

Current Topics

Sheep and Shearers

The mafficking has been duly done. We celebrated to order like the humble, dutiful creatures we have become under our coalless coalition. But why on earth did we maffick? What was there to be spontaneously exuberant about? Even the ponderous Mr. Massey has realised—if we believe a fablegram from Canada—that the Peace Conference is a failure—or a farce, as is our opinion of it. The London Tory *Observer* says the Big Four have sowed dragon's teeth all over Europe. The Paris *Temps* said it dawned on them about May that there was no Germany with which to treat, and that a treaty signed by whatever Germans were found ready to write their names on it would be no more than a scrap of paper. "Prepare for war," says Lord Jellicoe. "Get your guns and learn to shoot, boys," says Haig. "American soldiers won the war and Wilson lost it," says an American bishop.

Second Point

What did Japan do at the Peace Conference? We were told some time ago by an imprudent correspondent that the Japanese delegates were a mystery; that they sat at the table, silent, enigmatic, and a puzzle to the Europeans. One day apparently Japan woke up, and we are told that Japan's first remarks were decidedly disconcerting to the "statesmen" of Europe. The London *Express* makes one remark which lets in a little light on the subject, when it says that Japan is in a position, which from a military and a naval standpoint renders her unassailable by the Great Powers, which face domestic crises and want to deal with them in peace and quiet. The London *News* has a very strong impression that Japan must have taken some advantage. And, whatever is doing, China is in a rage. The *Humanité* bluntly says that Japan *blackmailed the Allies*. If it were in the good old summer time, we would advise you to take a loaf of bread and get beneath a bough to ponder over the foregoing signs of peace. As the result of your meditations we guarantee that there would be no singing in the wilderness.

"King" Carson Again

The Tory Party in England may be compared to a pack of hounds of which the whipper-in is Carson. He says to them, go there! and they go; come here! and they come. Like beaten curs they run to heel when Carson cracks his whip. Lloyd George generally leads the pack when the whip cracks. According to the cables, there has been no small stir in England about a recent seditious utterance made by "King" Carson. In Parliament questions have been asked, and simple, honest people who believe that the British law is equal for all want to know why Carson has not been hanged. God help them! Rather ought they ask, after a treasonable utterance on his part, what new mark of royal favor has he received, for it is the way of the King to honor Protestants and Orangemen who talk about kicking his crown into the Boyne. And needless to say those champions of Prussianism, who used to boast of what they were going to do to England with the Kaiser's aid and the Kaiser's guns refused to prosecute Carson. Why should they? Are they not in the same boat? Did they not organise mutiny in the army—or in that part of it which, under Gough, ran away when there was fighting to be done in France? Once upon a time Carson described Lloyd George as "a Cabinet Minister, paid £5000 a year to spit out dirt by the yard." He said he had seen Lloyd George in a Privy Council uniform and "nearly mistook him for a gentleman." As a reward for such compliments Lloyd George and King George made Carson a Cabinet Minister and paid him "to spit out dirt," though it is not on record that anybody ever mistook Carson for a gentleman. Moreover, although Carson has never been prosecuted for sedition *Catholics have been prosecuted*

for quoting what Carson said. Apparently the road to position in England now is to organise mutiny, to import German guns, and to trade with the enemy in war-time—if you are an Orangeman. Mr. Asquith, commenting on the treason of the Orangemen, once asked, "What answer are you going to make to the vast majority of the Irish people when they resist the considered determination of Parliament and appeal to the language of the right honorable gentleman to justify their action?" The answer was characteristic of British fair play! It came to this: there is one law for Orangemen and another for Catholics: we will make the Orange rebels Cabinet Ministers and we will send lunatics like Colthurst to assassinate Catholics. How long, we wonder, will it be before the English Labor Party is able to save England from the Germans and Jews and Orange jobbers who at present have the making of war and peace for the Empire? At present, more than ever, Swift MacNeill's words are true that no foreign statesman could with safety to himself or his country trust the word of a British Minister. Think of who the "bosses" are: the Prussian-born Milner; the Kaiser's colleagues, Carson and Galloper Smith; the Marconi jobber, George; the German trader, Mond; and, last but not least in the galley, "Moralist" MacPherson, the leading liar of the gang! And there are also the Isaacs, the Ecksteins and the Speyers, all of whom won the war! It may be no longer *Deutschland ueber Alles*, but what is it now?

For the Wearin' o' the Green

The Habeas Corpus Act was, as we saw, suspended in Ireland in order to enable the British Government to kidnap children. MacPherson dispensed himself from the Ten Commandments in order to enable himself to lie boldly before the House of Commons when called on to defend his Hunnism. The latest news is that not only Habeas Corpus and the Decalogue but the natural law and every pretence of right and justice have been discarded by the champions of small nations who are trampling on the people of Ireland. The following appeal from Dungarvan has reached us:

"We, the undersigned, most earnestly appeal to all the friends and sympathisers of Michael Walsh, who was shot without cause by an R.I.C. constable at Ballinagoul, Ring, on Friday evening, 25th April, 1919, to render immediate financial assistance, so as to enable the committee on whose behalf we are acting to provide relief and comfort for the victim, as well as to relieve his dependents. He lies in a most precarious condition at present, and only the greatest care can nurse him through; so that we desire that nothing should be left undone to help him. He has a widowed mother and delicate sister, whose only support Michael was, and who will now be left in very distressing circumstances. He was a fisherman and native Irish speaker, a most inoffensive and quiet boy, who was admired and loved by his friends, comrades, and all with whom he came in contact, and he took a deep interest in the affairs of his country and worked with pride in the Irish-Ireland movements. All subscriptions will be gratefully received and acknowledged through the press by us.

LAURENCE ORMOND, P.P., Old Parish, Dungarvan,
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MICHAEL CURRAN, Ballinagoul, Ring, Dungarvan,
MAURICE WALSH, Ballinagoul, Ring, Dungarvan,
Hon. Treasurers."

During the month of April four men were shot by the police in Ireland. One was a sick prisoner, and a coroner's jury brought in a verdict that he was wilfully shot. Another was a youth who called at a barracks to inform the police that a serious row was taking place near by. The reply to his warning was a bullet. Two others were shot returning from an *aeridheacht*. Altogether 10 civilians have been shot by the Royal Irish Constabulary, and although juries brought in verdicts of wilful murder against members of that force in no case have the murderers been tried or punished. Apparently the old law which declared that the killing

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