

IRISH NEWS

THE NATION ON IRELAND.

The Government have slightly changed the method, though not the purpose, of their Irish policy by emphasising the part of their "regular" soldiers and slightly cold-shouldering the irregular ones. At least, this is the case if it be true that General Tudor, the head of the auxiliaries, has gone on an "indefinite holiday," while General Macready has reminded members of his *corps d'élite* and other ornaments of the Crown forces that if they are caught murdering and robbing any more Irish civilians, they may be shot. We shall now see what happens to the estimable Mr. Harte, who has just killed Canon Magner and an Irish boy on a public road. Mr. Harte was first declared to be mad, and then to be on the verge of delirium tremens. As the latter complaint is not a mental one, Mr. Harte is, apparently, to stand his trial before his brother soldiers, though not before a jury of the outraged Irish. Meanwhile, there is every sign that the second phase of the Government's military action will be fully as barbarous as the first. Two district commanders have notified that Sinn Féin leaders will be carried on military lorries and shot in the case of attack. Two men have actually suffered this fate, though no suggestion is made that their captors had been fired on. This policy of putting hostages in the line of fire was fiercely attacked by Mr. George when we adopted it in the South African War, and by the whole nation when the Germans put it in force in the valley of the Lys and elsewhere. Furthermore, the Arran Islands, one of the loveliest spots on God's earth, inhabited by a simple and charming fisher-folk, who speak no English, have been invaded, and two of the islanders killed while "trying to escape." It is not stated whether this deed of blood was done in the Valley of the Seven Churches.

As for negotiations, such outrages as these (hundreds are unchronicled) put it out of the question, and the retort of the rebels is as fierce as ever. A policeman has been shot in Dublin in his sweetheart's company, and there have been small battles between the Volunteers in Tipperary and Kilkenny, with heavy losses on both sides. The thin line of communication which Mr. George set up with Sinn Féin has also been broken. Father O'Flanagan has repudiated such peace-making, and the Bishop of Cork, while denouncing the murders and threatening their doers with excommunication, fiercely charges the arson at Cork on the Government, and has flung back the condolences of Dublin Castle on the death of Canon Magner. Thus Mr. George's plan to divide the two sections of the Republicans, and to cut off support for Sinn Féin from the Church, has failed from the violence of its military agents. They are not only violent but in open revolt against peace, for Sir Hamar Greenwood's organ, the *Weekly Summary*, denounces a truce, and declares for a renewal of the war *à outrance*. That has never been interrupted: but in this maze of treacherous dealing there seems to have been a point at which the Prime Minister raised at least the suspicion that he had changed his mind.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

The Home Rule Bill, as it emerges from the combined or conflicting efforts of the two Houses, is more emphatically than ever a Bill for the aggrandisement of the Ulster Unionists (says the *London Nation* of December 24). In its original form the Bill put six counties in Ulster on the same footing as the rest of Ireland. If Ireland ever has a single Irish Council, these six counties are to have representation on that Council equal to that of the remaining 26. This is a grotesque injustice. But as amended the Bill is worse. The House of Lords has inserted an amendment providing a Senate for Southern Ireland to consist of 61 members. Of these, 17 are to be nominated by the Lord-Lieutenant, 16 are to be peers, eight members of his Majesty's Privy Council, four Catholic bishops, two Protestant bishops, 14 representatives of the County

Councils. It is obvious that this arrangement gives representation on an extravagant scale to the peers and official classes. Turn to the plan for the Senate in the six counties. There are two ex-officio Senators, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, and the Mayor of Londonderry. The remaining Senators are to be elected by the members of the House of Commons "in such manner as that House may determine." It is no wonder that Mr. Devlin made a passionate protest against this arrangement. Protection is given in this extravagant form to the 300,000 Protestants in South Ireland, and no protection is given at all to the 400,000 Catholics in the Northern Parliament. Cardinal Logue pointed out in the *Times* a short time ago that this large Catholic minority is left without any security. What makes the discrepancy more glaring is that whereas there is no tradition of persecution of Protestants in the South, 10,000 Catholics were driven from their employment and their homes in Belfast only last September. A thousand soldiers who had fought in the War were among their victims. The Government did nothing for them, evidently holding that a man did not obtain any moral claim by fighting for self-determination unless he was prepared also to fight against it. Parliament now proposes to let the Ulster House of Commons choose its Second Chamber, just as it invited the Orange leaders to choose the special constables that were to keep order in Ulster.

A CARSON REVELATION.

The London correspondent of the *Irish Independent* writes:—I am in a position to-day, when the Partition Bill comes before the House of Lords for second reading, to announce a sensational development of the disclosures made lately as to Sir Edward Carson's revolutionary activities in resisting the Home Rule Bill, now an Act, awaiting repeal by the measure before the peers. Col. Repington was written to twice by a correspondent regarding the revelations in his recently published book of reminiscences concerning Sir Edward Carson's successful intervention in the Palace of the King to prevent the arrest of himself and his fellow-conspirators. It would be interesting to know what sort of pressure was brought to bear on Col. Repington to induce him to cancel the passage about Sir E. Carson's visit to the King and its prompt result. The deleted story explains a great deal. Col. Repington has written to the correspondent as follows:

"In reply to your letter of November 8, I have no recollection of having received a previous letter from you about a conversation between Sir E. Carson and myself recorded in *The First World War*. If the conversation which you mention is that given on page 69, vol. I., I beg to inform you that instructions have already been given to the printers to delete the passage from future editions of my book."

The conversation with Sir Edward Carson, which is to be cut out of Col. Repington's book, appears under the date of Friday, November 19, 1915, as follows:

"Dined with Lady Charles Beresford, Lady Johnstone, Lady Kitty Somerset, Miss Bertha Capel, Sir Ed. and Lady Carson, Mr. Bonar Law, Arthur Stanley, Col. Stuart, and a few more. Had a talk with Carson about the Ulster business. He was very amusing and outspoken. He told me how near we were to an explosion, that the Government had determined to arrest the chief leaders, and that he had arranged to send one word, HX, over the wire to Belfast, and that this was to be a signal for the seizure of the Customs throughout Ulster. He called to see the King, and told Stamfordham exactly what was going to happen, and the arrest of the leaders was promptly stopped."

All love which has not its origin in the Passion of the Saviour is vain and perilous. Miserable indeed is death without the love of the Saviour!

Marriageable Girls, now listen. We advise you all to learn the violin so that later on you too may experience the great delight of playing "Home Sweet Home" while "NO RUBBING" Laundry Help does the weekly washing. New Zealand Grocers.—

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