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acts About Ireland

For Consideration of
American Citizens by
The ^{Delegations from} Delegates of the
Protestant Churches
of Ireland



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FOREWORD

WE, the accredited delegates of the Protestant churches of Ireland, representing one million and one-quarter people, beg to submit to the Protestant churches of America the following statement:

We come here in the interests of truth and fair play: our views on the subject of the separation of Ireland from Great Britain having been grossly misrepresented by those engaged in the Sinn Fein propaganda. We have not come here to raise either political or religious strife, still less to entangle America in the domestic affairs of Great Britain. But we have come believing it is due to the churches and the cause which we represent to state the real truth about Ireland. The following paper constitutes a simple statement of facts, the accuracy of which can be tested by any one who desires to do so.

Signed by:

- (Mr.) WM. COOTE, Member of Parliament for South Tyrone, Chairman of Delegation.
- (Rev.) LOUIS CROOKS, Rector Knockbreda Episcopal Church, Belfast.
- (Rev.) A. WYLIE BLUE, May Street Presbyterian Church, Belfast.
- (Rev.) WM. CORKEY, Townsend Street Presbyterian Church, Belfast.
- (Rev.) FREDERICK E. HARTE, Donegal Square Methodist Church, Belfast.
- (Rev.) EDWARD HAZLETON, Falls Road Methodist Church, Belfast.
- (Rev.) C. WESLEY MAGUIRE, Donegal Square Methodist Church, Belfast, Secretary of Delegation.

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FACTS ABOUT IRELAND FOR CONSIDERATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

Sinn Fein means "ourselves alone."

THE PLEA OF OVERTAXATION

IT is stated by Sinn Fein agitators that Ireland is overtaxed by Great Britain. Let us see how the matter stands. According to the official returns for 1918-1919 the total revenue contributed by England was \$3,455,310,000. From this there was paid out of the British Exchequer for local expenditure in England \$719,237,500, leaving a balance available for Imperial needs such as army and navy, consular and other services, of \$2,736,072,500. Scotland during the same period contributed to the British Exchequer a total revenue of \$486,605,000. She received back for local uses \$97,637,500, leaving a balance for Imperial purposes of \$388,970,000. Ireland, with practically the same population of Scotland, contributed only \$186,375,000, receiving back for local uses \$110,807,500, and contributing toward Imperial expenditure a sum of only \$75,567,500. It will be seen that while Ireland's contribution to the British Exchequer is much less than that of England or Scotland, she receives back a much larger proportion for her own internal uses. The enemies of Great Britain claim that Ireland's contribution for Imperial purposes represents a loss to her of \$75,567,500. Surely, however, it will be conceded that as a part of the British Isles she ought to contribute something towards the protection of her coasts, policing of the seas, and trade routes, payment of the huge war debt, and upkeep of National affairs generally. But apart from the question of obligation, is this sum a loss to her? Last year she received back \$60,000,000 in war pensions, separation allowances, and gratuities to ex-soldiers, sailors and their dependents living in Ireland. Further, she received \$21,500,000 as a bread subsidy, whereby the cost of every loaf of bread consumed in Ireland was reduced in price by six cents. Ireland also received last year more than \$5,000,000 as out-of-work donation. These figures will illustrate some of the ways—and there

are many others—in which she indirectly receives back much more than she contributed for Imperial purposes. The plea of overtaxation is therefore groundless, and the day on which Ireland should cut adrift from Great Britain would be to her a day of disaster and financial ruin.

THE PLEA OF OPPRESSION

Sinn Fein also declares that Ireland is denied any real voice in her own affairs. If Parliamentary representation be a test, how does she stand? Ireland, with a population let it be remembered roughly equal to that of Scotland, sends 105 representatives to the British Legislature, while Scotland sends only 75. Ireland's representatives are elected on a basis of one to every forty thousand of the people, whereas the representatives from England or Scotland are elected on a basis of one to every seventy-three thousand of the people. Thus the vote of one Irishman is almost equal to the vote of two Englishmen or Scotchmen, and the Irish vote has often been the controlling influence in the British Legislature.

In addition, the 32 counties of Ireland possess their own local Councils, and again these counties are subdivided into districts, and by the same franchise, district councillors are elected. All such are Irishmen, chosen by the people to carry on local government in each county, and to strike their own rates of taxation within their own borders. No outside power can interfere with the local rates of the county. In twenty-seven of these counties all the county councils and most of the district councils are composed of Roman Catholics. To every office in their gift, these men invariably appoint only people of their own creed. Yet they are the first to charge the Protestant people of Ulster with bigotry. Thus incidentally the charge of Protestant ascendancy in Ireland is completely disproved. Ireland has indeed the fullest voice in her own affairs.

It is also stated by certain self-constituted envoys from America, who paid a flying visit to Ireland, that men and women are being brutally treated in Irish prisons. We wish to point out that in passing sentence on persons convicted of seditious offences of a minor character, the various law courts in Ireland desired only to bind over such persons to be of good behavior for say, twelve months, and to refrain from treasonable practices. On agreement, the prisoners were at once discharged. On the other hand, if they refused to give such an undertaking the alternative was a short term of imprison-

ment. Sinn Fein agitators, in order to pose as martyrs before the Irish people and their friends in America, refused to enter into recognizances and therefore elected to go to prison. When in prison they refused to eat good, wholesome food, and proceeded to abuse the jailers and to damage the buildings. In Belfast, they destroyed a whole wing of the prison, property valued at \$10,000. On the complaint of the Sinn Feiners and the American envoys, a government commission, presided over by a distinguished judge, was sent up to investigate the charges of alleged brutality to prisoners. The complainants refused to appear and make good their case and the commission found the charges to be entirely groundless.

On the other hand, can any government abrogate its functions to the extent of tolerating the following state of affairs now, alas! rampant throughout the south and west of Ireland? Sinn Feiners, with blackened faces, approach the dwelling houses of peaceable, law-abiding people, Catholic and Protestant alike. On the door being opened a revolver is pointed at the hapless occupier. The marauders shout, "Hands up!" and the house is thoroughly searched for arms. Policemen and military officials and civilians have been brutally murdered in the discharge of their duty, and the criminals have gone unpunished, as no one will come forward to give evidence against them. For other offences against the law it is practically impossible to obtain a conviction, the Boards of Magistrates in the disaffected districts being notoriously Sinn Fein in their sympathies. Even if the magistrates desired, they dare not convict through terror of reprisal. Because of this, the government has been obliged, in certain disaffected areas, to set up special courts, over which preside two paid magistrates who possess no local interests, and who can, therefore, discharge the duties of the law without fear. In the higher courts, where trial by jury obtains, jurors have been afraid or unwilling to convict in the face of the clearest evidence, and, therefore, in such areas trial by jury has been temporarily suspended. The following illustrates the state of matters in the south and west:

A few months ago sixteen young Methodist soldiers were peacefully entering the Methodist church in Fermoy, County Cork, for purposes of worship. They carried their rifles, lest in their absence from barracks they should be stolen, but they carried no ammunition whatever. Suddenly they were attacked by a party of Sinn Feiners, who foully murdered one of them in the doorway and wounded others. The ruffians made their escape in automobiles standing ready, and from that day to this, not one of them has been arrested.

THE PLEA OF DEPOPULATION

A favorite topic with Sinn Fein is that of the depopulation of Ireland, which they ascribe to the conduct of Great Britain. They conveniently ignore the fact that at the time of the Act of Union in 1800 the population of Ireland was 4,000,000, and that in less than forty years, under the Act of Union, the population increased to 8,000,000. The Union, therefore, cannot be the cause of depopulation. The factors causing depopulation were:

First.—The desolating famine of 1846. The potato was the staple food of the people, and exhaustion of the soil through lack of fertilizers destroyed the crop for two disastrous years. In the overcrowded agricultural districts of the west this caused widespread havoc, and no government could avert the consequences of old and defective land economics and violated laws of nature. Even today it is the work of the congested districts boards by the proper apportionment of people to the soil, and the soil to the people, and by the general development of agriculture, fishing and railways, to make impossible any repetition of that tragedy.

Second.—The inability of Ireland to compete with the vast volume of agricultural imports which, with open markets, began to pour in from overseas, caused many to seek brighter prospects across the ocean.

Third.—The wide opportunities offered by the opening up of new lands in America and elsewhere drew multitudes of Irish people from their country. Those causes belonging to defective land laws, and to deep-rooted primitive habits of the people, have long been removed. The population of Ireland for some years has been steadily rising.

WHAT THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT HAS DONE FOR IRELAND

In order to redress the grievances from which Irish tenants suffered, owing to defective systems of land tenure, the British government has advanced \$700,000,000 at $3\frac{1}{4}\%$ interest in order that the farmers might purchase their holdings. This low rate of interest wipes out both principal and interest in seventy years, so that after that time there is nothing further to pay. Three-fourths of the whole country is now so purchased and belongs to the peasant occupiers. There is no land system in Europe to compare with this. Scotland and England would gladly possess it.

The British government has loaned, through the district councils of Ireland, for the building of laborers' cottages, the sum of \$25,000,-000 at 2.08% interest. Between 50,000 and 80,000 of these cottages are now built. They are neat, four-roomed dwellings, built of stone, with slated roofs, and with from half an acre to an acre of land attached. They are let to the laborer at the nominal rent of from 30 to 36 cents weekly. These weekly payments will, at the end of fifty years, clear off the entire liability to the British government. The cottages will then become the property of the district councils, to be held in trust by them for the laborers. The money derivable from the rents will then go to the relief of the rates in the districts in which they are set up. Is there any country today which can furnish evidence of greater beneficence to the workers on its soil? Neither England nor Scotland possesses á boon like this.

It is charged by Sinn Fein that Great Britain has prevented or retarded the development of Ireland. The preceding facts are part of the reply to this. In addition, the British government annually spends \$1,250,000 for the development of what are known as the congested districts of the west of Ireland. This money is distributed by the congested district board, consisting of official representatives of the government, local representatives, together with two Roman Catholic bishops and several Roman Catholic priests. Harbors have been built free of cost and curing stations erected for the furtherance of the fishing industry. Motor launches have been sold to the fishermen on the installment system, payment being made as profits are earned, while experts have been brought from Scotland to teach the Irish how to fish profitably their own seas. Light railways have been built to carry the produce of land and sea to the proper markets, and fresh fish from the west coast of Ireland can now reach the London markets in twenty-four hours.

Ireland is no poverty-stricken land. Before the war the Irish people had on deposit in the Irish banks a sum of \$380,000,000. Today, after five years, this sum has increased to the amazing amount of \$760,000,000. A large proportion of this presumably belongs to the Sinn Feiners of Ireland. There is, therefore, no necessity to go outside of the country for money if the Sinn Feiners are really desirous of promoting industries. If further testimony is needed as to the prosperity of Ireland the words of the late Mr. John Redmond, spoken July 1, 1915, will suffice: "Today the people, broadly speaking, own the soil. Today the laborers live in decent habitations, today there is absolute freedom in local government and local taxation of the country. Today we have the widest parliamentary and mu-

nicipal franchise. The congested districts, the scene of some of the most awful horrors of the old famine days, are being transformed. The farms have been enlarged, decent dwellings have been provided, and a new spirit of hope and independence is today among the people. In town, legislation has been passed facilitating the housing of the working classes—a piece of legislation far in advance of anything obtained for the town dwellings of England. We have a system of old age pensions in Ireland whereby every old man and woman over 70 is saved from the workhouse and free to spend their last days in comparative comfort.”

THE PLEA OF SELF-DETERMINATION

It is claimed by Sinn Fein that Ireland is a nation and, as a nation, possesses the right to secede from Great Britain and set up an independent government. We emphatically deny this claim and all Irish history is against it. Father McDonald, Professor of Theology, in Maynooth, the great training college for the priesthood in Ireland, deals with the claim. The words of Dr. McDonald may surely be expected to have weight with Sinn Fein. In his recent book, “Some Ethical Questions of Peace and War,” he denies that Ireland has the rights of a separate nation, and he plainly declares what all history makes evident, that she never was a nation. “If unity of rule and independence are requisites of nationhood.” Ireland in ancient times was but a congeries of warring tribes that never combined for any common purpose.

In the year 1172 Henry II went to Ireland with the authority of a Bull issued by Pope Adrian IV, confirmed by another Bull promulgated by his successor, Pope Alexander III. He invaded Ireland for the purpose of restoring order, and the Irish chiefs submitted to him. This was the first occasion on which Ireland knew anything of real unity, and it was created for her by Henry II. Two centuries later, in 1395, in the reign of Richard II, the chiefs reaffirmed their submission, but in the reign of Henry VIII the allegiance of Ireland to England was emphatically confirmed by a Parliament which met in Dublin on June 12, 1541, and which formally recognized Henry as King of Ireland.

Coming to the reign of Charles I a Catholic Confederation met in Kilkenny on October 24, 1642. This was an assembly representing Roman Catholic Ireland, and one of its decrees was to the effect that “All the inhabitants of Ireland and each of them shall be most faithful to our sovereign the King, and his heirs and lawful successors.”

Fifty years after, in the reign of James II, the Patriot Parliament convened in Dublin in 1689, and presided over by the King in person, recognized him not only as King of England but as a sovereign of Ireland.

Will Sinn Fein still assert that Ireland was a nation, and will it still be maintained that Great Britain has not and never had any right to rule in Ireland?

Still it is asserted, in the face of these facts, that she possesses the right to what is called self-determination. There is much confusion of thought regarding this phrase, as if it implies that any community forming part of a larger whole, by its own will may break away and set up an independent government. Dr. McDonald has a good deal to say regarding this. He points out that self-determination of a portion of a country cannot be admitted unless no injury is to be done to the country as a whole.

Ireland is, and has been for many centuries, a part of the United Kingdom, and her secession would disastrously affect the group of which she forms a part. When a large portion of the United States of America, including many of the Southern States, claimed the right of secession and self-determination, Abraham Lincoln denied the claim and the North carried on the great war to prevent secession. Lincoln held, and most people now admit rightly held, that the forming of an independent government in the South would spell disaster to the United States. The same applies to Britain today in relation to Ireland.

Assuming, however, that Ireland possesses the right to secede, this right equally belongs to that part of Ireland in which Unionists and Protestants predominate. There are two peoples in Ireland, differing in race, mentality and religion. If Ireland may secede from Great Britain, Ulster may secede from the rest of Ireland, choosing how she shall be governed. Lincoln, in American politics, faced the same kind of problem which faces Great Britain and Ireland, and he enunciated this principle: "A minority of a large community who make certain claims for self-government cannot in logic or in substance refuse the same claims to a much larger proportionate minority among themselves." Lincoln applied this in 1860. The majority in the state of Virginia decided to join with the South. In the western portion of the state was a large, compact minority, who refused to secede from the North. Lincoln recognized their right and created for them the state of West Virginia. On this analogy, if Sinn Fein Ireland possesses the right to secede from Britain, then Protestant Ulster may claim the right to decide her own form of government.

But the claim of Sinn Fein to part company from the United Kingdom cannot for a moment be allowed. Great Britain could not afford to let Ireland go. The war has made vivid the fact that if the Sinn Fein rebellion had succeeded and the German landing had taken place in Ireland, it would have been a deadly blow to Britain. An Ireland of Sinn Fein dreamers would be a menace not only to the peace of Britain but of Europe and the world. With her limited resources and peculiar strategic position, Ireland would inevitably give rise to complex international situations. For Ireland's sake she must remain an integral portion of the United Kingdom. Left to herself, she would lapse into a state of internecine strife. Ninety-five per cent of Ireland's trade is done with Britain, and with the fiscal barriers which as an independent country she would immediately set up, her trade with Britain would perish. No other country needs the fruit of her agricultural industry, and Great Britain could draw supplies from European and other regions overseas. For Ireland's sake, as much as for Britain's interest, the union must forever abide.

SINN FEIN AND THE WAR

It is fair at this point to apply the test of the Great War to the record of Sinn Fein in Ireland. When the Allies, in their fight for the higher freedom of the world, were sorely pressed, Sinn Fein stabbed them in the back by raising rebellion in Ireland. Clear proof exists that this movement was carried out in concert with Germany. A shipload of German arms, carried by a German crew and intended for the rebels, was intercepted off the Irish coast. Sir Roger Casement, who came straight from Germany in a submarine, with assurances of help, was captured on the coast of Kerry. The rebellion, though its main purpose frustrated, involved frightful destruction to life and property. It also realized Germany's wish to compel the retention of British troops at home. The words of Admiral Sims in *World's Work* of November, 1919, describe the subsequent activities of Sinn Fein: "It was no secret, the Sinn Feiners sending information to Germany and constantly laying plots to interfere with the British-American armies.

At the outset of the war, young Catholic Ireland responded hopefully to the call of duty. Who has not heard of the gallant Munster, Leinster and Connaught regiments, predominantly Catholic as they were? Sinn Fein, however, with its bitter anti-British propaganda, killed voluntary recruiting, and following upon this came the crowning reproach. A fighting race was prevented from sending its full

quota of men to join their hard-pressed countrymen in the Irish regiments. Against this dark background stands out the example of Ulster. In Ulster, out of a population of 1,581,686, 75,000 men volunteered, while from the rest of Ireland, with a population of 2,808,523, 70,000 enlisted. From the city of Belfast, with a population of 400,000, 46,000 joined the colors. When it is remembered that in Ulster are the great industries which furnished so much of the war material, and that large numbers of men were needed to operate these, the contribution of the northeast is all the more striking. Ulster shipyards did 10% of all the government work in the United Kingdom. Ulster made 95% of all the airplane cloth used by the Allies. The Ulster Unionist members of Parliament pressed the government to apply conscription to Ireland, and there is no more thoroughly progressive body of men at Westminster than the Unionists of Ulster. In the matter of social reform they are alongside the best minds of the United Kingdom. Out of 22 members 18 of them are pledged to further for Ireland such local option temperance measure as Scotland will possess next year.

Such facts will indicate something of the mentality and ideals of Protestant Ulster. It is not bigotry that desires to preserve in fact and form the integrity of the United Kingdom. It is not bigotry that fears the usurpation by ecclesiastical power of the inherent functions of the state.

WHAT IS WRONG IN IRELAND

It is freely admitted that in olden times Ireland suffered disabilities and wrongs at the hands of England. Let it be remembered, however, that it is only within comparatively recent years that humanitarian principles have begun truly to come to their own among peoples. In the olden days among all nations the strong hand was an argument freely employed. Whatever the wrongs Ireland endured, and often she was herself greatly to blame, for many years past the story of Britain's dealings with her has been one of a generous endeavor to enfranchise, to benefit, and to bless.

Let it also be remembered that Protestants in Ireland suffered from oppressive legislation, and that Presbyterians united with Roman Catholics to oppose harassing evils. But the living fact today is that the descendants of those Presbyterians are among the staunchest defenders of the Union which Sinn Fein seeks to dismember.

The Highlands of Scotland, in the olden times, suffered from harassments comparable to those which vexed Ireland, yet today

there are no more loyal regions in all the realms of Britain than the Scottish Highlands. The whole land of Scotland, paying four times the amount of annual contribution which Ireland pays, is unalterable in her adhesion to the integrity of the United Kingdom.

When we come to seek for the explanation of Ireland's troubles, we are brought face to face with obtrusive facts. In those regions in which the Roman Catholic Church is dominant, the extraordinary authority of the priesthood over their people is often used in ways frustrating or retarding legitimate trade and industry. This takes effect in the southern provinces when Protestants, who throughout Ireland are the pioneers of industry, come under their ban. The following case will illustrate many others which could be given: Some time ago there lived in a small town on the borders of Cavan and Longford a young merchant engaged in a grocery and provision trade. Wishing to develop his business he added a bakery branch and soon was known as the vendor of the best bread in the district. He was a Presbyterian, but the district was about eight-tenths Roman Catholic. He was not at that time a politician or a party man of any kind whatever. He only desired to live quietly and in a friendly fashion, developing his business. He was boycotted. One day a respected Roman Catholic lady customer called and requested to know the amount of her indebtedness to his store. He was surprised and pressed for an explanation, the time for payment not being due. She broke into tears, said she had no fault to find with him or the goods sold. She had done business with him and his predecessor for over twenty years. Her parish priest, she said, had ordered her to pay her account and never again to enter the store. She went on to say that after a private mass celebrated at her house, she was entertaining the priests and other guests to breakfast. The priest, looking at a loaf of bread upon the table, asked who had made it. On being told that it had been bought at the store of this Protestant merchant, he lifted the loaf and threw it on the floor, saying that he would not eat in her house until she procured a "decent Roman Catholic loaf." He proceeded to forbid her purchasing further in this merchant's store. In the same manner this merchant lost dozens of his Roman Catholic customers and, realizing that there was no hope of liberty to develop his business, he removed north. He is now, as the result of his energy, at the head of a large manufacturing business giving employment to many people. A story such as this, with all its serio-comic revelation of the priestly mind, goes far to explain the lack of initiative and progress in southern and western Ireland.

There are in Ireland two claimants to civil power. There is, on

the one hand, the state and, on the other, the Hierarchy of the Roman Church. Acting sometimes in accordance with the will of the state and at other times opposing that will; the Hierarchy evidences its consistent claim to be the dominating factor in civil as well as religious affairs in Ireland. Where power is, there lies the seat of government, and no state can tolerate the continued passing of its power into the keeping of any other authority. Let us illustrate shortly how the power of the Bishops rules in Ireland.

Michael Davitt, himself a Roman Catholic and a leader in Irish political life, was roused to an amazing protest against the Bishop's "eternal hungering after political influence and temporal power," and their "assumption of authority to dictate to laymen what they should think and do in the affairs of the nation."

The government, in 1916, while the war was raging, and in order to achieve a settlement in Ireland, proposed to put the 1914 Home Rule Act into force, with the exclusion of six Ulster counties. This proposition was accepted by Mr. John Redmond and Sir Edward Carson, but was vetoed by the Hierarchy and the matter dropped.

In 1917, on the suggestion of the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, a convention of representative Irishmen was set up in Dublin to draw up a scheme of settlement of the Irish Question. This was a gathering of all creeds. The Sinn Feiners alone refused to attend, but in spite of their absence, it is admitted that this was an assembly representative of Irish life. After many months of meeting and at a point when fiscal policy was under discussion, a significant thing happened. When John Redmond was accepting certain moderate propositions, the Roman Catholic Bishops were insisting on drastic terms. Redmond arose and, after referring to an amendment in his own name, proceeded: "But when I came to the Convention this morning I found that I was opposed by three of the highest dignitaries of my own Church, some of my political friends also disagreed with me, and though I believe I could carry a majority of the convention with me, it would split my party, and I cannot see that any useful purpose would be served thereby. I would, therefore, ask leave to withdraw my amendment, as I feel I can be of no further use in the matter." Thus the only statesman southern and western Ireland possessed, against his own judgment, bowed before a will more powerful than his own. John Redmond walked out from the Convention and in a few short weeks his life drew to a close. The Convention came to an end. With such forces as Redmond and the Hierarchy divided against themselves, what hope was there of a settlement being

In 1917 conscription had drawn to the colors even the middle-

aged men of England, Scotland and Wales, and when these lands were being bled white it was proposed to apply conscription to Ireland. The Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church met and denounced the proposal, Archbishop Walsh calling it an oppressive and inhuman outrage. The proposal came to nothing.

It may not be generally known that in Ireland the cost of Primary Education is altogether paid by the government, while, for the most part, control is in the hands of the clergy. On the part of Protestants, especially in Ulster, there is a strong desire to have the control of primary education placed in the hands of duly elected public bodies, such authorities having power to strike a local education rate. Reform of this kind is bitterly opposed by the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, who resent any interference with their control of education. Owing to the extraordinary growth during recent years of the city of Belfast, and to the fact that during the war building operations had entirely ceased, it was found that the school accommodation was inadequate. On account of this, several thousands of children were left unfurnished with educational facilities. The city council formulated a scheme which was embodied in a Bill introduced into the House of Commons by a Belfast Unionist Labor Member, supported by all the Unionist Members from Ulster. The local Roman Catholic Bishop, through his Parliamentary friends, opposed the bill so strenuously that, being a private measure, it could not pass. Thus even the great predominantly Protestant city of Belfast is frustrated in its educational ideals by the representatives of Rome.

In face of the above facts, it will be evident that the problem of Ireland is one of deep and wide issues. It is not merely a question of Home Rule. From the statements of this pamphlet it will be evident that Ireland possesses the essentials of wide and generous liberty. She is not a Poland striving for freedom. It will also be noted how she dealt with the Home Rule scheme presented to her, and how it fared with a convention of Irishmen assembled to prepare a scheme of government for their land.

But Home Rule is not the *vital* question. It is a question of separation, and this will never be conceded.

Sinn Fein in pressing its propaganda upon America, seeks to appeal to the sympathy of a freedom-loving people. To this freedom-loving people we present our case.

In calling for America's aid for its cause, Sinn Fein reminds the people of the United States of the part Irishmen played in the War of Independence. Irishmen played a great part in achieving the vic-

tory of America's cause, but they were not the forefathers of Sinn Fein Ireland. Up to the forties of last century there was little more than a trickle of Roman Catholic emigration from Ireland to America. The Irishmen who stood with Washington were, far by far the greater part, Ulster men and their descendants, Protestants of Ireland, and they formed 38 per cent of his victorious forces.

We place our case with confidence before the jury of American people. We ask that they do not allow themselves to be deflected from the path of impartial consideration of the subject. Believing as we do that the welfare of the future largely lies in their keeping, we desire the fullest and most intimate understanding between the peoples of America and Great Britain.

In this spirit we submit to the people of the great American Republic a few facts relating to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Delegates from the Protestant Churches of Ireland opened their campaign, for the spread of truth about Ireland, in Philadelphia on January 3, 1920. They were greeted by thousands of citizens at Broad Street Station, where the police were compelled, on account of the crowd, to open a lane through the cheering multitudes in order that the Delegates might go to their headquarters in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. On January 4th they preached in fourteen of the leading Churches to audiences that taxed the buildings to their utmost capacity. They addressed the Ministers of the city, spoke in Camden and Norristown, and were special guests at the Union League during the week.

On Thursday evening, January 8th, Philadelphia witnessed the largest mass meeting ever held in the city, when over twenty thousand people attempted to gain admittance to the Metropolitan Opera House to hear the Ulster Delegates. It was necessary to hold overflow meetings in Lulu Temple Auditorium and also in the Drill Room, and then thousands were turned away from all three halls.

The following resolutions were adopted at these meetings:

RESOLUTIONS



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RESOLVED, By the Philadelphia Protestant ing assembled, representing more than one hundred thousand members of Protestant Churches and Protestant Patriotic Fraternities in the City of Philadelphia, having heard the Official Delegation from the Protestant Churches of Ireland present the Ulster side of the Irish Question, we sincerely sympathize with Ulster in the fight to retain their identity with the British Empire, and we trust that no act of the British government will be passed that will take away from Ulster their blood-bought liberties. We declare that the problem is not one for the United States of America to interfere in, and we demand that no recognition be given any so-called "Irish Republic," a myth which exists only in the minds of a few fanatics, who desire American dollars to aid in a rebellion against a friendly power, and one of our Allies in the great World War; and we pledge ourselves to do all in our power to drive from political life any man or set of men who attempt to interfere in this matter by injecting it into American politics; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to each Member of Congress, the newspapers of the United States, of Great Britain, to Hon. Lloyd George and Sir Edward Carson, and be given the widest publicity possible.

Attest: SAMUEL A. WILSON,
President.

FREDMAN T. ROBERTS,
Secretary.

January 5, 1920.

Please make two copies of this resolution and mail one to your Senator and one to your Representative in Congress at Washington, D. C.

THE Philadelphia Protestant Federation is now an incorporated organization, having been granted a Charter in October, 1919. It is composed of Delegates from the various Patriotic Fraternities and Churches of Philadelphia. Each organization pays three dollars per year, which entitles them to two Delegates and two Alternates in the Federation.

We Invite Churches and Organizations to Join Us.



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