

# "A STRAIGHT DEAL OR THE ANCIENT GRUDGE"

## *The British From an American's Viewpoint*

Mr. Owen Wister, the author of that inspired piece of writing "The Pentecost of Calamity," here tells the world, and especially his own people, in the most-barefaced fashion, that although a good American he sees many commendable things about the British. He is frank and unashamed about it. One therefore ventures the assertion that Mr. Owen Wister may abandon all hope of ever becoming the President of the United States.

Even Mr. Roosevelt, a hundred per cent American beyond question, found it expedient to disguise the goodwill he cherished towards the British, while his disciple from California, Senator Johnson goes so far in dissembling his love as to be willing to kick everything British downstairs. That sort of thing is good politics in the United States when elections are so near and the German-Irish vote at stake.

But Mr. Owen Wister is only in the background of politics and as a private citizen with pronounced views he comes to the public forum to confute the wild ravings of the partisan politicians and to counteract the crafty propaganda—the cardinal red propaganda—which pollutes the stream of public opinion.

What Mr. Wister has to say about Ireland is very good, much too good to bear quotation by the editor of Current Opinion although that digest of public opinion uses excerpts from the Roman Catholic Weekly 'America' in rebuttal of Mr. Wister's case.

"America" does not take kindly to Mr. Wister's arguments as the following paragraph, as quoted by Current Opinion, will show.

"To awaken a proper gratitude in the hearts of his readers Mr. Wister devotes considerable space to summarizing England's achievements in the Great War, but he seems strangely unaware that it is England's doings since the war ended that now make her exceedingly unpopular with large classes of Americans. The author should have written a few pages to explain away the detestable hypocrisy of a selfish power that protested when her back was to the wall, that the war was being waged for the freedom of small nations, and then after

victory strove to absorb as much of the non-British world as she possibly could and sent a merciless army of occupation into Ireland."

There is some truth in that last sentence, as much of the truth as a priestly politician thought fit to tell. The British have an army of occupation in Ireland but it was there long before the war ended and soon after it began. It was sent to save Great Britain from being stabbed in the back by the 'Strong Right Arm of the Church of Rome' as she contended with her foe in Flanders.

The rest of 'America's' statements are best controverted by Mr. Wister himself when he says:

"I have not sought to persuade the reader that Great Britain is a charitable institution. What nation is, or could be, given the nature of man? Her good treatment of us has been to her own interests. She is wise, farseeing, less of an opportunist in her statesmanship than any other nation. She has seen clearly and ever more clearly that our good-will was to her advantage. And beneath her wisdom, at the bottom of all, is her sense of kinship, through liberty defined and assured by law. If we were so farseeing as she is, we also should know that her goodwill is equally important to us, not alone for material reasons, or for the sake of safety, but also for those few deep, ultimate ideals of law, liberty, life, manhood and womanhood, which we share with her, which we got from her, because she is our nearest relation in this many peopled world."

Mr. Wister's work is well worthy of attentive study.—T.W

### DR. H. E. THOMAS - DENTIST

Appointments by phoning Seymour 3848  
303 Bower Building

543 Granville St.

Vancouver, B.C.

### CENTER & HANNA LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1893

PERFECT FUNERAL SERVICE

PRIVATE EXCHANGE SEYMOUR 2425

New Location: 1049 GEORGIA ST., Vancouver

### OUR NEW STORE

Cor. Robson and Howe Sts., Vancouver  
J. McTAGGART & SON

Quality and Service

RETAIL GROCERS



### THE THREE BIG ISSUES

QUALITY    QUANTITY  
SATISFACTION

ALL COMBINED IN

# Royal Crown Soap

Save Coupons for Premiums