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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEB. 19, 1921

IRELAND AND THE ULSTER LEGEND

Last week in our notice of "Ireland and the Ulster Legend" we pointed out the unimpeachable official sources upon which this statistical study is based. The study itself is exhaustive and conclusive. Though we can not in the short space of an article show just how exhaustive and conclusive it is we may give enough to prove that the oft-repeated assertion of Ulster's superiority in wealth, progress, education and public spirit is sheer propaganda not only unsupported but positively contradicted by irrefutable facts officially established.

The valuation of agricultural holdings in Ulster per holding is less than in Leinster and Munster; and less than the average for all Ireland.

The Income Tax Gross Assessment under Schedules A (1) and B on Farm, and other lands, Farm Houses, etc., per head and per family of Land population is as follows:

	Per Head	Per Family
Leinster	£7 19 2	£36 15 2
Munster	£5 7 11	£28 2 1
Ulster	£4 11 5	£20 8 4
Connaught	£3 5 0	£16 1 3
All Ireland	£5 3 9	£24 14 9

And the Income Tax Gross Assessment on Land, Business Premises, Factories, Sites, Dwellings, etc., under Schedules A and B, year 1910-11, per capita of total population, was this:

Leinster	£5 15 4d	Munster	£4 15 6d
Ulster	£3 18s 10d	Connaught	£3 0s 9d
All Ireland	£4 2s 11d.		

Progressiveness and public spirit are well evidenced by the money contributed by ratepayers for Agricultural and Technical instruction.

Leinster raised by rates per 100 of her land population £18 2s 5d, and £8 18s 2d per 100 of her total population for agricultural and technical instruction.

For the same purposes Ulster raised by rates £7 11s 4d per 100 of her land population and £6 15s 8d per 100 of her total population.

These figures are from the returns for the five years, 1909-10 to 1913-14.

Closely allied in general significance are the figures for University Scholarships, Exhibitions and Bursaries under the University Act of 1908 which empowers local bodies to assist in supporting and promoting higher education.

From April 1, 1911, to March 31, 1914, following are the returns:

Leinster	£7,051.
Munster	£5,583.
Ulster	£2,687.
Connaught	£4,679.

These figures show that the debasing and paralyzing effects of the hideous Penal Laws of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries failed to quench in the Irish people the ardent desire for knowledge and the burning zeal for its diffusion that made Ireland during the Dark Ages the University of Europe and sent her missionary scholars to found and staff the monasteries that kept burning the torch of learning and holy living, and earned for Ireland the title of the Island of Saints and Scholars.

But it is not alone in zeal for higher education that Ulster lags far behind the rest of Ireland; in the matter of primary education her record is quite as bad.

In his Report to the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland in 1906, the Senior Inspector, Mr. P. J. Kelly, observed:

"It is a curious fact that a prosperous and progressive city such as Belfast . . . should, nevertheless, be the most backward in the

British Isles in the matter of School Accommodation. I venture to say that the poorest counties in Ireland are better off in this respect than a city which rightly prides itself on its wealth and enterprise and progress."

The italics are ours.

In a Report made by Mr. E. P. Dewar, M. A., for the year 1906-1907 it was stated:

"For some years past school building has practically been at a standstill. . . The churches which in other places are leaders in educational movements and which in former times were so in Belfast, have somehow stepped down from their position, and taken a less prominent part in the school life of the city."

Would it be uncharitable to interject the suggestion that they have become too biased with politics, too much given to the bawling of Catholics, to self-glorification—the very antithesis of Christian humility—too much concerned with propagating the Ulster Legend to occupy themselves with bettering the deplorable educational conditions which disgrace their city and condemn many of their people to ignorance.

The Senior Inspector, Mr. Dewar continues:

"For some reason schools have not been built, and the poor of the city were the first to feel the loss. The classes who were least able to help themselves were forced to stand by and see their children deprived of the chance of receiving an education."

Mr. Dewar then goes on to give instances of over-crowding that would be incredible if not found in the cold type of his official Report:

"Turning over my notes at random, I shall give the dimensions of a few of these rooms and the number of pupils found in them when I visited; also the number of pupils which could be accommodated in each, allowing 9 ft. square for each pupil."

Class room	Dimensions in feet	Number present	Number who could be accommodated at 9 feet
1	15x9x12	48	15
2	15x9x12	31	15
3	15x11x9	32	17
4	12x7x13	30	11
5	12x7x13	38	11
6	11x5x17	31	9

"It is clear that these rooms were so congested as to prohibit the free movements of the bodies of the pupils, but when I add that the rooms were inadequately lighted and heated, it will be further evident that the brains of the scholars must have been as inert as their bodies."

"In one school I found 40 pupils and a teacher in a room 12 ft. 10 in. by 7 ft. 5 in.; in another there were 44 pupils and a teacher in an apartment 11 ft. by 9 ft.; 66 infants and a teacher in a room 15 ft. by 9 ft."

"The Black Hole of Calcutta is the only instance of greater overcrowding that occurs to me."

If these conditions obtained in Quebec how righteous indignation would ring from pulpit and platform in Ontario. But pulpit and platform will be silent though ranters against Quebec and in favor of Ulster have held forth eloquently in direct contradiction to facts and realities.

The quotation is long but we cannot refrain from citing the last paragraph:

"The Schools under R. C. management are, in the main, good and suitable buildings, erected in recent years at much expense to the localities and I desire to say that the foregoing remarks do not apply at all to these Schools. The Methodists, too, have done well, and they are almost entitled to exemption from these observations. There are some good buildings under R. C. and Presbyterian management, but in the main as regards these schools, it is, I think, clear that the present system of providing school accommodation in Belfast has hopelessly broken down, and I would say it is more particularly so in the case of schools under lay management."

Again the italics are ours.

The Statistics and Reports cover the years 1906-1914. Right down to the last year—1914—the Reports of Inspectors bear witness to the fact that conditions had not improved.

We shall conclude with an extract from the Report of the Senior Inspector, No. 2 Circuit, for School Year 1913-14:

"Since I came to Belfast thirteen years ago, I have been referring in all my general reports to the inadequate and often unsatisfactory accommodation which many of the city schools afford. I have charge of 37 city schools on the Antrim side of the Lagan, and 72 on the County Down side. It is among the 72 referred to that overcrowding is most marked. . . It is of interest to note that the average on the rolls

in Belfast for 1912 was less than the average for 1905 by 1,369, whereas in Dublin the average for 1912 was 1,661 greater than the corresponding average for 1905. . ."

"Another school has accommodation for 70, but 104 were present. I found 43 pupils in a room 12 ft. 11 in. by 11 ft. 9 in. This room has a sloping, corrugated iron roof, one end of which is only a few feet from the floor. I make bold to say that a County Down farmer would not think it too good for a fowl house."

But overcrowding has other logical and necessary consequences while those who should hold themselves responsible are proclaiming the glories of enlightened and progressive Belfast.

The Inspector continues:

"In the city schools children come to school at an early age. It is certain, however, that there are many children whose early education has been grossly neglected. I have noted a case where a number of boys were admitted who were too old to be enrolled as infants, but were unfit for the First Standard."

And with this we shall conclude:

"The half-time pupils in one school were classified by Standards as follows: Standard I, 59; II, 102; III, 113; IV, 38; V, 22—329."

"All these pupils must have been over twelve years of age, and as nearly 50% of them were enrolled in Standards I. and II, it is clear that their attendance must have been irregular in the extreme. The teacher informed me that 19 of those enrolled in Standard I. had to be taught with the infants."

LAX HOME DISCIPLINE

Before an association of women in Toronto last week Judge Coatsworth delivered an address which is thus summarized in The Globe:

In an address on "Criminals and Probation," Judge Coatsworth rather left his audience in doubt as to the city's right to be called "Toronto the Good." In the year 1919 5% of the population of the city of New York appeared in the criminal courts, but in Toronto during that same year 30,000, or 0.5% of the population, stood before Judges.

Just at present, the speaker affirmed, there was a wave of crime passing over the city which was involving many young boys. Usually schemes of burglary, etc., were concocted in pool-rooms, but this winter had brought to light a bawling scheme of affairs. The young man was arrested as he left his Bible class, he was leaving church. Two boys guilty of housebreaking were found to be members in good standing of the Y.M.C.A., and another delinquent was a pupil of a collegiate institute preparing for his senior matriculation examination.

Much of the trouble, said Judge Coatsworth, was due to lax home discipline, and he advocated a public official whose duty it would be to stop the first signs of resistance of parental control.

A proper system of probation should also be established. In New York, where this method had been tried out, it had been found that 75% of those under probation made good.

Judge Coatsworth's study suggests many observations, but we shall confine our remarks to the cause of the marked criminal tendencies of an increasing proportion of the population. Nor is it the increase alone that is alarming. Judge Coatsworth notes also the fact that criminals come not from haunts of the idle and the vicious, but from the better-class homes, from amongst those surrounded and safeguarded by the influences of education and religion.

Undoubtedly the speaker puts his finger on the sore spot when he says: "Much of the trouble is due to lax home discipline."

We like that word—discipline. No doubt the learned judge chose it deliberately and with full knowledge of the ideas which it connotes. But how rare is the use of that word. How few there are who have it in their vocabulary at all. To the many "discipline" conveys but the vaguest and most confused idea. And yet it is a good old word, coming down to us through all the civilized ages.

Let us then turn to the Dictionary and clarify our concept of the term.

Discipline. [From the Latin disciplina which is from discipulus—a disciple, which in turn comes from discere—to learn.]

1. The treatment suitable to a disciple or learner; education; development of the faculties by instruction and exercise; training, whether physical, mental or moral.

"Discipline aims at the removal of bad habits and the substitution of good ones, especially those of order, regularity and obedience."

2. Training to act in accordance with established rules; accustoming to systematic and regular action; drill.

3. Subjection to rule; submissiveness to order and control; control; habit of obedience.

4. Severe training, corrective of faults; instruction by means of misfortune, suffering, punishment, etc.

That does not exhaust the shades of meaning in the application of the word; but it will suffice for our purpose. This paragraph, however, may usefully be added:

"We remove an evil by correction; we prevent it by discipline. Correction extends no further than to the correcting of particular faults; but discipline serves to train, guide, and instruct generally."

With a clear idea of what discipline means, its importance, its utility, its necessity, is grasped at once. And at once we realize the far-reaching truth of Judge Coatsworth's sound judgment: "Much of the trouble is due to lax home discipline."

His diagnosis is correct: home discipline is too often lax when it is not altogether absent.

For a generation we have boasted of this laxity; we have relegated Solomon and the Bible to a less-enlightened stage of development; and we have substituted "self-expression" for "discipline" in our theory of education.

Now we have the result and the tree may be judged by its fruit.

We shall have to get back to the old truth confirmed by ages of human experience before our own, and confirmed very strikingly by our own experience of novel theory.

"He that spareth the rod hateth his son. He that loveth him correcteth him betimes."

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but the child that is left to his own will bringeth his mother to shame." "Hast thou children? instruct them and bow down their neck to their childhood."

These and scores of other passages in Holy Writ emphasize the need of discipline in the home. One special and specific Commandment of God confirms the authority of parents; but it imposes on those who exercise parental authority an inescapable duty, a solemn responsibility.

It is because parents of today fail to realize that duty, to measure up to that responsibility, or to sense the dignity of being the repositories of authority, both natural and divine, that it can truthfully be said by those who trace moral delinquency to its origin that much of the trouble is due to lax home discipline.

We have all learned in the Catechism that examination of conscience before Confession should concern itself particularly with the duties of our station in life. Do parents make their parental duties a subject of serious examination? If some parents are honest with their conscience it is quite plain that their conscience needs enlightening.

Sound as Judge Coatsworth is with regard to the source of much of the evil which he deprecates, he shows that he is bitten with the modern craze for laws and yet more laws, officials and yet more officials. He advocated, we are told, "a public official whose duty it would be to stop the first signs of resistance to parental control."

"When should I commence the education of my son?" a mother is said to have asked Fenelon. "How old is he?" "Four years," replied the mother. "If you have not yet begun," the great French educator replied, "you have lost four years."

The years before the child starts to school are, in the opinion of many, the most important educational period of the child's life. Certainly the time for discipline—the most important element in education—begins before the child walks or talks. Home discipline of course does not end with the beginning of school life; it never ends.

But it is giving a "public official" a large order to regulate the discipline or to suppress indiscipline in the hundred thousand homes of Toronto!

The Judge has diagnosed the disease all right; but his remedy—if the summarized report does him justice—is, to say the least tinged with modern popular quackery which is a poor substitute for the stern and unchanging old truths inculcated from the time of Solomon.

TRIAL BY JURY
BY THE OBSERVER

A judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia has written a series of articles in the press, advocating the abolition of trial by jury. His articles were ably written; and the criticisms he makes unanswerable; but as for his main conclusion, it is, to say the least, not convincing: it does not seem to be a conclusion that necessarily follows on his premises and argument.

That juries have done, and often do, ridiculous things, is common knowledge; but, despite a rare case such as one cited by the judge in one of his articles, it is equally well known that juries seldom err against persons accused of crime; though they very often err in their favor.

Perhaps the best argument for retention of the jury is to be found in this matter of criminal accusations. Civil suits are less important, as they seldom involve personal disgrace.

In criminal cases, I think it very undesirable to do away with trial by jury. And one must remember that most persons now arrested for crime are tried by the County Court Judges, without a jury; by their own consent, of course; and that even police courts have large trial jurisdiction, by consent of the prisoner. Thus, the use of a jury, except in a few of the greater crimes, has become optional; and that option is being more and more generally exercised by choosing trial without a jury.

Some may argue from this that trial by jury has outlived its usefulness; but I do not think that that is a necessary conclusion. Indeed, I think it possible to argue, and not unreasonably, that when, in nine cases out of ten, an option is available, there can be no objection to preserving the jury for those who want it. A man cannot be tried for his life before a judge without a jury; and I, for one, am not prepared to give any judge exclusive jurisdiction in a matter of life or death.

The judge who wrote these able articles has told some good stories at the expense of juries. Some good ones can also be told at the expense of judges. An English K. C. relates of an English judge that counsel once won a case before him by asking the plaintiff: "Did you ever preach at a street corner?" The judge had a violent, unreasoning antipathy to street preachers; and when the plaintiff said "yes," all the lawyers present knew the judge would deny credit to his whole testimony. Judges are human.

Judges are lawyers; and will not be appointed to the bench until they have had long experience at the bar. The bar is an essential preparation for the bench; but it needs no argument to show that in some ways it is the worst possible preparation for the bench. The trial lawyer is a partisan, as a rule: he flings himself into one side of a case, leaving the opposing counsel to be responsible for his side; and, looking to judge to see fair play, he is not always too much in need of it himself. Partisanship, day in and day out, is not a good preparation for judicial work. Some lawyers slough all that off the moment they ascend the Bench. Others, with the best will in the world, cannot do that.

In civil trials, the jury is passing rapidly out of use; and it ought to be allowed to pass, if at all, in the way it is now going; and there seems to be no need for abruptly putting an end to it. Even in civil matters, there are good arguments for retaining it, at least as an option. One is this: Judges, like other people, are disposed to be skeptical about things which have never entered into their experience; especially if their experience seems to indicate that such things are unlikely. "The judge," said a defeated litigant to me one day, "the judge said he would not believe that any sane man would do such a thing." And I had to laugh; for the thing which the judge rejected as unbelievable was as common as the sun; though not amongst such people as the judge had spent his life with.

And there, in the 20th century, is a practical illustration of the basic principle of the jury system; that a man shall have his case heard by men who know him, if not personally, at least through his sort and kind. The judges of Canada stand very, very high in the respect and esteem of the Canadian public. Need I say that, if the jury were abolished tomorrow, our judges would not stand half as high in that estimation and esteem five years from now? To me, the thing is obvious enough. Once they had to take over the burden of deciding the facts; once men knew they could no longer have a jury if they wanted one, they would begin to adopt an attitude towards the Bench very different from that which is traditional in Canada. They would distrust them as men in another plane in life, who, they would imagine, did not understand them. And here once more we are at the foundation; trial by one's peers.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE LATEST thing in Presbyterian "Vespers" with Ruthenian "Masses," prayers for the dead and surpliced choirs; the good people are certainly making progress. If only they will act on Dr. Jowett's maxim, that "ultimately one's feelings are determined by one's lookings. In the long run we turn our feet in the direction of our gaze."

IT is a constant theme with adherents of the "Reformed" Kirk of Scotland and with most of those who profess the Presbyterian creed, that the Reformation in that unhappy country was brought about purely out of zeal for righteousness and purity of doctrine. Those who have been able to emancipate themselves from the thrall of this fantastic idea, and brought open minds to the study of the many original documents which have been brought to light in recent years, know that in Scotland no less than in England or on the continent, the Reformation was hatched in treason and perfidy and brought to fruition by all the basest arts known to fallen humanity.

IN THE first place the old Catholic clergy of Scotland were conspicuous for their loyalty to King and country. It is now universally recognized (outside, of course, of the element referred to) that Cardinal Beaton was the great patriot of the period. He stood for the independence of his country and manfully resisted every attempt of the English King (Henry VIII.) to subvert it. At the instigation, then, of that voluptuous tyrant, the great Cardinal was foully murdered, and in the perpetration of that infamous deed the "reformers" were his willing tools. Knox himself was in the plot, and his "laugh" when informed that the deed was accomplished, has come echoing down through the centuries.

THE CARDINAL, though the chief, was not the only patriot. He was supported throughout by the Catholic clergy, who, assembled in convention at St. Andrews, discussed the probability of a war with England, and resolved to levy a sum of ten thousand pounds by a tax upon all prelates and benefices of the yearly value of not less than forty pounds, "for the independence of the Catholic Church and of Scotland," and such was their spirit, that rather than the war should languish they vowed they would melt down both their own plate and the plate of their churches; nay, if need were, would take the field in person. (Robertson.) That had been the spirit of the Scottish priesthood throughout the long struggle with England, for the independence of their country extending over many centuries. It is so easy for the average Presbyterian Scot to forget that when he sings "Scots Wha hae," he is but acclaiming the glories of his Catholic ancestors.

ON THE other hand, what were the "reforming" clergy like? Here is a contemporary account of them: "The ministers, as they call them, are either apostate monks, or laymen of low rank, and are quite unlearned, being cobblers, shoemakers, tanners, or the like, while their ministrations consist merely of declamation against the Supreme Pontiff, and the holy sacrifice of the altar, the idolatry of the mass, worship of images, and invocation of saints. These and other impieties they are continually shouting into the ears of the credulous multitude, who know no better." Knox meanwhile still sat back and "laughed."

He was a very brave man when events were going well with him, but when the tide appeared to be turning he speedily got out of the way. Twice at least, when danger threatened, he "withdrew to Geneva," and there tarried till the danger had passed. It was no part of Knox's plan to sacrifice himself for the "cause."

BUT, we are told, the Reformation was but the vindication of the rights of conscience. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and this is how it worked out. "The Kirk was not disposed to take a peaceful course. The permission even of an individual case of Catholic worship, however secret; the attendance of a solitary person at even one Mass, in the remotest corner of the land, at the dead hour of night, in the most secluded chamber, and where none could enter but such as knelt before the altar for conscience sake, and in all sincerity of soul; such worship and its toleration for an hour, was considered an open encouragement of antichrist and idolatry. To extinguish the Mass forever, to compel its supporters to embrace what the Kirk considered to be the purity of Presbyterian truth, and this under the penalty of life and limb, or in its mildest form of treason, banishment and forfeiture, was considered not merely praiseworthy, but a point of high religious duty; and the whole apparatus of the Kirk, the whole inquisitorial machinery of detection and persecution, was brought to bear upon the accomplishment of these great ends." Thus, Tytler, in his "History of Scotland." Tytler was no Catholic but he had an eye for truth and courage to proclaim it. It is well in this sordid age to be reminded of these things.

THE MANY friends throughout the Province of Mr. Michael P. Doherty, Superintendent of Colonization Roads in the Department of Public Works, Ontario, will deeply sympathize with him in the death of his daughter under circumstances of unusual sadness. Mr. Doherty has been in the public service for many years, and in his official capacity has been brought into contact with people of every walk of life in both New Ontario and the older Province. He has also made for himself an honorable record as a Catholic layman, devoted to good works and ever receptive to the cry of the needy or distressed. In the death, then, of a loved daughter, Mrs. John S. Wood, who had become the mother of twins only a few days before, the sorrowing husband, father and family will have the sympathy of all. Mrs. Wood, who had been married just a year, was a young woman of quite exceptional graces of person and character, and will be much missed in her wide circle of friends. R. I. P.

ANTI-LEAGUE POLICY
MAY WORK BETTER

AMERICA CAN CONTROL PEACE AND DISARMAMENT STATES
SIR PHILIP GIBBS

Washington, Feb. 8.—Sir Philip Gibbs, whose dispatches in the New York Times presented a graphic picture of the War, gave to the House Committee on Naval Affairs today in his views on the disarmament question and the advisability of the United States calling the powers into a conference to discuss not only limitation of armament but peace problems generally.

The British writer suggested that Russia, Germany and the new Balkan States should be included in the proposed conference, which, to be effective, he said, must be assembled by the United States. If any other country should issue the call, it would be viewed with suspicion, in his opinion.

Naval and military disarmament should come before the conference, Sir Philip thought, although he advanced the idea that some European States would not look with favor upon military disarmament while Russia threatened and Germany had not made good on her reparation payments.

Representative Thomas Butler, Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, who had invited Sir Philip to appear, introduced the correspondent as an authority on the subject of disarmament and one who knew the mind of England and the Continent.

"My claim to an expression of opinion on this subject," Sir Philip said, "is that I was in the War from the beginning to the end, and since the War have been traveling very extensively in many of the countries in Europe, and therefore I think I am able, as an observer, to gauge the feeling of peoples in various countries on the subject of war and of armaments."

"At the beginning there is no doubt that the great mass of the people in England, and especially in France, believed that this was a war to end war—that if they smashed the great German military machine that would be an enormous relief to the world, and that militarism itself would be crushed. The War came to an end, and since then there has been rather betrayed, and the peoples now feel that the great object of the War, which was, first of all, to defeat the enemy, and, secondly, to smash militarism itself, has not at all been fulfilled, and, so far from any relief having been gained, the burden of armament is even greater now, far greater now, than it was before 1914 in Europe."

ENGLAND'S INCREASED OUTLAY

"For instance, with regard to England, we are now spending on the army and navy £270,000,000 a year, and that is more than twice the whole amount of our national budget covering the entire national expenditure before the War. Our national budget amounted before 1914 to £120,000,000 a year, and now, as I have said, our expenditure on the army and navy alone is £270,000,000. On one item of military expenditure alone—that is, Mesopotamia, which is a small adventure, owing to the fact that we had to undertake the mandate—we are spending £40,000,000 a year, and that means a third of the entire national budget before the War."