

for boys and girls, men and women, are under this Bill at the absolute mercy of schemes which, on the application of Local Authorities, the Board of Education may despotically make, schemes which would, in fact, abolish, as a general rule, the special religious or other features of those establishments and devote them, lock, stock, and barrel, to public educational purposes as defined by the Bill. The same applies to every non-Catholic school or college in the country, religious or non-religious, to any school or college which is not a constituted part of a University, or one of the seven excepted public schools enumerated above.

The Crushing of Voluntary Action.

Under Clause 8 of the Bill it is in the power of any local authority, after 1st January, 1908, to apply to the Commission, set up by Clause 9 of the Bill, to make a scheme with respect to the mode in which the trusts of any Voluntary schoolhouse, not then handed over to the Local Authority, are for the future to be carried out. The Commission has power under Section 4 of Clause 8 to frame such scheme, as it thinks fit, without appeal to any Court of Justice, subject, however, to two directions, one negative and the other positive. The negative direction is that no proposal to continue the schoolhouse as an elementary school shall be entertained unless the trustees of the schoolhouse can give 'sufficient guarantee' for the 'effective continuance' of the school for a period of at least five years, which means that the trustees will have to satisfy the Commission that they have funds settled and secure, of sufficient amount to conduct the school on a scale in every way equal to the provided schools in the neighbourhood, equal in respect of space, buildings, equipment, drainage, ventilation, and such expensive accessories of every kind as may be dictated from time to time by the Local Authority, or the Board of Education. So much for what I call the negative direction given to the Commission. To come now to the positive direction. If the Commission think, as they always will, that the best way to deal with a good schoolhouse is to turn it into a provided school, they may make an order to that effect, with such conditions as may be agreed to by the Local Authority, and if the Local Authority will agree to no conditions, then, as an inevitable legal consequence, without conditions.

Comprehensive 'Charitable Trusts.'

If now I am asked what about schoolhouses not perhaps quite up to date, which the Local Authority do not choose to use as and for a provided school, I answer that these buildings will be treated as 'held under charitable trusts' whether there are any expressed written trusts relating to them or not—and consequently will be dealt with as property held to be applied or which ought to be applied to 'educational purposes,' and will fall under the clauses next to be referred to, which capture in their minute meshes all the educational endowments of the country, outside the Universities and the seven privileged great public schools. The Bill contains no definition of the word 'endowment,' but a comparison of one 'tricky' phrase and clause with another will convince anyone who knows anything about the construction of the Charitable Trusts Acts that in the Bill the word 'endowment' is not confined to the narrow meaning of income of settled funds, but embraces all kinds of property, an old desk, or instand, no less than land, buildings, stocks, shares, funds, cash, or property of any other conceivable description.

'Educational Purposes.'

The expressed object of Clause 14 of the Bill is to render 'educational endowments as serviceable as possible for the educational purposes of the time,' and schemes may be made 'under this Act varying or adding to the trusts of any educational endowment.' Under Clause 15 the Board of Education 'may make such schemes as they think fit,' and that without appeal. In Clause 24, Section 2, the question whether any endowment is held for, or ought to be applied to 'educational purposes' is left to the Charity Commissioners, who for this purpose under the Board of Education Act 1899 and subsequent order in Council are the Board of Education themselves. Clause 33, Section 2, defines 'educational purposes' as 'the providing or aiding the provisions of any training or instruction of any kind whatever, and any like purpose which the Board of Education determine to be an 'educational purpose.' Clause 16 provides that in making a scheme 'regard shall be had primarily to the "educational advantages" to be derived from the scheme, and as the Board of Education will be the sole judges of what are educational advantages, and as these advan-

tages, whatever they may be decided to be, are laid down as the primary consideration, a man with half an eye can see that the whole structure of Catholic education, and of every other system of denominational education, and of every system of education unfettered by insulating red tape, must fall to the ground, and every boy and girl in the country will be turned, as I said at Hanley, into a mere standardised tool of power.

Why All Appeal is Cut Off.

As a mere cold fact I state that all appeal to any Court of Justice in the land is cut off by this Bill because its framers and backers know that any Chancery Judge in the land would make short work of the sort of schemes provided for under it. Any Chancery Judge would see at a glance that the effects of the Bill were confiscatory and oppressive, at the bidding of a section which, for the moment, happens to be in the ascendant. The rents or money payments apparently offered to school trustees whose schools are taken over will obviously be 'educational endowments,' and as such be as open to confiscation as anything else under the Bill.

The Irish Envoys in Melbourne

The Melbourne Town Hall was packed to overflowing on the night of June 1, on the occasion of the public meeting held by the Irish envoys, Messrs. Devlin, M.P. and Donovan, who have come to Australia in support of the campaign, for obtaining Home Rule for Ireland. Several hundreds of persons were unable to obtain admission to the hall. His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne presided, and as soon as he took his seat on the platform the brass band from the Christian Brothers' School at South Melbourne played a few bars of the 'Minstrel Boy,' as an accompaniment to the unveiling of the banner of the Michael Davitt branch of the Irish National Foresters. Then the Dead March in 'Saul' was played as a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Michael Davitt, whose death was announced by cable.

Amongst those on the platform were Dr. O'Donnell, president of the Irish National League; Senators Dawson, Trenwith and Findlay; Messrs. Higgins, Maloney and Ronald, M's.P.; and Frendergast, M.L.A.

In opening the meeting, the Most Rev. Dr. Carr said they would cordially welcome their visitors, and then ask, how is old Ireland, and how does she stand? Envoys had gone forth from Ireland on many occasions from the earliest time in history. They had gone forth as missionaries to carry the light of the Gospel, and to illuminate still more almost to every country in Europe, and even to England, where the monasteries which still stood attested to the excellence of their influence. Envoys had gone from Ireland as navigators, and if it were not true that they were the first to discover America, it was certainly true that their writings were of great assistance to Columbus in making his discovery. In their own days envoys had gone forth on peaceful, patriotic, national and even Imperial missions. The security and peace of Great Britain were inborn in Home Rule for Ireland as much as the peace and tranquility and success of the people of Ireland itself. It had been said that Home Rule for Ireland meant Rome Rule. It would mean nothing of the sort, it would mean the cessation of what was called Dublin Castle rule. It would mean the cessation of rule by what was diffidently styled the English garrison of Ireland. On the other hand, it would mean peace and tranquility for Ireland itself, and equal opportunities for every subject in Ireland, no matter what faith he professed.

Mr. Devlin then delivered an eloquent address of over an hour and a half's duration, during which he held the undivided and rapt attention of his audience. As a result of the demonstration, subscriptions totalling close on £450 were received.

The annual stock-taking sale at the Unique Millinery Store, Lower Stuart street, Dunedin, began on June 19, and during the sale special bargains are offered in all departments...

The Perpetual Trustees, Estate, and Agency Company of New Zealand, agents for the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Company, are advised that that office will be able to pay all their losses in connection with the recent San Francisco fire without in any way encroaching upon their capital or reserves. The balance at credit of profit and loss account for 1905 is ample to meet all possible claims.

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