

are the makings of a deal of disturbance in the situation, and it would be a wise prophet who could foretell whither it will all lead. The partition of Ulster is a sad heritage from the old Parliamentary Party. During the discussions over the Treaty we always believed that the first demand of the Sinn Féiners ought to be for an United Ireland. As things turned out the greatest amount of time was wasted over the question of the oath. And, with reason, the Ulster Nationalists protested that between Free Staters and Republicans they were left in the lurch and at the sweet mercy of people like Sir James Craig. There is a growing opinion in Ireland that it will be a great mistake to draw any Boundary whatever, and but for the present storm over the question the people of the South had almost lost sight of the fact that a Boundary was to be drawn. Evidence is not wanting that there is a movement on the part of Ulster to come in wholly and to share the fortunes of the Free State. Economic reasons are behind this phase, as might be expected. From certain quarters in the South have come expressions of opinion that it would be wise to let the Ulster people wait for a while. When they have felt somewhat more keenly the edge of hardship that is a present menace it is probable that they may be disposed to come in with a proper sense of penance for their past misdoings. But once a boundary is drawn, it is likely that its destruction will become almost impossible. At any rate it could not be brought about without more beating of the Orange drum than would be pleasant for ordinary ears. At the time of writing, the latest news to hand is the explanation of Mr. MacNeill and the statement of the other members of the Commission. We quote the cables from the *Otago Daily Times* of November 26:—

"London, November 24.

(Received Nov. 25, at 7.15 p.m.)

"Professor MacNeill who has resigned from the Free State Government, in a long explanation to the Dail Eireann says that he regarded his position on the Boundary Commission as a plenipotentiary not purely as a representative of the Free State Government nor an advocate of a particular viewpoint, but representative of a trust created by Article XII. When the commission's report was completed he thought that Article XII would not be fulfilled. He resigned in order to give the Free State Government a free hand.—A. and N.Z. Cable.

"London, November 24.

(Received Nov. 25, at 7.25 p.m.)

"The Irish Boundary Commission announces that Mr. Fisher and Mr. Justice Feetham held a conference with representatives of the British Government and intimated that in the Commission's view the resignation of Professor MacNeill could not be regarded as valid and effectual. Further, it is expected to deliver an award at an early date. It is proposed previously to give preliminary information indicating the general character of the award to the British and Free State Governments.—A. and N.Z. Cable."

Athletics

During the Editor's travels, especially in Ireland, England, and Scotland, he often heard young people speak with admiration of our wonderful All Black Rugby team.

They won golden opinions abroad, particularly in Ireland, where they had their hardest and most sporting contest. In England most sports condemned the decision of the referee who put Brownlee off the field, and it was universally regretted that this unhappy incident occurred to mar the complete harmony of the visitors' relations with all the teams that went down before them, during their glorious tour. It ought, however, be remembered that Rugby is by no means the National game in England, while in Ireland it is played only by a very small minority of the young men. A mere handful in Dublin, Cork, and Limerick, form the material from which a team must be selected to face our champions, and the wonder is that the Irishmen do so well. The two great national Irish games are, of course, hurling and Gaelic football, and it would be worth going a long way to see the All Ireland finals in either. France has come on wonderfully in Rugby during the past decade and is at present able to give a good account of herself in international contests. But where France has made the most astonishing progress is in cross-country riding. The army officers are now first-rate horsemen and French jockeys can hold their own with the best men in Ireland and England. As for other branches of athletics, England and Ireland have no very remarkable champions at present. But of course the events in Ireland during late years were anything but conducive to serious and systematic training. Peter O'Connor's long-standing record of twenty-four feet, eleven and three-quarters has been smashed decisively by an American and there is no man in Ireland to-day likely to regain the laurels. Neither is there any high jumper like Con Leahy, nor any all-round man like Tom Kiely or Maurice Davin. Apart from such freaks as the Finnis, America is foremost in the world of athletics to-day. An Irishman who for many years before going to the States, had been prominent in all kinds of sports, told us that this superiority is simply due to American training. The team work in the United States is as wonderful as it is strenuous, and until other countries imitate the Americans, the latter will go on leading. The contests between Zev and Papyrus were decided in favor of the American horse. That, however, proves nothing, when we remember that the English three-year-old colt had to cross the Atlantic in order to meet the champion. But on looking over the track records and comparing them with the best of our own times, we begin to suspect that either the horses or the training methods of the Americans are superior to ours. As some of our readers are fond of horses we may be excused for quoting some of the statistics for them. On the Belmont course, near New York, a two-year-old filly, Miss Nett, ran four furlongs in 46½ seconds; Pen Rose ran five in 55½; Jack Atkin ran six in 1min. 8sec.; Paris ran seven in 1min. 22½sec.; Cherry Pie ran a mile in 1min. 35½sec.; Goaler ran nine furlongs in 1min. 49sec.; Whisk Broom II ran ten in 2min.; Man o' War ran a mile and a half in 2min. 28½sec.; Exterminator ran two miles in 3min. 21½sec. with nine stone and two pounds on his back. On the cross country course, Brigadier General took 3min. 47sec. to win over two miles; Grandpa took 5min 34sec over three miles; and Hylas won over three miles and a half in 6min.

57sec. So far as we remember, Gloaming's time for four furlongs is the only record in which we beat the Americans. So that it is likely we can claim two world's records in this little country.

The Peril of England

The *London Month* has a serious article on the present outlook in England. The decay of British industry, and England's dependence on her industries are indicated clearly. The War has brought a complete change in the economic conditions of the countries engaged in it, and the apparent victors are really the vanquished, if we except America. England's wonderful prosperity in the past was due to the fact that her capitalist system enabled her to be first in the markets with her tools and machinery. She was a huge workshop, and her customers were spread all over the globe. The vast trade done overseas was also the secret of the success of her giant mercantile navy. She concentrated on factories, and her people became a population of factory hands. But one result of this was that they were no longer a self-supporting people. They had to depend on foreigners for their daily food, and they had to pay for it in the money made by the industries. Again, England's coal had ready markets in many lands. To-day the development of hydro-electric force, and the use of oil and its by-products as fuel, have decreased the demand for coal. Thus, with new countries beating her in industrial fields, and with her coal lying unwanted by the side of the pit, the money to buy food is not coming in fast enough. Probably, too, she never had such a dearth of statesmen. There seems to be no man big enough in Britain to grapple with the greatest problem that ever confronted her. She cannot afford to go much further on the downward way. It is made all the easier for her to speed along it by the growth of Communism and the tactics of people like Marie Stopes. Two parts of that remarkable old prophecy attributed to St. Malachy seem to be fulfilled. The first was that after seven centuries of persecution, Ireland would be rid of her ancient enemy. The second was that the downfall of the latter would then begin. The third, concerning the prosperity of Ireland, has not come to pass yet. The following comment of the *Catholic Herald* on the English situation is worth quoting:—

"Nor are there too many mouths in England. There are too few hands ready to handle the plough, too few feet tramping the country roads and too few eyes preferring the setting of Millet's *Angelus* to the most vulgar cinema stunt. The English race has become a race of proletarians. They prefer to be paid in cash than in kind. They rather dwell in a city attic than in a country cottage, and they miss fresh air—except on week-ends—rather than tram cars, tubes and cinemas. Enormous sums of money were recently spent in British Columbia to settle Englishmen on the land. The lure of the city was too strong for them and they slowly drifted across the frontier into the towns of United States. How this has come about, how an agricultural nation was turned into a nation of mill-hands and coal miners, has been told too often to deserve repetition. We know that the Reformation started the transformation. Catholicism may be necessary to reverse the process."