

were good reason for government coalition, it exists in Ireland to-day.

About three-quarters of the people of Ireland are Roman Catholics, and about one-quarter Protestants. Probably Nationalists and Unionists are approximately in the same proportion, though this is by no means certain, as there are Protestant Home Rulers and Roman Catholic Unionists. It is beyond question, however, that in every constituency the Roman Catholics would return a Nationalist candidate, and the Protestants a Unionist one, if they voted separately. Rather over one-fifth of the Roman Catholics are in Ulster, and a similar proportion of the Protestants in the other Provinces.

The Home Rule Bill, now on the Statute Book, but suspended from operation during the war, gives Provincial Home Rule to Ireland, with a reduced representation at Westminster. The present representation, which has become disproportionate through the increase of the population of Great Britain and the reduction of that of Ireland, was fixed in 1801, by the Act of Union, and cannot be altered without the consent of Ireland, which is withheld till either the present Bill is put into operation, or Home Rule finally adjusted to the satisfac-