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[Ease, Elegance, Economy]

The Anglo-Irish Peace Negotiations.

By W. J. BROWNE, B.A., B.A.Sc., Rhodes Scholar, Oxford.

(Continued.)

WORTH TAKING HOME. Several private conversations with the two leaders at Downing Street proposals were handed to delegates. I remember the day when it was a warm night on which I had the privilege of a late supper near the Square with the charming Mr. Fitzgibbon. He got back to his hotel after the proposals had just come in an all-night session. The following day Mr. De Valera went back the answer that he was not worth taking. At the request of the Prime Minister he consented to summon the Irish Parliament to discuss the Irish Parliament to discuss. A few days later the Government committed their faith by publishing Mr. De Valera's letter, which recom- mended the proposals. The English press criticized his interference. When he went to England for the Inter-ference I thought that he asked to try his powers as a mediator he met both Craig and the doubts of the English I.R.A. kept the truce, and completely the British for- the latter daily committed of a minor character; but on it was well kept.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE CONFERENCE.

On October 11th the Conference opened in London. On the British side were Lloyd George, Lord Birkenhead, Austen Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, Sir Hamar Greenwood, Sir Gordon Stewart, and Sir Lansing Worthington Evans. On the Irish side

there were Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, George Gavan Duffy, Edmund Duggan and Robert C. Barton. Mr. De Valera remained in Dublin "to keep the Republic pure." Mr. Griffith, the Chairman of the Irish Plenipotentiaries is a journalist by profession. He is a short, square man of a very taciturn disposition. He was the founder of the Sinn Féin movement and contemplated gaining independence by the passive resistance method. Mr. Collins is a much younger man, and is a good representative of the young men of Ireland. He was Finance Minister in the Dail and held high rank in the I.R.A. He has been credited with many wonderful exploits, and his strong aggressive face makes him a striking personality.

After a few preliminary meetings two were selected from each side as a Sub-Committee. This was composed of Lloyd George, Lord Birkenhead, Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins. They met at all hours of the day and unknown to the press or public. On November 8th, an agreement was reached which the Northern Parliament rejected. About three weeks later, Nov. 29th, the English Premier submitted new proposals which the Irish turned down. It is still vague what happened after that, but the Irish leaders spent a week-end in Dublin in consultation with the Cabinet. Apparently the subject discussed was the oath of allegiance, on which Mr. Griffith declared he would not break. New counter proposals were handed over, the effect of which was, according to the Times to "make Ireland an independent power in loose Treaty relationship." With England, Lloyd George would not accept this and a final document was handed to the Irish envoys to take or leave. This was the memorable night of December 5-6. No time was allowed to submit the document to Dublin. Sir James Craig had to be informed on the following day, and therefore the document had to be returned that evening signed by all the delegates. Of that evening two stories have been told. Undoubtedly the situation was a grave one, as the delegates believed, the alternative was war. If Mr. De Valera had been a delegate I doubt much whether he would sign the document under these circumstances. Mr. Duffy and Mr. Barton speaking in the Dail afterwards, said that for themselves they preferred war, but that they hesitated to commit their country to an unequal and hopeless struggle. No delegate felt easy in his mind when he signed the document. But the die was cast. In the early morning of Tuesday, December 5, 1921 the first Treaty between England and Ireland was signed.

DIVERSITY OF OPINION.

To students of the psychology of history the reception of the Treaty must always cause a difficulty. No one in Ireland knew whether to rejoice or feel sad. The Treaty had its good fruits, but then it had its good fruits, too. That it had been signed by Mr. Griffith and Mr. Collins was to many its sole recommendation. Its reception in Dail Eireann was divided into two irreconcilable factors, one favouring, one opposing the Treaty. Mr. De Valera led the opposition of the Treaty. With him were Austin Stack and Cathal Buirgin, Minister of Defence. For the first time in four hundred years, the Dail has disagreed on fundamental matters. Everyone seemed to appreciate the honesty and sincerity of Mr. De Valera, so that recriminations did not run very high. There was no doubt that the Irish people favoured ratification. Think what it meant. For the first

time in five hundred years there would be an British troops in five-sixths of Ireland. Dublin Castle, the Irish Bastille, the symbol of persecution and all its paraphernalia of tyranny would go. Black and Tan, Auxiliaries and Court Martials would all go for ever. The jails would be emptied of all the political prisoners. Ireland would get control of her finances, her industries and her army. On the other hand, rejection meant war on a terrible scale. But it is easy to see the attitude taken up by the Republicans. The Treaty does not give self-determination. It was not a Treaty between equals but one produced under threat of duress. A Treaty signed with a pistol at your head, therefore, it would settle nothing. The supporters of the Treaty argued that it was a trench won from the enemy, and from which a new assault could be made.

INDEPENDENCE THE GOAL.

No one in Ireland believes there is any half-way house on the road to independence. No one in Ireland is never bound. The chain must be broken, not merely loosened. The star of freedom has only begun to rise in Ireland. Independence is still the goal of all Irishmen. Yet the Treaty will bring a new era to Ireland that has never known peer. The future will be a great period in the world's history, and it is very possible that the determination, the love of liberty and the heroic self-sacrifice shown by Ireland in her great struggle with a more powerful neighbor will be an inspiration to those who must re-establish the world. Ireland, says Mr. De Valera, must stand for the doctrine of moral right in International Relations, and that doctrine, although one of its champions President Wilson was wrecked on it, must eventually prevail if swords are ever to be turned into ploughshares.

MOTHER!

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Hurry mother! Even a sick child loves the "fruity" taste of "California Fig Syrup" and it never fails to open the bowels. A teaspoonful to-day may prevent a sick child to-morrow. If constipated, bilious, feverish, fretful, has cold, colic, or if stomach is sour, tongue coated, breath bad, resour, a good cleansing of the little bowels is often all that is necessary. Ask your druggist for genuine "California Fig Syrup" which has directions for babies and children of all ages printed on bottle. Mother! You must say "California" or you may get an imitation fig syrup.



FRIENDS. There was sunshine in the valley and the roses were in bloom. The skies were blue above me, but I walked the place in gloom. I was sad and disappointed in a garden that was fair to see. For with all the joy about me, not a friend of mine was there.

I'd have traded right that minute all the fields where violets grow And the balmy summer breezes for a sight of northern snow. For the beauty of the blossoms had but little charm for me. It was friendly, smiling faces I was hungering to see.

Oh, what are scenes of beauty when your friends are far away. And who could like a garden if alone he had to stay? Though the skies are blue above you, there can be no peace of mind Amid scenes of richest splendor if you've left your friends behind.

So I'll gladly brave the blizzard and I'll tramp the snowy street. For at every turn and corner there are smiling friends to meet; And though far away is sunshine, I find happiness depends. Not on sky or trees or roses, but on being with your friends.

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Wedding Bells.

O'BRIEN—WALSH.

A very pretty wedding was solemnized at St. Patrick's Church at 4 p.m. on Wednesday last, the contracting parties being Mr. George T. Walsh, of George Neal, Ltd., and Miss Marguerite O'Brien. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Kitchin in the presence of a large gathering of friends of the young couple. The bride was very prettily attired and was attended by Miss Madeline Walsh while Mr. William Walsh performed the duties of best man. After the customary toasts were duly honored and an enjoyable evening was spent. The groom's present to the bride was a set of pearls and to the bridesmaid, a ring, whilst the best man received a handsome watch fob. The presents received by Mr. and Mrs. Walsh were both numerous and costly and included cheques from Mr. W. H. Neil, George Willis and Jas. O'Brien. The employees of George Neal, Ltd., presented the happy couple with a handsome overmantle clock. The Telegram wishes Mr. and Mrs. Walsh many years of wedded bliss.

The End of the Franco-German War.

Just fifty years ago, March 1, 1871, the victorious German army made its formal entry into Paris after the signature of the provisional treaty of peace. The French capital had surrendered a month before, on Jan. 28, when an armistice was concluded at Versailles; and in the interval a French National Assembly had been convened to guarantee the terms. The cession of Alsace and Lorraine and the huge indemnity were the outstanding features of the settlement, which further provided for a brief occupation of part of Paris by the Germans. They had been willing, it is true, to waive that stipulation, but only on condition of receiving the town of Belfort as compensation, and the French Government rightly held that substantial considerations were more important than sentimental ones. King William of Prussia, newly-made German Emperor, enjoyed the honour of entering Paris for the third time, for he had been with the victorious allies in 1814 and 1816. Bismarck and Moltke, who had been the principal instruments of his triumph, were in his train, and the march of the occupying forces was headed by a young subaltern, who was called Bernhardt, and was destined to make his name notorious as a writer in later years. Altogether, in truth, this ostentatious ceremony did much to implant the seeds of aggressive militarism in Germany, which from that time onwards began to dream of world power. By the French the humiliation was deeply felt, but fortunately the day passed without hostile demonstrations. The houses in the way were all closely shuttered, and the populace for the most part was absent, so that no excuse for further claims was given to the Prussians by useless and untimely violence. The invaders marched in and in due course marched out without incident; and less than a week later the German headquarters left Versailles and returned to Berlin. Now the Germans are squealing because they are required to pay for the Great War. It is to be hoped that France will act as the Germans acted in 1871.

"Passing the Buck."

(Hamilton Spectator.) Premier Drury, speaking in this city, warned the public against expecting too much of a government legislation. The government can never regulate the welfare of the individual, he said, and appealed to that "sturdy sense of independence" which enabled a man to stand upon his own feet. The premier, harassed by the necessity of finding the money for a war-increasing accumulation of public undertakings, may well issue the warning against adding to the tale; but it is not difficult to believe in his disinterestedness. The tendency in these measures are devised.

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