

Current Topics

Result of Irish Elections

The Publicity Department of Sinn Fein has now issued an analysis of the Irish election returns. It reveals how successful the gerrymandering in Ulster has been. The Republicans polled thirty-three per cent. of the votes for the so-called Ulster Parliament while they obtained only twenty-three per cent. of the seats. In Belfast they polled twenty-three per cent. and obtained only six per cent. of the seats. In all Ulster the Unionists polled fifty-three per cent., which makes it appear that there is a Unionist majority of *six per cent.* for Ulster. For all Ireland the Republicans polled eighty per cent. and the Unionists twenty. We have previously related in what manner and by what means the Unionist majority was obtained. Notwithstanding murder and personation and fraud of various kinds eighty per cent. of Irishmen have declared for a Republic. Read that fact in view of the recent ruling of the Commission of the League of Nations which declared that a minority was not justified in demanding to be cut off from the whole state. Of course the minority was in Aaland and not in Orange Ulster.

The King in Ulster

The following comment of the *New Witness* on the King's visit to Ulster is worth while reading:

The decision to send the King to Belfast is a most disastrous blow to all the best that remains in the ancient tradition of the British monarchy. We pay no attention to politicians when they claim to be above party, but there did remain a real and honorable meaning in the King being above politics. The monarchy was popular because it was not powerful; and therefore could not be blamed for the present incessant and infamous abuse of power. Englishmen naturally wish for some symbol of the fact that they love their country while they loathe their government; and found in it a symbolic social figure who admittedly did not govern. He was cheered by the people, because he was almost certainly *not* the author of the latest social reform or the newest experiment in efficiency. The money and demand for such things might come from the ends of the earth, and from the off-scourings of the earth, but it was very improbable that they came from him. He therefore refreshed us with the ritual reappearance of one normal and decent English gentleman, in the crowd of corrupt and incompetent cads who now form the government of every capitalist society. Anything that drags him into party politics lowers him to something far lower than party politics, the horrible thing that is now called practical politics. It is hardly worth while to argue with anyone who does not see that the Belfast visit *does* drag him into party politics. If he had opened a Dublin Parliament first, or even about the same time, it might not have been so bad, even if it had been an ineffective Parliament. It is not his fault that he has not; but it is certainly his misfortune. The situation as it stands simply identifies King George with King Carson. It artificially and specially allies him with the Orange bigotry of Belfast, against all his Catholic subjects, including those who still manage to remain his loyal subjects. The Irish Republicans will naturally be delighted; and we imagine the English politicians do not care what happens to the English monarchy, or to any other English thing.

Palestine

In the course of a conversation with a friend of ours, who met him recently, M. Clemenceau expressed his opinion that there was some power, presumably that of the Jewish capitalists, behind the present British Government. In no other way can the blindness of Lloyd George's conduct be satisfactorily explained. He is either bought body and soul or in the hands of people who have some sinister hold of him. Thus, he insults

Christian people by appointing Jews who are absolutely unqualified to high positions of trust at home and abroad, and he has outraged Christian feeling by his policy in Palestine. A recent visitor to the Holy Land has informed us that hatred of the English there has united the hitherto hostile sects and that, as in our own islands in the Pacific, German rule would be hailed as a deliverance from British bungling. Dealing with the position of Palestine during the recent Consistory the Pope spoke very plainly on the question:

"The situation of Christians in Palestine not only is not improved, but has been made worse by the new civil arrangements which aim, if not in their authors' intention, at least in fact, at ousting Christianity from its previous position to put the Jews in its place. We therefore warmly exhort all Christians, including non-Catholic Governments, to insist with the League of Nations upon the examination of the British Mandate in Palestine."

One would think that Cardinal Bourne and Cardinal Gasquet, who failed so ignominiously in their efforts to serve the Lloyd George Government by leading the Vatican astray regarding Ireland, might find here a means of making reparation for their crime against a small nation. But John Bull is a queer fish, whether he wears a Cardinal's hat or not.

Another Lie

Greenwood and Lloyd George tried every base means they knew of to break Ireland. Calumny was their favorite weapon. Recently they have been trying to persuade the world that the Sinn Feiners are waging a religious war against Protestants, but they never have a word of blame for the Orange majority that murders and robs the Catholics of Belfast. The Sinn Fein authorities have decreed that there must be complete religious freedom in Ireland, and in this they are a reproach to the Carsonites and the Greenwoodites. In his saner moments Greenwood has been forced to admit that Catholics do not persecute. But of more weight is the testimony of Protestant clergymen who nobly bear witness to the charity of their Catholic fellow-countrymen. Recent testimonies are the following:

Dr. H. P. Glenn, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, in an address to the Assembly on June 6, said:

"In all my goings, North or South, I have never been molested or threatened, nor have I found one of our churches, even in most isolated places, wantonly injured." He added that everywhere his people told him "that amidst all the fearful upheaval there was no trace of a religious war manifesting itself."

Rev. W. G. Stratham said he had cause to complain of the military and police who had turned manses into barracks, but he testified to the help given him by Sinn Feiners.

Rev. W. P. Young said that travelling in the West of Ireland he had never "met with the slightest discourtesy from any individual in the matter of worship."

In spite of such clear evidence the Government descends to the old-time trick of publishing bogus oaths of such a nature as the P.P.A. floods New Zealand with. Every exposure helps Ireland and sinks the Government still deeper in ignominy and disgrace.

Sinn Fein Is Non-Sectarian

It ought not be necessary to impress on all that Sinn Fein is an Irish Nationalist movement and strictly non-sectarian. The British Government, for its own ends, has tried to make it appear that the Irish struggle is a fight between Catholic and Protestant, and for this end has even issued forged oaths of the type commonly spread abroad by bigots like Howard Elliott. This campaign of misrepresentation is intended to divide Irishmen into hostile camps, and it is only people of no education and incapable of reasoning that could be deceived by it. We think it well to mention briefly a few arguments that will prove that religion has nothing whatever to do with the matter, except in so far as the Orangemen are fooled by their political bosses:—

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