

The Catholic Record.

"Christianus mihi nomen est Catholicus vero Cognomen."—(Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname)—St. Pacien, 4th Century

VOLUME XLIII.

LONDON, CANADA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26 1921

2250

WEEKLY IRISH REVIEW

IRELAND SEEN THROUGH IRISH EYES

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SUPPOSE IN 7 MONTHS THEY SETTLE A FEUD THAT DRAGGED FOR 700 YEARS

London negotiations still drag along—and will continue to drag for months probably. The clever Lloyd George knew well that it was a good thing to keep quiet the Irish race the world over—by negotiating or any other plan—till the Disarmament Conference will be finished with. England was in the last ditch for want of money to pursue her various world projects and at the same time keep feverishly building battleships ahead of America. When that question is settled and she will be free to compete in this preceding that was on the verge of bankrupting her, she can talk to Ireland with a new voice. There is not a moment's doubt but that if she comes successfully out of the Disarmament Conference, she will quickly adopt a top-loftical attitude toward Ireland and Irish delegates. The sharp British claw will emerge from beneath the soft fur that now hides it and the present soothing purr of the British cat will quickly change into the angry growl of the lion.

Lloyd George, typical of his British countrymen in politics, knows when to be suave and knows equally well when it is time to cast aside the cloak of suavity. Certainly, in proportion as the Disarmament Conference goes favorably with Britain, London negotiations will go unfavorably for Ireland. The more Britain gets in Washington, the less Ireland will get in London.

"IRELAND'S HOPE LIES IN UNITY"

It is worthy of note that despite the Orange insanity of the north-eastern corner, the saner Unionists of the rest of Ireland are dead against the Orangemen cutting off the corner from the nation. The Protestant Bishop of Cork, Dr. Dowse, addressing the annual Protestant Synods two weeks ago, roundly denounces the idea of partition. He said: "None of us want it. We are too small for it. Our hope, Ireland's hope, lies in unity." But the petted Orange child that is always humored by Britain—getting everything it cried for and always prompted to rule the whole Irish household, will not be satisfied unless the petting is permanently continued. It prefers to think itself a big frog in a small puddle, rather than realize that it is a rather small frog in a big pond. And such is the bitter and malevolent attitude of the Orangemen at present that no matter what settlement is arrived at in London, there is every danger of a civil war in the northeast within the next two years.

The Orange volunteers throughout Ulster are re-arming and drilling—and the Nationalists throughout the half of Ulster in which they hold sway are arming and undergoing intensive drilling. Throughout Donegal and other counties, big residences have been commandeered and all the boys in successive batches are spending terms in camp there. The drilling and training continue night and day. It is a significant thing, as I hear in private letters from my own Donegal home, that the so-called "Scotch-Irish" minority find itself treated with the highest respect and consideration by boys of the Irish Republican army, and is freely contributing toward the training and upkeep of the I. R. A. I learned that in one large district that is entirely inhabited by the minority section—every household in the district except two sent a handsome contribution to the funds of the neighboring I. R. A. camp.

STONE WALLS DO NOT A PRISON MAKE

The most recent escape of Irish prisoners from Mountjoy, after holding up the guards with revolvers and risking and answering the fire of the sentries on the walls, carries on the now established tradition, that Irish prisoners may walk away whenever they please, though the prison walls were of steel reaching to the height of the heavens, and when it comes to prison escaping, the women can sometimes prove themselves the best men. Only a couple of weeks before the latest batch of men made their escape, four of the women Sinn Fein prisoners took French leave from the same Mountjoy jail. On a recent Sunday evening, after they had been taking of their evening meal, Mrs. Linda Kearns, Miss Coyle, Miss Burke and Miss Eileen Keogh, exercising in the yard, found a rope ladder invitingly thrown over the great wall to them—from which they sped with an agility that is not common in ordinary women—waved their hands from the top—and disappeared into oblivion as far as the distracted prison officials are concerned. Miss Kearns was undergoing a sentence of ten years imprisonment for conveying arms in an automobile. Miss Coyle was serving a sentence of one

year, and Miss Keogh, two years of hard labor. It is said the Mountjoy officials are fondling the hope that their conscience will yet drive the four ladies back to the jail gates into the arms of their grieving guards to complete their sentences.

A few days before the sensational escape of the women, three prisoners had a thrilling time escaping from the internment camp on the Curragh of the Kildare. They lay concealed from 4 o'clock on Monday evening till 2 o'clock next morning in an isolation hut. They whiled away the time with prayers. In the hut there was a small broken window, and at 2 a.m. they squeezed through this window, and crawled toward the barbed wire entanglements. It took each man about twenty minutes to get through the wires. After scrambling through the first entanglement, they found themselves in the military encampment, with two sentries, dangerously near. But what they most feared was the danger that some of the camp terriers which are constantly running about, would hear them and begin barking. Luckily it started raining heavily, shrouding the places in a mist and making the camp dark.

They crawled in and out amongst the military tents at the close quarters. All the soldiers were sound asleep, except, of course, the sentries. They could plainly hear the snores of the sleeping soldiers. At one time a sentry was making straight in their direction. He thought, no doubt, that he saw somebody and he called out "Halt! Halt!" quickly. They lay flat in the mud for five minutes. The sentry stood and after a pause turned round and resumed his beat. Eventually, they reached the outskirts of the military encampment and got through the military wires there. After reaching that point they had to crawl about half a mile before they were out of sight of the camp. The three escaped men finally reached a small village in the neighborhood of the Curragh and made their way to Dublin.

A TANTALIZING KIND OF HERO

Michael Collins, the real head of the I. R. A., is to the Londoners a tantalizing kind of hero. For he will not be lionized by the enemy, neither will he have the pressmen interview or their camera sharp snap him, but just because of this, the British appetite is all the more sharply whetted to know something of this extraordinary man. The London Times says of him: "The London that delights in hero worship is treasuring the sayings and doings of Mr. Michael Collins, the evasive leader of the Irish Republican Army. It must be confessed that the collectors of these things have to be content with small mercies. Though Mr. Collins is believed to joke freely, his humor is confined to a small circle, and is but scantily expressed to the public ear. As for his doings, they have been done for the moment. But Mr. Collins is unconventional. He tries to dodge the camera. He runs when his colleagues walk and jumps up steps in Downing street which they climb sedately. He tells inquiring pressmen that he is not coming back at all, and they, taking him at his strict word, presume that the Irish Conference is broken off, whereas he means only that he is not returning that afternoon. Mr. Collins, in short, has acquired the reputation of a handsome, more impetuous and amiable De Wet. We wanted a Sinn Fein delegate to lionize and Mr. Collins proves to be the man. His personality puts colour into the proceedings—from the point of view of the watchers and waiters in Whitehall."

THE TURF FIRES OF IRELAND IN NEW YORK

There is a cargo of Irish peat, Irish turf, crossing the Atlantic Ocean at the present time from Dublin to New York—2,000 sacks of turf from the famous Bog of Allen which occupies a center of Ireland. It was shipped down by Canal Boats from Offaly to the Capital and there put on board the steamship Delavan of the Moore & McCormick line headed for Broadway and it is expected that many home-sick Irish in America will treat themselves to an Irish turf fire—will ask in all their friends to bask in the golden glow, recall old, dear, sweet memories and in ice cream sodas drink to the hallowed times that were.

FOR THE CRIME OF LOVING IRELAND

Lately there have been some echoes of the mutiny last year of the Connaught Rangers in India. One of the imprisoned mutineers (still keeping up Irish tradition) got clear away from his prison in the south of England and has not since been heard of. Out of another prison, which is a living tomb to many of these brave mutineers, has come a letter from another of the boys—a very interesting letter. The writer is Joseph Walsh, of Tullamore, and is addressed to James Clark of Tullamore. But Clark is now himself a prisoner in the internment camp at Ballykinkar.

"Dear James:—I am writing to see if you will be kind enough to give me any news of my family, especially my poor old parents. The only thing I am frightened about is my mother's position. Thank God I can hold up my head and say that I did not get sent to prison for anything disgraceful. I expect you have seen all about the case in the newspapers, but I can assure you that you or anybody else did not see the truth of this affair in print; nor will it ever be known until some of us get released. You know it would be impossible to tell you all in this letter. Simply 410 men grounded their arms, protesting against the attitude of the Government in Ireland; 105 were tried by general court-martial; 64 were convicted, the sentence ranging from death to 12 months' imprisonment; 14 were condemned to death; 13 were reprieved. One was shot on November 2nd, 1920. The remainder came home and are in Maidstone Civil Prison, Walton Prison and Manchester working prisons.

"Jack Lloyd, myself, and two Birr men represented King's Co.; and the other chaps came from Sligo, Boyle, Roscommon, Roscrea, Ballymote, Westmeath. The chap that was shot (Daly) came from Tyrrelspass—he was a brave man. He was exactly twenty-one years and eleven months old when he died; I cooked all his food up to the time he died. Jack Lloyd was acquitted. I got five years penal servitude which was reduced to three years, and I have twelve months to complete from November 13, and I do not expect a day knocked off until the Irish question is finished. Remember me to all the boys. I am allowed to write only once in four months."

SEUMAS MACMANIS
Of Donegal.

"ULSTER DIFFICULTY"

PHYSICAL FACTS IN NORTH EAST ULSTER

In yesterday's Irish Bulletin we sketched the historical basis of the "Ulster difficulty." In this issue we propose to consider the absence of any justice in the claim to separate statehood advanced, not by the Ulster Unionists themselves, but by the British Government on their behalf and without their consent.

"NORTHERN" AND "SOUTHERN" IRELAND

The British Partition Act sets up a State called "Northern Ireland." The name is ludicrous since the state in question is not "Northern Ireland," parts of "Southern Ireland" being more northerly than it. But the inappropriateness of the name is understandable. The state could not be called Ulster since the province which goes by that name consists of nine counties, not six. It could justly be called North East Ulster but that would not have served the British propagandists, whose set policy it is to represent the Northern Partition area as half of Ireland implying that the "Southern Ireland" which demands a Republic is more or less equal in size to it. In fact the acreage of the two areas is as follows:

So-called "Northern Ireland" (Armagh, Antrim, Down, Derry, Fermanagh and Tyrone), 3,492,780 acres.

So-called "Southern Ireland" (The remaining twenty-six counties), 17,361,938.

Thus the six counties of "Northern Ireland" are 16% of the total area of Ireland. But the area of "Northern Ireland" must be still further reduced. Two of its counties are in the majority republican, namely Tyrone and Fermanagh. These have an acreage of 1,264,295, which is 36% of the whole partition area. So that, even if we overlook the area of the sections of Derry, Down and Armagh which are homogeneous Catholic districts, we find that the Protestant counties of "Northern Ireland" have an acreage of 2,228,494 or 10% of the whole acreage of Ireland.

THE PLEA OF HOMOGENEITY

The Six-county area has been separated from the rest of Ireland on the plea that it contains a homogeneous Protestant population. Let us examine the facts. The total population of the six counties is 1,240,571. The population of Tyrone and Fermanagh, which are in the majority Catholic and Republican, is 204,551. The population of the four counties which are in the majority Protestant and Unionist is 1,046,030, and of this population 316,406 or 30% are Catholics. The Protestant population of the four counties is 729,624, of which 586,635 or 80% reside in the two counties of Down and Antrim. Belfast city contains 393,704 Protestants which represents exactly 50% of the Protestant population of Down and Antrim, 40% of the Protestant population of the four predominantly Protestant counties and almost 36% of the Protestant popu-

lation of the whole Six-county area. If the counties of Down and Antrim are excluded from the calculations, the Catholics and Protestants of the remainder of the Partition area (Derry, Armagh, Fermanagh and Tyrone) are approximately equal in number, the figures being Catholics..... 232,682 Protestants..... 232,755

In the Protestant total are included 9,444 returned in the census as "All other Denominations" exclusive of Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Methodists.

The plea of homogeneity might then be advanced in the case of Antrim and Down although the Catholic minority in these districts, especially in South and East Down, is considerable, but it has no validity in the case of the other four counties of the Partition area. Those who put it forward are, of course, well aware that it has no validity. Five of the nine Ulster counties have a Republican-Nationalist majority and if given the opportunity would vote themselves into the Republic. The remaining four counties have a minority of Republican and Nationalists greater in proportion to the total population of those areas than the all-Ireland Unionist minority in relation to the population of the whole of Ireland. There is no homogeneous Protestant population in the province of Ulster or in the six counties of Ulster which have been partitioned from the rest of Ireland, or even in the four Protestant counties themselves. Were it, in fact, a question of minority-right the Catholics in the Partition area have a more solidly based right to a separate state within the Partition area than the Ulster Unionists have to a separate state within Ireland.

MINORITY RIGHTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Let us consider North East Ulster's right to separate statehood in relation to the rights given to minorities in other countries. At the time of the grant of self-government to South Africa there was a minority of English colonists in that country much greater than the 26% of Protestants in Ireland and all the Protestants in Ireland are by no means Unionists. No separate statehood was given to the English colonists. When Great Britain recognized the American colonies as an independent Republic there was a greater proportion of opinion against independence in the United States than there is in Ireland. Yet no separate state was set up to accommodate the prejudices of this anti-national minority. In Alsace-Lorraine the pro-German population is greater than the pro-British population in Ireland. The pro-Russian element in Poland is considerably greater than the Unionist element in Ireland. Were the same principle applied in the case of other European nations which Great Britain seeks to apply in the case of Ireland, Europe would be split up into a hundred states set up to accommodate the prejudices of this anti-national minority. In Alsace-Lorraine the pro-German population is greater than the pro-British population in Ireland. The pro-Russian element in Poland is considerably greater than the Unionist element in Ireland. Were the same principle applied in the case of other European nations which Great Britain seeks to apply in the case of Ireland, Europe would be split up into a hundred states set up to accommodate the prejudices of this anti-national minority. In Alsace-Lorraine the pro-German population is greater than the pro-British population in Ireland. The pro-Russian element in Poland is considerably greater than the Unionist element in Ireland. 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