

## CURRENT EVENTS

under Sinn Fein government, with an army of its own and harbours all ready for German submarines, have on the peace of the world?" And indeed it is a sobering reflection that it might add seriously to the task of Britain and make the load for France and the United States as co-guardians of peace correspondingly heavier. It would have much the same effect as if the French-speaking province of Quebec were separated from English-speaking Canada. Yet the Irish are closer to the British in the use of a common language, a common literature, a common social development, they are more intermixed in blood and marriage than is the case with Quebec and English-speaking Canada. The poetry of their Moores and Magees, their Yeatses and Synges is English in its speech, as is the oratory of their Burkes, Currans and O'Connells. Their soldiers and diplomatists, French and Roberts, Macartney and Macdonnell have found a great sphere in the administration and defence of the British Empire. Irish journalists like the well-known T. P. are as much at home in London as in Dublin or Cork. The richest province of Ireland is English in feeling and would fight to maintain the union with Britain. In such circumstances there should be some way of satisfying all reasonable demands of Ireland without a separation which would directly increase the possible area of war and add to the already heavy burdens which any League of Peace will have to bear.

It is quite evident that everywhere, and nowhere more than in Canada, the principle of nationalism applied without regard to conditions, actual and historical, would involve a great increase of conflicts which can be settled only by war, unless the great Powers can constitute themselves into a Court of Justice for the maintenance of order and hold themselves ready to enforce its decrees. The British people would like that you can see by their enthusiastic acclamations of Wilson, but evidently they feel they dare not altogether trust to it. The peoples do not know enough about each other's situation and problems yet, and no government can move now unless it is confident of the approbation of its people. There never was a clearer case than the German invasion of Belgium, there never will be. Yet President Wilson's reply to the appeal of