

## FEATURES OF THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

Leader—Ireland and the Peace Conference,—p. 25. Notes—Ananias; Weather and Warmth; The Outside of the Cup; Homer; The Seer,—p. 26. Current Topics—The Kaiser; Ireland; The Epidemic; German or Not German; Prohibition; Pronouncement by the Hierarchy,—pp 14-15. Is Lord French a Fool?—p. 10. John Cardinal Farley, p. 11. Facts About Ireland, p. 43. A Lie Nailed, p. 21.

### AMBROSE DUNNE

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, DUNEDIN,

Will gladly supply any Religious Goods Catholics may require. Splendid Rolled Gold Rosaries 7s 6d, Christmas and Mortuary Cards 2s 6d to 3s dozen.

Mail orders forwarded.

#### MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

*Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.*

*Die 4 Aprilis, 1900. LEO XIII., P.M.*

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

*April 4, 1900. LEO XIII., Pope.*



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1918.

## IRELAND AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE



FEW days ago Sir John Findlay said in Wellington that the man who spoke of the wrongs of Ireland nowadays had the prison gates open in front of him. Not a few of our countrymen have gone in at the gates of British prisons because they have dared insist that England keep her own solemn pledge that Ireland should be governed by Irishmen alone: not a few have died because, when pleading in the name of reason and justice failed, they lost all patience and strove in vain to right their country's wrongs in foolish and hopeless fight; and there are in every part of the Empire to-day thousands and thousands who love right and justice too well to be prevented from advocating the freedom of Ireland. Lately we began mafficking on a false report that the war for small nations was over. Later the cables told us that the war for small nations is not over by any means, and that Bonar Law and Carson are as much as ever bent on oppressing the oldest small nation in Europe, which had England's solemn pledge that she should be ruled by her own people alone. Once again, in the moment of victory, the Orange gang have given the lie to England's war-aims and proclaimed to the world in fact that they care little indeed about small nations or scraps of paper. The English people *do* care: it is the Government that does not care; and the Government is composed of men among whom are a German and one who boasted of having the aid of the Kaiser in his efforts to kick the King's Crown into the Boyne four years ago.

A cable received here in November shows us how deeply interested in the fate of small nations these people are at present—

"In the House of Commons Mr. T. P. O'Connor moved that Britain should not attend the Peace Conference until it applied to Ireland the principle of the self-determination of small nations.

Mr. Asquith said it was urgent that before Great Britain entered the conference it should give an assurance that Ireland would not be behind any of our self-governing Dominions.

"Mr Shortt (Secretary for Ireland) said the failure in Ireland was shared by the Irish as well as the English. He asked the Nationalists to tell the House what settlement they would accept.

"Mr. Bonar Law said he had listened to Mr. Asquith with amazement. It was preposterous to claim that the British Empire should not take part in the Peace Conference until it had settled the Irish Question. The Conference had no right to deal with the matter.

"The motion was altered to read: 'In view of the approach of the Peace Conference the Irish Question should be settled in accordance with Mr. Wilson's principle of self-determination, for which the Allies were ostensibly fighting.'"

With all his weakness Mr. Asquith's heart remains true still. He has brains, at least, and he sees what a mockery the Orange gang have made of England, and how the world laughs at her protestations that she fights for small nations while she persists in refusing to allow four-fifths of the population of Ireland to govern their country. Bonar Law, the most stupid of all the stupid politicians foisted by party politics on England, remains true to the Orange type which has no other aim than its own selfish ends, and is the same to-day as when the *Irish Churchman* boasted, in November, 1913, of the friendship of the Kaiser:—"It may not be known to the rank and file of Unionists that we have the offer of the aid of a powerful Continental Monarch who, if Home Rule is forced on the Protestants of Ireland, is prepared to send an army sufficient to release England of any further trouble in Ireland by attaching it to his dominion. . . . And should our King sign the Home Rule Bill, the Protestants of Ireland will welcome this Continental deliverer as their forefathers under similar circumstances did once before." It is quite clear that as long as the Orangemen govern the Empire there is no hope for Ireland. We have seen how little they care about either England or the Empire, and how ready they were to join hands with the Kaiser four years ago, and we can have no doubt that the speeches of Carson, Bonar Law, and several Ulster preachers of Christian charity, had no little influence with the Kaiser when he was debating whether he should declare war or no. Still the fact remains that three times the people of Britain declared that it was their will that the people of Ireland should have self-government. So that it is not only the will of the Irish people the Ulster rebels, now aided by Lloyd George, defy: they also set at naught and mock the wishes of the English Democracy; and they do it, as we have seen, even while they are mafficking over the termination of a war which they professed to wage for the freedom of small nations. That is English statesmanship. Is there any need of comment on it?

The question has a present interest for ourselves in this way. It is our shameful record here in New Zealand that we are the only self-governing Colony that did not, during the war, call on the English Government to prove the truth and honesty of their assertions by giving to the Irish people the right they claimed for small nations under German or Austrian rule. That is our record, make what we like of it. Why is this the case? We believe that there is no doubt that if Parliament were given a chance of expressing its opinion on the case the verdict would be in accordance with that of Australia, South Africa, Canada, the British Democracy, the United States,

## CATHOLIC GIRLS' HOSTEL

An Up-to-date Hostel of 23 rooms; large sun balcony, etc.; situated in spacious grounds in the heart of the city; a "home away from home" for girls visiting Christchurch. For particulars apply—

245 CASHEL STREET, CHRISTCHURCH.

Telephone 3477.

THE MATRON.