

ber, a majority—the number of Liberals and Conservatives being equal—composed of Irish Nationalists with a few members of the labour party. The majority thus constituted is for the time being omnipotent. From their decisions there is no appeal. For the next two years the destinies of the Empire are in their hands. Public opinion has no terrors for them, for there is no voice by which it can be expressed. Education, experience in and knowledge of, public affairs, may be found in the possession of individual ministers, but can only be exercised at the will of the triumphant majority expressed through the medium of the dictator of the Irish Nationalists.

This may or may not be a desirable state of affairs, and best for the peace and good government of the country—we are not discussing that; we are simply calling attention to the facts as they exist, and to the changes which have so suddenly, without warning, and with but little time for consideration, been made in the constitution of the British Empire.

It may be said that such a revolution, the greatest in our history since the time of the Commonwealth, has no interest for us. What matters it to us whether England is ruled by King, Lords and Commons, or by the House of Commons alone? At this moment it may not matter, but no student of history will fail to have misgivings for the future stability of the Empire.

One feature in the administration of public affairs in Great Britain, to be found in no other country, is the greatness of the service given to the public without fee or reward, or expectation of either. The unpaid magistracy comprise a body of men who, whatever their faults may be, are of great value to the State. In municipal affairs we find that the wealthiest and noblest in the land do not think it beneath their dignity to take an active part in whatever is going on to promote the interests of the people among whom they live. And in the higher spheres of public life, in the Houses of Parliament, we find the same spirit prevailing, and, alone among the Legislatures of the world, the members of that of Great Britain have never received any return in money for the time they spend, the work they do, or the expense they