

The Irish and the Somme Front.

The official British communique, of September the tenth, lays special stress on the gallantry of the Irish Nationalist troops—the Home Rulers—in the bloody fighting on the Somme front. Facing death in the most horrible forms these gallant men, from a noble and chivalrous race, so inspired their comrades for the very history repeating itself. On the battlefields of the world the Irish race have ever maintained their ground and have shed their blood and given their very lives, often indeed, for those who had neither the grace nor the foresight to render to the land that bore such heroes that mead of justice which has been the crying need of Ireland for centuries. The present war will revise the life of the world; old conditions must give place to new. Despotism whether in the form of petty landlordism or governmental tyranny, has had its day. Its fruits are well seen in the case of Germany to-day, and in the blind obedience of the German people, writhing in its toll. Public men of the seventeenth century school are yet with us but they must give way before the irresistible march of events. The antiquated ideas of Lansdowne and such others who, even in this enlightened age, seek to fast upon the Irish people measures out of keeping with all standards of

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right and justice, may endure for a time but they cannot last. Ireland, abused, persecuted, ravaged for centuries, as no other country on God's green earth has been outraged, is demonstrating to-day, in a manner that will not brook denial, that she is entitled to those God-given rights which call themselves Christian. Petty officialism and low deceit may yet defer the day but the sacrifices of Ireland on the battlefields, her glorious dead and the thousands of her sons who are to-day fighting under the prerogatives of all nations the banner of civilization herald, in no uncertain manner, the dawn of the day, when the Irish demand for that long-deferred right of managing their own affairs will have arisen to the pitch of the hurricane and it will only be a rash man or a blind government that will strive to face that gale. From all quarters of the far-flung British Empire Irishmen have poured their thousands into the ranks. They are to-day fighting the battles of freedom, that small nations may endure, and they demand for the Green Isle merely that same measure of freedom for which they are to-day laying down their lives. The deeds of the Irish on the Somme mark but another epoch in the history of the race. The Irish "at home" have the heart-to-heart support of the millions of their countrymen scattered throughout the Empire and in other parts of the world. Their great hope must be attained. Petty politicians and unscrupulous exploiters have had a long inning but the augmented demand of the Irish people can no longer be brushed lightly aside, and when the liberties of little nations have been restored, through the allied victory, the just rights of the little Irish nation must also be irrevocably fixed for hers has been a struggle which has endured for centuries.—The "New Freeman."

It was in 1840 that Rowland Hill, an English schoolmaster, stirred all Europe to laughter by declaring that James Chalmers and he had devised a system whereby a two-sheet letter could be sent from London to Edinburgh for two cents and yet leave the Government a fair profit on the transaction. At that time the fee was fifty-four cents for that distance for a two-sheet letter. Such an idea seemed ridiculous to the public, which had looked upon the sending of communications as an expensive luxury.

Hill persisted despite the ridicule he worked diligently on his schedule, and before the time was ripe he put the system before Parliament. Hill offered proof that was incontrovertible that the actual cost of the Government for carrying each letter averaged only a small fraction of a cent. He proved that the expense of hiring men to figure out postal rates on the system then existing based on distance and the number of sheets, was greater than the profit gained, and he urged the adoption of a flat rate for all letters under a certain weight no matter how short or long a journey they were to make.

Not since the days of the discovery of printing had there come to human beings such a boon as was launched in England on May 6, 1840, when the first postage stamps were used. That date in history marked the beginning of popular communication placing within the reach of the poorest peasant the means of writing to relatives and friends. It put the people of the world into closer touch, it encouraged the art of writing as no other agency had done. But, greatest of all, it spread civilization.

Millions of people who to-day open their mail scarcely glance at the little stamp that adorns the wrapper. It but represents to them the cost of transporting and handling by the Government. Few realize that the postage stamp is a modern contrivance and that it has played a remarkable part in the world's development during the past three quarters of a century.

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Pasting Labels.
He originated the idea of pasting a label on every letter, to show that the cost had been prepaid to the Government, and pointed out that this would save the expense and time of collecting at points of delivery, which

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custom was then in general use. The Government was pressed by not a few thinkers to adopt the system. And on May 6, 1840, postage stamps, or "stamped labels" as they were called at the time, were inaugurated. On the first stamp was a profile picture of Queen Victoria. The effect on the postoffice was instantaneous. Within two years the business of the postoffice nearly trebled.

The postage stamp came into use in the United States in 1847, seven years after Great Britain had adopted it. Five and ten cent stamps were the first American postage stamps, and they carried the heads of Franklin and Washington. Four years later the letter rate was lowered to three cents, and in 1883 to two cents.

Hill, the discoverer of postage stamps, was knighted and received a gift of \$45,000, raised by public subscription.

Toryism Doomed in Canada

The rout of the Bowser forces in British Columbia is an event of great significance and importance from a Dominion-wide point of view. It indicates as many other recent political events have clearly shown the unmistakable trend of public opinion throughout the Dominion, and the steady irresistible growth of Liberalism. One by one the entrenched citadels of privilege and Toryism have been captured, until now there is a succession of Liberal administrations west of the Great Lakes, while the three Tory Governments which remain, Ontario, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, appear to be in the last throes of dissolution.

During the past year, four notable Liberal victories have been won. First came the rout of the Roblin-Rogers combination in Manitoba; then the great Liberal sweep in Quebec; then the magnificent triumph won by Premier Murray and the Liberal Party in Nova Scotia, last June—a victory which did more to spell the end of Toryism in the Dominion than any other event during the past five years—and now the smashing blow which has been dealt to Boverism in the Province of British Columbia.

This steady stream of Liberal successes, this onward sweep of Liberalism, east and west, can have no other meaning than this, that Toryism everywhere throughout the land is doomed to defeat. The utter rout of Boverism in British Columbia, conjoined with what has occurred in Nova Scotia, in Quebec, in Ontario, in Manitoba, in fact all over the Dominion, proclaims in letters of fire the ascendancy of Liberalism and of the great popular principles for which it stands; it foretells too the inevitable defeat of the Borden Government.

At the Federal General Elections of 1911, the Tories of British Columbia, under the leadership of McBride and Bowser, as the acknowledged lieutenants and spokesmen of Mr. Borden, made a clean sweep of the Coast. Not one Liberal was elected in the Province. To-day the situation is entirely changed. Sir Robert Borden's "strong right arm" in British Columbia is gone. The moral is so plain that he who runs may read. From the Atlantic to the Pacific the people are disgusted with Toryism and all its ways. The handwriting is large and plain.—Halifax Morning Chronicle.

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Every one, young or old, should engage in some sort of study which re-

quires thought. Matters complex and difficult should be taken up and studied thoughtfully, if for no other reason than the discipline of mind. Any part of the body which does not get exercise loses its power. Conserve and strengthen the brain power by systematic thought and study, if not more than five minutes every day; but let it be real out-and-out concentration—that five minutes.

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Lights Decoy Zeppelins

NEW YORK, Sept. 19.—Miss Kitty Desmond, who arrived from England on the Kroonland, told how the British military authorities had fooled the German aviators on their raids when they were trying to locate the city of Birmingham and drop bombs on it. "Birmingham was the objective point of the Zeppelin raids over the midland counties of England," said she, "because six of the largest ammunition factories are there, in addition to a big arms factory. The streets and buildings are kept dark, and it is an offense to strike a match in the open. Searchlights were shown by order of the authorities about fifteen or twenty miles away from Birmingham, near a small village in the country. One night they would be on the south side, away from the city, and the next night on the north side, and so on, so that the German pilots imagined, when they saw them, that it was Birmingham, and dropped their bombs frequently without doing any damage."

Another passenger of the Kroonland was William E. Bohr, of San Francisco, who went abroad six months ago in the interests of a society founded in California, the "Friends of France," of which he is the President. He said it was a movement to rehabilitate the war-stricken districts in France by building experimental cottages for the people, and stocking the

land with cattle, farming implements, and other necessities. The work of constructing the cottages to suit the conditions of the country is being carried on at Naney, France, under the personal supervision of Miss Daisy Pollock of San Francisco, and is financed by Mrs. William H. Crocker of that city.

The old-fashioned man who used to think twice before he spoke now has a son who lights a cigarette before he jumps at a conclusion.

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