

Current Topics

The Kaiser Acquitted

When Mr. Lloyd George wanted to get back into power he swore that he was the right man to hang the Kaiser. Now he says it is nonsense to talk about hanging the Kaiser and that it is a great mistake to think Germany was responsible for the war after all. With that consummate cheek, and with audacity founded on his knowledge of the ignorance and patience of the English people, he proclaimed what the *Nation* calls his "peace truth": that none of the heads wanted war and that "we just stumbled into it." Think of that and compare it with the press and politicians that made it an article of faith that Germany was preparing for the war for years and that the Kaiser deliberately drew the world into the Armageddon from which we have emerged broken and bankrupt. Personally we never believed that Germany was responsible for the war, but it is a consolation to know that Lloyd George thinks so as well as ourselves, or, at any rate, that he says he thinks so, which is not quite the same thing. So, the Kaiser is acquitted and the Welsh mountebank performs another acrobatic feat in presence of a disgusted world, already tired of his tricks and contortions. We wonder if some day he will also tell us that he was not responsible for the murder of Canon Magner, for the shooting of Mrs. Quinn and her unborn child, for the destruction of Cork, for the plunder of Irish churches and for the raiding of Irish convents. Will he assure us that he just stumbled into these crimes?

Ireland Hopeful

Ireland has never lost hope under the burden laid upon her by her tyrants. They beat her to the earth and they broke her bones but they never conquered her soul. The Wexford Rising was the response to the atrocities of the filthy Orange and English soldiers in '98; the "Forty-eight men" proved that the organised terrors of the famine failed; the Fenians and the Republicans carried on the tradition of armed protest during the past fifty years, and to-day the whole people are fighting for their rights as a nation. Inspired press messages tell us, time and again, that Britain's brutal policy is cowing the Irish and that the methods of Greenwood and his thugs are beating Sinn Fein. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There is no weakening and no sign of any weakness in Ireland to-day. We read cables that tell us of Sinn Fein attacks on soldiers, all of whom escaped after several hours' firing; we read of barracks besieged for a whole night without injury to the Crown forces. And we smile at the simplicity of the fools who send out such stuff and of the Colonial editors who publish it, for we know what happened at Kilmallock Barrack and how the "Black-and-Tans" were received when they went to murder the women and children in a little town in the midlands which the Sinn Feiners had occupied in expectation of the visit from the English gentlemen. Ambushes, raids, arrests, murders, burnings have failed. Greenwood lied once more when he boasted that his frightfulness was succeeding. The Irish papers are not allowed to publish the whole truth, but they assure us that the result of the fighting during recent months "need not have a disheartening effect on the people." *Old Ireland* says: "It is necessary to note from time to time that the daily papers cannot attempt to give a full account of current events from the Irish point of view. On the whole events last week were far from discouraging." As for the effect of Brithunnism on the moral of the people, we are told that the average man or woman in Ireland to-day is proud to be able to show that he or she has suffered for the cause. With good reason apparently did de Valera declare that the only change he found in the people on his return from America was that they were more united and more earnest than ever.

Who Began It?

Although most people know the truth, Greenwood and his servile slaves, our Colonial journalists, still repeat the old lie that the "Black-and-Tan" thugs were sent to Ireland "to suppress crime." Once more we give our readers a brief refutation of that British falsehood, and this time we recommend these correspondents who have been asking us about it to cut out and keep the page, as we will not return to it again.

In 1917 no police killed in Ireland. But, Irish houses were raided; 250 men and women arrested; 24 political leaders hauled out of their country without trial; meetings suppressed, men, women, and children beaten; newspapers suppressed; savage sentences for "seditious" speeches, etc.; two civilians murdered; five died in prison from ill-treatment. Not one of the Government criminals brought to justice.

In 1918 no police killed in Ireland. But, 260 private houses raided by night; 1100 Irish men and women arrested for their Irish politics; meetings suppressed; men, women, and children wounded; many of the 1100 political prisoners maltreated in prison; one died of the maltreatment; five civilians murdered by military; fairs and markets suppressed. No punishment or even reproach for the murderers.

The Irish in 1917-18 showed what a distinguished foreign visitor called "an almost criminal patience." They devoted themselves to preparing—by English form of law, under the English constitution—for the election of December, 1918, to show the English and the world, peacefully and "constitutionally," what they asked. They had their reward—in worse persecution.

Therefore, in January, 1919, the first policeman, as persecutor and spy, was shot; and throughout 1919 sixteen, most of them in conflict with men less well-armed than they.

In 1919 14,000 houses were raided at night by armed soldiers and police; 335 meetings suppressed. The elected Government and every other national organisation declared illegal; 476 armed attacks on orderly gatherings; 260 men, women, and children wounded; 959 arrests for politics; 20 more leaders deported; 25 papers suppressed; eight civilians murdered.

In 1920 more arrests, deportations, raidings, lootings, and wrecking of houses. Sacking of towns and murders of civilians more frequent; mills, factories, creameries wrecked in an attempt to starve the people into submission to English rule in practice against English theory.

Those were the answers to the municipal elections of 1920 repeating the "constitutional" demand of the Irish people for self-determination.

In June, 1920, at the rural elections, 83 per cent. of the people declared for Independence. Therefore, in the following three months 74 towns were sacked and burned and 43 innocent men murdered by police and military. Flogging of men and boys, and torturing prisoners, and attacks on women and children became a regular part of England's military terrorism in Ireland.

Absurd, therefore, to say that murders of police caused the policy of which they were the result. It was Gessler "began it," not William Tell. (And if there have been 100 armed police killed there have been hundreds of unarmed Irish killed.) The plan of the so-called Government is not to suppress murder and restore law and order, but to suppress a people, and to restore over them a lawless domination whose infamies they hate and whose spirit they despise.

Greenwood's Disgrace

Macpherson's career of prevarication and equivocation secured his dismissal from the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland. He was succeeded by the Canadian bounder, Greenwood, whose one merit seems to have been that he was a Freemason. Irish papers to hand now make it quite clear that while every decent man in England is sick and disgusted with the policy of Frightfulness which Greenwood is responsible for even Tories and Coalitionists are furious because their

W. F. SHORT,

MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR, POWDERHAM ST., NEW PLYMOUTH.
Every description of Monumental Work undertaken in latest and up-to-date style.