



American Citizens To Plead For Erin

Frank P. Walsh, Former Governor Dunne and Michael J. Ryan Go to Paris as Delegates From the Friends of Irish Freedom of America—Will Appear and Work With Dublin Representatives at Peace Conference—Committee Sailed for Havre Last Tuesday on a French Liner.

Washington, March 28.—The stamp of approval was placed by the United States today upon the right of delegates to plead the cause of self-determination for Ireland to the Paris Peace conference, when the State department agreed to issue passports to the representatives of the Irish-American committee to present their appeal in person to the Peace conference. That President Wilson's influence is behind this suggestion is the interpretation placed here upon the State department's action.

The delegation to receive passports includes Frank P. Walsh of New York, former member of the President's War Labor board; Michael J. Ryan of Philadelphia, and Edward F. Dunne of Chicago, Patrick Lee of New York, will accompany the committee as its secretary. They will sail from New York next Wednesday on the Touraine with Paris as their direct destination.

Wilson's Attitude Recalled. When President Wilson received the members of the Irish American committee in New York on the evening of his departure for Europe, he assured them that however much he might sympathize with their aspirations, he could not, as chief executive of the United States government, take up the cause of Irish freedom with the executive council of the Peace conference. In the light of this assurance it is assumed that a way has been found since his arrival in Paris by which the Irish-Americans themselves might make their plea to the conference without the infraction of any rule of political

or diplomatic etiquette. The Irish Race convention in Philadelphia, selected the committee which is to go to Paris next week. This convention was attended by over 5,000 delegates representing every state in the Union, and their names have just been announced by Judge Daniel C. Hoehne, justice of the supreme court of New York, who was chairman of the convention. The convention unanimously adopted resolutions presented by Cardinal Gibbons approving Ireland's right to self-determination.

Mr. Walsh and Mr. Ryan were at the State department yesterday and presented a written request for passports, stating as their purpose "to obtain a hearing at the Peace conference, and to place before the conference, if not granted a hearing, the case of Ireland, her insistence upon her right to self-determination, and international recognition of the republican form of government established by her people."

Going as Americans. The State department has informed the committee that the passports will be issued not later than next Monday.

"The committee is going to France as American citizens," said Mr. Walsh, "holding no allegiance, actual or spiritual, to any other nation on earth, but imbued with the necessity of extending the principles of free government to Ireland, which is the typical small nation of the earth being deprived of the right to determine for itself the form of government under which it shall exist. Naturally men and women of Irish blood and ancestry everywhere have a deep sentimental attachment to the land which gave birth to their race, and at this crucial moment of new world concepts desire to render all of the assistance in their power to the representatives of the people of Ireland delegated to attend the Peace conference. The committee expects to remain in France until Ireland's case is fully determined by the conference."

BISHOP CARROLL ON THE CATHOLIC PRESS

The Home Catholic Paper Should Be in Every Home in the Diocese.

Speaking at the late Mass at the Cathedral in Portland, Ore., last Sunday, the Right Rev. Bishop Carroll of Helena devoted his sermon to the subject of the Catholic press. "The work of the Catholic press," he declared, "must necessarily be both offensive and defensive. It was not until the allies took the offensive in the late war, that they attained victory, and so it is with our Catholic press." The Bishop quoted the words of Pope Leo XIII.: "A Catholic paper is a perpetual mission," and those of Pope Pius X.: "In vain will you build churches, give missions, found schools—all your work, all your efforts will be destroyed if you are not able to wield the defensive and offensive weapon of a loyal and sincere Catholic press."

He impressed upon his audience the advisability of bringing this constant and certain influence toward spiritual upliftment and sustenance into their homes by subscribing to the Catholic Sentinel.

NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR FREEDOM OF IRELAND.

Senate Concurs With the House on a Resolution Passed March 4.

The state senate on March 5 concurred in a resolution passed by the House on March 4, urging President Wilson to use his influence at the Peace Conference to secure the right of self-determination for Ireland. Ireland is three times as large as Belgium, two and one-half times the size of Holland, and more richly fertile than either.

Washington, D. C.—Any alien, regardless of race or color, who served in the army or navy during the war, is entitled to citizenship. This ruling will admit hundreds of Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos, Porto Ricans, etc.

IRISH LED ALL IN WAVING EXEMPTION

Irish aliens led all other nationalities in waving exemptions for the draft in the New York district, Director Martin Conboy testified at the trial of Jeremiah A. O'Leary. Forty-five per cent of the Irish aliens waived exemption and were placed in Class one. The Italians ranked second, with 4 per cent, the Canadians third with 35 per cent, the English fourth with 32 per cent, and the French fifth with 31 per cent.

"During your career as director of the draft of New York, did you see, hear or know anything that led you to believe the Irish aliens or Americans of Irish extraction were doing anything to obstruct the workings of the draft?" Conboy was asked by counsel for O'Leary.

"No, sir, never," the draft director replied.

JEWS GRATEFUL TO HOLY FATHER

Rome, Feb. 19.—Among those recently received in private audience was Dr. Yakin Bhar, who has come to Rome specially to thank His Holiness for all that he has been able to do, through the means of Msgr. Dolci, Apostolic Delegate at Constantinople, for members of the Jewish community suffering from the war.

MANY WEAR OTHER NATIONS' ENSIGNIA.

Washington, D. C., March 25.—Authority has been given by the Department to officers and enlisted men of the United States Army who served in the armies of any co-belligerent to wear the chevrons and badges denoting such service awarded them by that Government.

The film "Frate Sole."—Brother Sun—of which St. Francis of Assisi is the leading figure, is drawing large crowds of people in Rome, among them the cardinals and other ecclesiastics. In Rome, St. Francis is today the most popular saint; intellectual, ecclesiastical and civil Rome are attached to him.

Businessmen Aroused to Activity

That the cause of Ireland has taken a strong hold upon the attention of American citizens was well attested in a gathering of Minneapolis gentlemen at a six o'clock dinner at the West Hotel last Tuesday evening. It was an informal assemblage in which about 35 participated. It comprised many of the solid business men of the city whose names are seldom found in the public prints in connection with public affairs—men who prefer to remain in the background while performing the full measure of civic service while others are enjoying the limelight of publicity. Many of that group had lost beloved sons or brothers on the European battlefields in the supreme struggle against autocracy and Junkerism. All of them were generous and loyal contributors to the support of the American cause in the manifold aspects of the campaign for world freedom and democracy.

But it was not to recall their bereavements or to tell of their activities in the war or welfare movements that they had assembled. Most of them were of Irish birth or descent but in the full significance and dignity of the term American citizens. They understood the meaning of America's entry into the world war, taking the declarations of our President in good faith, and with the confidence that America, as always, would "make good" on the principles and promises she enunciates to the world. They were gathered primarily to discuss in calm counsel the status of their old Motherland in the new regime. Other topics were brought up and deliberated upon, but always the question of Ireland kept recurring in the evening's discourses. These were all impromptu and no effort was made for an oratorical display. But the strong, sincere, and simple sentences that were uttered indicated a fullness of heart and a depth of determination that were even more convincing than formal speeches. Men who were not accustomed to public speaking nevertheless gladly arose to give expression to the sentiments that lie so closely to their hearts—the striking off of the shackles of foreign domination from their race. It was a pleasant surprise to note that the great cause had now awakened the interest and aroused to activity many who have hitherto taken but a passive interest in it or who had regarded Irish emancipation as a forlorn hope. This is indicative of the spirit that pervades the men and women of the Irish race throughout the country and that eventually will weave all America to the support of the old land in its struggle for self-determination.

The meeting culminated in a unanimous movement to join the Friends of Irish Freedom, an organization that has already a flourishing membership in this city. Mr. John Lynch, president of the Standard Clothing Company, presided as toastmaster, and responses to toasts were given by Rev. Father Harrington, National Director of the Friends of Irish Freedom; P. J. O'Donnell, State Secretary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; Judge O'Leary, W. J. Hays, James McConville, president local branch of the Friends of Irish Freedom; Francis Gross, John Nightingale, Jos. L. Murphy, Esq., P. J. Downes, J. W. Williams, John C. Sheehan, Frank Feeney, county president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and many other prominent citizens.

The Militarists and "Crime"

(Extracts from an article by Editor Rook of the Pittsburgh Dispatch after his trip to Ireland as the guest of the British Government.)

During the last three months there have been 220-odd arrests, not including the 100 deportations. These men were innocent of any crime. They were charged before courts-martial and English-appointed magistrates, and were deemed criminals for speaking Irish, for singing Irish songs, for drilling, for being suspected to be about to drill, for carrying documents which if published might cause disaffection, for demanding the right of free speech, for publicly stating that there never was a German plot. For these and hundreds of similar "offenses," Irishmen have received sentences of weeks, months and years at hard labor.

A man who was asked by a policeman for his name and gave it in Irish was given 14 days in jail for endangering the safety of the British empire. A man who sang a well-known song, "The Felons of Our Land," written seventy years ago, was given the savage sentence of two years at hard labor. Men in possession of shotguns for the preservation of their crops from the ravages of birds were tried by courts-martial and got sentences ranging from six months to two years at hard labor. Men, who in protest against a proclamation declaring public meetings all over Ireland unlawful, read a Sinn Fein statement declaring the nation's right to free speech, were sent to prison for two years as criminals.

The English usurpers have at present in their jails 600 Irish men and women whose only crime was their effort to secure for this, the oldest of all small nations, self-determination and free institutions. In addition to this shameless total, proclamations have been issued in Ireland declaring as "dangerous" the Irish language movement, the Cumann Bann, or Woman's League, the Sinn Fein League, Sinn Fein clubs and the Irish Volunteers, organizations embracing probably a million persons; and national games have been broken up by the baton of the police and bayonets of foreign military.

And, finally, during the past year of ruthlessness, when something like one thousand Irishmen have passed through, or remained in, the prisons of the English usurpers, when ten men have been murdered by the English military and police, and none of the murderers have been brought to justice; when approximately ten thousand Irish men and women have been injured in bayonet and baton charges, when Ireland has to submit to the tyranny of 250,000 troops quartered upon its people—when those infamies are in progress no word is allowed to leave Ireland as to these, the real causes of Irish disorder.

By censorship and seizure, by propaganda, and the wildest circulation of Irish "atrocities" and Sinn Fein "intrigue," the world is imposed upon and lied to, and even honorable men can be excused for believing that the

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AVOID FOREIGN DANCES.

Archbishop Warns Flock Against Foreign Dances.

Paris, March 29.—The archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Amette, has issued a warning to his flock to avoid "foreign dances which are contrary to good social usages and modesty."

Did he mean American jazzing—or what? The Americans in Paris are guessing, but the archbishop hasn't offered any explanation.

He also warns brides that the extremely low-necked and short-sleeved wedding dresses they have taken to wearing since the armistice are hardly in keeping with a solemn religious ceremony.

GREEK PRIESTS ASK RETURN TO CHURCH

Rome.—The Unita Cattolica has from Athens: "Three members of the Greek Orthodox clergy have approached the Catholic Archbishop of Athens with a view to a reunion of the Orthodox with the Roman Church. The Archbishop replied that he would send their written request on to Rome. The Metropolitan of Athens, interviewed on the subject, has stated that it was purely a private initiative, which does not in the least pledge the Orthodox clergy. The Metropolitan of Athens, in fact, is opposed to any approach to Rome, and is working for a union of the Greek schism with the Anglican Church."

Irish Question To Dominate U. S. Politics

So Says U. S. Senator-Elect Walsh of Massachusetts.

Powerful Statement of Popular Statesman From Bay State.

The dominant political question confronting America today concerns the issue of self-determination for Ireland. The issue overshadows all others and will continue to hold first place until definite steps toward the emancipation of Ireland are taken.

This is the opinion of David I. Walsh, Senator-elect of Massachusetts. Mr. Walsh addressed a big meeting in the Academy of Music, Philadelphia, Tuesday evening, March 18. "The Irish Heritage" was his subject and Wednesday he amplified Tuesday night's address.

"Since the elections," said Mr. Walsh, "I have made addresses in various sections of the country and have had an excellent opportunity to gauge public sentiment on the Irish question."

"To be frank I am astounded to find such a deep-rooted sentiment for Ireland. Men and women of Irish blood, regardless of their social and political affiliations, are simply imbued with the idea that Ireland must be given its freedom. The idea has taken such definite form that the issue actually overshadows our own domestic questions and won't be tempered until England takes definite steps to extend justice to Ireland. That country must be given the rights now enjoyed by Canada, Australia and South Africa. The Irish are determined and England must face the issue."

When asked what action he considered should be taken by President Wilson the Senator-elect said:

"The American representatives should present at the Peace Conference the overwhelming sentiment of the United States in favor of self-determination for Ireland. They

should insist that a vote be taken and every delegate from every country represented at the Peace Conference be placed on record.

"There may be difficulties attached to this problem, but I see no reason why the world should not know why statesmen are opposed to giving Ireland the same amount of justice and freedom that are accorded to Australia, Canada and other nations allied with Great Britain.

"During the war," continued Mr. Walsh, "the men and women of Irish blood have been listening to ardent speeches concerning the rights of small nations. Self-determination for Poland, Belgium, Serbia and other small countries has been championed by the press and a majority of our public men, and now that the war is over the Irish want to know why the self-determination issue should not be applied to Ireland."

The league of nations and other issues that occupy the political stage Mr. Walsh declined to discuss. "I shall not become a United States Senator," he added, "until Congress convenes either in regular or in special session. I am a Democrat and am naturally sympathetic with anything advocated by President Wilson. That includes the league of nations; but as I shall be called upon to pass on the matter when the Senate is asked to ratify the peace treaty it would be bad taste for me to discuss the details of the covenant."

"There has been a great deal of loose talk concerning the league of nations, and particularly from public men. Personally, I feel that I shall have an opportunity to discuss it when the covenant is presented to the Senate. When we will have it in its final form and will be in a position to study the details."

"When elected to the United States Senate I resolved to be a working Senator and not a talking Senator."

IRELAND LOSES A VALUABLE FRIEND

London—The death of Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, Bart, from pneumonia following on influenza, whilst attending the Peace Conference at Paris, brings to a sudden end the brilliant career of a devout Catholic, an honest politician and a sincere friend of the Irish people.

Sir Mark Sykes' understanding of the Irish question was emphatically clear and sane. He was private secretary to the late Mr. Wyndham during his term of office as Chief Secretary for Ireland, and his sympathies, both political and religious, were for the Irish people. Amid the discordant voices that were raised in debate in the British House of Commons during the stormy time that followed on the introduction of the Irish Conciliation Bill last year, the strong voice of Sir Mark Sykes rose above the clamor and demanded that right and justice should be done to Ireland. Not even among the members of the Nationalist Party in the House of Commons was there to be found a stauncher friend of Ireland than Sir Mark Sykes, and had his counsels prevailed a great wrong would have been righted.

BAKER CITY BISHOP WAS CONSECRATED

Seattle, March 26.—The consecration of Right Rev. Joseph F. McGrath, D. D., Bishop-elect of Baker City, took place in St. James Cathedral, Seattle, on Tuesday morning, March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. Right Rev. Edward J. O'Dea, D. D., Bishop of Seattle, was the consecrator. The assistant consecrators were Right Rev. John P. Carroll, D. D., Bishop of Helena, and Right Rev. Mathias C. Lenihan, D. D., Bishop of Great Falls. Archbishop Christie and all the Bishops of the province, as well as other dignitaries of the Church from all parts of the West, were present at the impressive ceremonies of the consecration. His Grace, Most Rev. Alexander Christie, D. D., preached the occasional sermon.

IF IRELAND IS WRONG BOLSHEVISM IN ORDER

Cardinal O'Connell Sounds Note of Warning to Ruling Classes Who Hold Power.

In the course of a sermon delivered in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston on Sunday of last week Cardinal O'Connell said that the great nations must learn from Ireland the lesson of maintenance of faith in God and the law of right.

"It is a certainty," he declared, "that unless the ruling classes, those who have the power in their hands, recognize the eternal laws of justice and righteousness and follow them, the world is inevitably on the point of collapse."

The Cardinal recited Ireland's experiences and added:

"Ireland for seven centuries has stood up against the world, against the pride of the world, the eyes of the world, and the conquest of the world. The Irish people held fast to the Cross. You have taken our lives, they said, you have taken our lands and our money, but you can never take God from us."

"Now let the other nations learn from Ireland, because Ireland saw what they can never see—God on His throne of justice. That is the only lesson today that can preserve any nation on the face of the earth. If Ireland is wrong, then there is nothing left for the world but Bolshevism. But Ireland is right."

PRIEST-LABORER IS AT CONFERENCE

Rome, Feb. 19.—It is noted here with interest that one of those engaged at the peace congress in Paris is the Dominican Father Rutten. He specializes in labor conditions, and has a right to know about them, as he once put off his habit and worked in a coal mine in order to gain personal knowledge of the subject in which he was interested, and on which he has published valuable works since.