personages and, by discarding the razor, cultivate the stately beard. Apart from the brilliancy of the suggestion, the results in many cases would be bound to be startling.

# A GUIDE TO THIS BOOK

The idea for this book arose from the National Archives' 1911 census website, which contains rich contextual and illustrative material relating to Dublin in that year, compiled by Paul Rouse and Mark Duncan.

The book starts in January with accounts of New Year celebrations, and proceeds month by month through the year. There are essays about Dublin in the early twentieth century on subjects like law and order, education, religion, transport, poverty, literary life and migration, among others. The essays are preceded by relevant reports from contemporary newspapers. In January, for example, a report on the theft of chalices from a church in Bray leads into a section on law and order. Other items of interest are whimsical, and the main news event was the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to Dublin in mid-July.

In contrast to the luxury of the royal visit coverage, there is a section on poverty in the city, illustrated by remarkable photographs from the Royal Society of Antiquaries' 'Darkest Dublin' collection. The section on fashion tells the story of the controversial 'trouser skirt', a peculiar garment in vogue at the time. The transport section reminds us that, long before the Luas, Dublin had a wonderful tram network, although the motor car was beginning its inexorable rise as the dominant transport choice.

Census forms are used to illustrate the household and institutional realities of life for Dublin citizens; for example, the page for Mountjoy Prison provides details of prisoners' crimes and length of sentences, as well as their occupations prior to imprisonment. Readers will see an invitation to a Mr and Mrs Alfred B. Coyle to at-

tend a garden party at the vice-regal lodge during the royal visit (page 133); a quick search on the census website reveals Mr Coyle to be living at Highfield Road in Rathgar, an insurance broker, married for two years, with one child, also Alfred B.

The book does not purport to offer a comprehensive history of the year, rather to provide a series of interesting snapshots of what was happening. At the end of the book full references are supplied to enable readers to follow any trail that catches their imagination. It is hoped that readers will go on to use the census online ([www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)), as well as the variety of other sources provided in the book, to further research their own families, communities and neighbourhoods.



Postcard of O'Connell Bridge and Sackville Street.

# INTRODUCTION

In 1911 Dublin was moving into a decade of remarkable change. The 1913 Lockout would redefine the nature of commerce and class relations in the city. The First World War would see many thousands of Dubliners fight at Gallipoli, Flanders and the Somme. Many would never come home. The 1916 Rising, followed by the War of Independence in 1919–21 and the ensuing Civil War, would change Ireland utterly.

Dublin was the centre of Irish administration, home to the lord lieutenant, the earl of Aberdeen and the chief secretary, Augustine Birrell, respectively the symbolic and administrative representatives of British power in Ireland. The city was also a transition destination for people emigrating, a port city and the location for large numbers of soldiers living in its many barracks. The population of the city and county of Dublin in 1911 was 477,196.

The Irish literary revival was in full swing, and many of its

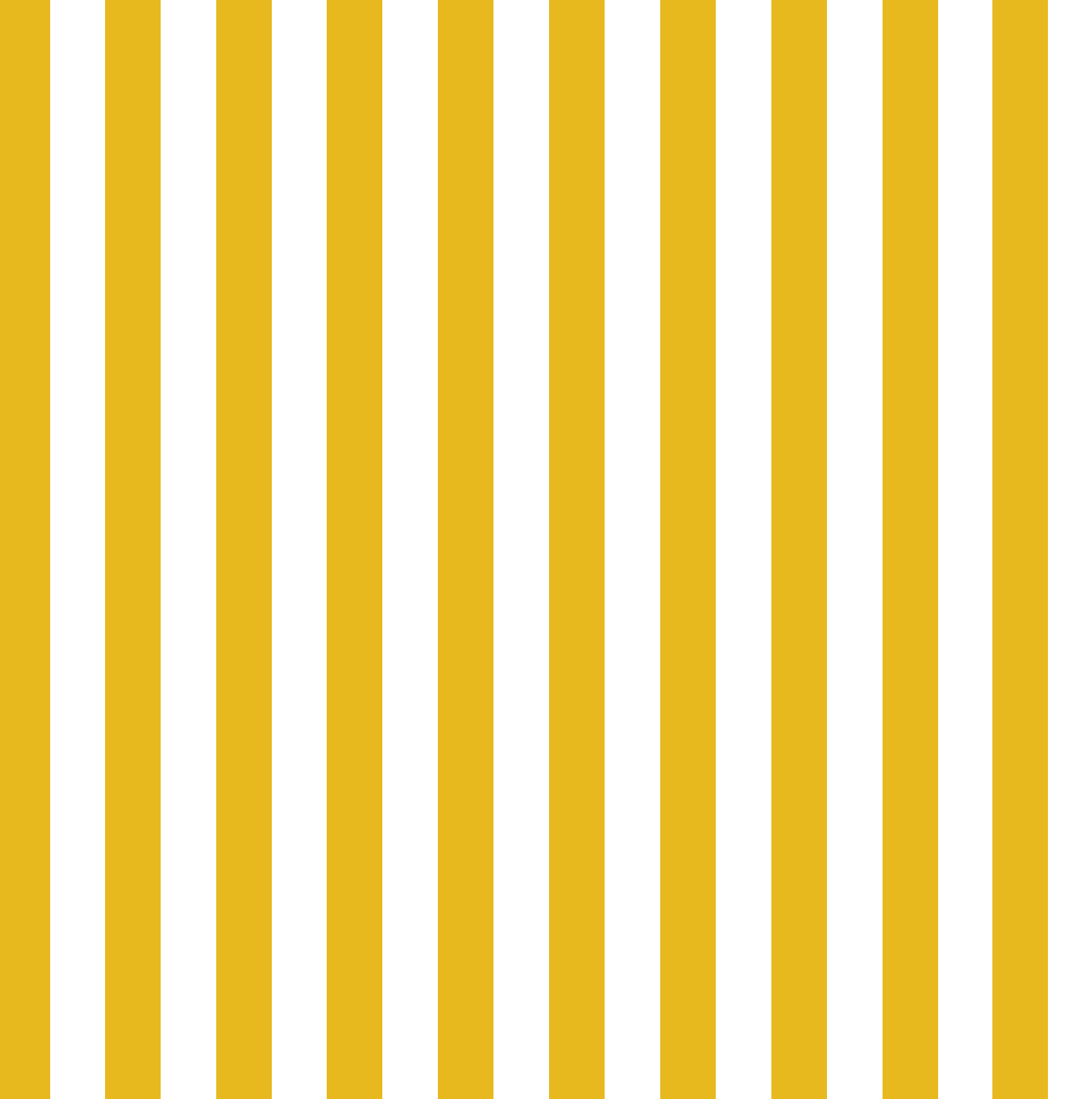
protagonists, Pádraig Pearse, Douglas Hyde, Lady Augusta Gregory and W.B. Yeats lived and worked in the city. John Millington Synge had already seen some of his extraordinary plays produced in the newly founded Abbey Theatre, and had divided the city with his representation of the Irish peasantry. James Joyce was living abroad, but was already writing *Ulysses*, which, in probably the most important novel of the twentieth century, immortalised the city as it was in 1904. The Gaelic Athletic Association was attracting large numbers to its clubs and events.

Dublin was also home to some of the worst slums in Europe, with 33% of households living in single-room accommodation. The Georgian houses which formed the distinctive architectural fabric of the city had largely descended into multi-occupancy tenement dwellings. Diseases like typhoid, tuberculosis and dysentery were rife, and child mortality was ex-

tremely high. The middle classes had moved to the suburbs of Rathmines, Rathgar, Drumcondra and Clontarf, leaving the inner city to the poor.

Home Rule was the government of choice for the majority of Dubliners at this point, and the Irish Parliamentary Party, under the leadership of John Redmond, was the most powerful political party in the city. The outbreak of the First World War and the effect of the British response to the 1916 Rising were to scupper Home Rule and catapult separatist ideas into the ascendancy.

But no-one foresaw any of this in 1911. We look back at the people who lived in the city then, in all of their economic, social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, and must remember that, like us today, they did not know what the future held for them. Like us, they wanted to live their lives in some degree of peace, comfort and affection, and to see their children live and prosper.





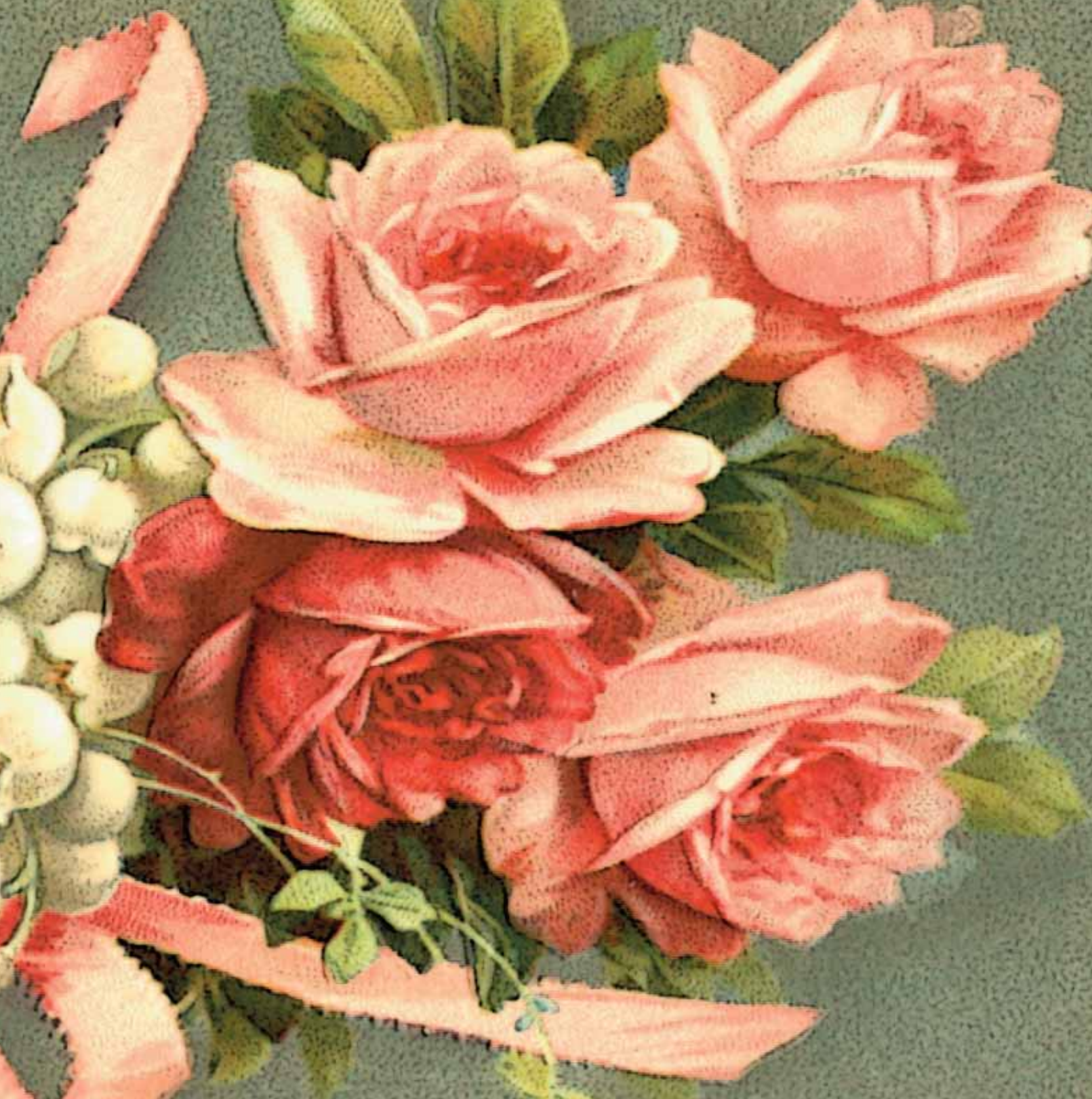
SI M2 T3 W4 T5 F6 S7 ◀ S8 M9 T10 W11 T12 F13 ○ S14 S15 M16 T17 W18 T19 F20 S21 ▶ S22 M23 T24 W25 T26 F27 S28 S29 ● M30

#### Holidays and Observances

7... Old Christmas Day   8... First Quarter, 6.20am   14... Full Moon, 10.26pm   22... Last Quarter, 6.21am   30... New Moon, 9.45am



ALL  
NEW YEAR  
Joys be yours.



---

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT,  
1 JANUARY 1911

---

# CHIMING BELLS

# NEW YEAR

RUNG IN;

THE OLD  
RUNG OUT

LAST NIGHT  
IN DUBLIN

The New Year was ushered in last night in Dublin amid many manifestations of gaiety and rejoicing. With the advance of the age the manner of celebrating

the passing away of the old year, and the birth of the new year, must necessarily undergo a transformation. In the "good old days," which generally means a time so far back that nobody remembers all its discomforts, New Year celebrations were, as a rule, associated with midnight orgies and scenes of disorder. The extraordinary escapades of the College students is now but a memory. In the present youthful generation, there is an entire absence of that dare-devil recklessness, which manifested itself in an utter disregard for the law, and its ministers.

So it was that last night the old time celebrations, which marked the dawning of the New Year, were noticeable by their absence. Even the usual turn out of the organ grinders in the Chancery lane district was not observed. This was always one of the features of the celebrations in Dublin, and large crowds flocked to the district to hear the extraordinary melodies of sound created by dozens of barrel organs.

## SWEET CHIMING BELLS

The only link with the past characteristic of last night's rejoicings was the magnificent chime of bells at Christ Church. In accordance with a time-honoured custom, there was a great throng in the vicinity of the church, many of them indulging in the singing of New Year hymns. Several of the principal thoroughfares were crowded as midnight approached.

---

**Clery's**  
Winter  
**SALE**  
Begins  
**TO-DAY**  
AND WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT JANUARY.

Every thing marked in Plain Figures  
Come early for the Best Bargain

Illustrated Catalogue  
Post Free  
on Application.

Post Orders  
receive  
Special Attention.

**Clery & Co., Ltd., Dublin**



# FLASHES FROM THE FOOTLIGHTS

## AT THE OPERA

It is pleasant to be able to chronicle that the Carl Rosa Opera Company season at the Theatre Royal has, so far, been crowned with unequivocal success. The houses have been good, the performances excellent, and, if encores afford any index, the popular appreciation of the keenest order.

\*\*\*\*

## GAIETY THEATRE


“Robinson Crusoe” at the Gaiety has now got into full swing and promises to make a record so far as popularity is concerned. Few

prettier pantomimes have ever been dressed at the Gaiety than the one which this year is drawing crowded houses nightly. Sparkling music, talented artistes, splendid scenery, beautiful dresses, and really good comedy and original specialties all contribute to make “Robinson Crusoe” one of the brightest productions seen in Dublin for many a year. The songs have caught the public fancy immensely and are more likely to do so as the days go by. Every facility is afforded not alone to people in the city but to those in the country to pay a visit to the pantomime, matinees taking place every Wednesday and Saturday. All who have not yet done so should make up their minds to go and see

“Robinson Crusoe.” Not alone to children, but to grown-ups it provides a treat.

\*\*\*\*

## QUEEN'S THEATRE

“Little Red Riding Hood” at the Queen’s continues to draw crowded and appreciative houses, and there is every sign that this welcome condition of affairs will continue. The popular taste was struck by a four weeks’ pantomime production at the Brunswick street house, and the management are to be congratulated on their enterprise. The piece abounds in diverting fun. It may well be said that there is 

not a dull moment from start to finish. This could hardly be otherwise with two such really clever comedians as Messrs. Cullen and Carthy to the forefront, assisted by Little Cluley. They are the life and soul of the piece, and their very names on the poster will ensure crowded audiences. In addition to the comedy of the pantomime – and there is plenty of it, and rightly so – the production is staged very prettily and attractively, and both scenery, effects, songs and specialities are excellent. Everything foreshows a successful production during the weeks yet to come. There will be matinees on Monday, January 2nd; Wednesday, January 4th, and Saturday, January 7th.

\*\*\*\*

## EMPIRE THEATRE

At the Empire this week, the famous comedian, Harry Roxbury and his company in the laughing hit “The Prince of Monte

Carlo” should prove a prime attraction. The piece is described as a merry musical melango with full comic opera chorus, and will be presented in three charming scenes. Another favourite turn will be that of Martin Henry and Irene Ross in the “Silver Medal.” In a diversified programme the following also appears: Clark and Clare, the tramp and the girl; Warwick Chronicle of daily up-to-date events; Tambo and Tambo, the great tambourine spinners; the Two Ives, champion ball punchers; Edie Gray and boys, in a novel vocal and specialty act; Ida Dorrie, dainty comedienne, and the Empire Pictures. There will be a picture matinee at 2.30 daily during this week.

\*\*\*\*

## ROTUNDA

The attractions of Carter’s magic at the Round Room, Rotunda, during the week have attracted a full share of the public patronages during the holidays, there being full houses at each matinee

and evening performance daily. The matinees have been remarkable for the good attendance experienced. In the perfect and elaborate series of illusions Mr. Carter has exhibited, all of which are excellently demonstrated, the most astonishing is clearly that styled “Levitation.” In the opening part of the programme there are many skilful and smart digital manipulations, which are not only notable for their quickness and cleverness, but also for the pleasant run of wit, with which they are accompanied. This part includes an oracular future in the “Astral Hand,” which indicates that answers to questions put by the audience. Miss Corinne Carter gives a clever performance in answering questions. “A Night in China” is a well presented Oriental act, which contains some surprises of an uncanny, but nevertheless pleasing character. The orchestra formed by the string band of the Rifle Brigade discourses popular music at each performance. There will be a matinee and evening entertainment all this week.



---

BEAN NA H-ÉIREANN  
(WOMAN OF IRELAND)  
VOL II, NO. 23, Eanáir  
(JANUARY) 1911

---

### **Na Fianna Éireann**

The new year will bring new work, new energy, and new hope for the old cause, and we are all turning over the one idea in our hearts, "What can we do for Ireland in the new year?" 1911 must be a great year.

---

IRISH TIMES,  
2 JANUARY 1911

---

### **New Year's Day in Dublin**

On the stroke of midnight on Saturday the hoarse shrieks of steam "hooters" and syrens seemed almost to tear their way through the star-spangled empyrean, and the sweeter sounds of clanging and jangling bells from church towers tossed and jostled each other in joyous confusion as they welcomed the new and sped the parting year, while on foot the moving crowds of merry-makers exchanged their greetings and good wishes. Already the past is becoming but a memory: all hail the coming year with hope and confidence.

# THE NEW YEAR

By contrast to the opening of last year, the incoming of 1911 is wholly free from excitement. Last January we were in the midst of election turmoil; now we have so recently emerged from another conflict that in affairs political an air of lassitude is everywhere observable. Two General Elections in the space of a year; the tragic interruption of the Constitutional struggle last May by the unexpected death of King Edward; the prolonged truce during which Ministers and ex-Ministers tried to arrange a settlement of one Veto question by consent; the collapse of the negotiations, and the decisive action of Mr. Asquith in appealing at once to the country, present a

record as remarkable as can be chronicled of any year during the past half-century. Small wonder that the New Year should seem to come upon us almost unobserved. It was rumoured a while ago that the New Year's Honours List would give a foretaste of what the Peers might expect in case of an obstinate resistance to the passage of the Parliament Bill. From this point of view, the Honours List is a disappointment. No new Peers have been created. The most notable features of the British honours are the appointment of Mr. William Abraham, the son of a Welsh miner, as a member of the Privy Council, and the conferring of Knighthoods on a number of distinguished Civil Servants. Men prominent in the working of the Union of South Africa have also been honoured, and amongst them Dr. Jameson figures as the recipient of a baronetcy. In the Irish list the first name is that of Mr. T. Shillington, a veteran Liberal, who stood for South Armagh against the late Colonel Saunderson in 1885, and in South Tyrone as a Home rule

candidate, against Mr. T.W. Russell in 1895. The Knighthood conferred on Dr. J.M. Redmond, a past president of the Royal College of Physicians, will give great pleasure, not only to his brethren of the medical profession, but to the wide public amongst whom his name and reputation are known. A similar distinction has been conferred on a leading member of the legal profession, Mr. J. P. Lynch, a past President of the Incorporated Law Society.

The figures of the Exchequer returns for the third quarter of the financial year also appear this morning, and they must be extremely gratifying to Mr. Lloyd George. In his statement last June, the Chancellor of the Exchequer estimated that the total revenue for the financial year would amount to £199,791,000, representing a total estimated increase of £68,094,544. To realise his estimate, Mr. Lloyd George must get in £61,850,368, but it cannot be doubted that this figure will be exceeded. Each of the past three quarters has yielded an increase over the correspon-

## 1911 DIARIES.

Business Diaries and Pocket Diaries in profuse variety at 28 Dame street. Have we filled *your* order yet?

**HELY'S, LIMITED,**  
IRELAND'S PREMIER STATIONERS  
AND PRINTERS.  
**DAME ST., AND ACME WORKS,**  
DUBLIN.

ding quarter of the previous financial year, and these increases have taken place under every head of revenue except Crown Lands. The effects of the Budget are noticeable in the official returns of the shipments of whiskey from Dublin during 1910. At the end of September a comparison of the nine months' exports with those for the corresponding period of 1909 showed a decrease of 1,560 butts: the whole year's trade shows a decline of 1,290 butts. On the other hand, the shipments of porter from Dublin during the year have gone up by 76,645 hogsheads. We cannot discover from the Exchequer returns what is the proportion which Ireland contributes to the

great increase in the Revenue; but it can be taken for granted that some of the calculations upon which Unionist journals have been basing statements about the insuperable financial obstacle to Home Rule would have to be recast were the figures fairly set forth. Apart, however, from the general question of the amount of increased taxation which Ireland has had to pay under the Budget, it is clear from the returns of the whiskey exports from Dublin during the last year that the distilling trade and the industries more or less dependent upon it have been badly hit. A decrease of more than 134,000 gallons in the shipments from this port tells its own story.

# RINGING OUT THE OLD

Of the many time-honoured customs associated with the passing of the Old Year and the birth of the New in the Metropolis, the only one that seems to have survived is the ringing of the magnificent chime of the bells at Christchurch.

There were very many in the vicinity of the church awaiting the gladsome peal at midnight of Saturday. Light-hearted youths paraded the streets playing melodeons and mouth organs, and many persons among the crowds near the Church sang New Year hymns.

Shortly before midnight, as the bells pealed out merrily, the sirens of the boats in the harbour also welcomed the New Year.

Large numbers who flocked to the Chancery lane district to see the organ-grinders joining in the celebrations were disappointed.

# BRAY

## SACRILEGE

---

### THE ACCUSED HOOTED IN COURT


Bray Courthouse was last evening a scene of great excitement in relation to a case which has caused widespread interest.

On the night of the 2nd and morning of the 3rd inst., St. Peter's Catholic Church, Bray, was broken into, and two chalices, and one ciborium stolen, and 15s in money taken out of donation boxes. Two brothers named William and Peter Fitzpatrick were arrested and charged with the offence. A spe-

cial Court was held, over which Mr. Reigh, J.P., presided, to take depositions. On the way from the police barracks to the Courthouse a hostile mob assembled and loudly hooted the prisoners, while there were cries of "Cowards," "Lynch them," "Hang them." The police had considerable difficulty in keeping the crowd from laying violent hands on the prisoners. In the Courthouse some two hundred men had assembled, and it was

clear that they had gathered to make a demonstration.

### POLICE EVIDENCE

When the prisoners were arraigned they denied all knowledge of the affair – at which declaration several people in the court hooted. George Meignean, clerk of St. Peter's, deposed to finding that a robbery had 

# FITZGERALD & Co



• DUBLIN •

---

ALWAYS ASK FOR  
Flower & M'Donald's  

---

---

**IRISH SALT.**

---

---

☞ taken place. Sergeant Foley informed the Court that Peter Fitzpatrick had 5s 9d on him when arrested, and he could not say how he came by it. He was then drunk. On his becoming sober, he denied breaking into the chapel, and said he had got the money by begging. There was a cut on his chin – due, he said, to shaving, “but,” added Sergeant Slator, who had preferred the charge, the man afterwards admitted that he had not shaved for three days. In Wm. Fitzpatrick's house, Sergeant Slator discovered the top of the missing ciborium

and other articles. A remand for eight days was then granted.

At this stage the crowd in the body of the court made a rush in the direction of the prisoners, but the police held back those who wished to lay violent hands on the Fitzpatricks. There was a perfect yell of booing, intermingled with persistent shouts of “Hang them,” “Crucify them,” “Murder them,” “Shoot them,” “Burn them,” “We will kill them when we get them outside.” Other language was also used. Inspector Hardy ordered the place to be cleared, which was done in a very

quiet way by Sergeants Foley and Slator. The prisoners smiled at those who appeared disposed to attack them. The crowd remained outside the Courthouse until the prisoners were escorted to the police barracks, where they again had a hostile reception; but the police succeeded in getting them into the barracks without injury. A large number of people at the railway station hooted the prisoners as they left Bray for Dublin, where they are detained in Mountjoy Prison.

# MURDER and SUICIDE in DUBLIN

Two occupants of the house, 9 Mary's Abbey, were found dead yesterday on the premises. They were William McKeon and his wife, Mrs. McKeown. The bodies were taken to Jervis street Hospital, and examined by Dr. O'Doherty, house surgeon. It was found that the woman's throat was cut right across, the wind-pipe being severed. Death had followed immediately upon the infliction of the wound. There was a similar cut across the man's throat. Both the deceased persons were between 30 and 40 years of age.

A cobbler's knife was found on the floor of the house, close to the bodies. The assumption made by the police from this, and from the results of their inquiries, is that William McKeon murdered his wife, and afterwards committed suicide, the cobbler's knife being used in each case. An extraordinary feature of the affair is suggested by the presence of blood on a grindstone in the room where the bodies lay. It would seem that after employing it on the woman, Mr. McKeon sharpened the knife on the stone before cutting his own throat.