

an amelioration? The elections for the Chamber on April 26 resulted in a firm majority in favor of the three years' military service, but the réelections in May were a great success, for Socialists like Jaurès wrote in *L'Humanité* against the unbridled evil of nationalism and reaction. On June 16, the French Socialist Congress adopted a resolution to be introduced at the international Socialist Congress of Vienna, in which, with an appeal to the declaration of the Social-Democrats of Alsace and to the Congress of the German Socialists at Jena, it was demanded that Alsace-Lorraine should be granted autonomy, as by this the *rapprochement* between France and Germany, so necessary for the world's peace, would be considerably facilitated. The course of the world's events has taken another direction over the body of Jaurès. But M. Poincaré's purpose was neither *rapprochement* nor autonomy. He wanted to recapture Alsace-Lorraine with the help of Sukomlinoff and his friends.'

JUNE 9 is a red-letter day in British legal history. On this day just sixty years ago the House of Lords pronounced a decision in the great Thellusson will case, which had kept the lawyers busy and comfortable for more than two generations. Peter Thellusson was the son of the Ambassador of Geneva at the Court of Louis XIV. He settled in London, and at his death left an enormous fortune to accumulate during the lives of his three sons and of all their sons. The accumulated fund, which was estimated to be about £19,000,000, was then to be used to buy estates for the eldest lineal descendant of his three sons. One result of this remarkable document was the Thellusson Act restraining men from leaving their property to accumulate for more than twenty-one years. When Thellusson's last grandson died in 1856 there was another lawsuit to decide whether his property should go to the eldest male descendant of Thellusson or to the eldest male descendant of Thellusson's eldest son. The latter won the verdict, and then it was found — what might have been expected — that legal charges had eaten away so much of the money that instead of

millions there was little more left than the original sum which Peter Thellusson bequeathed by will.

JOHN BULL's other island is surely no place for tourists if the *Irish Times* (Unionist) of June 6 is to be believed. Under the heading 'Lawlessness in Ireland' it prints:

'Yesterday evening four policemen and a woman were shot in one of the chief streets of Dublin. The shots were fired in broad daylight, in the presence of a considerable police force and of a large number of civilians. A concert at the Mansion House, organized by the followers of the late James Connolly, had been prohibited, but the usual crowd assembled. When the police were dispersing it at the top of Dawson Street four or five young men drew revolvers and shot a sergeant and three constables. The only victim of the second volley, which was fired immediately afterwards, was a young woman. None of the wounds was fatal, and we hope to learn that none of them is serious; but the outrage is, nevertheless, grave and startling. Its audacity is hardly less remarkable than the impunity with which it was committed. The police seem to have struggled manfully with their assailants, but these contrived to get away in the crowd. We are all familiar with similar incidents — too many of them tragic incidents — in lonely parts of Ireland. Now lawlessness has progressed so far that wearers of the King's uniform are targets for sedition in a main thoroughfare of the Irish capital. Yesterday also, within a few miles from Dublin, a District Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary was assaulted. On Wednesday, as we report to-day, two men were shot at Tulla, in County Clare. It is suggested that they offended the "powers that be" by refusing to boycott a schoolmaster who had served in the army. Nobody has been brought to justice for crimes which were committed weeks, and even months, ago. The murderers of the two constables in Tipperary, of Mr. Milling, of the policeman at Limerick Workhouse, of the sergeant and constable at Knocklong are still unpunished. The fault does not lie with the Royal Irish Constabulary, whose zeal and steadfast courage in their perilous work are beyond

praise. It lies with Irish democracy itself, which refuses to help the Irish Executive to resist a degrading and soul-paralyzing régime of terrorism. If the people of Nationalist Ireland dared to speak, eighty per cent of them would declare their loathing of the prevailing lawlessness and their devout desire to be delivered from it. They know that it is bringing disgrace and sorrow to their country. They know that their own pockets must pay for outrages with which they have no sympathy. Under the new Compensation Act awards have been made out of local rates to injured policemen. The four men who were shot

yesterday will have a claim — a perfectly righteous claim — upon the already oppressive rates of the City of Dublin. Yet the majority of Irish Nationalists, partly through fear and partly through apathy, make no protest, and thus aggravate the difficulties of the Government's task. That is a task, however, which, formidable and thankless though it be, the Government must fulfill with unfaltering purpose. Its first duty is to maintain the law, to enforce order, to pursue and punish crime. In the present state of Ireland no other duty is half so important as this or can be preferred to it for an instant.'

## THE EDITOR'S NOTE-BOOK

**Dr. Renner** is chief of the Austrian Delegation to the Peace Conference.

\* \* \*

No American needs an introduction either to **Mr. Shaw** or **Mr. Chesterton**. **Mr. Chesterton**, it may be noted, has succeeded to the editorship of the *New*

*Witness*, left vacant by the lamented death of his brother Cecil Chesterton.

\* \* \*

**Winifred Stephens** has long been distinguished as an interpreter of things French. She was the editor of the *Book of France, 1915*, and the translator of Anatole France's life of *St. Joan of Arc*.