

All About People : Tittle Tattle

Major D. J. Toomey was born at Glebe, Sydney, 26 years ago, where his father was licensee of the Burton Hotel. He was educated at the Marist Brothers' School, Darlinghurst and, prior to enlistment was employed as clerk at the Yorkshire Insurance Co., Sydney. He left here in 1914, with the 1st Division as second lieutenant in the Australian Field Artillery. He went through Anzac, Egypt and France without a break, until he was attacked with gas on November 9, when he was taken to hospital in London.

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The experience of the "Catholic Press" during the past year is probably unique in the history of journalism. In other times, and indeed in other countries to-day, the difficulty has been to persuade people to read Catholic papers. The "Catholic Press" has a different story to tell. During the past year we have found it absolutely impossible to meet the demand. Our machines have worked day and night, yet an hour or two after publication every week the "Press" has been sold out, and we have had to turn a deaf ear to the pleas of newsagents in Sydney, and all other towns in the Commonwealth. Owing to the increased cost of paper, we raised the price to 4d, and issued a notice to newsagents that no "returns," or unsold copies, would be received. That steadied the pressure for a week or two; but the demand then increased with redoubled force. During the conscription campaign we could have sold at least another 50,000 a week; and to find that we could not keep pace with the popularity of the paper was heart-breaking. But new machinery is unobtainable now, and

new machinery is unobtainable now, and we must only do the best we can with our present resources till the war is over.

His Grace Archbishop Mannix, with Bishop Phelan of Sale, and Bishop Foley of Ballarat, are enjoying a month's holiday at the favourite Victorian seaside resort, Lorne. Dr. McCarthy, Bishop of Sandhurst, has gone to Tasmania, where his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney will also take his vacation next month.

His Grace Archbishop Mannix, on his return from Lorne in the first week of February will take up his residence at Raheen, Kew, formerly the property of the late Sir Henry Wrixon. Extensive improvements have been effected to the house and grounds.

We are glad to read Mr. George A. B. Dewar's trenchant article in the "Daily Mail" on the Irish muddle. The late editor of the "Saturday Review" is not likely to be suspected of Sinn Fein sympathies, and his words carry the more weight. He tells us that, a month ago, despite its successes at elections, Sinn Feinism looked like a waning force. To-day "it is another name for the vast bulk of the youth outside Ulster." Why? Because once again Dublin Castle has played the fool. You have all heard of the Thomas Ashe case. But this is how the facts are summarised by a half-English, half-Irish Conservative: "In Ireland the authorities got into their heads, apparently, the fancy that we were out not so much to win the war against Germany as to win a ridiculous squabble with the Mountjoy prisoners about their meals, their boots and their beds. So they forgot the western front and went in for the 'little packet' policy in Dublin. They

the 'little packet' policy in Dublin. They took away Ashe's boots and bedding for fear he should damage the nation's property; whereupon he went on hunger strike. They fed him by a tube to keep him alive,

and in a short time he was dead." Mr. Dewar fears, too, that this is not an isolated, but a typical case. "The Irish," he says, "are sensitive and intensely suspicious today. They have been muddled and mismanaged. It is too late to deride them, and too late to dragoon them. . . . It is time we turned over a new leaf." What England needs to exercise, he says—and how truly!—is "a little more intelligence and imagination." "But," asks "Everyman," commenting on Mr. Dewar's article, "have we got them to exercise? Or shall we just sit stupidly by while The Castle drives Ireland into a revolution?"

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The Very Rev. Father J. Sullivan, S.J., of Riverview, has been appointed the successor to the Very Rev. Father J. O'Dwyer, S.J., in the Rectorship of Xavier College, Kew, Melbourne. Father Sullivan is a native of Melbourne, and received his early education at St. Patrick's College, East Melbourne. Father O'Dwyer has been spoken of as likely to be the first principal of Newman College, to be opened at the Melbourne University early this year, but no appointment has yet been made. The Very Rev. Father P. J. McCurtin, S.J., who spent the past year at Xavier College, will take up Father Sullivan's duties as Prefect of Studies at Riverview.

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Mother Weld, of the Sacred Heart Convent, Rose Bay, passed away on Tuesday evening. Mother Weld was a sister of the well-known London ecclesiastic, the late

WELL-KNOWN LONDON ecclesiastic, the late Monsignor Weld, and a niece of Governor Weld, formerly of Tasmania. She has worked very actively for many years in Australia, particularly in Sydney. On the foundation of the Sacred Heart Convent, Kincoppal, she taught there for some time, and her work, especially in the instruction of converts, was most highly appreciated. She bore her painful illness with true Christian fortitude.—R.L.P.

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Sister J. O'Dwyer, a trainee of St. Vincent's Hospital, left here with the first hospital ship, and was given charge of the infectious tents attached to Heliopolis Hospital. While in charge of the 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station she was awarded the Royal Red Cross (second class).

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Mr. Justice Real, of Brisbane, is visiting Sydney. The judge, who is a native of Limerick, is 71 years of age, and was only four years old when he was brought to Australia.

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Sydney's Lord Mayor, Mr. Joynton Smith, M.L.C., who has undergone an operation on his eyes, is improving, and, linked by an attendant, may be seen taking exercise in Macleay-street every evening.

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It is cabled that the London "Daily Chronicle" publishes a long article from Dublin emphasising that these are critical days for the Irish Convention, and urging the necessity for settlement on a basis of autonomy within the Empire. The only difficulty now is the matter of safeguards for Ulster, which can be solved, given goodwill and good faith among the negotiators. Leading Unionists already say, "If you could guarantee us that the Irish Parlia-

could guarantee us that the Irish Parliament would be a body like the convention we could have no hesitation in accepting it." The "Daily Chronicle" goes on: "Concessions can be made to meet these apprehensions. There are also modern devices for securing the representation of minorities." Other newspapers publish similar articles suggesting that negotiations have reached an important stage, and pleading for the utmost effort to avoid a breakdown. The delegates are not asked to find a perfect form of government, but to find a solution acceptable to all Irishmen.

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It was sad office that Monsignor Long was called to perform at Bodangora last week, when it fell to him to conduct the ceremony at the graveside of Owen Boss, who was drowned in the Macquarie River two days previously. Owen was one of the most popular members of Bodangora society, and as a mark of the esteem in which they held him the Bodangora miners and the members of the local football club marched in front of the funeral cortege, which was about a mile in length. The remains, which were encased in an oaken casket with a leaden shell, were first taken to St. Patrick's Church, where the coffin was completely hidden from view by the floral tributes which came from near and far.—
R.I.P.

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We wish to lay a little flower on the grave of a brave young western soldier in Private Harold Young, of Mudgee, a son of Mr. W. R. Young, and grandson of the late C. R. Young, of "Avoca," Randwick, and the pioneer storekeeper and miller of Gulgong.

Private Young died in a military hospital in England, and his father (who, immedi-

in England, and his father (who, immediately on hearing of his illness, went across to be near him) arrived in time to be at the deathbed of his lad. The young soldier, who was a former pupil of the Mudgee Convent School, lost another brother at the war, while yet another has been invalided home disabled. Added to this, his father has had two brothers killed in action.
—R.I.P.

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Despite the fact that current gossip is responsible for the statement that the well-known provincial journalist and newspaper proprietor, Private J. N. Crowley, of the "Wyalong Star," is a prisoner of war in Germany, there seems but little reason to doubt that he has paid the last debt of Empire. At the Country Press Conference in Sydney, in October last, a cable was forwarded to him from the assembled pressmen, but was returned "unclaimed," and he was officially reported as missing. Later Mr. T. Shakespeare, manager of the C.P.A., received information, which led him to believe that the matter had passed beyond doubt, and the Executive on Boxing Day recorded a motion of condolence with his widow and family. Now the city dailies report both Private Crowley and one of his sons as having been killed in France.

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"Crossed the bar" from Hill End the other day another of those pioneers that blazed the track, in the person of Mr. P. Jeffrey, aged 70. The deceased, who lived for 40 years at Hill End, arrived in this State when very young, and became a shareholder in the Rose of England mine, on the famous Hawkins Hill, with his father, brother and W. Adams. This was in 1870, when Hill End was in the zenith of its fame

when the end was in the zenith of its fame as a gold-producing centre. They cleared up £60,000 per man. The old gentleman was exceedingly popular, and left a long line of descendants.

The milk of human kindness forms a dominant portion of the constituents that go to make the average man on the land in the west, and instances of his charitableness are of constant occurrence. The latest happened last week at Lake Cudgellieo, where the crop of the late Private Andy Woods was ripening, and unless it was stripped immediately, his widow and children would be the sufferers. It did not take the neighbouring farmers long to have the whole crop bigged up and stacked. The same men performed the same good turn for Private Jack Woods, who is plugging away at the Turks in Palestine. Thirteen harvesting gangs last week belonging to the district farmers of Dunedoo, arrived at the farm of Mrs. A. Sheridan, who recently lost her husband, and in two days they had harvested her crops of 800 bags of wheat, and stowed it away. The Dunedoo bakers and butchers supplied bread and meat while the hotelkeepers provided liquid refreshment. These men are heroes equally as much as those who are doing their bit over yonder.

The hum of the stripper is being heard right through the west, and the harvest is one of the heaviest on record. West and north, and north-west of Orange, the wheat farmer is faced with "crops above the fence;" millions of bushels of ripening grain are staring him in the face, but he has had to pour out thousands of bushels of the golden seeds on to the ground, through not being able to procure bags to bag it. This, despite the fact that the men of great

despite the fact that the man of great promises, Mr. W. M. Hughes, promised that there would be ample jute available by harvest time. He probably meant next harvest. The crops garnered have gone from six to thirteen bags to the acre, and the weight of the grain is much higher than previously. Many farmers have gathered their grain, and delivered portion of it, but they have yet to receive payment, though it is rumoured that an instalment will arrive within a week or so. Labour in the west has been exceptionally dear this year, which, added to the extra cost for bags, twine, oil, &c., has made the farmers' row a fairly hard one to hoe, and has also depleted his credit balance at his bank to such an extent that the Wheat Board cheque will come as a welcome friend.

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The death is reported of Mr. James Darby, on January 1, as a result of wounds received at the front, the son of Mr. Darby, of The Avenue, Petersham, and brother of the Rev. Father Richard Darby, St. Mary's Cathedral, Assistant Inspector of Catholic Schools. Than the late Mr. James Darby no more edifying Catholic young man has left Australia for the front. He was well-known in all the organisations of men at St. Thomas's, Lewisham, and one of the most progressive members of the young men's Catholic debating society.—R.I.P.

His relatives at West Wallsend have been informed that Private Kenneth C. Hill, second son of Thomas Hill, had been killed in action on October 9. He enlisted in September, 1915, and had taken part in the biggest battles on the western front, and the whole of the time was serving as stretcher-bearer, and while doing so met

stretcher-bearer, and while doing so met his death. This brave young Australian had endeared himself to everyone that knew him for his honesty and sterling qualities, and we may be quite certain that he met his death with the same gentleness of spirit that always characterised his actions. His death came as a great shock to his parents, sisters and brothers, but they are consoled in the fact that he obeyed the call of duty. He was 25 years of age, and was a native of Hillgrove.—R.I.P.

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With the New Year certain changes are being made in the direction of the Marist Brothers' Colleges, which will be of interest to our readers. Brother Borgia, B.A., who guided St. Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, from success to greater success for the past five years, will go to New Zealand, after a brief sojourn at Mittagong. Brother Osmond, B.A., who has been equally successful at the High School, Darlinghurst, will take Brother Borgia's place at Hunters Hill.

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The Rev. Father Leydon, who recently returned from Rome, where he studied for the priesthood, is at present on a visit to Geelong. Father Leydon, who is an old Geelong boy, is the son of Mrs. Leydon, of High-street, Geelong. Mrs. Leydon has also another son studying at Rome for the priesthood.

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Mrs. Catherine Bastick, a very old resident of Orange, died suddenly on the 3rd inst. The deceased lady was apparently in the best health, having attended St. Joseph's Church on the previous morning. Shortly before her death she was heard to call out, and Mrs. Stephens immediately went to her bedside and found her mother

went to her bedside and found her mother in a serious condition. Medical attention was at once sought, and on the doctor's arrival he pronounced life extinct. Mrs. Bastick was a native of King's County, Ireland, and when quite a girl, arrived in Australia. Her maiden name was O'Toole, and she married Mr. James Bastick, at Penrith, who predeceased her many years ago. She had been a resident of Orange for nearly fifty years, and had lived all that time in Byng-street, where she reared a family of eight children. The late Mrs. Bastick was one of the best known and most respected residents of Orange; she was the possessor of a kind, gentle, homely disposition, and her demise will be greatly mourned by many. She leaves a family of two daughters and four sons--Mrs. J. E. Stephens (Orange), Mrs. T. Finneran (German's Hill), Messrs Thomas and Patrick (Sydney), James and Joseph (Orange). A son, Michael, died in South Africa while serving in the Boer War, and a daughter, Mrs. James Loughnane, predeceased her a few years ago. The funeral left from the residence of Mr. James Bastick, Byng-street, for St. Joseph's Church, and then proceeded to the Catholic portion of the Orange cemetery.--R.I.P.





Major D. J. Toomey.





The late Private Kenneth C. Hill.

The military medal has been awarded to Signaller David T. McEvoy, 13th Battalion, son of Mrs. B. McEvoy, "Kelmour," Prospect-street, Waverley, and formerly of Grafton. Signaller McEvoy is a member of the A.H.C. Guild, and was also a prominent worker for the Mary Immaculate Church, Waverley. Before enlisting he was employed on the clerical staff of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co.

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The Rev. Father D. Mitchell, C.S.S.R., who has been labouring in the Philippines' Redemptorist Houses, is on a visit to his mother in Bendigo.

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The Rev. Father Patrick Fennessy, who was ordained in Rome some months ago, and recently returned to Melbourne, has been entertained at a "welcome home" dinner by the District Board of the H.A.C.B. Society, of which his father (Mr. M. Fennessy) is a Past District President.

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Mr. and Mrs. N. F. O'Donnell, of Cooma, have received word that their second eldest son, Bombadier W. F. O'Donnell (Willie).

son, Bombadier W. F. O'Donnell (Willie), has been killed in action on October 27, 1917. The deceased soldier was only 22 years of age, and left here on November 18, 1915, with the 12th Reinforcements of the 6th Light Horse, and went to Egypt. After being in Egypt for a couple of months, he was one of the first to volunteer for the artillery for active service in France. Prior to enlisting he was employed by Farmer and Co., and Perdriau's, Ltd. He was very popular on account of his cheerful and genial manner, and will be greatly missed among his large circle of friends. Prior to being killed he had served in the trenches in France for 19 months, and was beloved by comrades one and all. His brother (Roy) is being invalided home, and his uncle (Private Dan Kennedy) still remains on active service.—R.I.P.
