

is just the thing that England cannot do now or ever. Over and over, her statesmen have confessed that English rule in Ireland is based on fraud and tyranny; it is admitted that the Act of Union was the most disgraceful transaction known in history. But in all England there does not seem enough honor to make restitution, or enough sense of shame to remove the stain for which that Act stands all through the years. The republican party is strong in Ireland to-day, because England made it strong. The tone of the Irish papers would lead one to think that nothing short of complete separation would now be accepted; however, we know what we are saying when we assert that there is still time for a settlement on the lines of Colonial Home Rule. There is still time, but at any moment it may be too late.

Ireland's Wealth

For the oppression and plunder of Ireland a hundred excuses are alleged but not one argument. We are told that the Irish, who govern other countries and who command the armies and navies of England, are not able to mind their own business; we are told that the Empire could not do without Ireland, which was precisely the sort of reason on which Prussia violated Belgium; we are told that Ireland is too small to be safe, when we know that no fate that could possibly happen to her could be worse than the unbearable British tyranny which she has to endure; and, lastly, we are told that Ireland is too poor to support herself and that she is really an object of charity for John Bull. The painful, shameful lies of English politicians and English pressmen are without end; and of them all no one is more absurd than the lie that Ireland, which is robbed and plundered by England, is too poor to support her own people. The following statistics may throw a little light on Ireland's capacity not only to support herself but to feed her hungry and rascally neighbor besides:—

Value of food and drink stuffs imported into and retained for consumption in Great Britain from the undermentioned countries.

Country.	Millions £ (1915)	Millions £ (1916)
Ireland	46	59
U.S.A.	82	116
Argentine	46	36
Canada	27	41
British India	22	20
Denmark	20	20
New Zealand	16	18
Netherlands	14	13
Australia	12	10
Russia	8	1

In 1916-1917 Ireland's average export to England was—

Live Cattle (Number)	889,000
Live Sheep „	700,000
Live Pigs „	239,000
Butter (cwt.)	720,000
Eggs „	1,380,000
Poultry „	290,500
Bacon „	1,080,000
Oats „	1,700,000
Potatoes „	3,460,000

“Ireland,” says *The Railway and Shipping Journal*, “grows more food for Great Britain than for herself. . . . She is in an increasing degree an essential base for British food supply. . . . She consumes one-fourth her own cattle; the rest are for Great Britain.”

So there we are! Our poor deluded country is “useful” to Great Britain. What is useful to Britain British statesmen will hold as surely as the Kaiser's armies trampled Belgium unless compelled to do what is right by superior force—the only argument that appeals to John Bull. Truth, justice, honor, are words he does not understand. By calumny, by perjury, by treachery of the lowest kind he has acquired his “useful” possessions and by the same means he

will strive to hold them until the day comes when the pirate is punished.

How the War Affected the Church

It is too soon yet to speak with any certainty of the ultimate results which the war will have for the Church; we can only look at the facts as they are at present and make a sort of profit and loss estimate of the good and evil as they appear externally. The whole world lost, and the Church was not exempt from the sorrows and the sufferings of the last four years; but while we are in doubt that the whole world gained much or little we can have no manner of doubt that the Church's gain was very considerable. In the first place let us cast up roughly the losses. The Church has lost more than half of the five million men killed on the western fronts, for of the western nations engaged more than half were Catholic. In fact with the exception of Prussia and England the rest were all Catholic until America, with, however, a large percentage of Catholic soldiers in her armies, came in. In addition, millions were also lost through hardships and privations and other causes incidental to the war. Serious too was the loss of so many priests. France compelled priests to carry arms and thousands were killed in active service. In addition, among the stretcher-bearers and Red Cross workers in the armies of the Powers that had more religion than the French Masonic Government there were large numbers of priests killed in the discharge of their duties. Not a few sacrificed their lives while acting as Military Chaplains. The loss of so many priests has been a severe blow to the Church, and in particular the foreign missions will suffer from the scarcity of the French clergy, for from that devoted body came in the past the vast majority of those who were inspired to go forth to preach the Gospel in distant lands. Before the war, it is estimated that about ten thousand priests and four thousand Brothers were withdrawn from the foreign missions by the French Government and compelled to serve at home or in the East. The war found more than eight hundred German priests engaged in foreign missionary work. Most of those were interned or otherwise put out of action—often, as we know now, with a considerable amount of what British people with such sweet simplicity call Prussianism when it is done by others. A bishop of the East has declared that it will be fifty years before the Catholic missions recover from the loss sustained. Another loss came about through the cutting down of funds devoted to the maintenance of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, an international society of French origin. For the last four years the contributions of France, Germany, Hungary, Austria, and Belgium have almost dwindled to nothing. These losses have already been felt in all their severity. In a little while the Church will begin to feel the results of the serious interruption of the ecclesiastical training of thousands of young men so badly needed every year to replace those who have fallen or grown old in the labor of the vineyard. In many parts of Europe ecclesiastical seminaries were deserted and silent during the past four years. Other dangers are the attempts of the French Masons to compel the defenceless war orphans to attend atheistical schools, and the hate of Christians for each other so sedulously fostered—even by those whose office and calling ought to have taught them other things—during the war. The lies about Hunnish atrocities, the forged fable-grams, the denunciation of the German people, as if they were any more responsible for the crimes of their rulers than we are for the murder of Sheehy-Skeffington, will all help to make Christian charity colder and religion weaker for years to come. Loss of faith, spread of immorality, disregard for law and authority are other evils from which the Church must suffer indirectly although her own children are the least affected in these ways. Against these losses there are certainly great gains to be considered. To many the sorrow and suffering of the war have brought God nearer. To many of the soldiers especially religion has a new meaning and

Roberts' "Salamander" Ranges

ROBERTS' IRON, STEEL, AND OVEN WORKS

Used by Australian and N.Z. Defence Depts., N.Z. Railways, Hotels, etc.

93 MANNERS STREET, WELLINGTON.