

Welshman Will Endeavor

**To Mould the Opinions
Of the People of Ireland**

IT is curious to note that in the battle between Britain and Ireland, if we may call it a battle, the British leader is a Welshman, and a rising leader of the Irish is also a Welshman. This is Mr. Hamilton Edwards, one of the new proprietors of the Freeman's Journal, of Dublin. His partner is Mr. Martin Fitzgerald, a retail liquor dealer and long a champion of an independent Ireland. It is not surprising to find Mr. Fitzgerald investing some of his surplus wealth in a paper dedicated to the cause to which he has so long been committed, but it is rather amazing to find Edwards in such company. Hitherto Edwards has been known to such as know him at all as a brilliant newspaper man, a protégé of the Harmsworths, and more lately the owner of a racing stable in Ireland. His career has been an interesting one so far, according to T. P. O'Connor, who writes about him in the Philadelphia Public Ledger, and may in the future be even sensational. If he has become an adherent to Sinn Féin he will prove one of the most influential of that body, for he is one of the best-equipped of newspaper men, and is bound to greatly increase the power of the Freeman's Journal.

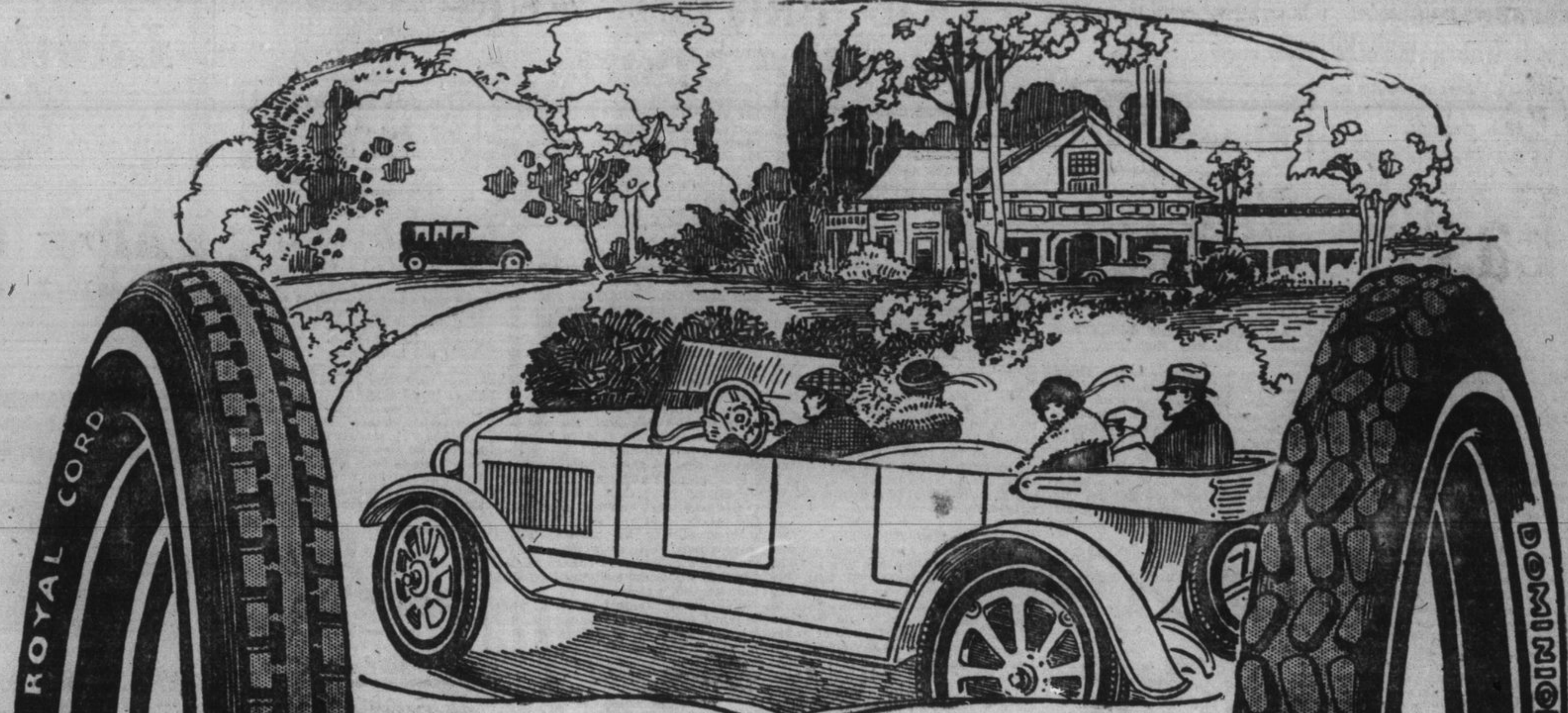
He was a discovery of George Newnes, the famous publisher who owed his great success largely to his instinct for picking out brilliant subordinates; but George Newnes had had the falling that he was unable to keep them. As O'Connor says, Newnes was large in big things but small in small things. He lost Arthur Pearson because he would not advance his salary, and Pearson became one of his most formidable rivals. He also lost Edwards because he permitted Harmsworth to tempt him away. Edwards had done good work for Newnes, and he was to do still better work for Harmsworth. He became, in fact, one of the mainstays of the Harmsworth organization, and a shareholder in several of the publications of the present Lord Northcliffe. Later on, when the chief proprietor wished to reconstruct, or to buy out his partners, Edwards' "bit" amounted to about a million dollars. Mr. Edwards was then forty-five years old, in his very prime, and bursting with energy, but being unable to find the particular occupation that he desired, he eventually went to Ireland and set up a racing stable, just like another of Northcliffe's protégés, Mr. Kennedy Jones. There he has lived for the past three or four years, and it may be that like others before him, he has become more Irish than the Irish.

Apparently the old lure of journalism has mastered him, but it amazes his friends to find him in the Sinn Féin camp, for when he lived in London he was a Tory of the Tories. He was a member of fashionable Tory clubs; in dress he was a dandy, and his associations were chiefly with the "ruling classes." There is a possibility, of course, that he would endeavor through the Journal to win his readers to the old Nationalist views, but in view of the passions and tumult in Ireland to-day this would appear to be a forlorn hope. It would be curious if he were to try the experiment of changing the Journal from a paper of opinion to the sort of paper that Mr. Edwards knows most about, the sort that built up the Harmsworth fortunes and his own. After all, is it any more remarkable to find a Welsh Tory one of the moulders of Irish opinion than to find an Irishman like Northcliffe one of the great moulders of English opinion? Of course, Northcliffe does not belong to the "honest party" as the Jacobites used to call themselves, although he is favorable to some sort of Home Rule scheme, and his antipathy to Lloyd George and his recent "break" with Sir Edward Carson will probably lead him to take an extremely liberal view of what constitutes Home Rule.

Ordinarily a newspaper proprietor is as cautious as any other capitalist with his property and will no more hazard its prosperity for his own whims and personal fancies than would the owner of a manufacturing plant. Northcliffe is in a different position. The great papers with which his name is associated, the London Times and the Daily Mail, are his hobbies. If they should be wrecked to-morrow, profitable though both of them are, and particularly the Mail, the Northcliffe fortune would continue to grow. He can be very romantic with them if he chooses. The Harmsworth millions are founded on the rock of Answers and are nourished by a score of other papers, the names of which are unknown even to a professional journalist like "Tay Pay."

The career of Lord Northcliffe, to which in some unaccountable way we seem to have drifted, has been an amazing one. In the past ten years he has perhaps exerted a greater influence than any other man who might be named. Thirty years ago he was the editor of an obscure cycling journal. When he started Answers the capital was \$5,000, much of it borrowed. It was a pure gamble, and indeed some notable British publishing successes are to be considered as lotteries rather than newspapers. The owner is really the croupier instead of the editor. Their ideal business manager would be a bookmaker. This is not to deny the keenest kind of ability to men like Newnes, Pearson and Northcliffe, who have made great successes of them, for the field has been an open one and still remains open for anyone who thinks he can put any considerable kind of swath in it.

Objects to Publicity.
Washington, April 1.—Princess Nadia Vasilievna Toubetzkoj, styled the most beautiful nurse in the world, objected to the admiration of movie men, reporters and a curious public, while performing her duties at Garfield Memorial Hospital. Consequently, she left after informing the superintendent that the ordeal was "too nerve racking," and has not returned.



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