

### "Army Will Obey," Says Derby

London, Dec. 8.—"Punch" last week got off in characteristic fashion the humorous anomalies of the Ulster situation. A hapless German visiting London is portrayed gazing with astonishment at a billboard on which are displayed posters announcing the existence of the "Army of Ulster," the Irish Nationalist "Army" and the various other armed forces that are being hatched in these islands.

"Moon Gott," explains the German. "All these armies and Germany has only one." A good deal of enthusiastic exaggeration must be allowed for in the published accounts of the recruiting of these several armies, their drills, and other preparations for the fray. Mrs. Pankhurst's arrest at Plymouth showed that the police were fully competent to deal with the one section of the suffragette army, and the fact that there has been no collision with Sylvia Pankhurst's special corps of East End toughs indicates that Scotland Yard believes it has the measure of another section.

As a matter of fact London has never taken the stories of the suffragette armies seriously. In regard to the possibilities of armed resistance to Home Rule by Ulster, the case is different. There has always been an element of disbelief, more or less politely expressed, in the possibility of the Ulster threats of organized armed resistance being actually carried out, but at the same time there has always been a fear that the incendiary agitation led by Sir Edward Carson might have deplorable results.

Premier Asquith's warning last week, however, had a marked effect, and the Ulster leaders to whom he referred particularly are now hurriedly retreating from the ground they took up.

"The doctrine that soldiers, or police officers or men," said Mr. Asquith, "are to discriminate at will between their orders is undermining the government. We have no doubt as to the duty and power of the State to enforce obedience to the law." The Earl of Derby was the first Ulsterist to call a halt. Speaking on Monday, he asserted that there must be no attempt to drag in the army to enforce Parliament.

Sir Edward Carson, "curiously enough, was the next to recede from the position previously occupied. "It is a foul lie," he remarked, "to say that the Ulster Unionists are trying to tamper with the British Army. It would be a bad day for the country if the army, under any circumstances, were to refuse to obey lawful orders. Nobody would blame the army for shooting upon Ulstermen." In order to understand this new development, it must be remembered what position Lord Derby holds in English politics. He is a great landlord, a more than usually able representative, a peer, and a good business man, and is looked upon as the embodiment of that sound common sense which made the late Duke of Devonshire (who possessed abilities of a far lower order than Lord Derby) a power in the councils of the nation. It is significant that Lord Derby, who a year or two ago vetoed a tariff reform policy and recently blocked the Ulsterist plan for demanding the refusal of the royal assent to Home Rule, has now prevented his party from appealing to the army against the Government.

Lord Selborne followed Lord Derby's lead, saying that he "would never hear at the time of this crisis or any other crisis the suggestion that it could be the duty of the army to refuse to obey orders. The duty of a soldier, were he officer or private, was obedience to lawful command." Derby's Timely Utterance.

To students of English politics it is interesting to mark this new development. It not only means sounder appreciation of the political situation as concerned with Home Rule and Ulster's opposition; it also means that a man has arisen who is determined to rid the Ulsterist party of the incubus under which it has been staggering for years. In the latter days of Arthur Balfour's leadership the power behind the throne was J. L. Garvin, a journalist of engaging personality. From his study at Hampstead and his editorial chain in Fleet Street, Mr. Garvin practically dictated the Ulsterist policy. Bonar Law has been wax in his hands.

What Garvin said in the Pall Mall Gazette and The Observer, one day, the Ulsterist leaders echoed in their speeches the next. He pulled the strings while the puppets danced.

Last Sunday The Observer nailed the flag of rebellion to the masthead of the Ulsterist Party. "Never, never, will it be," wrote Garvin, at the conclusion of the paragraph in which he spoke of "the King's troops being ordered into the North of Ireland to subjugate the most devoted of the King's subjects to a yoke they hate, and to conquer a community whose whole soul is symbolized in the green flag."

In various issues of the Pall Mall Gazette he urged action, which undoubtedly suggested the refusal by officers and men of the British army to "coerce" Ulster. It was at this critical moment that Lord Derby stepped into the arena.

"We've no politics in the army," he said, "and, right or wrong, we've got to do what we're told." Thus the issue lies between the Earl and the journalist. The possible result was forecasted by Mr. Asquith when he said at Leeds that he knew his fellow countrymen better than Sir Edward Carson. Like Sir Edward, Mr. Gavin is an Irishman, while Lord Derby, like Asquith, is an Englishman.

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**Bazaar Closes at Carbonear.** The bazaar held in St. Patrick's Hall, Carbonear, in aid of the R. C. Church, closed last night, and was a great success. The stalls were tastefully filled with seasonable and fancy goods which were readily disposed of by the ladies in charge. Rev. Mons. McCarthy and the committee deserve to be congratulated on the success of the affair.

Doctor: "I hope you are following my instructions carefully. Sandy — the pills three times a day, and a drop of whiskey at bedtime." Sandy: "Well, sir, I may be a wee bit behind w' the pills, but I'm about six weeks in front w' the whiskey."

**A Good Feeder.** A tall, gaunt young man entered the office of the Globe Museum and Family Theatre and asked for the manager. "What can I do for you?" inquired a pudgy man in a check suit. "I want an engagement as a freak in the oriole hall."

### Fires Caused By Cats.

One of the biggest fires in history was caused by a bullock kicking over a lamp in a cow-house in Chicago about nine o'clock in the evening of Sunday, October 31, 1871. The fire burned all through that night and the greater part of the next day, devouring great blocks of houses, and growing by what it fed on. The total area burned was 2,124 acres or nearly 3 1/2 square miles. The total number of buildings destroyed was 17,450, and 88,869 people were rendered homeless. Thousands, flying before the flames, sought refuge in Lake Michigan, and remained standing in the water for hours as the only means of preservation against the intense heat and the showers of sparks and cinders. Yet only 250 persons perished.

That, of course, was an altogether exceptional case of animal incendiaryism, but minor cases are very frequent. Only the other day a serious fire was caused at Dover by a cat knocking over an oil lamp, and a still more remarkable case was reported of a fire which broke out in a village in Cumberland. There was a nest of sparrows in a roof, and it is supposed that the birds used some matches in their nesting material which, becoming accidentally ignited set fire to the roof.

The midnight rambles of a cat plunged a city in darkness and incidentally caused a small though quickly-subdued fire. The manager of the works of the Cardiff Electric Light Company said that the cat, which lived upon the premises, yielded to temptation and strayed from his usual haunts. Either there was no mouse to hunt and he became tired of inaction, or he was suddenly seized with an insatiable desire for exploration. Anyhow, he climbed on to the switch-board and straggled among the cables, one of which was fused and caused a local conflagration. The cat was killed, and the lights went out in sympathy.

On another occasion, and in another place, not a cat but a mouse did the very same trick. It ran among the gear and caused fusing, a fire, and darkness throughout a large section of the town. But one of the most remarkable cases of animal incendiaryism occurred in one of the manufacturing towns in the North of England. The villain was going his rounds when, from some unknown cause, the horse, which he had left standing, suddenly took flight and bolted down the street. As bad luck would have it both horse and cart came to grief when the animal bolted into the boiler house of a neighbouring cotton-mill. The oil poured out of the vehicle in such quantities that the boiler fires set it alight and a serious conflagration was caused.

A story which reminds one of Samson's exploit of sending his fire-brand tresses into the standing corn of the Philistines occurred last autumn in the Midlands. A local gentleman, who lived alone in the country, was in the habit of taking a lamp to light him along the dark lanes when he went abroad at night. He was almost invariably attended by a dog, which he had taught to carry his lantern. But disaster put an end to this pleasant plan.

Whatever it was the dog spotted, whether a stout or a hare, his master never knew, but he set off in mad pursuit with the lantern still in his jaws. Had he dropped it in the lane all would have been well. But he didn't. He dropped it near a haystack and before his master could reach the spot the stack was in such a blaze that nothing could stop it until it was reduced to ashes.

adoption of an ordinary train rule forbidding a player to enter a block until the player ahead has left it the minority would be cut down 75 per cent. Interference is also the cause of many accidents. Interference according to all Wall Street authorities is entirely unwarranted and unwise, and a skillful use of the common or temporary injunction will eliminate it.

Many football players are sadly misled by the reckless practice of walking over the faces of the opposition with cleated shoes. Turning to the rules of golf, Volume 3, Section 76, we discover the remedy. All divots cut from the features of the opposition should be immediately replaced by the player or his caddy. Many players are permanently impaired by attempting to tackle such men as Brickley of Harvard, without the latter's consent. A very common railroad rule will prevent this. Players should not attempt to board Brickley until he comes to a full stop. We should not hastily despair of accomplishing the task of denaturing football, but should go at the matter calmly and in the light of every day experience with other problems.

### Football Rules.

By GEORGE FITCH. Author of "At Good Old Sivash." About this time of the year the national football commission loves carefully over the remnants of the less durable players who have indulged in our great autumn pastime to excess and tries to think of a new set of rules aimed directly at the prosperity of the coroners with whom this country abounds. While most of the eminent skin virtuosos who participated in the various gridiron picaresqueries this fall emerged comparatively intact, some few of them have not been entirely collected as yet and there is great need of reducing the ballistic power of the 180-pound half-back, while at the same time care must be taken to avoid squeezing the thrills and gate receipts out of the game.

This can be accomplished if the commission will only borrow the experiences of other exact sciences and exercise a wide commonsense in its deliberations. One of the most serious features of the present game is the number of sprained ankles and knees sustained. While this cannot be entirely eliminated the number can be cut 50 per cent by using only one-legged players.

Collisions between men who carry the ball and members of the opposing line are often attended with frightful results. The seneshore system would obviate this. By the

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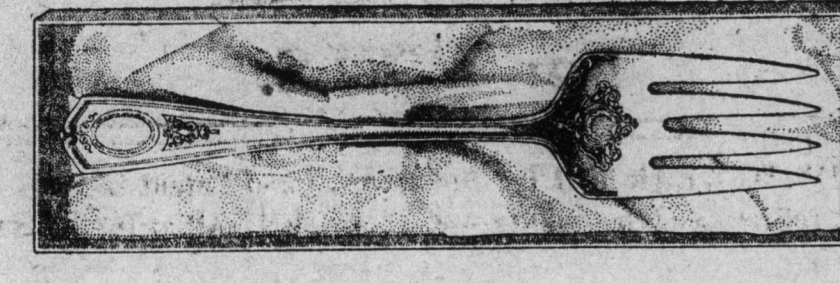
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