

hypocrisy and the deceit of the English Ministers are set before the public, with the result that a strong feeling has now been excited all over the civilised world in favor of Ireland, which all can see is suffering from Hunnishness at the end of the so-called war for the rights of small nations. For instance, *America* tells us that *La Bataille*, the official organ of the French trade-union movement, has called upon all French lovers of liberty to uphold Ireland's claims, and *La Populaire*, a Majority Socialist paper, says:—

"Since August, 1914, the Governments of the Allies have repeated over and over again, almost to the sickening point, that this war was being fought for right and liberty, for the deliverance of oppressed nationalities, and the restoration of their sovereign independence. Socialists understood quite well that the rights of people to dispose of themselves meant nothing more than a war phrase used by the chiefs of two coalitions so as to weaken their opponents. Ireland, which was promised the realisation of her dreams under Gladstone, has now less liberty than ever."

From *America* we also take the following significant extract from an article by the Paris correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*:—

"English people at home scarcely realise how strong the feeling is here in regard to England and her treatment of Ireland. French papers say little but French people think a great deal. A friend of mine who has lived in Paris for twenty years and mixes freely among the people of all opinions, tells me that on this point he finds no difference between the extreme Nationalists and the extreme Socialists. Mr. Lloyd George seems to think he has disposed of the question when he points out that Ireland [largely as a result of British Hunnishness] sent fewer soldiers to the war than England or Scotland. The argument is not very impressive to the Italians when they find England pressing for complete independence for populations that actually fought in the Austrian army. The only course consistent with England's dignity (*sic!!*) is to support the application of the Sinn Féiners for a hearing before the Peace Conference."

Spaniards and South Americans are also strong in support of Ireland. In the press and in the forum. Ireland's claims to freedom are advocated and the insincerity and tyranny of England exposed. Not content with resolutions passed by State Parliaments and by the Congress, the Americans of the United States have sent delegates home to demand the recognition not only of Ireland's claims, but of an *Irish Republic*, from the Peace Conference. Mr. Frank Walsh, formerly chairman of the Federal Commission of Industrial Relations; Mr. Edward Dunne, who was a Judge of the Circuit Court of Chicago, Mayor of Chicago, and Governor of Illinois; and Mr. Michael Ryan, formerly City Solicitor of Philadelphia, have been selected for the delegation which has now arrived in Europe, and for an interview with which Mr. George has somewhat vainly been angling. Mr. Walsh thus announces the purpose of the mission:—

"The committee is going to France as American citizens holding no allegiance material or spiritual, to any other nation on earth, but imbued with the necessity of extending the principles of free government to Ireland, which is the typical small nation of the world, being deprived of the right to determine for herself the form of government under which it shall exist. Naturally men and women of Irish blood and ancestry everywhere have a deep sentimental attachment to the land which gave birth to their race, and at this crucial moment of new world concepts desire to render all the assistance in their power to the representatives of the people of Ireland delegated to attend the Peace Conference. The committee expects to remain in France until Ireland's case is fully determined by the Peace Conference."

In Canada too the movement is growing apace, while in Scotland Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington is telling the Scots how her husband was murdered by a protected lunatic during the war for freedom and self-determination.

The cables of recent date reflect the influence of all this united expression of Ireland's right to self-determination. Mr. George has been very anxious to meet the American delegates. He has, we are told, exerted himself to obtain passports for the Irish delegates. It seems to have at last come into the sphere of certainty that Ireland's case will be heard at the Conference, and that the whole world will know how in deference to an unprincipled gang of bigots a small nation has been oppressed and plundered while her tyrants were proclaiming to humanity that they were fighting for the restoration of right and justice among all peoples. It is hardly necessary to point out that the Peace Conference has not yet begun. So far the Allies have been engaged chiefly in making up their minds what terms they shall set before the enemy. They have not been particularly blessed even in doing that much. When the representatives of all the belligerents come together things will be different, and it will begin to dawn on the English Democracy that other nations than Germany need renovation and moral regeneration. Whatever else be the results two things seem clear: Ireland will win and the Democracy of England will have their eyes opened to the crimes and blunders of their plutocrats and profiteers.

NOTES

Our Peace Hymn

We are pleased to be able to announce that we will in a short time present to our readers as a supplement to the *Tablet* a new Peace Hymn of great literary and musical distinction. The words were written by Miss Eileen Duggan, whose poems have been received with unstinted praise by *Tablet* readers during the past few years. Mr. Albert Vallis, the organist of St. Joseph's Cathedral, kindly composed the musical accompaniment, for which his name is in itself a high guarantee to the *cognoscenti* of musical circles in the Dominion. Capable critics who have heard the hymn played and sung have expressed their appreciation and approval. We hope it will be welcomed by our Catholic teachers and that it will be used by them universally for the approaching Peace Celebrations. Arrangements will be made, if necessary, to supply numbers of copies at a cheap rate to Catholic choirs, schools, and institutions. We recommend them to avail themselves of this opportunity of securing a really fine piece of original work, in which both the words and the accompaniment are artistic and beautiful. It has been suggested by some that there are too many verses in the hymn for ordinary singing, but we prefer to publish it as we received it from Miss Duggan, whose work we regard as too precious for emendation on our part. They who find it too long can easily omit a verse or two to suit their own views. We are confident that when our supplement finds its way to our readers they will be grateful to Miss Duggan and Mr. Vallis for a real treat.

Good Wine Needs No Bush

We do violence to our own judgment by repeating for the benefit of a few anti-Irish Irishmen who go round the country reviling us because we did not put their judgment before the truth, some recent tributes to the *Tablet*. Good wine needs no bush, but it may be a consolation to our loyal friends to know how little the opinions of our disgruntled critics, who say of us the thing they would fain have true, matter. We had a letter from L. J. Walshe, the author of a new Irish novel highly praised in the *New Witness* (and in the *Tablet*), telling us that he was delighted whenever he came across a copy of the *N.Z. Tablet*, and that he prayed that God might bless our efforts to further the cause of Irish freedom. A tribute reached us from a well-known Australian clergyman, who recognises that we were the first to strike out honestly for Sinn Féin, "while so many others sat on the fence, watching how the cat would jump." Lastly, from Rome, from