

# Irish News

## PROTESTANT ARCHBISHOP ON DIVORCE—THE KINEMA AND IRELAND—PRESENT POSITION IN IRELAND—CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE SIX COUNTIES.

With regard to the cinema it is reported that the English Association of Film Producers has threatened to cut off the supply of the films they control (largely imported American productions) from the cinema theatres in Ireland (says the *London Catholic Times* for March 14). They say that under the Irish censorship they cannot carry on their business satisfactorily, and add that, after all, the loss incurred by ceasing to deal with Ireland would not be serious. A reputation of the Irish managers is coming—or has already come—to London, to negotiate with the controllers of the film business in England. We trust that the Irish managers will not be misled into accepting whatever the combine in London wants to thrust upon them. There are other sources of supply outside England, and if they make use of these for a while the London combine will soon drop its present attitude. It is not "good business" to import doubtful films into Ireland. There is a strong public opinion to be reckoned with there. In one instance in Limerick, where the Censorship allowed a doubtful film to pass, the Catholic Men's Confraternity first protested, and when the manager rashly rejected the protest of a deputation representing 6000 men, another deputation some hundreds strong arrived, bought their tickets, and filled the theatre. The manager was congratulating himself on attracting such a large audience, but had the surprise of his life when, as the time for showing the objectionable item in his programme drew nigh, a party of the men captured the film, and the audience poured out into the street to see it burned in front of the theatre. Since then cinema managers in Limerick have been careful in the selection of their films.

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It is strange to find the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin airing a grievance in respect to the divorce ban in the Free State (says the *London Tablet*). Forsooth, the decision of Dail Eireann not to make any provision for divorce is to take away from the Protestant minority one of its long-established rights, and to raise a definite barrier in Ulster against the unity of Ireland. Now it has been officially ascertained that in the eighteen years from 1905 to 1922 inclusively the number of bills of divorce from Ireland introduced into the House of Lords was exactly fifty-two—that is to say, an average of less than three in a year. There were only nine bills of divorce from the Six Counties, representing an average of one every two years. Of the fifty-two bills in these eighteen years fifteen were from petitioners living in England, so that only twenty-eight bills were introduced from the twenty-six counties from 1905 to 1922. The Archbishop's reference to the Scriptural exception in regard to the indissolubility of the marriage tie does not affect the question at issue.

Dr. MacRory, Bishop of Down and Connor, says he regrets that the vitally important question of the training of Catholic male teachers for the Six Counties Bill still remains in the same most unsatisfactory conditions. No solution had yet been offered of which the Bishops concerned could conscientiously avail. The bishops and clergy were keenly sensible of the vast importance and pressing nature of the question, and no opportunity would be lost of having it settled satisfactorily. Dr. McHugh (Derry) says that rulers, not satisfied with the havoc that has been wrought, are determined that the rising generation shall imbibe the false principles that have led them astray. In some cases the spirit at work was avowedly atheistical and anti-Christian. To secure the practice of their impious doctrine the young men are not only prevented from receiving instruction in the Christian Faith, but they are constrained to learn principles and contract habits that are purely pagan, and opposed to right reason, and the law of God. In other cases, the advocates of a system of secular education, while professing the Christian faith, aimed at developing a kind of human and natural morality by inculcating high principles independent of God and His Commandments. Parents, and not the State, were the natural guardians and teachers of their children. They were the agents and instruments of God in all that concerned the spiritual and temporal welfare of their offspring, and they were bound to carry out His designs in what was a sacred duty. Should they be unable or unfit to personally discharge their obligations, the authority with which they were invested by God entitled them to select and delegate others to do the work for which they were primarily responsible. To interfere with the exercise of that authority was to resist what was an ordinance of God. Never was there a time when the religious training of youth was more necessary than to-day.

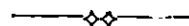
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Mrs. Collins O'Driscoll, T.D., the only woman deputy in Dail Eireann, has contributed to the *Chicago Daily News* an interesting statement regarding the present position in Ireland. In the course of her message Mrs. O'Driscoll says:—

"I am the only woman Deputy in the present *Dail*. By profession I am a teacher. My life has been spent amongst the plain people of the country. If I were put the question: "How is old Ireland and how does she stand?" I should say that I am satisfied, taking everything into account, and looking at the whole economic and political position that there is much that is cheery and consoling and much that justifies a citizen of the *Saorstát* in contemplating the present situation with satisfaction and in looking to the future with buoyancy and hope. The country has "turned the corner" and is now starting out on the road to what promises to be a position of un-

exampled prosperity. The Government having combated the armed challenge to their authority are now meeting and defeating the politicians who seek to continue that challenge in the political field. They have definitely made up their mind that they will not any longer tolerate the mock heroics of the malcontents and the so-called intellectuals and degenerates whose main objects is to prevent the country from settling down to hard work. . . . It is generally agreed that the Government are achieving wonders. Their bitterest enemies have to admit that a more hard-working or more able team of Ministers could not be found anywhere. Some critics allege that they have departed from the ideals and traditions of Arthur Griffith and of General Collins (my late brother). Nothing could be farther from the truth. What has given me, personally, the greatest satisfaction is to observe how splendidly they are using the powers the Treaty gave us in governing the country and in fostering and developing its resources, not for the benefit of any one section but for the good of all its people. . . . A great many of our people undoubtedly fell away from the teachings of their religion in the last three years in this country, but the influences of the ancient faith are again asserting themselves. All over the country the priests are commencing to take an active part on the side of order, decency, and good Government. The finger of scorn and contempt is being pointed at all, who, under the slogan, "Up the Republic," went out to enrich themselves at the expense of their more respectable neighbors. The enfeebling apathy and indifference that seized upon the mass of the people is disappearing."

Since this message was written (says a Home paper for March 21) the results of the recent elections in Ireland have considerably brightened the prospects of the country. In those elections Mrs. Collins O'Driscoll took prominent part, being the first to announce the intentions of the Irish Government with regard to the coming development loans.



## The Hibernian Society

ST. JOSEPH'S (LADIES) BRANCH,  
PORT CHALMERS.

The ordinary meeting of the above branch was held in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Wednesday, April 23, Sister E. Mackie presiding over a good attendance of members. The names of three candidates were submitted for membership. Various accounts were passed for payment. The prospects of this newly-appointed branch are now very promising, and much enthusiasm is being displayed by the office-bearers and members to make it numerically and financially a success.

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