

of Montagu borrowed money from the Indian people to lend it to them again at a higher rate of interest are still fresh in the Indian memory. Moreover, in India, as throughout the East, the Jew is an object of popular derision. We do not say this derision is justified. The Jews can lay claim to valuable contributions to both art and science which we should be the last to decry. But however that may be, the fact remains unaltered that in the East the Jew does not command respect. The effect, therefore, of making Montagu Secretary of India has been deplorable, and the appearance of Samuel as Commissioner in Palestine has deepened both the perplexity and the mistrust.

Up to the present, however, from the *dramatis personae* in the Marconi business the House of Samuel and its branches have been the chief recipients of Mr. George's favor in the East. Now, however, a third figure is to be added. It is rumored that Lord Reading is to be offered the Viceroyalty of India. Thus the interests of Jewry in the East would be consolidated, and our future possession of India gravely jeopardised. That there is a case for the independence of India we fully realise. But between the granting of Home Rule as a considered policy and the total loss of authority followed by an ignominious retreat there is a world-wide difference. And it is this last possibility which, in our opinion, the appointment of Lord Reading may precipitate.

We admit that the appointment of a Jew as Secretary of State has not up to the present affronted the susceptibilities of the native rulers. The descendants of generations of proud warriors, the Rajahs and Princes of India are not concerned with underlings of State. The British Government might be mad to send a Jew to India, but they were not bound to come in contact with him. The Viceroy, as the representative of the Emperor of India, alone concerned them and as a member of the ruling class of his own country the Indian potentates welcomed him as equal. But between an English Viceroy, gentle or simple, and a Jew there is a great gulf fixed. Moreover, this particular Jew, to the knowledge of every Indian, took advantage of secret information to make profit out of a contract with the Government of which he was a member. Is it thinkable that any self-respecting Indian ruler would kiss the hand that pocketed the proceeds of such a deal? Again, it is necessary to estimate the effect that the nomination of Isaacs as representative of the Emperor of India will have upon Indian politics. That the whole of the British aristocracy and plutocracy should have been passed over in favor of an alien Jew must of necessity puzzle the Indian mind. The title of Viceroy is a proud one, and if it is not filled by a British subject both by origin and descent, Oriental opinion will obviously jump to the conclusion that power has been wrested from our hands, and that we are a subject people. There is no other possible conclusion. It is vain to hope that the Indian people will understand the tortuous current of our politics. They behold a Jew ruler in Palestine; they are faced with a Jew Secretary, and if a Jew Viceroy be imposed on them, the signs and portents of our impotence will be complete.

At the present time the princes of India are not identified with the popular movements against British rule. But let them be faced with the personal affront of a Jewish Viceroy, and their secession seems inevitable. For it is not only the question of prestige that will operate. Once the belief in our supremacy is destroyed, the loss of India must follow, and the leadership which at the moment is lacking among the malcontents will come from those fighting lines which in the past held India at their mercy. The appointment of Rufus Isaacs as Viceroy will, in our opinion, be the signal for a movement, which embracing divergent creeds and castes, may drive us out of India in ignominy and shame.

It may be that Mr. George's indifference to our national honor and prestige has reached a point of apathy when nothing seems important but the conservation of his salary. He may have already decided that the loss of our Indian Empire is imminent, and that a Jew more or less is unimportant. It may even be that the call of empty coffers for replenishment has affected his judgment, for that Lord Reading is still willing to give financial advice to his friend and former colleague we are quite prepared to believe. But that the few remaining politicians who are concerned for our credit will permit Mr. George to give the

*coup de grace* to British rule in India we cannot yet believe. We admit the two front benches have approved the honors already given to the chief Marconi actors; but that even the most cowardly of our Ministers will sanction the appointment of this unsavory Jew to the most important position in our Empire we cannot lightly credit. British supremacy in India may be dying; is it to be left to Rufus Isaacs to administer the final kick?

## CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

### SELF-DETERMINATION FOR IRELAND LEAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—I quite agree with your remarks about dead branches of the Self-determination League being a source of weakness, and that it were better they had never been established. But are the branches to blame? Speaking of two established here a fortnight ago, when the organiser had not enough forms to enrol three families of decent size. From that good day to this we have not had a word from headquarters, not a form to enrol members, not a line of literature, though all these things and much more were promised us at the time.

"Striking the iron while it is hot" does not apply when it's in the cause of ould Ireland, and New Zealand won't even be in at the finish if the present methods are going to be persisted in.—I am, etc.,

—J. FORRESTAL.

Foxton, June 6.

### IRISH AFFAIRS: ARCHBISHOP BARRY'S VIEWS.

Interviewed at Burnie by a *World* representative on the Irish situation, and the new Home Rule Act, Archbishop Barry said that as it was his own opinion that was asked, he would express it. For the people the Act was absolutely the worst measure offered by England to Ireland, and as it was it was neither acceptable to the majority of the Irish people nor to the Orangemen of the North-east. Its main purpose was to give an opportunity for the Government to take the Act of 1914 off the Statute Book. The Act had been promised to Ireland as an inducement for Irishmen to volunteer for the War, as England could not logically ask the Irish to fight for the liberties of small nations when they themselves did not enjoy them at home. Mr. Asquith had gone to Dublin, and in appealing to Irishmen to join the forces, he asked for volunteers as a free gift of a free people. Ireland, he was proud to say, had fulfilled her part of the contract, but the Asquith Government had broken its word, and as this was only another of many betrayals, the Irish people lost all hope of having their just, reasonable, and acknowledged claims granted. That threw the Irish people back on themselves, with the result that they elected their own Parliament in 1918 by a majority of 90 per cent. of the nation, making it the most unanimous Parliament in the world. In adopting this course the Irish people had put into practice that principle of self-determination for which the war had been fought. England refused to acknowledge that principle in Ireland, with the result that physical force and militarism, which were supposed to have been overthrown for ever in Europe, were now in full force with the most lamentable consequences in Ireland.

Shall I hold on with both hands to every paltry possession? All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.—Camerson.

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