

# MC 2035 POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1916

## Ireland Past and Future

(The "Manchester Guardian")  
The Irish debate, though nominally concerned with the immediate future of the country, necessarily turned in large measure on the failure of the negotiations, as to this, all we need say here is that Mr. Asquith entirely failed to answer the charge of breach of agreement brought by Mr. Dillon. The case is very simple. Mr. Asquith tells us that not only Lord Lansdowne but all the Unionists in the cabinet revolted against the decision during the provisional period of the full number of Irish members. On the merits of the question they may or may not have been right. But on July 10, almost a month after Mr. Redmond had publicly announced this as one of the terms of the agreement, Mr. Asquith stated in the house of commons that the cabinet were prepared as a whole to embody the terms in a bill and recommend it to the house. Yet before the end of the month the cabinet refused to do anything of the kind. The breach of faith is definite, and the present government cannot complain of anyone, Irish or other who in future dealings with it bears this incident in mind.

Agreement having failed and Ireland not being destined for the moment to govern herself, what is to be her lot? Up to the present she has been under military law. Mr. Asquith tells us, indeed, that the proclamation of martial law was of verbal significance, and he denies that anything has been done that could not be justified under the Defence of the Realm Act. That act must be more drastic even than we thought. For it is admitted that innocent people lost their lives in Dublin at the hands both of the rebels and of the soldiers, and all inquiry—except in the Sheshy Sheffington case—is forbidden. It is, then, also possible in England under the Defence of the Realm Act? Are we to understand that the ordinary machinery of justice has so far been suspended in the case of any unlawful homicide the government may burke any inquiry which it deems inconvenient? We had not thought that things had gone so far. However, with or without martial law, Sir John Maxwell is, as the competent military authority, the ruler for the time being of Ireland. With him there is now to be associated an able Unionist, Mr. Duke, as chief secretary, and while there is a singular dearth of crime there is apparently to be a resort to the familiar measures of coercion out of which crime is wont to arise.

There have, it seems, been a couple of cases of "cattle-driving" which are to be dealt with by resident magistrates—a regular part of the coercive apparatus—on the ground that the only alternative is trial by court-martial. We can only trust that Mr. Duke, who, however hampered by his Unionism, goes with the good wishes of all parties, will do his best to keep the normal course of civil justice, while, if martial law is as useless as Mr. Asquith says, it might just as well be de-proclaimed. What is clear, however, is that Mr. Asquith, having failed to secure self-government for Ireland, is forced back on the alternative of setting up again the system of "Castle Rule," which, he told us, had broken down. The difference is that instead of being administered by the Home Ruler in sympathy with the Irish it is to be worked by a Unionist in conjunction with a soldier. A considerable British force is to be locked up in an island almost free from crime, where the great bulk of the population is, on Mr. Asquith's own testimony, still loyal and still in hearty sympathy with the cause of the Allies in the war. Yet this position of the Realm Act? Are we to understand that the ordinary machinery of justice has so far been suspended in the case of any unlawful homicide the government may burke any inquiry which it deems inconvenient? We had not thought that things had gone so far. However, with or without martial law, Sir John Maxwell is, as the competent military authority, the ruler for the time being of Ireland. With him there is now to be associated an able Unionist, Mr. Duke, as chief secretary, and while there is a singular dearth of crime there is apparently to be a resort to the familiar measures of coercion out of which crime is wont to arise.

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The supernatural does not hold as it did in the old days. Survey of the files of The Daily Morning News for 1850 discovers an incident that is illustrative of the powerful grip that superstition had on the minds of the colored people in ante-bellum times. It runs—

"A colored man named David Boston, lately residing near Leicester, in Howard District, Md., died on the first instant, the victim of knavery and superstition. A large amount of phlegm having accumulated in his throat from a severe cold, he and his wife concluded that he had a frog in him and that somebody had tricked him. A rasqually fortune teller in Baltimore confirming this idea, no one was allowed to see him, and he, taking no nourishment, finally died."

But, for that matter, one does not have to go back to the days "before de wah" to find equally striking evidences of the strange powers imputed by the negroes to certain of their fellow beings. It was not many years ago that the coming of a "voodoo doctor" into a community was sufficient occasion for general demoralization among the colored population. And there is no particular cause for marveling at the uncanny fancies of the ante-bellum negroes, when it is recalled that not a great many generations earlier New Englanders accounted it an exceedingly dull week when there was no burning at stake for witchcraft. Enlightenment has done away with most of the old superstitions. A great many others that are generally believed to have disappeared are still entertained, but discreetly covered up. A little inquiry probably would disclose today superstitious beliefs that would amaze the inquirer. Even the man who boasts that he is without superstition will very often hesitate to violate the dictates of one he will simply make it convenient to get around it. One of the surest means of uncovering superstition is to let a leading poker player suddenly discover that one of your feet is on his chair. And woe to him who sakes a telling, chanting "crap-shooter" what his "point" is!—Savannah News.

If you are in the habit of lending books it pays to keep the name of book, name of person who has it and date of loan. Then cross out the name when the book is returned.

## TREASURE HUNT IN ILLINOIS

A story equalling any of the thrillers of the movies, including a ten-year hunt for a hidden Aztec treasure, was revealed recently in a Justice's court at Effingham, Ill., when William McCaw, a prominent and reputable Effingham county farmer, was arraigned on a charge of assault and battery.

For the last ten years, says the St. Louis Star, it has been known that McCaw and a party of Robinson, Ill., citizens, had been digging on McCaw's Effingham farm for a hidden Aztec treasure.

Several hundred years ago, when Cortez settled in Mexico, he confiscated all the treasure of the Aztec Indians. A few, however, escaped and came north. They built several big mounds, it is contended, in western and southern Illinois. In Union township, Effingham county, there is such a mound. It was located on a farm.

Twenty years later, according to the story told in court, McCaw was standing on a street corner in Robinson, Ill., when he was approached by an Indian chief. The sight of the stone greatly affected the Indian. In broken sentences he told the mystery of the stone and declared it was an Aztec treasure stone and revealed the hidden place of unknown wealth.

It was contended at the trial that the Indian dropped dead, due to the excitement following his revelation of the stone. On the information given by the Indian, McCaw went to Effingham county and purchased the farm on which the mound is located in Union township. He began digging, worked many years and spent a good-sized fortune, but was unsuccessful.

A few months ago a party of Robinson citizens, hearing of his purpose, went to McCaw with a proposition to aid in the search for the treasure. In connection with an agreement to divide the treasure, McCaw was to receive \$10 a month for allowing these men to dig

on his farm. The party, including McCaw, labored day and night for a few weeks.

Finally the searchers came to a heavy slab of rock, which thus far has withstood several varieties of explosives. It was believed that the treasure was beneath this rock. Then, it is contended, McCaw, seeing a great wealth in his grasp, broke his original agreement and demanded more from the parties.

After a heated argument he began to eject them from his farm at the point of a knife. One man resisted. McCaw grasped him around the throat and was about to sink the knife into him, it is charged, when the stranger told how he

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