

## Current Topics

### Pious Orangemen

*Ex Africa semper aliquid novi!* The latest news from Orange Ulster is tidings of a "religious revival." That is what they call it, and it looks on the face of it dangerous, when we consider that the religion of the Orangeman has always been to kill another man for the love of God. Logically, a religious revival there ought to mean an orgy of murder, but it is fortunate that in this instance the cableman is wrong in calling it a revival at all. It seems truer that some faint notion of religion has at last penetrated through some wounds in the hide of the Orangemen and that they are so astonished to find that there is such a thing as religion that they do not know where they are at present. They have limited the number of times they curse the Pope; they even give back some of the things they have stolen; assassins have been known to force the Ulster police to take charge of their weapons; and more nasal fervor is put into the singing of hymns in honor of King Billy the German.

### Will it Spread?

Anything that curbs the murderous nature of the Orangeman is to be desired, consequently we are pleased to read the cables that tell of the revival, even though there be only a very slight spark of truth in them. We would be still more pleased to learn that the change of heart was taken up by all the Orange Lodges in a serious manner, and that there is a hope of its spreading to all the distant lands where Orange oaths are heard by the full o' the moon in lonely Lodges. What a delightful final chapter in his great career it would be if Mr. Massey also "revived"! Even if his political life lasts as long as his energy there cannot be many years left now. Let us hope that he will imitate the Orange brethren of Limavaddy and take the matter to heart. There are magnificent possibilities in it for him. Think of him coming to Parliament in sack-cloth and ashes, scourging himself, and recanting his sins against New Zealand and his dealings with the scoundrels of the P.P.A. Better still, he can take to the hills and live in a cave, supporting life on blackberries and fresh air, learning from the lark to sing vespers and matins, and reading sermons in stones and running brooks. It were a far, far nobler gesture than that which it is reported he made one day on the streets of Wellington. And—from all points of view—his retirement would be a far, far better thing than any he had done before. Go to it, William! Take our advice and repent, and you will not repent for taking it.

### Demoralisation

The following extract from the Dublin *Leader* is sad reading:

There is a disinclination for work and an over-inclination for play. Dancing—and not the Irish variety—is the rage. The country has gone dancing mad, and by all accounts drinking was never such an evil; we are probably more anglicised to-day than we were in, to go back no further, 1914. Twenty years ago if a man was killed Ireland would lift up its hands in horror: visitors to Dublin were shown the scene of the Phoenix Park tragedies. To-day we all take reports of shootings as ordinary occurrences and we in Dublin daily pass scenes where tragedies were enacted and never revert to them. There has been unfortunately a great change during the past few years in that respect. We need a spell of hard thinking. There has been so much quibbling and sophistry going on that many people appear to have given up serious thinking—not that there was or ever will be very much of it in the country. But now is the time that people capable of hard thinking should cultivate thinking.

### The Saorstat na h Eireann

The following are the Ministers and Officers of the Free State:

President of Government, W. T. Cosgrave; Minister of Finance, W. T. Cosgrave; Minister of Home Affairs, Kevin O'Higgins; Minister of Local Government, Ernest Blythe; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Desmond Fitzgerald; Minister of Defence, General Mulcahy; Minister of Education, Dr. Eoin MacNeill; Minister of Industry and Commerce, Joseph McGrath; Minister of Agriculture, P. J. Hogan; Ministers without Portfolios, Eamon Duggan, Finian Lynch; Law Officer, Hugh Kennedy; Postmaster-General, J. J. Walsh; Chief State Solicitor, M. A. Corrigan; Stationery Office, E. H. Pitman (Controller); Secretary to Government, Dermot O'Hegarty; Civic Guard, Gen. E. O'Duffy (Commissioner); C.I.D., P. M. Moynihan (Director); D.M.P., Lieut.-Col. Johnson (Chief Commissioner), Denis Barrett (Assistant Commissioner); General Registrar's Office, Sir W. J. Thompson, M.D., F.R.C.P.I. (Reg. Gen.); D.S. Doyle, LL.B. (N.U.I.) Sec. and Asst. Reg.-Gen. Department of Agriculture, T. P. Gill (Sec.), George Fletcher Asst. Sec., J. R. Campbell (Asst. Sec.). Chief Vet. Inspector, D. S. Prentice, M.R.C.V.S.; Commissioner of Public Works, Sir P. H. Hanson (Chairman); Commission of Irish Lights, J. B. Phelps (Sec.). National Health Insurance, Sir Jos. A. Glynn (Chairman), W. J. Maguide (Medical Com.), Mrs. M. L. Dickie. Congested Districts Board, H. R. Vereker (Chief Land Ins.), F. S. Sheridan, F.S.O., B.L. (Sec.).

### Presbyterian Comment on State Schools

The severest indictment ever made of Australian State Schools appears in the current issue of the *Presbyterian* (Melbourne), in a report of the Victorian Presbyterian Assembly. From the report it appears that the committee has definitely concluded that the criminal class obtains its recruits direct from the ranks of the children who are attending the State schools. "There can be no doubt," the report states, "that among children attending school criminal acts or acts indicating criminal tendencies and dispositions are of far more frequent occurrence than is generally realised. Theft, untruthfulness, truancy, coarseness, and even immoral conduct, are offences which are surprisingly common. . . . It is no exaggeration to say that a definite percentage of our school children, under our present system, will inevitably enter upon a career of crime or immorality, while others will join the ranks of loafers and incapables." A system of controlling and correcting wrong tendencies in children until they are of a mature age, and even longer when necessary, is advocated by the committee. The State should receive the active support of the Church in a movement of this sort, it is added, and no time should be lost in the establishment of a special institution on the lines of one already in existence in America." After that, Archbishop Vaughan's famous prophecy may be considered, at any rate by Presbyterians, to be fulfilled.

### From one Judge All

Our Prime Ministers who led us into the war, and who, after the war, led us into chaos and confusion, are faring rather badly at the present time. They can console themselves that they are faring far better than they deserve. As far as one can see there is little to choose between them. Massey, Hughes, George, follow in a chain like the positive, comparative, and superlative degrees of adjectives. Naturally the superlative schemer gets what is due to him, with more limelight on the scene. And the light is growing more lurid as time goes on. Here is the most recent note on the doings of David of Wales, son-in-law of McAlpine, friend of Mond, and sometime hero of the Marconi scandal: not to mention several other titles to the love of decent people on which we need not dwell. The *Nation and Athenaeum* says:

The revelations in the *Daily Express* make a terrible close to the story of Mr. Lloyd George's responsibilities for the Greek tragedy. Even his sharpest