

Current Topics

Archbishop Redwood on Ireland

Speaking in Sydney the other day at the reception of Dr. Mannix, our venerable Metropolitan once more raised his fearless and eloquent voice in testimony of the justice of the cause for which de Valera stands to-day:

His Grace said that he was happy to be present and assist at all these functions in honor of the prelate he esteemed so much. For weeks together he had been Dr. Mannix's guest in Melbourne. It was under his roof that he (the speaker) prepared a speech that he delivered at the great convention in Melbourne. "In my youth," continued the speaker, "I had no correct idea about the Irish question. I was brought up as an Englishman, and there is not a drop of Irish blood in me. I remained in Ireland for ten years. I learned the history of Ireland, became acquainted with the people of Ireland, and from my heart I have always loved them, and shall do so until I go to my grave. (Applause.) The cause is just, and therefore, I have always advocated it before every kind of audience in days when it was not popular to do so. I always declared my feelings that justice should be done, because I was a true Englishman. (Applause.) I wanted justice. It is justice that makes nations great, and injustice and sin that make nations miserable.

"I feel ashamed of the conduct of England towards Ireland for centuries, and therefore I came all the way from New Zealand to be present at the reception to the Archbishop of Melbourne to-day. But I am glad I did so, and I am sure the Catholics and Irishmen and friends of Ireland in New Zealand will envy my happiness on this occasion." (Applause.)

Palestine

The English people being at present governed by Jews, whose visible head is one David Lloyd George, trouble for Christians was to be expected in Palestine. As we have said in a previous issue this trouble was referred to by the Pope in his Allocution at the recent Consistory. A writer in the French *Journal des Debats* considers the Pope's remarks most opportune in view of the number of complaints received concerning the unfair conditions to which Catholics have to submit under British (or rather Jewish) rule in the Holy Land. Passports are refused to Catholics unless of English birth, and many hindrances are put in the way of devout pilgrims to the Sacred Places. Thus does Lloyd George who was challenged publicly to tell how much he got for making a Cabinet Minister of the Jew, Mond, play into the hands of the international exploiters of the people, even in the Holy City. Surely it would be becoming for the John Bull Cardinals, Bourne and Gasquet, to attend to this matter rather than spend their time in trying to mislead the Vatican about Ireland.

Partition

The real crux of the Irish Question is the partition by which Ireland was artificially divided by British politicians in obedience to the wishes of persons whose interest it is to see that no justice is done to the Irish people. Lloyd George knew right well that de Valera could not dream of accepting any offer which did not include united Ireland. He knew how British soldiers stood by during the past twelve months while brutal murders were committed by the Orangemen. He also knew that, while there is no persecution in the South where Catholics are in a vast majority, the bigotry of the Orange Lodges is so intense that no Catholic—man, woman, or child—is safe at any time, and that consequently no Irishman could entertain the idea of leaving at the mercy of assassins thousands of defenceless people. The following comment from *Old Ireland* presents the orthodox Irish view on the subject:—

Partition is the sort of fact at the manufacture of

which Mr. Lloyd George is an expert. He won his election on the hang-the-Kaiser-and-make-Germany-pay-for-the-war policy. When he was safely in he produced his two facts which made that policy impossible, the fact that international law must be respected in time of peace and that under international law even a small country like Holland is not bound to give up a deposed monarch to his enemies, and the fact that Germany cannot possibly pay for the war. The whole of Mr. Lloyd George's cleverness is like the cleverness of a street-corner conjurer with a hat. He produces and he eliminates facts as a conjurer does eggs and rabbits. First he decides on a policy, and then he discovers that in order to carry it through a certain "Fact" is required. He turns to his factory and gets that fact manufactured. Then he points triumphantly to it. And that is the sort of fact Partition is. Everybody in Ireland knows that this particular fact is only a British Government device. It would automatically disappear if England declared officially that she proposed to make no further interference in the affairs of Ireland. It owes its existence solely to her interference.

It may be taken for certain, anyway, that the Irish people will consider no proposals made to them which are based on the Partition Act. Ulster is entitled to a local Parliament within a Federated Irish State, but that is the utmost she is entitled to, and she is entitled to that not by virtue of any of the things she prides herself on, but by virtue of something that she is ignorant of, by virtue of the fact that the constitution of Ireland when Ireland was an independent nation was a federal constitution. We can promise the *New Statesman* that that is all she will get. The Ulster State will never function.

The Ulster Lie Again

When a New Zealand day-lie man is cornered in an argument he makes an appeal to the gallery and runs away. An instance of this occurred in the *Star* last week, when the editor, studiously avoiding the real issue raised by himself, ran away from a letter of Father Silk's with the remark that Ulster was prosperous under British rule. Now that is the sort of remark one would look for from the *Star* editor. It is part of the stock-in-trade of those who are hired to write to order about the Irish Question with not the remotest knowledge of the subject. The wild and unblushing assertion that Ulster was prosperous is a characteristic British method of argument. Just as the No-Popery ranters make ridiculous statements in confidence that the people who support them are asses, in the same manner anti-Irish editors and politicians find that it pays to reiterate boldly and without proof the sort of statements that have been so often exposed that in a civilised country a schoolboy would be whipped for uttering such nonsense. Nonsense, sheer and shameful, is the *Star* editor's statement that Ulster prospered under British rule, and we should not like to think that there is a schoolboy in Dunedin who could not prove to him that balderdash of that type is long out of date. Among the recent exposures of the falsehood is a valuable work, published in London early this year, by Mr. W. A. McKnight. Let us add that Mr. McKnight was so solicitous for accuracy that he employed a leading firm of chartered accountants to check his figures and to certify the correctness of his calculations. His book shows that, so far from being prosperous, Ulster's average income tax per head of population is less than that of Leinster and Munster. He disposes completely of the fiction of Ulster's financial superiority over the rest of the Irish provinces. He then goes on to examine the state of education—and bear in mind that he gives cold statistics, guaranteed by chartered accountants, at every step—and finds that "it will be seen that the Ulster counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, and Londonderry with the city of Belfast, had higher percentages of persons between the ages of 9 and 21, and 9 and 40, who could neither read nor write at the date of the 1911 census, than had the Counties of Leitrim and Roscommon in the Province of Connacht. In the 9-21 age stage a group of three of the five Connacht counties had a