

seeing over the whole country two or three hundred thousand soldiers, armed to the teeth, coercing a high-strung people, not knowing from day to day when the spark will ignite, the effect of which no man can tell; no Christian Minister can look with satisfaction, and no minister in any State to-day but ought to feel it his bounden duty to do everything he can to see that this question is settled once and for all, and settled in a way to bring peace and prosperity to Ireland and to England, to the British Dominions and to the whole world. No question is settled that is not settled right, and the only way a question can be settled in a civilized country is by the will of the majority of the people.

Before I address myself to the religious aspect of the question I want to give you two or three reasons why so many common-sense practical men are dissatisfied with the present relationship. It is often said: "Why are you not content to remain part of the British Empire and to enjoy the rights of British citizenship and settle down and have common-sense?" Now, I am not going to deal with the historical argument, it is too long and it is practically admitted by all parties who know anything about it; it is admitted by British Statesmen that there is no real union between Great Britain and Ireland. Lloyd George discussing this question the other night in the House of Commons said that between Scotland and England there was union; between Wales and England there was union, but between Ireland and England there was only the union of the grappling hook. It is admitted that the union between Great Britain and Ireland has neither legal nor moral force.

Now, in Ireland, we are not for Revolution, although I don't deny the right of revolution if circumstances demand it, but we are simply asking for the justice that has been ours for generations and for centuries; the same justice that Belgium asked for and received; the same justice that Poland asked for and received; that is all that Ireland is asking to-day.

I will not dwell on the sentimental aspect of the question. You all know the great part that sentiment plays in any great cause, but I am not going to dwell on that; I prefer to dwell on two or three practical reasons why practical, common-sense business men, not affected by sentiment but by common-sense, why these men are dissatisfied with the present relationship.

There are two or three factors necessary for progress and prosperity and happiness of any people in any country: first, the right to develop their own industries natural to their soil; second, reasonable means of transit for the transportation of their products; third, a national, responsible, sound system of finance.

Now take these three factors. Take our Industries; there never has been a single industry of any consequence in Ireland, if it competed with anything in England, but was killed by parliament or by the hidden hand of finance. Take our coal. We have coal in Ireland, but if you want to develop it and form a company a number of Britishers will buy the controlling interest and appoint a manager of their own who is