

all over the world, practically in every tongue, not her ancient glories or her past wrongs, but her present-day rights (Applause). Ireland does not ask us to secure freedom for her; she has secured her own. She does not ask the people of America or Canada to set up a government for her; she has set up her own government (Applause), but she does ask—and I heard it said to a great meeting in the Auditorium in Chicago of ten thousand people inside, with a hundred thousand people crowding all the blocks around, with ten speakers speaking—I heard the greatest statesman of any country, Eamonn De Valera (Prolonged Applause) make his appeal for the people and give voice to what the Irish people believe, hope and expect from the people of this great North America.

In December 1918, an Election was called throughout Ireland, under the form of English law and accepted because at that time, the English government was the only reigning one, and the Irish people as a law-abiding people desired not only to act coherently but intelligently.

I have said many times, that were not for the innate justice and intellectual vigor of the Irish race there would be nothing known in the world as the Common Law of England, as the Code Napoleon, as the fundamental principles underlying the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, and your courts, because these rules of conduct come down to us from the early days from the hills of Brehon (Applause). They are the basis of the rules of conduct among all the higher civilizations of the world to-day.

So, when an order was called for an Election, the Irish people abided by that law. They made their appeal to the country so clearly that none might misunderstand it. There is no place in the world to-day, I care not what the Government may be, in opposition to setting up an independent government in Ireland. No man in any country, ruler or lay man, can gainsay what God has given me the privilege of saying to you to-night.

They declared that the time had come when the people of Ireland proposed to accept the pledges of the Allies and set up a government of their own based upon the free consent of the governed, and they declared in their proclamation that they had but one immediate objective, that they were placing candidates in the field as parliamentary representatives, with but one pledge: that if elected by the majority of the people under that law of Britain, every man gave his pledge to the electors men and women of Ireland—the women voting for the first time—that so long as life remained in their bodies not one of them would ever take an oath of allegiance to any foreign king, power or potentate (Applause).

By a majority greater than any by which a President of the United States has ever been elected; by a proportionate vote greater than any Constitutional Amendment has ever received, they elected a body that resolved itself, not into the House of Commons but into the Dail Eirann, the Congress of the Irish race (Applause).