

instructed to send the thing to smash, and then the man putting his money into it is told that the seam is not workable. Supposing Irishmen put their heads together and start a coal mine of their own. What happens? Do you know that we in Ireland cannot make a single yard of railroad without the permission of the British House of Commons and the British House of Lords? There is not a single coal mine in Ireland that has a line of railway to its pit head, and no coal can be mined economically unless there is a railway.

A friend of mine owns one of the most important coal mines in Ireland. During the war he asked for liberty to make four miles of line to develop this mine and add to the coal supplies necessary in the war. He was refused the liberty to make these four miles of railroad and the coal from that pit has to be carried the four miles by horse and cart.

Then you have, a historical incident admitted by all historians, the killing of the great Woollen Industry in Ireland. We had one of the greatest industries in the world, but by one stroke of the pen England deliberately killed that industry and in one week ninety thousand people were thrown out of employment, and it is this that has created the disgrace of Britain, the Dublin Slums.

We have a considerable flax-growing industry in Ulster. At the beginning of the war the Government appealed to Ireland to increase the acreage under flax. The people responded and the acreage was increased three or four hundred per cent. The Government then took over the product at a fixed price and the people were agreeable. When the war was over the question arose: Would this control of the flax continue. The Government decided to continue to fix the price, but they fixed it at twenty to twenty-five per cent. less than the previous year, although the price of flax had risen and it was scarcely profitable to grow flax. The season had no sooner commenced than it was discovered that instead of decreasing in the market flax had increased from fifty to one hundred per cent. The farmers appealed to the Government to rectify this injustice, but they refused to move an inch, with the result that to-day the Irish farmer is compelled to sell his flax to the British Government at fifty to one hundred per cent. less than the Scotch farmers or the Belgian farmers, and that has done more to make the black Presbyterians of the North of Ireland think than anything else the Government has done.

A short time before I left home a farmer brought two loads of flax into the market in a purely Protestant district. The Government officials marked the price at so much, but the farmer said it was too little and explained that it was worth more. The official said "I will give you no more." The farmer said: "Then I will take it home again." The official refused to let him take the flax away and five policemen jumped on to the cart. However, four or five hundred people had gathered around and they came forward and pitched the policemen to