

"I gather, sir, from your name and accent that you are an Englishman. It is clear that you forget that we are Irishmen."

The sergeant then condemned the soldiers in strong terms and declared that the police would no longer assist in the Castle's persecution of the Sinn Feiners. Smith, frantic with rage, cried out, "Arrest that man." A constable stepped forward with his hand on his revolver, and said, "If you or anyone lays a hand on McNamee you will have your blood in this yard."

Noticing that the other men were significantly handling their revolvers, Smith beat a hasty retreat, returning to Dublin by motor. The men received assurances of support from the police in the other towns of Kerry. They said that in the event of the soldiers being called out against them they would fight to the last man. They drew up a written report of the remarks made by Smith and a statement of their general case, which was submitted to Dain Eireann.

It is over a month ago now since the foregoing events related by the London correspondent occurred, and the first tidings we have had in our press of any such trouble was the cable appearing in the *Star* of August 25. Taken in connection with the foregoing details that little cablegram may be very significant. There could be no more eloquent comment on the doings of the Huns in Ireland than that remark made by the sergeant, "You forget we are Irishmen." If the malign stupidity of the authorities drives even the police to revolt things must have come to a pretty pass. It is quite evident that the belated cables that reach us leave us very much in the dark as to the real state of things. While the ranks of the army of occupation are splitting, the great victory of Sinn Fein in the County Council elections has effectively given the lie to the statements made by our press that the results of the Parliamentary elections did not prove that the whole Irish people were with Sinn Fein. In the Ulster County Councils Carsonites have been defeated and are in a minority, while Sinn Fein has swept the rest of the country. Note that these elections of over 700 representatives were conducted under the system of Proportional Representation, thus putting it beyond a doubt that the Irish people know what they want, agree as to what they want, and that they want self-determination. Thus another press lie is nailed.

Attacks on de Valera

Last week under a vulgar heading the *Dunedin Evening Star* published a cable telling of a split between the Friends of Ireland in America. The news which inspired the *Star* headliner to become coarse has the freshness of being several months old now. It has also the fatuity and nonsense which we are accustomed to associate with alleged Irish news in our dailies. The fact is that a very small section of the American friends of Ireland did attack de Valera because he refused to become their tool, and the result was that they were repudiated and condemned all over the United States, while the occasion was seized upon for a grand renewal of confidence in the Irish leader. The prime movers in the campaign against de Valera were Judge Cohalan and the editor of the *Gaelic American*. And when they saw how the cat was jumping they were very anxious that what they said and did should be forgotten. But the vast majority of the Irish insisted on giving full publicity to the charges in order to scotch for the present and for the future such ill-tempered and unworthy attempts against the common cause. It will be remembered that, when refuting the charge that England's security would be endangered by Ireland's independence, de Valera said that guarantees such as existed between Cuba and America would meet the case fully. His enemies then assailed him and spread abroad the news that he was willing to pull down the flag and accept a dependent position for Ireland, similar to that of Cuba with re-

gard to America. That attack failed and the Dail Eireann proclaimed its trust and confidence in its elected chief, while the Irish papers made it clear from the beginning that they perfectly understood how far de Valera meant the analogy to go. Later the plotters wanted to induce de Valera to ask from the Chicago Convention a mere resolution of sympathy instead of recognition, and because he refused to fall in with their views, which were inspired by considerations based on American politics, they again attacked him, this time accusing him of wasting the funds. Naturally, de Valera made it plain to the American people that he was responsible to Ireland and not to any group of Americans, that he was in the United States to speak as the Irish people wished him to speak, and that he would not allow Judge Cohalan or anybody else to dictate to him on that subject. Sympathy *go leor* had been expressed for Ireland before, and he was not wasting his time there in looking for empty votes such as the plotters would suggest in order not to embarrass their friends. Again, Dail Eireann pledged its support for de Valera and refuted all charges against him by making it clear that all he had done and said in America had the full approval of the Irish executive at home. Strong expressions of condemnation of the would-be dictators then poured in from all sides, and the entire country pledged its fealty to the Irish leader. Father Yorke, in the *San Francisco Leader*, speaks for the Friends of Ireland when he says:

"At this moment what Ireland requires from America is an act of justice. Sympathy has already been expressed for Ireland. The Irish President in requesting action by this country, is but fulfilling the wishes of the people whom he represents. No person, or group of persons, in this country can profess to speak directly for Ireland. If the Irish movement is not to become a piece of political machinery for the benefit of political office-seekers, it must be directed in accordance with the wishes of the Irish people, as long as those wishes are in accordance with the principles for which Ireland has stood for seven long centuries. In asking for Ireland [as was done in the second plank presented in Chicago by Judge Cohalan and his friends] less than what the people of Ireland demand, those responsible stultified the Irish movement in America, and, consciously or unconsciously, laid open the way for the tremendous sacrifices of the Irish people being used for other than Irish interests. . . . The attempt made to undermine President de Valera, both in this country and in Ireland, by those who pose as friends of the Irish cause, have met with ignominious failure. The outpourings that greeted him in Chicago and San Francisco, as well as the resolutions that are being passed by every Irish organisation in America, show that Ireland's sympathisers in this country are solidly behind them. Of the attitude of the people of Ireland there could be no doubt, but the action taken by Dail Eireann on last Tuesday [June 29], in which it expressed complete satisfaction with de Valera's policy and work in America, makes assurance doubly sure. There is no split in the Irish ranks at home or abroad. Ireland remains firm in its allegiance to the Republic, and American sympathisers stand solidly behind it, demanding its recognition."

So the attempt to harness the Irish movement to a political chariot was defeated ignominiously, and de Valera's position was made firmer and more assured by the exposure of the false charges made against him. The views of the friends of Ireland were well expressed by his Eminence Cardinal O'Connell, whose verdict was, "Whom else would we follow but de Valera?" Already news from America tells us that the discomfited persons are now protesting that the dispute was a matter of little importance and that their criticism was based merely on a question of tactics. They have learned a lesson, and in future will not be likely to forget that they are dealing with a man who will not abate one whit of his demands, made in his cap-

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