

council, coupled with the fact that it has recently received its commission from the electorate, gives it an indisputable claim to speak in the name of the Irish people. I think I can justly say for my colleagues that they always approach the consideration of public question in a perfectly impartial spirit, and that they invariably express their views boldly and courageously. At the moment our country is passing through an unparalleled crisis in its history, and our political leader, Mr. Redmond, has in the most statesmanlike fashion outlined what the policy of our country should be regarding the present deplorable war. In the declaration which Mr. Redmond has made on this subject he has spoken for the overwhelming majority of the Irish people, and I would go further and say that at no previous period of our country's history has the policy of any political leader ever met with such universal acceptance from the people of Ireland. Of course, we know that a very limited and insignificant section of the population profess to be at variance with this policy for reasons which we find it difficult to comprehend. I am not unmindful of the wrongs that have been done to our country in the days gone by, but I do not think we should continue to brood over the black and bitter memories of the past. It has often occurred to me that we are less conscious of the changes that take place in our own time than we are of those which took place generations before. We have seen a vast proportion of the land of Ireland restored by the intervention of the State to the people who had been despoiled of their possessions. We have seen a non-representative system of local government swept away, and replaced by one directly representative of, and controlled by the people. We have seen the educational rights of the people provided for and subsidised by the State. Finally, we have seen the charter of our rights to legislate for our own people, on our own soil, placed on the Statute Book of Great Britain. I recall these facts for a two-fold purpose—firstly, to show that the relative position of Ireland toward the Empire to-day is not comparable with any previous period in our history, and, secondly, to acknowledge with gratitude how much we owe to the incomparable skill and sagacity of the leader who has accomplished so much for our country. Probably some of you may think that the feeble and insignificant hostility to Mr. Redmond's policy is unworthy of even passing notice, but I would remind those who may be disposed to entertain this view that, whilst we at home are able to appraise the opposition at its proper value, outside Ireland it may be exploited in a way to create a false impression as to the true feelings of the people. For this reason, I think it most important that this council, which is the most representative body in Ireland, should give its united and whole-hearted support to Mr. Redmond's war policy. Ireland has, for the first time, become in reality an integral part of the Empire, and, as altered conditions impose new obligations, we must, therefore, be prepared to accept such responsibilities as the altered conditions demand.

#### A DISTINGUISHED CAREER.

The Commissioners of Intermediate Education for Ireland have been pleased to appoint Mr. Stephen Patrick O'Brien, B.A., N.U.I., Barrister-at-Law, to superintend the examination for 1915. Mr. O'Brien graduated in the Royal University of Ireland in 1900, having studied previously in the University School at Waterford. He had a distinguished course as a law student both in the Queen's University, Cork, and at the King's Inns, Dublin, was awarded first-class honors through his whole course and a special certificate in the final examination. Mr. O'Brien holds the gold medal for proficiency in legal debate. Called to the Irish Bar in Trinity term, 1912, he was proposed by the Right Hon. Ignatius O'Brien, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland. His certificate was signed by W. H. Battersby, K.C., M.P. He is son of Mr. Stephen Patrick O'Brien, Royal Terrace, West Kensington, Co. Dublin, until lately head master of the University School, Waterford. We congratulate Rev. Father Dominick O'Brien, Devonport, Auckland, on the success of his distinguished brother.

## People We Hear About

The Most Rev. Robert Seton, Archbishop of Heliopolis, who has established his residence at Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md., celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest on April 11.

The *Westminster Gazette* says that much has been heard of the King of the Belgians since the war began; less about the Queen. Her Majesty, it will be remembered, is a Princess of the House of Bavaria. She was married in 1900, and is exceedingly popular not only in Belgium, but in her native country. In his very interesting life of the King, just published, Mr. J. De Courcy MacDonnell says that one whispers in Belgium that the Bavarians remain in their hearts still faithful to her, and the citizens of Brussels tell each other that the Bavarian soldiers in their midst have more than once revolted, and have been led into battle against them with the greatest difficulty. Few of the crimes alleged to have been committed in the war, Mr. MacDonnell states, can be laid at the door of the Bavarians.

Catholic editors all over the country (remarks the *Sacred Heart Review*) who chronicled with regret the death of the Rev. J. A. Campbell, editor of the *Antidote*, Hereford, Texas, will be rejoiced to learn that Father Campbell is still as much alive as his excellent paper. 'I am thankful for all the bouquets that have been heaped over my grave,' says the *Antidote's* editor, in the latest issue of his paper, 'and this in the hope of becoming worthy of them before death knocks in earnest at my door.' This is the second time, by the way, that Father Campbell has read his own obituary. Once before there was a railroad wreck, and a dead body, frightfully mangled, was identified as that of the editor. 'If ever you are given like this editor twice to read,' says he, 'what they say of you after death, then you will begin to value charity.'

Mr. Thomas Joseph Ryan, the new Premier of Queensland, was born at Port Fairy, Victoria, in 1876. He was educated at the Jesuit College, Kew, and South Melbourne College, at each of which he held a scholarship. He graduated Bachelor of Arts at Melbourne University, with honors in classics. After leaving college he was appointed assistant classical master at the Melbourne High School, and subsequently became resident classical master of the Church of England Grammar School, Launceston. Later he went to the Maryborough Grammar School (Queensland) as classical master. While in Melbourne Mr. Ryan studied law, graduating as Bachelor of Laws in 1901. He was admitted to the Queensland Bar, and entered politics for Barcoo in 1909, when he defeated Mr. George Kerr, formerly Minister of Railways. At the election held on May 22 Mr. Ryan scored an easy win, polling 1425 votes, against 561 cast for his Liberal opponent.

Queen Helena, the Queen of Italy, was brought up with her younger sister Anna in the Smolna Convent in St. Petersburg, and completely won the hearts of her schoolfellows. Dressed in the uniform of the convent, and going by the name of Helene Nicolajewna, she attended her class every day, finding the greatest difficulty in acquiring the obligatory Russian language. The Russian grammar became and remained her arch-enemy during all the years of her school life, in spite of the comfort and help afforded her by her governess, who dared not speak to her in any other language. For the games of childhood Helena had no taste, her whole leisure being spent in painting—her soul's delight. The violin was her favorite instrument, and she played it with great enthusiasm and expression, declaring she could never express her feelings on the piano, though compelled to learn to play it.

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