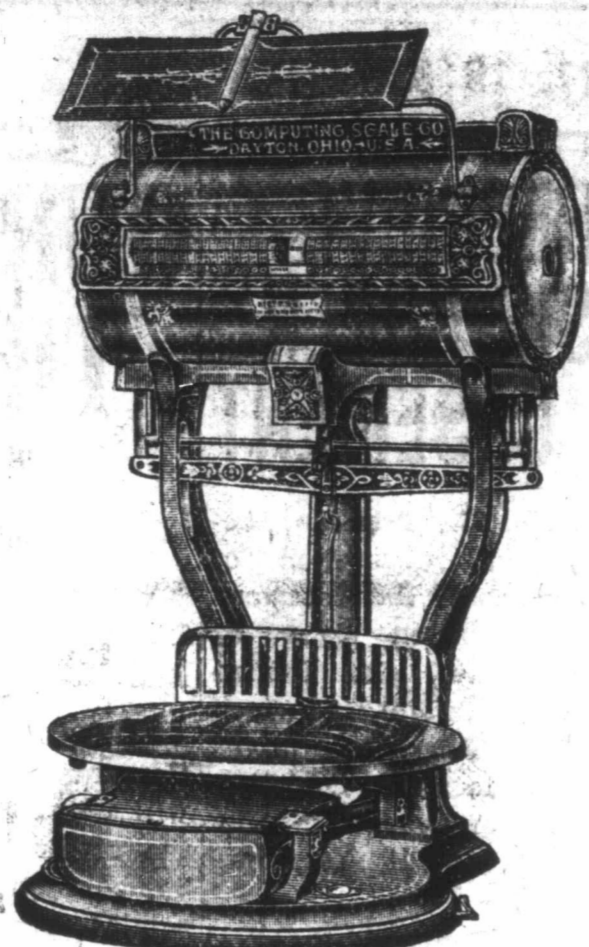


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## The Irish Question and the Part Played Therein by Joe Devlin

(By T. P. Connor)

LONDON, July 15th.—The Tory meeting last week proved a stormy one. Hugh Cecil backed by Sir Robert Fipley, one of England's greatest lawyers, made an attack, not only on the proposed settlement but on Bonar Law and other Unionist leaders who had accepted it.

It was known that William O'Brien and Tim Healy also were determined to wreck settlement if possible. The chief question then was, whether Premier Asquith's statement would lead to an immediate and bitter debate. Thus the settlement was to be ushered in by an attack in force which might militate against its future. Premier Asquith's refusal to be drawn into details, and a certain hesitation on the part of Hugh Cecil, because he commands none but Tories of minor importance, prevented this debate, and so far the settlement has started well, but indications remain that its course will be stormy and may take considerable time before passing into law although its final triumph I still consider assured.

Many awkward questions regarding terms may arise, largely because of the underlying question as to whether the settlement will be regarded as a permanent one or merely provisional in character. It is a question of words, for as the measure has to come up for revision within the next twelve months or some such period after the war, the whole scheme is stamped with the word provisional.

On the other hand, the Irish Nationalists have wisely accepted the undeniable and unquarrelable fact, that the Ulster counties cannot and even ought not to be driven into Home Rule by force, which involves the further proposition that these counties remain out until they have made up their minds to come in. The irreconcilable element, both in the North and South, who want to destroy the settlement, are making unscrupulous use of the words "Ulster Reactionary," thus trying to revive the Orange opposition by declaring that the exclusion is only temporary while the Southern factionists represent it as permanent.

However, it is mere dispute about words, for the two facts are certain, that Ulster will never be forced in. Secondly, it is as certain that Ulster has no more idea or possibility of remaining permanently outside the rest of Ireland, than of drifting from Ireland to the middle of the Atlantic. Fortunately in Ulster, between the Nationalists and their leader, Mr. Devlin, there is the strongest common settlement will carry the support of settlement will carry the support of both to a triumphant end.

Everybody knew that Joe Devlin was one of the remarkable young men that Ireland has evolved during the last ten years; but it was not until the last six months of the serious crisis in Ireland that the country realized his full greatness. No man among the Irish leaders had a task of such immense difficulty. It is, after all,

the Nationalists of Ulster who had to make the chief sacrifice in addition to the four counties of Down, Antrim, Londonderry and Fermanagh in which the Unionists are in the majority, they had to give up the two counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh, in which undoubtedly the Nationalists had the majority. Joe Devlin has been for many years the foremost figure in Ulster; it was to him they looked for leadership; the confidence in his courage, in his judgment and his disinterestedness was so complete that he might well be regarded as the idol of the Province. It was on his word, therefore, that the Nationalists of Ulster were ready to act; and no man could give the word of resignation to sacrifice with more palpable regret. If he consented to the sacrifice it was impossible that any other figure in Ulster life could say him nay. He did give the word, and the word was obeyed. When one recalls all the enormous odds against him, it is marvellous that he should have succeeded. Every attempt had been made to win the support of the bishops to the Lloyd George scheme. They had been seen by Mr. Redmond, by Mr. Devlin himself, and by others. For a long time it was supposed that their well-known moderation of character would have ranged them on the side of the settlement. It was known also that they all had immense confidence in Mr. Redmond, and it was anticipated that when they realized that the choice between the acceptance of the settlement or the loss of Mr. Redmond's leadership they would have little hesitation in accepting the temporary sacrifice of the six counties. In all these hopes proved vain, and the four bishops declared against Lloyd George and against Joe Devlin.

There was a peculiar state of affairs among the clergy of the six counties. Some of them had been for many years among the most loyal supporters of the Irish Party, and in this they followed the lead of two of the most patriotic Bishops in Ireland—Dr. McHugh, the Bishop of Derry; and of course Dr. O'Connell, the Bishop of Raphoe who has always distinguished himself among the episcopacy of Ireland for the uncompromising support he has given all through his career to the Irish Party. But in some of the other dioceses there was a very different feeling. Some of the priests in these dioceses have for good reasons or had been the consistent opponents of the Irish Party for at least ten years. It was known of course that there would be nearly two hundred priests at the Convention, and even those who had the strongest faith in Mr. Devlin's powers of persuasion doubted whether he could overcome an opposition which might well have been solid against him. It was not solid, as a matter of fact, because one of the most curious intricacies of Irish politics at the present moment is that there is a very serious division of opinion, to a certain extent, follows the lines of age and service. The el-

der race of priests, that is to say the Parish priests, have been, as a rule, on the side of the Party and therefore on the side of the settlement; while the younger ranks, the ranks of the curates, have been against them both outside the dioceses of Dr. McHugh and Dr. O'Donnell. In addition, a large number of the laity had been rushed into premature denunciation of the plan of exclusion. For days and even for weeks it seemed quite certain that the verdict of such a body would go against Mr. Devlin. Even he himself at one period of the struggle said that he thought the chances were one hundred to one against him. He is not a man, however, to be turned back from any purpose or opinion he has formed, and he went into the fight knowing that these odds were against him, but determined to carry it on and to stand or fall by the result. The result is known all over the world, and the night of Friday, 23rd of June, justified his resolution and his tenacity; but it was a surprise even to his best friends and warmest admirers.

What manner of man is this who has achieved such an extraordinary result. Free from vanity, with a keen sense of humor, no man makes more jokes against himself than Joe Devlin. In the mining district of Wales—there are many Irish families who settled there on the great exodus from Ireland after the Famine, and among these families is that of the Keatings. Every member of the family was at one time or another in the mines. The younger generation has emigrated itself from this perilous toil; Mat Keating is member of Parliament for Kilkenny; Joseph Keating is a successful novelist. But the old father still remains—a splendid Irish veteran, a life teetotaler, an ardent Catholic, a fierce Nationalist. Joseph Devlin was introduced to the old man at a Convention by the son, Mat Keating; and the old man on seeing Mr. Devlin immediately declared how like Dan O'Connell he was. Later in the evening Mr. Devlin asked old Keating what sort of a man O'Connell was, and Keating replied he was one of the ugliest men he ever saw. And as he tells this Joe chuckles with great delight. As a matter of fact he is not an ugly man at all. He is short of stature, and the big head and face of pronounced Irish features are in marked contrast with his stature. Similarly the mellow and powerful voice comes with some surprise when you look at the rather tiny man from which it springs. The face is round with a short, rather turned up nose; and the body still looks almost boyish. His health is delicate, and this little man of such audacious courage, is such a bundle of nerves that you never feel certain that he will not break down.

When the time is coming in the House of Commons for him to make a speech, you can see the whole frame quivering, the well-shaped and delicate hands trembling. He has been known to lie awake all the night before because he had a meeting of particular importance to address the next evening. Once on his legs, however, all the nervousness seems to drop from him; he speaks with fervor, and even if he be confronted by opposition, with defiant self-confidence; and at once he grasps the attention of his audience. The oratory though rushing, does not come

with a steady stream; he pauses often for a word and for a thought, and you can see in the mobile face the working of an intelligent and thinking brain. In some respects he often reminds me of the traditions I have heard of Stephen A. Douglas, the little giant of the great days which preceded the Civil War in the United States. It is rarely that he has failed in convincing an Irish audience. There have been occasions in the House of Commons when the passionate vehemence of his oratory has excited such tumult as to interfere somewhat with his effectiveness; and indeed he never has felt quite at home there.

Yet even there I have seen him do remarkable things. The Oranmenon had a great find in the Ne Temere decree which seemed to make some difficulties in the way of mixed marriages, and they had found a case in the domestic differences of a Mr. and Mrs. McCann. McCann was a Catholic and Mrs. McCann was a Protestant. Husband and wife quarreled and ended in a separation; after the separation McCann took away his children and disappeared from Ireland. Strong and powerful appeals were made to the Protestant sentiment of England and Scotland and a vigorous and successful campaign was conducted; and for a time it looked as if this appeal to mere no-Popery sentiment would seriously interfere with the progress of the Home Rule cause. When the night came for the discussion of the question in the House of Commons, one could see in the crowded House a look of exultant triumph on the Unionist, and of doubt, uncertainty, anxiety on the Liberal benches—

Captain—What! you want another furlough, two inside a year? Why, I haven't been home once in a year and a half.

Tommy Atkins—That's all right for you, sir; but me and my missus ain't that kind.

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St. John's Gas Light Co.

Organize and Mobilise Dis- unite or Perish

(London Daily Mail.)

With the greatest satisfaction we announce that measures are at last being taken to organize the British engineering trade for action after the war. The Germans, as we pointed out a week ago, have already shown the way. A league of 60,000 men prominent in the German engineering and chemical industries has just been formed. Its object is admittedly aggressive. As the German General Staff planned victories campaigns for the German Army, so this body is to act as a general staff for the German manufacturer, to aid him to reconquer old and to win new markets in the battle of trade.

For some years there has existed in this country a British Engineers' Association which has done excellent work despite its limited membership. If it is to be capable of meeting and defeating the intended German attack, it must be established on something like the German scale. Its president, Mr. Stokes, who is well known as the inventor of a remarkable gun, and the chairman of its executive committee, Sir John Thornycroft, the famous builder of fast war craft, are issuing a general appeal to engineering firms throughout Great Britain for their support. No matter is more important. The success and prosperity of the engineering firms are vital to the country. Victory in this war largely depends on them. They are building our big guns, turning out our munitions, and giving us warships of astounding power. If only because our very existence is bound up with them, they will be the target of the fiercest attack by the enemy after the war.

To meet that attack disunity is almost hopeless. The Germans are planning an economic war on the same scale as their military campaigns. They are preparing for it by the same art of national organization. A German authority has scornfully said that Germany will in twenty years have made good all her losses and permanently established her domination in Europe because of "German genius for organization and Germany's enemies' incapacity for it." What we have to do now is also to prepare on a national scale. Hitherto British firms have been unwilling to relinquish and part of their independence. They have declined to combine because combination involves a large surrender of individuality. It is today a question of "unite or perish."

In Germany the Government has done much to assist the organization of industries. In Great Britain it has done little or nothing. There are committees scattered up and down the country for the advancement of British trade after the war, but to one of the most important Mr. Runciman has appointed Sir Hugh Bell as a member, and Sir Hugh declares that he has no wish to capture German trade and no belief in the possibility of capturing it. This is not precisely the mental attitude required in an industrial chief of staff. The engineering industries are coming to see that they want organization and mobilization. The secret of military success is also the secret of commercial success—organize and mobilise. There is no lack of brain power and organizing capacity in British industry.

**BIG GOLD SHIPMENT FROM LONDON**

NEW YORK, July 23.—The Cunard liner Saxonia arrived here last night from Liverpool carrying \$20,000,000 in specie and securities consigned to J. P. Morgan and Company by the Bank of England.

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- 100 Cases TOMATOES, 2 and 3 lb. Tins.
- 150 Dozen PEERLESS GLOSS.
- 30 Tubs CANADA BUTTER, 30 lbs. each.
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These Costumes are in all shades. There are no two alike. All are of the most fashionable designs and are very reasonably priced.

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