

other that in such a grave national crisis calmness and prudence were no signs of cowardice or submission.

Never did a people more loyally follow the instructions of their leaders. In response to the advice of their Bishops they sought strength and light from God through her who had so often protected and consoled their forefathers in the evil days of persecution, and relying upon the justice of their cause, they calmly awaited the beginning of the conflict without shrinking. In face of such determined and united opposition even Mr. Lloyd George began to realise the magnitude of his blunder. Instead of dividing Ireland, he had united her; instead of making Irishmen slaves, he had taught them to speak and act as free men.

To frighten the people, he appointed the ex-leader of the British Expeditionary Force as Military Dictator in Ireland, and when this did not succeed he had recourse to new weapons. In the hope of breaking up the unity of the country, and of depriving Ireland of the sympathy of America, it was deemed necessary to discover a "German Plot." Though the Head of the English Government in Ireland declared from his place in the House of Lords that Dublin Castle had no knowledge of such a plot, and though not a shred of incriminating evidence was produced, great numbers of prominent Irishmen were seized and hurried across to English gaols, where they remain till the present time without charge and without trial. Martial law, domiciliary visits by military and police, wholesale arrests, court-martial, and imprisonments have been the order of the day since then, until one is inclined to ask where is the constitution about which we have heard so many boasts.

In face of such prolonged and violent provocation the country has remained outwardly calm, but there can be no doubt about the strength of the current that flows beneath. Of this the elections of December afforded the most convincing proof. The issue submitted to the electors was intelligible to all. Should the principle of self-determination, as enunciated by the President of the United States and accepted by all the belligerents, be applied to Ireland in the same way as it was to be applied to other oppressed nationalities: or should Ireland throw herself on the mercy of English statesmen. The results of the elections supply the verdict of the people.

IRISH HISTORY COMPETITIONS

SUBJECTS FOR PAPERS.

1. For Junior School Children—

Relate in your own words the Story of Deirdre;

OR

Describe the Battle of Clontarf.

N.B. The story must not contain more than 600 words.

2. For Senior Pupils—

Did Pope Adrian IV. issue a Bull authorising the English King to undertake the conquest of Ireland?

OR

Describe the Golden Age of pre-Christian Ireland.

N.B. Essay limited to 1200 words.

The competitions are for children for whom the *New Zealand Tablet* is read at school or at home. Teachers are respectfully requested to get the pupils to write the essays for them and to send to our office, addressed to "The Editor," the three essays in each division which they judge to be most meritorious. Not more than three shall be forwarded for each division from any one school. Individual essays from children who have not an opportunity of attending a Catholic school will be considered. Essays must be in the *Tablet* Office by June 15.

Suitable book prizes will be posted to three children in each division whose essays are considered to be best. The winning essays will be duly published over the names of the writers in the *New Zealand Tablet*.

THE POPE AND THE WORKING CLASSES.

One of the sure consequences of the various movements now agitating the world will be the assertion of their power to a far greater extent, by the masses of the toilers (says the *London Catholic Times*). Hitherto the work of government has been carried on nearly altogether by classes who because of their birth and their wealth assumed the right to rule. Henceforth no class or section of the people will hold a privileged position. The right to govern will be decided by capacity, by merit, and the workers, the vast majority of the citizens, will shape the destinies of nations. This means that nations are beginning to undergo profound changes, social, industrial, political. How will the Church fare in the new world that is coming into being? The Church's work is the saving of souls, and she can perform it successfully whatever the form of government, but, needless to say, it is important that all—the workers no less than others—should clearly understand that her sympathies go out to those who are struggling for justice. Accordingly, when his Holiness Benedict XV. the other day addressed words of encouragement to representatives of Labor, advised them to study the Labor Encyclical for practical purposes, and assured them that his heart went out to those who organise unions and those who take part in them, he gave to the Labor world a message which cannot fail to benefit the Church in the new conditions that are arising. It will stimulate Catholics everywhere to greater social activity and gain for them the co-operation of many who differ from them in creed.

A CARDINAL AND SOCIALISM.

Mr. George Lansbury has been visiting Cologne. In the last issue of a Labor weekly journal, the *Herald*, he relates his impressions during "the People's Mass" in Cologne Cathedral, where the congregational singing by three or four thousand people was such as he had never heard before, and also during an interview with the Archbishop, Cardinal von Hartmann. He asked the Cardinal, to whose courtesy he pays a cordial tribute, various questions on public matters. His Eminence, our readers will remember, was the first of the signatories of the Joint Episcopal Pastoral condemning Socialism which we recently published (says the *London Catholic Times*). Mr. Lansbury enquired if Catholics could co-operate with Socialists, and the Cardinal replied that the Church could work with them on a particular question or for a certain definite object, the object being clearly defined. That is to say, the Cardinal holds that Catholics can co-operate with them much in the same way as they can co-operate with Tories and Liberals, supporting such definite parts of their policy as are in harmony with their own views and not opposed to Catholic principles. As a matter of fact, this is what the Centre or Catholic party are now doing in Germany, and the result of the co-operation is a series of democratic measures, including the fixing of an eight-hour day for workers, the adoption of compulsory arbitration, and the confiscation of all profits made during the war.

If we make religion our business, God will make it our blessedness.—II. G. J. Adam.

Do not grasp at the stars, but do life's plain common work as it comes, certain that daily duties and daily bread are the sweetest things of life.—Lord Houghton.

THE MOST OBSTINATE

Corn must quickly yield to BAXTER'S RUBY CORN CURE. Once this remedy is applied there is no escape for the corn—it must give in. Price, 1/-, post free, from Baxter's Pharmacy, Theatre Buildings, Timaru.

TRY
OEDERHOLM & SON

6-8 MANNERS STREET • WELLINGTON
FOR EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL