

Dr Charles Tanner, MP visits Inniscarra on the run

This story was found by Anne Donaldson, and is included due to its relationship to the previous article by JP Feeney.

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Dr Tanner, MP, Mr John O'Connor, MP and Mr Thomas Condon, MP, Mayor of Clonmel, are, according to the member for Mid Cork, now fleeing from justice in pursuance of instructions from their leaders. Dr Tanner, on learning last evening that a warrant had been issued for his arrest in Tipperary, commenced his flight through the country. At Inniscarra he addressed a few personal friends and admirers with whom he arranged a secret meeting. Referring to his flight, he said it had become his duty to carry out the instructions that had been given him by his leaders, and theirs, and perhaps it would be as well for them to understand his position that evening. Some people might say that he was a fugitive from justice. His enemies might say so, and as far as he was concerned, he gave them full permission to say so. His enemies might perhaps say that he was evading the consequences of the many acts of insubordination of which he had been guilty. He was that day doing what he had always done. He was not going to make the way perfectly smooth for the people who were opposed to the Irish National cause. (Cheers) He had always endeavoured to make the path of their enemies as awkward as the side of a blackthorn stick (laughter) – to put as many knobs on it as possible. (Laughter) That had been his duty in the past, and it still remained his duty in the present time. He had tried to do his best to promote the cause they had all at heart as long as liberty remained in him, and tonight he had advanced on the first stage of his journey. (Laughter and cheers) He believed that he had been branded as an outlaw today in Tipperary Court. Most of those whom he addressed were young men, eager and intelligent, earnest men and true, but in the past history of their country every man who had endeavoured to do what he believed was right for his people was branded as a criminal and was hunted down. He found it a matter of considerable difficulty to force Mr Balfour to give him what he said over and over again what he deserved. He deserved to go to

prison as well as his good friends who had been fighting for the National cause in his own division, as well as his gallant friends in Macroom, his indomitable friends of Millstreet, and of the other parts of the division that he had the honour to represent. He had done his best to earn the reward of an Irish Nationalist of the present day, and at last he had succeeded. (Loud cheers) From what he had read in the papers he believed he was to be tried for a certain alleged offence; but he would ask them, why was he to be imprisoned? Simply because he had tried, as every sensible man in the country would try, to brand the land-grabber with the brand of Cain. (Loud cheers) There were some evicted farms in the district, and he would ask the people to keep an eye upon those who would try to covet their neighbours' goods. Lord Salisbury said not so long ago that the Irish party and the Irish people were breaking the sixth commandment "Thou shalt not steal". (Laughter)

Mr T Ryan – That is your sixth commandment, Doctor! It is our seventh.

Dr Tanner – I am only giving you the words of Lord Salisbury when he heard that we were breaking the commandment "Thou shalt not steal". The man who grabbed a farm from which a tenant had been unjustly evicted was just as much robbing the tenant as if he first hit him over the head and then picked his pockets; such a man behaved like a common pickpocket, who stole in the low way of the low thief which Irish landlords endeavoured to imitate. (Cheers) He asked, would those present promise him one thing? – Would they promise him that they would give no countenance to a land-grabber in Inniscarra or Donoughmore or any of the districts adjoining? (Cries of "We will not")

Mr T Ryan – There are plenty of them about here, and there are plenty of neighbours who claim to be Nationalists who are always talking to them.

Dr Tanner went on to say that if there were land or grass grabbers in the district he would ask the people to treat them in the way the Tories would treat them if they got the chance, and that was to avoid them – make it hot for them. (Loud cheers) He would not say merely to avoid them, because the time had come to speak out. (Cheers) If a man had to go to gaol for six months he might as well go for 12 (renewed cheers); and if a

policeman came up to him to arrest him without a warrant that policeman would see his stick, and perhaps feel it. (Prolonged cheering) He was not going to ask people to rush against an armed force and to be shot down, but he would say to them – as he had always done and intended to do – when they got their opportunity to hit their enemy full in the face. (Loud cheers) The time had come when the men of Ireland should work as they never had worked before; in the League and out of the League one and all, the boys as well as the elder men of the League, must try to do their best. (Cheers) If they acted up to the true principles of Irish nationality and made a firm stand they would soon see that glorious epoch when, after long centuries of their country's suffering, their land and themselves would be free, and they would have granted to them those rights that they so well deserved. (Loud cheers) They should work, not in a selfish spirit, but for the benefit of the

labourers, the artisans and the farmers of the country. By this means they would create in the country an Ireland great, united and indivisible. (Cheers) In this, the last struggle for national rights, in this particular crisis in their struggle against mis-government, the people should take off their gloves and hit as hard as they could. (Cheers) Let them call on the enemy to come on; let there be no cowardice; and let God defend the right. (Loud cheers)

Mr T Ryan, PLG, reiterated his expressions with regard to the friendly intercourse existing between certain persons in the district and emergency men in charge of local farms.

Dr Tanner rose and said – I will hear no more of this. If such a thing has occurred in this district, I see a lot of young men round me in this room, and I ask them to promise me that when I am away from them they will mind those who so conduct themselves. (Several voices – “We will do that, Doctor” and cheers).



This picture was sent to us and we are looking for information. It was taken, we believe, on the Inniscarra Bridge and is a vehicle checkpoint manned by Irish soldiers. Any further information would be welcomed.