

IRISH NEWS

GENERAL.

The provision in the new Irish Local Government Bill which enabled the Local Government Board to dismiss councils and administer affairs by means of its own nominees has been dropped under pressure of democratic opposition in Parliament. The provision in question was aimed against the Sinn Fein party.

Dr. Crowley, M.P., of Listowel, was recently released from Belfast Gaol on the grounds of ill-health. He said the Sinn Fein prisoners were then 14 weeks confined to their cells without any exercise. Four or five were in hospital and the remainder in poor health. He added that though the prisoners were weak they were in good spirits.

The Paris correspondent of the *Irish Independent* says the Italian papers of all shades of opinion are devoting a surprisingly large amount of attention to the Irish situation, not one of them, so far as he has seen, adopting any other attitude than that of demanding the recognition of Irish self-government. He mentions amongst others the *Popolo d'Italia*, the *Avanti*, the *Idea Nazionale*, and the *Giornale d'Italia*.

The London *Times* says the problem of Ireland can no longer be left as a matter of debate. Some solution must be found, for the present position of affairs is poisoning the broader currents of imperial and external policies. Mr. Rochfort Maguire, a former Parnellite M.P., writes a letter advocating Dominion Home Rule, and the formation of two Irish States to meet the case of Ulster.

The Central Hall election has been a bad blow to the Coalition Government. Commander Kenworthy, the Liberal voter, intends to raise the Irish question immediately. He regards his triumph as due in part to the disgust caused by the Government's coercion policy. At the general election, the Coalitionist, Sir Mark Sykes, had a majority of over 10,000. This has been turned into a minority of over 1000.

The Hon. Thomas J. Ryan, Premier of Queensland, whilst in Ireland, called on Mr. de Valera and on Mr. Dillon. He made the following statement to an *Independent* reporter:—"The results of the recent elections in Ireland were manifest indications of the bitter resentment of the Irish people against the failure to deal satisfactorily with the Irish question. This question has become not only a matter of Imperial interest, but of international importance, and was a problem which imperatively called for solution in accordance with the principle of self-determination, which had now received such universal recognition amongst the peoples of the earth."

OFFICIAL MISREPRESENTATION.

Mr. Macpherson, Chief Secretary for Ireland, referring in the House of Commons to the kidnapping of two children by the Irish police, said:—"The outrage in that case was an abduction of two small boys. These boys might or might not have been able to give evidence, and they were taken into the care of the police in order to preserve them from the menacing attitude of the Sinn Feiners in the district. They were kindly treated by the police, and the moment their fathers and mothers requested the police to hand them over, and they were assured there was no further danger, the boys were sent to their homes." The facts are quite different. The assertion that the boys "were taken into the care of the police in order to preserve them from the menacing attitude of the Sinn Feiners" is false. The children were seized and carried off to Dublin by parties of police. Their parents were left in ignorance of their having been taken away. It is not true that they were released as soon as the fathers and mothers applied that they should be set free. They were detained in custody for weeks, questioned and cross-questioned by the police day by day, and only released when the parent of one of them, after fruitless appeals to the police and the Lord Lieutenant, moved for a

writ of *habeas corpus* in the Dublin Court of King's Bench. From this it is evident how little reliance can be placed on information given in the House of Commons by the Chief Secretary.—London *Catholic Times*.

DE VALERA ON A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Mr. de Valera gave his views on the proposed League of Nations at the public meeting of the Dail Eireann held in the Mansion House, Dublin, on April 11. His views are substantially those of the English Labor Party. He said:—

To get a League of Nations founded there should be a feeling for it in the hearts of the plain, the common people. That feeling is in the hearts of three-fourths of the people of the world, but they are unable to express it. But it was only in the common people in whom these feelings are found, and it is for them to fall in behind President Wilson and tell him they would back him up and support him. It was not sufficient to admire his principles. They should be ready to take their part behind him and tell him that in standing by those principles they would back him up; but to do that it was necessary for the plain people, the common people, all the world over, to organise and back him up. "We are here to-day," said Mr. de Valera, "to say we back him up if it is his wish to establish a League of Nations in which equality of right amongst the nations is the foundation-stone. The Socialists in Berne, we in Ireland—the whole world—look to President Wilson as a leader in this crisis; the whole hope of the world is in him, and if we wish him to be strong we must tell him we are ready to back him up." To establish the necessary feeling in the hearts of the people, he continued, they should organise the races. "This Government will organise the Irish people, and do everything in its power to assist President Wilson, and by asking neutral nations to fall in behind these principles in the establishment of a League of Nations, and to support it against all who may try to found the new form which the League is taking now. That is a form of confirmation of tyranny, it simply means an association to perpetuate the powers of nations who had them, and for ever leave in slavery those who had been kept in slavery by rules called international law, which were the rules of thieves for regulating conduct amongst themselves. The American people, who had fought for justice, and had themselves to crush a dominating Power, understood what liberty is. It was long enough at the head of the neutral nations before it entered the war, and knew what war meant for the world, and what a lasting peace would mean for the world. America had got out of the war probably with less sacrifices than any other nation. France, unfortunately, was smarting from terrible wounds, and they could not expect France to be calm. They should try and help France from herself, for if in the peace imposed on Germany there is any desire for revenge on Germany, as was laid in the Treaty of Versailles, the new treaty would be followed by another war. They sympathised with France and understood her attitude. They should remember France cannot be calm. It was impossible for persons who had suffered as the people of France had, to be calm. Those who had suffered less should try and save France from an act that would endanger herself. "We are here," he concluded, "on behalf of the Irish people, and we are quite ready to take our part in a League of Nations in which, as I have said, the foundation-stone is equality of right amongst nations. To hold any nation in subjection to another is slavery. As Lecky says: 'The government of one nationality by another is of the nature of slavery, and is essentially illegitimate, and the true right of nations is the recognition of the full right of each nation to acquire and maintain a separate existence, to create or change its government according to its desire.' That expresses our feelings on this question, and I say if the peace is to be a lasting peace, that principle must be recognised and acted upon."

Claude Ring

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