

Current Topics

America and England

As an example of how the Americans appreciate the British war on women and children the following fierce denunciation, signed by thirty-one members of the legislature of Massachusetts State, is worth quoting:

"To Lloyd George:

"We, elected representatives of the State of Massachusetts, sharing in the universal horror with which the civilised peoples of the world have witnessed your latest barbarities in Ireland, denounce you and the Government of which you are the head.

"The burning at the stake of Joan of Arc by English generals; the butchery of Irish babes, born and unborn, by your late countryman, Oliver Cromwell; the hiring of Hessian soldiers in 1776 to shoot down our patriots and the bribing of painted Indian savages to massacre the women and children of your own flesh and blood in this country; the Boston massacre; the building of privateers in English shipyards to sink American merchant vessels in our war against slavery, may be considered by your nobility as notable achievements.

"We brand your sack of Cork as a typical British atrocity, in keeping with the infamies we have related above, and we praise, bless, and thank God that, by a majority of six million votes, we have as American citizens made any alliance with your bloody Government an eternal impossibility."

America, publishing the foregoing, says that several other legislatures have pronounced scathing condemnations of British Frightfulness. This is merely one instance of the manner in which every murder done in Ireland by Greenwood's "Black-and-Tans" reacts in America. England is not fighting only four million Irish men, women, and children to-day.

Proportional Representation

As a reminder to our people that one of the many grievances they have against the Massey-P.P.Ass. Government is the lack of representation it allows, in order to make its return to power against the will of the people secure, we quote the following from a Scottish exchange:

"On April 8 the House of Commons will be asked to consider a Proportional Representation Bill. We shall see what will happen.

Theoretically majority rule is supposed to obtain in Great Britain, but there are many members sitting in the House of Commons who received only the votes of a minority of the electors voting at the elections in which such members were returned. Penistone is the latest case in point. While rejoicing in a Labor victory, we must deplore an electoral system which gives any seat to any candidate of any party polling a minority of the votes recorded.

"Such an anomaly may go to great lengths. Mr. Humphreys quotes some examples:—

New Zealand.

House of Representatives, Election 1919.

Party	Votes polled.	Seats obtained.	No. of Votes per seat.
Government ...	194,833	44	4,428
Opposition ...	323,491	32	10,109

Queensland adopts the alternative vote system. It too may give a minority the power which majorities alone should possess. As witness—

Queensland.

Legislative Assembly, Election 1920.

Party	Votes polled.	Seats obtained.	No. of Votes per seat.
Government ...	170,816	38	4,495
Opposition ...	191,139	34	5,622

New South Wales has adopted Proportional Representation. See the result:—

New South Wales.
House of Assembly, Election 1920.

Party	Votes polled.	Seats obtained.	No. of Votes per seat.
Official Lab. ...	241,438	42	5,748
Nationalist ...	164,176	28	5,863
Progressive ...	82,185	15	5,479

The present system lingering on in Great Britain is obsolete, cumbrous, and untrue betimes in its reflection of the popular will."

Sinn Fein's Victory

It is really distressing to consider what a habit facts have of giving the lie to our day-lies. It is only a short time ago since our editors were gloating over the fablegrams that announced that Sinn Fein had split and that the Irish people were tired of it. They even gave us a ludicrous account of a "Black-and-Tan" poster which they said was an attack on Sinn Fein extremists by Sinn Fein moderates, and they did not pause to reflect on what amusement it would cause those among us who recognised the similarity of that poor poster to the propaganda lies of Mr. Greenwood, who displayed in Canada the sort of traits that enabled the Lloyd George Government to pick him out for the dirtiest job that a human being was ever offered by any Government. There was no split, as there are no extremists and moderates. Once again the Irish people have proved that they are with Sinn Fein, and once again the day-lie people have received a lesson that will only be lost on them. One of them told us that Sinn Fein won every seat in the South (which means South, East, West, and a great part of the North besides) with the exception of the seats in Dublin University. Now that was a slight mistake. Trinity used to be called Dublin University, but the real university of Dublin is that in which Eoin MacNeill and many other Sinn Feiners hold chairs when they are not in gaol for loving a small nation. It has again been proved to the world that a vast majority of the Irish people are determined to have that right for which boys from Dublin and from Dunedin died—the right of being governed by the elected representatives of the people and not by "Black-and-Tans." In a few days we shall have the results for that small corner of the North which people stupidly call Ulster, and it will be seen that in spite of the cutting and chopping in the interest of the Orangemen there will be many Sinn Feiners elected by the numerous people in Ulster who love their native land and who have enough intelligence to refuse to be made the tools of bigots and profiteers and day-liars. Another comment suggests itself here. We were told—by our dear day-lies again—that (as the *Otago Daily Times* impresario put it in his own elegant way) de Valera had "the wind up" and was seeking peace on terms that even the pro-German Orangeman, Craig, might accept. The answer to that sort of nonsense was, as usual, supplied by another cable which gave us de Valera's calm and firm assertion of the only basis of negotiation, viz., recognition of the right of the Irish people to choose without any outside dictation or interference their own government. The very fact that our editors are capable of publishing such nonsensical twaddle proves their utter incapacity to understand the first thing about the Irish position. It would seem that a total lack of the sense of humor is an essential quality for a day-lie editor in New Zealand. Of course we are aware that in one office it is also necessary that the editor shall not be a Catholic, nor married to one. Catholics have principles and principles are inconvenient things for slaves.

Mr. Parr Retires from the Ring

It was proposed in the *Report* of the Minister of Education to introduce a further scheme for the Prussianisation of the public by giving over, body and soul, to the tender mercies of the State, certain children; and an attack on Homes and Orphanages was clearly contemplated. It was fortunate for us that Anglicans,

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