

July 24, 1945

I left England yesterday to come to Ireland. World attention has been turned again to Mr. DeValera due to his recent remark in the "Irish Dail" that Ireland was a Republic. I stayed with Mr. David Gray, the American Minister to Ireland.

Mr. Gray's opinion of DeValera was that he was sincere, incorruptable, also a paranoiac and a lunatic. His premise is that the partition of Ireland is indefensible, and once this thesis is accepted, all else in its policy is consistent. He believed Germany was going to win. He kept strict neutrality even towards the simplest United States demand.

Mr. Gray admits that Mr. DeValera was not any more friendly to the Germans than he was to us. He does not think German submarines were aided from Ireland, at least with the knowledge of Mr. DeValera, although there were many German sympathizers.

He quoted the Cardinal in 1940 as having said that "he would take Germany as soon as England." The Cardinal believes that Ireland was created by God - a single island and people, and partition is therefore an offense to God. Gray says the island was maintained by the British during the war -- gasoline, shoes, and coal -- all were British.

He feels that the Civil War of 1921 was caused by the pride of DeValera. DeValera's constitutional proposals were very similar to those favored by President Cosgrave, Michael Dillon, and a majority of the "Dail." Yet, he split the country over the issue.

## FINANCE

Ireland receives about \$4,000,000 a year from the United States in remittances as she needs about \$15,000,000 more to pay for her imports. Her dollar exchange has been given her by England. This put Ireland in a position of independence.

Many Irishmen feel that it a great mistake to be so closely tied up with the sterling bloc. It is bondage they claim.

England has many weapons with which she could strangle Ireland -- a tariff on beef, shutting off her credit, as well as the use of force. England so far has done remarkably in practicing self-restraint, but Gray believes that on its previous form it will probably make some serious error in the future.

(Note:) Sheridan once said, "The quarrel is a very pretty quarrel as it stands; we should only spoil it by trying to explain it."

(Note:) A thought for Irishmen abroad -- written by Thomas D'Arcy McGee, a Canadian of Irish birth.

"Our first duty is to the land where we live and have fixed our homes; and where, while we live, we must find the true sphere of our duties. While always ready therefore to say the right word and do the right act for the land of my forefathers, I am bound above all to the land where I reside."

## IRELAND

The two chief parties of Ireland are the Fine Gael (United Ireland Party) and the Fianna Fail - the "soldiers of Ireland Party."

The former is led by General Mulcahy and was organized by William Cosgrave. It is always believed that the way to end partition is to cooperate with the British - not fight them.

The Fianna Fail, now the most powerful party in Ireland, is DeValera's party which came into power in 1930. Both these parties are fighting the same political battle in the "Doil" that they fought in the Civil War.

What has weakened Cosgrave's party is that DeValera who has bitterly opposed Great Britain was the party that ended British control of the ports -- a concession that Great Britain was unwilling to give Mr. Cosgrave in spite of his sincere desire to cooperate.

This has given DeValera ammunition and has given some substance to his feeling that everything that has ever been gotten by Ireland from England has been given grudgingly and at the end of a long and bitter battle.