

eign Minister, is the same. Up to the time of the partitions their country was in the closest union with Poland, and the Polish Head of the State has pronounced for his country's right to-day to determine the course of her own destinies.

Furthermore, it must be remembered that the Bolshevik propaganda campaign, of which I have already spoken, had a serious effect on Poland's war effectiveness. The suggestion was that the British workmen should hold up any consignments of guns and ammunition; and this, having been once carried out in relation to the "Jolly George," produced sympathetic movements among all who, for different reasons, regarded Poland from a hostile point of view. Thus the Czechs held up needed consignments, and, not to be undone, the German dockers at Danzig also did their best to hamper those whom they had been told to regard as their enemy.

The mention of the Germans, however, introduces us to another great truth about Poland. Poland stands in the great European plain right in the way of Germany and Russia. She may get Upper Silesia as the result of a plebiscite, and this means that the Germans will be deprived of the coal which yields the by-products they use for high explosives. On the other hand the Poles, who have certainly cause to know them, are not over confident in the good faith of the Russian Soviet Government, and they feel that only a kind of federation of the Border States of Russia will make them secure against future aggression. But Russia, Soviet Russia, is a strong colossus, and Poland, for the time, has had to bend before its unwieldy strength. Supposing, however, Russia and Germany got into contact and both combined against Poland, what would become of the latter, and what would become of the European peace?

That is the truth of the Polish problem, and who will say, after the considerations to which we have drawn attention, that the Allies or Great Britain especially have any cause to disinterest themselves in the fate of Poland?

#### IRISH NATIONAL CONCERT AT TIMARU.

The strong national sentiment and the irrepressible love for Erin are manifested the world o'er by Irishmen on St. Patrick's Day, and nowhere more loyally or with more profound patriotism than at Timaru (says the *Herald* for March 15). Last night the annual national concert was given in the Theatre Royal, and as usual there was a crowded house, there being manifested an enthusiasm born only of a deep-rooted national pride. As in years gone by, the artists engaged were in the front rank in the Dominion, and drawn from centres between Dunedin and Wellington, several coming with a reputation already Dominion-wide. A marked feature was the appropriate nature of the items, and Irish folk lore, song, and story were represented in full measure. Madame Gower-Burns has many friends in Timaru, but in the large audience last evening she possessed many devout admirers. Into such popular items as "Killarney," "The Last Rose of Summer," and "Come Back to Erin" she infused a wealth of meaning, giving each of these gems a new significance. In both parts of the programme she was paid the flattering tribute of a double encore. Miss Mabelle Esquilant (Dunedin) scored an unqualified success, and was a prime favorite from her first appearance. "Kathleen Mavourneen" and "She is Far From the Land" were no doubt her best-known numbers, and she exemplified the generosity of feeling and sympathy so strikingly displayed in the real Irish character. Mr. W. Watters, of Oamaru, is very favorably known in Timaru, and he added in no small measure to the unbounded pleasure derived from the concert by his vocal numbers. "The Wearin' of the Green" was his opening number. He was recalled on two occasions, and his rendering of "The Hills of Donegal" and "The Mountains of Mourne" were received with enthusiasm, the deep underlying sentiment in each being most artistically presented. Mr. G. H. Andrews has no

firmer friends than the crowded theatre of Irish men, women, and children, judged by the vehemence of their demands on his cultured talent. "The Minstrel Boy" he gave with fine martial grandeur, while his singing of "A Toast to Erin" was one of the most stirring efforts of the evening. "The Irish Emigrant," "A Little Bit of Heaven," and "O'Donnell Abu" were also given by Mr. Andrews. Mr. Norman Aitken (Wellington) well maintained his reputation as a monologist. Miss Cissy Kyle, of Timaru, danced the Irish jig and hornpipe in costume. The South Canterbury Orchestra did much to enhance its reputation under the baton of Mr. de Latour, by selections which were accorded a very encouraging reception. The aspirations and pent-up hopes of the troubled nation were beautifully expressed in "A Nation Once Again" as sung by the Marist Brothers' School boys. In this item the junior voices were heard in well-balanced and harmonised accord, and the youthful expression of the undercurrent of sentiment was characteristic of the national pride and irrepressible spirit. Mrs. N. D. Mangos presided at the piano. Her task was a no mean one, and through it all she displayed that delicate artistry and culture of which she is possessed to a remarkable degree. The concert throughout was an unqualified success, and was listened to by the crowded audience with rapt delight and unalloyed joy.

#### THE HOLY HOUR.

Hadst thou been in Gethsemane,  
That darksome night and drear,  
When Christ the bitter chalice drained,  
With none to soothe or cheer.  
When all the crimes of sinful men  
His cup filled to the brim,  
And trickling fell the sweat of blood,  
Wouldst thou have watched with him?

All agony that heart can bear,  
All sorrow earth has known  
He suffered in that cruel hour,  
And suffered it alone.

The comfort that the angel brought,  
Oh! had it been from thee!  
Oh! hear His cry of wounded love,  
"Wilt watch one hour with Me?"  
His Heart is calling to thee still,  
Canst thou resist its power?  
Go before His lonely shrine,  
To watch with Him—one hour.

## AKAROA GRAND ART UNION

#### N.B.—DRAWING POSTPONED.

Prizes will now be drawn MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1921.

N.B.—Proceeds of sale of Tickets will NOT be acknowledged by post, but names of all who have taken books will be published in the *N.Z. Tablet*. Other donations will be acknowledged privately.

FIRST PRIZE, £20 Nugget; 7 other prizes.

OBJECT.—Renovation of our Church and Repairing of our Parochial Buildings.

FR. SEWARD wishes to thank heartily all who helped, or are helping in any way; Masses will be said for all helpers and benefactors.

The small number of Catholics in this scattered country district renders this effort to obtain outside help necessary.

Complimentary Tickets are duly entered and need not be returned.

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