

The St. John Standard

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THE IRISH CRISIS.

The situation in Ireland is a matter of grave concern, though reports of affairs there are apt to be exaggerated. Lloyd George had tackled the problem, which has hitherto defied the resources of British statesmanship, in a spirit and under conditions that held a reasonable expectation of progress towards a practical solution. He had apparently won over the Unionists in Great Britain, and if Ulster was asked to show some disposition to be reasonable, the broad outlines of the scheme to give Ireland an installment of Home Rule were made known months ago, but Sinn Fein only became more disorderly, and almost on the eve of the date fixed for the Prime Minister to present the details of his Irish bill to Parliament an attempt was made on the life of the Viceroy, Lord French. Years ago when the Liberal Government of the day had arranged with the Nationalists what is known as the Kilmainham Treaty, and there seemed a fair prospect of peaceful cooperation looking to a settlement of the Irish question, the "Invincible" extremists promoted the assassination of Lord Frederick Cavendish in Phoenix Park. Mr. Parnell and Mr. Dillon promptly issued a statement repudiating any sympathy or association with the act. But the Liberal Government reversed its attitude, and at the instance of Sir William Harcourt passed panic legislation, suspending trial by jury in Ireland; repressive measures were taken in a severe manner, and the old struggle began anew.

The Coalition Government has shown a more lenient spirit. After the attempted assassination of Lord French, the Premier announced that the Government's policy would not be influenced by the actions of extremists, and trial by jury was continued in face of the fact that it was found impossible to secure convictions for murders of Royal Irish constables. The Premier introduced the bill offering Ireland two Parliaments with considerable powers and a promise of further powers if they demonstrated their ability to co-operate through a joint Parliament. But the House adjourned without adopting the measure. At present the government of Ireland is more or less military, and disorders have increased; battles on a small scale between the Royal Irish Constabulary and bands of Sinn Feiners. In this disturbed situation the Coalition has a difficult task. Crime, even of this black order, is no excuse for delaying self-government in Ireland, but there are elements in the Coalition who a few years ago would have revolted at the idea of offering any measure of Home Rule to Ireland so long as there were any evidences of rebellion there. The crux of the present situation is the test it affords of the Government's capacity to go ahead with its task, regardless of any forces which may be working openly or covertly against an Irish settlement. The lesson of the past is that coercion and repression are not of themselves sufficient to exterminate political crime and dissatisfaction in Ireland, and that manifestations of these have usually been coincident with administrative mistakes and misapplication of administrative force. There is nothing essentially criminal about the Irish temperament; but the Irish spirit frets, and is inflamed, and loses its sense of proportion under the continued military government of the country.

It may be assumed that the British Government is influenced by the position the Irish problem has taken in international affairs, as a test of Britain's sincerity towards the cause of democracy. The same aspect of the question ought to have some effect upon the Irish people; it is up to them to prove their capacity for self-government by adjusting their internal differences. With the best intentions in the world the British Government's plans are bound to fail unless Ireland, North and South, shows some political sense, recognizes the facts of the situation, and realizes the need of compromise. With the British Government ready to recognize that the development of the national consciousness of Ireland demands new forms of self-expression, there is no particular reason for Ulster to fear it; and the South must be willing to accept a measure of self-government as a beginning and not as a final scheme. At present the conditions look critical, but the irreconcilability may be mostly on the surface. It may still be hoped that the apparent sincerity of Lloyd George's offer, coupled with the desire to remove the reproach of the dastardly outrages which are dishonoring Ireland before the world, will have the effect of arousing the moderate elements to take command of the situation.

U. S. AND THE TREATY.

It seems likely that Washington will amend its attitude on the question of the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations. Reports that the Senators

are talking of compromise are at any rate significant. Those Senators who a few weeks ago wished to make the Peace Treaty and the League an issue in the Presidential elections have apparently had reason to change their minds.

When the Peace Treaty was under fire in the Senate there was a certain ebullition of pro-German and anti-British feeling in many parts of the United States. Possibly it corresponded to the wave of anti-French feeling which was apparent in the Republic for a while after the soldiers returned home. Doubtless it was more voracious than deep-seated. Something like a reaction is now in evidence. At any rate there is a revolt against the Senate idea of the United States should adhere to the pre-war policy of isolation. Manifestations of the new feeling that the United States should shoulder her share of world responsibility are not wanting. A multitude of organizations, commercial, religious, philanthropic and patriotic, have recently demanded ratification of the Treaty. The other day the Boston Chamber of Commerce, the greatest business body in New England, took a referendum on the question of immediate ratification of the Treaty by mutual concessions in the Senate; the ballot was 1,530 for and only 304 against. Senator Lodge would appear to have but a small following among the business men of his own State.

American business men have had reasons recently to become interested in the European situation. It must have become clear to them that unless Europe is placed on its feet economically, American foreign trade is bound to suffer. They must also have realized that the efforts of England and France to reconstruct broken Europe cannot attain the results that might be expected if they had the cooperation of the United States, relatively well-off financially, and capable of exerting great political and moral influence upon the new nations of Europe. Economic considerations dictate America's acceptance of a share of the task of reconstructing Europe. Already there has been a falling off of America's trade with Europe, and this is bound to have its effect upon the political aspects of the question before the American nation. If President Wilson recovers his health, he is sufficiently stubborn to fight another election on the question of the Treaty, and the new-born pride of the nation in its foreign trade, menaced by the failure of the Senate to allow America to take her proper part in world affairs, might be expected to rally to his support. The way things are shaping, the Republican Senators are likely to dodge the possibility of a Presidential election on the Peace Treaty, and the chances are they will yet consent to ratification in a manner acceptable to the other powers.

BALANCE OF POWER.

Unless science discovers new sources of power, diminishing coal supplies will compel a great migration of the people of the Mother Country to the Overseas Dominions, according to Sir Charles Parsons, President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Great Britain's industrial and commercial progress, her whole position as a world power, has been built on coal. She will not have cheap coal in the future; the miners are demanding more and more money, the difficulties of mining coal increase, and the supply is in measurable distance of exhaustion. A waning industrial power is therefore possible in Britain, for her water powers are small, and though oil has been discovered in certain parts of the country it is so far a negligible quantity.

Great Britain is said to have but one per cent. of the world's water powers. Hence, unless the tides or waves can be harnessed, or some other form of energy rendered available, the time is not far distant when British industry will have reached its maximum capacity, and a great emigration of her people will have to begin. Canada when this time arrives may expect a considerable influx. It is estimated that this country has a possible water power development of 20,000,000 horse power, besides large coal fields and oil areas of unknown extent. At present only about 1,800,000 horse power is being developed from the water supplies. No other British Dominion has such potential resources of industrial power as Canada; and it occupies a favorable position for trade with both Europe and Asia. At present Great Britain utilizes six and a half times as much power in her industries as this country does; so there will have to be very considerable development here before it is on the power level of the Mother Country. If or when the time comes that Canada operates larger industrial power than the Mother Country it will not be long before the balance of political power shifts too, and this country becomes the predominant partner in the commonwealth. The prospect which Canada's possession of potential in-

dustrial power holds out is not a discouraging one. But the Mother Country has gone out and procured possession of the bulk of the oil resources of the world, and will probably continue to do business at the old stand for a long while yet. And then as necessity arises she is likely to solve the problem of discovering new sources of power.

WHAT THEY SAY

Bolshevik Statistics. (London Free Press.) Are we, or are we not to believe the Bolshevik organ, *Isvestia*, of Moscow, when it says that 1,400 persons were shot by order of the Bolsheviks during the first three months of 1919?

The Parliamentary Outlook. (Toronto Mail and Empire.) No legislation is expected until the end of the Union Government's fall term. Two or three years of comparative political peace in the Federal arena will give economic and commercial conditions a chance to settle down. Stability and avoidance of too much partyism in national politics are Canada's main need just now.

The New Irish Proposal. (Boston Transcript.) Had the British Government's new plan for Irish self rule been put forward ten years ago, it might have a lot with instant success. Coming as it does at a period of extreme tension in the Irish situation, Lloyd George's proposal will no doubt be repudiated by the irreconcilables as a basis for permanent settlement. Unquestionably the offer of the British premier is the most liberal and generous of any of the four Home Rule measures submitted to Parliament. It is nevertheless virtually certain that the plan will prove unacceptable to the Sinn Fein party, and that they will marshal all their forces to bring about its defeat.

The Bread Supply. (Edmonton Bulletin.) The international institute of agriculture reports that in the northern hemisphere the wheat crop last season was only seventy-six million bushels below the average for the last five years, while barley, which is used largely in substitution for wheat in Europe—shows a gain of thirty-nine million bushels over the average. The potato yield was twenty-seven thousand bushels over the average, which likewise helps to offset the shortage of wheat. The figures at least show that the shortage of breadstuffs is not alarming, and that with fair distribution and the avoidance of waste there is need neither of famine nor of famine prices.

The Packers' Combination. (New York Times.) Better cause of action for the dissolution of the packers' combination could not be stated than that set forth by Attorney-General Palmer when he says that "in general this decree prevents the defendants from exercising any further control over the marketing of live stock. It forever prevents them from any control over the retailing of meat products. . . . But, greater than all, it establishes the principle that no group of men, no matter how powerful, can ever attempt to control the food table of the American people." It is not right, it is not necessary, it is not safe that control over practically the whole buying market and the whole selling market of food supplies, or over a very great part of them, should be lodged in the hands of the group of men.

A BIT OF VERSE

SONG-MAKERS.
No more we chide the drifting dust of years,
For down the Morning's stairs Pan's music's blown;
The Day Star's silver wreath with Evening blends,
And Dusk puts on her purple robes alone.
Have we not heard Life's thunders in the dawn,
And seen the golden Phoenix ringed with fire?
The Rose of Love showed us her naked soul
Beneath a star-cloaked sea of old desire.
Now bear we all the Bowl of Dreams on high

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Lew Davis was standing by the lam post talking to each other, and Lew sed, G, look whose coming, wats he got on his sleeve?
Meaning Puds Simkinnes alsey cuzza Persey with a black morning band around his arm, and I sed, Gosh, its a morning band, and Lew sed, This ed; morning, its darn near evening and I sed, Not that kind of morning, the kind of morning you ware wen sumbody dies to show you appreciate it.
Gosh, sumbody must be ded, we better be polite to him, sed Lew Davis. Wich we ganerly atnt, and wen he came up I sed, Hello Persey, how you bin?
All rite, sed Persey.
How you feeling, Persey? sed Lew.
All rite, sed Persey.
And I kept on wondering who did, not wanting to ask him rite out, so I sed, wares your father, Persey? Thinking he mite say, In hevvin, in case it was his father, and
All rite, sed Persey. Proving it wasent his father, and
Lew sed, Hows your mother, Persey?
All rite, sed Persey, and Lew Davis sed, Aint she even bin sick?
No, why should she? sed Persey, Lew not telling him wry, and I sed, Hows everybody elts in your family, Persey?
All rite, sed Persey, and Lew sed, Well then wat the hecks the idea of wanting that morning band?
O that, thats for my canary berd, my poor little canary berd died, sed Persey.
Aw heck, sed me and Lew Davis. And we started to push him all over the pavement to show him wat we thawt of him.
Not being much.

And flaut our crowns of Joy, with poppies hung;
Beside a sleeping lake the lilies leant,
And round our feet the mealed whisp'ers flung.

The Night's cool voice is stirred to fluting strains,
Earth spills her scarlet wine to keep us strong;
For Beauty, setting fingers at our lips,
Unsealed our hearts with song.
—J. Corson Miller, in Boston Transcript.

A BIT OF FUN

Always Acceptable.
The fact that a man has promised his wife not to gamble never makes him afraid to take home the turkey he won in a raffle.

At the Wrong End.
Grocer—Now that you've come in for a little money, I hope you'll pay me what you owe me.
Owen Mutch—Let's see, your name's Zimmerman, isn't it? Sorry, old man, but I'm paying off all my creditors in alphabetical order.

Doing His Duty.
Father—Now, my son, I'm going to give you some good advice. Some day you'll wish you had taken it. It's the same advice I wish I had taken when my dad gave it to me—Life.

Mistake in Symptoms.
Housewife—Got a hacking cough and a headache? Well, I've a little wood you could hack and it might cure your headache.
Tramp—Much obliged mum; but my 'ealache aint' of the splittin' variety.—London Opinion.

Her Gentle Sarcasm.
He (with newspaper)—Here's a prophet who predicts the death of one of our greatest men within the next few weeks.
She—Is your insurance policy all paid up?—Boston Transcript.

Two View Points.
Spinster (romantically)—"Men never perform brave deeds in these days to show their love for women."
Bachelor—"Don't they marry them?"—London Answers.

Brief Directions.
"Now show me obesity, doctor?"
"Diet."
"And my gray hair?"
"Dye it."

Disappearing Type.
"Do you believe a gun could be made to shoot around a corner?"
"No, but the sight of a creditor often has that effect upon a man."—Boston Transcript.

HAD PLANNED TO DISRUPT CURRENCY OF UNITED STATES

New York, Jan. 6.—Proof that the United States was also included in the conspiracy of the Lenin-Trotsky regime to disrupt the currency of the world by flooding the Allied nations with counterfeit money, has been revealed in documents seized in the raids, according to Federal agents. The money is said to have been smuggled into the country by way of Mexico and many counterfeit \$500 and \$100 bills have been discovered. Information now in the hands of Federal officials indicate that the Moscow mint has turned out millions of dollars worth of bank notes of England, France, Italy, Japan and the United States. The sum appropriated for this country is said to be \$200,000,000.

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