

Should the British Government be blamed or praised for the partition of Ireland?

Praised

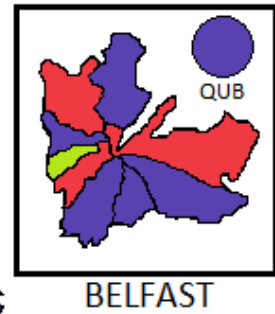
1. The British Government respected the wishes of the Protestant community in Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom. Through establishing parliaments in Dublin and Belfast, the British Government allow the north and south to govern themselves while respecting the wishes of the Protestant community to remain part the of the United Kingdom.
2. The British Government protected a minority facing cultural oppression and a denial of its religious and political identity. The Catholic Church's religious policies, Gaelic cultural and Irish language initiatives and nationalist violence all threatened Protestant traditions of religious liberty, obedience to the Crown and identification with Britain and the Empire
3. The British Government listened to Protestants and so did not capitulate to Catholic violence. Partition prevented Catholics seizing power throughout the whole of Ireland through force rather than consent of the inhabitants of Ireland.
4. The British Government ensured the continuing prosperity of Northern Ireland. Politicians in Northern Ireland were able to make decisions that promoted the growth of its industry and society and Northern Ireland used this prosperity to support the British war effort in World War Two.
5. The British Government devised a new strategy to cope with the radicalisation of the division between the Protestant and Catholic communities. The economic history of Ireland had produced different fortunes for these communities, and the Catholics blamed Britain for its failure to match the growth for Protestants. When this division became militarised, Britain found a new political settlement to prevent war between Protestants and Catholics.



1914 postcard produced in Belfast

IRISH (UK) GENERAL ELECTION 1918

- SINN FÉIN
- IRISH UNIONISTS
- I.P.P.
- LABOUR UNIONISTS
- INDEPENDENT UNIONIST





People gather outside the Belfast Telegraph's offices to check the names of those killed during rioting, 1920

PARALLEL HISTORIES

“This case of Mrs. McCann is a solemn warning to those of us in Ireland who feared such results, and I can assure this House that it has strengthened the unalterable determination of Loyalists and Protestants... that at any sacrifice... they will struggle to retain what they believe to be the only guarantee for the continued enjoyment of their civil and religious rights, that is that they should live under laws... of this Imperial Parliament.”

James Campbell, M.P. for Dublin University, in a speech to the House of Commons on 7 February 1911

The McCann case was a consequence of the Roman Catholic decree, *Ne Temere*, issued in 1907 and lifted in 1970. This decree obliged a Catholic in a mixed marriage with a Protestant to ensure that the children be baptised and brought up as Catholics.

Agnes McCann was a Presbyterian, married to a Catholic. Agnes refused to bring up her children as Catholics. As a result, her husband took their children away from her in 1910 and she never saw them again.



“In the late eighteenth century it was possible for a significant section of the Protestant political class in the north to have a natural primary identification with ‘Ireland’. Yet, all the key developments of the nineteenth century had weakened that identification: the development under O’Connell of a form of Catholic nationalism which disregarded the concerns of Protestant liberals; the dramatic industrialisation of Belfast, locked into a Belfast-Glasgow-Liverpool triangle of economic interconnectedness which contrasted with the relative weakening of economic links with the rest of the country; and last but not least, the willingness of the British state until, at least, the 1880s to regard the Protestants as a potential garrison against Catholic revolt.”

Paul Bew, Northern Ireland historian

Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant was signed by 471,000 people in September 1912 during the Home Rule crisis



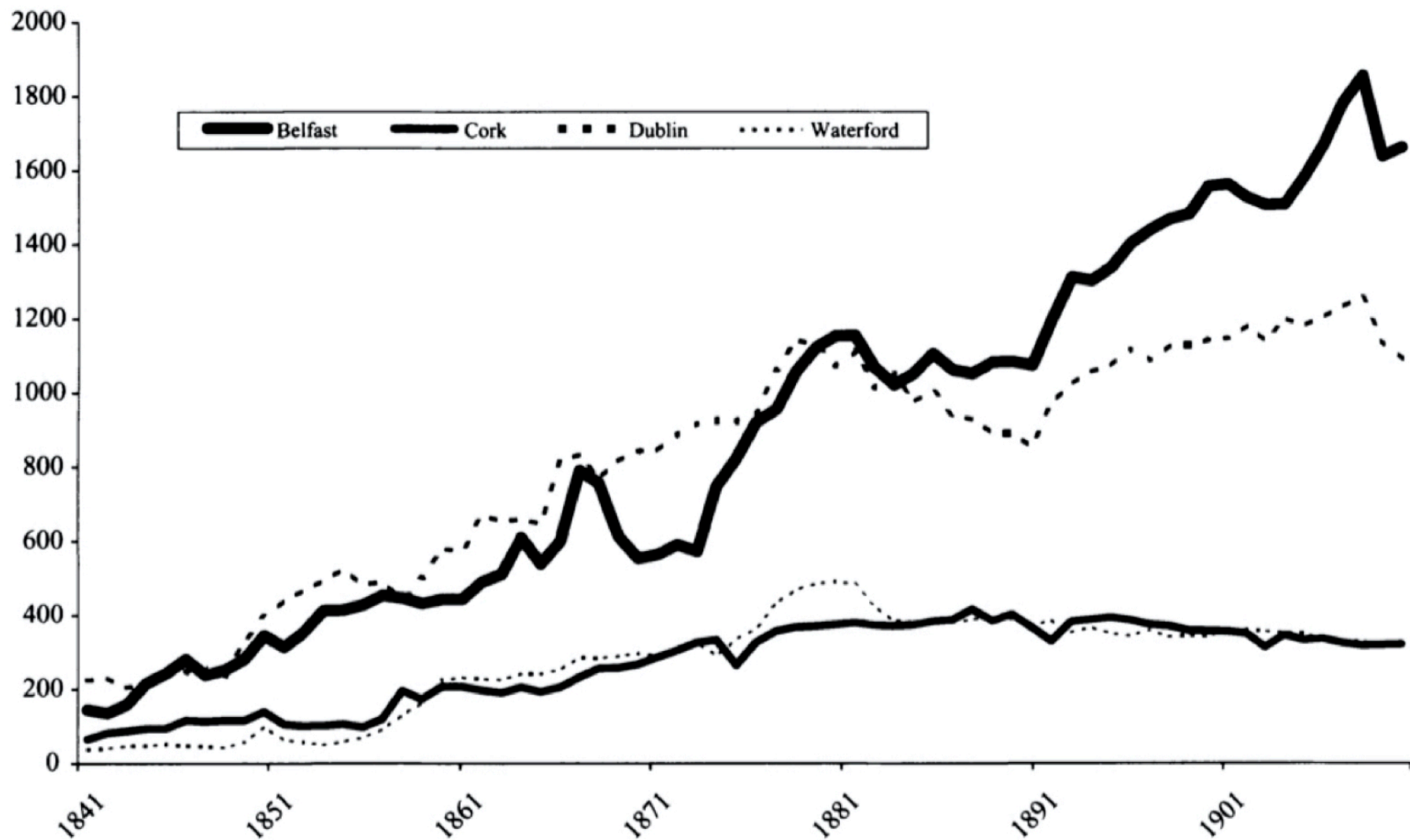
Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant.

Being convinced in our consciences that Home Rule would be disastrous to the material well-being of Ulster as well as of the whole of Ireland, subversive of our civil and religious freedom, destructive of our citizenship and perilous to the unity of the Empire, we, whose names are under-written, men of Ulster, loyal subjects of His Gracious Majesty King George V., humbly relying on the God whom our fathers in days of stress and trial confidently trusted, do hereby pledge ourselves in solemn Covenant throughout this our time of threatened calamity to stand by one another in defending for ourselves and our children our cherished position of equal citizenship in the United Kingdom and in using all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland. ¶ And in the event of such a Parliament being forced upon us we further solemnly and mutually pledge ourselves to refuse to recognise its authority. ¶ In sure confidence that God will defend the right we hereto subscribe our names. ¶ And further, we individually declare that we have not already signed this Covenant.

The above was signed by me at _____
"Ulster Day," Saturday, 28th September, 1912.

— God Save the King. —

Volume of Trade from Irish ports (1000 tons) taken from P.Solar's article in the The Economic History Review November 2006



Herr Hitler's Death

Callers at German Legation

THE Taoiseach and Minister for External Affairs, Mr. de Valera, accompanied by the Secretary to the Department of External Affairs, Mr. J. P. Walshe, called on Dr. Eduard Hempel, the German Minister, last evening to express his condolence.

The Swastika at the German Legation was flown at half-mast at 58 Northumberland road.

An official of the German Legation in Dublin last night told an *Irish Times* reporter that they had heard of the death of Herr Hitler on the German Radio on the previous night, but had received no official intimation from Berlin.

He would not make any statement about the present crisis, but said that the Legation had received many messages of sympathy and there had been a large number of callers.

President Truman stated yesterday that he had it on the best authority that Herr Hitler is dead, states a Washington (Reuter) cable.

The President did not say what his authority was, but he declared that he was convinced that the late Fuehrer had been killed.

The Cork Examiner

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 1, 1916

THE news that was officially announced on Saturday evening that the leaders of those fighting the troops in Dublin had advised a general laying down of arms was heard with relief by every genuine lover of Ireland.

This text from *The Cork Examiner* refers to the Easter Rising in Dublin of 1916

ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE.

→ LORD KITCHENER'S ARMY. ←

NOTICE.

Members of the U.V.F. serving in any Belfast Regiment who have not yet enlisted in the Ulster Division of Lord Kitchener's Army can do so by applying at the

OLD TOWN HALL

ANY DAY

Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Men so enlisting will be posted to their old Battallions in whichever Camp they may happen to be, and as far as possible under their old Officers.

GEO. RICHARDSON,
Lieut.-General, G.O.C. U.V.F.

Headquarters, Old Town Hall, Belfast.
10th September, 1914.

*"Quit yourselves like men, and comply
with your country's demand."*

—EDWARD CARSON.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Should the British Government be blamed or praised for the partition of Ireland?

Blamed

1. The British Government rejected the wishes of the people of Ireland and instead imposed a settlement that no one in Ireland wanted. Partition divided Ireland, leaving northern Catholics and southern Protestants as minorities in states they did want to be part of, and it dismissed democratic support for independence for the whole of Ireland.
2. The British Government favoured the demands of the Protestant minority over the Catholic majority of Ireland. The British Government had consistently employed a divide and rule strategy in Ireland and favoured Protestants while oppressing Catholics. Partition ensured the British Government retained power in Ireland and continued the division between Protestants and Catholics by granting the Protestants, a paramilitary force to oppress Catholics in the B Specials.
3. The British Government radicalised politics in Ireland by acquiescing to Protestant opposition to Home Rule. This acquiescence corroded the faith of Irish nationalists in parliamentary democracy, leading to support for revolutionary politics. As a result, the British Government lost control of Ireland and partition was the hasty attempt to withdraw while retaining some control.
4. The British Government caused a civil war in the south of Ireland. Partition rejected the democratic wishes of the Irish people and forced the Irish to choose whether to abandon their aim for an independent, unified Ireland. The British Government then continued to interfere in Irish Politics by causing conflict by supporting the Free State Party who accepted partition, over the IRA who rejected it.
5. The British Government caused the division of Ireland into two communities which made partition inevitable. The British Government used the Protestants as a garrison against foreign threats and oppressed the Catholics. This different treatment produced two different economic fortunes and hence two different political identities.

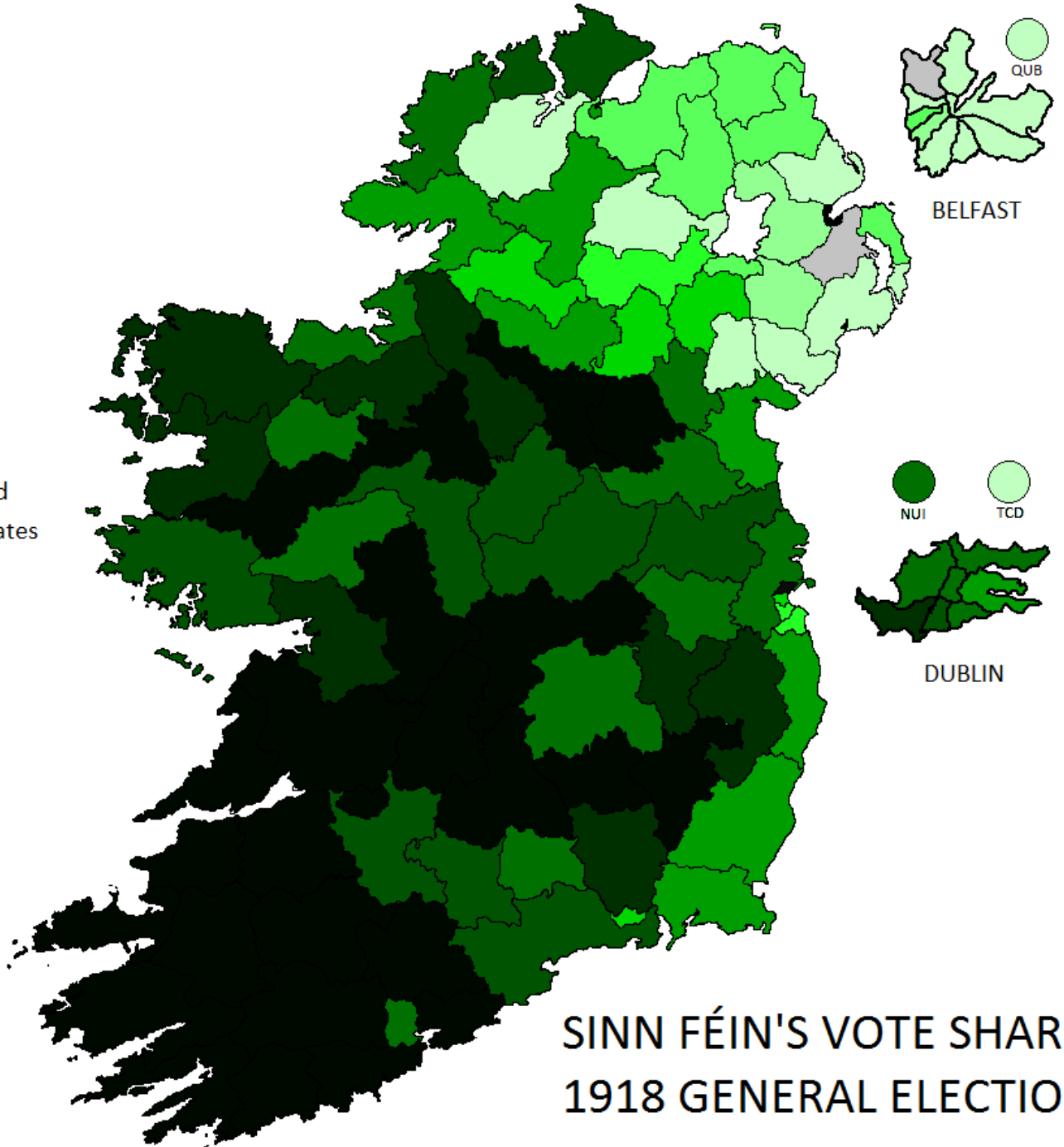
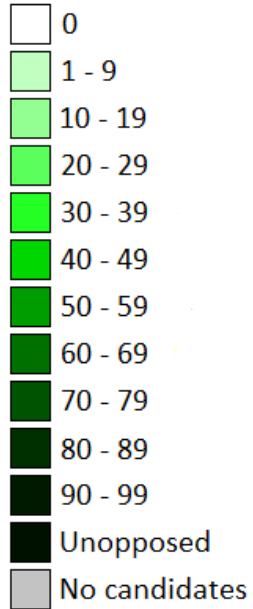


Protest in Dublin following the hanging of members of the IRA in 1921



Poster promoting a language collection for the Gaelic League in 1913. The Gaelic League was founded in 1893 to promote the Irish language.

% of vote



SINN FÉIN'S VOTE SHARE,
1918 GENERAL ELECTION

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER FOR TRANSMISSION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TO CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND BY MAGAZINE POST.

No. 4246.—VOL. CLVII.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1920.

ONE SHILLING.

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IN IRELAND! A SCENE SUGGESTIVE OF YPRES OR ARRAS, AT A TOWN NEAR BELFAST.

There are to be seen in Ireland in these troubled times buildings and streets which suggest war-devastated areas in France and Belgium. The particular photograph shown above was taken in Lisburn, where numerous houses, shops, and other premises belonging to Sinn Feiners and Nationalists were burnt down by angry crowds, as a reprisal for the murder of Mr. Oswald Swanzy, District

Inspector of Police. It may be recalled that he was recently shot at Lisburn while on his way home from church on a Sunday. Lisburn is a linen manufacturing town about eight miles inland from Belfast on the river Lagan. Further photographs of the damage done there are given on a later page. Nearly 200 claims for compensation have been made, for sums varying from £1000 to £69,000.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOPICAL.



“The rebellion and its treasonable connection through the Clan-na-Gael with Germany, the harm it has done to the Empire, is forgotten, because they now think that Sinn Feinism and Irish patriotism are synonymous terms. The fact that the rebellion has brought Home Rule once again on a political platform induces them to think, with some reason, that rebellion pay better than constitutional methods. Hence there is a widespread opposition to Mr. Redmond and his party. We must now expect more extremist views to prevail.”

General John Maxwell in a letter to Herbert Asquith, British Prime Minister, 1916. Maxwell was sent as the military governor of Ireland following the Easter Rising broke out on 24 April 1916. Under his command, 3,400 people were arrested and 15 executed.

SEARCHING FOR ARMS IN ULSTER.



AN ULSTER VOLUNTEER: "Sure, don't ye see I've got no
arms, constable?"

CONSTABLE: "They must be hid in the *Ulster*, then."

(About 100,000 rifles and machine guns are hidden in Ulster.)

Historic Events Series]

[No. 10.]

Cartoon from 1914 following the Larne gun-running operation during which the Ulster Unionist Council smuggled almost 25,000 rifles from the German Empire. The Volunteer in the cartoon is wearing an 'Ulster', a type of overcoat to which the constable refers.

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL LOGIE
Archbishop of Armagh
and Primate of all Ireland

HIS GRACE THE MOST REV. J. WALSH
Archbishop of Dublin
and Primate of Ireland

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE, CO. KILDARE
Where the Prelates of Ireland received the Deputation from the Mansion House

Ireland's Solemn League and Covenant A National Pledge

'Denying the right of the British Government to enforce compulsory service in this country, we pledge ourselves solemnly to one another to resist Conscription by the most effective means at our disposal.'

The above was signed by me

AT.....

on..... day of..... 1918.

Name.....

Address.....

EAMON DE VALERA M.P.
representing SINN FEIN

JOHN DILLON, M.P.
representing Irish Parliamentary Party

ARTHUR GRIFFITH
representing SINN FEIN

JOSEPH DEVLIN, M.P.
representing Irish Parliamentary Party

WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Dublin)
President Irish Trade Union Congress

WILLIAM O'BRIEN, M.P.
representing 'All for Ireland League'

M. EGAN, J.P., T.C.
Cork

THE RIGHT HON. LAURENCE O'NEILL
THE LORD MAYOR
who presided at the Mansion House Conference
Ireland's Envoy to Washington

MANSION HOUSE, DUBLIN
Where the Conference assembled.

also present
T. JOHNSON, BELFAST

T.M. HEALY, M.P.
representing 'All for Ireland League'

J.J. O'REILLY, del

In reaction to the British Government imposing conscription in Ireland in April 1918, the Lord Mayor of Dublin convened the Irish Anti-Conscription League. This League issued this pledge in April 1918



“These men will go down to history as heroes and martyrs and I will go down - if I go down at all - as a bloody British soldier.”

Tom Kettle’s parting words to his friends on the eve of his departure for France, July 1916. Tom Kettle was an Irish MP who went onto die on the Western Front. The “these men” refers to Kettle’s friends, Patrick Pearse and other leaders of the Easter Rising.



“My dear Winston:

I am very anxious about Ireland, and I want you to help. We cannot leave things as they are. de Valera has particularly challenged the British Empire and, unless he is put down, the Empire will look silly. I know how difficult it is to spare men and material, but this seems to me to be the urgent problem for us.”

David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister, to Winston Churchill, Minister for War, 10 May 1920



Poster for the 1918 election, Irish and British women over 30 who owned property were entitled to vote in general elections for the first time in 1918