

the historic building in which sat the historic Irish Parliament in the days of Ireland's glory, and the material upbuilding for a short time of Dublin and its surroundings, I saw again the figure of that great constructive statesman of revolutionary days, our own Benjamin Franklin, coming as the ambassador of a struggling people seeking light, as you are to-day seeking assistance in spirit at least of the Irish people, through their regularly elected Parliament, and not seeking in vain—(cheers)—bringing back to his country the word that the first country appealed to—the Irish nation—had responded to the cry of freedom of the American colonies, through its regularly constituted Parliament; and I think again of those days when Washington and his compatriots like others of this day were struggling with the intellectual problems involved in the establishment of a nation spoken of to-day, but then a struggling one, as the strongest and most powerful one upon the face of the earth.

"And so at this point," said Mr. Walsh, "I might answer the suggestion made by the unthinking that the question of the recognition of the suggested form of Irish government is a domestic question with which no person has to do except the Government of Great Britain and the people upon this island. No great wrong inflicted upon one nation by another is a domestic question. Unless I say that I must turn my back upon my own country's course in the history of the world, I must write the condemnation of one of the most important acts ever performed by my Government when they went into the island of Cuba and swept from the Western Hemisphere for ever the hand of Monarchy. (Cheers.) I say to you as an American to-day in my humble opinion what drove us into the war was the thought that the heel of the invader might press upon our sacred soil. (Cheers.) America entered the war in terms so clear and unequivocal that all could understand, and denied for ever the claim that the question of Ireland is not an international question in which the whole world is interested to-day, and on the proper solution of which depends the ultimate and permanent peace of the world." (Loud cheers.) He referred to Wilson's more recent declaration at the tomb of Washington, and said that the difference between the cause that then claimed the sacrifices of the American nation was that it was then a fight for the 13 American States, while to-day they had fought for the freedom of the nations of the earth, large and small. (Cheers.)

Mr. Dunne said they had been recognised and given unique distinctions and honors by a different nation. It was not because of the personality of the men, but because of the mission in which they were engaged. The invitation which had been extended to them came from the President of a nation duly elected according to the forms of a foreign law. As the result of that election nearly three-fourths of the majority of the people of Ireland determined that they needed and would have self-government, and they who met that day were elected as representatives of the National idea.

Mr. Ryan said that he had always stood behind those who represented the majority of the people of Ireland, but after the horrible tragedy of Easter Week he was behind Sinn Fein, because he saw it was the best for the motherland. Never before had the Irish people in America been so united.

Messrs. Walsh, Dunne, and Ryan, the American Commissioners, visited University College, Dublin, after the conclusion of the Dail Eireann proceedings on May 9. They were warmly received, and an address of welcome was presented. Dr. Coffey, president of the college, conducted the visitors through the building. Mr. Walsh, who replied, said they would give them their assistance in the struggle in the world of the new conceptions, and he felt assured that their great devotion to the cause of their country would not go for nothing.

Mansion House Seized: Military's Men's Extraordinary Manœuvre.

The Castle authorities were the authors of a most sensational performance in Dublin on the evening of

May 9. At about 5.30 p.m. the Mansion House was taken possession of by forces of military and police. Three motor lorries filled with soldiers arrived in Dawson-Street, and the men alighted outside the Mansion House. Immediately afterwards a large body of police came on the scene. A crowd collected, and the street was cleared, the police dispersing the people towards Stephen's Green. A guard of soldiers with machine-guns and rifles was placed outside the building, and also a guard of police, who were unarmed. It was known that a reception to the American Commissioners would be given in the Mansion House that evening by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. Some 1500 invitations had been issued, and amongst those who had accepted was the Archbishop of Cashel. The soldiers carried rifles with fixed bayonets. They had also machine-guns. Shortly afterwards several additional motors with soldiers were hurried to Dawson Street, and another addition to the display was an armored car. The soldiers were so placed that entrance by persons to Dawson Street in the neighborhood of the Mansion House was stopped, cordons being drawn across the thoroughfare at Stephen's Green, South Anne Street, Molesworth Street, and adjacent to the Hibernian Hotel. There was no stoppage, however, of the trams. Colonel Johnstone, Chief Commissioner, was in charge of the police, and the Lord Mayor, who had just entered his official residence shortly before the troops and police arrived, had a conversation with him in the street. The military held their positions for a considerable time, and wildest rumors about the meaning of the performance were current throughout the city. It was stated in some quarters that the Castle authorities meant to place Messrs. Walsh, Dunne, and Ryan under arrest (and, indeed, inquiries by telephone from Derry City and several other northern centres were responsible for the story that "exciting scenes" were happening in Dublin being spread far and wide with remarkable rapidity), but before 8 o'clock the word was given to the military to withdraw, and they returned to barracks. The reception to the Irish-American delegates was successfully held in the Mansion House in due course. So far as can be gathered, the extraordinary and provocative display of force had no other practical object than an attempt to arrest some of the Sinn Fein prisoners who recently escaped from Mountjoy Gaol. The idea was that the escaped men had concealed themselves in the Mansion House.

A later message states:—While the search was in progress two of the American visitors arrived, accompanied by Mr. De Valera, on their way to dinner in the Mansion House. They were held up by the cordon at Stephen's Green, and Mr. Frank Walsh, one of the delegates, interviewed Colonel Johnstone, who said the Americans might pass, but De Valera could not. When the second car containing one of the Americans and a number of well-known Sinn Feiners drove up, it was also stopped. The crowd around then became excited, and cheered and booed. At this point it is stated a volley of shots rang out, the soldiers firing over the heads of the people. The crowd scattered in different directions. The Americans declined to pass through the cordon without Mr. De Valera, and the party remained there until the cordon was withdrawn.

How inspiring and beautiful is the Hail Mary! How full of love to the down-hearted! How full of joy to all men of goodwill! Let us recite it with enthusiasm, and in sentiments of love and gratitude and wonder at what it tells us.—Rev. George Deshon, C.S.P.

PILES

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