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LIMITED



The Case for Ireland.

OPINIONS OF PROMINENT ENGLISHMEN.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir.—It is becoming obvious to the close observer of current events that the soul of England has begun to realize that the persecutions carried on by her government against the Irish nation and the campaign of denigration that she is waging through her propagandist press agencies must be stopped in the interest of her own good name in the eyes of the present world and in the eyes of posterity. The best element in England sees that unless these things cease, their country will go down in history as the companion in crime of the atrocities which the war overthrew.

Let us get back a few years in thought. We all remember the detestation in which the Russia of the Czar was held here and throughout the civilized world for sending Polish and Finnish patriots and her own political offenders to the living grave of Siberia and for her other acts of oppression. We remember how the Austrian Empire was abhorred for its hangings and floggings in Bohemia and the Italian Republics. To take more recent examples, we remember what a potent agent in arousing the ardour of our people during the last great war the accounts of German frightfulness in Belgium and Turkish massacres in Armenia proved. The danger is that the future historian will be compelled to speak of British reprisals in Ireland in the same terms as he will speak of German frightfulness in Belgium, that Balbriggan, Trim and Mallow will go down in history in the same damning bloodred type as Dinant and Louvain; and it is that disgrace which these patriotic Englishmen are trying to avert.

General Sir Hubert Gough, though Irish-born, has never regarded himself as an Irishman. In 1914 he was one of the most influential of Army Unionists, and was largely responsible for the famous Curragh resignations in that year. Since that time he has played an honourable part in the war and has undergone a remarkable change of mind in regard to Ireland, and the following, coming from him, cannot fail to carry weight: "Ireland is now being subjected to the worst form of military lynch law, in which not the supposed culprits, but towns and villages are the victims. . . I have evidence in my possession which forces me to the reluctant conviction that the authorities are not only screening, but encouraging the foulest atrocities." The General is not better informed than other people of his position in England, and the more

truly patriotic of them, as we hope to show further on, abhor these conditions as heartily as he does. Outside Great Britain these things are not generally known. British propagandists control the cables and carefully suppress everything unfavourable to them, except where the omission would be too glaring, and then they distort the facts. Friends of the Irish cause get the whole truth through the mails, but it usually comes too late to catch the attention of the general public, even when it can be given publicity.

But England herself is nearer the scene of action, and her public is not so easily blinded. That fine intellectual element which has been termed the "soul" of England, seeing these things and realizing full well what must be the outcome of them, is doing its utmost to terminate the present regime; and here is reason to hope that their protest will stir the British democracy to action. All lovers of the empire should pray for the fulfilment of that hope, for the continuance of the present policy will mean the doom of the British Empire. Imperial Rome is a memory, and the might of Russia, Austria, Germany and Turkey is scattered and crushed, and why? These mighty empires misused their strength by the oppression of the little peoples whom they forced into subjugation, and their tyrannies were the cause of their fall. If England continues to follow in their footsteps, she cannot long escape a similar fate.

The following quotations will show that many of England's public men see these things clearly. No one will venture to deny the claim of these men to speak for England. They are the truest patriots who consider their country's honor and future security as well as the material advantages of the moment. As Mr. Chesterton puts it: "It may not be very pleasant for a patriotic Englishman to tell the truth about his country's treatment of Ireland, but it is very patriotic."

Let us take Mr. Gilbert Chesterton first. In a signed editorial in his New Witness he says: "Let us hold to this reality in the whirlpool of petulant anger. The Union is broken and England will govern Ireland never again! Ireland is lost to us; but it is still possible that she may become a friend of our pride. We that have fought for the freedom of the world are now fighting to keep a little people from their freedom, and all the old arguments of the tyrant come tripping to our lips. . . The days of the politician will be numbered when the flags of St. Patrick and St. George fly side by side. . . If a government cannot rule you must get rid of it. The number of policemen and Sinn Fein men is a prime reason for getting rid

of Dublin Castle rule. . . Let us remember finally that nothing done by or fabled of the Sinn Feiners of to-day, can rival the crimes done by England in Ireland. There can be no settlement with the scales for arbiters; in plain justice we can hope nothing from Ireland but silence and contempt. But if we hold a hand out there is a chance that this great and generous people may grasp it. Let us try!"

In a more recent editorial, dated Oct. 1st, which we have not space to quote at all fully, he deals with the "Black and Tan" outrages. "They are called by the name of 'reprisals' because that name was given to certain more or less questionable methods of war, but they are no kind of method of government. In war all enemies are enemies, but in no social system are all subjects enemies; to treat subjects so is not to rule but to raid. It is no good talking about governing well or ill, for we are no longer governing. The English may still be in Ireland, but the English Government is already expelled from Ireland. It is no longer a question of what we shall give to Ireland, but of what we shall take from her."

Mr. Chesterton's style is so forceful and pointed that we are tempted to give him a monopoly of the space. But there are many others. Mr. Jerome K. Jerome in "Common Sense" says "Why do we foam at the mouth because of the mere suggestion that a little free and independent nation should rise out of the Atlantic Ocean some twenty to fifty miles from our shores? Sooner or later it will have to come to that. The sooner the British public faces the fact the better for Great Britain. . . Let Ireland go with God's blessing and a shake of the hand! Then the hate and evil of a thousand years will be drowned, and out of the sea will arise a friendly nation that we can live with side by side."

Mr. Ribert Lynd, of the London Daily News says, in the course of a lengthy article, "If Lord Bryce and Mr. H. A. L. Fisher were to go to Ireland and investigate the crimes committed against Irishmen as they investigated the Belgian atrocities, they would find matter for a report which would astound and horrify the world." This is further borne out by a letter to the Times from Mr. J. Annan Bryce, an ex-M.P., and brother of Lord Bryce, in which he strongly reproaches outrages committed in Queenstown under his own observation.

Sir Philip Gibbs, the most noted of war correspondents, has written: "I think we are guilty of national hypocrisy in prating of the liberties of small nations while we govern Ire-

land by martial law." And two members of Parliament have even advocated the recognition of an Irish Republic on the floor of the House of Commons: Neil MacLean, of Glasgow, the Labor Whip, and Lt.-Com. Kenworthy, of Central Hull, an Independent Liberal. Mr. Asquith, too, while favoring a solution that would give Ireland full dominion status, has put himself on record as "unperturbed by the spectre of an Irish Republic."

These are strong opinions, and the holders of them, are men of position and public influence, but they are only individual opinions. The two protests to which we shall now refer carry even greater weight.

The first is the celebrated letter of protest against 'reprisals' which appeared in the Manchester Guardian in September last. It would be difficult to get a list more truly representative of the best and highest thought in England. Moreover none of the signatories is concerned in party politics. Among the signatories were Bishop Charles Gore, late of Oxford; General Gough, Sir Philip Gibbs, Lieut.-Col. Ernest Barker, Professor L. T. Hobhouse of London University, H. G. Wells, John Massfield, Basil Williams, J. L. Hammond, C. E. Montague, of Manchester University, Gilbert Murray, M.A., Trustee of the British Museum, C. P. Scott, Editor of the Guardian, and Desmond McCarthy, the famous naval surgeon.

Even more significant was the resolution passed at the Trades' Union Congress in London, representing over four and a half million workers, which called upon the Government to call a truce and withdraw their troops from Ireland.

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only the Liberals and the Labor Party, but also the progressive wing of the Unionists under Lord Robert Cecil joined in the condemnation of "Black and Tan" reprisals when the session opened last week and voted against the Government on the motion for an inquiry.

These indications give cause for thought. It is evident that the conscience of England is rousing at last to a knowledge of the crimes that are being committed in her name. It will be the earnest hope of all well-wishers both of England and of Ireland that the British democracy will take action before it is too late, and all chance of an amicable solution gone for ever.

Thanking you in advance for space, Yours very truly,
PRESS & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE,
S.D.L.N.

per Thomas Kelly,
Secretary.
November 2, 1920.

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Irish Songs Have Inimitable Charm.

Of all the musical histories of the nations, writes Gertrude Marion Barker in Musical America, that of the Irish is most full of charm. From earliest times musical expression has been a part of the people, so much so that one cannot think of an Irishman without his harp and his song. Music and poetry were the means by which the ancient inhabitants of Ireland reached out to higher things, and together they form a tradition which links the old harpers who played on the hill of Tara and the bards and minstrels of that day with the advent of St. Patrick and the Christian era.

It is said that the followers of Cormac MacArt, High-King of Tara, knelt down before St. Patrick and said, "Never, never again shall my harp sing the praises of any God but Patrick's God," and from that time on they joined the saint in his missionary journeys.

But the life of that remote period could not be effaced from the hearts and memories of the people—so behind every tree a fairy, goblin, spirit or banshee lurked—and are quite as vital in Ireland to-day as they were at the dawn of Christian civilization. Who does not love the tales of

fairy and goblin; the Blarney stone the pictures of the "Low-back Car" Who has not been charmed by the tales in song and rhyme of the beautiful Lakes of Killarney; the rustic scenes of Ireland, and the home scenes of the plain folk of the Emerald Isle?

The folk-songs of Ireland are the battle-cries of freedom; of wrongs done by Tudor kings and Cromwell's hosts; they deal with martyrdom, cheering the patriots, soothing the tired mother crooning over the sleeping children; and they give vent to the pent-up feelings of love-lorn youths and maidens. Every phase of history, every day life, sadness, joy, love and heaven is written in the hearts of all true Irishmen by the songs that are woven about them.

ENGAGEMENT—Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara, to Mr. Stone of Smith's Sound, Trinity Bay.—adv.

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