

'Phone
Chancery 8191
Ext. 28

358, First Avenue House,
High Holborn,
W.C.1

March 17th, 1939

Einri O'Beirne, Esq.,
Jesus College,
Cambridge.

Dear Mr. O'Beirne

Thank you very much for your letter of the 16th with a full account of the debate.

I saw a report - a very bare one indeed - of the debate in the Daily Telegraph, and a report also appears in the Irish Independent of Wednesday, March 15th, though so far I have seen no account of it in the Irish Press. I am glad to see that your tea party before the debate was a success. I agree with you that Mr. Flanagan was on the wrong lines when attacking in a bitter way the English Government. English people, no matter how sympathetic, are inclined to get their backs up naturally enough when their government is being attacked. The problem of bringing home to them England's moral and legal responsibility for Partition can be achieved without recourse to bitterness or hostility. You seem to have quite a strong body of Orangemen in Cambridge which may act as a spur to the Anti-Partitionists and drive some of them out of their apathy and indifference to the question of Partition. Here in London I have not yet come across a full-blooded Orangeman but I often think that if there were a few more here, they might rouse a lot of Irish people to join us, who now profess indifference.

It would be better, as you say, not to approach the Hibernian Club in a body and think your suggestion to write to the Secretary, Mr. Haskard, for a list of those who are favourable to us would be a better method of approach. Thank you very much for giving me his address and I shall make a point of writing to him as soon as possible. Since the term ended yesterday there is not very much use in going ahead with any arrangement yet but I hope that the next term will see the founding of a branch of our League in Cambridge. The utterance of Mr. McGower was certainly the limit. Something similar was said by Capt. Herbert Dixon reported in yesterday's Irish Press dealing with Pakenham's speech in Newry on the 15th. Capt. Dixon said " If he had made that speech in any of

the totalitarian states he would either have been shot or given a long term of imprisonment". Evidently the Government in Northern Ireland would like to adopt the methods of the Dictators in dealing with those who disagree with them in politics.

I shall look forward to meeting you when you come down to London. Thanking you for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary of the
Anti-Partition of Ireland League