

Ulster should be a willing party to it. Sir Edward Carson says that 'we must not get any treatment different and exceptional from the treatment offered to every other part of the United Kingdom.' What does he mean by this? Are we to read this statement side by side with Lord Lansdowne's statement that 'he was in no way an opponent of a national settlement'? And are we to take both statements together to mean that the latest Tory solution is Home Rule all round? If that be so, it means a considerable Tory advance. We Irish Nationalists would welcome the extension of Home Rule to England, Scotland, and Wales; but we claim priority of right and urgency for Ireland, and Sir Edward Carson and Lord Lansdowne must know that, in the words of Mr. Asquith at Leeds, 'you cannot standardise Home Rule. The Imperial Parliament, as Sir Edward knows, is and must be supreme under Home Rule, and to talk of separation being possible under the Home Rule Bill is ridiculous and absurd. Ireland does not want separation from Great Britain, and, as I have said before, when we get Home Rule the majority of the Irish people may be found much too loyal to suit the taste of those who are now denouncing them as disloyalists and separatists. That is my answer to Sir Edward Carson's Manchester speech. Sir Edward Carson and his followers in Ulster have now the opportunity of performing a deed which will bring peace to Ireland and to the Empire, and make their memory illustrious in the history of their own race and nation, by abandoning an impossible position and coming to an honorable and lasting agreement with the majority of their countrymen. Such an agreement would wipe out all the bitter memories of the past, all the differences of the present, and would mean in every sense of the term a new birth of freedom in this our common motherland.'

THE OUTLOOK IN IRELAND

FATHER HOLBROOK'S IMPRESSIONS

This morning (says the *Wexford People* of December 13) the Very Rev. H. F. Holbrook, Chancellor of Auckland, New Zealand, who has been on a visit to his mother and friends in Wexford, left the town on his return journey to the land under the Southern Cross. Father Holbrook ranks amongst the most popular of our young Wexford priests in distant lands. Following his ordination in St. Peter's College, Wexford, in 1902, he proceeded to the scene of his priestly labors in New Zealand, and during the years that have since elapsed his unceasing attention to the duties of his sacred calling in Auckland diocese raised him high in the esteem of the faithful amongst whom he worked and was markedly recognised by his ecclesiastical superiors. He has been for a number of years Administrator of the Cathedral parish in the city of Auckland, and previous to his departure for the Old Country in January last he received notice of his elevation to the Chancellorship of the diocese. On his home-coming journey Father Holbrook visited the Holy Land, Lourdes, Rome, and other important places on the Continent, and during his sojourn in this country he travelled to many parts of Ireland, and at all times expressed himself delighted with the improved condition of the people. His clerical friends, not only in Wexford, but throughout the diocese of Ferns, as well as his numerous acquaintances in this town, wish him *bon voyage* on his long journey to the Antipodes. The return route is via Dublin to Liverpool, where he will embark for New York. After a three weeks' stay in the United States Father Holbrook will sail from San Francisco, and expects to arrive in New Zealand about January 29 next.

At Wexford station he was seen off by a large number of friends.

Seen by our representative prior to his departure, Father Holbrook said that he had a very pleasant

sojourn in the Old Country. He visited practically the whole country from Cork to Belfast, and from Viuegar Hill to Croaghpatrick. As far as he could see, everywhere he went the country, in his opinion, was marvellously improved within the last ten years. One has to admire, said the rev. gentleman, the improvement in the housing conditions of the people, not alone amongst the farming community, but amongst the farm laborers. Snug, comfortable, and well-kept laborers' cottages are little gems on the landscape through the length and breadth of Ireland. When it is considered that there are over 44,000 laborers' cottages, housing a quarter of a million people, this in itself must make in a marked degree for the happiness and stability of the country. Though handicapped by a system of government which does not commend itself to the Irish people, much is being done for the home and village industries. In one place which I visited—Glengarriff—there are over forty girls engaged in a local lace factory. They work from ten o'clock in the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon. The instructress is paid by the Congested Districts Board. The girls work under the best conditions, and receive full pay for the work they do. I consider the Congested Districts Board is doing splendid work in parts of Ireland in advancing grants for buildings, improving holdings, and providing seeds and stock for many people in congested areas. I believe, however, that too much of the money of that Board is being wasted on high-salaried officials. The increased facilities provided by the Agricultural Department is adding much to the prosperity of the farming community. There are to-day in Ireland over 100,000 farmers engaged in various new forms of agricultural effort, and it is officially stated that the number will in a short time be doubled. Further proof of the stability of the country is that Ireland contributed in local taxes beyond the Treasury contributions over £8,000,000 last year. Reading from time to time while I was in New Zealand of the continued stream of emigration, I often imagined that when I came home I would see deserted villages in most parts of Ireland. Fortunately I have not seen any such sights, but evidences of prosperity. Ireland, I believe, has little to fear from the evils of emigration. There is no country can stand the drain of emigration so well as Ireland, because the country is blessed with large families, and it is a happiness to know that the Catholic Faith permeates both the national and private lives of the people. There is the assurance, too, that those who emigrate are fulfilling the destinies of the Irish race, as missionaries of the Catholic faith in English-speaking lands. The country is now on the dawn of a brighter era. There are, however, some people who may think that Home Rule is going to bring the millennium, but it is a mistake to think that the day after the Home Rule Bill passes there will be a new sun in the heavens and a new country under the feet of the Irish people. After so many centuries of oppression, years must elapse until the people realise their opportunities to the fullest extent. A native Parliament cannot do any more for a long time than to remedy many of the drawbacks in the present laws governing Ireland. It will educate the masses of the people to a sense of their national responsibility. The most representative and progressive men would, he was sure, be returned to the Irish Parliament, and those would in time frame and pass laws which would make Ireland take her rightful place among the nations.

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