

Current Topics

A Masonic Crime

It is now ascertained that the assassination of President Paes, the head of the Portuguese Government, was the result of Masonic plotting. The London *Times* is compelled to admit the truth, but it pathetically observes that violence begets violence and that the stern measures of the President were met by force. The *Times* does not insist on the important fact that the President was supporting a lawful Government against rebels and that stern measures were not only legal but necessary. Contrast this lame apology for murder with the horrified attitude of the mother of forgers and liars when Irish peasants, driven to fury, take the law into their own hands. President Paes was guilty of the crime of being just to the Catholic Church. That is at once sufficient explanation of the sympathy, hardly hidden, of certain sections of the press with his murderers. The one thing the sun never sets on in the British Dominions is bigotry and dishonesty of that sort. The Empire is so undermined by Masonry and Orangeism at present that Englishmen will have a hard task before them on the day they make up their minds to free their own country. British soldiers fight while the members of a Continental Secret Society and Jews reap the profits and make the laws of the land. Is it any wonder that we have a system of education which frankly aims at killing Christianity? The army, as any of the returned men will tell you, is honeycombed with secret societies, and the "grip" is often a better claim for promotion than merit. A year ago a high authority said that merit, efficiency, honesty were the greatest obstacles to a man's progress in the N.Z. army. Could it be otherwise? Is it otherwise wherever Masonry and its influences get hold on the country?

The Politicians and their Tool

A contemporary points out that the latest dodge of the P.P.A. is to split the Labor Party in the interests of the profiteers. It is clear to us that from the first the P.P.A. has been promoted and fostered by the incompetent political party which, to his own shame, Sir Joseph Ward saved from extermination by lending his talents to old and bitter opponents. In a country ridden by wowsers and bigots, as this Dominion is, any politician of the Nosworthy type can secure a number of votes by making outrageous and anti-Christian attacks on his fellows, provided the fellows be Catholics. Catholics and Irishmen stand for honesty and religion so frankly that the ignorant fringe of the nondescript Churches that stands for nothing good on earth or in heaven will support any man who is ready to pander to hatred. For three years the aim of the P.P.A. was to stir up the feeling of the rabble of New Zealand against the Catholic Church, and a fitting leader and spokesman was found in a man whom a returned soldier horsewhipped for vile calumnies concerning a dead sister. That this person still continues to speak in the South Island for the P.P.A. is sufficient evidence that only those who have abandoned self-respect and decency belong to that organisation, and that he is aided and abetted by certain parsons is proof of the degradation to which religion has fallen in certain Protestant Churches. The P.P.A. has done no harm to Catholics, and it never can. The Church is too big and too great to be affected in any way by the tactics of a hired mud-slinger and his backers, whose only achievement up to date has been to draw forth the condemnation of every Protestant who loves truth and justice and abhors deceit and falsehood. The aim now is to get hold of as many laborers as possible with a view to splitting the Party and securing a victory at the next elections for august Orange statesmen who have during the war protected and encouraged the schemers who did all in their power to stir up internal strife in New Zealand when unity was imperative.

These people called on Catholics to go and fight. Catholics did go and fight in numbers which put the wowsers to shame. Whether the vile and cowardly defamer of the dead will gain a following in Labor circles depends exactly on the self-respect of the workers. If there be a large percentage of returned men among them they are not likely to forget that when they were fighting in France the chief spokesman of the P.P.A. was busy here at home concocting filthy letters attacking the good name of a sister of one of their comrades.

A Domestic Concern

With brazen audacity and with no sense of shame for the crimes of England the hired press all over the world—including that part of it which pursues a dead chaplain to the grave with anti-Catholic spleen—has attempted to persuade its readers that the Peace Conference could not possibly interfere in favor of Ireland as her persecution was "a domestic concern" for England. In America the British spies went so far as to assert that the President had actually expressed this view himself—an assertion followed immediately by a denial from White House in which the statement was branded as a malicious falsehood. Orange and anti-Catholic effrontery, which during this war have manifested to the nations the spectacle of Britain in the role of a tyrant while inviting men to fight for freedom, never stops at a malicious falsehood. The descendants of "the scum of England and Scotland" are too intent on their own selfish ends and on hating Catholics to bother about such trifles as telling the truth; and has not their official patron, Lloyd George, established an agency of lies over which the German-Orange rebel Carson was given control—in the interests of truth of course? However, another consideration will serve to illustrate the radical perversity and dishonesty of the gang of Brithuns who are deserving the gallows at the hands of an outraged British Democracy. Article 11 of the League of Nations reads:

Any war or threat of war, whether immediately affecting the high contracting parties or not, is hereby declared a matter of concern to the League, and the high contracting parties reserve the right to take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations. *It is hereby also declared and agreed to be the friendly right of each of the high contracting parties to draw attention of the Body of Delegates or of the Executive Council to any circumstances affecting international intercourse which threaten to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends.*

When the League agreed upon this clause it would almost seem as if the men who drafted it had in mind the squirming Brithuns who want a monopoly of the right to persecute and plunder if they can make out that it is only in "domestic concerns" they exercise it. Here it is clearly laid down that the Powers have the right to interfere even in "domestic concerns" for the sake of international peace and good understanding between nations. And even to the dense intelligence of a Lloyd George it ought to be obvious now that the lesson of American history is that the men who once threw off the yoke of British despotism will never rest while the land of the soldiers who played the largest part in helping to win that victory is ground down as cruelly as ever was Russia under the tyranny of the Czar. In saying this we are presuming that English statesmen read history and use their reason, although we are aware that facts tend to convince an impartial observer that reason is above and beyond them in all their doings.

Extreme Labor Views

Extremes beget extremes. The Plutocracy has begotten the *Internationale*. If there are Labor views which are dangerous and unsound it is only because

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