

## Solution to Ireland is Nearer Now.

T. P. O'Connor Thinks Irish Struggle Will End Soon—All Are Anxious for Settlement—Liverpool Irish Contributing Good Share of Troops to War.

London, Oct. 21.—John Redmond's debate on the Irish situation in the House of Commons excited more interest than perhaps anything that has occurred in Parliament since the beginning of the war. Mr. Redmond's speech was lucid, restrained in tone and packed full of facts dispassionately narrated. It was listened to with respectful silence, with few interruptions from the Conservatives. There was an occasional cheer from the Liberal and Labor benches.

The most remarkable proof of the success of Redmond's indictment was the division it brought about in the Commons, when forty-seven Liberals and Laborites voted with Redmond against the Ministry. The big vote of 106 for Redmond was the largest minority yet recorded since the opening of the war against the Ministry. The Liberal papers back Redmond's case; even so pronounced a faithful supporter of Liberalism and Mr. Asquith as the Daily News charges the Premier with want of courage of decision in his treatment of the whole Irish question, especially blaming him for his yielding to Lord Lansdowne and other Conservative leaders who broke down the Lloyd George settlement at the eleventh hour.

The most important question of the immediate future, the Home Rule situation, still remains unchanged, yet there are some things that clearly evolve from the debate. First, a majority of the Liberals and all of the Laborites are in favor of putting the Home Rule Act into immediate operation. Second, the Liberal and most of the Conservative members of the Cabinet are ready and anxious to make a second attempt to find a solution of the Home Rule question.

On this point Lloyd George's speech was especially noteworthy. He first promised an entire amendment of the treatment of the Irish question and a second point, remarkable from so pronounced an advocate of conscription, was his declaration that England must postpone any thought of conscription in Ireland until Irish opinion was improved by concessions to Irish national sentiment. Third, he made a fervent appeal to all parties in England and Ireland to co-operate in another attempt to make an agreement which would make immediate Home Rule possible.

### Much Work Before.

Never have I seen the House of Commons listen with more rapt silence to a speech, as to the simple, eloquent and deeply moved words of Lloyd George in making the appeal.

It must be confessed that until the Sinn Féin prisoners now confined in detention camps are released, until the treatment of men now undergoing penal servitude, already somewhat mitigated, is entirely transformed, and early and complete amnesty promised; and until the fiercely expressed opinion of Ireland is further appeased, no renewal of the attempt at settlement of the Home Rule question has much chance of success.

But with the return of the Irish people to their old faith in the Constitutional movement of the Irish party, with strong pressure on the



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Ministry and a practically unanimous opinion in Parliament favoring an early settlement, there is good ground for hoping that we may see the end of the long struggle before many months, certainly before the end of the war.

The sea-divided Gael, as the Irish orator is in the habit of saying, represents the fact that there is not one but many Irelands beside the Ireland within the Irish seas. There is an Ireland in the United States; there is an Ireland in the British Dominions; of Australia and Canada, and there is another Ireland, of which perhaps not so much is heard—the Ireland in Great Britain. Yet that latter section of the Irish race may well demand some attention. It now amounts to nearly two and a half millions of people.

Let me give my recent experience of a visit to Liverpool—which is really the capital of Irish nationality in Great Britain—as some indication of what Ireland within the shores of Great Britain thinks and feels about the war.

Everybody knows my position; I took it on the first day of the war; I have adhered to it without a moment's hesitation or doubt ever since. To me it has always been, it is, and it will be, a war between civilization and savagery, between Christian and Pagan ideals, between democracy and despotism, between liberty and slavery.

But one might well doubt whether the rank and file of the Irish in Liverpool might not have undergone the same process of disintegration as has come unfortunately on the Irish at home. The ties between Liverpool and Ireland are very close, not merely because a fourth, if not close upon a third, of the entire population of Liverpool is Irish, but because the trade relations between Liverpool and Ireland are so close and intimate that the two cities are in constant intercommunication and intercommunion.

Irish cattle are brought out every week by Irish salesmen; Irish provisions land by every Irish boat; and the distance between the city and Liverpool is so brief and can be done by such excellent boats, that there is a constant going and coming of all the sections of Irishmen for pleasure, for vacation, for visiting friends apart altogether from the close and large commercial ties. It was impossible, therefore to tell beforehand, whether some of the virus of Sinn Féinism and other popular lunacies in Ireland should not have spread to the Irish in Liverpool in these topsy-turvy times.

It would be perhaps an exaggeration to say that there isn't a Sinn Féin in Liverpool; there are a few; indeed, it is reported that some of the number left Liverpool to take part in the recent rebellion; but they are so few that really it requires some investigation to find them out. At the beginning of the war, perhaps the half hundred or so who adhere to the new doctrine of revolt from the constitutional movement, sought to interrupt the meetings which were held throughout Liverpool by the leaders of our organization, the United Irish League there. But they were confronted quite openly and boldly wherever they appeared.

The Irish in Liverpool are fortunate in having been able to organize their forces with great success. The Liverpool municipality is the only one in Great Britain where there is a distinct Irish party—fifteen in number—with their own chairman, their own secretary, even their own whips, and of course, their own caucus.

The Royal Liverpool regiment has had an Irish battalion for two generations, and during this war it has found innumerable recruits, not only in Liverpool but throughout Lancashire, Lancashire indeed has given proportionately more Irish soldiers to the Army than any other community in the country, with the possible exception of the Irishmen in and about Glasgow, another great center.

### Sunk Religious Differences.

The men and women whom I saw addressing had giving their sons to the war; many of them had lost them. There was a great ceremony at the pro-Cathedral for the souls of the dead soldiers of the Irish battalions. It is significant of the change of the best of the English spirit. Towards Ireland that the Lord Mayor—himself a stout Protestant and representative of the most Protestant, not to say the most Orange city in England—attended in his robes of office; and he was accompanied by members of the Municipality—including some Orange Tories, even a Jewish member.

They listened with that strange tranquility of Englishmen under criticism, which is always a marvel to those who don't know them, to very candid criticism of their religion; and to quite a lively survey of English Protestantism under the inspiration of Germans—"from Luther

to the Kaiser"—as Father Bernard Vaughan succinctly put it in a speech the next day to an equally mixed audience of Protestant and Catholic English and Irish.

But if I want to recount the thing which impressed me most as to the real feeling of the Irish in Liverpool—I must mention my visit to the schools and the college of St. Francis Xavier, the great Jesuit institution to which so many boys and girls of Irish parentage owe their education.

"How many of you have relatives in the army?" asked Father Parry, the Rector—"a father, an uncle or a brother?" Three-fourths of them held up their hands.

"How many of you have lost a relative in the war?" A third of them held up their hands.

"Do any of you want Germany to win?"

"No, no, no," the denial was rendered the more striking and pathetic because it came in the treble tones of childhood.

Such, then, is that Ireland which dwells in Liverpool. What German gold may have succeeded in doing elsewhere—what revolutionary insanity may have effected in people elsewhere—what the brutal and cruel methods of suppression adopted after the rebellion may have succeeded in diverting Irish minds from the larger issues of this tremendous conflict—I can say with perfect accuracy that the Irish in Great Britain remain steadfast to the position which they adopted unanimously at the beginning of the war.

They are like Lloyd George—they want a fight to the finish, and the triumph of those principles of the independence of small nations, the principle of Nationality of freedom and of democracy.

T. P. O'CONNOR.

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### Burned to Death at Port Williams.

Old Man and Two Children Lose Their Lives in Fire Last Night and Woman Not Expected to Live.

Port Williams, Oct. 31.—A terrible tragedy has come upon this little village. An old resident and two of his grandchildren were burned to death last night before midnight, a woman is not expected to live and her husband and two other children are seriously burned.

About eleven o'clock last night Harry Isenor, whose home was opposite the Port Williams Baptist Church, awoke to find the house filled with smoke. He hurriedly aroused his wife. Rushing to an adjoining room they seized two of the children and managed to get through the flames to the outside yard. In the meantime Mr. Isenor's father, a man of nearly eighty years of age, and two of the Isenor children, a boy of six and a little girl of eight, who were sleeping below stairs, perished in the fire. Mr. Isenor and his wife were so badly burned it was with difficulty neighbors were aroused. It is now feared that Mrs. Isenor will not live so severe are the burns she received.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. It evidently started near the ground, and before Mr. Isenor was awakened the lower portion of the house was nearly destroyed. The old gentleman who lost his life was partially paralyzed and completely helpless.

PROHIBITION.—To-day is the anniversary of the Prohibition Election, November 4th, 1915.

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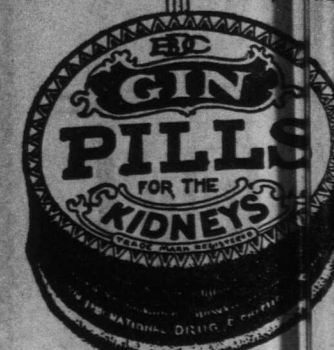
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GEORGE'S STATEMENTS.

Mr. Lloyd George's warning to neutrals and his declaration of our determination to continue the war until Germany has brought out the markable way the world's opinion that Germany is doing suffer one of the greatest blunders in history as the result of one of the greatest national crimes.

See how the world approves of Mr. Lloyd George's decision. See how the world approves of the decision which she has brought out of her head and for which she now in Britain.

"Mr. Lloyd George's statement comes as a veritable blast of freedom," says the Herald. "The Germans' day of lament is now dawning, and the attempt to prevent execution of judgment are traitors to mark."

### UNITED STATES IMPRESS

"The interview with Mr. George has created the greatest impression in the United States of land's determination to pursue war to its appointed end," says New York correspondent of the News. "The greatest display given to the interview by the papers throughout the whole world was the most prominent feature of the day, and in this city the Mail, and the World printed the front page with eight-column lines. The other papers were behind these in displaying the view."

"The United Press telegraphed President Wilson at his holiday at Ashbury Park. The President Colonel House, Mr. Wilson's envoy to the various European capitals, who was with him at the time, read the interview with greatest interest."

"I understand that the President's words have created a new Wilson's opinion that it is not to intervene or attempt to offer services, and incidentally the view strengthens the President's position, enabling him the better to

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