

Current Topics

Irish Self-Government Fund

We have received notification of the results of the collection for this fund in many parishes. We would be obliged if those who have not yet let us know how they have done will do so immediately. We particularly want Hawke's Bay and Taranaki results. We know that collections have been made in the former district, but have heard nothing from Taranaki. Have all the Irish people died in that province?

A Suggestion

The Council of Churches, having exhausted the provinces of theology, ethics, politics, and Papishness, have turned their attention to discussing the proper scale of racing weights. We suggest that, in return for their kindness, George Price, Pat Hogan, and F. D. Jones formulate a scheme for the restriction of Sunday services in the churches appertaining to the said Council. Arthur Olliver, Jack O'Shea, and Frank Flynn might be selected as travelling inspectors to see that the various congregations were not persecuted by long-winded discourses on Rome.

The Voice of Ireland

It is surprising with what ingenuity our press tried to prove to its own satisfaction that the election of eighty per cent. of Republican representatives did not show that the Irish people wanted a Government absolutely their own. The municipal elections since confirmed the Sinn Fein victory at the general election. Further confirmation comes from the County Council elections recently held. According to cablegram, Sinn Fein has secured 525 seats as a distinct party, and 566 with the Republican Labor Party, and 590 with Labor and Nationalists. Against this score the Unionists count only 96. In Ulster it is claimed that Sinn Fein, Labor, and Nationalists have captured 106 seats and the Unionists 82. All over Ireland Unionists have secured only 12 per cent. of the seats. And still the press liars and politicians will say that Ireland cannot agree, and that Ulster is opposed to a Republic! British intelligence is a queer thing; but British honesty is queerer still. If the foregoing figures do not represent an united Ireland in favor of a Republic we do not know what union means. The truth is that Britain has thrown her pledges to the winds and holds fast by the Prussian policy that might is right, and that because Ireland is useful Ireland must submit.

Cut Out This

Among the fablegrams in the *Otago Daily Times*, July 30, we find the following:—

"Archbishop Mannix states that he had hoped to visit Ireland *en route* to Rome, but he must abide by the British Government's decision not to permit him to set foot in the British Isles.

"MANNIX DEFIANT.

"New York, July 28.—Mannix has stated: 'I do not mean to alter my plans because of threats of what may happen to me if I land in Ireland.'"

We advise our readers to cut that out and keep it always. If you searched for a century you could not find a more striking example of the utter idiocy of the sort of cables published about Ireland in our "day lies." We note that the forger, "Civis," is still paid to "spit out dirt," as Sir Edward Carson would have it in his cultured Protestant-Orange manner. Why does he not get hold of the cablegrams and by a little forgery try to make some common sense out of them? It would be much more profitable than corrupting the text of a well-known work on Irish History. But as it would also be more decent it is not work for "Civis." The Dunedin forger does not believe in liberty for small nations, and he is precisely the sort of tool the enemies

of Ireland have always found ready to hand. There is no healthier sign at present than the fury that finds expression in the wailing of the Council of Churches and in the abuse of such satellites as the numerous Church organs and the exposed forger.

Wanted: An Order-in-Council

From a contemporary we learn the following:—

"London, May 15.—The Sinn Fein colors are now part of the uniform worn by Irish footmen at Buckingham-Palace, by special permission of King George. Sons of Erin who guard the private corridors leading to the King's apartments reported for duty yesterday morning with the Republican colors on their sleeves. Lord Stamfordham, private secretary to the King, was deeply shocked and ordered the instant removal of the badges, but when King George heard of it he smilingly gave permission to the men to wear the green, white, and orange of the Irish Republic."

But of course it goes without saying that our Government is ten times more loyal than the King, just as the P.P.A. Privy Councillors who run New Zealand are higher and holier mortals than a poor Prince who bets.

In the anxious months before the war, Sir Hubert Gough was in command of a regiment on the Curragh. He then made himself notorious for refusing to march against Ulster, or rather for signifying that he would not march if the occasion should crop up. Now we find him in *Common Sense* defending Ireland and arguing for a settlement—even if it is to be a Republic. He insists that:

"We Irishmen have developed a very strong desire to govern ourselves, to be free to extents which differ in various minds, but to be free to govern ourselves we are as a people quite determined.

"We Irishmen are confident that given a fair chance, we are able to govern ourselves as well as most other people, including even the English."

He goes on to state the case of Ireland very clearly, and to condemn military repressions of the people as useless and mischievous. And here let us note that the Speaker of the illustrious Parliament of New Zealand almost stood on his head when Mr. Holland said almost the same as General Gough has expressed in his article to *Common Sense*. General Gough wants a settlement which while safeguarding minorities and ensuring friendship with (not dependence on) England will give the Irish people a Republic if they want it. The remarkable fact about this is that it is exactly the sort of talk that P.P. Asses and their pet politicians would call treason. Of course nobody minds them: they know much less than the meaning of words, and treason in their minds is synonymous with fair play for Ireland. Imagine it, all ye holy tin-templars! Your erstwhile champion says that all that justice requires is safeguards for Ulster and some concessions with regard to the use of Irish ports for England. Then he would have England say:

"Subject to this, you can discuss any form of government, including even a Republic, if you really wish."

In all that he is only saying what the average intelligent and honest Englishman is saying nowadays. But average intelligence and honesty—where Ireland is concerned—is a long way from New Zealand's political marionettes still.

The Curse of Ignorance

Apropos of the buzzing of gnats and flies, as manifested by a swarm of foolish anonymous and signed letters in the *Wellington Post*, in comment more or less stupid on Archbishop O'Shea's speech, it strikes us that a deal of paper would be saved if editors made it a rule to exclude all letters by persons who do not understand the meaning of ordinary words. For instance, most of his Grace's critics write glibly of sedition and loyalty, with every indication that they have not the remotest idea of what they are talking about.

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