

Current Topics

America and the War

"We have the money, billions of it," says the *New York Times*; "we have the shipyard-workers, hundreds of thousands of them; we have the material to be fashioned into cargo carriers; we have a Shipping Board vested with plenary powers; all agree, the companies to which the contracts have been given and the labor leaders who control the unions, that unless the ships are built as fast as keels can be laid and the hulls raised on them, *the war may be lost, in fact, will be lost; but the ships are not being built.*" As this paper is quoted as an infallible authority on Irish affairs at the present time by our Jingo and No-Popery press it is to be assumed that the same press will appreciate this little compliment to the rest of the Allies. American papers also tell us that Galloper Smith was not the only one to offend by his Carson-like sneer at President Wilson's programme. If a general election were to come off in England the Tories (according to *Current Opinion*) would go to the country on the cry that England is being handed to the foreigners, especially to President Wilson, and such conditions as "freedom of the seas" and a "league of nations" would be denounced as schemes for the ruin of the Empire. In the opinion of that other reliable organ of anti-Irish colonial pressmen, the *London Post*, "of all schemes ever invented a League of Nations was the one best suited to reestablish Germany in her old position should she fail to win the war." In fact the scheme might have been invented by Germany! We are used to these manifestations of Jingo logic which always argues on the principle that all who do not agree with the Jingo are pro-German. Americans must feel complimented by the delicate attentions paid them by the Galloper, Carson, and the Tory enemies of small nations.

Internal Situation in Germany

According to Italian papers the German Empire is not the happy home of an united family at present. The *Giornale* says that for the past four years Bavaria has fought for her independence within the German system and has not yet won it. Saxony is in an agony of dynastic crisis. Wurtemberg is openly disaffected. The diplomacy of Vienna has tended to throw the South German States into the arms of Austria. The crisis in the central States seems likely to end in a struggle between the Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns. It is an open secret in Rome that the Hohenzollerns complain to the southern States that they were dragged into the war by the Hapsburgs and then betrayed at a pinch. The *Paris Temps* says that the Socialist leader, David, protests that the German people were opposed to war from the first. According to the *Avanti* the German peace majority is organising effectively, and the *Paris Humanité* believes it has the strength of the south German States behind it. The Italian press thinks the Kaiser is clearly in favor of peace at present and that he is at variance with the Crown Prince and the Junker party. Bavarian papers talk of the Prussian democratic movement as if it were an accomplished fact. In south Germany a confidence exists that the Prussian domination is ended in Imperial Councils and that it only needs the completion of the suffrage revisions to bring about a vast change. The *Avanti* forecasts that as soon as this is done there will be a new Imperial Chancellor whose task it will be to prepare the long desired peace. If the Italian press is as well informed as it claims to be it is certain that, outside of the Junker party in Prussia, the peace movement is very strong and very widespread throughout Germany at present.

English Discord

Recent cables have informed us that the English generals and politicians are busy washing some very dirty linen at present, and that our esteemed Imperial Premier is getting a bad time from many quarters

owing to the growing conviction that he is just as bad a bungler as the men he kicked out to make room for himself. Indeed it is regrettable to have to state that our rulers display a lamentable want of cohesion and that the rapidity with which officials are dismissed and disgraced is likely to be the occasion of unholy mirth in the camp of the enemy. Looking at the matter as Irishmen, at a time when all sections of Catholics and Nationalists in the distressful land of our birth are presenting a solid front to the enemies of small nations and the breakers of treaties, we regret that the people of England have not enough public spirit to insist that their leaders should imitate the dignified conduct of the Irishmen instead of turning the House of Commons into a bear-garden. Indeed, as it is apparent that Englishmen are incapable of governing themselves it would be advisable to get a few Irishmen to cross over to Westminster to look after affairs until the war is ended. Afterwards the English might be allowed to resume their ructions as it would then be more of an amusement than a danger to the Empire to watch them from the Strangers' Gallery. With their sympathy for small nations and their acute realisation of the wrong of tearing up scraps of paper Messrs. de Valera, Dillon, Devlin, and MacNeill would be the right men in the right place if England wants to free small nations and to exact reparation for past crimes and annexations. Besides, as Ireland supplies the generals and the admirals, why should she not also supply the statesmen, especially when the cables are an open confession of the failure of Englishmen to govern themselves. With De Valera and Dillon at the head of the Parliament, to balance Wellington, Wolsey, White, Gough, French, Callaghan, de Roebuck, Beresford, and Beatty in the army and navy, we imagine that England would really begin to learn to do things without muddling. We can understand what a relief to the Irish Nationalists it must be to be at home and away from the demoralising scenes in the House of Commons at present.

Irish Harmony

When we speak of the union of Irishmen we have reason to be proud at present. We have a press which is most assiduous in reporting anything that may help to inflame sectarian and racial strife and to make Irishmen hostile to the government which tolerates papers that state that Catholic soldiers are capable of shooting their fellows. The atrocious and mean press campaign against which Mr. Asquith, like the gentleman he is, protested is bearing fruit. Some American exchanges have already called attention to the fact that New York papers have taken the bribe and lent themselves to the movement of killing a small nation by calumny. We notice that the editorial comment of some of these papers is now served up to New Zealand readers as if the opinion of a tool of Northcliffe's could be worthy of any sane man's consideration. However, there are some things which—in the interests of British fair play of course—our press never tells us about. For instance, it never tells us what impartial Englishmen who have gone to Ireland to see things for themselves have written about the methods of those whom the editor of the *English Review* calls "the Huns in Ireland." Outrages, sometimes manufactured, often entirely laughable when explained, are put forward under big headlines to convince the dolts who believe the daily lies that Ireland is a land of rebels and savages. In a certain sense it is: at least the north-east corner of Ireland is. Now, it appeared some time ago in the *Westminster Gazette* that at Ballymoney in Ulster, all parties—Catholics and Protestants, Nationalists and Unionists, religious people and Orangemen,—turned out together in protest against conscription for Ireland. This is the sort of thing our papers pass by with a sour silence. When Catholics alone turn out it is all right, and the obvious thing to do is to get big headlines at once and denounce them as traitors. But when Protestants turn out with them it is quite another thing, and not a word is said lest anyone might suspect that the people who swore three