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ÉIRE ÓG YOUNG IRELAND

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1920.

England at Rome

The English offensive in Rome against Ireland has failed, and Mr. Arthur Balfour returns to England empty-handed. Mr. Balfour sought a pronouncement against the Irish cause from the Vatican, and a Vatican arrangement with the English Government under which the Catholic clergy in Ireland would in future be deprived of a voice in the selection of their bishops.

There is no section of the English people more malignantly anti-Irish than the English Catholics—with few exceptions. Daniel O'Connell was so impressed by their mean animosity to the Irish nation that he once publicly apologised for emancipating them.

We are not concerned here with the question of religious belief. But what does concern us is that Ulster as a whole has been dwindling in population. This has been going on for the past eighty years, but it is only now that the "Northern Whig" and the Ulster Unionist Council have discovered this fact about their own province.

culated the falsehood through Europe that the Committee had defeated Ireland by 10 votes to 9. This exploit of the English cable companies will considerably help Europeans to appraise the value of "news" about Ireland circulated by Reuter, the Exchange Telegraph Company, and the Press Association—three prime agents of English propaganda.

The Irish nation awaits with confidence the recognition of her equal right to Independence with Belgium, Poland, and all other European nations. Awaiting it, she recalls the fact that America some time ago refused to recognise a certain government in Mexico, because it had not been constitutionally elected by the people of Mexico.

Ulster's False Prosperity

The statement so frequently uttered by Belfast politicians that Ulster has enjoyed prosperity under the English "Union" has been dealt with at length in these pages. No argument has perhaps been so widely circulated by our political opponents in England and the United States.

The Ulster Unionist Council now admits the fallacy of the argument resting on the alleged prosperity of Ulster. The sub-committee on Thursday week issued a statement which entirely admits our case. It says in part.

In the three counties (Donegal, Cavan, and Monaghan) the Protestant population during the last half-century, and in particular during the last 20 years, has fallen very rapidly. Fifty years ago they numbered over 121,000, to-day they are less than 60,000 people.

The "Northern Whig," whose editor, Mr. Lynn, M.E.P., wrote a special article last year employing the old argument about the prosperity of Ulster, writes that:—

"With a 9-counties area a majority (a "Unionist" one) would not be ensured; in fact it would be constantly endangered. All the statistics put forward have been based on the 1911 census. When the census of 1921 is made it will certainly be found that the Catholic majority in the three excluded counties has increased materially, and it is a matter of common knowledge that there has been a steady infiltration of Catholics and Nationalist elements into other parts of Ulster also."

While British trade with Ireland was increasing by leaps and bounds, and while the trade of English manufactures was rising, the foreign trade of Ireland stood still. The Report of 1830 stated "that the imports from foreign parts into Ireland have augmented during the last five years from £1,547,849 to £1,669,406."

England's Stranglehold on Irish Commerce

XXVIII.

The effects of the stranglehold which England obtained on Irish Commerce as a result of the "Union" are seen clearly in the changes which took place in the state of the export and import trade in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. There was a considerable growth of Irish exports to Britain. In 1801 Ireland's exports to Great Britain amounted to £3,270,000. In 1825 they had increased to £7,048,000 (according to Sir Charles Whitworth's Tables).

COTTON MANUFACTURE—IMPORTS FROM ENGLAND.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Yards. 1801 ... 44,000 1805 ... 60,000 1813 ... 215,000 1817 ... 542,080 1821 ... 968,000 1825 ... 4,997,000

This table shows the perverse side of the ruin of the Irish Cotton industry, with which we have already dealt at length. When the last shred of the tariff protecting our cottons was removed, English goods poured in like a tide over a broken dyke.

IMPORTATION OF ENGLISH COAL.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Tons. 1801 ... 315,000 1805 ... 413,000 1809 ... 402,000 1813 ... 517,000 1817 ... 713,000 1821 ... 652,000 1825 ... 738,000 1829 ... 921,000

Ireland has been made to depend on imported fuel. The Irish Parliament had done something to aid the Irish collieries, but the use of coal was not as important for manufacturing purposes in the pre-Union days.

No general account of the trade between Ireland and Great Britain, says the Report, can be rendered subsequent to 1825, the commercial intercourse having, from the termination of that year, been assimilated to a coasting trade. This business of the English in closing down the reports of Irish trade has not received the attention it deserves.

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Ireland. We are not told what the direct foreign export trade of Ireland then was. We can give, however, the number and tonnage of vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards in the ports of Ireland for the year 1801 and for every fourth year of the subsequent period until 1829 inclusive.

IRISH SHIPPING TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Ships, Tons. INWARDS: 1805 ... 6,875 ... 599,000 1829 ... 13,878 ... 1,292,000. OUTWARDS: 1805 ... 6,306 ... 567,000 1829 ... 8,922 ... 906,000

Here we see that the number of ships coming in with cargoes from Britain doubled in the years 1805-29. But the Irish return channel trade was by no means increased so rapidly. Moreover, England imported the valuable products of her factories, whereas we exported the bulky produce of our fields, so that the trade results were entirely in England's favour in quality, as well as in bulk.

Our foreign trade after the "Union" remained stagnant, as the statement proves.

TRADE WITH FOREIGN PARTS.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Ships, Tons. INWARDS: 1805 ... 1,085 ... 156,000 1829 ... 1,093 ... 179,000. OUTWARDS: 1805 ... 829 ... 137,000 1829 ... 723 ... 133,000

Ireland's outward shipping went down after the "Union" with England. Our foreign inwards trade employed eight more ships, but our foreign export trade chartered 106 ships less than when Britannia embraced us.

France and Ireland.

Paris, Friday. The international character of the Irish question, though long since recognised in America, is becoming more and more apparent in Europe. In "La Voix Nationale" M. Charles Sancerme recently declared that "in order to maintain the peace of Europe French patriots must look to the future without England, and British propaganda in France must cease."

In "Le Matin" too, M. Franklin-Bouillon, late Cabinet Minister, investigates the hostility of the United States to the Treaty of Versailles. It is not difficult to discover "all the fight has centered round the covenant of the League of Nations, and especially Article 10, by which the signatories reciprocally guaranteed their existing frontiers and their various spheres of influence."