

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE IRISH PARTY AND THE SETTLEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Your correspondent, Ch. O'Leary, adversely criticises Mr. John Redmond and the Irish Party, and attributes to them, particularly to Mr. Redmond, the failure of the Lloyd George proposals. The *Times Daily Mail*, *Observer*, *Daily Telegraph*, and *Evening Standard*—all Unionist organs—unanimously, at the time of the break-down of the negotiations, charged the Unionist members of the Coalition with being the whole and sole cause of the failure. Mr. J. L. Garvin, editor of the *Observer*, after vigorously assailing the Unionists in the Cabinet, curtly told them: 'We prefer the interests of the Empire to the prejudices of the County Antrim.' The *Manchester Guardian* in dealing with it recalled the 'scrap of paper' incident at Berlin, and said: 'When a Cabinet Home Rule bargain is termed a "scrap of paper," not even for military but for political reasons, and when Americans are reminded that a Curragh rebel is made Commander of the Expeditionary Army, and that Ulster disloyalists who "ran arms" from Germany are represented by a Carson in the Cabinet, what confidence can be placed in such a Cabinet or in a Government guilty of such inconsistency?' The *New York World* of August 12, referring to the agreement, said: 'In many ways, but chiefly by its Irish policy, the Cabinet is arousing suspicion and resentment in America.' If further proof were needed of the Government's perfidy in these negotiations we have it in the fact that fully six weeks had elapsed from the acceptance of the proposals by the conferences of Nationalists and Unionists held within a few days of each other in Belfast (proposals, bear in mind, emanating from and committed to writing by the Government) before the Government announced, through Mr. Asquith, in the House of Commons, the failure of the negotiations. This statement had to be wrung out of them by repeated questions in the House and outside of it by Mr. Redmond. What was an *urgent State matter* when Mr. Redmond and Sir E. Carson were asked to proceed to Ireland in all haste was, after their mission had succeeded in Ireland, on their return to London, hung up for nearly two months. Why? For answer turn to the comments of the London Unionist journals. After Mr. Asquith's acknowledgment of the collapse of the negotiations in the House of Commons, Mr. John Redmond, in opposition to the wishes of Mr. Asquith, moved the adjournment, and in so doing declared: 'I am now willing to stand by and carry out the agreement submitted to me in writing by the Government, and placed by me before my friends, and accepted by them, in Ulster.' In rejecting the amended proposals of the Government Mr. Redmond was but carrying out his promise given to the Convention in Ulster that 'any other proposals than those now under consideration by the Convention, would, if submitted to him, be at once rejected by him.'

Your correspondent wrote of 'the scandals of the Belfast and Ulster Conventions.' Mr. Redmond has publicly stated that in the convocation of the Convention he had consulted at every stage with the five Ulster Bishops, while Father McCotter, one of the most highly respected parish priests in Ulster, in a trenchant and vigorous letter to the press, a letter which another respected priest suggested should be issued in pamphlet form, defended the Convention, and vouches for the fair and strictly business-like manner in which it was carried out.

In true Unionist style—not for a moment do I suggest that your correspondent is a Unionist; quite the contrary, I believe him to be a staunch Nationalist—Ch. O'Leary, in referring to Irish representation at Westminster, said it was 'more powerful than the population they represented warranted.' This is technically correct; but it has another phase. By the Act

of Union, Ireland's quota at Westminster was fixed at 103. If at that time, 1801, it had been fixed upon a population basis, Ireland should have had 219 members; in 1811 she should have had the same number; in 1821, 213 members; in 1831, 212 members; in 1841, 194 members; in 1851, 157 members; in 1861, 131 members; in 1871, 113 members, and not until 1881 would the number have fallen, on a population basis, below the 103 fixed by the Union. While the representation of Great Britain swelled with its population, that of Ireland was rigidly maintained despite the increase of her population, and only when her population decreased was the question raised. The Home Rule Act provides that all finance, including taxation, Customs and Excise, is left in the hands of the Imperial Parliament, and so long as that is so Mr. Redmond is wise in battling to retain the full Union quota.

In conclusion, let me express the fervent hope that Irish Nationalists should take a lesson from their opponents, who on vital questions set aside minor issues, and present a solid front on the main issue—for us,—to win for Ireland Home Rule.—I am, etc.,

M. J. SHEAHAN.

Auckland, October 23.

ST. JOSEPH'S HARRIERS, DUNEDIN

The annual social and distribution of prizes in connection with the above club were held in St. Joseph's Hall, Dunedin, on Friday evening last, the hall being comfortably filled with friends and supporters of the club. The captain (Mr. E. W. Nolan), who occupied the chair, extended a cordial welcome to all present, and remarked on the truly representative nature of the audience. Progressive euchre and a short musical programme were then enjoyed by all.

Prior to the distribution of prizes, Mr. Nolan took the opportunity of alluding to the pre-eminently successful season the club was bringing to a close that evening, and this, he said, was in no small measure due to the generous and practical support the harriers had received from their many friends. During the year the club had competed in an inter-harrier club event in which it had obtained the individual championship and the club team itself had obtained a very satisfactory position. The speaker made reference to those members and ex-members of the club who had taken up the burden of the Empire, remarking that 50 in all had so far joined the colors, and each succeeding draft was not without its representative from the club. In conclusion, Mr. Nolan thanked all those who had contributed to the prize-list, who had supported the club throughout the year, or had otherwise taken an interest in it, and expressed the hope that the tangible mark of appreciation they had shown to their supporters that evening would ensure continued support and interest in the welfare of the harriers. Mr. Nolan read an apology from their president (Mr. J. J. Marlow), who was unable to be present, and in his absence, handed over to the successful entrants, the trophies won by each during the season. The following events were contested during the year:—Five mile championship—1st prize ('Allen Doone' cup), L. McAllen; 2nd prize (trophy), T. Roughan. Sealed handicap in connection with the same race—1st prize (toilet outfit, presented by Mrs. O'Neill), J. Burke; 2nd prize (shaving outfit), F. Tourell. Two mile handicap race—1st prize (gold cross, presented by Mr. F. Foster), J. Burke; 2nd prize (barometer, presented by the president), R. Monaghan. Novice race—1st prize (gold medal), L. McAllen; 2nd prize (set of military brushes, presented by Mr. M. Cosgrieff), A. Neil. Special prize for first novice home in five mile championship (gold medal, presented by Mr. H. Burk), D. Keyes. The singing of the National Anthem brought the evening to an all too speedy finish.

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