

Current Topics

The "Otago Daily Times"

From the *Otago Daily Times*, edited by Mr. James Hutchison, Managing Director, Sir George Fenwick, we extract the following sample of British gentlemanliness:

"Suppose the Sinn Fein Thugs were recognised as a regular army and their inhuman Thuggeries as acts of war. We shall never say so; but we might leave it open to the murderers themselves to say so, if it is any comfort to them."

Two Laughs

Readers of the Dunedin morning paper found it quite equal to *Comic Cuts* last week. In one place we were told that Mr. Massey had to cut out many purely social functions before leaving London because he was engaged in discussions on international affairs of a most delicate nature! What it is to have a gentleman and a scholar for a Prime Minister. Our William was probably translating into French, German, Italian, and Japanese the remarks of his colleagues.

The second joke was celebrated by a multitudinous smile on the faces of the readers of the *Daily Times* when the editor described the clear, logical, masterly reply of Dail Eireann as "verbiage." Why the smile?

Mr. Holland on Ireland

A large audience assembled in the Art Gallery last week to hear a lecture on Ireland by the Leader of the New Zealand Labor Party. For nearly two hours Mr. Holland held his hearers by the tense interest of an address that will do much to bring home to Dunedites the truth about the case of Ireland. He dwelt on the point that the radical cause of the sufferings of Ireland was economic, and that Irishmen and Laborites ought to make common cause against the common enemy. He traced the policy of economic exploitation down across the centuries to the present day, proving clearly that it is false to say that religion and bigotry are at the root of the Irish question and naming the great non-Catholic leaders of the historic Irish movements for freedom in the past. Needless to say the day-lies did not give Mr. Holland anything like a fair report, and, whether through ignorance or prejudice, they missed the *leit-motif* of the whole lecture. Mr. Holland, in common with many students of Irish history, says that the land was held in common by the ancient Gaelic tribes. In this he differs from Professor MacNeill who, in his latest work, points out what he considers the mistake made by his predecessors on this head.

Republican Discipline

It is amusing nowadays to think of the day-lie tales we used to be told about the Sinn Fein extremists whom de Valera could not control! The whole world has been impressed by the marvellous discipline that enabled the Irish President to keep his pledge concerning the truce. He simply said: "We have agreed upon a truce, keep it honorably." Republican Ireland honored his word and honored herself by the manner in which her army kept the truce, clearly proving that Dail Eireann is a government that can govern. How different it was in Carsonia where the truce was never kept and whither Craig had to invite the army in order to help the Orange Cabinet in the hopeless task of controlling the murderers of Belfast. "Outside the six counties," says *Old Ireland*, "de Valera had but to hold up his little finger and life and property were secure. Inside the six counties the men who lead call, in a panic, on the British forces to save them from themselves. In all seriousness we suggest that they should address that request to the Commander-in-Chief of the I.R.A. He, at any rate, is competent

to do his job." Nothing that occurred for a long time has done so much as the outrages during the truce to expose to the public the true nature of Belfast's objection to Irish freedom. Of course our day-liars are doing their bit by refusing to tell the facts about the Carsonia campaign of murder, but in spite of them murder will out.

The Carsonia Outrage

More than one gentleman has written to the *Otago Daily* to call attention to the fact that the truth is being suppressed concerning the murderous anti-Catholic campaign in Carsonia. That British organ of sweetness and light either refuses to publish or else mutilates the letters, as it has always mutilated letters that called attention to the shameful forgery which the same British organ published. The Carsonia riots were not fortuitous happenings; they were the development of the offensive against the Nationalists of Ulster planned by the British Government when Lloyd George armed the Orange Specials against unarmed Catholics in accordance with his programme to create a civil war in Ireland by provocative action in Ulster. The plot might have succeeded only that the murders and the burnings which the Government condoned attracted the attention of a body of men who do not condone crime. The I.R.A. took a hand in the game and proved to the Orangemen that it was not their idea of fair play to stand by and allow ten men armed by the British Government to kill one Irish Catholic. Since the British gentlemen who edit our day-lies will not tell the truth we must once more try to make up for their shortcomings. By last mail we were fortunate enough to receive by letter the following account of the doings of the Orangemen, supplied by an Ulster Parish Priest. We give his word for it: "The 'B' specials, a class of 'special' Specials in Carsonia were never disarmed by the Government. They were selected by the Orange Lodges. The chief qualification required was that they be notorious for hatred of the Catholics. These men are let loose on a population for whom it is a crime to be armed. Not only are these Specials well armed out of the stock brought into the country from Germany by Carson but they further receive abundant ammunition to distribute to their friends. One night they placed the following notice on every Catholic house in my district:

It is the will of the King that all Papists should leave Ulster by (date).

Last Friday four of them knocked at the door of the curate's residence. They told the housekeeper that they wanted to see Father Donnelly. The servant, a brave girl, kept them talking while the priest escaped by the back door. He dare not sleep in his own house at present, and he is a nervous wreck. He—and even the Bishops—receive threatening letters frequently."

A further proof of the crimes that our British gentlemen try to cloak is had from the following letter of Dr. MacRory, Bishop of Down and Connor:

"To the Editor *Irish Independent*.

"Sir,—I hope it may be possible for you to find space in to-morrow's issue for the enclosed list of dwelling houses which on Sunday, July 10, in one small area lying between Shankill and Falls Road, Belfast, were burned, looted, or had the furniture smashed to fragments. Each house sheltered at least one family—some two or three—and it is noteworthy that neither on the day when these horrors were perpetrated, nor since, has a single dwelling-house of any non-Catholic been interfered with. I refrain from further comment, however tempting.

* JOSEPH MACRORY."

The list follows and we find that 146 homes were wrecked on one Sunday, and that in every case they were homes of Catholic families. That is how the Orangemen have kept the truce. That is the sort of British fair play a minority must expect in Carsonia. That arson proves how futile is Mr. Lloyd George's plea of anxiety for the adequate protection of minorities.