

SAYS THAT IRELAND WILL NOT ACCEPT HOME RULE IN PART.

**Father O'Loughran, Prominent Irish Priest, Gives
Interesting Outline of Situation in His Country
—Irish-Americans Plotted Rebellion of Last
Year.**

New York, May 14.—Ireland will not accept partial home rule now, though she might have done so last year when this was suggested by Asquith and Lloyd George as a temporary solution, in the opinion of the Rev. Father Robert O'Loughran, a well-known Irish priest, who is a friend of Redmond and Dillon, has lived for years in England, and has recently toured the greater part of the United States on a lecturing trip.

"Redmond was right to accept any solution at all last year," he says. "All England was strongly stirred by the Irish rebellion; it came at a time when the British were very gloomy over their military reverses, and they felt that the Irish were playing them a nasty trick, were striking them in the back. Mr. Redmond has told me himself that Asquith and Lloyd George assured him at the time that the exclusion of the Ulster counties was only temporary, but later Lord Lansdowne's opposition to any sort of home rule forced them to abandon this position."

Irish Rebellion.

"For a few months after the rebellion Ireland was revolutionary, almost insane, and this was chiefly to the British government in employing measures of great severity during and after the suppression of the rising. Redmond was in great disfavor then, but I believe that now, as before the rising, 90 per cent. of sane Irishmen in Ireland, England and America support him and the Irish parliamentary party."

"The Dublin rebellion was no such thing as a pro-German move, nor even anti-English. It was rather anti-Redmond. Many people, even those not connected with the Sinn Féin movement, felt that the older leaders of the Irish parliamentary party were out of touch with young Ireland, but that of itself would not have been sufficient to stir up the trouble. The Sinn Féiners have talked so loud that many in America have thought they were all Ireland, but they were not. Even most of those opposed to Redmond's recruiting policy thought that it was not well to oppose him actively, since he might have had reasons for pursuing it which were not known generally. As a matter of fact, it is fairly well known now that the Dublin revolt was hatched in America by men who were too far away to be hurt by it."

Plotting by Irish-Americans.

"In about ten years, when Irishmen are sane again and people write sanely on the Irish question, it will be recognized that the blame for this unfortunate conditions of last year falls partly on the Irish-Americans who plotted the rebellion because of their hatred

of Redmond and partly on the severity of the English military commanders. If it had been suppressed in a sane and magnanimous way there would never have been so much of this republican talk, and the Bishop of Limerick, who before the war was suspected of not even being a Home Ruler, and whose attitude was always that of sitting on the fence and criticizing, would not have been for five minutes the most popular man in Ireland."

"The country was never so prosperous as it was at the time of the revolt. Twenty years ago people went to the fair of Athlone in country carts; today 90 per cent. of them drive their own automobiles. The blame for the revolt, aside from the Irish-Americans, lies with a section of young Ireland which held the doctrine that national spirit requires a revolution every 20 years or so; that it needs martyrs. They wanted martyrdom themselves and they thought that in this way they could register a protest against Redmond's policy of a reapportionment with England before Home Rule was actually in force."

"But the Irish in America who hatched this knew that the present British government might be trusted to use tyrannical measures of repression, and that they would thus discredit Redmond. And they did for a time, but now responsible sentiment is swinging back to the parliamentary

party which has obtained so much in the way of land reform, educational development, and improvement in housing conditions."

Mrs. Sheehy Skelton says she has come here to work for the establishment of an Irish republic. But who sent her? It is a dream of her own. Sheehy Skelton was not regarded as a representative man in Ireland.

Decent Treatment.

"I have read in the Gaelic American about the harshness in the treatment of prisoners in England have disgusted me. I was chaplain to Arthur Griffiths, Dr. John Dundon, Sean Kelly and Terence McSwiney while they were in Reading Gaol; I know that the governor of the jail, Thomas Brown, who is a Home Ruler, treated them as a gentleman and allowed them many privileges. I have talked to Irishmen who were confined elsewhere in England and I know that with very few exceptions they also met with very courteous treatment."

"Indeed, their stay in English jails was an educative experience for some Irishmen; they had grown up in the unfortunate prejudice based on the theory that modern England was the same as the England of Elizabeth, but they learned after their stay in that country that the masses of Englishmen were not so much opposed to Home Rule as they had thought."

"The great turning point in Unionist opposition in England came after the rebellion, when every one was saddened by the bloodshed, and Carson's speech in parliament, when he offered his hand to Redmond, marked a great turning point in his life and left every one who heard it hopeful for a settlement."

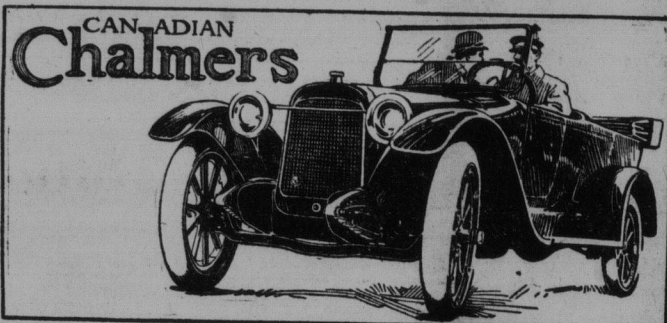
"I myself knew men in Belfast, strongly opposed to Home Rule, who nevertheless see that it is coming and have determined for business reasons not to oppose it, and I think that their views are typical of those of a large section of Ulstermen. The appeal of effect in England, and perhaps still more important is the fact that now that America is in the war Irish-Americans are rallying splendidly to the American flag and for the first time in their lives Irish affairs are for five minutes in the background of thoughts."

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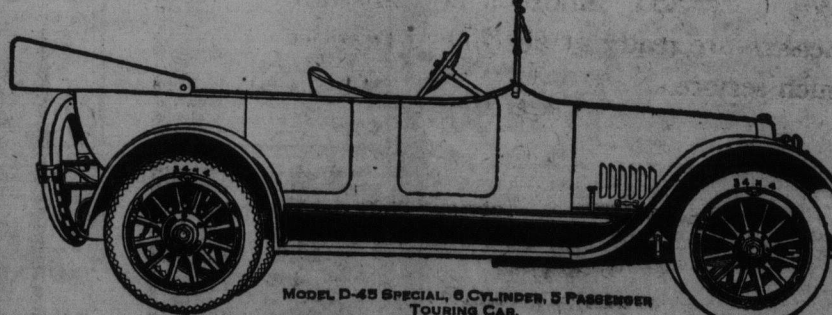
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