

ENGLAND AND AMERICA

INFLUENCE of IRISH-AMERICAN SENTIMENT.

Captain Shawe-Taylor, a West of Ireland landlord, who had acted as secretary to the Irish Land Conference, visited the United States and Canada recently for the purpose of finding out the views of leading Irishmen there on the land question. Having concluded his mission he returned to Ireland towards the end of February, and on his arrival in Queenstown was interviewed by several Press representatives. In the course of his interview he said:—

Immediately after the Land Conference had concluded its sittings I left for America in order to discuss the new and extraordinary situation created in Ireland with the leaders of Irish political thought and sentiment across the water. My object was to ascertain whether Irishmen in America entertained a really undying and irreconcilable hatred to England, or whether, in the event of England displaying a sincere endeavor to restore peace and prosperity to the country by finally settling the land question, there would be any possibility of a

Change in Irish-American Sentiment.

My visit has lasted for five weeks, and during that time I have met the Irish leaders in conferences in New York, Boston, Chicago, in the United States; and in Ottawa, in Canada. It addressed 250 delegates from all the States of America before the Irish-American Historical Society, the National Council of the United Irish League of America, the Irish Club, and the Irish National Club in New York, and the English Victorian Club of Boston; and also visited Washington, Richmond, Montreal, and Buffalo.

In Washington President Roosevelt received me. I also met, amongst others, Senator Kearns and the Hon. James G. Walsh.

In New York, the Hon. William MacAdoo, ex-Secretary of the U.S. Navy, Judge Goff, Attorney-General; T. St. John Gaffney, John E. Mulholland, Mr. J. O'Sullivan, Mr. Patrick Egan, Mr. Patrick Ford, editor 'Irish World,' and also the leaders of the Clan-na-gael.

In Boston, the Hon. James A. Collins, Mayor of the city, Mr. James Jeffrey Roche, editor of the Boston 'Pilot'; the Hon. J. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Joseph Smith, Mr. H. Shuman.

In Chicago the Hon. John Finerty, Colonel United States Army and proprietor 'Chicago Citizen'; Mr. William Dillon, Mr. Emmott Clare, Mr. J. Barry, Mr. J. O'Shaughnessy.

In Ottawa, the Governor-General the Earl of Minto, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada; the Secretary of State, the Hon. A. Scott; the Attorney-General, the Hon. A. Fitzpatrick; the Hon. John Costigan, Mr. D'Arcy Scott, Dr. Freeland, President GIL of Canada, and many others.

President Roosevelt,

who is himself half an Irishman, and extremely proud of the fact, received me most cordially. He follows Irish affairs with the keenest interest and I believe there is no one in the United States more anxious for the promotion of Ireland's welfare than the present President. Referring to the Conference, he said, 'I am not speaking now as a politician when I say that in company with the whole civilised world I heartily welcome the prospect of a final settlement of the Irish land question.'

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, too, is a firm believer in the future of Ireland, and said he sincerely hoped the recommendations of the Conference would be carried out, 'for this would not alone confer a great boon on Ireland, but also on England, Canada, and the whole British Empire.'

A resolution, embodying this sentiment, will be submitted to the Canadian House of Commons on its re-assembly after March 12 by the Hon. John Costigan and will be supported by Sir Wilfrid and the Government of Canada.

(We were informed by cable that the resolution was submitted to the Canadian House of Commons and unanimously agreed to.)

Briefly put the situation in the United States is this: The Irish-American Party, having abandoned all hope of obtaining reform in Ireland except by force, have adopted on all possible occasions offensive and hostile measures against England. There are

Eighteen Million Irish-Americans,

and they exercise a power out of all proportion to their numbers, owing to the fact that they practically govern the large cities, and hold the highest official and financial positions throughout the country. Their influence on the American Press, too, is phenomenal. Their method of procedure in thwarting England is extremely simple. In the United States all foreign treaties and arrangements have to come before the Senate for ratification. In all treaties affecting Great Britain the greatest pressure is put on the Senate by the Irish-American Party to wreck any Bill which can by any stretch of the imagination be considered as offering anything approaching reasonable terms to Great Britain. They are in a position to influence 75 per cent. of the Senate, and the remaining 25 per cent., who are Democrats from the South, cannot be considered as a hostile element to the Irish—themselves natural Democrats.

As examples of how effectually this has been done, the wicking of the British Extradition Treaty and the

Hay-Pauncefote Treaty in its original form, may be mentioned.

In Canada the situation is different, and no country is, I believe, more alive to the advantages to be gained by

An Amicable Settlement

than the Dominion of Canada. Her frontiers march parallel with the United States. Canada, therefore, offers to the Irish-American Party the nearest and readiest object for an attack on the hated British Empire. I quote the words of the Secretary of State, the Hon. A. Scott:

'Canada has suffered in blood and treasure, through no fault of her own, owing to the Fenian raid.'

'The hostile attitude of the Irish-American Party leads to frequent and grave international complications with the United States. Canada has lost at least 1,000,000 Irishmen as emigrants owing to the hatred of the Irish to the British flag, and their unwillingness, therefore, to make Canada their home.' Small wonder, then, continued Captain Shawe-Taylor, that Canada, with the Alaskan Boundary coming up for ratification by the Senate of the United States and with other international problems requiring readjustment, is anxious to let her voice be heard in the present crisis.

Now during my visit I have had the opportunity of meeting Irishmen of all shades and degrees of political opinion, and I have the highest possible authority for making the following statement—

'A final settlement of the land question by removing the barrier at present existing between Ireland and England will greatly improve the relations between America and England, and will also link in closer friendship the Dominion of Canada to the British Empire.'

A few Sundays ago his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne blessed and opened a handsome High School for the Christian Brothers at North Melbourne. Brother Hogan said that business at the High School had begun last January with an attendance of 44 boys, and it had increased to 93. Those numbers proved the great necessity of a High School at North Melbourne. It would not be out of place, on that occasion, to say something regarding the outlay. The grounds, buildings, and furnishings had cost £4516 12s.; £256 17s had been expended on St. Mary's school. Father Carey had given £2000 and Father O'Connell (Carterton) £1000. At the present time they were £1800 in debt. There were 550 boys in the three schools. His Grace the Archbishop delivered an impressive address, and speeches were also delivered by the Rev. Father Carey, and the Mayor, Mr. Prendergast, M.L.A.

For many years (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the 'Freeman's Journal') the sphere of the Christian Brothers in Victoria was limited to the East Melbourne College, St. Francis' School, the South Melbourne Orphanage, the Ballarat College, and the primary schools, and the Geelong Orphanage. Of late years their sphere has gradually widened. They have now charge of West and North Melbourne schools, and last Sunday his Grace the Archbishop blessed and opened a fine High School at North Melbourne, of which the Rev. Brother Hogan is the principal. The North Melbourne community have also charge of the Carlton school. In time, the whole of the suburban boys' schools will be under their control.

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