

NATIONALITY

Vol. 2. No. 27. (New Series.)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1918.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

WEEK BY WEEK.

The most complete Annals whom England has produced since Titus Oates is the man named Shortt, who now acts as British Chief Secretary for Ireland. Emerging suddenly from obscurity, this man started his career in Ireland by putting his name to the lying proclamation of the German Plot—a plot under the guise of which England deprived the Sinn Féin leaders of their liberty—and since then this unclean political instrument of England in Ireland has been an unblushing and now notorious public liar. Shortt is so unclean a political instrument that one of these days even England will—having served her dark ends—throw him over, and we shall hear no more of him. This is the unclean politician who now, in the manner of all liars, suddenly blurs out a blast of truth. He admits that England has arrested, deported Irishmen under guise of a German Plot who are innocent, and out of his foul mouth we learn that innocent men are to be kept deprived of their liberty. England admits that she bears false witness against the Irish Nation.

Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington returned recently from her visit to the United States of America, and sorely had she set foot on Irish soil when the British Government pounced upon her, arrested her, deported her to England, and she now lies in Holloway Prison with the other three Irishwomen who have been imprisoned there without trial, or even the formality of a charge. The British Government has alleged no plot against Mrs. Skeffington. It would be difficult to get Americans to believe that she is a monster, for a great many Americans have had an opportunity of hearing what she had to say. In that country she was at perfect liberty to move about as she wished, and the right of free speech is not denied her. She spoke in forty-one of the States, from New York to San Francisco, and from the Canadian border in Washington State down to Texas.

Everywhere she went she found that Ireland was one of the most popular of the small nationalities of Europe. In her interview with President Wilson, Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington found him very sympathetic. "I have a strong personal feeling," Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington declared on her return, "that with the help of the Irish-Americans in the United States he will see to it that Ireland's claims for independence and self-determination will be considered. Sympathy with Ireland is not confined to Irish-Americans. I have lectured in towns like Minneapolis, in the State of Minnesota, where the population is Scandinavian, and I found the same sympathy and understanding." It is worthy of note that Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., returned to the country of his adoption from his mission to the United States—alleged to be a collecting tour for funds to smash nationalism in Ireland—at much the same time as Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington returned to Ireland. Mr. O'Connor was cordially received. He lost no time in resuming his nation-killing intrigues in the British House of Commons. Mr. O'Connor was whispering with the British Ministers in the lobby of England's Parliament at the same time that the instruments of the same Government were depriving Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington of her liberty. Can the British Government ever forgive Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington because one of their officers, now of liberty, murdered her husband? Of the four Irishwomen now in Holloway Prison, three of their husbands have fallen before a volley of bullets fired by British soldiers.

Since the above comments were written Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington has been released from Holloway Prison. She was on hunger-strike, and it was only when the Government feared that she would, in the words of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, "die on their hands," that she was set at liberty.

President Wilson's speeches in favour of the principle of self-determination of small nationalities have been received with great enthusiasm by the Allied peoples. Mr. Lloyd George has embraced the doctrine whole-heartedly. M. Clemenceau has given it his benediction. The Allies, in fact, have been fighting for the liberty of all small and oppressed peoples. They have proudly told us a thousand times. But the fact that Ireland happens to be a small nationality has embittered the doctrine for those whose hatred of Irish nationality transcends all other human considerations. What are we to think of one

who calls President Wilson, Lloyd George, M. Clemenceau, and the rest ignorant or doctrinaire politicians in high places? To the lot of Professor Mahaffey of Trinity College, has this treason fallen. In an article in the "Irish Times" reviewing a book on Roumania, the Professor throws over the principles which the Allies say they are spilling their blood for. The Provost, in his article, "The Congress of Peace-Makers," says: "The close of this war will have many difficult, but soluble, questions before it. The status quo would be a permanent injustice. There is, perhaps, only one prophecy which we can venture with confidence. The principle asserted by ignorant or doctrinaire politicians in high places that we must support the liberties and the self-determination of small nationalities must result not in permanent peace, but in constant wars." So the Provost of Trinity College, who has recruited for the Allied cause, insisted that this was Ireland's war, and defamed the Sinn Féin men of Easter Week in America (as now founded on the President of the United States and his Allies). He tells us that this is a war to create constant wars. So Ireland knows at last what she is asked to fight for—thanks to Professor Mahaffey. What do the Americans think of the ignorant and doctrinaire President?

The spirit of patriotism and practical patriotism at that—is not found in Waterford, despite recent events there. "Mrs. Pearse," writes the "Waterford News," "the mother of Padraic Pearse and William Pearse, who were shot for having taken part in the Easter Week Rising, has been paying a visit to Waterford and its neighbourhood. We had the pleasure on Monday of meeting this admirable Irishwoman, who cheerfully gave her sons to Ireland because Ireland is the sacrifice. At the suggestion of Mr. Justice Peacock, it was proposed to create a fund for the purpose of giving expression to the feeling entertained by Nationalists in Waterford for this patriotic Irish mother. It was not expected or intended that any large sum of money would be forthcoming; the testimonial was to be merely a small tribute to the memory of Padraic and W. Pearse and a token of sympathy with their mother. It is satisfactory to learn that the response has been quite beyond any expectations, and that it is anticipated that a sum will be subscribed which will enable Mrs. Pearse to arrange for a scholarship at St. Enda's for one Waterford student."

Sinn Féinidhte all over the country should now be clearing the decks in every Parliamentary constituency for action. Attention to the details of organisation, a clear understanding of the machinery which must be put into motion, and of the duties devolving on Election Committees, will prevent confusion, heart-searchings, and disappointments later on. No such issues were ever at stake at a General Election as the issues which will be at stake in the coming battle of the votes. Ireland has come to the cross-roads and definitely made up her mind to go straight ahead on the road to Irish Freedom. As a people we are about to definitely bid good-bye to the policy of Parliamentaryism—a policy which stands condemned out of the mouths of the Parliamentarians themselves. The greatest master of Parliamentaryism which the nation ever produced, Parnell, saw the limitations of the policy from the first; his followers see no limitations to it; they have no alternative, as he had, should the policy definitely fail; it has not alone failed, but utterly collapsed; and still the old gang would cling to the wreck. If Parliamentaryism was a weak staff in the palmy days of its master, Parnell, it is the rottenest of rotten reeds in the degenerate days of Dillonism.

Ireland will cast it definitely from her at the coming General Election. With that fatal policy will disappear all the national littleness, all the degrading trickery, all the domestic thuggery, that robbed this nation even of its dignity. After the coming General Election Ireland must stand boldly, clearly, cleanly, for an independent sovereign State. Until Ireland does so—until Ireland declares definitely for Freedom by a great Parliamentary majority—we need not expect other peoples, other Powers, or groups of Powers, to champion our claim to self-determination. No man ever yet stood for a great principle, or a great truth, or a great cause, and, whatever might be his early experience, stood alone. It is the same with nations. No nation, however weak, yet stood for the principle of human liberty in its own life and for the freedom of its own people, and was

despised by the world. When Ireland stands for an independent sovereign State and a form of independent government to be determined by her own people, she will be saluted by the free peoples of the earth. Her enemies, and those who serve her enemies, will alone execrate her name.

The details of the election machinery in every constituency need immediate attention. Sinn Féinidhte must proceed with their preparations on the assumption that each constituency must fight its own battle. From the very start the question of finance will arise, and it is a wise Election Committee which will now without a moment's delay proceed to build up a fund for the General Election. Each candidate must, as our readers are aware, put down £150 and there will be so many other expenses that it is fairly evident this sum must in all cases be available to start with. The manner of creating a fund must to a large extent be determined by local conditions, but it may be mentioned that already those Cumann which are alive to their duty have inaugurated a weekly collection, and a house-to-house collection at that. Small sums are collected each week, and in time the amount will accumulate. It will be remembered that at the time Mr. T. P. O'Connor rather unexpectedly arrived in New York—the cables informing us that he had arrived on a British war vessel, and that he had gone to America to look for funds to defeat Sinn Féin in Ireland—Mr. Arthur Griffith suggested that a silver Sinn Féin Victory Fund should be inaugurated in Ireland. The suggestion was taken up and many subscriptions to the fund were acknowledged in the columns of "Nationality." Several bye-elections and other national events which are now historic intervened, and for some time the Sinn Féin Victory Fund has been suspended. We suggest as one means of meeting the inevitable heavy financial expenditure of a General Election that this silver fund should be built up. We are prepared to acknowledge subscriptions in our columns from week to week.

"When I read of the want of funds for electioneering purposes about the time of the East Cavan Election," writes a Belfast correspondent, "I had an idea for raising money for fighting Ireland's battles at the polls. It is this: Let one person in every really Irish home collect a fixed sum, no matter how small (two-pence is the amount in our house, and there are three subscribers) from each member every week and put the money to one side for the time being. It is surprising how quickly the savings accumulate. By this means persons like myself who could not afford to give much to an annual collection, and who have no scruples about acting in contravention of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, will be able to assist Sinn Féin considerably without feeling the loss. This would be a fitting answer for the Irishry to give to the little amendment added to the Representation of the People Bill by the Lords of the small nations' protector. In the hope that you will consider this idea worth passing along to your readers, I am submitting it to you."

All hope of peace has now disappeared, and the long course of secret negotiations has ended. The United States, after much hesitation has cast the fatal throw of the dice, and with the signal given to Japan to go ahead Germany has taken her counter-measures. This means that Germany is out now on the colossal road to Central Asia and Siberia to meet the threat from Japan. This involves the breaking up of her great Western offensive, and the rushing of her armies over the Siberian railways. It is a race to the East against a race of Japan to the West. The Russian armies were mobilised a month ago, this time on the side of Germany, who is now moving East by many roads. The struggle in France has been resumed where it was in September, 1914, and the war is being fought over again. No one can now foresee when the end will come, and it is necessary that we in Ireland should clearly understand that we have only one hope of survival at all. All our energies should be devoted to the preservation of our country, relying on ourselves and ourselves alone for the production of all the necessities of life. The war is now prolonged indefinitely, and we are within sight of a time when we can no longer receive from the outside world any food, fuel or clothes.

Bhí Comradh na Gaedhilge agus an Ard-Fheis go maith ariamb chun iarraidh ar ordi sgoile agus ar na Buid Oideachais rud a dhéanadh ortha. Bhí an mead saim go maith. Thuig lucht cosanta na teanga go bh-fuighadh teachtaire fuaire freagra

fuar, agus cuireadh teachtaire (duan uafais) i gcumaidhe. Bhí rud eile ná thuigeadar, agus sin nach ndéanfadh na Buid Oideachais nó rud maith ortha de mb'eidir leofa a chur ar cairde. Tá Enx millen a chur ar na Buid, ach ní bhíodh sin ar an nGaedhilge ata a' fighail bhais san nGaeiltacht i muidheoia a bh-faith rahlhte i n-ghaich na mBord agamsa. Tá an mhuintir ór gha dtogail gan Gaedhilge paisti a bh-faith an teanga go blasta. N-a dtuismightheoiri, ta siad ag fas suas gan an teangain. Sin i an ghlan-fhirinne. Sin i lom-eblar na firinne, agus ná bhíodh dul annu grainu ina thaobh. Seard is riachtanach duinn a dhéanadh gleadh oideachais a cheapadh agus a chur ar darr agus a bhuanadh san nGaeiltacht, agus an gleadh saim a bheith faoi n-arr geoinneir fenu ar faid. Nior mifor ceibtre adhbhar leighnu a mhunadh, mar ata, Gaedhilge litridheacht na Gaedhilge, stair, agus eol. Tá na ceibtre adhbhar so dluth-cheangailte le cheile agus neartuigheann siad go maith a cheile. Buanann siad a caeile. B'is ta oibhair an Chonnartha gan taradh i ngeall ar aiteacha, ta fath leis. Nior mairidh na ceibtre eim le cheile agus is ri-dheanar uon adhbhar leighnu acu a bhuanadh gan an chuid eile. Féagannid ar bpaisti ar an ar feadh a hocht nó a dheich de bhanta chun oideachas gallda dThughail. Xi bhíodh siul againn go muinteoir an Gaeidhlig go maith doibh i mbeagán blian agus gan de thoagsg aca ach nair ná dhó sa-teachtain.

Shoenuigh an Ard-Fheis ar leanamhairi do'n ghleas timthriachtach ar feadh bliana eile. Is cosuil ná bhac an Ard-Fheis le gleadh muinteoirneacha. Fagtar an eibtre oideachais faoi na coisti ceantair agus na ceibteacha. Tá a shliocht ar an gleadh oideachais agus ar an obair. Ní bhianann gleadh timthriachtach agus gleadh teangeas. Tá an da gleadh riachtanach a chait. Dha leith d'aon rud amháin seadh isof. Is ri-dheag a dhéanfaid timthriachtach teoiri agus saim de mhíth a oideachais na muinteoiri mara bh-fagtar i mhion na hoibre ó cheann ceann na bliana fad, eibtre ceart oideachais a bheith aca, coir mairid a bheith aca, agus cabhair an bpobal agus o'n gComradh aca.

The City of Cork Steam Packet Company has passed out of Cork ownership. It was amusing to note the variety of companies alleged to be the purchasers. These intentions were evidently given out to cloak the operations of the Shipping Trust. It is now announced that the British and Irish Steam Packet Co. is the purchaser of a large holding, and our worst fears are realised. The B. and I. as we pointed out some time ago, is no longer Irish. It is all British, and is controlled by Sir Owen C. Phillips, Sir Joseph Savory, A. S. Williams, A. H. Read, and G. Bavin. These directors constitute Coast Lines, Ltd., a powerful trust which is buying up all the coast services in order to feed their lines overseas. They are out to secure a monopoly of the freights leaving our shores. The only independent Irish service is now the City of Dublin, and it has to put up a stiff fight for its existence. The Mails Contract has been renewed with difficulty, and subject to six months' notice instead of a contract for the full term of twenty years. The subsidy was £80,000 a year. The Post Office, with their usual consideration for Irish interests, coolly proposed to cut off £20,000 a year, in spite of the enormous increase of working cost, fuel, and wages. After long negotiations they have agreed with difficulty to pay £78,000. It is wonderful what economy is exhibited in the case of an Irish contract in view of the colossal extravagance and waste revealed by the inquiry in England into the finances of the innumerable departments running a race in spending public funds. Now that the P.M.G. has saved his salary at the expense of the City of Dublin S. P. Co., he ought to be given a bronze medal in commemoration of the distinguished contrast he has presented to his colleagues, and he ought to be "addressed" by the Chamber of Commerce.

The coal situation is a very threatening one. The supplies usually banked at Ringsend and other basins have vanished. The manufacturers are moving to secure priority. This is absolutely essential. The shutting down of industries would place the country in a most serious plight. The Controller promises, of course, to give others a preference. This course threatens of power would mean the paralysis of the ed is a most dangerous one. The stoppage country.

The Secretary, Cumann na nBan, Kilkenny, called at Headquarters, 6 Harcourt St., on Monday and transacted all her business in Irish. Secretaries of other branches please copy.

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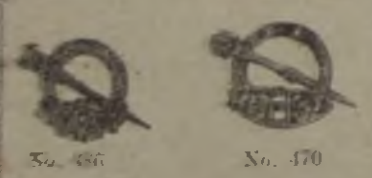
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All literary communications should be addressed to the Editor.
All business communications to the Manager.

NATIONALITY.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1918.

THE LEADERS OF THE DOMESTIC PROBLEM.

We had two pronouncements from two leaders of the Provincialists—the upholders of Ireland as a domestic problem of England—on Monday of this week, and the two leaders do not seem to have any unity of mind or body or of soul. Mr. John Dillon, fresh from the most miserable performance that has ever taken place in the British House of Commons in all the story of Irish futility there, spoke at Blackrock, and we do not suppose that one member of the modest audience which passed the evening there can to-day recall one sentence of his speech of any national significance whatever. It was the sort of brooding, watery oratory which bubbles along like the brook, and, like the brook, might flow on for ever. The second leader of the Provincialists, Captain Stephen Gwynn, spoke at Navan, and although the Captain claims that he is "the intellectual leader" of the Parliamentary Party, one would never suspect it from the published versions of his speeches. Mr. Dillon told his followers that we could have a settlement of the domestic question of Ireland to-morrow granted that Ireland were united on the domestic problem of Ireland; Mr. Gwynn told the good people of Meath that "they had not the time necessary now to get Home Rule." Mr. Dillon said of conscription: "I have a strong and shrewd suspicion that you will never hear of conscription again in Ireland." Mr. Gwynn, who claims intellectual precedence to Mr. Dillon, on the other hand, told Navan that "conscription was inevitable." Mr. Dillon complained of the lack of unity in Ireland. We are not surprised. When Mr. Dillon thinks of Ireland he thinks of it in the terms of Domestic Problemities—in other words of "the Party." And there is certainly no unity in the Parliamentary Party to-day. The two speeches delivered by two of its leaders—one the leader of what is left of the machine, the other the leader of what is alleged to be its intelligence—are, as we have seen, completely out of mental harmony. "If Ireland," said the leader of what is left of the machine, "were united she could have a settlement to-morrow." It is astonishing that for all the years Ireland was united behind the Parliamentarians they were not able to secure a settlement. It is always a case of "to-morrow" with Mr. Dillon. His

mind is going back to the days of Gladstone and still he does not seem to see any link as a result of all that has happened since. We are not very much astonished then that Captain Gwynn makes the claim to intellectual superiority to such leaders as Mr. Dillon may well complain of the lack of support which is forthcoming for his leadership and his policy, and before he can have any hope of winning converts among the bulk of the people of Ireland who are for nationalism he must at least try to restore some sort of order and unity in the domestic problems of his own Party. He must come to some understanding with Captain Gwynn. Either Captain Gwynn is giving the followers of Provincialism the wrong direction or Mr. Dillon is giving the—as far as he can be said to have anything to give anybody—wrong direction and there are other domestic problems which have begun to elbow each other on the Party shelf. We need only recall such names as those of Col. Lynch, Sir Walter Vincent, Captain Redmond, Mr. White, Mr. McLaughlin, and many others. They are the elements of discord, if not actual revolt. Mr. Devlin is said to be also suffering from certain mental agitations which may at some moment of crisis, of promising opportunity, burst into a great West Belfast passion. At all events it is worthy of saying that Mr. Devlin has considered it necessary to deny the rumours, flowing a series of recent private conclusions of the Provincialist Party, that he is the source of uneasiness to the Party leadership. Dillon meanwhile is trying to cover the skeleton in the Provincialist cupboard by attacking Sinn Féin. At Blackrock he once more read out his indictment against the Sinn Féin leaders. The indictment followed more or less the same lines as the indictment against them by the British Government. The Dillonite attack upon the men who have been thrown into prison in England for uniting Ireland in the bonds of a strong national movement has about as much substance as the English invention of the German Plot. It is made up of the same allegations of revolution, of disaster, of bloodshed, and Mr. Dillon fears that injury may be done to the British Empire. In building up these charges against men who lie in English jails, Dillon would like to represent himself as a great fighter against desperate odds—this man who is now afraid to stand up to the Gwynns, the Niggents, the Lynches, and the Redmonds in his own Party, because they could cause him considerable trouble; this man who always used the brutality of a political machine to crush independent opinion in his Party; this man who never knew mercy to the weak among his comrades; who habitually dealt out bitter blows to those who stood for any sort of freedom of thought or of action; this man who is now afraid to stand up to the English politicians in their wolfish and deadly attack upon Parrell when he was fighting the cause of Ireland practically alone, just as to-day he is again with the English politicians who have fallen upon the Sinn Féin leaders. With the British military camorra, Dillon exults to-day in the "taming" of Clare, and now the "taming" of Ireland. All his soft words are for the British politicians who have betrayed him over and over again; all his bitterness is for the men who united Ireland in a brotherhood of freedom, and the result of whose teaching and whose preaching will be written across the length and breadth of Ireland at the coming General Election. Dillon is described to-day as "the Irish leader" in the subsidised Press which upholds his intrigues. And this "Irish leader" wants to know what the Sinn Féin leaders are to do to have Ireland from the English attack upon the Irish Nation? If Dillon is "the Irish leader" why does he not save his people, who does he not secure that triumph of his policy which he declares it to be had to-morrow for the asking? He will have only to hold his dark soul in patience until the Irish people get an opportunity of expressing their opinion upon a leadership which has never been able to elevate this nation above the level of a miserable domestic problem.

THE PROVINCIAL BANK REPORT.

The last of the five banks reporting half-yearly is the Provincial Bank of Ireland, to give it its full title. It does a prosperous general business throughout Ireland, and in particular in Ulster, where it enjoys the custom of many firms in the linen trade. The following table compares the assets with the corresponding summer period—

Provincial Bank.				
	1918.	P.c.	1917.	P.c.
Assets at June 30.				
Loans ...	6,385	47.9	5,472	56.06
Cash ...	2,319	17.4	1,830	18.82
Investments ...	4,569	33.0	2,346	24.04
Premises ...	0.101	0.8	0.105	1.08
	13,314	100.0	9,762	100.0

The funds have increased from nine and three-quarter millions to thirteen and one-third. Its assets have been strengthened by over 31 millions during the year. This result is highly satisfactory, and proves that the abundance of money in the country is equally distributed throughout all parts. The loans of the Provincial include "bills discounted and advances" to customers. They have increased in the year by nearly one million. This bank makes no mention of Treasury Bills, and it is difficult to

believe that it does not hold any. In the six months ending December 31, 1917, its discounts and advances rose from £5,472,000 to £7,149,000, and it is indeed hard to believe that any Irish bank could lend money amounting to £1,677,000 in the short space of six months. We assume, therefore, that it follows the practice of the Scottish banks, and includes Treasury Bills in its discounts and advances. This is different from the practice of the other Irish banks, and consequently should be borne in mind when making comparisons.

The increase in cash is nearly half a million, but it should be observed that the proportion held is slightly lower. Investments have increased by two and one-sixth millions, a heavy commitment on the part of a bank of its financial capacity. The following table shows the amount invested at various periods:—

	Investments.	P.c.
Dec. 31, 1913...	2,153,000	26.5
June 30, 1914...	2,219,000	27.77
" " 1917...	2,346,000	24.04
Dec. 31, 1917...	2,535,000	21.4
June 30, 1918...	4,569,000	33.9

There is a great and notable tendency on the part of the Provincial to embark its funds in Government Loans. This tendency is no doubt shared by the other banks. It is, however, to be carefully noted that the percentage invested had been declining for some years. The index shows that it was down to 21 per cent. on December 31. The past six months has marked a notable increase of 12 per cent. in the proportion of funds invested. This reflects in some measure the state of the linen trade, which appears to be in a difficult position. The war has very seriously curtailed the supplies of raw material. The mills have been mainly diverted to the manufacture of air-cloth, and the great foreign trade of Ulster is becoming a thing of the past. We read from these figures that the Provincial Bank has been unable to find employment for its funds because of the stagnant state of the linen trade. It is serious that the loans fell during the past six months from £7,149,000 to £6,385,000, a reduction of £764,000.

Liabilities, June 30, Million £.				
Capital and Reserves...	0.940	7.0	0.890	9.1
Undivided Profits ...	0.043	0.3	0.043	0.4
Notes ...	1.965	14.8	1.542	15.8
Deposits ...	10.366	77.9	7.287	74.7
	13.314	100.0	9.762	100.0

The increase in the reserves, which are £50,000 higher, is a good feature. On June 30, 1914, on the eve of the war, the capital and reserves stood at £915,000. They are now £950,000, so that the Provincial has improved its position materially—unlike most of its colleagues. It has recovered from the effects of depreciation in investments, and stands to the good. But it is quite wrong for the directors to increase the dividend from 12 1/2 to 13 1/2 per cent. The position does not warrant it. The proportion of capital and reserves is still only 7 per cent., and this leaves the bank practically chained to deposits. The weak point in Irish banking is the heavy liability to depositors, and until the proportion of free capital is brought up to a considerably higher proportion it is unwise to throw away accumulated profits. There are few industries which return a yield so high as our banks, and it is a grave injustice to those who are striving to build up the country that the money needed for the purpose and available should be frittered in fractional dividends. We sympathise with the shareholders, who have to pay a heavy income tax, but they could very well wait until it was reduced. At the present level of the tax it simply means adding a further heavy burden to be borne in taxation, while it is starving the industries of our country. This, of course, is equally true, perhaps more so, of the other Irish banks. This evil and disastrous policy was commenced by the Hibernian, then the Munster and Leinster followed suit last half-year. This half the National Bank, and then the Provincial, and we presume the Bank of Ireland later on. At a time when every available fund should be saved up to strengthen the financial position, when a policy of reconstruction has to be undertaken, and when the prolonged depression will compel our banks are engaged in a race to pay the highest dividends. Not a thought is given to the difficulties and uncertainties of the future. Not a sign is given of any plan to support the industrial future of our country. The millions left in trust with the banks are exported, and the interest derived therefrom is applied to pay income tax for further exportation.

The following columns display the profits of the Provincial for the past three six-monthly periods:—

	Gross Profits.	Expenses.	Net.	P.c.
	£	£	£	P.c.
1917...	117,780	65,612	52,168	0.53
Dec. 31... 1917...	121,848	61,743	60,105	0.50
June 30... 1918...	129,110	74,565	54,545	0.40

The expenses include a bonus to officers' staff, paid yearly in the first half. There is nothing in these figures which justify the directors in increasing their dividends. The bonus paid in June, 1917, was six thousand; in June, 1918, it was eight thousand. The gross revenue increased by only twelve thousand, and the bonus absorbed two-

thirds of the increase. The expenses, apart from the bonus, grew by six thousand; the net profits increased by only two thousand on the year. The amount necessary to increase the dividend by one per cent. is £5,400, and this does not appear to have been earned. In effect it is a recoupment of income-tax to shareholders at the expense of the bank's funds. The point is perhaps not a large one in the amount involved, but it appears to us to be contradictory and short-sighted for the banks to cease to pay income-tax on dividends, and then to seek later on to relieve the shareholders to some extent by increasing their dividends and incidentally inflicting more income-tax on the country at large at a time when the rate is increased to 5/6 in the £. It is now clear that the banks have been paying dividends much in excess of what is fair to their customers, and they seem to be involving themselves in future difficulties.

TITUS OATES.

The character of the English people possesses in it a fanatical politico-religious strain. There are times when a perfect frenzy seems to possess them, and when in this temper they become a prey to inventors of plots. The most successful man at this business was Titus Oates, who is known in history as the English Conspirator. He was the son of Samuel Oates, an Anabaptist Preacher, Rector of All Saints, Hastings. Titus took Anglican Orders, and officiated at Hastings. His first effort was to bring malicious charges. His evidence was rejected, and he unfortunately escaped prosecution for perjury. However, he succeeded in obtaining a Chaplaincy in the Navy, but was shortly dismissed for bad conduct. Then began his astonishing career as the inventor of plots. Oates approached Dr. Israel Tongue, one of those crazy English clergymen who were passionately devoted to the discovery of mare's nests and the periodical sounding of the alarm to "awake his Majesty's subjects" and prevent the Jesuits from seizing England. Oates at once spotted his true vocation, and promptly offered, with Tongue's aid, to take on the guise of a Roman Catholic, so as to be better able to expose the Jesuits. He was received into the Church by Berry, himself an apostate, and this precious clerical aspirant proceeded to Valladolid, where he became "Brother Ambrose" of the Jesuit College. But he was soon discovered and expelled. In October, 1677, he made a second effort, and was actually admitted at St. Omer. The following year he received the order of the "sack," and returning to England, began to forge a plot by piecing together things true and false, or true facts falsely interpreted, and by "inventing treasonable letters and accounts of preparations for military action." A careful study of Titus Oates and his great plots is a useful addition to our knowledge of English character. This miscreant went, however, too far in accusing the Queen, and Charles never had any confidence in him. He was finally put into jail by James and well flogged after he had sent many to the scaffold. On the accession of William he came again into favour, and this lying and oft-convicted perjurer got a pension of £300 a year. He joined the Baptists in 1698, but was, of course, expelled as a result of a "financial scandal." Take him all in all, Titus Oates is one of the choicest brands of scoundrels in English history. He has had many imitators, and the recent effort of the British Government is a fair copy of his methods, "by inventing treasonable letters and accounts of preparations for military action." Is it not wonderful how history reflects itself and gives birth to a new Titus Oates!

GOOD ADVICE TO ALBANIA

Elsewhere in our columns we urge the importance of Ireland in the first instance depending upon herself to cut a figure in the international world. We can cut such a figure by declaring our right to Sovereign Independence. Domestic problems will not be on view at the Peace Conference—and the Peace Conference is one way, and one way only, of making good our right to Freedom. If Ireland continues to dwarf her nationhood to the level of a domestic problem she will receive the reward of all weak and foolish peoples. It would be as reasonable to expect an intelligent surveyor to confuse a molehill with a mountain as to expect the peoples of the earth to take a domestic problem for a nation. It is for the Irish people in the first instance to proclaim its right to independence; the response can then, and then only, come from other great peoples with an honest desire for the liberty of small nationalities. A little international incident reported in the Albanian paper "Dielli" (New York), an extract of which appears in "The Cambridge Magazine" of this week, points a very useful moral to Ireland. On Independence Day in America Albania was one of the small nationalities on view in the celebrations. We read:

Five hundred representative Albanians in national costume went as delegates, accompanied by the Albanian band, which enlivened the proceedings with national music and songs, and was the only foreign national band present. Of the return journey from Mount Vernon the Rev. Fan Noli, President of the Al-

banian Confederation Vata, gives the following account—"On the return journey I was fortunate enough to be able to speak with President Wilson. I said to him that if the aims he declared in his discourse are to prevail there can be no doubt that Albania will retain her rights. He replied: 'My aims are going to prevail, and it is for this that we are all fighting...' It seemed to me good also to speak with Madame Wilson. I said to her: 'Madame, the Albanians have asked me to beg you to think of Albania, a country that is poor and friendless and without supporters. The Albanians weep, not for the hunger and misfortune from which they suffer, but for the loss of their country.' 'Yes,' said she, 'we are very sorry for the little nations like Albania, Belgium, and others...' President Wilson, who was speaking to a diplomat near us, turned to us. I took the liberty of saying to him: 'The only hope for Albania is in America and yourself, Mr. President.' 'I,' said the President, 'have but one voice at the Peace Conference. But that voice I shall use for the rights of Albania.' I replied: 'This one voice is enough for the Albanians; they will be entirely delighted (lit. dead with joy) and quite sure of their rights.' The President of America then smiled and said: 'No, do not tell this to the Albanians, for then they will let their affairs go to sleep. They must henceforward work more than ever.'

Was not that very good advice to the Albanians?

THE LAND FOR THE RABBIT.

Ireland under the "Jatk" presents a remarkable example of how not to develop the resources of a country. England specialises in deserts. She has made a magnificent one in Ireland. For, however, are aware that the latest "development" of this part of the "Empire" is the establishment of rabbit ranches. Yet it stands in black and white in the following advertisement, which we call from the "Irish Independent" this week:

TO BE LET—The trapping of rabbits in Albert Demesne (containing about 500 acres, Statute), situate within three miles of Ballyglavin Station, Co. Galway (G. S. and W. Ry. station). The Head... will point out the lands.

We must confess to our amazing ignorance that such lands would require to be pointed out. One would suppose that 500 acres of rabbits could be easily discovered without much help. We didn't know that this great and rich grazing district had been transferred to a small nationality of bunnies. We thought sheep were the undisputed monarchs of the land. Queensland will soon have a rival in Cunnacht. Lord French's plans for the industrial development of Ireland might take the form of rabbit farming—and trapping of poisonous insects. Ireland has been called the "spoiled child of the Empire." The text should be altered to read "the despoiled child."

FIONAVAR'S LOVER.

On every yott of his horse's mane He had nine bells of gold; The purple stain in his cloak Broidedered with findrumey.

"Now who is he?" the proud queen said, "Some rover from the south!" But Fionavar the White came down And kissed him on the mouth.

Maeve shook out on her shoulder Her twisted locks of hair: "O many a king has knelt to me For Fionavar the Fair.

"But will you swim the wan water Where the druid hazels are, And break a branch of the crimson fruit For love of Fionavar?"

He set himself to the wan water No living man had crossed: She watched him pluck the crimson fruit: She knew who plucked was lost!

The Piast of the wan water Rose up through the dark tide, "A kiss! a kiss to me, king's son, Before you mount and ride!"

Her loathly body round his feet Was strong as iron bands: He took the druid branch in his teeth And fought her with his hands.

Fionavar lifted his sword, O but her face was wan— She cried to him with a great cry, Cried and ran.

Her mother caught her as she passed By the long locks of her hair, "The tide runs deep in the Kelpie's Pool, You'll trust no lover there!"

The white wave lipped him cheek and chin, The black wave lipped his head: The third wave held him at her feet When he was drowned and dead.

"O sorrow on you for this ill deed, Black sorrow on your pride! You put death-bands on your own daughter By the wan water side!"

"Red branch that's red with my love's blood, Stain red, stain red my mouth! And let the hearts that longed for me Be emptied of love's drouth." "My trust and truth I'll keep with him That was my only love, Though the river sand is under his head And the wan water above." Ella Young.

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Domestic and Infirmary arrangements are under the control of a highly efficient Matron, who pays special attention to the younger boys.

College re-opens September 3rd. Examination for Entrance Scholarships, several of which are offered, Sept. 4th. For Prospectus and Scholarship Scheme, apply to THE RECTOR.

Spread the news of the new Marching Song "THE BANNER OF GREEN AND GOLD." By T. M. BURKE. Words and Music, 1/- Post 2d. extra. Published by E. POWER, Stationer and Bookseller, 17 Upr. Liffey St., Dublin. Special Terms to Trade.

Rockwell College, Cashel (C.S.Sp.) For Programme and College Prospectus apply to THE PRESIDENT. RE-OPENS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th

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