

countries is made a pretext for the British Government's misrepresentation of the issues between Ireland and Britain."

The British papers led by the London *Times* raised a great cry against de Valera. This was taken up by many New York papers, the note being held with great accuracy. The explanation of this last fact is probably found in this interesting item quoted by the *Ave Maria* of October 22 from an article on Lloyd George contributed to *La Revue Française* by a person who signs himself René Johannet:

"It is not only at home that he disposes of a domesticated or tractable press: he owns, in every sense of the word, both journals and journalists in France and in the United States. Sometimes, even his skill in handling them becomes too great. Thus, the other day, in order to convince the House of Commons most thoroughly of the incomparable benignity, the marvellous generosity of spirit, with which the Ministers of the Crown have been conducting the Irish negotiations, he cited extracts from French and American newspapers relative to the latest British proposals: all commending the charity, the conciliatory spirit, and the sovereign political mastery of David Lloyd George. The Irish, who have their own reasons for frowning upon these matters, verified the references. They were most accurate. The papers cited did express themselves in the terminology he attributed to them, but—at the moment when the Premier brandished these dispatches from New York and Paris, which brought him such laudatory and impartial views from editorial rooms, none of the journals involved had as yet appeared! How shall any one do battle with a man so rarely gifted with prescience and second sight?"

Easter 1916

Behold then round the sacrificial urn!
Redemption's flame is leaping in their eyes,
And visions of the future 'fore them burn—
A Nation free and grand: no more the cries
Of orphaned babes upon the night arise,—
The keen upon the melancholy wind,—
Nor strong arms striking for the hallowed prize.
They seize the shining trust to them assigned—
Noblest and purest-hearted of all human-kind.

What of the days that followed! who shall speak
The splendor and the valor that adorn
The holocaust of deathless Easter Week,
Encrimsoned by the blood of Irish-born?
Who shall appraise the glory that was torn
From out the heavens by the pale white hands
Of those who hailed the resurrection morn
Of Liberty, and to her mute demands
Exulting caught the sunshine on their battle-brands?

Naught but the solemn tolling of a bell
Startles the dawn: the clouds go shudd'ring by.
How vain to think that Savagery can dispel
The Cause that lend the martyrs out to die!—
Fierce is the Nation's anguish, moist her eye,
Magnificent th' awak'ning of the Gael—
No more the sacred dead appealing cry
Unto the living to let Strength prevail,
For Freedom's rays are blazing high o'er Innisfail

With reverence oh! let their names be told
Who knelt before the throne of Rosaleen:
Her sweetness and her loveliness extolled,
Whilst one and all they vowed the Sassanach
Should ne'er defile the beauty of their Queen
Again. Upon their fearless brows are set
Shafts of predestined glory. Ne'er was seen
Nobility so great; then burn the debt
We owe to them into our souls LEST WE FORGET.
7/12/21.

—O'NUALLAIN, for the *N.Z. Tablet*.

Rose Fete

(IN AID OF CONVENT SCHOOL, QUEENSTOWN)

29th, 30th, and 31st DECEMBER, 1921.

As the Nuns are now in Retreat all blocks and remittances should be returned to—

W. O'MALLEY, Hon. Sec.
Box 40, Queenstown.

The Sinn Fein Cabinet

Mr. de Valera, on a recent official occasion, said: "It is my privilege and great pleasure, indeed, in nominating once more the colleagues who worked so well with me in the past." He then nominated the following Ministers, who constitute the Cabinet, and who, in each case, were proposed and seconded and unanimously elected:

Foreign Affairs—Mr. Arthur Griffith.
Home Affairs—Mr. Austin Stack.
Defence—Mr. Cathal Brugha.
Finance—Mr. Michael Collins.
Local Government—Ald. W. T. Cosgrave.
Economic Affairs—Mr. R. O. Barton.
The Secretaries of the other Departments are:
Fine Arts—Count Plunkett.
Local Government—Mr. Kevin O'Higgins (Assistant Secretary).
Propaganda—Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald.
Education—Mr. J. J. Kelly.
Labor—Madame Markievicz.
Trade and Commerce—Mr. E. Blythe.
Agriculture—Mr. Art O'Connor.
Fishing—Mr. Sean Etchingham.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

TO THE EDITOR.

THE IRISH HISTORY EXAMINATIONS.

Sir,—When you asked me to adjudicate on the Irish History papers, I had no idea of the magnitude of the task to which I committed myself. Father O'Donnell, of Gore, kindly agreed to divide the labor with me, and for this help I am most grateful. When we opened out the various bundles and found that some 70 papers were forwarded from various parts of the Dominion we realised the intense earnestness of many of the teachers in our Catholic schools, to encourage young New Zealanders to cultivate a knowledge of Ireland's sad, but instructive story. The bulk of these papers ran from a dozen to twenty closely written pages of foolscap. The neatness displayed in the get-up of most of them suggested much care and attention to detail. It could not be called an examination in the ordinary sense of a school-history examination. It was rather a competition in composition, with full liberty to the candidates to make what use they could of books treating on the subjects given with a view to publication. This does not apply to all the papers for a number of them bore manifest evidence of having been written in the presence of a supervisor, and were a genuine test of the knowledge acquired by the pupil, and written from memory. A trained inspector would be able to distinguish between the genuine and the merely plagiarised, but even without any special practice in the art a slight knowledge of the more frequently used class books, could enable one to at once trace whole sentences bodily taken over. Hence it can be seen how impossible it was to estimate the relative merits of the treatises submitted, and consequently no other course could be adopted, but that of recognising the good-will of the competitors and their desire to produce the best possible essay on the subjects given. To this end the prizes, forty books of a combined value of over ten guineas (towards which I have to acknowledge the receipt of five guineas from a few clerical friends), have been distributed amongst the competitors. The places from which I have received papers are as follows (commencing with those nearest): The Marist Brothers' School, Invercargill; Dominican Convent, Bluff; Convent of Mercy, Riverton; Convent of Mercy, Alexandra; St. Dominic's College, Dunedin; St. Philomena's College; South Dunedin parish school; St. Patrick's Dominican College, Teschemakers; Dominican Convent, Oamaru; Convent, Waimate; Convent of Mercy, Morningside; St. Mary's School, Greymouth; Convent, Peltone; Marist Brothers, Wanganui; Christian Brothers', Dunedin. Each of these schools has received one or more of the books, duly impressed with the award mark, and name of recipient, which will be a reminder to the writers of the essays in Irish History, 1921, the year that is destined to be memorable as the year of Ireland's emancipation from age long thralldom, and the establishment of the Irish Free State.

I am etc.,

JAMES O'NEILL.

Waikivi, December 12.

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