



# IRISH NEWS



ULSTER CATHOLICS PROTEST—SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—CHURCH AND STATE—BY-ELECTIONS.

## ULSTER CATHOLICS PROTEST.

Cardinal Logue and the other Catholic bishops whose dioceses are in the Six Counties have issued a public statement, in which they complain of the treatment meted out to the Catholics in the North (says *Catholic News Service*, London, for October 20).

Political jobbery has been rife in the constituencies, they complain, with the result that Catholic candidates practically find it out of the question to secure a seat in the Northern Parliament. Nor are the bishops enamored of the new Education Act, which they declare is detrimental to the Catholic schools, unless they are willing to pass largely under the control of the dominant party. There is also considerable dissatisfaction in the ignoring of the rights of the Catholics in the ministerial attitude towards the boundary question.

Speaking at Ballyhaunis, the Archbishop of Tuam (Most Rev. Dr. Gilmartin) said that they could not have two Governments in the country at the same time. There was a Government now functioning, and until such time as another Government was elected in a constitutional way it was the duty of the people to support the existing one.

As far as possible—Archbishop Gilmartin said—they ought to put an end to all bitterness. The great condition of peace was a government that would be allowed to function and that would be supported by the people in the maintenance of law and order.

The bishops had been misrepresented. They never condemned a Republic. What they did condemn was the use of unlawful means, no matter by whom.

Some irresponsible people were going about saying the bishops were the enemies of the country; but no one took these seriously. The bishops were the successors of the Apostles; they were not sent to teach politics, but to teach the principles of Faith and Morals.

In replying to an address presented to the Archbishop for his efforts on behalf of peace, Dr. Gilmartin said:

"Ireland has now taken her place at the council table of the nations as a Catholic nation. She will be regarded with a jealous and critical eye by others, not of the Faith. It will be her mission to falsify the predictions of her enemies, and to become a shining light in the world."

Last week (writes the *London Catholic Times*' Dublin correspondent in mid-October) the Governor-General, Mr. T. M. Healy, addressed a joint meeting of the Senate and the Dail, outlining briefly the future policy of the Administration. From his speech one gathers that the Government will introduce in the immediate future many measures of considerable importance, some of which have been awaited anxiously since the signing of the Treaty. Apart from the Judiciary Bill, the main items of the Ministerial programme are the reorganisation of our railway system, the encouragement and development of agricultural industries, local Government reform, and the co-ordination of our somewhat disjointed educational systems. The Government's decision that the time has come when elaborate schemes of reconstructive legislation can be safely initiated bears testimony to the splendid progress which has been made in the work of restoring national stability, a work which will be completed when the present industrial crisis has been solved in a manner satisfactory to capital and labor. Such a solution will come, it is generally believed, with dramatic suddenness, and for the present we may console ourselves with the reflection that public order is being kept in every quarter of the land, and that the nation is beginning to forget the horrors of the Civil War. The problem of the internees remains, it is true, to inflame extremist minds, but the Governor-General, in his speech, dealt with the agitation for their unconditional release in a most effective manner. He emphasised the Ministry's determination to set free the prisoners gradually, but stressed at the same

time its responsibility to the people as a whole; no steps could be taken, he declared, which might endanger tranquillity or encourage lawless men to resort again to arms. Quite apart from the purely political dangers which would be occasioned by the unconditional release of the anti-Treaty internees, the Government's present policy is considered wise, since it enables individual prisoners to absorb themselves on their release into our economic system with the minimum of difficulty. If ten thousand internees, many of whom are temperamentally opposed to work, were loosed upon the country at once, the unemployment problem would be aggravated to a dangerous degree; that is a consideration which is overlooked by most of their political admirers.

On the 3rd instant a Solemn Votive Mass, followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, was celebrated at the Dublin pro-Cathedral to obtain the blessing of the Almighty for the work of the Senate and the Dail. The Governor-General, accompanied by General Cullen, nearly all the Ministers, and many Senators and Deputies, were present, and the ceremonies throughout were of a particularly impressive kind. The general public was largely represented, and leading members of the Oireachtas were cheered by enormous crowds as they left the sacred building—though bands of girls—forgetful of the solemnity of the occasion, endeavored, quite unsuccessfully, to create a counter-demonstration. While the Votive Mass was being celebrated non-Catholic members of the Oireachtas attended a special service at St. Patrick's Protestant Cathedral. There Archbishop Gregg presided, and, I am told, the congregation was large and representative. This Protestant service had peculiar interest; it showed that the minority has forgotten those anti-national prejudices which curbed so long its vision and its usefulness. In Dublin, at least, Protestants have come to realise that Catholics bear them no ill-will, that they are anxious, in fact, to conciliate them in every way. Die-Hards living in the Six Counties and Great Britain may still affect to think that Irish Catholics are intolerant, but ex-Unionists who live in the Free State know better.

The Attorney-General, Mr. Hugh Kennedy, K.C., has been selected as the Ministerial candidate for Dublin City South, where a by-election will be held in the immediate future. Mr. Kennedy is one of the most distinguished members of the Irish Bar, and has a long record of important service in the national cause. During the Black-and-Tan régime his advice was often sought by leaders of popular opinion, and since the establishment of the Free State he has been chief legal adviser to the Irish Government. Extremely popular with Dublin citizens of all shades of politics, he should secure a large majority if any rival candidate goes forward. So far, however, no definite opposition has developed, though it is possible that some anti-Treatyite or Independent may enter the arena before the nomination day. At the National University a by-election is pending also, and Mr. McGilligan, who is attached to the staff of the Irish High Commissioner in London, has been chosen to represent the interests of the Government. Mr. McGilligan is an Ulsterman, and contested Derry, his native county, as a Sinn Féiner before the signing of the Treaty. His success at the University is said to be assured, but quite probably a contest will take place. In this connection the name of Miss O'Farrelly is mentioned. Defeated at the general election by the successful Ministerialists, the University is unlikely to return her to Dail Eireann at the coming by-election. Apart from politics, Miss O'Farrelly, who is an Independent supporter of the Anglo-Irish settlement, enjoys wide popularity; for years she has worked hard in the interests of the Gaelic League, and her championship of the Irish-Ireland movement is untiring.

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