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COLAISTE NA MUMHAN, BALLINGEARY.

Address From Herr Docenten C. W.
Sydou.

On Sunday last, before a large gathering the students and people of the locality, Professor Sydou of the University of Lund, Sweden, delivered an address of quite uncommon interest. The subject in discussion with Professor Sydou was: "Nationality and Peasant Culture." In order to gather old stories and traditions from the mouths of the Irish-speaking peasants has Professor Sydou come to Ireland. He has spent about three weeks in Ballingeary, where he has collected much valuable material, mainly due to the co-operation of Concubhar O Muineachain, one of the College professors. Professor Sydou's address may be summed up as follows:—

Our peasant tales and traditions embody all that is oldest and most characteristic of our race. They stand for what is national, as opposed to "international culture." Of all the peoples of Europe, none has preserved its national traditions, tales, and customs more faithfully than the Irish—a tradition as old as that of Greece and Rome, linking up even with that of Indo-European times. The Irish tales show marked relationship with those of other European peoples, but have suffered far less by communication from neighbouring countries.

To let this native culture slip away from us would be a national disaster. In Sweden this fact is recognised, and organised efforts are made to secure the national traditions from the inroads of American and English influence. To allow such invasion to proceed unchecked would result in a sinking of culture. Hence the necessity of keeping alive the national language, its tales and its music. These are the soul of the nation. A land without such traditions might be termed "A Church without the Holy Spirit."

To preserve such traditions should be the prime interest of every government. By the education of the children in the schools, by the establishment of peasant high schools, such as exist in Sweden, by the endowment of suitable museums much may be done to promote "Peasant Culture." The national language must depend for its vigour on the preservation of the dialects, they will be the source of its inspiration.

On the conclusion of the Professor's address a vote of thanks was proposed by Very Rev. Gerald O'Nolan, M.A., D.Litt., President of the Ballingeary College. Dr. O'Nolan made a strong appeal to all present to derive all possible benefit from the advice of Professor Sydou, and to show by their enthusiasm for the language, its traditions and music, that we appreciate the treasures handed on to us from our distant forefathers.

DOUBLE FLYING FATALITY

Inquest On Victims.



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