

NATIONALITY

EDITED BY ARTHUR GRIFFITH.

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WEEK BY WEEK.

Mr. De Valera is this week in Donegal, where he is addressing in all its centres large and enthusiastic meetings.

In May last a measure of franchise reform was introduced into the English Parliament. In our issue of May 26th we wrote:

The Franchise Bill now before the English Parliament applies in part to this country. If it passes into law, the franchise for men, less than half of whom now possess votes in Ireland, will be extended to embrace the great majority; women over 30 years of age who are Local Government electors or whose husbands are voters, will also receive the franchise; the residential period for a vote in a particular constituency will be six instead of twelve months; all elections will be held on the same day; the principle of proportional representation will be applied to every constituency returning three or more members; the fixed sum of £150 will be the sum to be deposited by each candidate with the Returning Officer, and it will be returned to the successful candidate and to the unsuccessful one if he polls a certain percentage of the votes. The Bill, it will be seen, is the first real attempt of a British Government to give the franchise to the people as a whole. If it passes into law some 800,000 new voters will be added to the roll in Ireland, and the Redmondite Party will be swept out of every constituency. While affecting to support the measure, therefore, Mr. Redmond's Party will secretly do all in its power to prevent its passage, or to delay it if they cannot succeed in its prevention.

The first effort of the "Party" to keep the young men and women of Ireland without votes was played through the Executive Committee of the General Council of County Councils, a body mainly composed of Party hacks. On the 17th of June eleven members of this body met and without notice to the other members adopted the following resolution:

In view of the impending changes in the government of this country, the Executive Committee of the Irish County Councils General Council considers it would be undesirable to apply the principles of the Representation of the People Bill to Ireland, as this is obviously a question which should be dealt with by the Irish Parliament."

The "Party" was to arise in the House, read out the resolution as representing the voice of Ireland, and the Premier was thereupon to announce that he had received it and, in deference to Irish sentiment, "move to omit Ireland." Ireland was in profound ignorance of the Party plot. The only report of the "Executive Committee" resolution appeared in an obscure corner of the most obscure daily paper published in Ireland. On the 30th of June we published the facts of the case, and the country, astonished and indignant at the trick, evinced its indignation so markedly that the Party and the Party hacks rushed to cover.

But they did not abandon the hope of cutting Ireland out of the measure. Both wings of the Provincionalists were agreed on this. It was arranged between the Carsonite and Redmondite M.P.'s that the former should object to the Bill extending to Ireland unless the Irish seats were re-distributed. The Redmondites were then to seek to work up an agitation in Ireland against Redistribution on the ground that it would be "giving seats away to the Unionists," and side-track the real issue. In the end Lloyd George, unable, honest man, to get "agreement amongst the Irish members," was to move that Ireland be omitted from the measure.

The sham battle was well started. The two Castle Journals in Dublin shouted to order against "Redistribution." Carson's organ shouted back for Redistribution. "Resolutions" were adopted by bodies with a bogus existence protesting against the plot to "give some of the Ulster seats to the Unionists." For the moment some honest people were deceived and began to think of the measure in connection with Franchise—which was the end Carson, Redmond, Devlin, and Dillon aimed at. In our issue of Nov. 24th we recalled to the minds of those who were being misled the essentials of the situation. We wrote:

Last June the Redmondite Parliamentary Party sought, by operating through the Co. Councils, to have Ireland excluded from the enlarged franchise. Our exposure led to the abandonment of this particular plan, but did not lead to the abandonment of the object. We advised our readers later on that the "Party" had hit on a new plan—Redistribution Proposals were to be introduced—the Party was to protest against them as unfair—the Irish Unionists were to declare that without Redistribution they would not consent to the extended franchise—a deadlock was to ensue, and the Government was to step in and say, since the Irish representatives were not agreed, they would temporarily exclude Ireland from the Bill altogether. The General Election was then to be fought in England on the new franchise, and in Ireland on the old.

All this was arranged. Such was the perfect harmony prevailing between the Redmondite plotters and the Carsonite plotters that when Mr. Wm. Moore,

M.P., was made a Judge the Party organs did not criticise the appointment. The game is now in full swing. The cry is raised that Ireland is being unjustly treated under Redistribution, and Redistribution must go—if the Redistribution proposals go, the extended franchise goes with them. This is what the "Party" is working for.

There are anomalies in the Redistribution proposals, but in effect they will not alter the voting power of the Irish people. Ulster receives 37 representatives—one more than she is strictly entitled to—and this is being held up as a grave injustice by the Redmondites. Redistribution will not affect the Sinn Féin position—it will affect the Redmondite position, since, accompanied by an extended franchise, it means their entire annihilation. Therefore, we advise Sinn Féiners to have nothing to do with the agitation against Redistribution. It is the last trick of our corrupt Parliamentarians to prevent the enfranchisement of 600,000 Irishmen and Irishwomen, 300,000 of whom they know will vote against them."

The country then refused to agitate itself about "Redistribution," and the Provincionalist Party was foiled. The measure has now passed into law. 600,000 men and women whom the Carsons, Craigs, Devlins, Dillons and Redmonds tried to keep without votes will be voters at the next General Election. One shot the defeated Redmondites did make at us in connection with the Bill. Afraid to move it themselves, they went to the House of Lords, and through it had a provision inserted that the £150 deposit with the Sheriff should not be refunded to the successful candidate until he took his seat in the English Parliament. By this means they hope to mulet Sinn Féin in some £12,000. But, as the addition of 600,000 voters to the new register means an overwhelming majority for Sinn Féin, we can laugh at the foolish malignity of the proceeding. The text of the Act is not yet available, but we shall deal with it fully in our next issue.

Mr. J. P. Jacob, M.P., says the "Roscommon Herald," in Ballaghadereen going about the fair slinking hands with every customer of his establishment whom he recognised amongst the fair people. He was never known to condescend to recognise them on any previous occasion." The General Election is coming!

The Orangemen of Newtownhamilton celebrated their victory in South Armagh on Saturday, Feb. 2nd, by lighting great bonfires on Castleblayney Hill outside the town, to which they consigned effigies of the Pope and Dr. McCartan. Cheers were given for Carson and Donnelly, and at frequent intervals all present joined in the singing of "We'll Kick the Pope right over Dolly's Brac." A rick of hay belonging to one of the local Sinn Féiners was burned.

The members of the Grange (Co. Sligo) Division of the A.O.H. (314) resolved on Sunday last to dissolve the Division "on account of the action of the President, Joseph Devlin, in joining hands with Sir E. Carson and marching under the banner of 'Up Donnelly and to hell with the Pope.'" The money in hands was directed to be sent to the Sinn Féin Election Fund.

Mr. Morgan presided at a meeting held after Mass at Meigh, Killeavey, South Armagh, on Sunday for the purpose of forming a Branch of Sinn Féin. Addresses were delivered by the Chairman and Mr. E. C. Fleming, after which 70 men handed in their names as members. At Killeen, after last Mass, another meeting was held, and after a stirring speech by Mr. Fleming (organiser) and J. Boyle (Chairman) over 100 handed in their names as members of the new Club, several old men being amongst the number. The Newry L.V.'s attended the meeting and paraded under Capt. Byrne. It is hoped to have all the men in Killeavey enrolled in Sinn Féin before a month.

At the Gaelic Hall, Newry, on Sunday evening a most successful meeting was held and many new members were enrolled in the local S.F. Club. Irish Volunteers paraded the town and were greeted with "Up Sinn Féin!" on all sides.

The Hibernians of Carnaross seem to be of the type dear to the hearts of Devlin and Donnelly. We are informed that the Carnaross Gaelic League arranged a céilidh for Sunday last in Maghera Hall. The Hibernians, we are informed, refused the use of the Hall unless it was agreed that no Irish songs should be sung, no Sinn Féin flags displayed, and the moderate sum of £5 paid. Needless to say these terms were refused, and the céilidh transferred to the Total Abstinence Hall, whereupon the Devlinites organised an "opposition" dance for the same night.

The following circular has been received by most of the Catholics of the Rathcoole district:

Division No. 34, A.O.H.
Dear Sir—I am requested by the members of this Branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians to extend to you a cordial invitation to a meeting to be held in the Hibernian Hall, Rathcoole, on Sunday, February 17th, 1918, at 7 p.m. sharp.
The object of the meeting is to place before

the residents of this parish the aims and objects of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, with the view of extending the influence and increasing the membership of this Branch.

Very prominent officers of the Order have kindly consented to attend and address the meeting.

This Branch was established close on six years ago, and has successfully carried out much useful work during that period.

The present condition of our country demands the organisation of the Catholic forces, and through the medium of this organisation we hope to secure the co-operation of all eligible Catholics residing in this district.

This invitation is issued in order to provide you with an opportunity of hearing the general principles of our Order expounded, and your attendance will in no way bind your future course of action.

Trusting you will find it convenient to attend, yours sincerely,

J. P. JACOB, Hon. Sec.

The aims and objects of Devlin and Nugent's A.O.H. are, as Armagh showed, the same as the aims and objects of the Orange body—graft for hypocrites who trade on religion.

For once in a moment of unguarded forgetfulness Sir Edward Carson referred to the economic position of Sinn Féin. It never occurs to us, according to this champion of British coal and iron interests, "for a moment that the imports from Great Britain into this country or raw material, such trifling matters, for instance, as of coal (laughter) or of steel, which I believe is somewhat used about here (laughter) might be important for the carrying on of industries." Sir Edward Carson is still under the impression that there is no coal and no iron in Ireland. Did he not so declare in a celebrated letter? He is apparently either instructed by Bonar Law, once the head of the Scottish iron trade, or by Londonderry, the great coal owner and merchant, that there is "no coal or iron" in Ireland, or else he prefers to remain in ignorance of the fact that the whole North of

Ireland here betrays how little he knows or cares about Ulster. In any case he is quite in error in talking of the importation of English steel as a raw material. British steel, of course, is made as far as possible from Spanish ores, and we could import the latter and blend it with our own inexhaustible ores at Arigna, where there is direct water communication from Lough Allen to the sea. There are at least two important coal fields in Ulster—at Ballycastle in County Antrim, and at Coalisland in Tyrone. Carson in his political peregrinations has never visited these places. They are of no political importance. As regards the use of steel for ship building or the industries of construction, so far as we should be unable to make it, there are other countries besides Britain from which we can buy steel, and we can probably buy it better and cheaper from them. Our relations with England should be placed on a sound and purely commercial basis of exchange, from which political opinions and the financial interests exploiting them, and the puppets they send to delude us, must or necessity be excluded.

The "Meat Ring" set up in Birkenhead and Manchester is out to strangle our export trade in live stock. Their plan of operations is very simple. The English cattle traders have formed themselves into a Ring called the Birkenhead Association. This Ring has actually been formed at the request of the British Government. The next step is the direct restriction of free sale. It is secured by providing that no licences to trade be issued except to members of the Association. This, of course, centres the whole of our cattle export trade in the hands of the Association. The Birkenhead Meat Supply Association was given power over the sale, purchase, and distribution of all Irish cattle. Irish shippers are told that they must pay a heavy subscription and join the Association, or else they cannot sell at Birkenhead or Manchester. As the Association appoints the graders and fixes the prices, the trade has practically become a tied one. The plans to make the prices without any regard to what the farmers here are willing to take are plainly intended to destroy the independence hitherto enjoyed by the trade. Every vestige of freedom is being swept away by Coal, Iron, and Cattle Rings, aided and abetted by the Food Controller and his agents, graders, committees and associations. There is only one way to escape having our trade strangled, and that is by getting across to foreign markets in competition with England. As long as we have only one market to sell our produce in we must buy coal and iron in exchange from similar Rings in the same country at the prices fixed without any regard to the interests of our farmers, merchants, or manufacturers. It is essential that we place our position before foreign nations so as to offer to them new opportunities of trading, to the mutual benefit of themselves and ourselves.

We hear that bacon, butter, and potatoes are not to be had in Listowel, once a great market centre in North Kerry. It was at one time, we believe, one of the best butter markets in Ireland. Now all the produce has been swept out of North Kerry by high prices offered to farmers to part with their produce. The case of bacon is particularly monstrous. The Food Controller has, of course, fixed the prices for bacon lower than English dealers are paying freely for pigs right under the nose

of our bacon curers. The Irish killings are down last week from 21,000 to 9,000, and the exports of live pigs are up from 6,000 to 10,000. Thirty thousand tons of American bacon were sunk in Christmas week. The English buyers came over to strip stock at any price and prevent our Irish bacon from being cured. The manufacturers will have to close down or the exports will have to be stopped at any cost, and similar action will have to be taken in Kerry to that taken in Cork in regard to dead meat. Dead or alive, it will have to stop.

On Wednesday and Thursday week 200 head of cattle and 150 sheep were brought from Dublin to Belfast, slaughtered, put up in hales, and despatched to addresses in London.

The Kilmacena Branch of Sinn Féin, in response to the request of the Sinn Féin Executive to supply town Branches of Sinn Féin with potatoes for sale or distribution to the poorer town-people, despatched seventeen tons of potatoes to Westport on Friday last, which entered the town in procession, the horses being decorated with the Sinn Féin colours. The potatoes were distributed without reference to politics. Since the beginning of the year 30 tons of potatoes have been thus distributed by the Sinn Féin Branch in Westport.

Mr. Edmund Burke, Chairman of Messrs. Peck Bros. and Wines, Ltd., a leading English firm of grocery importers and wholesalers, in an interview published in "Common Sense" last week, gives the following bit of information:

There is to-day in an internment camp in Cork or elsewhere an Austrian expert who came over a few weeks before the war with £10,000 in his pocket to help in starting a beet-sugar industry in Ireland. The best beet-growing land in the world lies between Wexford and Cork. There is plenty of labour in Ireland as well as sufficient capital, and an expert is on the spot, but the Government in industry that would be highly productive.

Mr. Burke expects too much from an English Government in Ireland.

The result of the Plebiscite in Whitegate parish, South Galway, as to whether Ireland should claim full independence from the Peace Conference is as follows—
For 358
Against 35
Fifteen persons were neutral.

President Wilson formally received at the White House on Jan. 11th and officially accepted an address from Cumann na mBan claiming for Ireland complete political independence. The address was presented on behalf of Cumann na mBan by Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington.

Many people when they read of the conclusion of peace between the Central Powers and the Ukrainian Republic wondered what the Ukraine was—the very name of Ukraina had disappeared from the maps and gazetteers of the world; and the nation of the Ruthenians was disguised under the name of half-a-dozen Russian provinces, such as "Podolia" and "Kieff." The Ukraine covers the greater part of what has been called "Southern Russia"—the great grain-bearing plain which runs down to the Black Sea. The Ukrainians have been described by an English writer as "the Irishmen of Russia"—their virtues being depicted as intelligence, courtesy, love of learning, great bravery, and patriotism, but lacking in the "practical" qualities of the "Great Russians." They have shown that they possess an eminently practical sense in connection with playing and winning their own hand in this war.

Ukrainia, which taught and civilised Muscovy, was pounced upon by the Poles and Muscovites in 1686 and divided up between the two Powers. A hundred years later Poland itself shared the same fate, and that part of the Ukraine which Poland had filched fell to Muscovy, now calling itself Russia—with the exception of a small fragment which was incorporated with Galicia and fell to Austria's share. Since that time until the present war the name of the Ukraine disappeared from the map and the memory of Europe.

Some eighty years ago a movement was begun in the Ukraine to conserve the national language. The inspirer, Shevchenko, was one of the best poets the Ukraine, a land of song, produced. In 1863 the Language Movement, which had no political aspect, was relentlessly banned by Russia. Its use was forbidden in public and it was expelled from the schools. The language leaders were after a while deported and some of them imprisoned. The fight for the language was then carried on from Austrian soil. In the Lemberg University four Chairs in connection with the Ukrainian language were established and some dozen periodicals in the Ukrainian language were published. The attitude of Austria towards the language was quite opposite to that of Russia. In 1905 the coercive laws against the Ukrainian language were repealed by the Czar and a National Press was established in Ukraina. Politically, a claim was made not for Separation, but for Home Rule; but the claim was refused. The Ukrainians have now completely severed themselves from Russia and now become a recognised Sovereign State.

The population of the resurrected Nation will approximate to 40 million people—intelligent, gifted, and industrious. "The Ukraine," says a French traveller, "is a country of songs and dreams. The Ukrainian does nothing without singing. His daily work and all the events of his life are accompanied by a song. When his scythe whistles through the corn he sings; he sings as he drives his plough, and the invisible lark replies. These songs make him dream of the past"—and out of his dream of the past he has made a free present and a great future.

Fourteen years ago the Ukrainian language was illegal, and now we read in Article 19 of the Peace Treaty—

"For the interpretation of this Treaty the German and Ukrainian text is authoritative for relations between Germany and the Ukraine; the Austro-Hungarian and Ukrainian text for relations between Austro-Hungary and the Ukraine; the Bulgarian and Ukrainian text for relations between Bulgaria and the Ukraine; and the Turkish and Ukrainian text for the relations between Turkey and the Ukraine."

One name at least, great in the history of the Ukraine, is familiar to the children of Ireland and every country—Mazepa. Mazepa, after the episode of the wild horse which has made him a children's hero for all time, attempted to free the Ukraine with the help of Sweden and failed. Today the world is the richer by another free nation which in servitude developed a poetry and a music of a high order, and in freedom may be trusted to add much to the intellectual as well as to the material wealth of the world.

The fifth of Professor MacNeill's lectures on Irish History was delivered in the Rotunda Concert Hall on Thursday evening, the 7th inst., dealing with "Greek and Latin Writers on Pre-Christian Ireland." The earlier writers made a variety of statements based on report. These statements were in some cases well

travelers' tales. They generally agreed that Ireland was a land of extraordinary fertility, and that its people were very warlike. In the third century Latin writers used a new name for the Irish, calling them "Scots," which, in the lecturer's opinion, was a Celtic word meaning raiders. At this time the Irish, as well as the Picts of Scotland, kept harassing the Roman provinces of Britain. The origin of the ancient fortified frontier of Ulster and of the organisation of the Finna was traced to adaptation of the Roman defences. The Atacotti, sometimes assumed without authority to have been Picts of Scotland, were more probably a class of fighting folk from Ireland. Both Scots and Atacotti entered the Roman services under Honorius and Stilicho. Irish traditions were cited as coinciding with Latin testimony regarding the part taken by the Irish in the wars that preceded the collapse of the Western Empire.

A meeting in support of Sinn Féin was held on Sunday last at Courtwood, Ballybrittas, Leix, when after addresses explaining the Sinn Féin policy fifty-eight members were enrolled. The following officers and Committee were temporarily elected—President, Mr. Richard Hipwell; Treasurer, Mr. Wm. Carroll; Sec., Mr. Thos. Tynan; Committee for the various districts—Messrs. Pat Flynn, Tim Tynan, John Corcoran, Wm. Cassidy, Kevin Breen, Edward Tynan, R. O'Connor, John Pendar, Michael Lyons, and Pat McHale. The next meeting to be held on Sunday 24th inst., immediately after 10 o'clock Mass.

We draw our readers' attention to the republication in "Young Ireland" of O'Donovan's "Origins and Meanings of Irish Family Names"—a valuable reprint from the earlier issues of "Sinn Féin."

Further statements of American Ministers explain the manner in which a million tons of shipping has been acquired for army purposes; these vessels have been withdrawn from the Pacific trade, being replaced by Dutch ships and French sailing ships. Before the war one-fifth of the French mercantile tonnage was sailing—over 400,000 tons—so that it will be necessary to make some return arrangement in this respect, in all probability. The sending of Dutch vessels to the Pacific instances the reluctance of neutral ship owners to risk their vessels in the war zone. During January 12 Norwegian ships, totalling 19,000 tons, were sunk; Norway, of course, is by far the most important shipping country.

Possibly the present month may witness the resumption of hostilities on a great scale. This winter has been comparatively mild in Europe, so that rather early operations are quite possible.

The English front in Belgium and France is familiar ground. A marked English success here might (a) drive the Germans from the Belgian coast; (b) expel them from the Lille coal-fields; (c) compel the retirement of their lines further South; or any of these. In the matter of a German offensive on this front, the English line is occupied in such depth and so heavily gunned that despite all rumours to the contrary one must remain sceptical whether such an effort will be made. Local attacks on a large scale are quite possible, but it is not clear that the results would be thought to justify the cost.

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GARDENER: Working Gardener, at present employed, is desirous of making a change; would prefer employment by Irish-Ireland family; well recommended. Apply D 12, "Nationality."

NOTICES

COLLEGE OF GAELIC LEARNING—Examinations open to all.—Proinsias O Suilleabhain, 19 Ely Place. CUMANN Sina Fein, West Ward Branch, Cork; New Premises, 54 North Main Street, 1st floor; new members enrolled Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. CGW GAELIC CHOIR, 19 Ely Place. Male voices required. Saturdays, 8 p.m. Fee, 2/6. IRISH Republican Prisoners' Dependents' Fund. Prize Drawing postponed for a fortnight. Ticket holders requested to return blocks immediately to 6 Harcourt St. Results in "Nationality," 2nd March. IRISH Prisoners' Fund Drawing, Ballynac—1st Prize, 3238; 2nd, 219; 3rd, 3539. UNIVERSITY Students (P. H. Pearce) Club, Galway—Drawing of Prizes. Winning numbers: 1st, 821; 2nd, 4946; 3rd, 2708.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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