

the well known author was Mr. ARMOUR, the principal speaker, and he began his speech by saying that he was a "Black Protestant" from the "Black North" and then gave some recollections of his father's adventures as a Protestant Home Ruler. He himself had been completely converted by studying History when preparing his book "Armour of Ballymoney".

There was a phrase in Belfast about "digging with the wrong foot": if you were a Catholic it was difficult to dig with any other! But for a Protestant it was an unspeakable crime.

In Belfast it was impossible to discuss the Irish Question at all. The ordinary Protestant did not understand it, nor was he allowed to do so. In Britain you could discuss Palestine - it was known that there were Arabs and Jews. In these days you might even discuss Russia. They heard much about the absence of racial and religious warfare in Canada : of co-operation and association, as against domination. When it came to the question of the Six Counties, no one knew anything about them.

A good deal of confusion was due to the phrase "the people of Ulster". As used, this left out the Catholic Irish altogether. If there were no Catholics, questions of minority and majority did not arise. "Loyalty" was another curious word. If you were a Protestant and agreed to everything proposed you would always be "loyal". Before the War, some in the North East wanted, if need be, to call in the Kaiser! They were still "loyal". The Catholics might die in tens of thousands for the Allied cause, but they would still be "disloyal", and served as bogies or monsters.

Mr. Armour went on to say that he saw no difference between the Partition of Poland and the Partition of Ireland - Neither was right. Yet Britain talked of going to war to prevent another Partition of Poland. He recalled his father's dying vision of a United Ireland when once the right of investigation was admitted. This right had never been allowed for a single moment and he hoped that the Anti-Partition of Ireland League would bring it about.

Mr. T. J. HICKEY, Hon. Sec. of the League, described how the League had received two letters recently, one from Mr. G.B. Shaw and the other from a "Northern Ireland" Minister. The latter said that the solution for Partition was for the people of the South to come back into the United Kingdom and meanwhile what right had we to interfere in Irish affairs ! Mr Shaw said that when the capitalists of the North are driven to join forces with the agriculturists of the South, Partition would be done away with. Mr. Hickey deplored the lethargy of the Irish in London.

Mr. BARRY WALSH, Organising Secretary of the League, pointed out that the North East may be the starting off point for an attempt to re-conquer Ireland. He also remarked how strange it was that there were no headlines in the Press about the dastardly explosions in Belfast where people's houses were blown down, and compared this with the prominence accorded to the comparatively minor explosions in England.

Miss McDermott also spoke and underlined the danger of an attempt to re-conquer Ireland.

Mr. D. BRENNAN, the Chairman of the Branch, in a farewell speech again emphasised that the League was non-political and was open to all whatever their views. The people of Ireland were all opposed to Partition, with the exception of a very small minority in the North East.

It was announced that the next meeting of the Branch was to be held on Thursday the 29th June at 8 o'clock.