

in Russia: "The enemy in their victorious march know not what they are doing. Let them beware, for they are unshackling Russia. With their monster artillery they are shattering the rusty bars that fettered the strength of the people of Russia. . . . They are hammering a sword that will destroy them, and are freeing a great nation to wield it with a more potent stroke and a mightier sweep than it ever yet commanded." This prophetic utterance (says the editor) drew a re-monstrance from the ex-Tsar.

So much for Russia, while it served England's interests, and for Belgium when it was no longer politic to parade "Belgian Atrocities in the Congo." Speaking about the same period of "German militarism," Mr George said:

"If militarism were not crushed throughout the whole of Europe, the whole of the British blood would have been shed in vain. It must be put an end to, and he certainly would be no party to anything which would end in having a military system here." Again: "I hate war, I abominate war. I sometimes think, am I dreaming? Is it a nightmare?"

In the light of these professions regarding militarism and the rights of small nations, let us examine his recent "coarse, cowardly, and cruel" tirade against Ireland before a packed meeting of sycophantic Welshmen—in the words of the *London Times*, "a handful of estimable Aldermen and Councillors of the County of Carnarvon"; in the estimation of Mr. Harold Spender, who went there to paint the lily: "a small audience, not more than 400 in all," who applauded most rapturously, for they know that though the world may claim him, he still belongs to Wales." To do the Grasshopper full justice we quote from his own organ, the *Daily Chronicle*, which prepares its readers for the diatribe by means of an absolute fable in double-column heavy type, "Army Lorry Blown Up in Ireland. Eight Soldiers Believed to have been Killed" to open its front page; on the far column "The Gang of Assassins Denounced, Dominion Home Rule Impossible"; and embellishing the centre, a picture of the Prince of Wales, whom even the *London Times*, which so often urges us to forget the past, could not permit to return home from Australasia without recalling in most offensive terms one of the bitterest chapters of Ireland's history.

"The Prince of Wales," said the *Times* weekly edition of October 8, "yesterday landed at Montserrat, where he was received by the Commissioner and other leading inhabitants of that pleasant island, which is at present prospering with the good prices offered for its famous sea island cotton. The Prince was shown the boiling sulphur springs, and was cheered by crowds of colored folk, who still retain in their broken English a distinct brogue inherited from one side of their ancestry, which dates back to the Irish immigrants who accompanied Sir Thomas Warner in 1632."

"Wherever you go in Wales," said the Grasshopper at Carnarvon, "you have the feeling of a well-governed country and a happy, contented people." We submit he had not long to wait for the refutation of his flattery. But, he continued, with his accustomed disregard of truth:

"Go up the hill there at the end of this county and look across the water, and you can see another country, part of the same kingdom, the same realm, under the same crown, associated for hundreds of years with us in a common partnership, and none of those adjectives or epithets which I have applied to Carnarvonshire would in the least apply to that country." Although, mark you, "during the past 30 or 40 years more has been done to redress the evils of the past in Ireland than in any other country in the world."

We pause to observe that Ireland repudiates the redress here alleged, unless it be regarded as redress of an evil to have the revenue contributed to England raised from less than ten millions sterling—which was held to be Ireland's highest conceivable yield during the Home Rule discussions before the war—to little less than 50 millions as at present contributed. Perhaps, indeed, the Wizard suggests that the Irish people should regard it as equivalent to the redress of an evil to reflect that between the years 1849—memorable for

the Black Famine which England created and Turkey helped to relieve—and 1915, Irish evictions aggregated about 130,000, an average of about 2000 a year for two generations, with corresponding reduction of the land under cultivation. It may be, on the other hand, that he would have the world regard as a special bounty the Irish Convention by which in 1917 it was designed to keep the Irish talking the while their right of public meeting was proclaimed and their organs of opinion rigorously censored. Or it may, rather, be that he would have his audience interpret as "the redress of an evil" the success with which in 1918 he rendered the camouflaged Convention abortive; proclaimed 40 and suppressed 80 public meetings; suppressed almost a dozen newspapers, and with the instinct of the savage proclaimed all fairs and markets in the areas that unequivocally declared for national liberty. Doubtless it was to redress an evil—the evil that manifested itself when at the close of 1918 the remnant of the Republican leaders who escaped deportation swept the country at the General Election—that 335 meetings were suppressed or proclaimed in 1919: all national organisations declared illegal: participation in the proceedings of the elected Government decreed a criminal offence: fairs and markets suppressed in Tipperary, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare, Galway, and Mayo. And it was, unmistakably, to redress the other evil that became patent when at the municipal elections in the beginning of 1920 the Republican policy was everywhere endorsed by the people, that last spring was marked in Ireland by hundreds of arrests and deportations; thousands of houses raided, many wrecked and looted; towns sacked, people murdered; transport paralysed as far as feasible: a blockade attempted; the systematic destruction of creameries initiated, in April, to be followed by the wrecking of mills and factories. Finally, it was, of course, to redress the crowning evil of June, when the rural elections showed over 80 per cent. of the people in favor of the Republican policy, that the terrorism was intensified by the instruments of Mr. George. In the interval of 14 weeks between the June elections and the end of September, according to returns industriously compiled for the world's press, 74 towns and villages were sacked as against 16 in the previous 14 weeks, and 43 innocent Irishmen murdered as compared with 13 in the previous corresponding period. Flogging of men, attacks on women and children and torture of prisoners have also become more marked since, to avenge the elections, the servants of Mr. George, in the words of his Eminence Cardinal Logue, began "to run wild through the country, making night hideous by their raids." But what cares the tyrant?

"You know me," he said airily at Carnarvon. "I have been a Home Ruler all my life. . . . But there are people now who want something far beyond anything which would have been regarded as possible within the category of Home Rule. Mr. Gladstone went to what he considered the safe limit in his concessions to Ireland. . . . The same applied to Mr. Asquith in 1912. But there are men, and responsible men, who would go far beyond anything Mr. Gladstone ever thought safe, far beyond what Mr. Asquith himself thought safe in 1912. . . . Why are we asked to go further? I protest against the doctrine that you should go further and give more, not because Ireland needs it, not because it is fair to the United Kingdom, but because crime has been more successful."

"There are men who would say, 'Give Ireland Dominion Home Rule.' I have asked repeatedly in the House of Commons, on the platform, of deputations of Labor, of deputations from Ireland, I have asked them to name a single Irishman who has got the authority to speak for his countrymen who would say he would accept Dominion Home Rule. There is one, Sir Horace Plunkett, and he cannot even speak for his creameries. He does not represent anybody. . . . You ask Mr. Arthur Griffith, Mr. de Valera, Mr. John MacNeill, the men who for the moment can speak on behalf of the majority of Irish nationalists. There is not one of them who will tell you they will accept Dominion Home Rule. So if satisfying the present

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