

The Irish Question.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir.—The march of events in Ireland has already tragically vindicated the stand taken by the Self-Determination for Ireland League at its formation. Mr. Lloyd George's policy of intensified repression and (as in the notorious Carnarvon speech) of encouraging the practice of "reprisals," instead of quieting Ireland and extending the reign of law and order, has resulted in the wildest anarchy, and many innocent lives on both sides have been lost in the demonstration of its mischievous futility. Yet the opportunist Prime Minister, blind and deaf to the lesson of his failures, gives himself for a further blood-letting at the dictation of those who control the Unionist majority in the Coalition. At a moment when all the leading voices of England, in the churches, in the press and in parliament, are lending all their earnestness to the appeal for a Truce of God between the neighbor-nations, the Prime Minister, hypocritically professing to join in the chorus on the one hand, on the other sets himself with redoubled vigor to his work of widening the breach between them.

A week ago, The Times, editorially, warned Mr. George against "influences in the Cabinet hostile to any Irish settlement," and advised him to proceed with the negotiations for a truce and "disregard these mischief-makers." But the mischief-makers have prevailed. The upshot of the matter is that the Prime Minister repeats the old trick that he played in 1918, but with less plausibility than before, and presents the olive-branch at the point of the bayonet. Ten days ago a Government spokesman declared that martial law was unnecessary, and would not be employed. Since then the only action on the

Irish side has been the declaration of willingness to discuss a truce; and it may well be wondered why Mr. George changed his mind and proclaimed martial law. The answer is obvious. He could not, in the face of public opinion, refuse to discuss a truce, and the Carson element would not allow him to conclude a truce. So he offered to provide some of the Sinn Féin M.P.'s with safe-conducts which would enable them to come to London and discuss terms, but proposed no terms, and proclaimed martial law simultaneously to ensure that the Castle's activities would not be suspended by the acceptance of his offer. That construction of the facts may be deemed cynical. It is nevertheless the only theory consistent with the facts and with Mr. George's record.

We trust that it is not yet too late for the Anglo-Irish quarrel to be settled with goodwill on both sides. That settlement is a goal worthy of the most strenuous efforts of all who have an interest in the welfare of either country, not to speak of the Empire or of world peace. Mr. George's policy has effected incalculable harm in a short three months, but there is cause for hope in the almost universal condemnation which it has met from English public opinion. Not only have the Liberal and Labor parties, through their most eminent leaders, denounced it unequivocally, but Unionists like Lord Robert Cecil and Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, distinguished soldiers like Generals Gough and Maurice, University men like Professors Murray and Hobhouse, and innumerable public men and leaders of thought unidentified with any political party have echoed their denunciation. Labor's influence is perhaps the most likely to be effective, and it may be that the burning of Cork, on top of so many other horrors, will rouse

the English people to a sense of the urgency of the crisis and of their own responsibility. The Labor Party has officially endorsed the principle of Self-Determination for Ireland, which this League exists to advance, as the only effective way of achieving a settlement by goodwill, and has made the application of that principle by the means of a constituent assembly one of the main planks in its platform. But there will not be another general election in Great Britain for three years, and we have already seen the harm Mr. Lloyd George has done in three months. The prospect is a dark one.

Only one thing can bring about a peaceful settlement before 1923, and that is the firm and insistent pressure of public opinion, in Great Britain, in each of the Dominions, throughout the civilized world. In face of the fact that one of the great English political parties has formally adopted it as a policy, the foolish contention that agitation for Irish self-determination is treasonable or anti-British is finally silenced. The Empire is more endangered than Ireland by Mr. George's policy, for all history emphasizes the lesson that nations have more vitality than empires, and especially than empires whose cohesion is shown to rest on force. Ireland will suffer, but she will survive. But everyone whose regard for the integrity of the Empire is sincere should do his utmost to save it from Mr. George's fatal policy of Prussianism.

The measure of our power is the measure of our responsibility. Any man in this country who can add his voice and his weight to the pressure on the Lloyd George Government to stop the "frightfulness" of its agents in Ireland, and who fails to do so for any reason whatever, will share in the guilt of the things which his protest would have helped to prevent. A persistence in the present

Prussian policy may mean the wrecking of the Empire and the end of all its beneficent possibilities; it may even mean another international war—and we know from bitter experience the loss and suffering and sorrow that would mean. If we fail to do our share in warding off these possibilities by joining in the effort to have this fatal policy discarded, we cannot complain if we are overwhelmed in its consequences.

We have the honor to remain, Sir, Yours very truly,
PRESS & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE,
S.D.I.L.N.

Per Thomas Kelly,
Secretary.

Dec. 14, 1920.

For your health's sake we offer Nature's answer to Constipation, "LES FRUITS." ELIS'S.—dec9,11

Shop Window Display.

All the shop windows along Water Street have now been decorated for the Christmas season and in the night with all lights lit, they present a most pleasing appearance. A feature of the Royal Stores decorations is the placing of vases of flowers in every window, thus giving a very pretty effect. Messrs. Baird's we have already mentioned. Ayre & Sons windows have also been dressed in a pleasing manner, the window of each department containing a splendid array of the articles sold therein. Messrs. Geo. Knowling's also have a very pleasing display as have Marshall Brothers, Bowring Bros., Templeton's, Bishop, Sons & Co., and Steers, Bowring's have in one of their windows a model of an old inn, whilst Bishop's have a number of coloured lights which give a very fine effect. On the whole, the shop window displays this year are all well worth seeing.

Pocket and Office Diaries for 1921 at GARLAND'S.
dec4,7,9,14,16,21,23

Shipping Notes.

S.S. Castle Point sailed for Cork this forenoon.

Schr. Tacoma entered at Wood's Island to load herring for Halifax by T. Basha & Sons.

Schr. Laverna sailed from Wood's Island for Gloucester with 1,308 bris. herring from G. C. Harris.

S.S. Cranley sailed from Portwood yesterday for London with 4,730 tons ship and paper from the A.N.D. Co., the last cargo for the season.

Sydney to-day.
S.S. Sabie Island was due at North S. Rosalind is due at Halifax tomorrow.

Here and There.

Tweedie Boot Tops at 25 p.c. off at Smallwood's.—dec13,14

EXPRESS DUE.—The incoming express in due at 4.30 p.m.

Nouriture Laxative Infal-
libile, "LES FRUITS."—dec9,11

The Gift for Health from the East, "LES FRUITS." ELIS'S.
dec9,11

Try our Special Cambridge Sausages. Made fresh daily at ELIS'S.—nov10,11

Buy your Felt Footwear at Smallwood's, and save 25 p.c.—dec13,14

Unfailing in its results. A Pure, Wholesome and Delicious Laxative, "LES FRUITS."—dec9,11

Lovely Boxed Xmas Cards at 20, 30, 40, 50, 60c. up to \$1.25, at GARLAND'S.—dec4,7,9,14,16,21,23

Stafford's Ess. Ginger Wine only 20c. bottle. Postage 10c. extra.—dec10,11

Fancy Calendars for 1921, from 10c. to \$1.00, at GARLAND'S.—dec4,7,9,14,16,21,23

For Evening Wear, Evangeline Pumps; 25 p.c. off at Smallwood's.—ec13,14

Local View Real Photo Xmas Post Cards, only 10c. each, at GARLAND'S.—dec4,7,9,14,16,21,23

Here and There.

OLD LADIES' HOME.—A treat in the shape of a Xmas tree is being given to the inmates of the Old Ladies' home by the Cowan Mission on Xmas morning.

MEETING POSTPONED.—The regular weekly meeting of the Civic Commission which was to be held to-night, has been postponed till tomorrow, owing to the funeral of City Engineer Ryan.

Evangeline High Cut Boots, all styles and colours, 25 p.c. off at Smallwood's.—ec13,14

THE NOON GUN.—There is a complaint general that the noon day gun is being fired some five or six minutes before standard time. At any rate it was fired to-day some five minutes before the official time received from Mount Pearl Station.

LEAVING FOR NEW YORK.—Hon. H. J. Browning, Minister of Finance came out of hospital yesterday, where he has been for some time, undergoing special medical treatment. He is leaving by express Sunday for New York, and will likely spend the winter months there.

Insure with the

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the Company having the largest number of Policy Holders in Newfoundland.

Every satisfaction given in settling losses.

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the most reliable drug on the market. It is not a poison. For sale in every Drug Store.

Price: 1 oz. bottle, \$2.50

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Agents wanted in every place, also travellers.

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Another Landmark Gone

The original "tree of knowledge" in the Garden of Eden, reputed by tradition to have been the one from which the serpent tempted Eve, has literally fallen a victim to the ambition of some British Tommies on a furlough to have themselves photographed in its branches, a despatch says. Their weight proved too much for it, and the tree crashed to the ground. A British court of inquiry has decided that the Moslems be awarded \$1,750 to build a mosque on the spot.

Men's \$13.50 Boots in Black and Tan Leathers, for \$10.00, at Smallwood's.—dec13,14

Street Paving.

The oldest pavement of which there is any record in modern cities is that of Cordova, in Spain, which was paved with stones by the Moors in the middle of the ninth century. The Moors also caused water to be conveyed to the city in leaden pipes.

Paris was the next city to pave its streets; but this city betterment did not take place until the year 1184, on which occasion an historian says, "the name of the city was changed from Lutetia, which it had been previously called on account of its filthiness." Those old streets must have been very bad indeed, as it was the general practice of the citizens to keep swine, which roamed at large and wallowed in the mire of the public ways.

The streets of London were unpaved in the eleventh century, and it is uncertain just when the work did begin. Holborn was not paved until 1417, though it was frequently impassable from the depth of its mud.

Berlin allowed its streets to go without even a clearing or cleaning until the middle of the seventeenth century, and until 1681 it was a popular practice to place pig-pens immediately beneath the front windows of the houses. Every kind of filth and dirt was thrown into the streets of Warsaw up to the comparatively recent year of 1823.

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We feel certain that you'll find it wise to get your clothes NOW from US. There will have to be a decided set-back in prices before the values can be duplicated which we offer.

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By GENE BYRNES