

and distribute blame with an impartial hand. The strength of Sinn Fein is among the unlettered rabble, worked upon by designing and unscrupulous men. It is no more a reproach to Ireland as a whole that the King's soldiers should have been mobbed in Cork than it is a reproach to Canada as a whole that Canadian soldiers should have been mobbed in Quebec. You can parallel the most outrageous utterances of a Sinn Feiner with utterances similarly outrageous in the Canadian Nationalist Press. And the historically minded are aware of causes in the past, some of them in the recent past, which supply an explanation of Sinn Fein but are by no means available to explain the case of Mr. Bourassa.

The coming critic will, I doubt not, emphasize the lamentable weakness on the part of the Executive Government in permitting free course to sedition in the North, so that it deprived itself of the power to suppress a like sedition in the South. A dozen faults of administration will be indicated, faults against which protest was made by Irish leaders at the time, faults which help us to understand although by no means to justify a great deal that followed. This indeed by no means clears our national repute. It is a sad and a shameful thing that even in the darkest spots of Ireland, even in Clare or Mayo, the sinister hand of the rebel should have been raised. The lesson that it does teach is this, that no further time should be lost in placing the whole country under the guidance of those national chiefs whose loyalty is above all suspicion, who still enjoy the trust of the great mass of the people, and by whom alone the reconsolidation of Ireland can ever be effected. This is the remedy for which a passionate but unheeded plea was again and again put forward by the great chieftain whom we have lost. Mr. Redmond declared, not very long ago, that since the forming of the Coalition Government he and his friends had been excluded from all real influence in the determination of Irish policy. There, it seems to me, lies a sufficient clue to most of the calamities that have befallen us.

Gentlemen, the Executive of this Society hesitated for a moment, but only for a moment, as to whether out of respect to the memory of Mr. John Redmond our celebration of to-night