

would naturally expect them to be only too anxious to sell their properties without being forced to do so by the Legislature. But the fact is they have put every obstacle in the way of such sales. They came out in their true colors at a convention held recently when they resolved not to sell at less than 27 years' purchase based on the judicial rents—an advance of 50 per cent. on what is considered a fair price. This is a move in the direction of preventing tenants from purchasing, for even if they were prepared to pay such an exorbitant price the Government would not lend the money, as the annual charges would be so heavy that it would be impossible for the borrower to meet his obligations.

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Mr. WYNDHAM, speaking at Belfast the other day to a select gathering of landlords and their friends, said the Government would never consent to a Compulsory Sale Act. Now that word 'never' is one which Ministers should be very chary about using. It has been used on former occasions by members of a Government in regard to certain measures which, later on, acting on the mandate of the people, they caused to be placed on the Statute Book. We know that a king said he would 'never' sign a certain relief measure, but he had to reconsider his decision. A proposal that is considered too revolutionary to-day, becomes the law of the land on the morrow, and in a short time is amended so as to keep pace with the progress of the times. The acquisition of estates by the Government of New Zealand was considered a most revolutionary measure—as it undoubtedly was—when first introduced, but now we look on it as a matter of course. The Irish landlords designate compulsory sale of their properties to the tenants as confiscation and robbery, and it is evident the Chief Secretary for Ireland holds somewhat similar opinions. He and his party are apparently prepared to stand by the landlords, who are determined on getting their pound of flesh. They will see that property has its full rights, no matter what may happen to the human beings who drag out a miserable existence in their efforts to meet the demands of those who neither toil nor spin, and whose only interest in such lands seems to be rent receivers. When the measure for the compulsory acquirement of estates came into force in this Colony, there was an outcry on the part of large property owners, who designated it a most iniquitous law, and said it would be the ruin of the Colony. Now the land-owners of New Zealand had some measure of right on their side, and were much aggrieved individuals compared with the average Irish landlords, for they used their brains and capital in working their estates. The generality of Irish landlords use neither brains, energy, nor capital on their property. They graciously permit their tenants to supply these requisites, and then tax them for the privilege. Furthermore, many of them are absentees; they are perpetually engaged in drawing the life-blood out of the country; they take everything, and give nothing in return. No country could stand such treatment, as it would impoverish the most productive land on the face of the earth. Most people in New Zealand now admit that the Land for Settlements Act is a most beneficent measure, and that it has proved of immense benefit to great numbers of people who would never have had a chance of getting on to the land were it not for the facilities it affords. And if we in a new and thinly-populated country find it necessary to take land compulsorily for settlement, why should not the Imperial Government do the same thing in Ireland, where the necessity exists to a considerably greater extent? If the Government of New Zealand considers it just and equitable to compel an individual to part with his land for the benefit of the public at large, how much more equitable ought it be for the Imperial Government to force a land-owner to sell his property at a fair price to those who have been for years cultivating and reclaiming that land, and adding to the value of it by inexhausted improvements? There is nothing improper or inequitable in the proposal that land-owners should be forced to sell their lands to the tenants at a fair price. It is a principle of political economy that where the interests of the individual and the community clash, the individual should suffer. The farming community in Ireland have been the sufferers for many generations, and if there is to be any suffering in the future it is about time the land-owners should have some experience of it.

Already three provinces of Ireland through their representatives have declared themselves in favor of the compulsory sale of the estates to the tenants, and now Ulster, thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, is coming into line with the rest of Ireland on this vital question. The first blow for the 'rooting of the tenant farmer in the soil' was struck in East Down the other day, when a strong advocate of the principle defeated a Government nominee. The Government attempted to minimise the defeat of their candidate by twitting the Presbyterian ministers and farmers with having entered into an unholy alliance with the Catholics. The reply of the sturdy Presbyterians was practically this, 'That whatever were the Pope's shortcomings he was not a collector of rack-rents in Ulster.' Mr. T. W. RUSSELL sacrificed his position as a member of the Government when he saw that his Party would not take up the question. They tried to shut his mouth by an offer of an appointment worth £1500 a year, but he declined to change his principles. He is a strong Unionist and a sturdy Presbyterian, but this does not prevent him from speaking his mind freely on England's treatment of Ireland, and saying things which, if uttered by a Nationalist member, might be the cause of bringing him under the notice of the Castle Authorities. In an article contributed to the February number of a London review he asks 'Why should there be peace and contentment in Ireland? Can things be on right lines in a country where the people rush from its shores as if it were plague-stricken? The life-blood of the country is being drained away. In another decade Ireland will be a country of old men and old women. With such a fact haunting us at every turn ought there to be peace? Can any real lover of his country remain silent?' He declares that two things must be done to ensure the peace of Ireland—the peasant must be rooted in the soil, and the Imperial Parliament must take a large and generous view of Irish affairs. 'I must say,' he concludes, 'to the class so dominant in the country that their day of domination is over; that they are citizens not rulers, and that they must take their chance and fight their way in a common country.'

Notes

The Abolition of the Kitchen

It is recorded of a penurious shipmaster that he fed his men on a pound of dried apples each, afterwards causing them to drink a quart of water. The result was to create that comfortable sense of repletion which follows a hearty meal. This shipmaster is usually quoted as the *ne plus ultra* of nautical meanness, but if the scientific journals are correct, he was merely anticipating by a few years discoveries that seem exact copies of his method. Travellers and others have long been familiar with tabloids containing nutriment in a highly concentrated form. Desiccated soups and other kinds of food put up in portable form are also well known. But the 'promon' seems likely to oust these from their position, and singularly enough, the method of employing it is an exact counterpart of that initiated by the penurious master mariner. 'Promon' is composed of a variety of ingredients. There are Irish stew, liver and bacon, boiled fowl, roast pork and apple sauce, sheep's head pie, and so on. These are compressed by some secret means. A 'promon' is chewed well and swallowed, and then a pint of liquid taken. It is very evident that if the 'promon' comes into general use, it will mean the extinction of the cook and the death of gastronomy. It will also mean the suppression of individual taste. The host who dispenses the meal will no longer be able to reserve slyly for himself the most succulent morsel, nor will he be able to help his valued guest to a slice a little 'rare.' The fare will be emphatically 'pot luck' for all concerned. But, to be serious, the discovery of new methods of concentrating nutriment, though calculated to be of inestimable value in emergencies, is likely to have a serious effect on the physical future of the race, and the tendency to use such foods should be discouraged. This is for the reason that mastication is intended by nature to be an indispensable preliminary to digestion. The pleasure of eating, quite apart from any of the grossness of the gourmand's appetite, would be quite unknown if we were to gulp down a 'promon,' and afterwards deluge it with a pint of liquid. The operation would be quite as prosaic as the stoking of a locomotive with coal, and filling of its tender with water.

More Signalling to Mars.

In a recent issue our contributor, 'Quip,' had some refer-

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