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WHEN, immediately after the Armistice, the leaders of the Coalition Government made it clear that their Irish policy, which during the war had to have some regard for the wishes of the Irish people as a whole, would now be revised in the exclusive interest of the Ulster Unionists, none but the most ignorant optimist failed to realise that, however and whenever a settlement was reached, it would be through much tribulation. It has become more than ever plain that the Government have now no remedy whatsoever but force and more force. Mr. Walter Long has declared that if—he might have said when—over the greater part of Ireland the Bill is used “to endeavour to establish a Republic” it will be treated like the 1914 Act and not come into operation. We need no longer look for better things from the Coalition Government—we must look to ourselves. The only hope of salvation lies in strict adherence to fundamental principle, faith in the ultimate triumph of the right and self-imposed restraint from the natural impulse to such acts of resistance as not only play into the hands of the oppressor, but, what is far worse, do permanent moral harm to the oppressed. Unless we are exceedingly careful, the denial of the long overdue responsible government will weaken our sense of responsibility and hurt us, not only in the world's regard, but in our self-respect. We note with satisfaction that, in much of *Sinn Féin's* latest activities, there is evidence that its central government is thinking along these lines, and is trying to prevent the worst consequences of the persistent violation of every democratic principle by the flagrant Prussianism of the British Government. We cannot but regret that it has not yet drawn a clear line between passive and active resistance to misused authority, on the one hand, and outrages culminating in the assassination of policemen on the other. Last week we suggested

a change of front on the part of *Sinn Féin* towards the civil police. Such a change would, we are sure, immensely strengthen the moral position of the political party upon which the Local Government Elections of this week have imposed fresh responsibility.

The future of our country does not lie only with the majority to whom the above appeal is addressed. The impending catastrophe can only be averted if the minority in the North-East corner, now reduced by the scrapping of their Covenant in three Ulster counties to less than 900,000, recognise that their recent victories at Downing Street and St. Stephen's must turn to dust and ashes. It is, of course, physically possible to establish a Parliament and Government in “Northern Ireland,” and to picture a “Southern Ireland” (including Donegal) with a Parliament interned, as was its National predecessor, in the British Statute Book—the real South of Ireland becoming, if the junior Member for Trinity College prophesies truly in Wednesday's *Irish Times*, “a Hell upon earth.” There will be no peace in twenty-six counties of Ireland, and is it even probable that the gerrymandered new Ulster will endure? Certain it is that it will no longer be able to rely upon England. In giving Home Rule to the only part of Ireland that never demanded it (including two counties to which the particular form of Home Rule is wholly unacceptable) the Government's policy takes its one step in the direction of Irish self-government. The rulers of “Northern Ireland,” deprived of their place in British politics, will have to reckon with a not inconsiderable minority bitterly opposed to partition, with the whole population of the twenty-six counties of Ireland united for the first time by the attack upon Irish unity, and with the sentiment of probably ninety-nine per cent. of the millions of Irishmen abroad. Some