Vol. 2. No. 16. (New Series.)

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1918.

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#### WEEK BY WEEK,

A magnificent meeting in support of the candidature of Mr. Arthur Griffith was held at Ballyjamesduff on Sunday last, addresses being delivered by the Rev. M. O'Flanagan, C.C.. Crossna, one of the Vice-Precidents of Sinn Fein, and several other speakers. Meetings were also held at Shercock and Killavin, and addresses delivered by Messrs. M. O'Mullane, H. O'Hanrahan, and others. Numerous meetings in support of Sinn Fein were held throughout the country. In Lough Bane, westmeath, Mr. W. O'Leary Curtis spake. In Kilkenny County several meetings were held. Messrs. P. McDonald, D.C., and J. J. Dunne speaking at Cuffesgrange; Mr. J. W. Upton (Editor "Kilkenny Journal") speke at Graigenamanugh, Ballycallan, Stoneyford, Bennetsbridge, Freshford and Callan; at Mullslose Rev. Father O'Mearn, P.P., presided at a great gathering, and the speakers included Mr. W. Scars (Dublin), Father P. H. Delahunty (Callan), Mr. E. T. Keane (Editor "Kilkenny People"), Mr. J. J. Dunne, Mr. J. W. Upton, and Mr. P. Keating, M.C.C. At Oldtown, Tallaght, Mr. Eoin MacNeill and Mr. M. Hayes spoke. At Naas the Rev. M. O'Brien, C.C., Kill, presided at a Sinn Fein meeting, at which Mr. Art O'Connor, B.E., who is "wanted" by the police since the date of the recent arrests, made a sudden and dramatic a; pearance, and delivered a rousing speech. Having spoken amid great enthusiusm, Mr. O'Connor, despite the efforts of the police, again vanished, and has not since been in evidence.

Several correspondents have written requesting us to throw the various shortcennings in the "evidence" published by the British Government as to the German Plot. We are asked to explain how men who were in various convict prisons in England resumed communications with the Germans "shortly after the Rising in Easter, 1916." We are asked to tell how the negotiations were sustained and other Risings planned by Sinn Febrers at Frongoch and elsewhere from Easter, 1916, to June, 1917. We are asked to say if the neport of the De Valera specified to the British Government by a Geman, and if he used shorthand notes or merely his memory. We are asked to explain how a man from a German submarine got hold of a Ford collapsible boat of a 1917 pattern, which was snoplied to the British Government only. We are asked to say whether the document "worked out in great detail" with reference to the Irish Volunteers was found on Mr. De Valera or on the anonymous body of the man from the identified collapsible boat. Finally, we are asked if the pattern of the Sinn Fein German plot of the British Government is collapsible like the Ford collapsible boat. To all of which we make reply: We don't know.

No doubt nerved by recent displays of British militarism in Ireland, Mr. Stephen

A word of acknowledgment is due to the English-journalist-agents who arrived on our shores at the moment the British Government was trying hard to hatch its addled Irish egg. The mission of these men has not been announced of course, by horalds. It is one of those little affairs which demand delicacy of foeling, extreme care in handling, broad-mindedness in the matter of expenses. But that these men are gifted with a delicately-balanced diplomacy, combined with a subtle humour, there can be no question. They cherish the hope of establishing a Lengue of Good Will between Iroland and England—a direct descendant, no doubt, of the Union of Hearts of other days. While the semi-official missionaries were concecting their League of Good Will between England and Ireland, England was expressing her Good Will for Ireland by the forcible deportation of Irishmen and Irishwomen from the small nationality into which they were, by the grace of God, born. But that, needless to say, did not deter the diplomatists from haunching their brilliant schome. taunching their brilliant schome

Now, as to the souse of humour of these journalist-agents. They launched their league of Good Will between England and Ireland in the form of a letter addressed to the Press—a letter which in its sentiments is in no way inferior to anything put into the mouth of Broadbent by Shaw. But, while the English sense of diplomacy lay in the phrasing—and nothing but phrasing—of the letter, the English sense of humour bubbled up in the signature which was attached to it when it blossomed out in the Press. The name over which the marden name of the wife of the Chief Juffer in Ireland! If that was not a stroke of genius—a seizing on the psychological moment—a hint of English Good Will to Ireland—English diplomacy in Ireland has no meaning. Listen to this piece of camouflage over the signature of the wife of the kingly witness at the Ashe Inquest:—

Whole-heartedly and with pride we

Whole-heartedly and with pride we must admit alliance with England. With a large and unbigoted heart it is our enruest duty to learn to be tolerant to all that is brave and admirable in the English character, root out harsh prejudices against it, trusting nothing but the chivalrous impulses of our own hearts, letting no threats alarm or promises allure us. mises allure us.

Trusting nothing—not even the British Parliament, we take it—but the chivalrous impulses of our own hearts, and recognising that we must have an alliance with England, is, of course, the most perfect of all perfect ways to the establishment of a League of Good Will between Engand and Ireland. This marriage of Irish Impulse to English Nobility was surely made in Heaven.

No doubt nerved by recent displays of British militarism in Ireland, Mr. Stephen Gwynn. M.E.P., has had one of his heetichours of heroism. He has hit upon the focasion of the arrest and deportation of the loaders of Sinn Fein to revive his defamations of the men who fought in the Insurrection of 1916. Even the anti-Irish animus of Provost Mahaffy has not moved him to greater excesses on this subject than those which Mr. Gwynn has so unhappily revived. It is true to say that even good Irishmen are not safe from the corrupting influences of Parliamentarianism when they are any length of time exposed to it. Its effects on persons of unstaple character are well demonstrated in the sad case of Mr. Stephen Gwynn. out parallel in history. It is no exaggera-tion to say that the casualty lists in killed and wounded have already reached an ap-palling total. The belligerent nations have been bled white. The little nations have been practically wiped out. All the furies of hell have been let loose upon earth and

be a proper judgment on Iroland for its sins against Mr. Stephen Gwynn. What says Galway of its Piod Piper?

A word of acknowledgment is due to the English-journalist-agents who arrived on our shores at the moment the British Government was trying hard to hatch its addled frish egg. The mission of these men has not been announced, of course, by horalds.

It is one of those little affairs which de-

If Mr. Devlin has come to see that Ireland may very well be the first question submitted to the Peace Conference for settlement, it would be worth his while to look after certain friends of his who are now busily intriguing to side-track Ireland at the Peace Conference. There is a League of Nations Society which has behind it in Ireland Mr. Malcolm Lyon, a secret English Government agent. Mr. Lyon has won his way to the hearts of certain people in Dublin, and these friends of his are now trying to gain signatures for a tain people in Dublin, and these friends of his are now trying to gain signatures for a petition claiming to have the case of Ireland heard by an International Conference of the Neutral Powers of Europe. The Neutral Powers of Europe. Spain, Holland, Switzerland, the Scandanavian countries—would, no doubt, be more acceptable to England than the Peace Conference of all the Belligerent Powers for a settlement of the Irish question. England might without much ado throw over any settlement come to by a group of Small Powers. She cannot treat agreements come to at the Peace Conference lightly. The proposal of the Leagu of Nations Society is a redhering drawn across the path of Ireland to the Peace Conference. Behind it is a secret agent of the English Government. Let Irishmen beware of "clover" Nationalists now endeavouring to lure them into this and similar traps. Sinn Fein has set

Wo notice the Dublin Chamber of Commerce is agitated over the presentation of an address to Lord French. There is, however, another subject to which it could very properly and usefully "address itself, and that is the question of the mail contracts oversea. The existing Post Office contract for the carriage of mails to and from Dublin and England expires in a few months. It is well known that a powerful English company is seeking to capture the mail traffic. This company at present works through a Director of Cross-Channel Traffic and a Controller likewise. The latter is interested in several consting lines, so that between the English company and the Directors and Controllers they would, if they got the mail contract, have a complete monopoly of our oversea communications. The City of Dublin Steam Packet. Company is in danger of losing the contrigit. The British Government is entirely in the hands of certain interests. How these interests set to work is revealed in the disclosure that since they took over the City of Dublin line they now load Welsh coal at this end, and somebody pockets 16s, 6d, per ton extra by the transaction. Imagine these great commercialists, and tonnage-savers exporting coal to us to fuel their boats from the other side! And these be the gods of management and efficiency!

The plots to capture every vessel and engine engaged in serving Irish trade and industry and to control it out of the country are multiplying thick and fast. Behind the mail plot lies antoher entitled "Coast Lines, I.td." This company is merely a cloak to hide the assassin's dogger aimed at the heart of Irish commerce. It is not an operating line on its own account, but merely a shipping ring or syndicate the shares of which are held by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. in the public Press that whou'd properly demand disciplinary action on the part of Mr. Gwynn himself has worn like a Allied Comband. It is worth noting in Ireland shely for the reason that Mr. Gwynn obviously harbours a heated idea that this postury are to the put on and taken off as the emotions of the put on and taken off as the emotions of the put on and taken off as the emotions of the put on and taken off as the emotions of the put on and taken off as the emotions of the put on and taken off as the emotions of the put on and taken off as the emotions of dramatic picture, and at the same time of the politic picture, and at the same time of the politic picture, and at the same time of the conference together one of the first and at the same time of the politic picture, and at the same time of the conference together one of the first pany "not taken over by the manager of pany" not taken over by the manager of pany "not taken over by the manager of pany" not taken over by the manager of pany "not taken over by the manager of pany" not taken over by the manager of pany "not taken over by the manager of pany" not taken over by the manager of pany "not taken over by the manager of pany" not taken over by the manager of pany "not taken over by the manager of pany" not taken over by the manager of pany "not taken over by the

the London and North-Western Railway Company or, if one likes to call him so, the Director of Cross-Channel Transportation." These matters are of rital consequence to the commercial laure of our country. Nearly all the lines trading out of Dublin have been but to Those which still exist with Irial cames and connection, are merely nominally so, and are more of a delusion and aname, bucause the agents pose as representatives of Irish interests which they invariably are interested to betray. It also serves as another cloak to cover their entry to the Chambers of Commerce and Harbour Boards, where they can most effectively engage in the ruin of Irish commerce and prevention of shipbuilding and other industries—a work in which they are also the importers as tools. Until all these shipping agents are cleared out of the Port and Harbour Boards of Ireland and harred from Chambers of Commerce, there will be little hrbours and less commerce. the London and North-Western Bailway

The Argentine Government, by a decree dated February 28, has ordered the closing of the Dublin Cansulate. This is very unfortunate, because Argentina is the most progressive nation in South America, and its possibilities are bound to rank it high in future. The Argentine Government found that there was very little effort made in Dublin to respond to its attempts to promote trade with Ireland. The times, no sloubt, are exceedingly difficult for such projects, and the day has not yet arrived for the advancement of our foreign trade on our opinion, a bar to the project. If a foreign Government desires to extend recognition to us we have not at present the promote trade between two nations must be mutual. Too little attention has been devoted to this important matter by our Chambers of Commerce. The attender of the Dublin Chamber is not one to inspire national hopes. The main idea of its Council at present appears to be concentrated on a joint meeting of Irish branches to consider the position of Irish trade before the war?

The Argentine Government made a consider the war?

The Argentine Government made a great and friendly effort to establish direct trading relations with Ireland. They failed for reasons over which they had no control. A similar history attaches to the efforts of the French and Italian Government, frequently renewed, to obtain an increase in their Irish trade. The same is also true of the American Government. They have all tried, without any result. The handicap on foreign Governments seeling relations with Ireland is so great as to amount to an impassible barrier. Now, it is our business to pull down that wall from this side.

Mr. Hugh Gilden, Ardara, County Done-gal, is anxious to know if there are any woollen mills in Ireland the owners of which are in sympathy with Sina Fein who would supply the handloom weavers of his district with warps and we'the or other-wise spin the grower's wool into same? "At the present time a large quentity of warn and we'ft is imported into this dis-

Mr. John Dillon complained on Sanday at Bailieboro' that the British Government were hampering the Parliamentary Party in the campaign against the Sinu Fein candidate in East Caran. They had arrested Mr. De Valera, Mr. Arthur Griffith and many others so that the Party candidate would be defented! It was also, we presume, to help to defeat the Party candidate that the Censor passed for publication four long columns and a quarter of Mr. Dillon's speech at Bailieboro'. To the same end, we presume, the magnificent speech made by Rev. Fr. O'Flanagan, Vice-President of Sinn Fein, at Bailyjamendal to ten thousand people, was entirely suppressed by the same Censor. "Owing to circumstances over which we have no control." wrote the "Irish Independent" next morning, "we are prevented from rublishing even one word of Fr. O'Flanagan's address."

no, he was knud enough to inform the Empire of which he is so proud.

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All busidess communications to the

miserable document which the English Government has issued to the world in apelogy for its attack upon Sinn Fein would be to outrage their intelligence. All the elected Smn Fein candidates for Irish Parliamentary constituencies, with one exception, are now in English jails. The caption is Dr. MacCartan, who is at liberty ception is Dr. MacCartan, who is at liberty lovalty and their devotion. Let that de-in America. England struck her blow at votion and that lovalty be Ireland's an-Sinn Fein just as another Sinn Fein can-didate, Mr. Arthur Griffith, had gone for-and their comrades now in English prisons. didate, Mr. Arthur Grimth, had gone for-ward for an Ulster constituency, and for which constituency he will be returned in due course. It will not be possible to ob-scure the significance of these things to the outside world. No amount of discus-sion on the German Plot and on the merits are lack of morits of its "evidence" can or lack of morits of its "evidence" can blind the world to the facts of the situa-tion in Iroland. Of course, the "evidence" against Sinn Fein is perfectly satisfactory to that powerful section of the English Press which announced on the eve of its publication that no evidence was necessary. The Plot was satisfactory to the English Prime Minister of the day, Mr. Lloyd George. "I have seen the evidence," he said, before the "evidence" was given to the world, "and after perusing it there

those Irishmen who are a dauger to her rule in Ireland. She flatters those Irish- prisons. men whom she knows she can exploit in Ireland to her own ends. England de-Ireland to her own ends. England de-lares to-day to the outside world that she his followers in Cayan, and there it was is saving us from ourselves. England has lways been virtuous in Ireland. She has never throttled us except for our soul's salvation. This pose is traditional to her. Cromwell came with the Bible and the sword. French is among us with a German Plot. While the operation is following historical lines England postures before the outward world in the postures before the outward world in the garb of a white angel—tender, loving, full of charity, much wronged by certain of the Irish people. In Cromwell's days we were Irish people. In Cromwell's days we were Popish, superstitious helots, which it sweened the earth to make away with. In the days of Lloyd George we are "not merely sullen," but treasonable, and fit only to occupy jails in England. These charges are true. In Cromwell's days and since we have been largely Papists in Ireland. To-day we are treasonable in that we are—to quote the same Lloyd George—"no more reconciled to British rules then "no more reconciled to British rule than we were in the days of Cromwell." Irishmen have been conspiring, and shall continue to conspire, against that rule. That is our reply to England.

England dreads the ordeal, and still

more the outcome, of Ireland's appeal to the Peace Conference—the Conference, and the only Conference, that will have authority in the re-shaping of Europe after the world war has come to an end. Sinn Fein has lifted Ireland out of the wretched condition to which her politicians, weakened and corrupted by Pauliamentarieums. ed and corrupted by Parliamentarianism, had lowered her. Ireland is no longer a domestic problem. Her quarrel with Engdomestic problem. Her quarrel with Englished is a quavrel of first-class international importance. Sinn Fein has made it such. And England, feeling that Sinn Fein was loosening her grip upon this Nation, resolved to strike at Sinn Fein. In striking at Ireland through Sinn Fein the British Government player for creating a division among Irishmen; it was expected that an angry outburst of feeling by one class against another would follow the revelation of the Garman Plot; the British Government hoped for confusion in Ireland, for it is only by confusion and division in Ireland that the hope lies of destroying Ireland that the hope lies of destroying Ireland's cause abroad. The English howl for the blood of Sinn Fein was raised in the hope that it would be taken up by Irishmen. There has been no howl for the blood of Sinn Feiners in Ireland, Sinn Fein is too strong for England in Ireland, and too strong for those in Ireland who would, through party animosity, like to join in the ruin of the movement which has brought a new soul into Ireland. Second only in importance to the bid of the British Government for internal strife in Irein importance to the bid of the British Government for internal strife in Ire-land, the English Government has played. and is playing, for an incitement against the Irish in America. The Irish in America. Ike the Irish in Ireland, whom England would like to destroy are the Irish who stand for Sovereign Independence, and work for the Sovereign Independence of Ireland. The document issued by the British Government against Sine Fairlich Government against Sine Fairlich. Whelah & Son,
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The Comment issued by the British Government against Sinn Fein is plainly meant to be in part an elaborate felon-setting of Mr. John Devoy in America. We believe it will fail in America, as it has failed in Ireland. England has deported our lenders, thrown them into her prisons, and sought to destroy their good name in the eyes of the world. She has cated to the eause of Irish Liberty gifts precious beyond measure, and because

# "TO THE BITTER END"

The Irish Parliamentary Party has been braced to a fight in East Cavan by been braced to a fight in East Cavan by circumstances which must surely make it the most contemptible political party which has ever afflicted a country. Ever since Mr. Arthur Griffith, at the request of the Sinn Feiners of Cavan, and going forward with the full support of the Sinn Fein Organisation, agreed to contest the sent, every intrigue, every trick, every underhand dodge known to men wonderfulls well publication that no evidence was necessary. The Plot was satisfactory to the English Prime Minister of the day, Mr. Lloyd George. "I have seen the evidence." was given to the world, "and after perusing it there can be no doubt left on any reasonable mind as to the duty of the Irish Government." That was the signal to the English mind obtained as to the correct reading of the "evidence." Not for nothing has Mr. Lloyd George boasted that he knows something of political atrategy. He struck the thing of political atrategy. He struck the list has been put in the day before the publication of the English politicinas hate him because he has made their policy, the English mind has since been making brave efforts to sing in the Premier key.

The chorus is not quite harmonious, but doubtless harmonious enough for the strategic purposes of Mr. Lloyd George.

For Ireland there can be no doubt about

this whole business. English policy in Ire- and his friends. Without even the mockery land is continuous. That is the of a trial, and in pursuance of a charge meaning of the attack upon Sinn which the English Government rofuses to support by evidence, Mr. Griffith and his viciously—as she has always struck—at friends were forcibly deported from their native land and locked up in English

Saturday, June 1, 1918.

A week clapsed. Then, last Sunday, announced that he had decided to oppose Mr. Griffith "to the hitter end." What effect this will have on Irishmen the world over we can only guess. Many Irishmen who frankly recognised Mr. Dillon's hitterness and Mr. Dillon's narrowness did not think they would see him come to this. Were it in the power of Mr. Dillon and his Party, they would in East Cavan now justify everything the English Government has done, and everything it proposes to do in Iraland. Mr. thing it proposes to do, in Ireland. Mr. Dillon and his Party will now strain every nerve to bring great joy to the Cromwellian heart of Mr. Lloyd George. Nothing could be more welcome to the British Govern-ment than to hear that an Irish consti-tuency had thrown over a Sinn Fein leader. They would be encouraged to new excesses in Ireland, and the man who fancies that England has finished with excesses in Ireland is a fool. Mr. Lloyd George in his speech in Birmingham coood like a dove to the Irish Parliamentary Party, while smiting Sinn Fein. Mr. Dillou has responded to the Birmingham signal by his speech in Cavan. His Party will now try to defeat in an Irish constitutions the problem than the Parlich Cavan. ency the man whom the English Govern-

ment has under lock and key Sinn Foin makes no complaint as to all this. Mr. Dillon's challenge to a contest "to the bitter end" will be accepted. Wo have no illusions as to Mr. Dillon's bitterness or as to his narrowness. He begau his political career under circumstances which are pretty akin to the thing he has come down to in his old age. We refer to the election of John Mitchel for Tipperary, and his subsequent expulsion from the British House of Commons. A controversy arose in the constituenty as to whether Mitchel should stand again for the seat. Isaac Butt, in a letter to the Press in February, 1875, recommended that Mitchel should again go forward. It was not possible to communicate with Mitchel, as he sible to communicate with Mitchel, as he was then sailing from America to Ireland. A conference was held in Tipperary as to what was to be done. To that conference came Mr. John Dillon, then on the seent of an Irish seat, and his friend Mr. T. P. O'Connor. At the conference O'Connor made a lengthy speech in which he urged that John Mitchel should be thrown over in favour of Mr. John Dillon! During the discussion which followed Mr. John Dillon sat silent—gave silent consent to the proposition that John Mitchel should be position that John Mitchel should be thrown over by an Irish constituency because England hated him. Mr. John Daly was present and vehemently opposed the surrender. He carried the Convention with him. Dillon's candidature was not adopsurrender. He carried the Convention with him. Dillon's candidature was not adopted, and Tipperary, as far as the Convention was concarned, saved itself from shame. It is worth while noting, in view of Mr. Dillon's present affectation of synthetic pathy with Mr. Arthur Griffith in his arguest, that after he had failed to oust Mitchel at the Tipperary Convention he subsequently went to meet Mitchel at Queenstown, and Mitchel, in the innocence of his heart, entrusted him with the reading of his lecture in Cork. But even that characteristic piece of camouflage was attended to by the watchful John Daly.

On at least one other noteworthy occasion Mr. John Dillon played a sinister part in Irish politics. When the country was torn by the emotions of the Parnell split it looked to Dillon to give it direction—and he gave it. He might have saved the tragedy which followed when he came back from America with the other Irish delegates. At first Mr. Dillon declared that a change in the leadership of Parnell would be a disaster." That was on November 19th, 1890. On November 26th of the same year, in response to the ultimatum issued by an English politician Mr. Dillon gave.

10th, 1890. On November 26th of the ame year, in response to the ultimatum issued by an English politician, Mr. Dillon gave Parnell to the English wolves. He pursued his leaden "to the bitter end." He would like to do the same thing in the case of Mr. Arthur Griffith to-day. But fortunately it is not in his power to offer any more Irish sacrifices to the English Moloch. East Cavan will give the English Government and Mr. John Dillon an answer worthy of the honour and the dignity of this nation. nity of this nation,

> ENGLAND'S "SINCERE FRIENDS"

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remain where they are. Before, there-fore, they put their heads again into the Westminster noise, they should reflect Irish benches at Westminster it will find carefully how that action on their part will be interpreted in Ireland.

Consider the position. The Irish mem-bers came to Ireland to resist the military enslavement of their country. The Government's policy on that point remains unchanged. The Northcliffe Press knows what it is writing about, and it declares that it has the "best reasons" for saying that Lord French's proclamation did not mean the dropping of conscription. What the proclamation does is to invite Irishmen to enlist in the English army immediately after seeing their chosen leaders thrown into prison. Considering that the Derby Scheme of voluntary enlistment failed to avert conscription in England, it seems unlikely in existing circumstances that voluntary culistment will be successful in Ireland, and it is not Lord North-cliffe has the "best reason" to assure his readers that Irishmen will be driven into readers that Irishmen will be driven into the English army at the point of the word—to use the expression of the "Manchester Guardian." It is clear that the object for which the Irish members withdrew to Iroland has not yet been achieved. Something else, however, has happened. The Sinn Fein leaders have been arrested wholesale and deported. It is immediately after that striking event that the National after that striking event that the Nationalist leaders are said to contemplate a prompt seturn to the London House of

Now, how will that look? Mr. Dillon believes in fraternising with the English; Sinn Fein believes in righting them. Mr. Dillon believes in recognising the right of the London Parliament to legislate for Ireland—except on conscription: Sinn Fein denies that right altagether. The point is that the Sinn Fein leaders and Mr. Dillon are deeply divided, and that the Sinn Fein leaders have been thrown into jail. What will the country think if the Party take that opportunity—"a Heaven-sent opportunity," the "Times" calls it—to respond to the Fundish invites calls it—to respond to the English invitation and go back? We do not affirm that Mr. Dillon indicated a convenient course of conduct to the Eritish Government. Wo do not affirm that the appointment of one of the Party to Lord French's Intelligence Staff was connected with the gathering of information on the strength of which the Government acted. It was an Englishman who, on hearing of the arrests, pleasantly observed, "Set a thief to catch a thief." But it is safe to say that ugly interpretations are likely to be presented. tions are likely to be placed upon the action of the Party if, as soon as their Irish opponents are jailed, they forthwith return to collogue and fraternise with England, who has jailed them.

collogue and raternise with England, who has jailed them.

What possible good can they pretend to do in England now? They may make vehement speechs. But their speeches carry no weight in Parliament, and are carefully kept out of the Press. Even a former Minister of the Crown like Mr. Herbert Semuel is not reported in the leading London papers when he vontures to say that the principle of nationality applies in Ireland just as it applies in Bohemia. And if that is so of an English ex-Minister, it is much more so of the Irish whom the English hate and despise and endeavour to defeat and hamper by every means, worthy and unworthy, at their command. Apart from speeches, the Party do nothing. Their negotiating and conferring and breakfasting and lunching with English politicians. thing. Their negotiating and conferring and breakfasting and lunching with English politicians not only result in no benefit for their country, but serves to rivet her chains more firmly upon her. It was different in the time of Parnell. There was no fraternising then. The Irish Party fought for Ireland alone, without any pretence of "sincere friend-hip" or mawkish nonsense of that kind towards England, and it was in those stern days, and not "Country, ISLUBRET, ISLUBRET,

nonsense of that kind towards England, and it was in those storn days, and not during the recent laplog years, that concessions and reforms were wrung successfully from the English Government.

After all, it is unnatural and cowardy in a weak, ill-used man to bloat-out protestations of "sincero friendship" for the strong bully who is maltreating him. An Englishman's smile as he listans to assurances of that kind is not pleasant to see. Partly it conveys a condescending tolerance for an inferior being. An Englishman regards these oppressed yet fraternising-ivishmen much as he regards the "friendlies" among savage tribes—useful and tolerable so long as they come to heel and exhibit no signs of independence. But in his heart he despises them. Mr. Dillon has "plighted his word" that he is England's friend, and his English allies refer to him as "the gombeen man" behind his contempt." It was Lord Salisbury who wrote in one of his letters that "the natural feeling of an Englishman is to get rid of an Irishman." Let us reciprocate, and have a great opportunity. Let them think reither of themselves nor of the convenience, the representations, the cajoleries, the threats of the English. Let them reflect only how Ireland's battle ugainst England can be fought most strongly and along what lines, their countrymon desire to see them pursue a mational policy. Their return would be interpreted as a surrender; their presence at Westminster, in the events that have happened, would be a batrayal of Ireland's nationhood. Let them remain in their own country fighting side by side with their

them, in their silent eloquence, much more disconcerting than if they were full.

### PLEECING THE PARMER

The new farmers' income tax has received little attention on account of the more exciting incidents of the past few weeks. But the plan to draw the "blood" of the farmers' purses is a near second to conscription. Taxation specially directed against the predominant interest of our country has destroyed our population and weakened our power to a lar greater extent than the sword, the bayonet, or the musket. Every year sees a new development in this scientific method of nationaliting which is the peculiar patent of British politicisms. The development proseeds with the stealthiness of a panther seeking to reach and devour its victim. No doubt few have as yet felt the effects of income tax on land, but the screw is gradually being put on. First one-third of the valuation was taken as a line to give the income derived from land. Next one-half; then the whole; now double the valuation is taken to represent the assess ment on which the tax-gatherers proceed to fleece the farmers. A decision given in 1915 permitted the annuity paid by a purchased tenant to be taken as the measure of carnings, and now twice the annuity is so deemed to be the Irish tenant proprietor's income. There is nothing to prevent the British Chancellor of the Exchequer from going from year to year raising the tax line to ten times the annuity unless the farmers now make a determined stand to prevent him. The method of assessing income tax is so complicated that it takes a special expert to understand it. The far-mers in the Sim Fein Clubs should come together, get a Special Committee to deal with this question, and place their case in the hands of men who are masters of the law of income tax, one of the most tangled webs woven to catch money for the maw of the British Treasury. The question of the justice of the tax should also be carefully examined and, if found to be unjust, suitable steps should be taken to deal with the situation. to deal with the situation. To increase the annuities payable to the Treasury looks on the face of it to be in effect a restoration of rent, no doubt a stale rent, but atill a payment for the right to use the land. This appears to us to be unjust because the tenant is already paying for his land. It is, at all events, not an income tax if all, and has no right to be levied as such.

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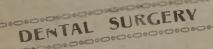
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