

Current Topics

Mr. Massey's Trip Home

It seems reasonable enough from one point of view that the little Liberal Caucus should agree to permit Mr. Massey to go to England, for if any one should go no man could be better spared from the Dominion than its helpless Prime Minister. Of course it is a foregone conclusion that his numerous placemen in the House will obsequiously vote for sending their patron on the trip, and considering his past record it seems equally certain that when he does go Home he will speak, not for New Zealand but for the gang of capitalists and bigots who put him in power. It is our business to make it clear that he does not represent New Zealand, and Labor ought to have the support of every single man who is opposed to the murder of women and children in Ireland and to the shameful disregard of all the pledges given to the dead soldiers who fell fighting for what they believed to be the cause of small nations.

Mr. Holland's Notice of Amendment

In a House where so few men seem to remember what they owe to the people of this country, Mr. Holland and Mr. Fraser can be always relied upon to stand for Democracy and justice. Hence, it is not surprising to find that when the placemen who have secured their billets find it convenient to ignore the fact that the British Government is shamefully breaking its pledges and that it has set up a military despotism more terrible than Prussia ever dreamed of, and that its crimes in Ireland are making the name of England stink in the nostrils of every honest man in the world to-day, Mr. Holland reminds Mr. Massey that as the representative of a Government that called upon men to die for the right of all peoples to govern themselves without outside interference it is his duty to tell the British Cabinet that Ireland, Egypt, and India must be allowed to govern themselves according to the will of the people. As far as we are concerned we hope that to-night every lover of small nations will help to swell the protest against British tyranny and atrocities that ought to make the 17th March, 1921, a memorable date in New Zealand. Let us hope that there will not be a town or a village in the Dominion that will have reason to hang its head for shame on account of its lack of response to our call.

Our Little University

Time and again we have referred to the patent fact that what is called the University of New Zealand is little or nothing better than a fair secondary school, and that neither curricula of studies nor results are very creditable to a Dominion that holds its head so high as New Zealand does. We note that the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, at the opening of the session, on Wednesday, March 9, spoke plainly and strongly in confirmation of our view. He told his audience that the University is not living up to high University ideals and is not functioning in a manner that might be expected from an institution so long in being. He pointed out that there is too much of what might be called "cramming" and too little of true University education. He distinguished between mere instruction and true education, and emphasised the fact that it is education and not instruction that counts in the long run. He is quite right in that, as far as he goes, but he does not go far enough. Is it possible that the State schools which banish God have blinded even University Professors to the truth that as there is no true education unless it aims successfully at developing character, it is likewise impossible for it to be successful unless it is based on sound morality, and, again, that there can be no sound moral training without a religious foundation? In education, as in many other matters, poor New Zealand has a habit of beginning to build before providing foundations.

Give up Murder or Get Out

A large number of distinguished Englishmen, re-

presentative of the best in the Churches, the professions, arts and letters, have issued a remarkable protest against the present Government, practically inviting the self-respecting elements among the British people to unite in driving out the Lloyd George Cabinet unless peace is made with Ireland at once. In the protest we read:

"We see our country, which in the past, and until very lately, made great sacrifices thinking it made them for the cause of oppressed peoples, now presenting to the world the aspect of a land hardly equalled in the past for ignorant and unavailing coercion—that coercion being practised on a nation that co-equally with ourselves has inherited traditions of individual liberty. This not because of any native ferocity, greed of gain, or thirst for rapine in our people, but because of irresolution, incapacity, and misreading of facts by those who hold the reins of government.

"We therefore call upon the present Ministry to find immediate means of arbitration or mediation between ourselves and the people of Ireland.

"And if the organised shedding of blood—whether by the natives of Ireland or his Majesty's forces—or arsons, robberies, and requisitions by either party shall continue, we demand the resignation of his Majesty's Government, and declare ourselves resolved in that case to leave unmade no effort to substitute one that will have for its first and most urgent business that of finding the means of mediation until permanent peace shall be restored to the sister kingdom."

A long list of the names of men of letters, university professors, clergymen, etc., etc., follows this remarkable protest.

A Self-Determination League

Australia is already following the example of America in forming a Self-Determination League for the support of the Irish people's right to choose freely their own form of government. The League has been provisionally organised in Sydney and it is hoped that it will rapidly extend throughout the Commonwealth. Later a State Convention will be held and good care will be taken that Mr. Churchill will get the information he wants, not from a Hughes but from the friends of Ireland and of all small nations. At the State Convention permanent officers will be elected. At present the following are appointed to act:

President, Mr. Neal Collins; vice-presidents, Dr. H. M. Moran and Lieutenant Peter Gallagher; treasurer, Very Rev. Maurice O'Reilly, D.D.; committee—Mrs. Trefle, Mr. John Sheehy, Dr. Fallon, Mr. Thick, and Mr. P. S. Cleary. A provisional constitution has been drawn up to be utilised as a working plan under which the League will organise until the Convention, when a more permanent constitution will be drafted. Membership shall be open to all Australians, without distinction of class, race, or creed, provided that they sympathise with the aim of the League, which is to secure support for the Irish people in their efforts to win their right to self-determination. It is proposed to have a State Council elected annually by a State Convention. Local Councils will be formed in cities, towns, and districts where three or more branches exist. Twelve or more persons submitting individually-signed applications, on a prescribed form, declaring acceptance of the constitution, and paying a membership fee of 2s each to their duly elected secretary, and acting under the authority of the local Council, or of the State Council wherever no local council exists, shall be entitled to establish a branch of the League.

Here is a step in the right direction. What are we going to do about it in New Zealand? Surely we too will do our bit for the old cause—*ar son De agus ar son Eireann*.

Elliot In a Corner.

Last week the Dunedin papers announced that the horsewhipped parson would appear in His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday night and tell his chosen friends such stories as might be expected from a man who was castigated publicly for calumnies against a dead woman. When the meeting was under way and things were

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