

sen's troops succeeded in rebuilding that part of the Cernavoda bridge destroyed by the Roumanians on their retreat and have crossed to Roumanian soil.

T. P. O'CONNOR'S LETTER

BUOYANT SELF-CONFIDENCE
AND RESTLESS ENERGY
CHARACTERIZE IRISH
PARTY

Special Cable to the CATHOLIC RECORD
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London, Nov. 11th.—Roumania gave us several bad quarters of an hour, but it now looks as if the situation was improving; that the stubborn resistance offered by Roumania helped by Russia and the other Allies will eventually stay the great German machine until the winter snows postpone further operations, and, with the coming of Spring, allow the Allies with all the enormous addition to their resources to launch an effective campaign. Following the brightening of the situation on the Roumanian frontier there came along Lord Shaughnessy's emphatic repudiation of peace talk which created great satisfaction as it was considered representative of Canadian inflexibility. Indeed anybody in the House of Commons who even whispers peace, and only two or three cranks attempted, are immediately howled down.

In Ireland the situation has undergone a new development. John Redmond returning from his triumphant reception at Sligo, and other returning Irish members brought confirmation of the tremendous reaction in progress throughout the island in favor of the constitutional movement. The removal of Maxwell has helped to alleviate the situation but there enter several new developments which greatly embarrass the already embarrassed Chief Secretary and make the problem of governing Ireland from Westminster even more impossible.

There is unrest among the police; there is unrest among the school teachers with their starvation wages; and above all there is a black cloud over the country of a short and bad potato harvest accompanied by a gigantic rise in prices. Potatoes which usually can be bought at six pence a pound at this time of the year have soared to two shillings, making their purchase absolutely impossible by the working people with the poor wages they receive in Irish towns. It is also reducing to great straits all the old age pensioners. While thus fortified with the demands of the teachers, the police and all servants of the Government for bigger wages, the members of the Irish Party find themselves once more back in their old position before the war of active criticism of the Irish government and are holding conferences almost daily with the view to the adoption of measures for meeting the tragic situation in Ireland. Apart from the necessities of the case such a policy of active opposition is the best calculated to bring home to the Irish people the absolute necessity of a strong parliamentary party and to discount all hopeless and futile efforts and other forms of Irish agitation for the redress of Irish grievances. The whole spirit of the party has been transformed from a passing depression incident to the rebellion and execution to one of buoyant self-confidence and restless energy.

It is a remarkable fact in the life of the House of Commons today that a majority of the Liberal Party have passed a vote of want of confidence in the Liberal members of the Coalition Cabinet. For that is what occurred when the division took place on Mr. Redmond's motion. There were forty-six Liberal and Labor men in his minority; but the minority reached to the high figure of 106—the biggest minority against the Ministry since the war began. What is more important is that there were forty to fifty of the best members of the Liberal Party who abstained; one of these, by the way, was Mr. Winston Churchill—while one of those who supported Mr. Redmond by his vote was the no less portentous figure of John Burns. An analysis of the vote of the majority which supported the Ministry against Mr. Redmond will show that if you take away twenty-five officials there are not more than seventy to eighty Liberals who supported the Ministry, and many of these, I was told by one of themselves when they met next day, bitterly regretted that they had not had the courage of their opinions and supported Mr. Redmond. Thus has the Liberal Party declared its disapproval of Mr. Asquith's Irish policy.

But assuredly the strongest condemnation of the policy of the Government came from the lips of its now most prominent and powerful figure—Mr. Lloyd George. He used this extraordinary language—extraordinary from a Ministry describing his own department: "Some of the stupidities which sometimes looked like malignities, which were perpetrated at the beginning of the recruiting in Ireland, are beyond belief." At last the truth is coming out of the kind of spirit which reigned in the War Office in the early days. Lord Kitchener was an extraordinary creature—especially in his attitude to Ireland. On the one hand, he was accustomed to insist on the fact of his birth in Ireland. He often spoke of himself as an Irishman. I

remember when I was at Cairo some years ago being told that when the Irishmen in that city thought of having a St. Patrick's Day celebration, Kitchener not only consented, but insisted on presiding. He himself told me at an interview which I had with him at Cairo in his palatial and gorgeous residence, that he was especially gratified by being made a Knight of St. Patrick—a comparatively small addition to the already long list of orders which he was entitled to wear.

This fact that he considered himself an Irishman had something to do with the lamentable delay in putting the Home Rule Bill on the Statute Book at the beginning of the war. For Kitchener not only opposed that being done, but he insisted that his knowledge of Ireland convinced him that it was inadvisable. The situation was summed up in his quaint way by Mr. Birrell, in the laughing statement that they would be all right in the Cabinet about Ireland if it weren't for that Irishman Kitchener.

This extraordinary idea of Kitchener's that he knew Ireland well, came out in a historic interview, the details of which were made public only within the last few weeks. On the very day after the declaration of the War, Redmond, Dillon and Devlin paid a visit to the War Office to make suggestions to Kitchener as to the best methods of recruiting the forces of Ireland on the side of the Allies. The very first proposal was that the Irish Volunteers who had not yet split asunder—as they subsequently did—should be drilled and equipped by the War Office. It has been revealed that one of the men who were in favor of that policy was John McNeill, the subsequent head of the Sinn Féin Volunteers—now serving a term of penal servitude. I need scarcely point out that if the advice of Redmond and the other Irish leaders had been adopted, there would have been no Sinn Féin Rebellion. A majority of the volunteers, once they had been trained, would undoubtedly have transferred into the Regular Army; the remainder would have been disciplined in a favorable atmosphere, and Sinn Féin would have found no recruits. But Kitchener would not hear of the proposal. He turned down every other proposal that was made by the Irish leaders; until at last Dillon, unable to keep silent any longer, made the remark to Lord Kitchener that he had been too long out of Ireland to understand its conditions to-day. Then, as Dillon humorously tells the story to-day, "Kitchener turned on me his basilisk eye and said, 'Mr. Dillon, I know all about Ireland.' As a matter of fact, he knew nothing about Ireland."

He knew as little about Wales. When Lloyd George made the proposal that there should be a Welsh Brigade, Kitchener obstinately refused. At that time his prestige was so high that no Ministry thought itself powerful enough to have an open quarrel with him. And Kitchener was to the end of his days imbued through and through with the pipeclay barrackroom spirit of the old army—a spirit, of course, quite inapplicable to the new Army which was a nation in arms. But Lloyd George fears no man; with the result that after the controversy had gone on for some time, Lloyd George brought it before the Cabinet. I am told that there never was such a scene in a British Cabinet; for the fiery and fearless Welshman played round the head of Kitchener with his lightning for twenty minutes on end while a panic-stricken and dumb Cabinet looked on in amazement. At the end of the twenty minutes the fight was over. Lloyd George got his Welsh Brigade.

What is the explanation of this and other extraordinary events—including the perfectly insane methods of recruiting in Ireland? It is very simple. In spite of all the changes in the army when it was raised from 250,000 to 5,000,000, the same little band of pipeclay officers continued to hold control. Amid all this band, what I may call the Curragh Camp spirit prevailed. There were several Irishmen among them, Irishmen of course of the most bitter and narrow school of Orangism. It was they who Kitchener listened to; for, *au fond*, he was a strong Tory soldier. That spirit survives even somewhat to this day; and the remarkable words of Lloyd George, which I have quoted, were intended I have no doubt by that daring spirit to be a warning to them that he at least would have none of their tricks.

I have heard numerous accounts from those who visited the front which prove to me that the Curragh Camp spirit still survives there, among those who took part in the old attempt of the army to defy and override Parliament or Home Rule. One of the figures who took a prominent part in that campaign is regarded still as having acted heroically, and is the idol of the old officer. But for the moment, the danger from them is over. They have got their warning and they must obey. For Lloyd George is not a man to stand any defiance of the civil authority. But the danger will revive perhaps after the war. It is more than probable that for some time at least the British Parliament will be a khaki Parliament. No man in any constituency will have a chance against a soldier with a brilliant military record. And the probability is that the House of Commons will be of the purely reactionary soldier type.

This is the peril which is present to the mind of Lloyd George, and which accounts for the strong language he used, and also for the

almost pathetic appeal he made for an immediate settlement of the Irish question. He does not want to expose Ireland to any chances and dangers from the Parliament after the war; and I believe he is as ready as ever he was to put his service at the disposal of any man who will try to bring the Irish feud to an end.

The dilemma in which all parties find themselves at this moment is in the shape of Martial Law, and the restoration of many of the old methods and many of the old men of that dead-and-gone—as it was thought—phase of Irish life. So long as that lasts, Ireland will be too irritated and too resentful to look at any proposal. But on the other hand, every Englishman, with few exceptions, wants this business brought to an end—for his sake as well as for the sake of Irishmen. The first thing to be done is to remove quietly all the men associated with the hideous carnival in Dublin. The Ministry find it difficult to do anything which would look like a disavowal of Maxwell or other men, who, of course, are responsible for the successful though insane methods by which the Rebellion was put down. But all these men of the old day will gradually disappear. Then the Irish question will be taken up anew, I have no doubt. It is hard to foretell the issue, but with so much determination on all sides to succeed, success ought to come.

THE CONDITION OF IRELAND

MR. REDMOND'S MOTION

The Times, London, England

Mr. Redmond (Waterford, Nat.) rose to move: "That the system of government at present maintained in Ireland is inconsistent with the principles for which the Allies are fighting in Europe, and has been mainly responsible for the recent unhappy events and for the present state of feeling in that country."

He said: My object in raising this discussion is to call the attention of Parliament and the country to the very serious situation which exists in Ireland. I propose to make a general survey—not, I hope, at very great length—of that situation, and of the causes which have led to it. This is certainly an occasion when the public interests can best be served by plain speaking. (Cheers.) It is a plain, undeniable fact that at this moment there is a situation in Ireland full of menace and of danger—full of menace to Ireland and to all our hopes and aspirations for her entire future, full of menace to the good understanding between the two peoples which has been the great result of the patient labours of the constitutional movement in Ireland for the last forty years, and, I think, full of menace also to the highest interests of the Empire at this moment. In describing such a situation, in endeavoring to explain it, and in offering any suggestions for its amelioration, I feel that one must tread with caution. My object is to allay and not to inflame feeling. My object is to minimize and not to increase difficulties, to show how, in my opinion, it is possible, even yet to save the situation.

IRELAND AND THE WAR

The crisis which has arisen in Ireland was of very slow and gradual growth, but I will only go back as far as the declaration of war. Were my purpose different from what it is, were my desires simply to make a political point in a party controversy, the temptation would, I think, be irresistible to go back far beyond the outbreak of war, and to show where the original responsibility lies for what has occurred. (Cheers.) But I do not want to make a party speech. I will commence my survey at the outbreak of war. At that moment, fraught with the most terrible consequences to the whole Empire, this country found for the first time in the history of the relations between Great Britain and Ireland that the Irish Nationalist Party, representing the overwhelming mass of the people of Ireland, were enabled to declare themselves upon the side of the Allies, and in support of that with their eyes open. They knew the difficulties in the way; they knew, none so well, the distrust and suspicion of British good faith which has been in the past universal almost in Ireland. (Cheers.) They recognized that the boon of self-government had not been finally granted to their country. They knew the traditional hostility which existed in many parts of Ireland to recruiting. Facing all these things, and all the risks that they entailed, they returned from this House to Ireland and told her sons that it was their duty to rally to the support of the Allies in a war which was in defence of the principles of freedom and civilization. They succeeded far better than they had anticipated or hoped.

At the commencement, and this is a notorious fact, there was genuine enthusiasm in Ireland on the side of the Allies. I myself was a witness of that. I addressed great popular gatherings in every province in Ireland in support of the Allies. The whole atmosphere on the question of recruiting in Ireland had been altered; and I say here solemnly that all that was needed was a little sympathetic understanding on the part of the Government of this country to have created a practically united Ireland in support of the war. (Cheers.)

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE IRISH PARTY

Surely the most elementary statesmanship would have dictated the wisdom and the policy of supporting and encouraging our efforts by every possible means at the disposal of the Government of this country. But instead of that I am sorry to say that from the very first hour our efforts were thwarted, ignored, and snubbed. Our suggestions were derided. Everything almost that we asked for was refused, and everything almost that we protested against was done. Everything which tended to arouse Irish national pride and enthusiasm in connection with the war was rigorously suppressed. Under all the circumstances of the case, looking back now, I am amazed at the success which at first attended our efforts. (Hear, hear.) I am not going to enter into the argument whether or not Ireland has done all that she could do.

All I will do now is to point to the fact that Ireland has at this moment 157,000 men in the Army, 95,000 Catholics and 62,000 Protestants, and that she has 10,000 men in the Navy—that is 167,000 men, including both; and that they are drawn—I do not speak now of the proportions—from every part of Ireland—North, South, East, and West. But when we entered on this work our difficulties rapidly increased. The delay in putting the Home Rule Bill on the Statute-book was really of no advantage to any political party in this House. But in Ireland that delay gave every opponent of ours an opportunity of saying that we were about to be cheated and betrayed.

RESULTS OF DISTRUST

We offered at the very commencement of the war many thousands of Irish Nationalist Volunteers for home defence to be put in the same position practically as the Territorials were at that moment in this country, but they would not be accepted, and there was no disguise—and this is the thing that did the harm in Ireland—made of the reason, the reason being that you could not bring yourselves to trust Nationalist Ireland. Since then I am glad to know that 30,000 of these Irish Nationalist Volunteers have entered the Army. But if your response, at that critical moment, had been a generous and chivalrous response, if it had been a response of trust, when we made that offer, that number would easily have been trebled, and what was regarded as little short of an insult to Irish national feeling would have been avoided.

To such extreme and absurd lengths did this distrust go that even a man like Lord Powerscourt, when he came here to London with an offer to raise for home defence a battalion of a thousand men in his own county was refused. We asked that all the Irish divisions and regiments should be put together to form an Irish Army Corps. The Prime Minister will remember that in his speech in September last year in Dublin he promised that that request of ours would be acceded to. I am not making any attack upon him when I say that that promise has never been carried out and we had to wait many months before the 16th Irish Division was called into being in the South of Ireland.

CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF SMALL THINGS

Day by day and hour by hour our difficult and uphill task of endeavoring to popularize the Army was systematically thwarted, in small things perhaps, which singly would have been of no account, but which in their cumulative effect had a damning influence upon the work in Ireland. (Cheers.)

The Ulster Division properly—I was delighted when it occurred—was permitted to wear in their caps a special badge with the red hand of O'Neill. The Welsh Division—the present Minister of War took care of that—was allowed to have a special distinguishing badge with the Dragon of Wales. When we asked for a special distinguishing Irish badge for our Irish Division in the South of Ireland it was refused. A committee of Irish ladies, I think on the invitation of Lady Fingall, came together to embroider flags for the new Irish Division. The offer was accepted with gratitude by the general commanding the division and subscriptions and committees were started all over the country, when suddenly within a few days a peremptory letter appeared in the papers saying that the War Office would not permit the acceptance of these flags. Officers training Corps were established in Dublin University. I think they existed in most of the universities of this country, but when the new National University in Dublin asked for an Officers' Training Corps they were refused. When my hon. friend the member for West Belfast raised three or four thousand troops in his constituency for the Irish Division, and when they were being brought to Cork through Dublin we asked that they should be allowed to march with military bands from one railroad station to another—as a recruiting device in order to arouse military enthusiasm. It was refused. Then when recruiting committees were established in Ireland almost invariably in Nationalist districts the Unionist registration agents were given charge of them.

Bands were refused to the new battalions. When Sir Hedley le Bas went to Ireland to endeavor to push on recruiting, he stated in his report to the War Office—which I saw—that in some places in

Dublin he was plainly told by members of the recruiting committee that they did not want too many Nationalist recruits.

It was only after a prolonged struggle that we got what was considered by the Catholic Hierarchy an adequate number of Catholic chaplains in either the Army or the Navy.

NON-RECOGNITION OF IRISH GALLANTRY

Then there seemed to us—at any rate there seemed to the mass of the Irish people whom we were trying to wean away from their own hostilities—to be on foot a systematic suppression of recognition of the gallantry of the Irish troops at the front. I do not think that there was any single incident that did more harm to our efforts at that time than the suppression in the official dispatches of all recognition—even of the names being mentioned—of the gallantry of the Dublin Fusiliers and the Munster Fusiliers in the landing in the Dardanelles. Then we asked that these new battalions should be trained in places where their very presence and appearance would help us in our work. That also was refused.

Then what about the officers? I do not want to go into the question of Nationalist or Catholic or Protestant, but it is a strange thing, and while such considerations do not influence me in any way, you must realize how they were likely to influence the masses of the people in Ireland—that up to the time that the 16th Division went to the front, with the exception of two or three subalterns, there was not a Catholic officer in the Division. That has been somewhat changed now, I am glad to say, and some of these other things which I have mentioned have been changed, but too late. The mischief was done at the time when I was striving with all my might and main in this matter, and when I was entitled in the circumstances to all the support which the Government could give me.

EFFECTS OF COALITION GOVERNMENT

Taking any one of these things singly, you may say they seem contemptible and small, but the cumulative effect was enormous, and they took all the heart out of the efforts which were being made. Day by day the undoubted enthusiasm at the commencement of the war began to die down. Day by day our enemies were instilling into the minds of the people that we were just as much distrusted by England as ever, and that in the end we would be cheated and betrayed. Then, what I may call the final blow came in the creation of the Coalition Government. I tell the Prime Minister that from the day the Coalition was formed recruiting for the Army in Ireland declined rapidly, and recruiting for the revolutionary, anti-recruiting, Sinn Féin party rapidly increased. An eminent prelate once declared that in his opinion Home Rule was dead and buried. Distrust and suspicion spread all over the country, and the spectacle of the right hon. gentleman the member for Dublin University being given a seat in the Cabinet as chief law officer meant in the minds of large masses of these people that in the end they would be betrayed.

The offer that was made to me to join the Cabinet of course deceived nobody. Everyone knew I would not and could not accept it. I begged the Prime Minister at the time to leave Ireland out of the Coalition. He refused, and the result in Ireland was fatal. I did not, however, in consequence of this even then relax my efforts, but from that day to this things have gone from bad to worse.

THE REBELLION IN IRELAND

Suspicion and distrust have spread rapidly, and finally came the rising in the City of Dublin last Easter. At first that rising was resented universally by all classes of the people of Ireland. It seemed so causeless, so reckless, so wicked; and I am to-day profoundly convinced that that rising had been dealt with in the spirit in which General Botha dealt with the rising in South Africa—it probably would have been the means, strange though it may sound to hear it, of saving the whole situation. But, unfortunately, it was dealt with by panicky violence. Executions spread out day after day, week after week, some of them of young boys of whom none of us had ever heard and who turned out to have been young dreamers and idealists, shocked and revolted the public mind of Ireland. There were only some 1,500 men, according to my information, who took part in that rising, and yet the military authorities scoured the entire country, and arrested thousands of perfectly innocent men and young boys. By that proceeding terror and indignation were spread throughout the country, and popular sympathy, which was entirely against the rising on its merits, and against it when it took place, rapidly and completely turned round. All this was a terrible and fatal blunder.

WHAT IS PROPOSED?

Is the situation hopeless? Is it too late to repair the mischief? Will you trust Ireland even now? (Cheers.) When the Prime Minister returned to this country from Ireland after the suppression of the rising he solemnly told his colleagues and the House of Commons that the system of government in Ireland had hopelessly broken down, and, as he told us, his colleagues unanimously asked the present Minister for War to endeavor to bring about a settlement by agreement. After many conversations he put before us a certain

set of proposals, and asked us to submit them to our followers in Ireland. We had the assurance that these proposals were accepted by him and by the Prime Minister, and, in the teeth of enormous difficulties, we got our people to agree to most unpopular proposals. We came back and found that these proposals were thrown over by the Cabinet, and the answer that you have given to Ireland if she were trusted even now, is that you have set up again on its legs the system of government which the Prime Minister told us had hopelessly failed.

You have set up Dublin Castle, and you have put into it, not merely a Coalition Government, but a Unionist Government—a Unionist Chief Secretary, and a Unionist Attorney-General. The men responsible for the government of Ireland are those two Unionist gentlemen, and they are administering a system of universal martial law all over the country. I am here this afternoon to ask the Government what they propose. The new Chief Secretary went to Ireland to attempt to find a solution. Has he found one? What does he propose? Is he seriously proposed to maintain the present system, to perpetuate martial law, to keep a Unionist Executive in office, to keep hundreds of unaccused and untried prisoners in prison? I think we are entitled to demand from the Government a statement of their policy.

THE IRISH REGIMENTS

To me personally one of the saddest things in the present situation is the danger which, in spite of anything I can do, there is that the Irish regiments at the front may not be kept up to their full strength. Personally I would do anything possible to avert that catastrophe. But it is no use asking me to do the impossible. These gallant men have an irresistible claim on their fellow-countrymen. No one can accuse my colleagues or myself of any desire to evade that claim. Several of my colleagues are themselves in the Army. One of my colleagues who joined the Army at the commencement of the war died in the service of the Army very soon after. An ex-colleague of ours, a brilliant young Irishman, Professor Kettle, died the other day on the Somme. At least twenty Irish Nationalist members have sons in action. One of my hon. friends here has four sons in the Army. Two of my colleagues in this party have had their sons killed in this war. There are very few of us on these benches who have not some near and dear relatives taking all the risks side by side with you.

What I feel about these Irish soldiers is that by their gallant deeds they have already won a new place for Ireland before the world, a new place in the policy and councils of the Empire. My conviction is that it is for Ireland in her own interests to keep that place, and it is for the Empire in the Empire's interests to enable her and to help her to keep it. How? By removing once and for all this fog of bad faith and bad management and by settling Ireland on a basis of freedom and responsibility. (Cheers.) I put on one side for the moment the question of conscription in Ireland. All I will say at this stage—we may have to speak about it later on—is that it would be not a remedy but an aggravation, and I cannot bring myself to believe that any man responsible for the government of Ireland, either in the civil or in the military sphere, would at this moment recommend it.

Can nothing be done? I will state what in my opinion can be done—first of all by the authorities. From the first it seemed to us in Ireland as if there had been a distinct desire to deplete the 16th Division. Drafts have been sent, to my personal knowledge, from the 16th Division since they went to the front to English divisions. Three hundred men of one of our reserve regiments in Ireland were the other day put into kits and sent to a Highland regiment. (Laughter.) A similar draft was only the other day sent from another of our reserve regiments to an English regiment. Let the House bear with me for a moment while I tell them something about the history of the 16th Division. At the commencement of the war a battalion called the "Pals" Battalion of the Dublin Fusiliers was raised in the City of Dublin. It was composed of young university men, athletes, young professional men, and so on, who went in their hundreds and enlisted as privates in this regiment. They went out to Gallipoli, and in two days 75% of that gallant regiment was destroyed. Do you think that would have damped the ardour of the City of Dublin? Not at all. The men in the City of Dublin thought the best monument they could raise to their sons who had died so gallantly in Gallipoli was to raise a new "Pals" Battalion, and so they raised the 10th Dublin, one of the finest battalions ever raised in Ireland. Where did they go? What right has the War Office to reproach us with not keeping up the Irish divisions when

they send a battalion like that not to an Irish division, but to a new division, called the Naval Division—(a laugh)—made up of sailors and marines? I demand a right, when we are told we are not keeping up our 16th Division, that that magnificent battalion, which was raised for the purpose of doing honor to the Irish Army at the front, should go to the 16th Division.

Let me say something more that the authorities can do. My information is, so far as the 16th Division is concerned, that hundreds and hundreds of wounded men from the Boulogne or elsewhere are on recovery sent not to the 16th Division, but to English divisions. So long as these things happen what a mockery it is to us to reproach us with not keeping up our division. Then I complain of the persistent refusal, notwithstanding Army Orders, of recruiting officers in Great Britain to send Irish recruits to the Irish regiments that they desire to go to.

A WARNING AND AN APPEAL

After complaining of the refusal of the authorities to transfer Irishmen in English, Scottish and Welsh battalions to Irish regiments, and to allow the London Irish to be attached to the 16th Division, and stating that by dealing with these questions in the way he suggested the authorities might do a very great deal indeed to help them in the matter of the Irish divisions, Mr. Redmond continued:—But I recognise fully that these expedients cannot fully meet the case. The case can only be met by boldly grappling with the situation in Ireland itself. So long as the present state of Government exists in Ireland, so long will the present excited and irritating national public feeling exist there, and so long as that feeling exists everything will be wrong. Let the Government withdraw martial law, let them put in command of the forces in Ireland some man who has not been connected with the unhappy actions of the past. Let the 600 untried prisoners be released, let the penal servitude prisoners be treated as political prisoners, and above all, and incomparably more important than all, let the Government take their courage in both hands and trust the Irish people once and for all by putting the Home Rule Act into operation and resolutely on their own responsibility facing any problems that may ensue. (Cheers.) This is not a matter which concerns only Ireland and Great Britain. It concerns the highest interests of the Empire and of the war. I have myself intimate personal knowledge of how injuriously the Irish situation is affecting the interests of England, and the best interests of victory for England all through the continent of America. It is having, as the Government themselves well know, the same effect in the Dominions, and especially is it having its effect in Australia. As one who has honestly done his best, and is prepared to continue honestly doing his best, no matter what a risk to his popularity, to help you to win this war, I do beg the Government to hearken seriously to my warning and my advice. (Cheers.) I beg to move.

FATHER FRASER'S CHINESE MISSION

Taichowfu, China, Dec. 11, 1916.

Dear Readers of CATHOLIC RECORD:

It may be a little surprise to you to learn that it takes \$100 a week to keep my mission going. I am glad when I see that amount contributed in the RECORD, but when it is less I am sad to see my little reserve sum diminished and the catastrophe arriving when I must close my chapels, discharge my catechists and reduce my expenses to the few dollars coming in weekly. I beseech you to make one more supreme effort during 1916 to keep this mission on its feet. You will be surprised to learn what a great deal I am doing with \$100 a week—keeping myself and curate, 80 catechists, 7 chapels, and free schools, 8 churches in different cities with caretakers supporting two big catechumens of men, women and children during their preparation for baptism and building a church every year.

Yours gratefully in Jesus and Mary.

J. M. FRASER.

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