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The Daily Mail

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Letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only and the real name of the author should be attached. This will not be used unless consent be given in the communication.

The publication of any letter does not signify that the Editor thereby shows his agreement with the opinions therein expressed.

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD., APRIL 1, 1914.

NO PERSONAL MATTER.

Some of our correspondents writing us concerning Hospital and Tuberculosis matters show an unfortunate disposition to descend to personalities.

This is not necessary; it is not interesting, it has absolutely no bearing on the matter at issue.

There is absolutely no need of discussing the professional credentials of the medical men concerned in this matter. They were appointed to positions of public trust and responsibility by the Government and, of course, the Government was quite satisfied that it was appointing the most capable men available.

The point at issue is the administration of public services.

We are fully prepared to discuss the matter from this point of view. Our columns are open to correspondents who have the liberty of criticising the officials in question, favorably or otherwise, but irrelevant personalities are not welcome; they occupy valuable space and add absolutely nothing to our knowledge of important public departments.

A SECTARIAN ISSUE!

The Montreal Star has a special correspondent in London, who signs "Hill" to his messages, which usually show very complete knowledge of the inner meaning of events.

The following extract from one of Hill's messages proves the point made by The Mail recently in reply to The News:

"It is significant that each day one hears less of the two parties, being called Nationalist and Unionist. The definition now is dreadfully clear-cut. You must either be Protestant or Catholic. Religion has taken the place of politics."

KING GEORGE VINDICATED.

The Minister of War, Col. Seely, made this statement in the Commons: "Any suggestion that the King has taken any initiative of any kind in this matter is absolutely without foundation in the broadest sense. His Majesty took no initiative of any kind."

This referred to the charge that King George was personally responsible for the pledge given to military officers that they would not be called upon to fight the Protestants of Ulster.

The charge in question was proclaimed in the Commons by disloyal cheers of Laborites, Radicals and Nationalists. Their readiness to believe it without a little of evidence indicated their tendency to revolution. They will never be satisfied till an elected partisan of their own style has taken the place of an impartial king of all the people.

ABSOLUTE CO-EERCION.

Mr. Asquith has been loudly acclaimed in Home Rule circles for his alleged liberal concessions to the province of Ulster.

Mr. Asquith has made no such concessions.

It is true that his proposed compromise provided for Ulster remaining outside the scope of the Home Rule Bill for a period of six years.

But this was simply another way of forcing the province to submit to the demands of the Nationalists.

Ulster is now a protesting province and Ulster at present is in a position to offer active opposition to any practical attempt to co-erce her into accepting the Asquith Home Rule Bill.

In six years time she will not be in such an advantageous position.

Her volunteer army will be practically disbanded; her elaborate organization will be a thing of the past and she will then be in no position to oppose the imposition of what she regards as a yoke.

And what athlete in the pink of condition would think deferring a struggle with an opponent for a period of years which would allow of his getting out of form and becoming an easy prey in the inevitable contest.

For the Home Rule Bill is a Co-ercive measure whether applied to Ulster now or six years hence.

The province may obtain stay of execution for six years, but to what advantage?

Sentence still hangs over her head and when the period of respite has elapsed, she must, willingly or unwillingly, come under the authority of the Nationalist Legislature at Dublin.

For the Home Rule Bill allows her no option whatever at the end of the stipulated six years.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Ulster prefers to have the matter settled definitely right now.

A SOLDIER'S DUTY.

"The Right Hon. Col. John Seely Secretary of State for War, interviewed the General Officers in command in Ireland and explained to them that an officer of the British army was entitled to obey orders to shoot only in case the order was a reasonable one under the circumstances.

"The Secretary of War told them that no one, from a General down to a private was entitled to use more force than was required to maintain order and the safety of life and property. He pointed out that no soldier could shelter himself from the civil law behind an order given by a superior officer if that order was unreasonable and outrageous. Col. Seely continued:

"If, therefore, officers and men of the British army have been led to believe that there is a possibility they might be called upon to take outrageous action—for instance, to massacre a demonstration of Orangemen who were causing no danger to the lives of their neighbors—bad as were the effects on discipline in the army, nevertheless it was true that they were in fact and in law justified in a refusal to obey."

This ruling was handed down to the officers in command at Curragh, and the following reply was submitted:

Brigadier-General Hubert Gough, in reporting the feeling in his brigade as the result of a communication from the War Office, conveyed to him verbally by General Sir Arthur Paget, said:

"The officers of my brigade are unanimous in the opinion that further information is essential before they should be called upon at such short notice to take decisions so vitally affecting their whole future, and especially that a clear definition should be given of the terms 'duty as ordered,' and 'active operations' in Ulster."

"If such duty consists in the maintenance of order and preservation of property, all the officers, including myself, are prepared to carry out that duty. If, however, the duty involves the initiation of active military operations against Ulster, the following officers would respectfully and under protest prefer to resign."

The names of 56 officers of the Third Cavalry Brigade follow.

It would appear from the foregoing that the resignations tendered by officers were practically induced by the Minister of War, and that the officers were in no sense blameworthy.

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THE REAL REASON.

"What is the position? I shall try to put it clearly without bitterness and without exaggeration, but I shall put the real position.

"The message which the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Asquith) really sends to the people of Ulster is this: 'You have, by your organization extending over two years, placed yourselves in a position of commanding strength.

"You have entrenched yourselves in impregnable fortress, and, therefore, I do not ask you to submit now to a Nationalist Parliament.

"What I do ask is that you should destroy your organization, and that you should leave your fortress; that you should come out into the open, and then when you are weak you will be compelled to do what to-day, when you are strong, you will not do."

Mr. Bonar Law, Unionist leader, in the Imperial Parliament.

"So far as Ulster is concerned, be exclusion good or bad, and I think we all admit we are only driven into exclusion by the exigencies of the case and of the facts—but be exclusion good or bad, Ulster wants this question settled now and for ever.

"We do not want sentence of death, with a stay of execution for six years. 'Just look at what is offered to us. 'We are to come into a sort of probation for six years; we are to stand watching the Irish Parliament for a period of six years.

"Can the imagination of the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Asquith), at all look at the picture of what will exist in Ulster during those six years?

"Does he really think that in a great developing community, where people have vast amounts of money out and are prepared to put a vast amount more money in the expansion and development of their business, does he really mean to say that in view of that this is statesmanship?

"Would he not really, if we were talking it over in a friendly way, say it was folly to have these people in this state of uncertainty as to what was to be the form of government under which they were to live as each election came round?

"The whole organization would have to be kept up. I do not think that is feasible on the present basis, and I certainly, as far as I am concerned, and knowing these men as I do, believe that they would rather you brought the matter to close quarters to-morrow than leave them in this state of having it dangled before them that they are to be a pawn in your political game for the next six years."

—Sir Edward Carson, Ulster leader, in the Imperial Parliament.

RETROGRADE STEP.

If Nationalist Ireland wants Home Rule, then Nationalist Ireland should have it.

For the underlying principle of the British democracy is that, in as far as is consistent with sane progressive government, the people shall rule.

So then, granted that the Parliament of the United Kingdom is quite sure that the majority of the Irish of the Southern provinces desire a legislative assembly in Dublin, none may say they may on this score without violating all the principles and sentiments of the most democratic empire of the ages.

But vox populi is not always vox dei; nor is a measure necessarily wise because it is popular.

And this movement towards the separation of Ireland from the United Kingdom appeals to us as being neither wise nor desirable, judging from modern Imperial movement.

For the tendency all over the Empire to-day is toward closer union of contiguous parts of the British Dominions Overseas.

The earliest example was the federation of the British North American Dominions to form what is known as the Dominion of Canada.

In the original plan of the Dominion Government it was designed to give provincial legislative assemblies control of local affairs, the Central and Federal Parliament at Ottawa to legislate on inter-provincial matters and to amend or disallow such acts of the provincial assemblies as seemed to be prejudicial to the general interests of the Dominion.

As a matter of fact, however, the Canadian provincial assemblies are virtually independent.

A further step in colonial federation was marked by the formation of the Australian Commonwealth in the administrative affairs of which the central parliament is absolutely pre-eminent possessing the right, which has been frequently exercised,—of vetoing provincial legislation.

More recently the two conquered Boer republics of South Africa, together with British South Africa, formed a Union—not a Federation—with a single central parliament at Capetown.

It is plain therefore that the Colonial analogy provides no argument whatever for a separate Irish legislative assembly but rather the reverse.

ADVERTISE JUDICIOUSLY
IN THE DAILY MAIL

HOW ABOUT THIS!

Some of the organs of the Morris Party within the last couple of days have given considerable prominence to an editorial of The Sentinel, the official paper of the Orange Association in Canada.

The article in question referred to the appointment of R. A. Squires as Legislative Councillor and as Minister of Justice.

The reason for the quotation, of course, is so very, very plain that he "who runs may read."

We now invite The Herald and The News as well to throw the mantle of their approbation over the following editorial comments of The Sentinel on the Home Rule Question.

"The present Home Rule proposals have never been submitted to the people unassociated with many other important issues. Even if Parliament were dissolved to-day, and a general election were held, the voice of the people might be drowned in a babel of noises. Many electors who approve of the temperance, land, tariff, or insurance policies of the Government, could not bring themselves to vote against the Ministry although they are against its Irish measure.

"Similarly, there may be some who would like to defeat the Government on general principles, who yet approve of the Home Rule bill. In view of all the circumstances, it would be madness to plunge the Empire into civil war without submitting the cause of provocation to a vote of the British electors.

"The Home Rule bill is such a radical departure from the constitution as it has existed for a century, it is so intensely repugnant to millions of loyal subjects of the King, and it is so certain, if passed at this stage, to provoke a great Imperial tragedy that the historians of the future could have nothing but censure for the Government that refused to consult the people by means of a plebiscite.

"We admit this is a recourse which the conservative Mother Country has regarded as un-British, but an extraordinary emergency requires extraordinary action."

INFORMATION WANTED.

The Daily News yesterday devoted considerable space to the publication of the names of Protestants who are—or were—avowed Home Rulers.

Now, in the first place, our contemporary has performed what is absolutely a work of supererogation.

There is nobody silly enough to contend that all Protestants are anti-Home Rulers or on the other hand that all Roman Catholics are Home Rulers.

To take up such a position would be to argue against individuality of opinion and to claim that British peoples can only think along stereotyped lines such as are suggested by denominational affiliations, contentions too insulting to the intelligence of the average Britisher to be tolerated for one moment.

For there are many Protestants who believe in Home Rule—but even at that they make a poor—very poor—showing when compared with those who oppose it.

But that is not the point at issue just now.

The News prints an imposing list of names and heralds them as "Home Rulers."

Now what we want to know is this: When did these gentlemen avow themselves Home Rulers?

Did they support that Home Rule measure which Gladstone so indignantly denounced?

Did they come forward as supporters of that measure of Home Rule which Gladstone offered the Irish members as a bribe for supporting his party in Parliament?

Was their approbation given to Asquith's first Home Rule Bill or to that which is at present creating so much interest?

This is not "hair-splitting." Nor is it a case of "drawing a red herring across the trail of discussion."

For there are wide differences between Butt's Bill, Gladstone's Bill, Asquith's first Bill and the Bill now before the parliament of the United Kingdom.

Some of these Bills were absolutely obnoxious to the general electorate; others were indignantly repudiated by the Nationalists.

In one Bill the proposed Irish Parliament was to be given very wide administrative powers; in another these powers were to be merely those of a Legislative Assembly subsidiary to the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

Hence our reason for asking just when the gentlemen named in The News avowed themselves Home Rulers and what particular measure of Home Rule they supported.

MR. SLATTERY'S LECTURE.

Mr. John L. Slattery, Sec.-Treas. of the Municipal Council, will lecture on "Home Rule and Why" at St. Patrick's Hall, on Friday evening.

Considering the great interest in this subject just now, the attendance will no doubt be large.

ADMIRATION NOT IMITATION.

The Daily News professes great admiration for Premier Asquith.

Yesterday it expressed unqualified approbation of the British statesman for his action in resigning his seat after accepting the War Secretaryship to seek re-election in East Fife.

"The office," says The News, "is one of emolument. Custom in Great Britain demands a contest and to custom Mr. Asquith bows."

The editor of The News is evidently not prepared to bestow more than mere lip-worship on the Premier of Great Britain. He is not anxious to undertake that imitation which is the sincerest form of flattery.

Why otherwise has the editor of The News not urged upon the party he supports 'the great desirability of the Premier of this country adhering to the same political principle?

Custom quite as emphatically demanded a contest in this country to fill the vacant Department of Justice—but custom was entirely ignored.

Custom also called for a bye-election to fill the Department of Agriculture, but again this good old British political principle was violated.

R. A. Squires was appointed Minister of Justice without being called upon to face a contest.

Sydney D. Blandford also got his appointment to the Department of Agriculture without any reference to the wishes of the people.

Both, for reasons of party expediency, sneaked into office through the back door of the Legislative Council.

The Editor of The News did not raise his voice in condemnation of the violation by Sir Edward Morris of a principle for the observance of which he gives Premier Asquith unstinted praise.

The Editor of The News is evidently willing to admire Premier Asquith from a very far distance when the actions of the British premier put to shame the trucking of the Morris Government to considerations of party expediency.

TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,—As a Scotchman, and an Anti-Home Ruler, I resent the remarks of The Daily News, in his leading article in this morning's paper, and, more especially the arrogant manner in which he throws the onus on the shoulders of the voters of East Fife, as to the results of the possible defeat of Mr. Asquith in his bye-election. The article says:—

"It is not only the Home Rule question that is now at issue, but the actual liberties of the nation. Whether the State is to be controlled by the 'Army is the decision that East Fife must render. It is for Scotland to defend the liberties of England and Ireland as well as her own."

The Editor of The News is perfectly right when he says the liberties of the nation are at stake, but not in the way he means.

Why, I should like to ask, should East Fife voters support Home Rule, when by doing so, they are helping to take away the liberties and freedom of their fellow-countrymen and co-religionists in the North of Ireland?

Why should they interfere with the liberty of the men of Ulster, who have made that district the richest and most prosperous in the whole of Ireland?

Do you suppose for a moment that Home Rulers would be so keen about including Ulster if it was no better than the rest of Ireland?

The statistics in a late issue of The Daily Mail clearly prove where the prosperity of Ireland lies, and show too, why Home Rulers are so anxious to get a grip on Ulster. But they haven't got it yet!

As regards the "State being controlled by the Army" there is little

danger of that. The fact of so many distinguished officers (English, Irish and Scotch) resigning, shows how the Home Rule question is viewed in military circles. When these officers took the oath of allegiance they swore to defend the country against the King's enemies. And that is just why they have resigned. They realized that if force had to be used in the North of Ireland, they would be compelled to shed the blood of some of the King's most loyal subjects. So rather than do that, they have given up their positions; and all honor to them for the determined stand they have taken!

Ever since the Home Rule discussion has been going on the Editor of The Daily News has been pooh-poohing and sneering at Anti-Home Rulers, as if they were not as capable of deciding as he is, of what is best for the nation. Are the signers of the Covenant of less mental calibre, or less patriotic than the Editor of The News? Such men for instance—Lord Roberts, Sir Edward Carson, Sir E. H. Seymour, Lord Balfour, Sir Wm. Ramsey, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Lord Lovat, T. Herbert Warren, Duke of Portland, Sir Alex. Henderson, Lord Geo. Campbell, Lord Kintora, Sir H. McCalmont, Lord Saltoun, Sir Alwirth Wright, Lord Willoughby de Broke, Lord Halsbury and thousands of others, who, one and all are patriots in the highest sense of the word.

The ex-premier is unquestionably a man of great personal popularity, and has taken a step that even his great-

est political enemy must admire him for, but whether the East Fife voters are going to give him the majority they gave him before or not remains to be seen. Personality is not going to count in this election. It will be entirely a question of the liberty of the people; and, if East Fifers are of the same opinion as the majority of their countrymen (as I believe they are) the Liberal (!) Government will be "down and out" before very long.

—AULD REEKIE.
St. John's, Mar. 31, 14.

POEMS OLD AND NEW.

THE RIVER POOL.

Sweet streamlet bason! at thy side weary and faint within me cried
How longing heart,—in such pure deep
How sweet it were to sit and sleep;
To feel each passage from without
Close up,—above me and about.
Those circling waters crystal clear,
That calm impervious atmosphere!
There on their pearly pavement pure,
To lean, and feel myself secure,
Or through the dim-lit inter-space,
Afar at whites upazing trace
The dimpling bubbles dance around
Upon thy smooth exterior face;
Or idly list the dreamy sound
Of ripples lightly flung above,
That home, of peace, if not of love.
—Arthur Hugh Clough.

CASINO!

MID-WEEK FEATURE PROGRAMME. 5—REELS—5.

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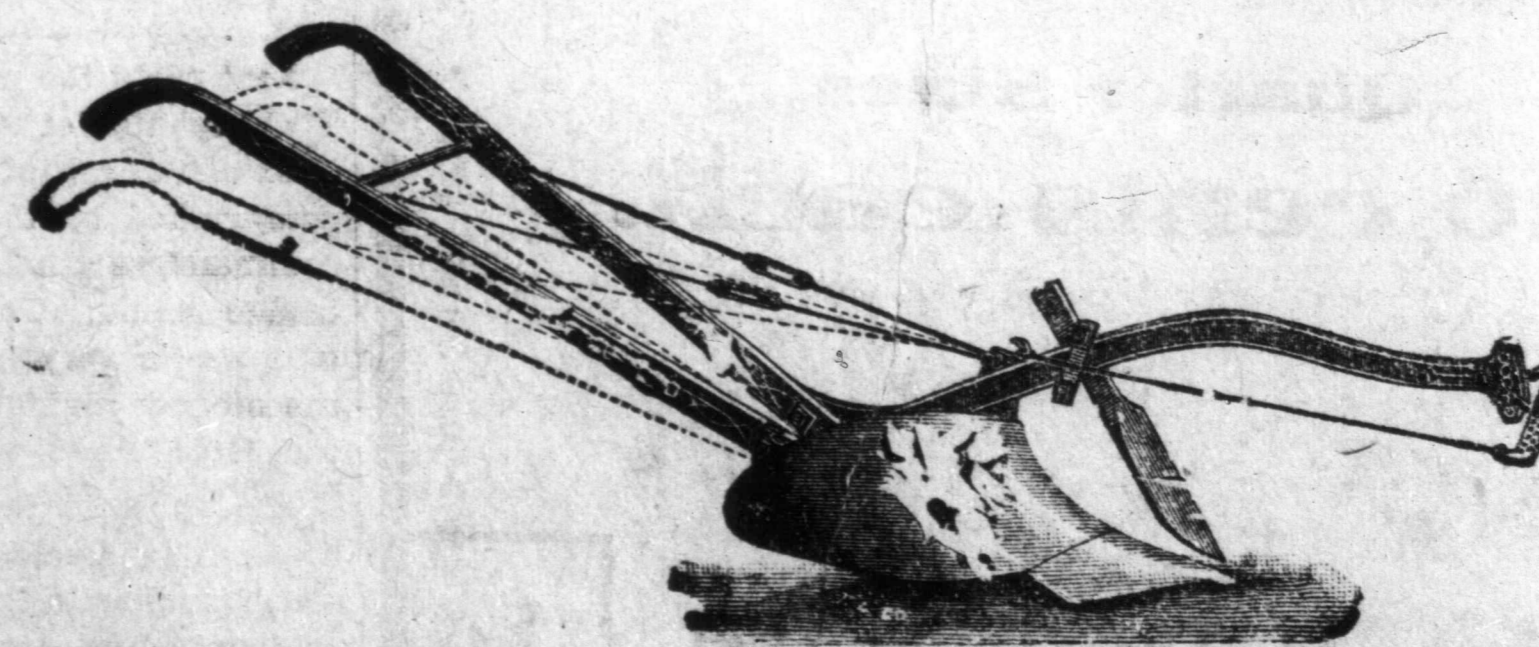
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