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Friday, April 9, 1920.

Ulster Alone?

If we understand the misnamed "Home Rule bill for Ireland" passed by Lloyd George's coalition with Sir Edward Carson, the 1914 Home Rule bill is thrown on the scrap heap and a Parliament is given to Ulster while the rest of Ireland is to be kept under martial law. Mr. Carson naively says that while Ulster does not want a Parliament it will accept it.

While Ulster is not all Carsonite, it may be presumed that the British influence back of Sir Edward will be exerted to the end that the non-Catholics will be in the majority, at least in the driver's seat in the proposed Parliament while Catholic Ireland will be kept under martial law and the present reign of terror will continue until the Irish spirit is broken, until the Irish faith is sapped, until Ireland is Carsonized!

What an intolerable situation! Is it any wonder that Americans of Irish ancestry in whose hearts there throbs the love of the land of their fathers and mothers just as is the case with the Poles, the Slavs, the Serbians, the Lithuanians, and the representatives of a score of downtrodden and oppressed peoples whose appeals for self-determination for their relatives in Europe literally boil with indignation at the news of Lloyd George's perfidy. Can it be wondered at that they are lukewarm to say the least toward a League of Nations covenant wherein the rights and aspirations for liberty and self-determination are supposedly conserved save only that isle where the true Faith has ever been preserved, Ireland? And is it to be wondered at that they are striving might and main to keep the United States out of the League of Nations as the one and only ray of hope left for Ireland—and yet somehow this great and powerful nation that owes so much to men of Irish birth, will find a way to lift Ireland out of the slough of despond?

Now is the time for all Catholics, of whatever nationality or affiliation, to supplicate Almighty God to aid and succor the Irish Catholics now so savagely oppressed by a ruthless enemy nation which would have the world believe it is the best friend Ireland and the Irish have.

Assemblyman Harry B. Crowley was on safe ground in voting to unseat the three Socialist assemblymen who were shown to have individually performed what might be termed "overt acts" against the Government and in voting to re-seat the two of whose guilt there was very little substantiating evidence adduced.

There's a deal of speculation as to whether Colonel Theodore Roosevelt voted on the question of expelling the Socialist legislators as his father would have done were he alive.

Expelled

Time will tell whether the Assembly of the State of New York acted wisely or not in expelling five of its members elected as Socialists and proudly owning allegiance to the Socialist party and what it represents.

It is true the majority in favor of expulsion was overwhelming but that is not convincing proof of the soundness of the position and action. A mob organized to further a particular purpose is generally in an overwhelming majority in favor of the action desired.

It may also be true that the five Socialists were boorish in their conduct around the legislative halls and that their society manners were not such as to please the fastidious man or woman but that is not a bar to public service, especially to public service by the expressed wish of an electorate expressed unmistakably at the ballot box.

It is also true, however that there was much direct and circumstantial evidence adduced in the investigation that tended to prove Assemblymen Claessens, Solomon and Waldman if not actually disloyal in their acts and utterances, at least of grave indifference to American ideals and that the vote to expel these three may be justifiable in the light of the evidence in the records of the judiciary committee. But as to Assemblymen DeWitt and Orr there does not appear to have been produced much specific evidence of disloyalty except that comprised in the blanket indictment of membership in the Socialist party.

But when all is said and written the Constitution of the State of New York permits each branch of its Legislature to be "the judge of the qualifications of its own members." The Assembly has voted that these five assemblymen do not possess the qualifications that entitles them to membership in the Legislature. Whether that provision, only found elsewhere is a pure despotism, is a wise provision is not now in question. In accordance with the discretionary power vested in it by the State Constitution, the Assembly has taken its position and acted accordingly. As we said in opening, time will tell whether or not the Assembly has acted wisely. And this is not written in any spirit of sympathy with Socialism or Socialists. We have nothing but aversion for the "ism" and its adherents.

"Killed With Kindness"

The St. Paul "Bulletin" humorously scores the professional propagandist and the fulsome critic who could, if allowed, run a paper far better than the publisher and editor:—

Says an editor truly: We recall the old story of how a Catholic paper was once established in Dublin by a company largely composed of priests, and at the conclusion of the meeting, it was resolved with great gusto, that to make the venture an assured success, every priest friend of the paper should regularly send in his sermon for publication. His story records that the paper was "killed with kindness." That, or some modification of the idea, is still a prevalent notion of the way the Catholic press is to be helped. We are quite sure that if we used all the news publicity and propaganda service that cumbers our mail, our esteemed publication would die of indigestion.

The new auto-profiteering in rents' bill prohibit an increase beyond 25 per cent. But a 25 per cent increase every year would spell extortion would it not?

Rt. Rev. William Turner on March 30 observed the first anniversary of his elevation to the episcopate as Bishop of Buffalo. Ad multos annos!

Ill Advised

No matter how much one may find to criticize in William H. Anderson's methods and action it is not good policy to make a martyr of this pugnacious and defiant individual. He thrives on such treatment, in fact his whole aim in a controversy is first to scare his opponents to death and then to whine if they or their friends reply in kind.

To our mind, it was both impolite and bad judgment to refuse him permission to talk on the recent hearing in Albany on the Gillett bills to permit the sale of light wines and beer in hotels, restaurants and clubs. In a sense it was a confession, at least it would be likely to so appear to the outside world unacquainted with inside history at Albany, that the proponents of the bill were afraid that Anderson would worst them in debate. In our opinion he should have been accorded permission to speak if the opponents of the bill desired him for their spokesman. Mob sentiment is not expected in a supposedly serious argument on the merits and demerits of legislation proposed at the state capitol. And that is what has cropped up in at least three of the hearings held in Albany during the last three weeks.

There is another point. Is it not high time that the Legislature put a stop to these "field day" hearings? They contribute nothing to intelligent understanding of the subjects or legislation under discussion. All they appear to do of late is to afford half-baked demagogues with fog-horn voices an opportunity to see who has the louder voice and to let the galleries filled with uninformed or half-informed partisans test their lungs in an effort to prove that this side or the other has more and louder shouters than the other.

It would appear that saner legislation might be promoted if a few expert witnesses for or against a bill were gathered in a small room there to present in orderly argument the reasons why a bill or particular piece of legislation should or should not become a part of the statute law of the state or whether or not it could be perfected by amendment or elimination of certain provision. This is what the legislative committees have to do after the hearings are held and it often happens that the committeemen are befuddled rather than enlightened at the close of a flood of recrimination and billingsgate hurled at them in the public hearing.

Less conversation more consideration and more deliberation should be the rule at Albany.

Non-Catholic Rebuke

Governor Edwards, of New Jersey, a non-Catholic, rebukes William H. Anderson for his attacks on Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Hayes. In a recent address at Jersey City he said:—"I am a Protestant and I expect to continue to be a Protestant, but my blood boiled when I read in today's newspapers that the spokesman of the Anti-Saloon League of New York—the founder, the discoverer and defender of prohibition—had attacked the august Roman Catholic Church.

"He has not hesitated to attempt to array the Protestant body of the country against their fellow Americans. He has resurrected from the tomb the spirit of religious persecution.

"He has attempted to set them with hate against each other for the purpose of realizing the success of his own narrow-minded, selfish fanaticism.

"Is this because the great Cardinal Gibbons, who is in touch with the pulse of the working classes, recently publicly declared that the narrow, strict interpretation of the constitutional amendment, so as to prohibit the use of light wines and beer, was causing the spirit of unrest throughout the country, and the

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