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IRISH UNIVERSITY QUESTION

(Continued From Page One.)

ment had found that it was impossible to enforce the principle which it has set up, and has abandoned it so completely that the system which you have left is

AN ENTIRELY DENOMINATION-AL ONE.

(Nationalist cheers), and yet in face of all this you keep up the hypocrisy of saying that you cannot give a single penny to any system where there is any restraint upon the freedom of teaching. Really the amount of ignorance among Englishmen in this subject is amazing. One of the arguments used in these debates is that you will not vote money to colleges where the liberty of teaching will be controlled by ecclesiastics. Of course, money is voted for institutions like the Queen's Colleges. Well, every professor in the Queen's Colleges has to sign a declaration in which he promises that he will faithfully, and to the best of his ability, perform the duties of a professor, and, further, that if elected he will "carefully abstain from advancing any doctrine or making any statement derogatory to the principles of revealed religion or injurious or disrespectful to the religious opinions of any portion of his class." In order to carry out that promise he would be obliged to study the Westminster Confession of Faith and various other expositions of dogma and doctrine (laughter), including those of a set of men who held that everyone who did not belong to their particular sect was damned—

Another Member—Whom? Mr. Dillon—The Covenanters, who, I think, have a few conventicles in the North of Ireland. I challenge any member of this House to go to the University College in Stephen's Green, now under the sole control of the Jesuit priests, and to find if there is any profession imposed upon them so stringent as these are which I have just read in relation to the Queen's Colleges. I say, in the face of these facts, that your position in relation to this question is one of sheer hypocrisy. Now, what are the demands? Since they have been the subject of so much misrepresentation, I ought here to state them. What are the demands of the Bishops? We have heard them described as demands for a purely ecclesiastical University. They are nothing of the sort. They are found on page 33 of the Royal Commission, and there it will be found that there were recognized three great principles. The first is that there shall be a preponderance of laymen on the governing body; thirdly, that they accept the principle that the tenure and appointment of professors shall be safeguarded by a perfectly efficient body of outside visitors, which shall secure the professors against arbitrary dismissal for religious teaching within reasonable limits. Now, I say that that is not an ecclesiastically governed University and I say, further, that it is a gross misstatement of fact to assert that the Bishops' demand is a demand for an ecclesiastically governed University. (Irish cheers.) What is

THE POSITION OF THE IRISH LAITY? One of the perversions of members of this House and of the Government is to treat this question as one between themselves and the Bishops of Ireland; but, after all, in this matter, is it not the Irish party who are mainly concerned? (Hear, hear.) We, the Catholic laymen of Ireland, have a right at least to get a hearing. We have our views on the subject. (Irish cheers.) What, I ask, are the demands of the Catholic laity in this connection? I wish to refer to the speeches delivered in this House by Mr. Courtney and Mr. Morley in the great debate on this question in 1898. That debate lasted for two nights, and the leading men on both sides of the House took part in it. Mr. Courtney, who may be accepted, I think, as a leading champion of undenominational education, declared that he would be quite prepared to grant our demands if we could say we would accept what

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he described as a democratically governed University, in which the governing body would be recruited from the graduates. Mr. Courtney went on to say that he did not care who the original governing body were, provided we accepted a system of elective recruitment of the governing body, so as to ensure a freedom and growing life of the University itself. I read that speech and the speech of Mr. Morley in the same debate with great interest, and speaking myself recently at a meeting of the new Society of Catholic Graduates and Under-graduates in Dublin, I publicly stated as a Catholic layman that I was prepared to accept and support such a scheme, in which the governing body would consist of a purely democratic body in the sense of being representative of the graduates of the University, and giving to the Bishops, if they choose to look for it, only a small representation in the Board. I doubt that the Bishops would ask or care much for even such a representation provided they were satisfied the governing body was genuinely representative of the spirit and views of the people of Ireland. I made that speech in Dublin three months ago for the purpose of seeing whether any of the leading Catholics or Catholic dignitaries would take exception to the proposal, and ever since

I HAVE SEEN NO OBJECTION taken to it. (Irish cheers.) Is the Government still prepared to refuse us such a University? We have in Ireland ample experience both as regards the working of such a system and as regards the attitude of the Bishops towards it. It was exemplified in the remarkable history of the Catholic University School of Medicine in Dublin. There is nothing, I think, in modern educational developments more interesting or remarkable than the career and the present position of that school. (Irish cheers.) When the old Catholic University, in which I myself studied, came to the end of its resources, after long years of efforts, after having been boycotted by the Government and refused the power of granting degrees, and refused all endowments, the Irish Bishops handed it over to the Jesuits, and they determined to set up the School of Medicine as an independent body. They appealed to the Commissioners of Education in Dublin for statutory powers to frame a constitution setting up a governing body, and to that governing body the Bishops transferred all of what had been their exclusive property. What is the constitution of that school? It is governed by four ex-officio members, two of whom are Bishops, six members elected by the Faculties, and four others appointed by the Bishops from amongst the leading medical men in Dublin. That constitution was drafted by the Bishops themselves. They gave away their own property, and got not a penny from the Government, and in the circumstances, I call it a very fair constitution. (Irish cheers.) Now, I ask, how does it work and what have been its results? The two Bishops who are ex-officio members hardly ever go near the place, and the whole government of the school has practically passed into the hands of the Faculty, who appoint and control the teachers, and do all the laboratory work. This school, without endowment of any kind or recognition from the Government, and depending on its own resources, has beaten all the schools in Ireland, and is to-day

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(Irish cheers.) With such an example before your eyes, do you persist in refusing to give us a proper system of University education? The school to which I am referring is admittedly the best Model School in Ireland. The professors are eminent and distinguished men—the ablest that could be got—men trained and experienced in the systems of the great European schools. The students are bright and clever young men, and the attendance is so large that the Professors of Physiology and Practical Chemistry have to lecture twice on the same day, because the rooms at their disposal are too small to accommodate the students. Is it not a scandalous state of things that the Government will not give one penny of a contribution for the purpose of building even a class-room for such a school? The professors are crippled for want of proper laboratories. They have none of the expensive appliances which are supplied with superabundant generosity to similar institutions by all foreign Governments. (Irish cheers.) They are given no endowment, while money is squandered on every form of humbug and on every scheme of mock education in Ireland. We have got, for instance, the Industries and Technical Department, with its army of officers, to whom £41,000 a year is paid in salaries, and who give no advantage to the country in return (hear, hear), while this valuable and splendid Medical School is

BOYCOTTED AND STARVED by the paternal Government under which we live. What is the recent history of the University question? We are making no progress, as far as I can see, with the settlement of it. In fact, we seem to be further from a settlement now than ever, and what is the reason? Let me recall to the House that the Government appointed a Royal Commission in 1901. Speaking on behalf of the Irish party, I then declared that the Nationalist members in the House took no responsibility for the appointment of the Commission. (Irish cheers.) The Commission was appointed to inquire into the facilities existing in Ireland for University education, and with

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magnificent impartiality Trinity College was excluded from the scope of the Commission. Speaking in April, 1901, the First Lord of the Treasury used these words—"It is necessary that we should have the fullest information on the subject, and, I trust, that when the Commission reports the result will be that public opinion in this country will render it possible for the House to deal practically with the problem which I have been endeavoring to elucidate." That speech was made in 1901.

THE COMMISSION

took two years to investigate the question, and presented their report in 1903 in a very interesting document full of the most valuable information. (Hear, hear.) How many in this House have read the report? There was on that Commission a splendid representation of all that is best in educational authority in this country. Though the Commission was appointed to inquire into the grievances of the Catholics of Ireland, there was not a single lay Catholic Irishman on it. The laymen on it were mainly English Protestants, but very eminent men. (Hear, hear.) There was one Irish Catholic Bishop on it, a very distinguished man, one Irish Catholic official and one English Catholic. The report was most interesting and exhaustive. (Hear, hear.) One of the many unanimous recommendations of the Commission was that "the endowment and equipment of the new College in Dublin should be on a scale required by a University College of the first rank intended to draw students from all parts of Ireland." The report was presented in 1903, but it was practically thrown into the waste paper basket, and no notice of it was taken from that day to this. I am not exaggerating when I say that the report of the Royal Commission was one of the weightiest condemnations ever pronounced on the educational system of the country. Yet that report was never discussed by this House. It was thrown into the waste paper basket. In the autumn of 1903, shortly after this report was presented, rumors began to be circulated in Ireland that the Government had a totally new scheme. Throughout the whole of the summer and autumn of 1903 not a single member of the Irish party was allowed to hear what that scheme of the Government was. Now, I am brought to a sphere of the

ACTIVITY OF SIR ANTHONY MACDONNELL

In Ireland which has not been adequately dwelt on. He went to Belfast and promised the Belfast people a large sum of money if they would agree to this scheme. He promised Trinity College a sum of \$10,000 or £20,000 a year if they would agree to this new scheme. I want to know did the Government authorize such action of Sir Anthony Macdonnell? Finally, there was a letter from Lord Dunraven which raised the hopes of the Irish people to the highest point. Was that letter published with the consent of the Chief Secretary? Was he a party to the transaction, and was the First Lord of the Treasury a party to the transaction? (Nationalist cheers.)

Mr. Balfour—I knew nothing about it. Mr. Dillon—is it not monstrous then that we should be governed in this way? Men are to be able to go on behalf of the Government and offer large financial inducements to the Presbyterians of Belfast to agree to a scheme, then we are told the Government knew nothing about it? (Nationalist cheers.) I think that is scarcely a fair way to deal with the people. I do not wonder that the Bishops of Ireland should be bitterly incensed against the Government for the way in which they have been treated. They were led into conferences by men who were supposed to speak with the full assent of the Government. They put forward proposals on the understanding that the Government meant business. This last year a backward step has been taken—a principle set up, which if adhered to, sets up a perpetual barrier between us and the realization of our hopes.

WE ARE TOLD NOW that no settlement can be attempted until there is absolute unanimity in Ireland. Supposing the doctrine had been set up and adhered to that there could be no remedy applied to Irish grievances so long as any faction in Ireland opposed a remedy, where would we be to-day as regards Catholic Emancipation as regards the tithe question, the disestablishment of the Irish Church, and the land question? (Nationalist cheers.) If in spite of the bitter and vehement opposition of the Episcopalian Protestants in Ireland, Mr. Gladstone was not afraid to disestablish the Church, why should the Prime Minister be afraid to take up this great question of the higher education of Irish Catholics? Why should he shrink back in fear before a small and diminishing section of the most bigoted Protestants in Ireland? (Nationalist cheers.)

(Concluded Next Week.)



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Tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied, and signed with the actual signatures of tenderers. An accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, equal to ten per cent. (10 p.c.) of the amount of the tender, must accompany each tender. This cheque will be forfeited if the party tendering decline the contract or fail to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

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