

HOW IRELAND IS SLANDERED

The English propagandists are still busy in slandering Ireland (says an exchange). These highly-paid agents of the Lloyd George Government have their headquarters in London, and they have hundreds of representatives throughout the world, and particularly in the United States. In Australia, it may be remembered, hundreds of thousands of Ian Hay's *Oppressed English* were specially printed and circulated. The pamphlet contained so many infamous lies that it was excluded from Great Britain and Ireland. The Government, when challenged in regard to the publication, made this admission in the House of Commons. It was calculated to gull people abroad, who didn't know any better.

All through the war we were told that German gold was at the root of Irish discontent in Ireland. Now we are told it is Bolshevik gold. The Russian Bolsheviks, it was cabled to the Sydney *Sun* recently, have set aside £50,000,000 monthly for propaganda work in foreign countries, and the first instalment of many millions has been set aside for Ireland. Where the Bolsheviks get all this money no one has explained. Already, if the papers are to be believed, they have spent enormous sums in Germany. Yet other cables tell us the Bolsheviks are bankrupt, and are turning out paper-money by the cartload. Are we asked to believe that this paper is negotiable abroad?

"For this year the money for the 'secret services' has amounted to no fewer than £1,010,000 sterling." Thus Mr. J. G. Swift MacNeill, K.C., opens an article in the *Contemporary Review*, on "The Agent Provocateur in Ireland." It traces the work of the service in Ireland, and exposes the terrible system which led to so many young men being induced to commit deeds for which they were subsequently punished. The names of many of the agents are shown and the description of their work is well given. In the 1848 movement, spies revealed to the Government every project and plan of the young Irishmen. Mr. John Blake Dillon, the father of the late leader of the Irish Party, when advising against an armed outbreak at the meeting of the Young Ireland Party, was denounced by a fire-eating patriot, who declared that Irish liberty could only be obtained by the shedding of blood. "It is blood that the country wants for her redemption." Mr. Dillon heard that outburst with patient dignity, but when the crisis came Mr. Dillon risked his life in an insurrection, whose wisdom he doubted, while the patriot who reproached him with timidity was perusing his briefs in the law courts in confident expectation of a place from the Crown, which was bestowed on him.

The agent provocateur was in evidence in the Fenian insurrection in the persons of the informers Massey and Corydon, who both urged insurrection when in the pay of the Government, and of an indescribable wretch named Talbot, a head constable in the Irish Constabulary, who actually swore some 1500 persons into the Fenian Brotherhood, which he persuaded them to enter, and, in order to increase confidence in himself, partook, although he was a Protestant, of Holy Communion in Catholic churches.

A notorious agent provocateur who figures prominently in Irish history, though he operated chiefly in America, was Henri Le Caron. Of a swarthy foreign complexion, he passed for a French-Canadian; but he was really an Englishman named Beach. He took an active part in the Irish revolution of the United States, and was one of the three men known as the "Triangle," before whom came all the most serious, and sometimes tragic, issues. He was nominally a chemist in a small town near Chicago; but attended to the revolutionary organisation with the most scrupulous care. Many important proclamations and other incriminating documents came into his hands, and by the next post were sent to a private address in England, and within a few hours afterwards were in the hands of Sir Robert Anderson, then head of Scotland Yard.

Le Caron enjoyed the confidence of Parnell; but

attempted on occasions to trap the Irish leader into some dangerous and, perhaps, fatal admissions, which might have landed him in gaol or dragged him to the gallows. He played a great part in the Parnell Commission, where it was shown, when Parnell was fighting for his life, that every interview he had given Le Caron was communicated a few minutes afterwards to Scotland Yard.

Mr. Dillon, speaking in the House of Commons on July 30, on the Secret Service vote, said:—"I will relate an anecdote in reference to myself as to the Secret Service fund of this country, when the Land League was busy, and when that money was used by the Government of that day to suborn men to swear that I had organised a conspiracy in Clare to get a man murdered. The agent who worked that plot was brought up in the court in Clare, and put into the witness-box; he was examined by the police. He gave evidence that he was present at a meeting of one of the secret societies which were then rampant in Ireland, and that it was there and then agreed, under the circumstances stated, to carry out the murder. He said that the circumstances which decided him to go on with the murder were that one of the young men present said that he had Mr. Dillon's special instructions to carry out this murder. This man was put into the box, and my life was in imminent danger. The counsel defending the prisoner had got a dossier of the gentleman in the box, and on cross-examination it was proved and admitted that this man in the box had been in the pay of the police for several years, that he had been convicted over and over again of the most scandalous crimes, including unnatural crime, but that the police still kept him in their pay. On the night on which the murder was planned the police had sent him out to plan it, and had paid him. They then went on patrol duty, and found him lying drunk in the gutter with the money which they had paid him to go out and plan the murder. They picked him up, washed him, and put him to bed until he was sober, and then sent him out again to plan the murder. What happened? The police and their agent were waiting in a house. The police rushed down from behind the door, and in the struggle which ensued the head constable was killed who had planned the whole iniquity. It was a judgment of God on him. Afterwards the whole of that iniquity came out—that this was a deliberate plot. This was done by the Secret Service. They tried to take my father's life and the lives of many of my colleagues in days gone by."

In August, 1901, it was admitted by Mr. Wyndham, in the House of Commons, that two men had been convicted of crimes of which they were wholly innocent—crimes which were perpetrated by police witnesses, who bore evidence against them, and were complimented by the bench for their zeal in the public service, while a third man pleaded guilty of a crime perpetrated by the police by whom he was arrested, in the hope that his confession of guilt would shorten the term of his imprisonment.

"Ireland to-day," said Mr. Dillon, "is honey-combed with spies." The facts stated in this article, which are incontrovertible, and taken, haphazard, out of a vast category of sinister occurrences, demonstrate that agents provocateur have been employed in Ireland at times directly by Prime Ministers, Lord Lieutenants, and Chief Secretaries, and at times by subordinates, for whose action the Government of the country was responsible. The present state of Ireland, where a policy of exasperation has been adopted, aimed at the destruction of constitutional agitation in order to maintain the discredited regime of Dublin Castle, makes everyone acquainted with public affairs view with the very gravest apprehension the placing at the disposal of the Irish Executive of sums of public money for secret services—sums whose amount and contemplated expenditure are unknown, which are capable of being appropriated, as history proves, to purposes of indescribable infamy.

Mr. Shortt, the late Irish Secretary, speaking in the House of Commons on July 30, a few weeks after