

Current Topics

Secret Societies

The young King of Italy took, soon after his accession to the throne, a bold step when he purged the Italian army of Freemasons. Secret societies killed his father, and he knew that they were undermining his army. Therefore, taking his courage in his hands, he faced the unholy combinations and backed by decent public opinion swept them out. It is too much to expect that the British Empire will ever rise to such a height of decency as Italy then did. Army, navy, police, legislature are rotten with Masonry among us. When justice miscarries people shake their heads and murmur about the Masonic "pull." When a criminal gets off and is allowed to remain a danger to the community, one at once thinks of the Masonic influence. The British Government, in one of its fool-Home Rule Bills, had the audacity to make an exception whereby while other secret societies were to be dealt with on lines of justice, Masons were to be protected by the Government. Masonry played an ignoble part in the war in France; it has eaten into this Dominion like a canker; together with the infamous Orange Society once rightly condemned by the Government of other and saner days it has undermined the foundations of the Empire and left it a tottering, ruined thing only kept together by lies and trickery at present. Even America is cursed with it. In Harding's Cabinet the Masons claim: (1) the Attorney-General, Harry Daugherty; (2) Henry Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture; (3) Edward Denby, Secretary of the Navy; (4) James Davis, Secretary of Labor; (5) William H. Hayes, Postmaster-General. When the international secret societies control affairs one can understand why wars are kept on and men slaughtered as long as certain people are making money by them.

The Belfast Relief Fund

Our press will not publish the truth about the Orange pogrom which has massacred the Catholics of Carsonia. We, however, know the truth from the Catholic Bishop of Belfast and we have had now the merit and the pleasure of helping to alleviate the misery of the starving Catholic people driven from their blazing homes by the savages of whose conduct our day-lie men tacitly approve. We now close the Fund, as far as the *Tablet* is concerned, and any moneys collected henceforward must not be sent to us. For nearly six months we have kept the columns of the *Tablet* open for donations, and if during the first four or five the response was disheartening, it is consoling to know that at last the charitable Catholics, aroused to a sense of their duty, made the Fund a success. Not in very many cases were parish collections taken up, but as a rule even where they were neglected individuals subscribed generously. In some districts little or nothing was done; others did magnificently, as they always do. On the whole, it was the people who helped the Self-Determination Fund who now came forward again to relieve the persecuted Catholics who are suffering because they loved Ireland. We take it that the Funds have been a real test whereby the sincere friends of Ireland were discovered; for among human tests there is not one so reliable as the cash test. Talk is cheap, but when a man puts his hand in his pocket and backs his talk with a cheque one knows that his heart goes with his words. We have had a fair number ready to do this, and that they did it for Ireland, and for the martyred people of Carsonia is a thought that will repay them better than any words of thanks we could utter now. Next week we hope to be able to announce the total amount sent from New Zealand, and it will make the coming Christmas happier in many a family that now knows want and cold for the love of Erin. Let us emphasise the fact that as far as we are concerned THE FUND IS NOW CLOSED.

The "Otago Daily Times"

The following extract is from Saturday's issue of the *Otago Daily Times*, edited by Mr. James Hutchison, with Sir George Fenwick managing director:

"At a meeting of Dail Eireann Mr. de Valera was re-elected President of the Irish Republic.

"Mr. de Valera, in thanking members, said he felt like a boy amongst boys."

So far, this is perhaps the most sincere utterance attributed to Senor de Valera. He feels "like a boy amongst boys." Along with the other boys he is playing a game. They have an imaginary Irish Republic headed by a half-breed President (our local Sinn Feiners, who deny and affirm at will, have not found the courage to deny that de Valera's father was a Spaniard);—they have a mock Parliament called by a name unintelligible to people of later date than Brian Boru; they assign the "portfolio of Labor to Countess Markievicz," a name and title that even Brian Boru would have stumbled at; and they authorise Mr. Michael Collins to raise in America—on securities intangible, invisible, undiscoverable, and unimaginable—a loan of twenty millions sterling. It is all child's-play, and Senor de Valera gracefully acknowledges the fact. When these things are being done he "feels like a boy amongst boys." Naturally the proceedings thus reported would take a festive ending, in the Irish way—something between a wake and a wedding.

Och, shillaloo! a-hee, a-hoo!

Up rebels!—Is it pale we are?

Divil a bit! Up Dail Eireann!

At laste 'tis out of jail we are!

Boys, kape the door!—he's tuk the flure—

The Prsident, wi' jumps and kicks!

An' see him jig—bold Day Valayry,

Wi' Countess Markyviks!

Troth, 'tis a sight for mim'ry bright

Whin next we be meanderin'

To Downin' Street to fule Lloyd George

In bluffin' an' blandandherin'.

Whoop! hillaloo! avick, avoo!

Mother of Moses! shtamp!—hurroo!

Up Sinn Fein bhoys! Up Brian Boru!

Faix an' be jabers! Hullabaloo!

Left jiggling.

The Catholic or Irishman who is ready to support a paper that publishes disgraceful attacks in the foregoing strain deserves what he gets. In a paragraph preceding this vile extract there is a scurrilous attack on the Catholic clergy.

The Gerrymandering

Here is what an English paper, the *New Statesman*, has to say concerning the gerrymandering of "Ulster" which our day-lie men concealed:

"Ulstermen and their friends did not hesitate to create large constituencies when this improved the chances of Unionist candidates. The City of Derry had a Nationalist majority and, therefore, ceased to exist as a unit and was merged into the county of Derry, so that Sinn Fein might have less excuse to regard it as a piece of Hibernia Irredenta. Queen's University, Belfast, a stronghold of Unionism, with 2500 voters was allowed to elect four members. Derry City, with 17,385 voters, was not allowed to elect directly even one. The result of this skilful gerrymandering is that 341,239 Unionists have elected 40 members, while 164,278 Nationalist votes have elected only 12."

That is a sample of the sincerity and honesty of Lloyd George. That one detail reveals abundantly the character of the man whom our New Zealand day-lie men fall down and adore. The editors who suppress all efforts to bring the facts concerning Ulster before the public, while they publish the anonymous attacks