# POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1919

# Irish Situation

Interview in New York With Mr. Horace Plunkett-The Attitude in the United States

(Christian Science Monitor.)

A representative of the Christian Science Monitor sought Sir Horace Plunkett out at the home of Lawrence Godkin in West Tenth street, where he is stopping, and there, in a large room whose wall paper was row upon row of books, Sir Horace answered all questions put to him so freely and frankly that the interview amounted to a general discussion of the Iriish situation as it stands today, with particular reference to the attitude of Irish-Americans toward it. Sir Horace had recently spent some time in middle western states, and was therefore qualified to speak of the population as he had found it in parts of the country other than New York.

The first question concerned the reception which Sir Horace had received in Boston, and he replied: (Christian Science Monitor.)

"I find my countrymen as friendly as they always are to me, agreeing with me in most things, disagreeing in some, quite open-minded and in a mood to discuss the Irish situation with the view to trying to find out what is best to be

done."

"But did you not see," his interviewer asked, "an account in the newspapers of dissent and protest against your remarks while in Boston?"

"Oh, yes," Sir Horace replied. "My attention was called to these excursions and alarms which, as a matter of fact, I was told to expect. I duly found them in the newspapers, and as I hadn't seen them anywhere else I read them with with considerable interest."

"But was there not a definite protest by the faculty at the Boston College?"

Sir Horace replied that apparently some member of the faculty "used the occasion of my visit to give his own

ment with the latest Irish demand, which I knew to be favored by the students at the college. And I said I thought it would be wise for them as future sympathizers with, and workers in, the Irish cause, to suspend judgment for a while." Exact Meaning Asked.

Sir Horace was then asked exactly what he had meant by the words, "The latest Irish demand."

"The complete independence of Ireland, and a place at the peace conference," he replied.

Upon being asked why he thought it

demand, he said:

"Because a judgment formed at this moment I find to be motivated (if I may talk American for a moment) by hatred of Britain, the reasons for which I quite understand; but the sentiment ignores altogether the Irish end of this difficult question, which is the only one that interests me. I want the Irish settlement, which is bound to come in the near future, to be based upon the best Irish thought, and conceived in the real interests of Ireland, social and economic, the industrial and agricultural populations being equally considered."

The interviewer was then interested to know whether Sir Horace had found that these issues were being overlooked at the Boston College.

"No, not at the college," replied Sir Horace. "But I was thinking rather of public opinion outside, and the impression I have gained in my travels is that a very large percentage of the Irish agitation at the present moment in the United States is much less concerned with the welfare of the Irish people at home than with the political movements in this country, in which it is important, no doubt, to enlist Irish sympathy. Upon the merits of these movements I have no criticism to offer, because I am not concerned with them. I have done my best to keep out of party politics at home and to concentrate upon practical problems of Irish government. The last thing I want is to butt into American politics. For forty years I have registed that temptation, and it becomes easier as I grow older."

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Having learned Sir Horace's opinion as to what might be called the false attitude for Americans to assume toward the Irish question, the interviewer asked what was the most helpful one.

"I find," was the reply, "in most Americans an attitude of understanding sympathy with Ireland, a reluctance to interfere actively in Irish affairs, and a feeling, with which I wholly agree, that the Irish question must be settled in order to satisfy the moral conscience of the world. They feel, however, that it is primarily a matter for Irishmen in Ireland."

"How do you feel," the interviewer, asked, "about the Irish intervention resolution introduced in the United States

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# REVENUE COME FROM?

To meet the regular expenses of administration, to pay war service gratuities to demobilized soldiers, to provide pensions for disabled soldiers and for the dependents of those who have lost their lives, as well as to carry out the program of public works which is being undertaken to relieve unemployment, it is estimated that the Dominion Government will require to raise this year a revenue of about

# 400 MILLION DOLLARS

Last year the Dominion Government revenue was 260 million dollars and was derived from the following sources:

Canadian Customs Tariff	116	million
Special War Tariff	45	million
Excise Tax		million
Business Profits Tax		million
Income Tax and other Sources .	52	million
Total	260	million

Now is the shortage of 140 millions to be made up?

At the very moment when Canada is struggling with this problem the Western Grain Growers come forward with insistent demands for:

(1) "An immediate and substantial all-round reduction of the customs 'ariff."

(2) Free trade with Great Britain inside of five years.

(3) Reciprocity now, and free trade later, with the United States.

These demands are apparently made in the hope and belief that, if they are granted, those making them will be relieved of a large part of what they call the "Burden of Taxation" which the tariff imposes upon them. That expectation can only be realized if the revenue raised by means of the tariff is substantially reduced. They may argue that under a lower tariff the volume of goods imported will increase, and consequently there will be no decrease in the revenue. But mark this—they want the duty removed entirely from implements, lumber, cement, oil and other articles of which they are large consumers. If the revenue is to be maintained under such a rearrangement of the tariff schedules, other classes of the people must pay what the Grain Growers will escape.

Passing to the next point, how would the Grain Growers provide for the probable shortage of 140 million dollars this year? They ask the Dominion Government to impose the following taxes:—A direct tax on unimproved lands, increased taxation on personal incomes, increased inheritance taxes and increased taxation on corporations.

Vacant land now pays taxes to the Municipalities and, in some Provinces, additional taxes to the Provincial Government. Income taxes are now paid by individuals to the Municipalities and also to the Dominion Government. Inheritance taxes are now imposed by all the Provinces, ranging in Ontario, for example, from one to twenty per cent. Corporations are now taxed as persons by Municipal Governments, Provincial Governments and the Dominion Government, and also pay special taxes to every Province for the privilege of being corporations.

Last year the tariff collected sixty-one per cent. of the total Dominion Government Revenue. Does anyone believe that the forms of taxation advocated by the Grain Growers can be increased sufficiently this year to
obtain the revenue which would be lost by tariff reduction, and also the additional 140 million dollars required, without crippling industry, stifling business and throwing thousands of workers out of employment?

The United States has all the forms of taxation advocated by the Grain Growers, but still finds it necessary

to maintain its customs tariff. If the Grain Growers are to escape almost all taxation, including the great increase caused by the war, what will happen to the people who will be driven out of business through having to pay not only their own taxes but also those of the Grain Growers? Will they try to grow grain? It is more likely that they will go to the United States to get work, as other Canadians went fifty years ago, and leave a population, chiefly farmers, ever growing smaller, to bear all the taxes, ever growing greater.

Again we ask where is the extra revenue coming from?

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a whole, the political agitation derives and made her debut an one of its force from economic depression. Asked how he thought the labor situation is Belfast affected the political situation, Sir Horace replied:

"Those things happened since I left Ireland, and my information is not sufficient to enable me to answer your question. I may say, however, that a public appearance in the Albert Hall when the was more than seventy question. I may say, however, that a public appearance in the Albert Hall when the was more than seventy question. I may say, however, that a public appearance in the Albert Hall when he was more than seventy question. I may say, however, that a public appearance in the Albert Hall when he was more than seventy question. I may say, however, that a public appearance in the Albert Hall when he was more than seventy question. I may say, however, that a public appearance in the Albert Hall when he was more than seventy against political, saidership which has retarded industrial solidarity by introducing political issues and by maintaining sectarian animosities."

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Y. W. P. A. EXECUTIVE.