

can colonies. He had been 40 years in political life, and had never known anything approaching the feeling in Ireland to-day. If conscription were applied, the chaos and confusion would be appalling. Already business was becoming paralysed. The Nationalists believed that Sir E. Carson and the Orangemen had started compulsion for the purpose of raising such a passion that Home Rule settlement would be impossible.

Mr. Barnes, in reply to Mr. Dillon, promised that the Government would bring in a Home Rule Bill immediately and use every pressure to pass it into law. He believed Home Rule might pass before the clause for national service became operative, but he refused to pledge the Government to this effect.

Answering Mr. Healy's interjection, Mr. Lloyd George said: The Government will resign if it fails to carry Home Rule or if the Lords reject it.

Sir E. Carson said he would support the Man-power Bill even if the Government put Ulster under the Nationalists, as was now threatened. He would prefer anything to the whole of civilisation being impeded by a victory by our enemies. Sir E. Carson continued: It was now clear that no recruits in Ireland would be conscripted until the Home Rule Bill was passed. The Government was handing over Ulster as the price of compulsion. He asked if the Nationalists would withdraw their objection to compulsion when the Bill passed. Personally he believed that compulsion would be even more difficult then, as the Irish Government would oppose it.

April 17.

In his speech in the House of Commons, Sir Edward Carson said it was wrong for the Government to try to pass Irish compulsion by a bribe and by throwing over those who had been faithful to it in the past. The Government was trying to please everybody, but in the long run it pleased nobody. He besought Ulstermen to go on, keeping an eye on the prosecution of the war, regardless of the seriousness and sadness of the vista opening before them.

Mr. Lloyd George, replying to Mr. Dillon's reference to the American colonies, said the positions were not analogous. That was a case of taxation without representation. The Prime Minister warmly defended the Government's right to conscript men in Ireland for the defence of the Empire. Regarding Sir E. Carson's accusation that the pledge that Home Rule would not be placed on the Statute Book until after the war had been broken, Mr. Lloyd George said that nobody contemplated that the war would last four years. Such prolonged suspense was a peril to the whole Empire. The proposals in the Bill were considered to be the best means to prosecute the war, and had been framed without any thought of political advantage or disadvantage. Compulsion for Ireland had been introduced only because the emergency demanded more drastic recruiting measures in Britain, which would feel the injustice unless Ireland were included. American opinion supported the Man-power Bill, provided that Ireland was offered Home Rule. If the Bill failed to pass, those responsible for its failure ought to be answerable for the direction of the war. The Bill was not offered as a bargain. Each measure (Home Rule and Military Service) must be taken on its merits.

Since the Bill was introduced, continued Mr. Lloyd George, he had had days of despondency and days of hope. The Germans aimed at destroying the British army, but this plan had failed. The enemy had inflicted heavy losses, but they were nothing to the losses which the enemy had sustained. The French army was intact, and the American army was pouring across. If we stood firmly together, not giving way to fear or panic, we would win through in the end.

The clause (compulsion in Ireland) was carried by 296 votes to 123.

Mr. Dillon declared: This is the worst day's work for England in the war period.

April 18.

The second reading of the Bill was carried.

The whole of the Nationalists were absent from the House of Commons to-day, attending a conference with Sinn Feiners at Dublin.

April 19.

The Sinn Fein conference has issued a manifesto denying the right of any external authority to impose conscription on Ireland.

The conference states that the passing of the Man-power Bill must be regarded as a declaration of war on Ireland, and as a direct violation of the rights of small nationalities.

The conference adds: "We invite all to resist conscription by the most effective means possible."

April 21.

The situation in Ireland is becoming increasingly dangerous.

Crime and lawlessness have temporarily simmered down, but there are indications that a great storm is brewing. The fact that the Church has taken over control and will throw its entire weight into the struggle is regarded as of great significance. Maynooth, Waterford, and other theological colleges have disbanded in order to concentrate arrangements in connection with the anti-conscription pledge. Labor has declared a general holiday for Tuesday to enable the workers to sign the pledge. Meetings of protest have been organised all over the country.

The prejudices of the people in Southern Ireland, where the Sinn Fein is highly organised, are fed by the wildest stories of the progress of the fighting.

The Irish Catholic Hierarchy after the Maynooth meeting passed a resolution that the Irish people possess the right to resist conscription by all means consistent with God's will. It has also ordered an announcement in every church on April 21 of the anti-conscription meetings, at which a pledge will be taken to resist conscription by every means.

The Dublin Conference decided to prepare a statement of the Irish case against conscription for presentation to the world, and it requested the Lord Mayor of Dublin to proceed to Washington personally to present the case to President Wilson.

Sir Edward Carson has sent the following message to the Belfast press:—"Our clear duty is to support the gallant soldiers at the front and to resist any Home Rule Bill degrading Ulster."

Dr. Macartan, a Sinn Feiner, has been returned unopposed for Tullamore.

CATHOLIC INSTITUTE AT FEATHERSTON CAMP.

The Catholic chaplain at the Featherston Military Camp, in expressing his thanks for the generous response made to his recent appeal for literature for the use of the men, writes:—"Having collected a fine number of good books, will some kind person present us with a bookcase, or the means to purchase one?"

WANGANUI CONVENT.

The following are the results of the Theory Examination in connection with the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, held recently.

Local Centre Rudiments—five.
Division III.—Two.
Division II.—One.
Division I.—Five.

RAETIHI FIRE.

We have forwarded "Sympathiser's" subscription to Father Menard.

SMIFF UP, GARGLE or SWALLOW : Mr. Girling-
Butcher personally
FLUENZOL : recommends :
Fluenzol—1/6, 2/6

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