

Liverpool. He (Sir James) had occasion to reply vigorously to both of those speeches, but at the same time it was only fair to state that he saw no inconsistency between the speeches Lord Birkenhead had made.

There was, he said, a portion of President Cosgrave's statement he wanted to quote: "I still hope Sir James Craig will see his way to take his share in the Boundary Commission. We do not want to be unfair, and do not want unwilling citizens in the Free State; but on the other hand, we do not want 'Ulster' to retain any section of our people against their will.

That, Sir James declared triumphantly, was exactly what Lord Birkenhead said and exactly what he must have meant when he made both speeches, and that was exactly what he (Sir James) replied to Mr. Cosgrave. In other words, by agreeing they could undoubtedly meet the wishes of Lord Birkenhead and of Mr. Cosgrave by giving to them certain portions of their territory—Roman Catholic from top to bottom—who, possibly, would be acceptable to the Free State, and who would be welcomed by Mr. Cosgrave, and who by their departure from the "Ulster" area would ensure Protestant occupation of those territories to which Lord Birkenhead referred, and ensure that the County Council and other local authorities would be all Protestant.

He had, he said, met the point of Mr. O'Higgins. If it were a matter of swapping—he knew no better word—Loyalists who were only desirous of going with them along the Empire's path and flying the Union Jack and coming into their territory, they would swap those who were desirous of going along the line of the Free State, but he was going to be no party to the driving out of anyone, no matter what their creed might be if they wanted to remain with them.

"Quite Welcome."

He, as head of a Government that had to govern all creeds and classes inside their boundary—he would insist upon the same respect for the law from the Orange brethren as he would from the Catholics who lived in their midst—must take cognisance of the fact that if any of those men wanted loyally to remain with the "Ulster" people—they were Ulstermen as much as his hearers—they would be quite welcome. No act on his part would drive them out. Therefore, at the eleventh hour, for there was no doubt that grave question was approaching finality of some sort or another, he would speak a message in a very short sentence—he would say to Mr. Cosgrave and his Government and to the people of "Northern" Ireland: Either drop the Boundary question or let us settle the matter by agreement (applause).

SIR JAMES CRAIG'S INTERVIEW.

The *Chicago Tribune* published the following account of an interview which a special correspondent of that journal had with Sir James Craig during the week-end:—

"We are the two leaders of Ireland. Somehow or other we reached that position. For God's sake, let us lead. I am willing to get out of public life to-morrow if by doing so I can bring peace to Ireland. I am sure Mr. Cosgrave is no less willing to do the same. Why not let us get together and settle this boundary question, regardless of the extremists of either side?"

I had gone to ask him for a reply to Mr. Cosgrave's suggestion that Ulster would legally become a part of the Free State by failure to appoint a Boundary Commissioner under the Anglo-Irish Treaty. He brushed the question aside.

"Man to Man."

"I am not a lawyer. My legal advisers tell me that Mr. Cosgrave is wrong, but I am not much interested. I do not like the idea of two sets of Irishmen using slim legal tactics against each other, but please do not represent me as saying that Mr. Cosgrave is doing so.

"I mean that I prefer fair dealing to legal arguments. I am convinced that if Mr. Cosgrave and I get together, man to man, with freedom to act, we could soon arrive at an agreement.

"It is said that I have my extremists and he has his—ignore them. Let us get together, man to man, and settle whom we must both consider. Very well, then; let us

ignore them. Let us get together, man to man, and settle this question of boundaries. It would not be hard. I am not unreasonable.

Exchange of Areas.

"There are substantial areas on the Ulster side of the boundaries inhabited by persons who would rather belong to the Free State. I do not want to keep them if they express a desire to go, but I will not turn them out if they desire to stay. There are other areas now in the Free State which I think wish to join Ulster. I do not think Mr. Cosgrave wants to keep them.

"Then there are places along the border where the boundary needs straightening out—a parish here, a townland there—that can be done by two men who want a fair settlement, better than by any formal Commission."

I asked Sir James if, in case Mr. Cosgrave consented to such a meeting, he would be willing to abandon the demand that Clause 12 of the Treaty (which provides for the Boundary Commission) be scrapped in advance.

"You mean, would I say to Mr. Cosgrave—'Let us try to agree, and, if we fail, you still retain your rights under Clause 12?' I should like time to think that proposition over before answering.

Imperial War Debt.

"What I do suggest is that we get together and settle the matter, and then together approach the British Government to secure the abrogation of that clause in the Treaty which calls for Southern Ireland to assume a small part of the Imperial Debt charges. If we both demand this, it will be easy to secure the necessary British legislation.

"The whole present trouble is due to the vagueness of the terms of the Treaty and the promises made to both sides by third parties. Let us, Irishmen in Ireland, settle the matter between ourselves, even if it involves the sacrifice of our political careers."

MYSTIC SILENCE.

It is significant that no Belfast newspaper has made any mention whatever of the remarkable interview given by Sir James Craig to the representative of the *Chicago Tribune*.

It will be remembered that in the course of the interview the Northern Premier advocated the ignoring of extremists, and added: "There are substantial areas on the Ulster side of the boundaries inhabited by persons who would rather belong to the Free State. I do not want to keep them if they express a desire to go, but I will not turn them out if they desire to stay. There are other areas now in the Free State which, I think, wish to join Ulster. I do not think Mr. Cosgrave wants to keep them."

BOOK NOTICES

Radio: Official Journal of the Wireless Institute of Australia. Price, sixpence.

This well illustrated journal contains a number of interesting articles for students of wireless and for lovers of listening-in.

The Small Missal, Burns, Oates, Washbourne, London. Prices, 3/- cloth; 4/6 to 10/6 leather.

The Small Missal is not more than a third of an inch thick, but it contains over 400 pages on which, printed on good Bible paper, you will find the Ordinary of the Mass, and also the Propers for principal feasts, the Rite of Benediction, Compline for Sunday, Vespers, and other devotions. This is the ideal prayer book for the educated laity who love to follow the Mass as the priest reads it.

Crotchets, by Percy S. Scholes. Per Angus and Robertson, Sydney. Price, 8/6.

In this volume the lover of music will find over half a hundred essays which (and it is a hall mark in itself) were published in the *Observer*, which has the most literary editor in London. Everything of interest in connection with music, singing, concerts, audiences, programmes, operas, and actors is discussed with knowledge and humor.

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