

"Truth on their lips and Courage in their hearts."

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DAILY SHEET.

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PEOPLE OF IRELAND EXPRESS YOUR WILL RELEASE THE PRISONERS FOR CHRISTMAS

TO ALL FREE STATE T.D.'s

When the Free State Government tells us that it is anxious for Peace, can it not remember that 2,000 years ago when the Angels delivered the first Christmas message, they in their higher wisdom coupled Peace with Goodwill, for they wanted to teach mankind that there could be no Peace without Goodwill.

There are still thousands of prisoners in Irish Camps and Jails, and whilst these thousands are still separated from their families how can there be Peace and Goodwill.

To those who have been restored to their dear ones, the memory of their still imprisoned comrades will fall like a shadow over the brightness of their Christmastide and embitter the spirit of Goodwill.

The families of the internees will know neither peace nor Goodwill. Let the Free State Government, knowing that the Angelic message promised a Peace which was built on Goodwill, open the prison gates and so secure for Ireland the foundation of a time and lasting Peace.

"GOOD NEWS."

Under this heading the evening papers publish what is allged to be a statement of the Pope about Ireland. Addressing the assembled Cardinals at a Secret Consistory, His Holiness is reported to have said:—"Finally, we have to announce the good news regarding Ireland, that land, so dear to our hearts, where a settlement is rapidly approaching. We have received comforting assurance of this in the recent Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Logue, which has been confirmed by later news."

We hope that this means that the Pope has received an assurance that all the Republican Prisoners are to be released before Christmas. That would be good news indeed, and if the recent Pastoral Letters of Cardinal Logue has an influence in obtaining that release well and good. But while the Cardinal on humanitarian grounds and the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell on the grounds of Justice, demand the release of the prisoners, we have no evidence that a settlement is approaching of any kind.

A real settlement of the religious disabilities which have been inflicted on Republicans is not in sight since a young Republican lady was refused Absolution yesterday after the priest had catechised her about the Bishop's Pastoral.

We inquired from some Republicans in authority if the "Good News" refers to a political settlement, and were told that they heard nothing of it. All Republicans are willing to make an honourable settlement at any time. We wish we could see an honourable settlement in sight. Mr. Kevin O'Higgins's new Safety Bill does not

look like it, but perhaps he does not mean it, or is losing the power to do so badly as he means. We should not like to think that any Catholic or Irishman, lay or cleric, would deceive the Pope on such a serious matter, so we must conclude with hope that His Holiness is in possession of some information which, at present at least, is hidden from us. As far as we can judge, the last sentence with reference to Europe applies with equal truth to Ireland. With longing hearts we await the

GOOD NEWS."

ABOLITION OF VOTES.

As each day passes we look out for the fruits of the Free State axe. We have been told often it is to be applied ruthlessly in quarters that call for ruthless application by reason of the extravagance that is displayed there. We have seen how the reckless manner in which the old age pensioners have spent their dole, the teachers their salaries has been sternly rectified by means of the axe.

Breathlessly has the general public awaited the guillotine to fall on other salaries recently awarded in the Free State, but it has not fallen. Instead there has been a fertilizer sprinkled that caused more to grow from nothing, so to speak. And now, whilst we wait, the axe has been sharpened, and this time it falls on votes, or rather it so threatened. The Senate, at their meeting, passed an amendment to be inserted in the Local Government Electors' Registration Bill to the effect that the non-payment of rates will disfranchise electors at the local elections. A further amendment by Senator Lenihan advocating not plural voting but quadruple voting was, wonderful to relate, rejected. This amazes us! It is such a good reactionary policy, it seems out of place on the part of the Senate to turn it down, but then the passing of the disfranchisement Clause by 22 votes to 18 shows as a body the Senate is true to type. The so-called plural vote of Mr. Lenihan's suggestion was based on the idea of countermanding the more numerous people of no property. Senator Lenihan wanted to give the holders of property valued at £100 four votes, holders of £50 three votes, holders of from £20 to £50 two votes, and under £20 one vote. Sir J. Keane spoke of the Belgian system as if it were comparable to this quadruple property vote suggested. One is for definite attainments, the other for property inherited or acquired.

The voting in the disfranchisement cause is interesting. The 22 represent the propertied class with the tradition of it behind them. The 18 who voted against the Clause represent those who are rapidly acquiring property, as yet they are a trifle fearful to scorn openly the lower rungs of the ladder by which they scaled the heights. Now we think in this, they do not display the policy of boldness that they have adopted so successfully hitherto.

It would be much more in keeping with the present conduct of the Senate in the Southern Parliament were they to abolish all votes. Why not? It would simplify matters greatly. Mr. Cosgrave filled his Senate mostly by the simple process of nominations, and have they not, according to their lights, done exceedingly well for him and his Party? The Belfast "Newsletter" was of opinion that the Habeas Corpus and the like are all very well at certain times, but their existence should be ignored completely when the Free State Government comes up against men who refuse to denounce their Republican principles. The paper applauded the Free State Government for holding them in jail. We are sure it will commend the Senate for their amendment, and would consider the abolition of all votes a great measure. Nominations to the Parliament could replace elections. The axe would fall on all the Councils, and then, indeed, would the people be truly gagged and muzzled. The prisoners could be detained and their number added to without comment for every voice in the country would have been rendered silent.

NEWS OF THE CAMPS.

TINTOWN 3.—250 prisoners released arrived at Dublin yesterday. Many others travelled direct from camps to their homes in the south. Patrick Scallion, recently released from here, is still in a nursing home; his condition is but slightly improved.

HARE PARK.—Only seven arrived in Dublin from this camp. We understand about ten left for their homes in the South and direct from Kildare.

NEWBRIDGE.—About 100 released from this camp yesterday. There are still about 1,300 prisoners still here.

MOUNTJOY.—No releases from here. Eamon Enright, recently released in bad health, still continues to be seriously ill.

KILMAINHAM.—No releases. Ernest O'Malley has somewhat recovered from the hunger-strike, but we understand he will never get back his health under prison surroundings. This jail is quite unheated, the severity of the cold is felt very much by the prisoners, who are much reduced from their recent ordeal.

"CLÁR."

I dtosac 'sé cloismis ná naé raib don plean le tuaradh againn-ne in ionad an tréatais; anois go bfuil sé ró-sóiléir gurab é an ruro ceana a ceastuigeann uainn agus do ceastuig uainn le seacht gcéad bliadan caitéar in ár gcóimh é naé bfuil an clár le ceastbáint againn le h-agaró na mbliadhán acá le ceacht.

Céis gáire cógaim an sórt camnte sin. A ráo a's naé bfuil a fíos againn-ne o'púláing an iomaio le bliadhán go leir cao é an sórt náisiún a ceastuigeann uainn i nveire báire; a ráo a's naé ró-mhinc acá sé ráioce againn go mbraicimio iacal do cuir ar muinntir na tíre oibriú as lámab a céite, agus iacal do cuir ar ár n-oibrigceoirib fém iao fém o'llamú agus do cleactad in gac céaro a bameann le cógaint poblacta fion-uasal i ncead 's naé tír pé aná Sasana, ná móo-oibre ar nós móo na h-impire a bera againn ac náisiún ar leir-tig go móoócáro an domain uile a h-aná. Ni bacamio leis an gcamnt lábaig sin; veincear i mar a veimci an camnt i dtosac an "alternative," cun dulla-páircin do cuir ar na baomib agus bun-feall an tSaorstáit do céite pé masmus focat.

Ac tá call maie againn ceist do cuir ar lué an tréatais i dtosac a gcláir fém. Táimio as fáire orra le bliadhán anuas agus ní feicimio go bfuil a fíos acu cá tneó go bfuilto ag uil. Um dhospóireacta an tréatais adubhradur naé rabadar as glacat leis an ruro san—an "bitter pill"—ac ar fearó cúpla bliadhán nó go mbead caoi acu an t-iomlán do cógaint o Sasana ar ais nó ar éigim. Ac ní h-amháin go bfuil gac uile pioce ve n éamnt sin breagaitce acu agus feall agus ac-feall véanta ar an bphoblact ac ins na ruroi is lúga ní h-ionann agus na ruroi is mó tá ceo an fill anuas ar a h-icimni agus iao as seacrán sa dhóiméact.

Ceana fém tá an pobul as gearán i dtosac ceiste an aingto. Bameann an ceist sin go móo timn-ne, leis, mar a bameann gac ruro gur gno na tíre é. Ac nuair a phiosúing a seacitead agus phiosúing a dtógaint ar don tá ní péirín don amhas do beic ar an bphobul ac gur cómarcta é go bfuil gac roimn eile o'á bfuil acu ar don uil leis an roimn pé noear comeado na bphiosúneac; agus naé amháin go bfuil éagóir a veimam go tiug ar lué teanamna na poblacta ac gur cailteamamnt agus éagóir do n náisiún go léir gac nóimeac go bfranann comact i lámab an "cabal" seo an tSaorstáit.