

Current Topics

"I Am Sir Oracle"

The other evening the editor of the *Dunedin Star* emphatically assured us all that although he knew there were other opinions he had no hesitation in asserting that New Zealand was out by itself in matters educational. Of course one has but to read the *Star* for a few evenings to be quite convinced that its editorial opinion on culture and education is final. We agree that New Zealand stands by itself, but we do not agree that its position is in the van. There are more ways of being conspicuous than one.

A Forger's Opinion

According to the forger "Civis," Ireland is not a nation, and her people are ungrateful because they do not allow the English to rob them in consideration for the Wyndham Land Bill. He also waxes angry with the brave men who are defending their country against the murderers of women and children and aged priests. One would hesitate to adduce decent authorities against a forger, but there need be no hesitation in refuting him on the authority of the Lloyd George Government which employs blackguards like the Dunedin Piggott. When Lloyd George was in fear of the Prussians he circulated through Ireland a recruiting poster promising the people that the Allies would see that Ireland got her rights, like the other small nations. As for the Land Bills, they were wrung from England by force. The bullets that lodged in the filthy Leitrim and in others like him were the main arguments that brought them about. They made no gift to the Irish people. They made them borrow money at interest in order to buy the land that was stolen from their fathers. Generosity? Well, yes, British generosity, if you like. We note also the ill-bred references to Mr. Fraser, M.P. Is it because Mr. Fraser is a Labor man that such sneers are aimed at him? Why does not "Civis" rub it into Anglican D.D.'s in the same fashion? Mr. Fraser did not change his coat to become an M.P.

Day-Lies Again

We pointed out last week that the fablegrams had killed Michael Collins many times and that he still lived. Of a similar trustworthy nature is the alleged reference by Dr. Cohalan to the fact that the Pope did not recognise the Irish Republic. Dr. Cohalan may not be gifted with a great deal of common sense but we refuse to believe that he is such a fool as our fablegrams make him. Having longer memories than the fablegrammers our readers will readily recall that the Pope did at least indirectly sanction the Irish Republic when he laid down the sound doctrine that government by the consent of the governed ought to be the basis of that peace which our bosses promised we were fighting for. If you read Dr. Mannix's speech in last week's *Tablet* you will find that once he found the Irish people had elected their own government the matter was settled for him, and there was nothing for him to do but support that government by every lawful means in his power. One more bull's eye goes to our day-lies. We had vivid descriptions of interviews between Mr. George and Dr. Clune. Now Dr. Clune says there was not a word of truth in them. One of these days the man who quotes a day-lie as an authority will be able to make a fortune by exhibiting himself at Fuller's as a survival of the simple people who believed in fairy tales. Ponderous, platitudinous, ill-informed if not dishonest, our press-propagandists still continue their gas attacks on a small nation. When the Dunedin day-lies discuss Ireland it is hard to decide which of the two is the more ludicrous. But it makes one sick to look back to the days when both were so hysterical on behalf of small nations and so angry against brutal oppression of the weak by the strong. Their present attitude, in the face of the war on women and children carried on by John Cow, is sufficient proof

of their abject worthlessness. What an Empire it must be that it needs the support of such contemptible tools. Probably both the editors will soon be rewarded by promotion to the Upper House or by decoration with an O.B.E. We could not think of any more suitable treatment for them.

Limavaddy and His Press

One would think from reading Dunedin's day-lies that Lord Limavaddy had a good time all the time while he was in Dunedin recently. As one more instance of how the press deludes the public compare what the papers said with what happened in reality. First of all, Lord Limavaddy arrived in Dunedin, standing out on the platform as if expecting a warm welcome, a cheer, or some sort of demonstration. He got nothing of the sort. Then, during his stay in the town less notice was taken of him than if he had been one of the gee-gees come hither for the races. But it was when the delegation of gold miners met him that the band began to play. They gave it to him hot and strong. They told him what they thought of himself and his Muddlement, and of their opinion of the morality of profiteering at their expense. They tangled him up in economics about which he knows nothing; they refused to be bamboozled by his politician's tripe; they stripped him of his smugness and goaded him to bad-temper, just as the Wellington people did on that famous day when a New Zealand Prime Minister made himself notorious for ever by his corner-boy gesture; and it was a babbling, storming, nonsensical poor Limavaddy he was by the time the meeting was ended. By all means send him Home and make him Prime Minister of Orange Ulster's little fool-parliament, but do not send him Home to represent New Zealand. It is high time that New Zealand got a man with brains to pull her out of the mud. Who knows but that the Orange drummers might make him another King William? And, then, in his learned leisure, he could sit down by the waters of the Lagan and write his autobiography. If he writes it himself he will see that his election by a calumniator of dead women, and other little incidents that might prevent his burial in Westminster Abbey, are carefully kept out. Poor Lord Limavaddy! How the servile press cloaks the man's stupidity and incompetence on every occasion! We have another instance of it in the attitude of our dailies towards Mr. John Brown's sane and acute criticism of the Massey Muddlement. Mr. Brown knows what he is talking about, but the press, unable to answer his reasoning, helplessly implores the public to rely on the superior wisdom of the head of the most deplorable and incompetent Government that New Zealand has seen since the days of Sir Julius Vogel. Happily, there are many people whose memories are long enough to recall how the press lied during the War and to discount for ever more the sapient utterances of writers whose lack of principle no longer needs demonstrating. One day the paper props—whether the day-lies or the paper money—will be torn away, and poor Mr. Massey will have such a fall that, like Humpty-Dumpty, he will be beyond repairing by all the King's horses and all the King's men.

What is Behind the Orange Orgies?

Last week we pointed out that bigotry is used as a tool for similar ends both here and in Ulster. Here we have the P.P.A., and its horse-whipped organiser, and its rabid parsons, and its rag-tag-and-bobtail among the ignorant masses, exploited for the purpose of dividing Labor and enabling the capitalists to fool all the people all the time. On foundations of bigotry and sectarian strife the Massey Muddlement has been erected, although a large majority of the votes of the people was cast against it. Mr. Massey, who in his ill-temper admitted that he was an Orangeman and a Mason, permits the P.P. Ass. organiser to boast openly that he and his Cabinet are the political creatures of a disreputable gang of strife-mongers, and it is not long ago that the same gang exacted from the same Muddlement its pound of flesh in the shape of legislation which has made New Zealand a synonym for religious per-

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