

## Current Topics

### Catholics and the N.S. Wales System

Another protest against injustice has been registered, and a fresh piece of testimony has been furnished to the fact that Catholics have not approved and do not and cannot approve of the system which has been alleged to be working absolutely 'without friction' and to be giving perfect satisfaction to all parties. Speaking at a presentation to Father Power at the Sacred Heart School Hall, Darlinghurst, on February 23, Mr. H. C. Hoyle, Assistant State Treasurer of New South Wales, declared that the education of the mind without the education of the heart was unsound and wrong in principle. Nothing but the education of the heart could make a true citizen, for true citizenship depended upon the knowledge of right and wrong, upon the knowledge of what belonged to them and what belonged to their neighbors, and, above all, upon the duty that every human being owed to the God Who created him and redeemed him. 'They could teach these things,' he said, as reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of February 24, 'nowhere else but in the school, and it was of no use men arguing otherwise. In his earliest years he worshipped, if he might say so, at the shrine of the Good Samaritan Nuns, and the lessons he learnt from them in the school were as vividly before his mind to-day as when they were first imparted to him 50 years ago. *As far as their means and their numbers would enable them, Catholics intended to go on as they had been going to the bitter end in the matter of education, for they knew man must have God always in front of him, and they knew that if they inculcated into the mind and heart the only true germ of citizenship their country would be great, prosperous, and pure. Unless a country were pure it could not be successful.* A well-known Protestant of this city, who was opposed to Archbishop Vaughan and his efforts for the perfecting of the system of Catholic education, had told him (Mr. Hoyle) that he sent his daughters to the convent to be educated, because they would know all that they ought to know, and at the same time they would be protected from what they ought not to know: they would only know what was good and pure in womanhood, what was good in modesty and refinement.' This speaks for itself as to the dissatisfaction felt not only by Catholics but even by non-Catholics with the League system, and indicates clearly that such a scheme can never be accepted as a final and adequate solution of the problem.

### Mr. Asquith's Proposals

So far as general Irish Nationalist opinion regarding Mr. Asquith's proposals has as yet found voice it is entirely in line with the view expressed in our leading columns last week immediately on the publication of the Prime Minister's definite statement regarding the concessions. We held that the proposals would seriously cripple the Home Rule scheme from the very outset, that it would greatly add to its administrative difficulties, and that it would tend to accentuate and perpetuate the cleavage between Catholic and Protestant; and this is the view now widely held by Irishmen. One of the first cables to come to hand stated that 'an influential section of the Nationalists in Ireland dislike the concessions, as they believe they will involve formidable administrative confusions.' A further message intimated that 'all parties in Ireland are distinctly unfavorable to Mr. Asquith's offer.' A large meeting of Auckland Irishmen took a similar attitude, and unanimously carried the following resolution:— 'This meeting, thoroughly representative of the Irish residents of Auckland, protests against the mutilation of the Home Rule Bill, and regrets that the concessions offered to the forces of anarchy and disorder are tending to the dismemberment of Ireland, and perpetuating dissension between Catholic and Protestant.' This prompt and carefully-worded resolution has been

cabled to Mr. Asquith. We believe the view expressed by Mr. T. P. O'Connor—that 'Ireland will never consent to perpetual exclusion, and that he would sooner lose the Bill and go to the wilderness for another generation' than accept such a proposal—will be shared by the great body of Home Rulers throughout the world.

The concessions have failed utterly to conciliate 'Ulster'; and if this was the object in view it is now clear that they might as well never have been made. The *Times* speaks of 'this mockery of an offer at the eleventh hour'; and the Unionist *Standard* arrogantly describes it as 'grossly objectionable.' The Orangemen will have none of it. 'Many prominent Orangemen,' says one of the cables, 'are of opinion that Sir E. Carson has gone too far in promising to accept the Government offer if the time limit is eliminated.' It is quite apparent that 'Ulster' and the Unionists are obdurately and absolutely irreconcilable; and that any further attempt at conciliation in that direction will be a mere waste of time. It appears to us that the only feasible course to adopt is that indicated by Mr. O'Connor. Mr. Asquith proposed that the Ulster counties should be allowed to vote themselves out of the scheme for a term of six years; and he apparently contemplated that the question of their inclusion or exclusion should be re-opened at the expiry of that period. This, as Mr. O'Connor declares, will not do. 'The idea of temporary exclusion is equivalent to the Bill's provisions regarding reserved services. The excluded counties must automatically come under the jurisdiction of the new Parliaments after the transition period.' This appears to us to be the irreducible minimum of the Irish demand, and to afford the one and only way out of the present difficult position; unless, indeed—which would be even better—Mr. Asquith withdraws his offer of even temporary exclusion.

### The Home Rule Fund

A correspondent writes to us to suggest that as a counterblast to the £25,000 said to have been promised to the Ulster Indemnity Fund by some anonymous Australian, a special appeal be made to the patriotic workers of this country to subscribe a fighting fund to be sent to the Nationalist Party. If our correspondent has in mind real fighting, and not merely political fighting, he may make his mind quite easy—it is tolerably safe to say that in any serious sense of the word there will be none of it. As Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., who knows Ulster through and through, said in his speech at North Tyrone the other day: 'Everyone knows that there is neither drilling nor arms in Ulster, and no more excitement about Home Rule than there is in England, and all the canards about arms and funds and marshalled hosts are airy figments intended to frighten the British electorate. There might be riots in Belfast, which could be easily stirred up at any time, but the Irish Parliament would have power to suppress them in twenty-four hours.' Mr. John Redmond, in a recent address at Waterford, made a similar statement as to the actual facts of the case. 'Men everywhere in Ulster and out of it,' he said, 'are quietly following their daily avocations, and neither in Great Britain nor in Ireland are the people disturbed or agitated at the awful spectre of bloodshed and of ruin which is conjured up to terrify them. The only persons excited are certain newspaper editors, certain special war correspondents who have no work to do, and certain British, and I am sorry to say certain Irish well-known 'calamity howlers,' whose one occupation and happiness in life seems to be to foretell disaster. The great body of the people remain quite unmoved. . . . There cannot be a war without two contending parties. Sir Edward Carson is never tired of saying that his 'army' is for defence, and not for attack. It will never be needed, for he and his friends in Ulster will never be attacked.' If Home Rule is carried and there should later on by any chance be any attempt at fighting—as to which, we repeat, there is not the faintest likelihood or probability—the fighting would be purely a matter between the British troops and the

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