

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1922.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

The selection of Arthur Griffith as President of the Dail Eireann in succession to De Valera, and his choice of Michael Collins as his chief lieutenant will be welcomed by friends of Ireland the world over. Both these men have shown themselves to be not only patriots who were prepared to suffer for their convictions, but who were of more consequence, they have common sense enough to properly size up the situation, and foresight enough to appreciate which is the most advantageous way out of it.

When the vote on the peace pact was announced De Valera declared that the Irish people had established a republic, and until they disestablished this republic in a regular manner, it constitutionally went on.

The question arises: What is a "regular manner"? The general assumption has been that the ratification of the treaty by the Dail Eireann settled everything. So it does, provided Ireland abides by the vote and proceeds in conjunction with Great Britain to put the treaty into force in the manner which it prescribes. By the 18th and last of its articles, the treaty provides that it is to be submitted forthwith for the approval of Parliament, and also for the approval of members elected to sit in the House of Commons of Southern Ireland: "If approved, it shall be ratified by the necessary legislation."

Until this is accomplished, there is to be a provisional arrangement. Steps are to be taken forthwith for summoning a meeting of the members of Parliament elected for the constituencies in Southern Ireland since the passing of the Government of Ireland Act in 1920, and for constituting a provisional Government. The British Government on its side is to take the steps necessary to transfer to such provisional Government the powers and machinery requisite for the discharge of its duties.

Thus the treaty contemplates an interim, not to exceed twelve months, before the Irish Free State is to be set up, during which Ireland is to be under the control of a provisional Government still to be created. If De Valera adheres to his promise not to oppose the new regime, matters may work out satisfactorily, but his attitude—or rather that of his over-enthusiastic followers—may become a source of trouble.

His address to the fifty-seven members of the Dail who opposed the ratification, which subsequently took place at the Dublin Mansion House shows a clear indication of his intention to continue the fight, this time not only against the British Government, but against the provisional Government of the Irish Free State. If this represents his present temper, it may be hoped that wise second thoughts will prevail. He is evidently under extreme emotional strain, and the agitation which made him break down while trying to explain his personal position makes calm and reasoned judgment for the time being impossible. De Valera has earned and evidently needs, a rest.

THE LEGISLATURE

The correspondent of The Globe who writes suggesting a reduction in the amount of the occasional indemnity of members of the Legislature is doubtless well meaning, but very impractical. The idea of these gentlemen voluntarily voting to cut their allowance in half is too funny for words. It was not the desire of either Premier Foster or the Leader of the Opposition that there should be any increase in the amount of indemnity; it was the doing of a small group of needy members on both sides of the House who demanded more money "on account of the increased cost of living." Once having got the increase they are not going to voluntarily relinquish it.

It cannot be denied that an allowance of \$1000 "and extras" is a pretty generous one for attending at Fredericton four days a week for five weeks, and Mr. Foster might very well have insisted that with this largely increased indemnity, the "extras" for postage, and travelling expense should cease. For the latter there is no justification whatever, because every member is provided by both the C. P. R. and C. N. R. with a pass which gives him free transportation during the whole year over every railway in the Province. Yet each member receives 10 cents a mile four times, or 40 cents a mile altogether, in addition. Then each one gets \$60 for postage, telegrams and telephone bills. These few items cost nearly \$500 a year.

By far the most sensible course to adopt would be to bring in a reduction bill and reduce the number of sitting days and reduce the number of

seats. There are according to the recent census 388,000 people in the Province, and by allowing one member to each 10,000, or majority fraction of this number, it would bring down the number of members to 38. It would also rectify several manifest injustices which now exist. For instance, Charlotte with a population of 51,000 gets four members, while St. John City with nearly 50,000 only has the same number, and Kent with 24,000 has only three. Sunbury with 6,000 odd has two members, while Westmorland, Northumberland, Gloucester and York with over 20,000 population, five times as many, have only four each. Thirty-eight members is an amply sufficient number to transact all the business of a Province of this size; and if when cutting down the number of members, a cut were to be made in the size of the Executive Council, it would work a greater improvement still. Nova Scotia with a population nearly 25 per cent. greater than New Brunswick, until a year or two ago, had only 38 members, one to each 10,000. Now it has 43.

Under such an arrangement the "line-up" would be something like as follows:

City of Fredericton	1
" Moncton	2
" St. John	4
County of Restigouche	2
" Gloucester	4
" Northumberland	3
" Kent	3
" Westmorland	3
" Kings	2
" St. John	1
" Charlotte	2
" Carleton	2
" Madawaska	1
" York	3
" Sunbury	1
" Queens	1

This accounts for 37 members only but some of the counties are just under the majority fraction which accounts for the lack of 38. Provision could be made for the additional member when the required population is achieved.

The suggestion for reducing the number of legislators is not made with the idea of cutting down the expenditure so much—as the saving in that regard would only be as small—as the idea of facilitating the transaction of public business by a less unwieldy body.

AN UNWELCOME "FRIEND."

During the war Canada found it necessary to exclude from entrance to the Dominion the Hearst newspaper publications because of the enemy propaganda they were carrying on. Later the British Government put the ban on cable despatches from England to the Hearst newspapers because of the persistent re-writing and faking that was done in New York to these despatches in the interests of the enemy. Since peace was declared, the Hearst newspapers have constantly endeavored to create ill-feeling between Britain and the United States—over Ireland, over the Washington Conference, over the Pacific situation, over anything.

Having in mind these things, the efforts of the Hearst newspapers and their controllers to flatter their alleged friendliness towards Canada and Canadians are nothing short of an impertinence, in the opinion of the Ottawa Journal. Canada, says that newspaper, wants none of Hearst, and his pretence of affection is an insult.

Canada would have the Hearst publications know that it is a part of the British Empire and proud of it, and that any slur cast at any portion of the British Empire is a slur at Canada.

Canadians will be glad to learn that Mr. Mackenzie King was but a victim of characteristic Hearst impudence when he was falsely reported as saying to a Hearst reporter in Chicago: "Efforts of the Hearst papers toward strengthening the bonds between the United States and Canada are splendid. The Hearst papers may rest assured that every overture they make will be cordially reciprocated by the Canadian Government." Fortunately the bonds of friendship between Canada and the United States require no strengthening by such questionable agencies as that of Hearst.

The appointment of Mr. McCord, M. P. elect for Kent to the Senate in order to provide a Parliamentary seat for Hon. James Macdonald, the new Minister of Labor, is a prompt illustration that the new Liberal Government is not likely to mount any high plane in its political practices. As the London Free Press remarks: "It was some other than Hon. Macdonald who was appointed to his seat."

Mr. Macdonald in his usual vigorous and extravagant language during the campaign, patronage in

WHAT OTHERS SAY

De Valera and the Irish Peace Delegation.

(London Free Press.)

More and more the position in Ireland has appeared to take the trend which the position in Russia took in the early days of the Bolshevik. A Spanish-Irish-American (De Valera), in the one case, had assumed the role of the autocrat in Ireland, just as an Americanized-Russian-Jew (Lenin) assumed it in the other. In Ireland, as in Russia, a faction had been able to secure power and hold it despite the fact that the great majority of the people opposed that faction's position. Were Ireland a so-called "independent" nation it is impossible to conceive of a man holding the reins of power as De Valera might not have gone in his sacrifice of the country to his own ambitions, to his wounded "amour propre," and, according to the best Irish press opinion, not having the instinct of the Irishman in his blood, he cannot forgive those Irishmen who were successful in making the treaty what he assumed to be his own authority and jurisdiction.

To recapitulate the causes that have led up to the present Irish "split" in the Irish question, they all trace back to the confused proceedings which attended the dispatch of the Irish delegation, who—with their "credentials" in their hands or otherwise concealed about their persons—gaily set sail for England, for London and Downing Street on never-to-be-forgotten day of last October.

Mr. De Valera's peculiar sense of humor, or it may be his want of a practical knowledge of business methods, is manifest in the fact that while in their "credentials" the five delegates to the Irish peace conference were authorized to conclude a treaty, their "instructions" were expressly forbidden to do any such thing.

The "credentials" signed by Mr. De Valera, in which of the authorities vested in him by the Dail Eireann, appointed the five delegates in question: as envoys plenipotentiary from the elected Government of the Republic of Ireland to negotiate and conclude, on behalf of Ireland, with the representatives of His Britannic Majesty George V., a treaty or treaties of settlement, association and accommodation between Ireland and the community of nations known as the British Commonwealth.

The crucial words of the "credentials" it will thus be seen, are "to negotiate and conclude," whereas Mr. De Valera's complaint against Mr. Griffith and the other Irish plenipotentiaries lies in the simple fact that a rough draft of the treaty was not submitted to the Sinn Fein Cabinet before signature, as outlined in the instructions given the delegates.

Number three of these instructions reads: "It is also understood that the complete text of the treaty about to be signed will be submitted to the Dail Eireann and to the Dail of Dublin and reply awaited."

Mr. De Valera, it seems, laid great stress upon instruction number three. In fact, he has confessed that the reason he himself did not serve on the delegation was because he wanted to provide for delay, for reference back to Dublin.

Hence his manifesto, which The Freeman's Journal calls: "A criminal attempt to divide the country." And hence Mr. Griffith's reply, as follows: "I have signed a treaty of peace between Ireland and Great Britain. I believe that this treaty will lay the foundations of peace and friendship between the two nations."

"What I have signed I will stand by in the belief that the end of the conflict of centuries is at hand." And the fight was on!

Fortunately for Ireland the difference between her position and that of Russia lies in the fact that Ireland has that commonwealth of British nations back of her. With this safeguard, there was at no time any great likelihood of Mr. De Valera's attempting to put a Lenin-Trotsky trick over on the country.

Now that Mr. De Valera has resigned his office as president of the hypothetical Irish "Republic," and now that the Dail has decided to go on with the vote on the ratification of the Anglo-Irish treaty, it may perhaps be possible to get at least an approximate accurate expression of the majority Irish opinion.

In the meanwhile Mr. De Valera's sensational opposition to the British citizenship: "Thank God I'll never be a British citizen; I'll die first," is not so firm a threat to Ireland as it might have been had the quondam "president" been born in Ireland or had the instincts of the Irishman in his blood.

Belittling France. (Stratford Herald.)

Among other things, it ought to be made plain to France that it cannot get up and kick over a perfectly reasonable and fair plan for minimizing the menace of the submarine, and even jeopardize and perhaps nullify the whole work of the Washington conference without losing the sympathy and help of other peoples. If France persists in running amuck, and builds a big fleet of vessels that are almost pirate craft per se, and are practically useless except when operated in contradiction of all the laws of decent civilized war, then France should be told plainly that in case it gets into trouble it must expect to take care of itself and suffer alone; also that it will be liable to the disciplinary measures provided for in the Root resolution.

Of one thing, too, France may feel sure: Any reappraisal between the United States and Great Britain that it foolishly dreads as inimical to its status as a leading world power is going to be a disciplinary rather than a lenient one.

Surely there ought to be some method for making the Government in Paris see reason and realize that, in its own way, it is as reactive and unreasonable as the government in Berlin ever was.

Memberships by the Melchior Government. (The Globe.)

The first time the King Government got it, it misuses the Senate to provide party patronage.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Mr. Parkins came to see my sister Gladie last night bringing a bunch of roses and no sandy, Gladie acting as if she was glad as anything about the flowers and me feeling about the roses, and they sat in the parlor and talked a while and then they had an argument and Mr. Parkins left early and slammed the front door as if he thought it belonged to him.

And today Gladie kept on asking if anybody had called her up on the telephone. Morning Mr. Parkins. With her head, and Gladie walked around the house looking mad and not talking polite to anybody even if they talked polite to her first, and this afternoon she was up in her room picking her teeth, and she said to me, and I went down stairs and got the flowers Mr. Parkins brought last night and took them up and stuck my head in Gladie's room saying, Hey Gladie look what Mr. Parkins sent.

Well, give them to me, said Gladie looking as if she felt twice as good already, and she ran and grabbed the flowers and stuck her nose in them, saying, O, aren't they beautiful, aren't they lovely, well did they come, just now?

No, not just now, I said. Well, when did they come, my wasn't I told immediately? said Gladie, and I said, Well, gosh, Gladie, you know it, you was the first one to know it.

Dont talk crazy, you just forget them up to me, didn't you? said Gladie. Sure I said, and she said, Well then when did they come, I demanded to know when these flowers got here, and I said, Last night, he brought them himself.

You silly ignorant jackass, said Gladie, and I said, Why, you was glad to see them then so why ain't you glad to see them now? With just then Gladie gave me a couple cracks and I ran down and told me and me gave me another one. Proving good intentions without good news is useless.

A BIT OF VERSE

OPEN BOOKS.

(A wife in an open book to every husband, declares W. L. George.)

A volume grim and pretty,
 Well bound in dovelike gray;
 Its contents sweet and witty,
 To cheer one on one's way.
 Was what I first selected
 (Too few had I inspected).

The title it was "Mabel,"
 It seemed a casual view,
 To suit the pastor table,
 But—there was Volume II.
 And when I saw a second volume
 I've said, as Marquis says, "a colyum."

The next book that I picked out
 Was choice and elegant,
 Poetic contents tricked out
 To be a crime-crushed leviathan
 I thought to find the poem faultless,
 But it was blank verse, blank and saltless.

I sought byways and hedges—
 Of Caxtons I'd enough—
 Avoiding delectable edges,
 Which, though superb, are rough—
 No matter an artistic format
 If one must play the role of doormat.

And so at last, I found love!
 I found a volume ripe,
 It has an offshoot cover
 And simple plain-faced type:
 But there's no further need of looking
 For the best recipe in cooking.

—New York Herald.

CIRCUIT COURT.

The January sitting of the Circuit Court opened yesterday morning. His Honor Judge Crockett presiding. After the entering of several cases for trial adjournment was made till January 17, the court issuing an adjournment to the jurors to be present on that date or else to show sufficient reason by way of affidavit under penalty of \$10.

The case against Geo. V. Parker, charged on two indictments with receiving stolen goods, was set over until January 24.

The docket follows:
 Jury.
 Cameck vs. N. B. Power Co.
 McKibney vs. Imperial Guarantee and Accident Ins. Co.
 Lawlor vs. Mahoney.
 Pugsley vs. Garson.
 International Jobbers Ltd. vs. Kim Way & Cohen.
 Guthrie vs. North American Smelting Co.

Non-Jury.
 Weldon vs. Barnes.
 McCaskill vs. Brown.

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MILITARY NOTES.

Infantry.

The Northumberland (New Brunswick) Regiment (122nd Battalion, C. E. F.)—To be provisional major: Captain W. L. Veniot, vice provisional Major J. E. White, who is transferred to the Corps Reserve with the rank of captain. June 14, 1921.

Regimental Medical Services.
 5th (British Columbia) Regiment, Canadian Garrison Artillery—To be major: Captain and Brevet Colonel H. M. Robertson, C. B. E. Sept. 10, 1920.

To be major on reorganization: Major and Brevet Colonel H. M. Robertson, C. B. E. Feb. 1, 1921. The New Brunswick Rangers (5th Battalion, C. E. F.)—Major R. O. Stevens is retired and is permitted to retain his rank on retirement. Sept. 16, 1920.

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HEADS THAT ACHE AND PAIN
 It is hard to drag along with a head that aches and pains all the time. In nine cases out of ten, persistent headaches are due to poisoned blood, the blood being rendered impure through some derangement of the stomach, liver or bowels, but no matter which organ is to blame the cause must be removed before permanent relief can be obtained.

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Miss Clara Murphy, Centre Dunsmuir, Ont., writes:—"My system was greatly run down and my blood out of order. I suffered a great deal from severe pains in my head which made me feel very miserable. After having tried other remedies I purchased a bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters, and was very glad to notice a decided improvement in my health. I took another bottle and it has done me an enormous amount of good. I have recommended it to some of my friends who were in a similar condition and they all say it is a wonderful remedy."

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CRITICISMS MADE

PURSUED BY

Raymond Poincare Continues Against the Premier, VV. French Senate.

Paris, Jan. 9.—It is a singular thing that Raymond Poincare, former President of the French Republic, continues his activities in the press while maintaining complete silence in the Senate. His articles, which criticize sometimes with subtle insinuation and sometimes with vigorous frankness, the succeeding French ministers, are numerous but he does not follow them up by challenging the Premier in the parliamentary debates. It is of course only by parliamentary action that government can be overthrown and it is therefore curious that Mr. Poincare, who expresses himself as seriously dissatisfied with the policy of those in power, is content with undermining their position without ever venturing to attack them directly in the only place where his criticisms would be effective.

There has been no more interesting political duel in the history of the third republic than that which is thus waged between Mr. Poincare and the Prime Minister—whether he may be. Everybody realizes that the ultimate aim of Mr. Poincare is himself to become Prime Minister. But he appears willing to bide his time and to help to bring down minister after minister without appearing too prominently himself and without accepting the responsibilities of office until the moment which he judges opportune has arrived.

He is the chief opponent of Mr. Briand as he was the chief opponent of his predecessors. He almost succeeded in bringing down Mr. Millerand who, however, left the premiership for the presidency just in time and who, it has been freely stated, finds it hard to forgive Mr. Poincare for the difficulties he created, and now as President opposes his veto to the succession of Mr. Poincare to the premiership. Recently it is rumored in parliamentary circles this veto has been broken down and the former President and the present President are reconciled. There is no reason, therefore, why Mr. Poincare should not become Premier whenever a vacancy occurs and where he is desired. (The Mr. Poincare made things very unpleasant for George Leygues, who succeeded Mr. Millerand on his elevation. Nothing that Mr. Leygues did in the favor in the eyes of this former President turned journalist. Mr. Leygues was not so long to rest the sapping groove and after a few months fell.

Attacks on Briand Policy. Mr. Briand succeeded. The duel continued. It has been Poincare versus Briand. Nobody engaged in politics under the French Republic. Mr. Poincare in the Senate sits silent and even applauds the discourses of Mr. Briand. There would appear to be no political quarrel. Poincare, in the columns of "Le Temps" and in the columns of "Le Matin" and in the "Revue des Deux Mondes" the most piercing shafts are launched against the policy of Mr. Briand. Poincare, in the secret writings of the parliamentary commissions where the proceedings are somewhat informal and chiefly take the form of interrogating the minister, Mr. Poincare plays his part. He puts the most awkward questions and there is no doubt that they have a cumulative effect.

Mr. Briand, who is a master of strategy, is well aware of the sort of attack that consists in putting awkward questions, as to a witness in a court of justice—Mr. Poincare of course is a trained advocate—and of allowing the implied criticisms to filter out of the commission into the mass of parliamentarians. He therefore takes pains to furnish Mr. Poincare with making a public explanation in the Senate and in the Chamber before the commission can call upon him. As Mr. Poincare approves these public utterances there is nothing more to be said in private.