

REPORT OF SPEECHES made at the Meeting of the
HIGHGATE BRANCH of the ANTI-PARTITION OF IRELAND LEAGUE
held at the WINCHESTER HOTEL on Thursday 1st June, 1939.

Mr. W.S. ARMOUR, the well known author, began his speech by saying that he was a "Black Protestant" from the "Black North" and that his father was a Presbyterian Minister who had been unpopular because he had preached tolerance and goodwill. The Speaker went on to say that in the North the unforgivable crime was to DIC with the wrong foot and that furthermore dispassionate examination of any question was not possible where politics were involved. Anyone who did not accept the full Unionist viewpoint was regarded as against it, for it was impossible to be neutral.

In England it was possible to talk about Palestine, and the average Englishman knew that there were both Jews and Arabs there, and he favoured one or other as the case might be. Since the move towards an alliance with Russia, it was even possible to discuss Russia. Lord Halifax has stated that any question can be solved by discussion, given goodwill. Ireland is however, not a subject for discussion in England.

The Speaker went on to say that we often hear of the splendid loyalty of Ulster, but that those who used these words, did not really mean the people of Ulster, they only refer to the Unionists. The fact that the Nationalists are in a majority in the nine counties of Ulster is ignored. He drew a parallel with Korea, where the Japanese are in control, but pointed out that at least the Japanese did not profess to Koreans. As a famous Frenchman said in the 18th Century the Protestants of Ireland presented themselves as the Irish and ended by believing it. As for loyalty, we must not forget that pre-War Ulster wanted to call in the Kaiser to save Protestantism in Ireland. Loyalty was, however, a strange word, and could only be applied to Conservatives. A Catholic, might lay down his life for the Empire, as hundreds of thousands did, but he could never be considered as loyal. Catholics were only bogies or monsters.

Mr. Armour said he could see no difference between the partition of Ireland and the partition of Poland and yet England was prepared to go to War rather than see the latter take place. He ended his speech by saying that his father when dying had a vision of six a United Ireland and this would take place once the right of investigation was conceded. He hoped that our organisation would bring this about.