

Irish News

CORK CORPORATION DISSOLVED—BANNING INDECENT LITERATURE—DIVORCE LEGISLATION IN SOUTH IRELAND—BISHOPS PLEAD FOR IDEALS IN HOME—HISTORY OF IRISH BRIGADE—APPEAL FOR IRISH PRIESTS—IDLE WORKERS IN BELFAST—PROTESTANTS AND THE SIX COUNTIES' EDUCATION ACT.

Cork municipal corporation has been dissolved by the authorities in Dublin. Some months ago Dublin corporation was dissolved. These two cities are the oldest municipalities in Ireland. Since the middle of the last century the vast majority of the representatives elected by the people in each case to manage the affairs of the municipality have been Catholics. The elected members are to-day replaced by paid commissioners.

In Cork the elected aldermen and councillors have protested against the order dissolving the corporation. They say it is entirely undeserved and uncalled for; that it is an insult and an indignity put upon an ancient municipality. Extravagance in expenditure or neglect of public business had not, the elected representatives say, been proved against the corporation.

The Vigilante Association is pursuing with vigor its agitation against imported journals and periodicals whose contents are considered to be indecent and demoralising. Realising that the existing laws are inadequate to prevent or cope with the propaganda of indecency and anti-Christian ideas carried on by these imported journals, the association calls upon the ruling authorities to introduce legislation prohibiting the circulation of the obnoxious papers in Ireland. It is the opinion of the association that through the agency of these journals an organised plan to undermine the faith and morals of the Irish people is being carried out. It is expected that legislation dealing with the evil will soon be introduced.

The emphasis laid on the sanctity and indissolubility of the marriage tie at the conference of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland has rendered it most unlikely that any legislation will be proposed with the object of facilitating divorce in the 26 counties of southern Ireland.

Even Protestants now are conscious of the danger of legalising divorce. Dr. Peacocke, a Protestant Bishop, refers to the modern movement towards divorce as another threat against the home, which is the basis of Christian civilisation.

The various addresses delivered at the Irish Catholic Truth Conference dealt with family life and the home. For three years no persons domiciled in the southern 26 county area have been divorced. All indications at present point to a continuance of this state of things. This part of Ireland will enjoy the distinction of being the only country in Europe in which facilities for divorce do not exist.

Most Rev. Dr. Keane, Bishop of Limerick, lays down that it is not through the operation of a great army or navy that Ireland is going to cut a figure in the world, but through Christian ideals and principles which must be manifested in the domestic, social,

and national life of the people. There was a time, he said, when the country, though small, exercised a great influence in the world on behalf of Christian ideals and Christian principles.

Admitting that the people require relaxation the Bishop said: "Such is the appetite with which people are now pursuing pleasure that there is serious danger of an excess that will prove a shock to society."

Demoralising pictures, bad literature and modern dances are, he added, dangers against which safeguards are required.

Archbishop O'Donnell believes that Ireland shall never be right until there is some congenial industry in every household as there is in Belgium and Holland. He makes an appeal to Catholic young men's societies to foster the reign of reasonableness and set themselves against force and violence and against strikes and lock-outs with all their baneful consequences.

The history of the Irish Brigade in the service of France upon which Mr. Albert Depreaux is engaged, will soon be ready for publication. For the purpose of the compilation access to the official archives has been given to the author by the French Government. M. Depreaux is one of the most distinguished of French military historians.

He is librarian and vice-president of the Fondation Thiers, a research college endowed for the assistance of scholars in every field of knowledge. The Irish Brigades who fought in the service of France were comprised of members of leading Catholic families who had to flee from their own country.

Most Rev. Dr. Dowling, O.P., Archbishop of Port of Spain, Trinidad, makes a strong appeal to Irish Catholics on behalf of his mission in the West Indies. Besides a Catholic population of about 215,000 in his archdiocese there is a non-Christian population of 106,000. There are 208,000 Christians who do not belong to the Catholic Church.

In the whole of the archdiocese there are not more than 80 priests, while in six of the smaller dioceses of England with a total Catholic population of 211,000 there are 690 priests.

Archbishop Dowling's appeal to Ireland is for students, priests, and donations. The West Indian Mission is not, he points out, so vast nor so hard as the Chinese, but it demands great zeal and entails many privations.

Orangemen maintain that 'all the wealth and industries of the Irish nation are concentrated within their limited area in the north-east. This boast is, however, shattered by a few facts which have just come to light. The unemployed in the six counties under the Belfast Government number 42,000. The shipbuilding industry in Belfast is in a most depressed condition. In the Belfast

Parliament attention has been drawn to the deplorable state of agriculture, "the greatest industry" in the six counties. The North, as well as the South, depends mainly upon agriculture. The Unemployment Insurance Fund in the six counties is in debt to the extent of 15,000,000 dollars. This deficiency has to be made good out of contributions by the Government. The Belfast Government has a grievance because it has to provide the money out of its own resources. It claims that Britain should come to its aid.

If the six counties were as wealthy as the Orangemen pretend they are it would not be necessary for the Belfast Government to make such a claim on the benevolence of Britain.

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Protestants in the Six Counties of North-eastern Ireland are dissatisfied with the Education Act passed by the Belfast Government. In the Anglican Synod at Belfast they declared that:

"No permanent settlement of the education question can be satisfactory to the Christian public while the clauses in the Act which have been objected to as stamping the Act with a secularising character remain unamended.

They called upon the Belfast Government to remove the obnoxious clauses. They maintain that it is essential that religious instruction should be given in the schools by the regular teaching staff.

Catholics have refused to transfer their schools to the education authority under the conditions prescribed by the statute. Referring to the Catholics' attitude, at the Protestant Synod Archdeacon Atkinson observed:—

"Not one Catholic school will be transferred under present conditions. The Catholic people will see that their children are taught the Christian faith as they hold it; and they are prepared to pay for it. All honor to them; I take off my hat to anyone who is prepared to pay for his principles. Protestant parents should also be prepared to pay."

The moment the Bill was introduced Catholics in the Six Counties made their position clear. If, at the time, Protestants had with equal clearness and vigor objected to the secularisation of education the Government could have been compelled to drop the offending clauses.

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