

The Catholic Record

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1921

WHERE "ULSTER" LEADS

We have seen that the Ulster Legend so assiduously fostered is refuted by official facts so far as education is concerned. With regard to grants of money for University scholarships, on similar principles to those awarded by the County Councils in England, Ulster's contribution per 1,000 of population is £1 14s, whereas Connaught heads the list with 27 18s 2d, and the average for all Ireland is 24 10s 11d.

SIR PHILIP GIBBS AND FATHER DUFFY

Few there are throughout the English-speaking world who, during the dark and uncertain days of the world war, did not thrill to Philip Gibbs' account of heroic struggle. His letters never stated, for he was not only the greatest of war correspondents, but the most human of writers, master of those touches of nature that make the whole world kin. He has written books that are read in every language; and the readers must be few who are not the better for the reading.

HOUSE CLASSIFIED BY THE POLICE AS THE RESORTS OF HABITUAL CRIMINALS

Yearly average 1908-1912:—Leinster 7.4, Ratio per 100,000 0.61; Munster 8.8, Ratio per 100,000 0.62; Connaught 12.2, Ratio per 100,000 0.91; Ulster 16.8, Ratio per 100,000 1.35; All Ireland 12.2, Ratio per 100,000 0.96.

HABITUAL CRIMINALS AT LARGE

enumerated by the police in April of each year: Yearly average for the five years 1908-1912:—Leinster 89.6, Per 100,000 of population 6.88; Munster 88.8, " " " 7.02; Connaught 12.2, " " " 0.91; Ulster 16.8, " " " 1.35; All Ireland 77.2, " " " 6.16.

HABITUAL CRIMINALS RATIO

Table with 4 columns: County, Ratio per 100,000, Ratio per 100,000 of bad, Ratio per 100,000 of total. Rows include Belfast, Sheffield, London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Dublin Metrop., London Metrop., City Police Det.

MR. KNIGHT GIVES TALKS

Mr. Knight gives talks more comprehensive, but the result is always the same: Belfast heads the list. No city in all Great Britain, large or small, can depose the Ulster metropolis from its bad eminence. It is a sad and saddening task to analyze conditions in Belfast. It is made necessary by the blatant boasting of the superiority of "Ulster" over the rest of Ireland. Mr. Knight in "Ireland and the Ulster Legend" traces the prevalence of crime in Belfast to the appalling conditions of wretched labor prevailing amongst Belfast women, to the consequent forced neglect of

children by their mothers, the ignorance of the children due to the lack of public spirit in the matter of providing facilities for education, and to the over-working of immature children who should be at school.

Here we may subjoin a paragraph from the Report of the Home Office Committee of Investigation, appointed by Winston Churchill in 1911, to enquire into and report on the statements made in 1910 by Dr. H. W. Baillie, Medical Officer of Health for Belfast, in his Report on the sweating of women and out-workers in the linen trade in Belfast and district.

After giving the incredible conditions under which women worked—in the majority of cases investigated the wages were one penny and under per hour—the Report thus refers to the point:

"A painful feature incidental to out-work in the making-up trades in many towns is the extent to which children are employed at home. . . . The evidence of two school teachers (Qs. 2,443, etc., and 4,934, etc.) as well as that of Dr. Agnew, medical superintendent officer of health for Lurgan, should be carefully read in this connection. . . . We have an abundance of evidence that young children are often kept working for long hours even until very late at night. (Qs. 1,168, 1,376, etc.)"

CANADA'S NAVY

The following dispatch is of interest to the Canadians especially in view of the Imperial Conference to be held a few months hence:—London, March 8.—Canadian Associated Press.—Urging that the Imperial Government make an immediate statement of its naval intentions, Admiral Adair, speaking in the Commons last evening, declared that, with the exception of Australia and New Zealand, no dominion was making an adequate contribution to the naval defence of the Empire.

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

The following paragraph of the despatch must be quoted verbatim and without comment:—A charge of possessing seditious literature was not pressed against him, owing to the discovery that the suspected documents were Hebrew versions of the Psalms and not Gaelic publications, as at first supposed.

DEMOCRACY AND ASCENDANCY

I said, at the end of my last comments on Irish Democracy and English Policy, that long ago a bargain was made between the landed aristocracy to whom the confiscated lands of the Irish clans were given by corrupt kings, on the one hand, and the trading and manufacturing classes of England on the other; and that bargain has been kept down to this day.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE PRESENT wave of anti-Catholic feeling passing over the country, and the dreadful things Catholics are liable to do towards subverting liberty and progress, recall to mind certain words of the late R. W. Phipps, so long and favorably known as a publicist, and latterly as Commissioner of Forestry for Ontario, in which latter capacity he produced a series of Reports which have permanent literary value.

EASIER DIVORCE IN ENGLAND

By N. C. W. C. News Service. London, February 18.—The Lenten Pastoral of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster has just been read in all the churches of the diocese. With the greatest seriousness Cardinal Bourne calls on all the Catholics under his jurisdiction to consider "the danger of the ever-widening disintegration of family life."

EVILS OF EASIER DIVORCE

Cardinal Bourne does not shrink the issue, and he sets fairly and squarely before the Catholic people of Westminster, and through the press the whole reading public of London, some of the inevitable results that must flow from this making easier of divorce. "The marriage contract," the Cardinal continues, "is itself likewise endangered, and the authority of Holy Writ is called in question, and the traditional teaching of Christianity on those moral questions upon which the very foundations of true civilization ultimately rest, is gradually being abandoned."

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late it, another had assisted him. And the unfavorable judgments of the remainder were delivered after the Covenant was signed.

"One of these leaders, in conversation with several other delegates and myself exclaimed one day: 'The League of Nations indeed! It is an absurdity. Who among thinking men believes in its reality? I do not answer his neighbor; 'but, like the devil, I believe and tremble. I hold that it is a corrosive poison which destroys much that is good and will further much that is bad.'"

Nevertheless the mountain-moving faith of the Globe with its consequent sublime optimism must be very consoling to those who are able to share it.

REV. DR. IRWIN'S SEDITIOUS LITERATURE

A despatch from Belfast announces that Rev. Dr. J. A. Irwin, the scholarly Presbyterian minister who delivered several addresses in the United States and Canada in favor of Irish independence, has been sentenced by court-martial to one year in prison. The charge on which he was convicted was that of having a revolver and ammunition in his possession. This is a convenient charge easily substantiated—when the police are not too scrupulous.

The concluding paragraph of the despatch must be quoted verbatim and without comment:

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ment of religious prejudice, which has filled up all chinks, and has united all the parties interested directly in the Ascendancy; and has joined to them millions of voting Englishmen who had no direct financial interest in it, but who have had the idea that in maintaining it, they were somehow playing the puck on the Protestant side.

Religious clashes in Ireland did not originate in the Ascendancy; but religious peace would long ago have descended on that unhappy land, had not the parties to the Ascendancy deliberately, and of settled policy maintained discord; renewed the fires of religious hatred whenever they were dying down; and cast at all times a veil of sanctimonious religious hypocrisy over their sordid and selfish interests and schemes.

The Penal Laws were the most dreadful code of religious persecution ever devised in Europe; and I think it is the true reading of Anglo-Irish history that the motives for the making of them were financial and political rather than religious. I do not doubt that such public opinion as then existed in England; such Englishmen as knew there was such a country as Ireland; approved of the Penal Laws, if they had ever heard of them. And in such approval I have no doubt they were honest enough; as honest as bitter religious hatred ever is, or can be; for it can never be wholly honest.

But I do not believe, have never seen any reason to believe, that those who actually made and enforced the Penal Laws, believed in their religious necessity. The five hundred years of warfare for the conquest of Ireland had just ended. The clans were finally gone. The clan lands were finally confiscated; and the Penal Laws were passed to confirm and preserve that confiscation.

Being passed by bitter bigots, their bigotry gave them, of course, a better (or worse) heart for the work; but their main idea was to hold on to what they had robbed or got from robbers.

Nothing could be further from the modern idea of democracy than such an ascendancy, such an alliance, such predominance of selfish interests; disfranchisement of a whole people; monopoly of the land, the power, the money, and the trade of a nation.

This is what Ireland has been struggling with since 1690. And this is 1921. And in December 1920 English politicians, who, a few years ago, held Home Rule and treason to be synonymous terms, passed an act which they call a Home Rule Act.

And in this Act, and all across the face of it, is written the continuation of the Ascendancy, and the consequent denial of democracy.

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Cardinal Bourne urged that this opposition be carried to the very limits of the law. He said that if the world set aside the teaching of Jesus Christ in this matter it would inevitably grow corrupt and approach dissolution. The Master had laid down laws governing the social relations between individuals and among these He directed that marriage was to be dissolved only by death. If further facilities for divorce were tolerated in England the country would quickly descend once more to the level of paganism.

THE THOROUGHNESS of the preparations made by the Catholic Women's League to see that the protest of Catholic women against the bill is fully recorded show with what anxiety the matter is regarded. A "station" has been opened in each parish where signatures can be affixed to a monster petition which it is proposed to present to Parliament, and on a chosen Sunday special efforts are made to see that every woman in attendance signs. In this way it is hoped to give expression to the uniform conviction of Catholics on the subject, and at the same time to arouse public sentiment to a sense of the peril which the proposed legislation holds to that much-prized, and perhaps much-boasted institution, the English home.

IN ITALY, too, the hydra-headed monster has raised its head. A decision has just been given by the Court of Appeal, Milan, which actually introduces divorce for the first time into Italy. France, which has been so much in the eyes of the world as the scene of Gabriel D'Annunzio's exploits, produced this first divorce. The case came before the Milan Court through the fact that while the parties concerned had obtained citizenship of France, the decree of the court of that city would not hold good outside of it. In Milan the decree was sustained notwithstanding learned arguments against it, and in the name of the King of Italy it was directed to be entered on the Register of Civil Statutes.

THIS IS all the more extraordinary seeing that no Divorce Law exists in Italy, and the decree therefore forestalls proposed introduction of such legislation. This has aroused the Catholic conscience and vigorous measures of opposition have already been set on foot. Such legislation is repugnant to the great body of the Italian people, whose family affections are strongly developed, and sacred as the result of their saturation for countless generations with the teachings of the Church. The anti-clerical element which is behind the proposal is not to be confounded with the people as a whole.

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active body set up recently by the consent of Parliament, in its sessions at Westminster discussed the Buckmaster Bill, and the general assent of that assembly appears to have been in decisive opposition to the bill. The Anglican approach to the question was thoroughly sound, being from the religious and Christian standpoint, which, as Lord Farmer informed the assembly, was the only true standpoint of moral teaching. The purity of family life, the speaker continued, was at the bottom of the whole question of social advance.

For all their boasted appeals to "sound learning" and their reliance on the teachings of the Apostolic Fathers, the Anglican divines are, when they venture into the realm of definite dogmatic teaching, extremely shaky, indeed highly unreliable; and only appear to be on sure ground as they approach nearer to the definite teachings of the Roman Church. This sort of attitude is very well exemplified by the Bishop of Durham, who, as it is himself to appear at the Buckmaster bill and the issue of divorce, and yet counsel a church assembly to refrain from expressing an opinion on this matter because "there was on some points a serious conflict of theories by eminent critical scholars."

ANGLICANS ALSO OPPOSED

But fortunately the Bishop of Durham, whose liberalism in religion as well as in politics somewhat discounts the orthodoxy of his theological sentiments, did not win the day, and the sentiment and expressed opinion of the Anglican assembly was that the present involved situation in the national life is not going to be met by lowering the ideals of Christian marriage. The whole issue was very well summed up by Lord Hugh Cecil, who reminded the assembled prelates and laymen that if the State was of opinion that the Christian law of marriage was too hard for a world that had ceased to be Christian, then let the State allow licensed unions to which the legal consequences of marriage would attach, but don't expect the Church to recognize them. His objection was that what was being sought was that all sorts of union, which under the teaching of Christ are nothing more than adultery, should be recognized as marriages by Christian people and the Christian Church. And if the moral law is weakened in this manner, it would only prepare the way for that general moral apostasy of which there are too many signs in public opinion at the present time.

ATTITUDE OF NON CONFORMISTS

Thus far, then, both the Catholics and the representative Anglicans are united in their opposition to divorce on the same basis of Christian morality. How far that opposition can extend on the support of the Non-conformist or Non-episcopal churches is a matter of doubt. The Protestant Dissenters are not notoriously enthusiastic supporters of easier divorce; but at the same time their logically-constructed religious formulae do not appear to forbid divorce, which the official teachings of the Catholic Church and the Church of England do. Indeed, it was a Non-conformist lady preacher, a Miss Miss Maud Roydon, who by some extraordinary process found herself a member of the National Assembly of the Church of England, who put in a kind word for the Buckmaster divorce bill on the plea that "all marriages made in churches were not made by God."

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The Rowan Macaulay is deserving of commendation for its outspoken condemnation of those responsible for the holding in that town recently of a big public meeting at which a paid agitator discoursed on religious topics in a manner calculated to set ablaze the ever smouldering embers of religious prejudice and intolerance and accuse in the community a spirit of religious antagonism which cannot but be detrimental to its general welfare and harmful in many respects. The Mercury's rebuke was timely and well merited and will have the endorsement and approval of all right thinking men. On the other hand one cannot but be amazed at the fact that in the neighboring town of Perth, where the same agitator held forth, there should be found presiding as chairman at his meeting a member of His Majesty's judiciary, in the person of County Judge Scott. That in this country, where people of all creeds and nationalities look upon the judiciary as exemplars of tolerance and dispensers of even handed justice, one of their number should by his words and his actions give support and encouragement to a man who is going about the country indulging in calumnies and gross misrepresentations against those of

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