

A Defence of England's Attitude in Ireland.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir.—So many mis-statements and so much false information have appeared in the papers of late, that I feel compelled to write this refutation. With the exception of a brief article by Rev. Dr. Jones and a little more lengthy one by Rev. T. B. Darby, no attempt has been made to deny the many inaccuracies that have appeared in print or spoken on the platform. Miss Hughes speaking in the Methodist College Hall on Oct. 5th, drawing a parallel between Ireland and some of the other small nations, said:—"Ireland though as large as some and with a revenue much larger, was governed against her wishes, her development was neglected and her education grant per capita reduced to the minimum."

Let us first take the subject of development. In 1832 in order to get out of difficulties, an Act of Areas was passed, which made the Irish tenants a free gift of one year's rent up to the sum of £20. Finally from 1887 onwards, the insolvent tenant could remain on his holding for six months after the decree of eviction, with the option of selling or buying his holding during the interval. The landlords received no compensation for all these encroachments upon common law. By the Land Acts of 1885, known as the Ashbourne Acts, the Exchequer advanced to the tenants £5,000,000 to acquire the land of those landlords who were anxious to sell; the purchaser to repay the State in forty-nine yearly instalments. The subsidy, doubled in 1888, was exhausted in 1891, but had given 25,000 former tenants possession of their holdings.

In 1891 Mr. Balfour, realising the good results of the Ashbourne Act, conceived a vaster application; he obtained from Parliament a credit of £30,000,000. The number of evictions fell from 5,200 in 1881 to 670 in 1895. Any other country but Ireland would have been profuse in its thanks. It only made the Irish more greedy and more threatening; in spite of receiving their due, they made more exacting demands. As all landlords did not despoil themselves at the same moment, and as they had to wait for opportunities to purchase, some countries and some tenants got satisfaction quicker than the others. And the latter became jealous and got tired of waiting. In 1896 there appeared the most recent of the agrarian leagues, the "United Irish League"; soon every self-respecting patriot belonged to it. It demanded two things—the suppression of pasture lands, and compulsory purchase—the radical expropriation of property of recalcitrant landlords. "Force the landlords to sell us their land." It had recourse to all the violent methods of earlier leagues, boycotting, refusal to pay rent, and so on. The landlords, weary of these continual fights, summoned the leaders of the League to confer with them, promised them that they would be only too glad to sell if they were only better compensated, and they agreed to submit to the Government proposals emanating from both parties; the result of this was the last great agrarian law, the Wyndham Land Act, or Irish Land Purchase Act of 1903. This heroic measure opened an enormous credit, first of all estimated at a total of £100,000,000 and later at £180,000,000, raised by annual loans of £5,000,000 on London. The landlords who sold and tenants who bought could debate their price freely and have it ratified by three Estates Commissioners. Of about 650,000 occupiers, 74,000 had already become owners under Acts passed before 1903. It is calculated that 240,000 others will profit by Wyndham's Act. Does that look as if Ireland's development is being neglected? If the development shows signs of neglect, let the Irish work more and complain, and riot and destroy less.

Regarding education, Miss Hughes' statement is an unmitigated falsehood. England's total appropriation for education was around £36,000,000; that words out at about \$2.80 per head of the United Kingdom. Yet Ireland received over \$3.00 per head, thus she does not receive the minimum but the maximum, and \$3.00 is more than Newfoundland receives from her Government. Ireland has 2 Universities, 3 Colleges, and between 8000 and 9000 schools. If, then, her people are illiterate, shame to her, for doesn't Mr. Crawford point out that she is a wealthy nation? Then what is Miss Hughes complaining about? Miss Hughes also asserts that "Last current year Ireland's revenues, according to British statistics, amounted to \$136,000,000. Out of this Ireland was given back \$23,000,000 for civil purposes. The balance \$113,000,000 there was no accounting for." There, she is wrong again for "under the Union, which the Irish are so anxious to abolish, Ireland costs the Imperial Treasury more than she brings in; the annual deficit is about \$2,000,000 and increasing every year as a result of land purchased, social legislation, workman's insurance, etc." The Irish refuse to accept the debts of their inheritance. "Mr. Asquith agrees, and even gives the new Irish

Government a free gift of £500,000 a year for the expenses of establishment." And now under the pretext that she has paid too many taxes in the past, she is to be exonerated from all share in the National Debt, including the debt of the Great War, which has, however, protected Ireland as well as the rest of the Empire. "Here we have finance marvellously simplified; the Bolsheviks have made disciples!"

Mr. Lindsay Crawford says, "The fight is neither racial nor religious in its origin," and then goes on to quote history. But Crawford's deductions, like those of Miss Hughes, won't bear analyzing.

As in 1841 and 1798 so in 1916 the cry is "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity." "A dangerous phrase, and fallacious precept. All Irish modern history can be dated back to that; everything else can be traced to it, a series of links in the chain of circumstances." Yet Crawford has the effrontery to say that "the fight is neither racial nor religious in its origin." And in spite of Mr. Crawford's assertion to the contrary, statistics show that "Ulster has contrived to grow prosperous, more prosperous than the whole of the rest of Ireland put together—" and that too under the same political, fiscal, and customs regime which her unproductive fellow-countrymen abuse at every turn.

Nowadays the oppression of Ireland by England is a myth, and a feeble one at that. "Ireland is in distress out of habit." To substantiate this assertion, what evidence can be better than John Redmond, speaking in 1915 in his town of Waterford to Irishmen from Australia. Speaking of his visit to Australia, he said: "Only thirty-three or thirty-four years have passed since then, but what a revolution has occurred in the interval! Today the people, bravely speaking, own the soil; today the laborers live in decent habitations; to-day there is absolute freedom in the local government and the local taxation of the country; to-day we have the widest Parliament in the municipal franchise; to-day we know that evicted tenants who are the wounded soldiers of the land war, have been restored to homes as good as those from which they had been originally driven. We know that the congested districts, the scenes of some of the most awful horrors of the old famine days, have been transformed, that the farms have been enlarged, decent dwellings have been provided, and a new spirit of hope and independence is to-day amongst the people. We know that the towns' legislation has been passed facilitating the housing of the working classes. So far as the town tenants are concerned we have this consolation, that we have passed for Ireland an Act whereby they are protected against arbitrary eviction, and are given compensation not only for disturbance from their homes, but for the good will of the business they had created—a piece of legislation far in advance of anything obtained for the town tenants of England. I may add far in advance of any legislation obtained for the town tenant of any other country."

"We know that we have at last won educational freedom in university education for most of the youth of Ireland, and we know that in primary and standard education the thirty-four years that have passed have witnessed an enormous advance in efficiency and in the means provided for bringing efficiency about. To-day we have a system of old age pensions in Ireland whereby every old man or woman over seventy is saved from the workhouse, free to spend their last days in comparative comfort. We have a system of national industrial insurance which provides for the health of the people, and makes it impossible for the poor, hard-working man or woman, when sickness comes to the door, to be carried away to the workhouse hospital, and makes it certain that they will receive decent Christian treatment during their illness."

Poor Ireland! Cruel Albion! On April 25th, 1916, Easter Tuesday.

MOTHER!
"California Syrup of Figs"
Child's Best Laxative



Accept "California" Syrup of Figs only—look for the name California on the package, then you are sure your child is having the best, and most harmless physic for the little stomach, liver and bowels. Children love its fruity taste. Full directions on each bottle. You must say "California."

day, the Admiralty published a brief communication:

"During the period between p.m. April 20th, and p.m. April 21st, an attempt to land arms (20,000 rifles captured in Russia) and ammunition in Ireland was made by a vessel under the guise of a neutral merchant-ship, but in reality a German auxiliary, in conjunction with a German submarine. The auxiliary sank and a number of prisoners were made, amongst them was Sir Roger Casement."

That same evening there were other surprises; "the German cruisers came out, the east coast of England was bombarded, an armed rebellion in Dublin, the General Post Office seized by rioters, etc." We can all remember these events as they were described in the newspapers. The coincidences were conclusive; the "Germans have been at work, and the Irish too. Ireland has given herself away." This rebellion in Dublin lasted till Saturday, 20th. "The sum total of the adventure was 124 soldiers killed, 400 wounded, 216 civilians killed, 514 wounded. The finest streets in Dublin were destroyed and the damage amounted to £4,000,000. The losses of the Sinn Feiners could never be estimated."

Then, according to the ancient formula, Ireland's martyrdom began. The prisoners were taken before courts martial. "Bloody courts," howled the Irish. Good Gracious! they are not set up to award good conduct prizes. All the signatories of the proclamation were shot. Altogether there were fifteen executions; sixty-nine others condemned to death, including Countess Markievicz, were reprieved by General Maxwell, who had plenary powers of life and death. The Irish called this a butchery. It is the same old cry of all rioting and all rebellions; preventive measures are odious repressions and retaliation are criminal!

The rebellion of 1916? Pah!—a small matter when all was said and done; was it not almost justified by the horrors of its suppression? You will often find these a posteriori arguments in Irish polemic. This is how the history of this martyred race is written; one could laugh at it if one did not know that in twenty years' time earnest men will take these fables, so solemnly stated, as true facts.

But when peace takes place in Ireland, it won't be Ireland that we have to thank, in spite of the fact that "she tried to stab us in the back."—John Redmond's words.

Yours truly,
L. CULLEN.

November 29, 1920.

75c. Set Xmas Post-cards, 5x 7 plate in water colors; one 14" colored oval plate "Jeanette"; one 7 x 11 black and white sketch. All above value \$1.50, all for 75 cents postpaid. Order at once and receive, FREE, one beautiful colored plate, size 12 x 14, of Famous Movie Actress. All above suitable for framing.

PAUL DEBER, Box 1308, St. John's.

Returning to Newfoundland.

The closing down of the steel plants at Sydney mines and Sydney, together with the general slump in labour circles in Cape Breton and the unsettled conditions at present in the coalfields, is one reason for so many people returning to Newfoundland. Last night the steamer Kyle had a record second-class passenger list, nearly every one of the 136 people on board being labourers thrown suddenly out of employment as a result of the sudden ultimatum from the railwaymen Monday last. A large force of local men are also idle, and it is safe to say there was not a time since pre-war days that so many men in the industrial centres of Cape Breton were idle. And happening as it does, on the very eve of a long winter, the outlook is indeed serious.—North Sydney Herald, Nov. 26.

Buy "Parker's" Boots and Shoes and keep the Factory open. "All Solid Leather" is our motto. PARKER & MONROE, LTD.—Nov 27, 21

Personal.

Sir Robert Bond arrived in town yesterday from Whitbourne. The Telegram tenders its congratulations to the Venerable Rev. Dr. Cowperthwaite, who celebrates his 82nd birthday to-day.

Rev. A. B. S. Stirling, who has recently suffered from a severe attack of Grippa, is steadily improving, and will be able to resume work in a few days.

Mrs. W. J. Martin, wife of the Registrar-General, arrived by the Sable 1 Monday morning after an absence of three months spent with her daughter, Mrs. Fred G. Pearce at Barrie, Ontario. Mrs. Martin very much benefited by her trip, and looks well.

"Parker's" Boots and Shoes are "Union Made" by Union Men, and are solid, serviceable and good wearing. PARKER & MONROE, LTD.—Nov 27, 21



Dominion Housing Scheme, Etc.

SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED.

The new houses built under the Dominion Housing Scheme will be declared open by H. E. the Governor and Lady Harris on Thursday next at 3 o'clock. We learn from Hon. John Anderson, who inaugurated and carried through the scheme, that the houses are now practically finished, and will be ready for occupation in a few weeks. Anyone who has seen the houses will admit that they are models which other builders might copy to advantage. The designs of Architect McCarter are attractive and the "packing-case" effect which is so common in St. John's gives way to a gabled, not-too-uniform row of houses which are a pleasure to the eye. They are as comfortable inside as they are good-looking outside. Each house, which contains five rooms, spacious halls, cupboards, etc. has a well appointed bath room, with all modern conveniences. A large measure of credit is due to Mr. Badcock, the well-known foreman, who, with characteristic thoroughness and speed, carried through the work of building so satisfactorily. After the ceremony the houses will be open for public inspection.

Ladies Let Cuticura Keep Your Skin Fresh and Young

See Cuticura Tablets, 25c each. Sold everywhere. See Packet. Specimen, 10c. Free. St. John's, Nfld.

POLICE COURT.—A drunk and disorderly was fined \$5 or 10 days. Several civil cases were disposed of.



Dr. Lehr,
DENTIST,
Has removed to

Strang's Building,
329 Water St.,

Three Doors West of
A. Goodridge & Sons.
Jan 6, 1921

HARNESS.

We have complete stock Carriage, Cart, Slide and Double Team, in full sets and all separate parts. SPECIAL PRICE ON ALL HARNESS.

WOOD HAMES.

Extra strong, with brass top, for single and double team.

SLEIGH BELLS.

Neck Straps of Brass Rattles, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00 a strap.

Neck Straps of 3 Open Bells, \$1.50 and \$1.00 a strap.

Shaft Bells, 3 on metal, 45c. and 50c. Nickel Shaft Chimes, \$2.50, \$4.00, \$5.00 and \$5.50 pair.

Sleigh Pad Chimes, \$3.75 and \$5.00 each.

Sleigh Bells for across back.

Steel Bells, 4 on strap, \$1.50. Nickel and Brass, 2 on strap, \$3.75.

GUN CAPS.

English Double Waterproof, Beaver Hat and small size.

X CUT SAWS,

3 and 3 1/2 feet.

COTTON TWINE and HEMP TWINE

at lowest market price.

LINNETT.

We have 3,000 fathoms 16 thread, 4, 5, 6 inch, selling at less than cost price.

The Neyle-Soper Hardware Co., Ltd.
210 Water Street.
Oct 1, 1920

First to Quote These Prices on CRESCENT Fingering WOOLS

HUGE SHIPMENTS JUST OPENED

FAST BLACK
18c. Crescent Wool, **\$2.10**
12 slips to the head,

The Slip The old pre-war three-quarter pound head. The Head.

FAST BLACK
23c. CRESCENT WOOL, **\$1.80**
8 Slips to the head.

The Slip Half pound head. The Head.



We are still offering our Bargains in

Tinned Goods.

PEACHES, PEARS, APRICOTS, CORNED BEEF, ROAST BEEF, CONDENSED MILK, PORK and BEANS, ASSORTED JAMS.

Also just arrived:

N. Y. Chicken.

A YRE & SONS, Limited.

'Phone 11. Grocery Dept. 'Phone 11.

FOR SALE!

One First-Class Combination Wood-working Machine, with Bank Saw attachment.

For particulars apply to

Cowan & Co.

Limited.

210 Water Street.

Oct 1, 1920

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North Sydney COAL.

Now landing ex schooner "Jean Dundonald Duff". Apply

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