

## DE VALERA ON THE IRISH PARTY

Speaking at Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny, recently, Mr. De Valera said: "The fact was that England had involved herself in the meshes of her own hypocrisy in posing as the champion of small nations, and at the present moment was a source of considerable embarrassment to both America and France owing to her attitude as regards Ireland. It was the Irish Party that was at present helping England out of the difficulties into which she had landed herself, and the object of Sinn Fein was to keep her in that difficulty, and to show to the world that while she professed sentiments on her lips about the freedom of small nations she still harbored black treachery in her heart towards Ireland.

"Did the Irish Party," he asked, "deny that that nation had a legitimate right to independence, and that it was only attainment of that right which would completely satisfy the aspirations of the Irish people? That was," he maintained, "the aim of all true Nationalists, and was the very meaning of the term national.

### Not a Domestic Question.

"If they allowed England to make it appear to the world that they were satisfied to remain with the British Empire, and that this was simply a domestic question between Ireland and England, then England could say, 'We are at war for the rights of small nations. This is no international issue. This question of Ireland is a domestic one, and does not come in under this heading.'

"If they were to follow the teachings of the Irish Party the question of Ireland would not be considered at all internationally, for that party stood really for Ireland a province, while inducing their followers in Ireland to vote for them by proclaiming that they stood for Ireland a nation. They in Ireland were, unfortunately, a very gullible people, and John Bull was able, as the late Bishop of Limerick had said, to lead them on and on by the snuff of a carrot to the nose of the Irish donkey. They were now going to get a snuff of another carrot, and he warned the Irish people to learn from past experience and not to be misled by this latest attempt to deceive them.

### Irish Party's Helplessness.

"They should not trust England or English negotiations, and they should not forget the thanksgiving processions for Home Rule on the Statute Book.

"The Irish Party claimed that their party was a constructive one. What exactly could they construct? They could only beg for favors in the English House of Commons, where they were outvoted by 5 to 1. That was Sinn Fein's charge against the Irish Party, that it was not constructive; and it proposed replacing that party by a body which would organize the Irish nation for constructive work, when the Irish people were sufficiently organized behind Sinn Fein, and had got rid of distracting political contests."

## THE IRISH CROWN PROSECUTORS

Mr. Sergeant McSweeney, one of the 17 Irish K.C.'s who wrote in approval of the bishops' action on conscription, writes to the *Irish Times* (Carson's Dublin organ) a letter in which he says: "You put from the point of view of the Attorney-General a series of questions to Crown Prosecutors as to what their action will be in particular cases. I can speak for nobody but myself; and my answer to your *obviously inspired queries* is that I have always done what I conceived to be my duty, irrespective of politics in every case, civil and criminal, and that I shall continue to do so.

"Having thus dealt with your hypothetical case, allow me to express a little mild surprise that, as you obviously consider matters of this kind of importance, you have restrained until now the ardor of your thirst for information. Four years ago a conspiracy was started in the North of Ireland, in which many Crown Prosecutors took part, the members of which bound

themselves—and they are still bound—to resist by force of arms the Government of the King in Ireland then about to be established.

### Four Years Ago.

"Your questions might have been very appropriately put to these gentlemen at the time, and they now may be administered to the residue of them who have not in the meantime been appointed to high office under the Crown. I say this because, as we have all seen, Sir E. Carson is engaged in reorganising his 'Provisional Government.'

"Above all, I should hope that you will ask the learned Attorney-General, the execution of whose office you have so much at heart, whether he is as ready to prosecute Sir E. Carson, his senior colleague in the representation of Trinity College, for making arrangements to resist an Act of Parliament as he is to pursue with legal penalties all other evil-doers in the like case offending.

"It ought to be the first object of every good citizen to see the law obeyed and respected in Ireland; but if this wished-for consummation is to be brought about the law must be equally enforced against all; otherwise it must fall into contempt—that is, indeed, if that point has not been already reached."

## CUSTODY OF CATHOLIC CHILDREN

A legal battle as to whether the two infant children of Ambrose William Hargraves, who was killed in France, should be reared in the Protestant Children's Home, Barwood, N.S.W., or in the domestic circle of the Catholic grandmother, Mrs. Cummings, was decided by the Chief Judge in Equity, Mr. Justice Street, in Sydney recently, in favor of the grandmother's application. It appears that the children were placed in a home under the guardianship of Bishop Stone Wigg, the institution's organising secretary, who opposed all efforts of the grandmother to secure their custody. The evidence disclosed that Mrs. Cummings was a woman of considerable means. Having dealt with the circumstances of a previous application, Mr. Justice Street, in giving his decision, referred to the correspondence from the father of the children while he was at the war, with Bishop Stone Wigg, respecting the guardianship of the children and the request in one of the letters to hand them over to Mrs. Cummings in the event of his being killed at the war. "I am satisfied," said Mr. Justice Street, "that it is for the welfare of the children that they should be removed from the institution and handed over to Mrs. Cummings."

## HEROIC CATHOLIC FIREMAN'S DEVOTION

He was a fireman and for hours he with his heroic comrades, unmindful of the snowstorm, had been fighting a quarter of a million-dollar blaze which destroyed a five-storey factory building on Laurel Street, Philadelphia, early one Sunday morning during the February cold spell. From helmet to boots he was covered with ice and mud. The smell of smoke followed him as he approached the Church of the Immaculate Conception nearby. Entering the sacristy, he asked one of the priests if he might not receive Holy Communion there. He politely declined the request to go into the church on account of the ice, now melting and running in rivulets on the floor. On Saturday night the fireman had gone to Confession and although called from his cot to the blaze at 4.30 a.m., he had maintained his fast until about eight o'clock, when a superior granted permission for him to receive his Eucharistic Lord. He then went back to the fire.

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