

continuation of the plunder and barbarism of the past. Dublin and Louvain, Ireland and Belgium call to heaven for vengeance in truth; but why shield one set of criminals and punish the other? To do so is the way of the Jingo and the Junker; but the way of honest men is otherwise.

The Empire and Ireland

When for purposes connected with the nefarious and unrighteous propaganda of which the traitor Carson and the adventurer Harmsworth are the fitting heads a number of pressmen were invited to go home from Australasia and see for themselves what great things that little tool of Carson and Harmsworth, Lloyd George, was doing, everybody smiled at the transparency and the stupidity of the scheme. The men selected were in nearly every case the right men for doing the job they were expected to do; and in nearly every case they did it. They saw what they were told to see, and they said what they were told to say. Harmsworth and Carson pulled the strings and the puppets danced. Lately, Mr. W. H. Simmonds, editor of the *Hobart Mercury*, has been telling, in the way he was expected to tell, that he also saw what he was expected to see. His remarks on the Irish situation reach a high level of naive Prussianism, and still further convince us that a sense of humor and a capacity for seeing our own folly are the Hall Marks of Jingoism. We will not pause to dwell on how he explained that it was ridiculous to think of giving Ireland freedom and the right of self-determination: his reason for that is enough: *it would not be to the advantage of England to do so*. In other words: Rights and justice be hanged! Ireland is useful as a country to be plundered and as a bulwark to the Empire. There is his argument and that of most of the other asses who have brayed so fiercely about the rights of small nations! As a sample of this tourist's intelligence let us take one phrase; he talks about "the virile and intelligent" people of Ulster. That is enough. It brands him as just the tool that the people who brought him home were looking for. Nothing remains but to make him a Cabinet Minister beside the rebel Carson and the German trader Mond. Virile and Successful? Let us see. Intelligent people have been to Belfast: people who went to see things as they are, not as they were told they are, and what they saw was a very different thing from what the Hobart Harmsworthian says, or conveys that he saw. One honest man at least went on that fool-mission, and there is little doubt that he was also the most intelligent man of the party. He, Mr. Pirani, told us already in the *Feilding Star* how he got up betimes in the morning and went to see Belfast for himself, with his own eyes, and not with those lent him by Lloyd George or by Harmsworth; and naturally because he took the trouble to get up and go forth early and alone the things he reported were different reading from the ravings of a Geddes or a Simmonds who saw to order, like the loyal tourists they were. Mr. Pirani, and any other intelligent persons who care to go as he went would see an Ulster that is predominantly nationalist—so nationalist that the Tories would not dare leave the question of self-determination to an Ulster vote. They would see an Ulster that is not so successful or so prosperous as some of the other provinces of Ireland: an Ulster that is as far as statistics go more immoral than any other province; an Ulster that has a greater number of persons over five years of age unable to read or write than either Leinster or Munster; an Ulster whose vaunted loyalty consists in threatening to blow the British Constitution sky-high if every Orange demand is not complied with at once; an Ulster that would be as national and as sane as the rest of Ireland if a gang of Orange adventurers were not at all times ready to vilify their country and to murder their countrymen for the sake of what patronage or pelf they could obtain from their Tory over-lords who care as little about the Orangemen as they do about Catholics, and are willing to break their tools as soon as they have used them. The rateable value per head for Ulster is about £1 less than for Leinster: it is higher in thir-

teen counties of Leinster and Munster than in the richest county of Ulster. The prosperity of Ulster is a myth which goes no deeper than the docks of Harland and Wolff, the head of which company is a Home Ruler. The Ulster population has decreased everywhere outside Belfast, and at present the diminution is more than in any other province of Ireland; the true test of prosperity is the population, and weighed by that Ulster is found wanting. Indictable offences were more numerous in Antrim—and in Belfast particularly—than in any other county except Dublin. The claims for compensation for malicious injury in 1909 were—Ulster, 329; Leinster, 159; Munster, 256; Connacht, 107. Of the Ulster births in 1910 3.7 were illegitimate; in the other provinces the percentages were—Leinster, 2.8; Munster, 2.5; Connacht, 0.7. And we have only to recall again how the German drill-sergeants reviewed Carson's rebel army to realise of what stuff the loyal Ulster men are made and how true they are to King George whose crown their feet so often itch to kick into the Boyne. What a pity Baron Munchausen did not go to Ulster! Had he gone how useful his book would be for future tourists of the Simmonds of Hobart type!

France and Religion

We have frequently expressed our opinion on the subject of religion in France, and our readers will remember that we have asserted that the heart of that old Catholic land is pure and good and that the vagaries of Masonic politicians and Jewish financiers in no wise represents France. France is the people, and the people are sound—sound in spite of over a hundred years of efforts to rob them of Christ and His Mother, in spite of schools (on which ours are framed) devised expressly to deprive the children of France of God, sound in spite of the persecution of priests and nuns who came back from exile in the day of France's danger to put their tyrants to shame before the world. We recently came upon an interesting letter, written by a Frenchman in the columns of *America* to defend his country from charges of irreligion and decay. To a thinking man no defence should be needed; for as a tree is known by its fruits, so France to-day is to be known by her glorious record during the four awful years of storm and stress through which she has heroically won. A Catholic general, professing his faith and saying his prayers, with the simple faith of a Breton peasant girl, has led the armies of the Entente Powers to victory, and behind him were millions of the sons of France who prayed as he prayed and who looked to Christ and His Mother, and to their own Blessed Joan, for deliverance when days were dark and human valor seemed unavailing. That is the best answer to a man who doubts of France. Catholic France won. Her Catholic generals had to be brought from the obscurity into which the Freemason foes of France had plunged them. And when victory came they were the first to profess that their strength came from God in answer to their own humble prayers and to the prayers of the women and the little children of France. However, it will be of interest to our readers to hear how a Frenchman replies to the charges brought against his country, so we quote here an extract from his letter:

"Race-suicide is not universal in France: in Brittany, in Lorraine, in the central provinces, in Savoie, in the south-west, large families are still common. Nor is race-suicide confined to France: it is a modern universal evil. The conditions which have caused it in France are rapidly having the same result in other countries, and if they are not remedied, France will soon lose that unenviable leadership.

"There are in France atheistic newspapers; but how can the Catholic press be considered insignificant, even if compared to the Masonic press, when presenting papers like *La Croix*, *L'Eclair*, *La Libre Parole*, magazines like *Le Correspondant*, published in Paris, and a large number of Catholic papers all over the country? And what about the great leading secular newspapers which are neither subservient to Masonic

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