

marked, amidst laughter, that the English Government in its anxiety for the protection of the Irish people had sent out their armored cars and soldiers to prevent them doing anything wrong or injuring themselves: but the delegates would bear witness to the fact that there never was a more well-disposed and orderly assembly. Or, he said, they might have been playing their characteristic part of the bully; and he wanted the delegates to carry back the message that no bullying would ever drive the national spirit out of Ireland. (Loud cheers.)

Alderman Thomas Kelly, M.P., also supported the resolution.

Mr. John Ryan, J.P., said the visitors appeared to be very naughty boys, such as their fathers and ancestors were. According to a section of the Irish and British press, they were very naughty boys indeed, because they were declared and avowed Republicans.

Delegates' Reply.

Mr. Michael J. Ryan, on rising to reply on behalf of his colleagues, was cordially received. He thanked the council for the splendid manner in which the resolution was passed and the language in which it had been introduced. Not for them personally had it been passed, but for the honor of the thousands of Irish exiles in America whom they represented in their mission, as some slight token of their kin, of whom they were part and whose messengers they were. He was one of the dreamers of their people—an idealist, if they might say so—but he revelled in the glamor of this island. America had been, and was, the greater Ireland of their race. They (the Commissioners) were sons of exiles who left the country, and they had come to help to pay the debt they owed to the motherland. They came with a message of hope, and would do all they could for their cause, though he admitted, for what had been showered upon her, America could never pay the debt she owed to Ireland. (Applause.) There were two great principles that made America great. For centuries our forebears were challenging English supremacy in Ireland. They had kept up the fight for years, and, if necessary, they would keep it up for ever. (Applause.) To the Government exercising functions in Ireland not a square mile of it owed allegiance, and to any other race but that of Ireland such a thing would be anomalous. They were idealists, and knew that the things of the spirit survived. Athens had represented more for humanity than did Sparta. This Irish nation was yet a thing of spirit, but it was certain to acquire an important constitution. A new spirit had inflamed the people of America, and men who in the busy stress of American life had thought that all their hopes and ambitions were in America—these men were now joining hands: through the mysterious thrill that Ireland had over its kindred, they felt the voice of mother Erin calling, and they responded. They even saw it was to their material interests in America to be of an independent people throwing up their heads and able to face their fellows as equals, and not as parts of and representatives of a subject race. Concluding, he said vested interests need have no fear of Ireland. He looked upon a future that was glorious: this cradle-land of their race that had endowed the earth with its genius: that had given its sons to make better every part of the habitable globe: that had given captains of industry and makers of nations—this Ireland that was mother of Empires, a great future was hers. The enterprise, the energy, the ability that had been scattered over the world would be centred here, and some day that dream would be realised, and Ireland would be the pathway of commerce between both hemispheres. God grant it was coming. (Loud applause.)

The Lord Mayor announced that a number of deputations to the Commissioners were in attendance, and he supposed the members of the council had no objection to their being heard. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington, heading a deputation from the Irish Women's Franchise League, presented an illuminated address from that body.

Madame Marckievicz, M.P., Mrs. Wyse Power, and Miss Wyse Power presented an address on behalf of the Cumann na mBhan.

Mr. Dunne replied to the address. He expressed their appreciation of the honor done them by the women of Ireland. They all recognised the force of woman in all great political and moral reforms. In America they had done all they could to obtain for the women there the suffrage, and one of the delegation had had the power and pleasure of enfranchising three million women in one State of America. They knew where the hearts and souls of the women of Ireland were, and the authorities in the Castle were so sure of the sentiments of the Irish in reference to the Irish cause that only yesterday in their (the Commissioners') presence they desecrated the privacy of the first lady of Ireland's chamber in the Lord Mayor's mansion for the purpose of discovering, as they believed, the presence of a man who was loyal to Irish interests. That act alone was a greater tribute to the loyalty of the women of Ireland than anything he or his colleagues might say. (Applause.)

The proceedings concluded, and as the delegates departed they were loudly cheered by the crowds assembled outside the City Hall.

During the day the delegates visited Mountjoy Gaol and were received by Sir John Irwin and other members of the Visiting Committee. The governor of the prison explained to the visitors that they could not interview the prisoners. They were then shown round the prison.

So far as could be ascertained, none of the prisoners are on hunger-strike, and none are handcuffed, although some are in close confinement in consequence of certain breaches of the rules. During their visit the delegates had a view of the exercise ground, and saw some of the prisoners, including Mr. Pierce Beasley, at exercise. The political prisoners had apparently become aware of the visit of the American delegates, and they took an opportunity of lining up in the exercise ground and indulging in hearty cheering.

The delegates also visited the Archbishop of Dublin at his palace, Drumcondra, and were introduced to his Grace by Mr. de Valera and the Lord Mayor of Dublin. His Grace thanked the delegation for their visit to Ireland in the interest of the Irish cause, and asked them to convey to Cardinal Gibbons his appreciation of his action at the Philadelphia Convention. He expressed his regret that his serious illness had prevented his receiving them properly when they attended the Pro-Cathedral for Mass on the previous Sunday, and remarked that "the delegates had an experience on the previous evening of the kind of Government under which we are living in Ireland."

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