

directed toward the creation of the best relations between the Protestant North and the Roman Catholic South pursued courses which inflamed the minds of the two sections of the Irish people. Sir Edward Carson, an able man who was in a position to do much towards creating a better state of opinion, made himself the leader of the extreme Ulster party, and did not hesitate to counsel armed rebellion when a Home Rule Act was passed.

The great war had at least one good result, that it afforded a reason for suspending the operation of the Home Rule Act, and thus avoided the armed conflict that was imminent between the King's Government and the followers of Sir Edward Carson. With the return of peace the Irish question again presses to the front. Many of the British public men who for so many years fought against Home Rule now admit that some such measure is necessary. Even Sir Edward Carson makes that admission, though somewhat sullenly. But it is too late. Ireland, which would willingly have accepted a moderate Home Rule Act a few years ago, has been embittered by the long fight. John Redmond, who would have co-operated in the enactment of measures to secure Home Rule with Imperial unity, is dead. The constitutional Home Rule party in Ireland has been annihilated. The extremist Sinn Fein party dominate the greater part of Ireland. The Irish Roman Catholic clergy, with few exceptions, are now in sympathy with the Sinn Fein leaders, who will be content with nothing but an Irish Republic. In the name of this alleged republic, British law and order are set at defiance, and crime of many kinds is of daily occurrence. Such is the deplorable state of affairs brought about by the folly of British statesmen who failed to see, as Gladstone saw, that some form of Home Rule, some concession to the Irish demand for a larger measure of self-government, was necessary for the peace of Ireland and of the Empire. They see it now, and offer Ireland a kind of Home Rule. But the offer, whatever may be said of its merits, comes too late.

What now? The demand of the Sinn Fein, for recognition of Ireland as an independent republic, is one that the British nation can hardly be expected to entertain. Its acceptance would not settle the Irish question. The quarrel between the North and the South would remain. Civil war within Ireland would be inevitable. For Imperial reasons also the grant of independence to Ireland is not to be expected. England cannot be expected to deliberately assist in setting up a hostile republic within gunshot of her shores.

Is there nothing else that can be done? The frank offer of what is called Dominion Home Rule—the same measure of liberty that is accorded to Canada—offers a hope, if indeed it is not too late for that. There

are geographical differences between the situation of Ireland and that of Canada on which can be based good reasons for holding that what is good for Canada may not necessarily be good for Ireland. To give to Ireland the right to establish tariffs against Great Britain would be to give a power that might easily work to the disadvantage of both countries. But in the situation that now exists there may well be a straining of power to meet in some degree the aspirations of the Irish people, while not sacrificing the vital principle of Imperial unity. If Dominion Home Rule, which is proposed by that patriotic Irishman Sir Horace Plunkett, will be accepted by the majority of the Irish people, it should be given to them. All but the most extreme Sinn Fein section should be willing to accept such a solution of the problem. The North might still hesitate, but it should not be difficult, in the light of all that has happened, to show the Ulster men that, under the Dominion scheme, the education, wealth and enterprise of the North would be able to protect it against the evils that have hitherto been feared.

Dominion Home Rule may possibly be made a solution of the Irish question. Anything short of that is not now likely to be deemed worthy of consideration.

A Troublesome Divine

Not least among the troubles of Mr. Lloyd George's Government is the Roman Catholic Archbishop Mannix, of Australia, who is at this moment on the steamship Baltic, on a voyage from New York to Liverpool. In Australia the Archbishop distinguished himself by his avowed sympathy with the extremists of Ireland. He opposed conscription. He opposed the Hughes Government. He has a bitter quarrel with Premier Hughes. He seems to be ready to identify himself with every anti-British movement that the wit of the Irish extremist can devise.

In any country on the continent of Europe Archbishop Mannix's conduct probably would have sent him to prison long ago. But under our British institutions, especially in the overseas Dominions, there is wide freedom, and the Archbishop's liberty was not interfered with. Lately he came to the United States, where he has been doing his utmost to stir up ill-feeling towards Great Britain. In consequence of some of his utterances in the United States he has been notified that the British Government will not permit him to land in the United Kingdom. Notwithstanding this, he has sailed from New York on the Baltic. The ship was scheduled to call at Queenstown on the way to Liverpool. Now comes word that, for the present, all calls of the trans-Atlantic steamers at Irish ports are cancelled. This order may have been

designed to meet in part the trouble respecting the Archbishop's movements, but it is a far-reaching rule, which must be the subject of much consideration before its continued enforcement is decided on.

The whole course of the Archbishop in Australia and in the United States has been that of a rash partizan, lacking the discretion that in most cases characterizes the conduct of the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church. That he should sympathize with Irishmen in reasonable efforts for Home Rule was to be expected. His sympathy would have been of more value to the cause if it had been manifested in a more moderate manner. Nevertheless, it is open to question whether more harm may not be done by efforts to suppress him than by letting him alone.

Although Archbishop Mannix was absent from Australia when the Prince of Wales arrived, his spirit seems to have prevailed in the circles of the Roman Catholic bishops, who were conspicuously absent from the receptions given to the Prince. It is gratifying to note that amends for this seeming discourtesy have been made by the Apostolic Delegate in Australia, who, with an accompanying bishop, called on the Prince to offer the homage of the Roman Catholic population, and explaining that the failure to make an earlier presentation was due to the absence of the senior clergy from the districts visited by the Prince.

The Press Conference

The meeting of the Imperial Press Conference at Ottawa and the tour of Canada arranged for its members are events of more than ordinary interest. The good service which the press of any country may render to the state is beyond question. Whether editorial opinions are sound or not, there is universal recognition of the fact that in the collection and dissemination of news the press performs an important function through which it exercises a wide influence. It is very desirable at this time that the journalists of the Mother Country and the sister Dominions shall be well and truly informed respecting affairs in Canada. We are fortunate in having with us the representatives of many of the most influential of the Empire's newspapers, who manifest an earnest desire to become acquainted with Canada, her people, her public opinion and her resources. Landing in our far East at Sydney, and travelling Westward, the pressmen are being received at every stopping place with a cordiality that can leave no doubt in their minds as to Canada's desire to give them the most hearty welcome and to facilitate their efforts to study Canadian affairs. The reports which these gentlemen will supply to their journals cannot fail to be of much value in making our Dominion known to the world.