

their short, though successful, terms of office at the Cathedral in Christchurch. In accepting the gifts, the recipients thanked the Very Rev. Administrator for his kind remarks, as well as all those who had assisted to make their stay in Christchurch a happy one. Many kindnesses had been shown them, for which they were heartily grateful. Coincident with this function, the choir, through Father Long, presented Miss E. Moloney with a token of esteem, and as a memento of her approaching marriage. Father Long referred to Miss Moloney's sustained interest in the choir work as shown by her constant attendance, and on behalf of her fellow-members wished her a bright and happy future. Miss Moloney gratefully acknowledged the gift. Supper was served, and "Auld Lang Syne" was sung in conclusion.

THE ARMY, THE KING, AND THE IRISH QUESTION

A somewhat remarkable petition has been presented during the past week to the King asking his assistance towards having Ireland's claim for self-government laid before the Peace Conference (says the *Glasgow Observer* of March 15). The petition has been signed and presented by a group of Army officers who have taken part, many of them a notable and distinguished part, in the war. Two generals, three colonels, seven majors, 42 captains, and twice that number of officers of minor rank, some demobilised and some still serving with the colors, and all of them claiming to represent "a very large majority of the fighters of Irish birth and Irish blood in the Allied forces," ask the King's assistance towards the furthering of an Irish settlement.

We fear that petition will prove a vain one. The King is not a Home Ruler, so far as can be gathered. He has not the Irish sympathies of his father, and the statement attributed to him regarding the Sinn Fein insurgents that "they ought all to be shot" would go to show that the sympathy of the Sovereign is with the disloyal Carsonite rump which threatened to transfer its allegiance to the Kaiser rather than with the well-disposed bulk of the Irish people who—at any rate prior to the Maxwell massacres—were willing to promote, accept, and adopt an international settlement which would leave Ireland a self-governing unity within the Empire.

The King is reminded that 200,000 fighting men volunteered from Ireland for service in the war, and that at least an equal number were furnished by voluntary enlistment in Great Britain, while from the Dominions the voluntary enlistment of Irish soldiers is something which even the Honors Lists of the Colonial forces adequately attest. It is indicated that the petition has been signed by the widows of William Redmond and Thomas Kettle, another of the signatories being General Hickie, who commands the 16th Division.

The petition reminds the King that the Home Rule Act, "a great pact of international appeasement," was ratified when the war began. While quite respectful in its terms, the petition does not mince matters in its statement of fact—

"The petition urges that, in virtue of her efforts and sacrifices in the battlefield, as well as the intrinsic merits of her cause, Ireland is entitled to benefit from the victorious assertion of those great principles which she has given of her life blood to maintain. . . . Victory over the Central Powers has now happily been achieved, but we Irishmen upon our return home find cause for deep dissatisfaction. Ireland has been told by certain of your Majesty's responsible Ministers that she shall not have the Home Rule which the Imperial Parliament enacted for her unless she assents to the permanent amputation of a portion of a province. . . . In our opinion Ireland as a nation has been robbed of her treaty rights, and the Irish people as a race reduced to the position of helots by the withholding of that which, in virtue of their citizenship, they had won by constitutional action. . . . We respectfully pray, therefore, that Ireland's claim may be referred to the Peace Congress, of which the President of the

French Republic in his opening address described the objects as "nothing but justice, justice that has no favorites, justice in territorial problems, justice in financial problems, justice in economic problems," and whose task "to remake the map of the world . . . in the name of the peoples" on condition that it "shall faithfully interpret their thoughts and respect the right of nations, small and great, to dispose of themselves and reconcile it with the right, equally sacred, of ethnical and religious minorities." . . . We pray your Majesty that the long agony of Ireland may thus be at length assuaged, and that her future destiny may be moulded by the application of those great principles which we, as Ireland's devoted sons and humble representatives, and as portion of your Majesty's armed forces, have aided in enthroning upon the judgment seat of human civilisation."

It is unlikely that the petition will have much, if, indeed, any, effect. After all, the Government in power is essentially a Unionist Government. (Its puppet Premier is obliged to send out letters of support to Unionist candidates in current by-elections.) It exists to uphold, maintain, and apply the views, principles, and desires of the Unionist Party, which is its master. It is therefore hopeless to look for Home Rule from such a source. Nothing but the force of American pressure or of physical necessity would compel such a Government to grant Home Rule, or even to refer the settlement of the Irish difficulty to the Peace Conference. Irish self-government must be won in one of two ways. The continuance of British government in Ireland would have to be made impossible, or the Unionist Ministry which perpetuates British misgovernment in Ireland would have to be displaced.

Our view all along, repeatedly expressed, has been that the British Government will endeavor to play a dilatory game, to "keep President Wilson in good humor" till the Peace Conference is over. And that thereafter it will implacably adhere to its support of ascendancy in Ireland until the strength of Ireland's resistance to such ascendancy makes its continuance impossible. On the other hand, the advent of a Labor Government in Britain would probably save conflict, disruption, and that danger to the British Empire which never ceases so long as Ireland remains justly dissatisfied and profoundly disaffected as it is now.

M.B.O.B. FOOTBALL CLUB, AUCKLAND.

At the opening of the seniors' Rugby competition, on Saturday, May 10, on No. 1 ground, Eden Park, Marists, playing College Rifles, were defeated by 14 points to 6, after a fast, clean, and interesting game. A pleasing feature of the match was to see several returned soldiers again taking their place on the football field. On the following Saturday Marists met and easily defeated Newton, on No. 2 ground, Eden Park, by 21 points to nil. The junior teams opened the season on May 10, and made a good start, four out of the five teams playing scoring wins. Following were the results:—Second grade—Marists v. Papatoetoe, won by 31 points to 3. Third grade—Marists v. St. Stephen's, won by 9 to 3. Fourth grade—Marists v. Grammar School Old Boys, won by 28 to 3. Fifth grade—Marists v. Ponsonby, won by 28 to nil. Fourth grade B was the losing team.

ORIGIN OF TERM DOUGHBOY.

"A 'doughboy,'" says *Stars and Stripes*, official paper of the American Expeditionary Force, "is an American soldier, any American soldier, infantryman, artilleryman, medical department, signal corps, sharps, officers and men alike, are all called doughboys."

The term "doughboy" dates back to the Civil War, when army wit was aroused by large globular brass buttons on infantry uniforms. Somebody (he must have been a sailor) dubbed the buttons "doughboys," because they reminded him of the boiled dumplings of "raised dough served in ships' messes and known to all sailors as doughboys. Originally, it referred only to an enlisted infantryman, but the A.E.F. applies it to all branches and all grades of the service.