

Secretary of Ireland in his endeavor to settle the question, projected a scheme in 1907 whereby Trinity College was to be merged into a new university of Dublin which was to include Queen's College and a new Catholic College. The control of the entire community was to be vested in a board partly nominated by the Crown and partly by the colleges and the general body of students.

This proposal was strenuously opposed, firstly by the Dublin University Defence Commission and secondly by the Catholics of Ireland. The former objected saying, "that the ideals which had hitherto dominated the aims and teachings of Trinity College were incompatible with a system in which regard for principle of authority and the repudiation of scientific theorization are leading features." The latter refused to support measures whereby the Catholic student would be attracted into an atmosphere inimical to their religious beliefs.

Government then proposed to establish two new universities, one in Dublin, a Catholic resort, and one in Belfast, which, although no religious tests were to be enforced, was to be for Presbyterians. This system of education on a denominational bias was claimed by both Catholics and non-Catholics to be injurious to the higher interests of the people.

However, not discouraged, parliament, on the refusal of this second scheme to solve the university question, proposed a third plan which was at once approved of by the people. Mr. Birrell brought forth this measure, which left Trinity College intact, but created two new universities, one in Dublin and one in Belfast. The new university of Dublin, better known today as the National University of Ireland was given a nominated senate of thirty-six members, of whom twenty-nine are Catholics. While to the University of Belfast was given a similar senate of whom all but one are Protestants.

These universities are now open to all matriculants, and are doing excellent work and I hope and I am convinced that by the continuation of their good work coupled with the impetus which will be given to learning by the granting of Home Rule, Ireland will once more be called, "The University of Europe," the lamp of the north.

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