

fraud and that the Irish people, as is proved by rebellions in every generation, never recognised it. But the *Tablet* has not the grace to tell its readers that the article in question was written by one of the senior professors of Maynooth in the *Ecclesiastical Record*, which is the official organ of the Irish Hierarchy, and bears the imprimatur of the Archbishop of Dublin. No; there is no doubt at all about the opinion of the Irish Catholics on that point. Sinn Fein is striving, as the Belgians are striving, to obtain freedom from a tyranny imposed by brute force and treachery on a small nation; and all the sophistry of all the English Catholic Tories cannot change that plain issue. The bishops warn Sinn Fein not to allow the ruthless conduct of the Ulster Huns to drive them into useless rebellion, and the Sinn Feiners, to the grave disappointment of the enemy, are suffering patiently and waiting for the Peace Conference which will expose before the world how a small nation has suffered. English Tories do not enjoy that prospect. *Hinc illic lachryma!*

### Prohibition

Last week we referred to a letter from a correspondent who said that he was present at the interview between the representatives of the *Tablet* and Mr. Hammond, the Prohibition lecturer, when the latter was asked if it were true that he stated at Ashburton, on November 8, 1911, that it was the aim of the party for which he was acting to banish alcohol altogether, altar wine included. His words at Ashburton were reported as follows:

"When we carry Prohibition, a few years after we will have the majority of the people educated to the extent that the doctors will throw out alcohol for medicinal purposes; the Churches will not use it for religious purposes; and it will not be necessary for industrial purposes. Then will come the repeal of the exemption clauses—in a matter of ten years."

The speaker having been asked if the Prohibition Party contended that alcohol was an evil in itself, he answered, "Yes."

The following is the account of the interview which followed, as reported in the *Tablet* of November, 30, 1911:

"In regard to Mr. Hammond's alleged statements as to the probable abolition of the present exemptions in favor of the importation of fermented wine for sacramental and medicinal purposes in the course of ten years after Prohibition was carried, Mr. Hammond admitted that 'he did say something like that,' and that the report was 'approximately correct' in this matter."

Archbishop Redwood issued a warning to Catholics, pointing out that in view of such aims it was their duty to oppose Prohibition at the elections. Mr. Hammond then wired to the Archbishop and denied that he ever said that such were the aims of the party. The then editor of the *Tablet*, Mr. Scott, thereupon wired to the Archbishop an assurance that the report of the interview with Mr. Hammond was "scrupulously correct." The next move was a letter in the *Dunedin Star*, signed "H. Edward Austin," saying that the writer overheard the interview, and that Mr. Hammond's wire to the Archbishop was accurate. Mr. Scott replied in the *Star*, and contradicted this assertion flatly, and again repeated that the account given in the *Tablet* was "scrupulously correct." That ended the matter. Now a correspondent again writes and says that he was present at the interview and denies that Mr. Hammond ever spoke of the exclusion of fermented wine for religious purposes. With all due respect to our unknown correspondent, of whose presence at that interview we have heard for the first time, we are prepared to stand by Mr. Scott's account and to hold that it was "scrupulously correct." Moreover, the *Tablet*, probably foreseeing such denials, sent two representatives to meet Mr. Hammond, and both men were not easily deceived in a matter like this. In conclusion, we again deem it our duty to ask Catholics to remember who are behind the movement and to pause and reflect on what treatment they are likely to receive at the hands of

such agitators if once they succeed in passing Prohibition. We have learned enough about the ways of the wowsers in the past to know that no promises of his can be trusted, and that he would leave no stone unturned to injure us. Vote for State ownership, vote for reform, for severe restrictions, but never under any circumstances, as you are Catholics, vote for Prohibition. If you do you will be helping to forge fetters for the Church in New Zealand.

### Sinn Fein

Letters from Ireland assure us that however black things look the spirit of the people is splendid, and that there is now no question of yielding one iota of Irish demands. The minimum that will be accepted is full self-government on colonial lines. The Sinn Fein leaders are determined that they will make English statesmen keep their pledges to them, and that the right of a small nation to self-determination shall be secured. A patriotic Irish priest who is well known in New Zealand wrote to us lately saying: "Be sure you do not forget this: We claim the right of Ireland to self-determination and to work out her own destinies as a free nation. We are no longer to be treated as a West British province." From the President of the Gaelic League in Wexford we learn that although de Valera is absent, the work of propaganda is going on as usual and the spirit of Sinn Fein is as strong as ever. He says the "rotten parliamentary party did their best to explain away the true meaning of the anti-Conscription pledge," which meant exactly that each man and woman who took it was pledged to resist rather than allow Conscription to be enforced on the Irish people. We have had an opportunity of reading a letter from the Bishop of Killaloe also, and we are heartened by the unmistakable ring of faith in de Valera's party which it brings across the seas. Do you remember, readers, how our mercenary press used to tell us that Sinn Fein was denounced by the Irish Hierarchy? Some day or other when there is nothing more urgent we may compile a list of the lies told here about Ireland, *not one of which was ever refuted*. It may interest our readers also to know that at a convention of railway workers in Australia not very long ago the roof was nearly brought down by the cheers which greeted the toast of "Sinn Fein." And in America last month 25,000 Irishmen in New York joined with the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago in petitioning President Wilson to point out to Great Britain how its attitude towards Ireland was injuring the cause of the Allies. We have seen already how the Ulster Presbyterians opposed Conscription. Now let us hear what an Irish Protestant Prelate has to say on the subject. The Protestant Primate, Dr. Crozier, told a correspondent of the *Daily News*: "You may say that I do not attribute the present situation in the slightest degree to the agency of the Vatican. There is quite enough to account for it in Ireland." And with reference to Irish self-government he declared that he stood for an united Ireland, from Cape Clear to the Giant's Causeway. We have it on the highest authority that so strong has Sinn Fein become that Mr. Dillon does not hope to win 25 per cent. of the seats his followers now hold when an election comes. Sinn Fein will sweep the country, and there will be no more silly talk about compromise or about boneless Home Rule Bills. England has told the whole world that she is fighting for the rights of small nations and for the sacredness of treaties, and Ireland will insist that self-determination for the Irish people shall not be lost sight of, and that the treaty which pledges England's honor that the Irish people should be governed by their own laws shall be held sacred when the war is over. In Scotland and in England editors who are not bought by Northcliffe are calling the Government Huns for the way Ireland is treated, and Lloyd George has been asked in the *Glasgow Observer* why should the Irish people fight for Huns like himself and Carson and Lansdowne. Every new blunder England makes, every fresh piece of tyranny, every torn scrap of paper is helping Ireland. And while she is being helped abroad by the

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