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THE DAIL EIREANN

According to the press agencies a very funny comedy is being staged in Dublin just now.

Still the press despatches are producing the desired effect on this side of the ocean.

THE NEW IRISH FIASCO

The Irish situation retains its element of paradox through all its shifting phases.

It may be paradoxical and ironical, but it is not altogether unprecedented.

John Richard Green, Protestant Professor in the English University of Oxford, in his "History of the English People," gives this noble Ulster sentiment its historic setting:

"The history of Ireland, from its conquest by William the Third up to this time [the Union], is one which no Englishman can recall without shame.

with pensions, preferments and bribes in hard cash in return for their services; they were the advisers of every lord lieutenant, and the practical governors of the country.

At last the smouldering discontent and dissatisfaction burst into a flame. Ireland was in fact driven into rebellion by the lawless cruelty of the Orange yeomanry and the English troops.

That the right claimed by the people of Ireland to be bound only by the laws enacted by His Majesty and the Parliament of that Kingdom, is hereby declared to be established, and ascertained forever and shall at no time hereafter be questioned or questionable.

So the whole modern phase of the Irish question started from the "scrap-of-paper" code of international ethics.

During the nineteenth century gradually and grudgingly the grip of Protestant Ascendancy has been relaxed. The Irish people won Catholic Emancipation and the disestablishment of the Irish Church; in our own day victory crowned their magnificent fight against an iniquitous land system; and finally after the greatest struggle in Parliamentary history loyally conducted within the limits of Constitutional action they won Home Rule.

Mr. F. E. Smith (now Sir Frederick Smith) in the British House of Commons in May, 1914, made this solemn declaration:

"Whatever the consequences—civil war or any other calamity that may dismember the whole Empire—the Unionist party will support Ulster, whatever the consequences may be."

But what right have the Sinn Fein members to meet as a Parliament in Dublin? What is the use?

untried, unconvicted; denied that elementary right which has been guaranteed every Englishman for the last seven hundred years.

But what is the use? Just this: This War was to save democracy and liberty. The bedrock principle of democracy is that governments derive their just rights from the consent of the governed.

Those issues are these: Shall the military power of any nation or group of nations be suffered to determine the fortunes of peoples over whom they have no right to rule except the right of force?

On the whole we think it is a little premature for the Globe to be amused or pathetic over "the new Irish fiasco."

But speaking of farces, fun and fiascos we thought that while the air was still thick with the apotheosis of democracy and the exorcism of autocracy the despatch which informed us that Lord French was the absolute autocrat of all Ireland, that every safeguard of British or democratic freedom was removed, was a little bit on that line.

Irishmen neither at home nor abroad need fear the most searching scrutiny of Ireland's part in the War.

The bloody and lawless butcheries of Bachelors' Walk, in violent contrast with the treatment accorded Ulster under precisely similar circumstances, did not prevent Ireland's magnificent response to the call to arms.

Shall the military power of England be suffered to determine the fortunes of the Irish people over whom it has no right to rule except the right of force?

Assume that he regards Ireland as the most momentous of international questions, one with which the fate of his cherished project of a League of Nations is intimately bound up.

"A republic can never be established in Ireland through the medium of civil war. On the other hand Ireland cannot be divided without lasting injury."

This was the pronouncement of Sir Horace Plunkett just before sailing from Liverpool. And Sir Horace has a much clearer title to speak for Ulster and for Ireland than has Sir Edward Carson.

Lord Decies, a British Army officer who for the last two or three years been chief censor for Ireland, before sailing from New York after the news of the Sinn Fein victory at the polls, said:

"Our only hope in Ireland now is for all the four political factions to get together, and for the Government to give us some kind of Home Rule and leave us to work it out to the best advantage."

And as we write the cable informs us that a new Centre Party supported by Southern Unionists under the presidency of Stephen Gwynne the son of an Ulster clergyman, is forming to work for Home Rule for Ireland on Dominion lines.

Sinn Fein is no longer a theory or a policy whose merits as compared with Constitutionalism are a matter of opinion; it is the deliberate expression of Ireland's will.

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CANADA A NATION

Canadians of all shades of politics will rejoice that our representatives at the Peace Conference have already accomplished much more than many had dared to hope for.

As everybody knows President Wilson was invited to visit Belfast and he replied that his time would be too fully occupied while in England to permit his doing so.

Assume that he regards Ireland as the most momentous of international questions, one with which the fate of his cherished project of a League of Nations is intimately bound up.

of appearing discourteous silence might be his wisest course. In such an hypothesis his silence might be a matter of greater worry to disheartened Unionists than to Irish Nationalists.

The suggestion that he may be influenced by considerations of party politics is presumptuous in itself, and insulting to President Wilson.

Read in the foregoing article what he emphatically declares to be the principles vindicated by the War.

And if the statesmanship of the English-speaking nations cannot measure up to the duty of removing that obstacle to union amongst themselves what folly to hope for the success of that greater union of the League which will embrace nations of divergent views on all vital interests.

There can be no manner of doubt that far and away beyond the petty considerations of party politics President Wilson feels the stupendous responsibilities that are his in this crisis of the history of civilization.

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THE PRESIDENT'S SILENCE

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Assume that he regards Ireland as the most momentous of international questions, one with which the fate of his cherished project of a League of Nations is intimately bound up.

Henceforth in international as well as in national affairs affecting Canada we can say with a deeper significance than ever before:

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE INDEMNITIES that Germany shall pay for the colossal wounds which her thirst for war and for conquest has inflicted upon the world is naturally the paramount theme of discussion on both sides of the Atlantic.

Read in the foregoing article what he emphatically declares to be the principles vindicated by the War.

CHESTERTON, with that clarity of vision which is one of his chief characteristics, has put the whole problem in a succinct paragraph, which, slightly paraphrased, reads like this: Nobody is going to forget that Verdun is battered or Belgium laid waste.

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SERIOUS AS MAY BE THE FOOD PROBLEM

IN THIS connection, and in connection also with the grave problems arising out of Japan's place in the

Orient, now and in the future, the tremendous rate of increase of her population is significant. Until a few years ago the rate of increase was about 500,000, but last year's increase is put at 800,000.

OPENING OF PEACE CONGRESS

PRESIDENT POINCARÉ OUTLINES SCOPE

INTERNATIONAL LABOR LEGISLATION Just at 3 o'clock a ruffia of drums and blare of trumpets announced the approach of M. Poincaré.

It was exactly three minutes past 3 o'clock when M. Poincaré began his address and the peace congress came into being.

Permit me to see in your decision the homage of all the nations that you represent toward a country which more than any other has endured the sufferings of war, of which entire provinces have been transformed into a vast battlefield and have been systematically laid waste by the invader, and which has paid the human tribute in death.

There is no need of further information or for special inquiries into the origin of the drama which has just shaken the world.

"These are the two unforgettable outrages which opened the way to aggression. The combined efforts of Great Britain, France and Russia were exerted against that man-made arrogance."

"What could be more significant than the shameful bargains they attempted to offer to Great Britain and France at the end of July, 1914, when to Great Britain they suggested: 'Allow us to attack France on land and we will not enter the channel,' and when they instructed their ambassador to say to France: 'We will only accept a declaration of neutrality on your part if you surrender to us Brie, Toul and Verdun.'"

"Thus, from the very beginning of hostilities, there came into conflict the two ideas, which for 50 months, were to struggle for dominion of the world—the idea of sovereign force, which accepts neither control nor