

OUR PLEDGE TO IRELAND.

At a great mass meeting held recently in West Philadelphia to demand America's recognition of the Irish Republic, Rev. James Grattan Mythen, an Episcopalian clergyman of Baltimore, made the following strong statement:—

"The Irish issue is not a religious issue, but one of justice. England is trying now to suppress the Irish people, as she has done in India. She is trying to pretend that the fight in Ireland is Protestantism against Catholicism, whereas the history of several generations proves that the leaders of Irish freedom have been mainly members of the Protestant Church—Charles Stewart Parnell, Robert Emmet, Henry Grattan, John Mitchel, Ernest Blythe, and Darrel Figgis. The only great Irish statesman who ever in any way challenged the political control of the Church in Ireland was Daniel O'Connell.

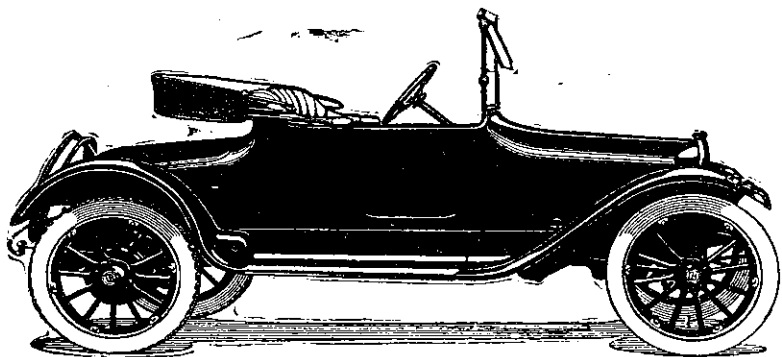
"We Americans would have been lying bitterly and traitorously if we fought against the infant imperialism of Germany without taking into consideration the age-long imperialism of Great Britain. We Americans fought against imperialism—both Anglo-Saxon and Germanic."

Dealing with anti-Irish propaganda, the speaker said: "Many of our great newspapers are controlled by Great Britain. Your Irish news gets to you in British bottles. If you are a hundred per cent. American, then under God and man you cannot be any less than friends of Irish freedom. But we must see to it that we live up to the principles for which we went into the war. Ireland was fighting for free-

dom before Columbus discovered America. Benjamin Franklin told the Irish of his time: 'Help us, and we in turn will help you.' We of this generation are in duty and honor bound to redeem that pledge."

THE IRISH BISHOPS AND IRELAND'S RIGHTS.

The members of the Irish Hierarchy in their Lenten Pastorals protest forcibly against the misgovernment of which their country is the victim (says the London *Catholic Times*). One after the other they remark on the contrast between the language of British Ministers during the war about small nations and the Government's actual policy in Ireland. "We are not ruled," says Cardinal Logue, "by the ordinary law, but are subject to a drastic military code under which actions otherwise harmless or trivial become grave offences and are pitilessly punished." "Our people," declares the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, "are now shut out by law from the employment of methods of seeking redress regarded as constitutional in the past. It would be unreasonable and indeed impossible to expect that they can long rest content with such a state of things." A number of the Bishops write with indignation of the calumny and oppression which are Ireland's reward for the heroic deeds of her sons in the war and express the conviction that there can be no lasting peace unless her rights are granted. The Hierarchy are manifestly at one with the people in supporting the national claim for self-determination.



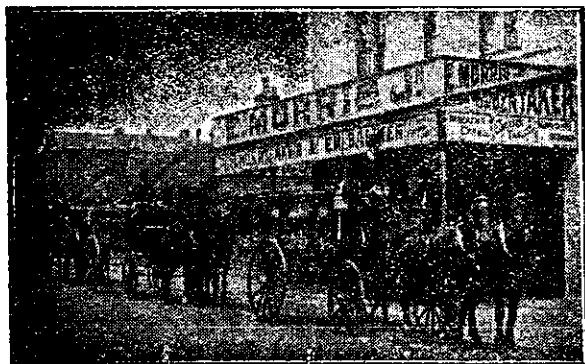
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