

## AMERICAN DELEGATES IN DUBLIN

### SPEECHES AT A FULL SESSION OF DAIL EIREANN.

A special public sitting of Dail Eireann, the Sinn Fein Assembly, was held on May 9, in honor of the American delegates to Ireland. The visitors were accorded an enthusiastic reception (says the *Irish Weekly*).

The session was as only on two previous occasions—the last being almost a month previously—open to the public, and though the Dail was announced to assemble at 11 o'clock a long queue of people anxious to be present on the interesting occasion had lined up long before the hour along the footpath in Dawson Street. The audience comprised many ladies, and clergymen were also very conspicuous. Prominent amongst the thousands present were many khaki-clad figures, Americans, Australians, and New Zealanders being seated here and there through the Assembly.

Particular attention was riveted on the presence of two British officers, who, with Councillor John Ryan, occupied seats immediately behind the part reserved for the members of the Dail.

It was exactly at noon when the American delegates entered the Round Room. The Lord Mayor and Mr. Dunne headed the party, Mr. W. T. Cosgrave and Mr. Walsh being next, and Mr. Joseph McGuinness and Mr. Ryan following. The Commissioners' Secretary, Mr. Lee, was also present. The members of the delegation were accommodated with seats behind the members of the Dail, and they received a most enthusiastic greeting. Almost immediately afterwards the members of the Dail entered the room. The entire audience at once rose to their feet, and indulged in a great outburst of cheering, as the members walked up the aisle and took their seats. Mr. De Valera followed in a carefully-prepared speech, in which he, as "chief representative of the Irish nation," gave expression to the welcome accorded the American Commissioners.

Mr. Arthur Griffith made a statement dealing with the effect of British occupation on the population. Many figures were quoted, a number of members supporting those with statistics relating to the reductions in population and homesteads in various centres.

Mr. M. Collins and Professor John MacNeill made statements respectively on financial relations and law in Ireland. Mr. J. J. O'Kelly, on taking the chair, first spoke in Irish, and then, in English, asked the Clerk to call the roll. There was a good response, some 45 or 46 members answering their names, the calling and replies being conducted in Irish. There were several letters of apology received. His Grace the Archbishop of Cashel, Most Rev. Dr. Harty, wrote:—"I am sorry that I cannot be in time for to-morrow's meeting of Dail Eireann, but I shall be at the Lord Mayor's reception."

Mr. Mulcahy moved, and Mr. Joseph McGuinness seconded, a motion for the suspension of the Standing Orders in order to admit the members of the American Commission to the House. Both gentlemen spoke in Irish. The Deputy-Speaker said he thought the motion before the House, that they admit their friends to the floor of the House, would hardly need to be put formally to the Dail, and that it would be received by everybody there and carried with acclamation.

Mr. De Valera's Welcome.

In the course of his address, Mr. De Valera said: "We greet them and salute them as a sign that America will not regard the official assurances of its responsible head merely as scraps of paper—(cheers)—but that the principles of right and justice are about to be started by the massed strength of the greatest nation on the earth to-day—(cheers)—that nation which the whole world recognises as its only head, that nation on which it will depend whether the principles of right and justice are to prevail or whether, as formerly, might and might only is to be right. (Cheers.) The honor we pay here to-day to our visitors will, naturally, be associated with the honor paid formerly to Franklin in this coun-

try, and the honor paid to Parnell and to other distinguished Irishmen, as one speaker has pointed out, in America, and that it will be a notable link in the chain of friendly relations that binds this nation to the great nation beyond the Atlantic." He regretted that the stay of the visitors in Ireland would not be longer, in order that they may meet persons whose political opinions were not those of the vast majority of the people, and it would also be an instruction to come into contact with a certain other section whose views, if they did not weigh with the people of Ireland, carried conviction elsewhere. They would find that the whole political situation was one of astonishing simplicity, and the experience would bring into relief the relative importance of things in Ireland. A longer stay would convince the delegates that if it depended on the will of the people the Irish National form of government would be accepted by all except a few Unionists. They would be convinced also that such as are heard to advocate Colonial Home Rule, etc., do so not because they consider it the best, not because they hanker after the English connection, but because they think that the militarist power which has kept Ireland within its grasp for centuries can never be persuaded to let her go, that the moral appeals of justice and right, despite the professions of English statesmen during the war, will have as little influence on English selfishness now as in the past, and that, just as Cabinets and Chancellors remained deaf to the appeals of the subject suffering nations of Europe until their own selfish advantage prompted them to listen, so will they remain deaf now to our appeals, and suffer England to work her will upon us. The Home Rule movement was an attempt by Irish political leaders to bring about an arrangement by which they hoped the two peoples might live side by side less in direct antagonism, less in the relations of master and slave. These leaders had hoped that the result of the removal of England's irritating interference in the immediate domestic concerns of Ireland, by which the statesmen of England made these concerns subservient to England's interests, would be that a better understanding might be reached which would enable the two countries to live side by side in peace as equal constituents in something like a Commonwealth Federation. They were willing to accept the British Empire on the terms of autonomy within it; but their efforts were met almost uniformly by England with insult and treachery. The hand of Irishmen held out in good faith was spurned and spat upon. The purely conditional acceptance of the British connection was exploited to place us in a false position, to misrepresent our national claims, and to create division in our national forces. (Cheers.) In the name of "loyalty"—as if the Federation were already in existence—England made demands for which a basis could only have been found had Ireland's side of the proposed bargain been conceded, but which were unjust and intolerable when the position was that England wanted to gain the benefit which by the proposed bargain would accrue to her, whilst denying to Ireland the freedom for which the benefits were the proposed price. (Hear, hear.)

Delegates' Speeches.

Mr. Frank Walsh said the generous and hearty welcome given to the delegation by the people of Ireland had of course evoked a very deep sense of appreciation upon the part of the delegation. Impressive as it had been up to that moment the honor conferred upon them by that legislative body with the information obtained in an official way was even more profoundly so, because after all the mandate that they bore, while political in a sense, was in a higher sense a business mandate which had to do with a definite charge, made not alone, they hoped, by the twenty millions of people of Irish blood represented in the Philadelphia Convention, but, as their President had so well said, by the great heart of America. (Cheers.)

"As we moved," said Mr. Walsh, "through your fair land and through the city of Dublin, I know that my colleagues as well as myself must have caught the spirit of the great soul of you all. And as we pass