

CAN IRELAND STAND ALONE?

IS SHE RICH ENOUGH TO SET UP AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION?

These questions can be best answered by comparing Ireland with the small nations of Europe that prospered in freedom.

See how Ireland holds her own in size:—

	Area in Square Miles.
Belgium ...	11,373
Holland ...	12,582
Denmark ...	15,042
Switzerland ...	15,976
Ireland ...	32,531

Countries about the same size as Ireland are:—Serbia, 33,891 square miles; Portugal, 35,490; Greece, 41,933; Bulgaria, 43,305.

In population also she is well to the fore, as these figures show:—

Norway ...	2,396,782
Denmark ...	2,940,990
Switzerland ...	3,888,500
Ireland ...	4,390,219

The following are the figures for countries whose population in each case is about equal to that of Ireland—Serbia, 1,517,000; Bulgaria, 4,751,000; Greece, 4,821,300.

What do these small nations pay each year to run their business; and in most cases they do their business better than the big nations? Here are the annual bills:—

Serbia ...	£5,250,000
Greece ...	5,400,000
Switzerland ...	7,000,000
Bulgaria ...	7,000,000
Norway ...	7,200,000
Denmark ...	9,500,000

Dublin Castle Rule cost Ireland last year £30,000,000, and this year, £35,000,000.

All the small Powers mentioned here keep their own armies, and three of them have fleets as well. It is cheaper, therefore, to be free than in slavery.

Liberty costs only 32s per head in Bulgaria, 35s in Serbia, 37s in Switzerland, 40s in Greece, 51s in Sweden, 55s in Portugal, and 60s in Norway; while in Ireland subjection and corruption cost 75s per head!

In point of trade, Ireland whips all the other small nations hollow. Here are the figures for 1915, in each case taken from *Whitaker's Almanac*, 1917:—

Serbia ...	£ 9,500,000
Greece ...	12,500,000
Bulgaria ...	15,000,000
Portugal ...	23,000,000
Rumania ...	41,000,000
Norway ...	42,000,000
Denmark ...	65,000,000
Sweden ...	75,000,000

while Ireland's trade for 1915 was £172,413,724.

Judged by any standard we may select, Ireland is admirably fitted for freedom. She is large enough,

populous enough and rich enough. For the money paid England last year could be run the government business of Bulgaria, Norway, Switzerland, and Denmark, paying for all their police, soldiers, ships, and guns. Is not Ireland fooled and robbed long enough?

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

A correspondent (A. G. Clarke, Randwick) writes thus in the *Catholic Press* (Sydney) on the above subject:—

In an article advocating the sole British control of the New Hebrides, the *Herald*, under the date of the 4th inst., writes as follows: "The Presbyterian Churches of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Scotland have expended large sums of money in the evangelising of the people of the group." And again: "From a mission and moral point of view, the reason we have a right to the New Hebrides is because the natives have been Christianised and civilised, as far as has been done, by men and women of the British race."

The *Herald* thus snugly ignores the real missionary work (as distinguished from the trade activity of the Protestant "missionaries") done by the French priests and nuns in the New Hebrides, and seeks to humbug its readers into thinking that the natives of this group "have been Christianised, as far as has been done," solely by the Protestant ministers and their wives! Perhaps, however, the enlightened editor of the *Herald* does not consider Catholics to be "Christians" at all, and therefore, incapable of "Christianising" anyone!

If this pious gentleman would soil his Protestant hands by touching the *Australian Catholic Directory* for the current year, he would find, on page 204, the following summary, concerning the Vicariate-Apostolic of the New Hebrides Archipelago (established 1901): "The Society of Mary have charge of the New Hebrides missions. Stations, 17; residences and chapels, 23; missionary priests, 25; lay religious, 3; religious Sisters, 18; native catechists, 20. There are schools in every station. Number of neophytes and catechumens, about 2500. Schools, conducted by the Sisters of the Third Order of Mary: 19 Sisters; 60 pupils."

I had the honor of making the acquaintance of the Vicar Apostolic (the Right Rev. Mgr. Doucère), some 11 years ago, at Port Vila, and the impression which his charming personality left on my mind has never since faded away. He and his clergy live among the people, preaching the faith not by word only, but by the eloquent example of their holy and self-denying lives. Unlike the Protestant missionaries, they may not "have expended large sums of money," for they have not got it to expend—still less do they seek to enrich themselves by trading, for that is not the purpose for which they are there. They are there for the one purpose of following in the footsteps of Christ, and of preaching His Gospel.

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