

How the New Legislation will affect Seagoe Parish.

[We have received the following important letter from Lt.-Colonel Blacker. It explains very clearly how the Parish will be affected by the New Church Acts passed at the General Synod, held in Dublin, on November 9th-13th, 1920. Colonel Blacker's suggestions as to how the new responsibilities may be met, deserve the serious consideration of the Parishioners.]

The Act, entitled the **Minimum Clergy Stipend Bill**, recently passed by the General Synod is of such far-reaching importance, and affects so vitally the future existence of Seagoe Parish, that I am convinced that its provisions, and what they entail, should be plainly put before all the members of the Church in Seagoe.

Briefly this Bill enacts that in the event of a vacancy occurring in the incumbency or curacy of any parish, no clergyman will be appointed to fill such vacancy, until the Diocesan Council are satisfied that a minimum Stipend of £400 a year and a free house for the Rector, and £200 a year (with annual increase of £5 for each year's service) for the Curate is guaranteed.

Let us consider how this affects Seagoe:—At present the Rector's stipend is £300 a year, out of which he has to pay £30 on the glebe. The payment of this stipend is assured from Endowment, consequently all the money raised by the Sustentation Fund is available for the Curate.

Last year the Subscriptions to the Sustentation Fund came to about £175. To bring the Stipends of the Clergy up to the requisite minimum, a further sum of £130 for the Rector and about £45 for the Curate will have to be found, making an increase of £175. Thus the Parish will have to raise annually £350 instead of £175.

What is the alternative?

Should the present Rector be transferred, or become non-effective, the Parish of Seagoe, containing some 3,000 Church people would probably be amalgamated with a neighbouring Parish, and thus lose its identity. I cannot think that anyone in Seagoe would desire this to occur.

The remedy is in our own hands. We must increase our Subscriptions to the Sustentation Fund. I made an appeal last year with little practical result. I again earnestly entreat each parishioner, if he is a Subscriber to the Sustentation Fund, to double his Subscription this year; and if he is not a Subscriber to become one.

For a Parish of 3000 church people the raising of £350 annually for the Sustentation Fund should present no difficulties. I do not think there is any Parish in the Diocese whose contributions to the Sustentation Fund are so small in proportion to the Church Population. This is surely a blot on Seagoe.

As a practical basis to work on I would suggest the following plan to determine the amount each should subscribe—

For Farmers—1s 6d for each acre held.

For Workers—3d a week (or say 4s a year) for each £1 a week wages.

Thus a farmer holding 20 acres would give 30s a year, and a worker getting 30s a week 6s a year.

Roughly about 1/200th instead of 1/10th, which we are enjoined by Scripture to set apart for the Service of God.

Now some may say—"The contingency has not yet arisen: It will be quite time enough to worry when the occasion arises." To such I would reply—Surely if the increased Stipend is necessary for future Incumbents, it is quite as essential for the existing clergy, who are the only class in the community who have had to bear the greatly increased cost of living with no increase of income.

I would ask each member of the Church to carefully consider the situation as outlined in this letter, and do whatever lies in his power to help to keep our Old Parish of Seagoe as a separate unit in the Diocese.

STEWART W. BLACKER, LT.-COLONEL.

Marfield, Winchester, Nov, 20th, 1920.

Christmas, 1920.

We wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a bright & prosperous New Year.

Advent Services.

A special Advent Tract has been widely distributed through the Parish. It will remind the Parishioners of the duty which Advent impresses upon us of Watchfulness and Prayer. On Advent Sunday the beautiful Hymns and Music from the New Hymnal were well sung, and a fair number of the Congregation were present at Holy Communion.

During this season at all the Services there will be special prayers and hymns, suitable to the time.

Christmas Day.

On Christmas Day, Saturday 25th December, the following Services will be held—

8 a.m.—Holy Communion.

11-30 a.m.—Morning Prayer, Sermon and Holy Communion.

The offertory alms at both services will be for the Poor Fund of the Parish, on which many calls are being made just now.

PARISH REGISTER for NOV.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on November 6th, 1920.

Glassey—George Charles, son of William John and Rosina Glassey of Portadown

Sponsors—Mary Marchesi, Rosina Glassey

Stanfield—William John, son of Thomas Edward and Mary Jane Stanfield of Edenderry

Sponsors—Thomas Edward Stanfield, Mary Jane Stanfield.

Ellis—Samuel, son of James and Agnes Ellis, of Killicomaine.

Sponsors—Lily Ellis, Agnes Ellis.

Partridge—Margaret, daughter of Benjamin and Olivia Partridge, of Kernan.

Sponsors—Sarah Mary Porter, Olivia Partridge.

Burials.

Hewitt—November 8th, Emma Jane Hewitt, of Tarson, aged 68.

Simpson—November 17th, George Simpson, of Ballinacorr, aged 59 years.

Atkinson—Nov. 25th, Mary Margaret Atkinson, of Edenderry, aged 79 years.

McCoo—Nov. 26th, Mary McCoo, of Edenderry, aged 51, years. Interred at Vinecash.

We regret to record the death of Mr. George Simpson, of Ballinacorr, which occurred with great

suddenness. He passed to his rest after but a few minutes illness.

Death has also removed from our midst one who was very well known to many, Miss Mary Margaret Atkinson of "Newstone," sister of Mr. Wolsey Atkinson. Miss Atkinson had been in failing health for some time, and gradually getting weaker, passed away on Nov. 23rd. She had spent almost all her long life in Seagoe Parish, and was greatly attached to it. She loved to worship within the walls of the Parish Church, which she had known from childhood. On behalf of the Parishioners we express our sincere sympathy with the bereaved in their trouble.

Seagoe Kalendar.

The New Seagoe Kalendar will be ready on Dec. 11th—Price Sixpence. It will be a Red, White and Blue Kalendar. It will contain the names of "Our Fallen Heroes," printed in a handsome and appropriate setting. It will contain a fine half-tone Block of Seagoe Church, and an interesting photograph of the Ulster Volunteer Camp of 1914, at Carrickblacker. It will also contain "The Story of Seagoe," printed for the first time, also the Parish Motto for 1921, and a complete Calendar for the New Year. The number of copies will be strictly limited, so secure your copy early, if you want to get one, unlike last year when so many were unable to get a copy. The Kalendar will be on sale at Kyle's Grocery Stores, 16 Bridge Street, and may also be had from any of the Sunday school superintendents throughout the Parish.

The Rev. T. H. Scanlon.

The Rev. T. H. Scanlon paid a visit to Seagoe last week. His many friends were delighted to see him. Mr. Scanlon played a very courageous part in the recent Tempo Raid, and was twice shot at by the raiders, when he was trying to carry Sergeant Lucas (who has since died of his wounds) into the Rectory. Mrs Scanlon also acted very bravely. Mr Scanlon has been personally thanked by the Military and Police authorities for his action. Mr Scanlon has been Rector of Tempo for the past year. The Rectory is beside the police barrack in the village, and Sergeant Lucas fell wounded at the Rectory door. Mr Scanlon gave evidence at the inquest in Belfast. We congratulate Mr and Mrs Scanlon on their courage.

Presentation.

Mr. & Mrs. Thos. England have arrived in Canada. Before he left Mr England received several practical expressions of goodwill from the Parish. The Choir presented him with a Bible. The presentation was made at a social in Seagoe School, most generously given by Mr and Mrs T. H. Wilson. A most enjoyable evening was spent. The members of Seagoe Girls' Bible Class presented him with a handsome suede Wallet, and the Teachers & Children of Seagoe morning Sunday School gave him a Fountain Pen. We hope soon to hear from Mr and Mrs England from their new home beyond the sea.

WITH THE "NINTH" IN FRANCE,

By Lieut.-Col. W. S. BLACKER, D.S.O.

Thursday, Jan. 13th, 1916.

I had to send in a Junior Officer's name for attachment to 111 Army for probable appointment to Staff. I asked "G" if he would go and he said he would sooner stay with the Batt. I was rather pleased. I believe they have had great games the last night of the old year. Band out playing "Auld Lang Syne," and Fergie in his element!

Friday, Jan. 14th.

Lovely sunny day. Busy inspecting Billets all day, and gave a Lecture on "Battle of Loos"—a copy of one given by a man who was there on X Corps Staff.

Saturday, Jan. 15th.**Sunday, Jan. 16th.**

We had service with the Downs this a.m. It then came on to drizzle, but cleared up after lunch, when Pratt, Padre, and I walked to R—, about 2 miles, and went to see our former landladies, who were delighted to see us. Came round by Brigade Office, and saw the Gen. for a short time. He had been out to a village where Ensor is trying to erect Huts, without wood.

We are to get our 2nd lot of M.G.'s, and the 1st lot from each Battalion form a M.G. Company—a separate Unit. Just had a nice bath, first since Euston Hotel. Berry returned Tuesday. I expect the Primate will be here next Sunday. I see Going has been promoted Brevet Lt.-Col. in Res. of Officers. Curious reward. I suppose he has been in some push. Oliver made a regular Maj.-Gen., and Griffiths a Brevet-Colonel.

Monday, Jan. 17th.

Rode out to-day to see if I could get any coal. Can't get any from A.S.C. A problematic 9 cwt a week for 1,000 men! I bought 1,200 lbs. this p.m. for 42 francs, not too dear, but double what they charged a week ago. They have posted two Officers from G.H.Q. School for Officers to join on 30th. I wonder what they will be like. Pratt very keen about his coffee shop. A fine a.m. turned to rain all p.m. Laundry and Baths going strong. The rest of "A" Company go off to-morrow, about 10 miles from here, to build huts, etc. Got four waggon loads of coke to-day for 120 francs. It only lasts a week in the laundry. It takes 7 braziers going night and day in the drying room to dry the clothes.

Tuesday, Jan. 18th.

This a.m. I rode over to the village Ensor is improving, about 7½ miles away. Found him rather forlorn. The rest of his Company went to him to-day, and I luckily struck the C.R.E. there and squared things for him, so I hope now he will be all right. Griffiths came here in my absence and wandered

round laundry, recreation rooms, etc. I believe he was quite pleased with everything. A constant drizzle all day. Don't notice much lengthening of days yet at either end. George Bruce has been made G.S.O. in Richardson's place. I'm very glad, as I'm convinced he's a Staff brain. The Brigade were foolish to miss him. I tried hard to get Griffith to forward application to promote Fergie Captain, but he wouldn't. He said he had already tried one case and been refused by the Div. Fear it's no good. They say it would be very hard on Regular Qr. Masters, many of whom have been out since beginning of war, and have a good deal of commissioned service—I quite see the point.

Wednesday, Jan. 19th.

Berry returned last night—a horrible journey. "Viper" no cabins, a walk of two miles from steamer to train in dark and wet, a 17 hours journey in a 2nd class, with only one chance of a meal. Mess cart met him at rail head, 7 miles, and got him here at 8-30, wearied and tired; he is bright as ever to-day.

Thursday, Jan. 20th

Spender full of rumour about the British taking over French bit between 2nd and 3rd Armies, which up to now they (the French) have always opposed. If we do, we shall go up into that bit of line, but when I don't know. Failing that, or till that, we shall stay here making huts and such like rot. Lovely day, turned colder to-night, and blowing hard. Brig has a sort of Field Day to-morrow for Officers, no men—a trench attack—ought to be instructive. Staff grouse at their poor quarters. I told them it's time they did a little roughing it. Got in 10 cwt. coal yesterday, and bought another 1200 lbs at 84 francs a ton. Nugent came round this morning when I was out. Cather took him to the bombing, but he was in a hurry. Griffith came yesterday. Am sending Scott out to "A" Company, as Medical Adviser. He is still waiting orders. The Havre journey home and out is a nightmare.

Friday, Jan. 21st.

We had a long morning at G's scheme—slow but instructive. Didn't get back till 2-45, cold wind, but no rain luckily. Lots of hanging about which was boring. G is off on leave on Sunday, I hear. Primate holds a Service here at 11 a.m., Sunday, for us, 13th and 12th. We had to send 15 miles for wood to-day. Stronge borrowed a country waggon, put in 6 horses, and brought in 4 tons of wood. We also unexpectedly got about a ton of coal. It takes 4 waggons of coke to last a week. So we are going to try country waggons next week. Pratt tried suppers here but the men won't look at them, funnily enough. Coffee shop taking 170 francs a day. It's very hard

to get things out of the Ordnance, and they say there is a serious shortage of such things as knives, forks, spoons, badges, clasp knives, and other metal goods, and strict economy must be exercised; the things cannot be got. Leather also, and repairs of boots, I cannot extract out of them, and we are getting behind with the repairs of boots. Can't get any men on parade. "A" Company away, large numbers of other Companies employed on hutting schemes, for which we can't get any materials—wood, nails, canvas, or tools. Tried to get some hammers and saws in A—yesterday. You never saw such stuff—toy saws, feeble hatchets, and ponderous hammers. The Band has had a great furnishing up under the Padre. New instruments, music, and drums painted, and new cords, at an outlay of £25—about. They have improved enormously on their playing.

Saturday, Jan. 22nd.

A busy day, tho' the Primate never came. He has got hung up at Folkestone, owing to submarines. Fergie says a pal Quarter Master of his, at Dover, told him we had got two Hun Subs (taken one and sunk one), and that he saw the taken one at Dover, one of their newest, whose machinery had gone wrong and could neither move nor sink. Our New Corps' Commander insists on training being carried out, so we are to begin on Monday with Company training, and then two weeks Brigade and Division Training; after that, about the middle of March, we are to go into the line, relieving the VII Corps. Cavan, I believe, is excellent, but it's quite impossible to build huts and do regular Company training at the same time. Our men have been at it for 18 months. We have also to find Officers for the New Armies. At present I have 10 Officers away on duties, leaving one Captain and one Sub with each Company! I am to dine at Div. H.Q. on Friday, to meet the Primate.

Sunday, Jan. 23rd.

The Primate, Sir J. Stronge, and Cavan turned up for Parade Service. P walked round and talked to each Officer; did not preach a good sermon; very disappointing. I thought Padre far better: Sir J. came on to lunch; seemed astounded to see how well all the men looked. Luckily beautifully fine up to 2 p.m., when a cold fog came on. I asked Cavan after Edgar Lambert. He said he'd tried France but was too old, and had gone to Egypt, I think. Heard from Going. He came out in July, and in August went to Ypres where he had been till a few weeks ago, when they were sent out of the line to near G.H.Q. to rest. Casualties—10 Officers, 275 men, Primate and J.S. stay till next Saturday, when J returns home, and P passes on to Pulteney, 16th Division and 107th Brigade for a week, I believe.

Monday, Jan. 24th.

Your letter of Friday came to-day, quite quick! Had a tiring day—Umpire at stupid Field Day. Left here 8-45 a.m. Got back very wet at 2-30 and had to go to the Pow-wow at 3-30, which lasted till 5 p.m. What was the reason for the Field Day I cannot

imagine, as we all had to begin Company Training to-day. Blackwood is excellent. "Carry on" life like. Think we shall stay here for a bit. I'm afraid it's doubtful if we get the Guards. Cavan said yesterday he feared he'd lost them. On the other hand Smyth says he came over with some G.H.Q. fellow who said they were coming to the XIV Corps. Primate comes to see us in the morning. Another Officer, a Captain in A S C, posted last night from G H Q. They all join about end of month.

Tuesday, Jan. 25th

There doesn't appear to be coal available in the country. No one has it; Primate came this a.m. Fine and sunny. Stayed 2½ hours, walking round and seeing men. Fergie presented him with a gas helmet as a souvenir. About 12-45 scheme for tomorrow's Field Day came in—in which I am opposed to Bull, he having a convoy, and I to attack it. I had at once to ride out and see the ground, and have my orders in Brigade Office by 4 p.m. Rather a rush. Berry's name has been sent in for D.A.D.M.S., so if sanctioned we shall lose him. Last night sanction came for general leave. Pratt and Stronge and two privates go to-morrow, then no one to February 16, when 20 all ranks go, and then none again till March 11. It will take some time to get through the Battalion at the rate of 40 a month. These Field Days every other day, amid other distractions, are an awful nuisance. They don't teach us anything that will be useful to us in the warfare we shall be doing. Seal pattern old Aldershot Field Days they are. What we want to learn is the attack of trenches, and all the details to be attended to. Repington's article the other day I thought was excellent. He said he firmly believed the war would be decided on the West Front, and that it would be Trench Warfare to the end, and the massing of Cavalry to dash through the gaps was rot.

Wednesday, Jan. 26th

I managed to capture Bull's convoy by rather a fluke. Didn't attempt to strafe me, though he was in an evil mood, and refused to let the men go home, but kept the mout for an hour while he laid down the law to Officers on tactics. Still any amount of comforts, as we managed to bring everything here. Sand bags we shan't want till we go up into the line. "At" handled the Battalion capitably. I was in command of the side. I believe these blessed days are coming off thrice weekly!

(To be Continued.)

Presentation.

Another Presentation took place on Thursday, Nov. 25th, at Levaghery school, when Mr John Alexander McDowell, a member of the Sunday School, was presented with a Leather Travelling Bag on the occasion of his leaving for South Manchester, U.S.A. The Rev. H. G. Singleton presided, and made the Presentation. Mr McDowell suitably replied, and Miss Agnes Guy, superintendent of the Sunday school, expressed the regret of the Teachers and Children at Mr McDowell's departure.