

SPOTLIGHT

DUNAGHY ACCORDION BAND

DUNAGHY, that prosperous little Ballymoney rural community a couple of miles from the Capital of the Route whose people are typical of North Antrim friendliness and loyalty, we chose to visit for the week's band feature.

The Dunaghy Accordion Band, which is connected with Dunaghy "No Surrender" L.O.L. 791, is four years "on the road," and the same enthusiasm which heralded its inception still inspires its twenty-eight members, ten of them ladies.

In the modern little Orange Hall, which also I noticed housed a huge garland and the lodge banner and the blood-stained, dust shrouded Lambegs of a bygone age, we were heartily welcomed by Mr. David Murray, Landhead, Ballymoney, the band's chairman and a man whom one would always remember.

Mr. Murray outlined the short history of the band, which was begun in 1954. He told me that the band had not only provided the lodge with good music but had given the younger people of the community a means of developing their musical talents. The foundation committee consisted of Brs. D. Murray, J. Lyons, J. Chestnutt, W. Adams, G. Huey, W. Murray, R. Chestnutt jun., S. Jamieson and S. Wright.

Mr. William Munnis, Culermoney, Ballyboyland, secretary of the band and chaplain of the lodge, told me that the sixty members of the lodge usually always turned out, and that they owed much to the influence and initiative of their popular worshipful master, Br. William M'Cart, Ballymoney.

The bandmaster is Mr. William White, who is not only a fine musician but an ideal choice as leader. The members of the band, he told me, came from the surrounding area and as far away as Stranocum. He thought the band played best the "Coronation March" and the hymn tune, "Nearer My God to



The secretary of the Ladies' Committee of the band, MISS MARGARET CHESTNUTT, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chestnutt, Calhame, Ballymoney. Margaret, who takes a deep interest in the affairs of the band and lodge, is secretary of the Stranocum Branch of the North Antrim Women's Unionist Association.

Thee," which I heard it play. The excellence of the renditions are a tribute to the band's instructor, Mr. John Henry, who hails from Loughanreagh, and describes himself as "a Coleraine man."

Certainly Mr. Henry has given the band of his best and he can be

justly proud of it. A like remark which can also be applied to the drum instructor, Mr. John W. Wright, for the drumming of the band is good indeed, and the fine leading by Thomas Rice and the action of the tenor drummers, Miss Betty M'Dowell and Miss Rosie Tweed, is excellent.

Noted Unionist family

DRUM-MAJOR ROBERT CHESTNUTT is well placed and he adds to the band's smart appearance, the uniform of which is black trousers, white shirts and red ties worn by the men, and black skirts and white blouses by the ladies (Glengarry caps).

Mr. Chestnutt imparted the interesting information that the Dunaghy lodge was founded by his grandfather, Br. James Chestnutt, in 1887 (whose portrait was incorporated on an earlier banner), and that his father, Br. Robert Chestnutt, was its W.M. for 24 years, and that his brother, Br. James Chestnutt (Belfast) had been four years "in the chair." The Chestnutts have had a long association with Orangeism in North Antrim.

Vice-chairman of the band is Mr. Robert Patton and the treasurer Mr. William Munnis. The committee is Messrs. David Murray, Robert Patton, William Adams, William Murray, James Price, James Frizzell, sen., William M'Cart, Robert Simpson, David Pettigrew, Ben Murray.

The members of the ladies committee, which has helped the band in many ways, is—Mrs. W. M'Cart (chairman), Miss Margaret Chestnutt (secretary), Miss Rachel Gray (treasurer), Mrs. A. Esler, Mrs. W. Adams, Mrs. R. Simpson, Mrs. R. Patton, Mrs. J. Price, Mrs. R. Carson, Mrs. Pettigrew.

The deputy master of the lodge is Br. James Price; secretary, Br. Ben Murray; treasurer, Br. W. J. Wright.