

## Current Topics

### Westminster Warriors

We observe with profound regret that the British House of Commons has become a bear-garden. The scenes recently enacted there would disgrace a fourth-class pub in a western mining town. The remarks made about the King and his speech would be enough to make Mr. Parr's manly hand falter as he flaps his flag and to turn his hairs not only grey but blue-mouldy. It is clear that since the Irish members left the ancient talking-shop it has sunk to a low level of degradation. It will soon be as notorious as Lord Bryce has made the assembly over which the "jump-down-your-throat" Orangeman presides.

### The Reason Why

New Zealand is said by the P.P.A. know-alls and by J. J. North to be a Protestant country. Lady Astor tells us that the United States is also a Protestant country; and even serious historians who think they tell the truth say that England is a Protestant country. The only reason we can discover for these assertions is the fact that the Protestant churches of all kinds are the ones from which the New Zealanders, Americans, and English stay away in the greatest numbers. In matter of fact, taking into account the small proportion of churchgoers, apart from Catholics, it is true to say that the three countries mentioned are countries of no religion.

### Oamaru Omens

To all appearances we are going to witness another "Reform" fight at the Oamaru elections. Endorsing the public opinion of Mr. Lee's hopeless helplessness, Mr. Massey is coming to do the fighting for him—and for himself; for verily it is for his job that the "least gifted of the Dominion Prime Ministers" is now concerned. That person denies that there was any P.P.A. and Reform sectarian filth introduced against Sir Joseph Ward in the Tauranga fight; but every observer who is gifted with common-sense and a respect for the truth admits that there was any quantity of it. It was a real old-fashioned Massey election, with the usual lying pamphlets and the usual calumnies against Catholics—an election of the sort that the party is vile enough to organise when afraid of losing its power. It was not the first of its kind by any means, and as long as the sort of contemptible people who pass anti-Christian laws for the sake of the votes of bigots are tolerated it will not be the last. Mr. Massey's effort to whitewash Nosworthy is a proof that either the Prime Minister's brain is growing softer or that he thinks the people of New Zealand are as stupid as the members of his own Cabinet. We all know what the Ashburton bigot said; and to put such a biped in the Cabinet was perhaps the most ignoble thing in Mr. Massey's by no means noble career as a public man.

### Liam Lynch

When Liam Lynch died at Clonmel after being wounded by the Free State soldiers, a brave if fanatical Irishman passed away. He had the credit in the popular estimation for organising the deeds of destruction which marked the war against the Irish people; and it was evident from his almost contemptuous letters to de Valera that Lynch was really the head of the fighting arm of the Republicans. Of his bravery there is no question. Of his wisdom there is little evidence. His first great mistake was the breaking of his word of honor when he was twice allowed to go free on pledging himself that he would not take up arms against the Government. However, if the cable reports be true, in his death he atoned for many things. It is reported that he stayed to fight in order to enable de Valera to make his escape, and that he fought until his task was accomplished and was then wounded while making a

dash for liberty. An earlier report says that de Valera and Breen carried and dragged him as far as they could until the approach of the soldiers made it hopeless for them to save him, when they left him to his fate and ran, escaping to the hills. Such details are always unreliable until confirmed, but there is no doubt as to the main fact that the fight brought about the death of Liam Lynch. *Go ndeimidh Dia trocaire ar a n'anam.*

### Austin Stack

Following close on the news of Liam Lynch's death comes a cable telling of the capture of Austin Stack, who was found hiding in a ditch close to the scene of the fight. On his person was a document dealing with the situation from the Republican point of view, which probably throws a good deal of light on the opinions of all the leaders except perhaps Marv McSweeney and Liam Lynch. De Valera has again made some overtures on the lines of Document No. 2, but apparently with some doubt as to whether such a settlement would be accepted by the extremists of his party. From Mary McSweeney's recent interview with journalists it is clear that she and some others would quickly disown de Valera if he took any steps that they did not approve. However, from the paper found on Austin Stack, it seems that in the general opinion of the leaders the fight is hopeless and the sooner a settlement is reached the better for them all. De Valera issues a characteristic note, claiming as usual to have all the brains and all the wisdom in Ireland in his own head, and indirectly denouncing the Bishops and the majority of the Irish people as blind guides. Reading his words, one cannot but recall poor Arthur Griffith's pitying criticism of the man whom he made and who broke his heart: "America spoiled a good man." All the signs go to show that the resistance is crumbling and that the saner members of the Republican forces recognise that this is the case. The Free State has yet to lay hold of the boys between fifteen and nineteen, whom, as Cardinal Logue tells us, these "idealists" have demoralised. And of course the young ladies whose chief industry is calumny and misrepresentation of Bishops will remain at large as will-o'-the-wisps for some time to come.

### Bourke Cochrane

We regret to read in American exchanges the announcement of the death of W. Bourke Cochrane, the greatest American orator of the past half century. He had been a Congressman for many years and at the time of his death was representative for the Twelfth New York District. He was born in the Co. Sligo, Ireland, on February 28, 1854, and went to the United States at the age of seventeen. In 1876 he was admitted to the American Bar, where he quickly reached the top rank of his profession. In time he became a national figure and had great weight in politics. He was that rare thing, an honest politician, and he did not hesitate, on more than one occasion, to oppose his own party when he could not accept their policy conscientiously. He was a devout Catholic and was regarded as one of America's leading Catholic laymen, being frequently called upon to represent Catholic interests at public meetings and conferences. Those who heard him will never forget his eloquent exposition of the Catholic doctrine of the Blessed Eucharist, given at a great war meeting in Madison Square Gardens in February, 1918. Mr. Cochrane was an active member of the Third Order of St. Francis and of other Catholic societies. He died at Washington on March 1 after an illness of only a few hours.

### The New Apostolic Delegate to U.S.A.

The United States Catholics have already welcomed their new Delegate, Archbishop Fumasoni-Biondi, who arrived in America after a career of long and useful service as representative of the Holy See to the Catholics of various nations. He is still a comparatively young man, being born at Rome fifty-one years ago. He was professor of rhetoric in the Propaganda for some time after his ordination, and afterwards was one

**Henry Scott**

No. 3 CARROLL STREET,  
(late Pier Buildings)  
Phone 3100.

PAINTER, PAPERHANGER,  
AND GLAZIER : : SIGN-  
WRITER AND DECORATOR

First-class Workmanship Guar-  
anteed. House Painting and  
Beautiful Room Decoration.  
PRICES MODERATE.