

equally at home with the dramatic purpose the machinery of stage and theatre, and the personalities of the actors. Having schemed himself into the Presidency both of the Supreme War Council and the Council of Ten, he contrived to establish the things he most desired, which were the oligarchy of the Five Powers, with France at their head, and the direction, through the Secretariat, of the programme of the Conference. The remaining procedure was plain. The smaller Powers were bullied or ignored: that is to say, bullied in Conference, and ignored in the plan of rigid secrecy concocted by M. Clemenceau and Mr. George. The Treaty was, therefore, a dictated peace in the double sense that Germany was required to take it or leave it, and the smaller Powers, belligerents no less than neutrals, were treated as vassals, and their brief appearance in Council reduced to a farce.

"Mr. Lansing writes good-humoredly of all his subjects—Mr. George's wit and sunny temper appealed to him—but with admiration of only three minor personalities in the Conference—General Botha, Emir Feisal, and M. Paderewski. Venizelos he regards as a nationalist politician, masked (to himself and others) as an idealist. His book of portraiture is in effect an album of the unfit. Of the four men who "did Europe in," one knew her not, but meant well by her. Of the others not one was an economist, able to divine where her need lay. And lacking either goodness or greatness, or both, they could not guess."

Social Programme of French Hierarchy

During the month of April the French Cardinals and Bishops, assembled at Paris for their annual meeting, issued an important pronouncement in which they dealt with the chief evils that threaten society in our time, emphasising the grave dangers and suggesting antidotes by the application of which the wounds of society may be healed. As the evils referred to and the remedies suggested apply to every country in which civilisation is menaced by vice and unbelief, we recommend to our readers a thoughtful consideration of the eight points in which the hierarchy sum up their conclusions:

1. The State ought not, in the matter of education, put itself in the place of parents. Full liberty should be given to Christian schools. Justice and respect for conscience and the sacred rights of parents demand that these schools should be subsidised from public funds in proportion to the number of their scholars.
2. The fall in the birth rate is a grave crisis which must be dealt with by all patriotic men and women. Mere economic remedies will be in vain if the laws which violate the indissolubility of the family are not repealed and if Christian faith and moral principles are ignored.
3. Attention is called to the temptations arising from the cinema and the theatre: from the Press, dances, books, and pictures; and also from the methods of what is called "sexual instruction."
4. Priests and people should do all in their power to promote the sanctification of the Sunday.
5. The maintenance of Catholic newspapers ought to be regarded as a work of great importance.
6. The people are urged to exercise their charity towards the Polish orphans.
7. The hierarchy return grateful thanks to those who have helped to raise the loan for the rebuilding of churches.
8. The hierarchy renew their determination to do all in their power to preserve the sacred union and national concord which are so necessary for the restoration of France.

Although the last three points concern France only the remainder of the programme contains the principles on which all who have the welfare of New Zealand at heart must proceed. Secularism has brought us where it brought France, and we are worse off inasmuch as France has a number of able and honest public men with ability enough to see where the evil lies, while we have only politicians who are elected because they are unprincipled enough to make infamous bargains with bigots.

Cables and Comments

We said a week ago that the news of the agreement between Collins and de Valera was the best we have had for a long time from Ireland. The daily Press, and certain sections of the English Press, seem to regard it as very bad news, and no doubt it is, from their point of view. In fact their disappointment is rather a good omen than otherwise when we recall their past history and their record with regard to Ireland. While later cables have confirmed the news, there have not been wanting the usual sort of contradictions and the usual sort of Press comments by people who are in too great hurry to let them pause long enough to see the contradictions. We are told, for instance, that the agreement is the end of a free election and that all who will not vote for the Sinn Fein nominees are to be regarded as enemies. But if our readers will jog their memories they will find that this is sheer nonsense. The terms of the agreement stated clearly that any section of public opinion would be free to put forward candidates, and we are quite sure that such candidates will have a fair run, fairer than a Labor candidate, not to say a Catholic, would have in dear New Zealand. Another item worth calling attention to is the report that the Sinn Feiners in Ulster had begun to use loyalists as screens "just like the Germans did." Some people have short memories. Whether the Germans ever did this or not we cannot say, but we certainly know of other people who did. It is not so long ago since we learned that the gallant "Black-and-Tans" used to take Sinn Fein hostages on their lorries as screens. Is it not possible that it was from the British the Sinn Feiners learned to do the same—if they ever did so? And, lest we forget, let us ask was it the Germans who used the Turks as screens when evacuating after a certain failure a few years ago. Ask some of the returned men if you want more information on that head. Again, the British Press was very much concerned about the unity in Ireland. It was said to be a great victory for de Valera and a defeat for Collins; it was to be practically the end of the Free State and it put the British Government in an awkward position. We have no doubt as to the last point, but we have Collins and Griffith telling us that the victory was on their side and that they have no intention of abandoning the Free State. Moreover they say that they can end the present trouble without fighting, if they are only left alone. That, we take as a hint to well-meaning (or otherwise) advisers who do not want to leave them alone but want to rule them according to their own lights, which is precisely what Irishmen of all sorts object to. The most important news of all is that the leaders have recognised that unity is the first essential. Collins was so emphatic on this head that he almost terrified certain British commentators who evidently thought that dissension was a far, far better thing than unity. Collins is right. What Ireland wants now is unity, and what we want from Irishmen is unity. Our position is and was and shall be support for the majority in Ireland, and we want that majority to be as strong as it was during the years when it smashed the "Black-and-Tan's" ruffianism and the official burnings and other aspects of British frightfulness. Provided the people stand together we will recognise their right to determine their own form of government and we will support them until they win it. Whether it is to be a Free State or not it is their business and not ours to decide. As things are at present, it seems that the Free State will be carried by a large majority at the coming elections, on June 16. And, under the circumstances to support the Free State, no matter what may be our personal views, is the duty of all friends of Ireland overseas. "Put Ireland on her feet and heal her wounds." was the advice of an old and experienced patriot. We can all help to do that, even if we are not content with the Free State. And if we are not we need not forget Parnell's words: "No man may set bounds to the march of a nation."

◆◆◆

A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.—St. Francis of Assisi.

Tui Street Garage, Taihape
V. Nicholls Proprietor

Bicycle Sundries fully stocked. REPAIRS executed at shortest notice by competent mechanics. Telephone—Garage 143; Residence 142.
District Agent for BUICK CARS. All makes of Tyres and Motor and Bicycle