

THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TO THE LIBERTY LOVING PEOPLE OF AMERICA:

ONCE AGAIN IRELAND HAS SYMPATHETICALLY RESPONDED TO THE WORLD WAVE OF FREEDOM. SHE HAS DEFINITELY DETERMINED HER OWN FUTURE AS AN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, READY TO CON-SORT WITH OTHER NATIONS IN FRIENDLY INTERCOURSE AND ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY OF RIGHT.

IN THIS FATEFUL HOUR HER PEOPLE APPEAL, THROUGH ME, TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA.

THE UNITED STATES IS A GREAT AND POWERFUL REPUBLIC—LONG CON-FIRMED IN ITS OWN HARD WON LIBERTIES. THE SISTER REPUBLIC, NEW-BORN IN IRELAND UNDER AMERICA'S INSPIRATION, IS THREATENED IN ITS INFANT LIFE AS WAS THE UNITED COLONIES BY CRUEL AND OVER MASTER-ING FORCE. WE EARNESTLY PLEAD FOR THE ASSISTANCE WHICH, IF PROMPT AND ENERGETIC, WILL BE DECISIVE.

OUR PRIME APPEAL IS POLITICAL, THE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF OUR REPUBLIC BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE FINAL AIM. THAT ATTAINED, EVERYTHING IS ATTAINED. IN THE INITIAL STAGES, HOW-EVER, WE NEED FINANCIAL HELP, EVEN AS DID THE COLONIES HERE. BY THE POLICY OF BRITISH RULERS IRELAND HAS BEEN KEPT DELIBERATELY POOR THAT SHE MIGHT BE MADE SUBJECT AND SUBSERVIENT.

ON NO LAND HAS NATURE SO LAVISHED HER GIFTS. BRITAIN'S ENERVAT-ING HAND HAS BROUGHT EVERY ONE TO NAUGHT. OUR RICHEST LANDS LIE UNTILLED, OUR MINES UNWORKED, OUR BOGS UNCUT, THE HARVEST OF OUR SEAS UNREAPED, OUR HARBOURS EMPTY; OUR RIVERS RUN IDLE TO THE SEA. THE PEASANT IS DRIVEN FORTH TO MAKE PLACE FOR THE STEER.

UNDER KINDLY NATIVE RULE ALL THIS WILL BE CHANGED. THE PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, AND THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT HAVE PLANS FOR THE PURPOSE. DAIL EIREANN HAS SUMMONED THE PEOPLE AT HOME TO THE REBUILDING OF THE NATION ON A BASIS OF BROTHERLY LOVE AND CO-OPERATION.

BUT ENGLAND STILL UNLOADS HER FINANCIAL BURDENS ON IRELAND. THE TRIBUTE EXACTED BY THE FOREIGNER PREVENTS US FROM RAISING AT THE MOMENT AN ADEQUATE TAX OF OUR OWN. AN ADVANCE LOAN FROM COUNTRIES MORE HAPPILY PLACED IS NECESSARY, AND HAS BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT—DETERMINED THAT THE RE-PUBLIC WILL LIVE AND THE DEBT BE REPAID. AMERICANS CAN HELP IN THE PROJECTED WORK OF RESTORATION AND RECONSTRUCTION BY SUBSCRIB-ING.

AMERICANS OF IRISH BLOOD YOU WILL NOT REFUSE TO RENEW YOUR FILIAL TIES, AND TAKE A FURTHER SHARE IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE RACE AND OF THE LAND FROM WHICH YOU SPRUNG! SHE IS YOUR MOTHERLAND AS WELL AS OURS. DO YOU NOT WISH HER TO TAKE HER RIGHTFUL PLACE AMONG THE NATIONS? CAN YOU WITHHOLD YOUR ASSISTANCE WHEN IT IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO PLACE HER THERE?

THINK OF YOUR FATHERS AND YOUR MOTHERS—THE MEN AND WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS, THAT IN UNENDING STREAM THROUGH CASTLE GARDEN MADE THEIR WISTFUL WAY HERE TO WIN LIFE AND HONOR IN THIS GREAT LAND OF LIBERTY AND OPPORTUNITY.

BOYS AND GIRLS, SUCH AS THEY WERE, STRONG AND NOBLE AND BRIGHT, GENTLE AND PURE, ARE STILL IN IRELAND TO-DAY. THE SAME CAUSES ARE ABOUT TO DRIVE THEM FORTH. WILL YOU NOT HELP TO KEEP THEM IN THEIR OWN LAND?

THEY LOVE IRELAND AS YOUR FATHERS AND MOTHERS LOVED IRELAND. IT BREAKS THEIR HEARTS TO LEAVE THAT LAND AS IT BROKE THE HEARTS OF THOSE BOYS AND GIRLS—YOUR PARENTS. THE TEARS OF THE MOTHERS AND FATHERS TO BE LEFT BEHIND IN MANY A LONELY COTTAGE ARE FULL AS BITTER TO-DAY, THEIR GRIEF AS WILD, AS THE TEARS AND THE GRIEF OF THOSE YOUR PARENTS LEFT BEHIND NEVER TO SEE AGAIN. YOU CANNOT REFUSE YOUR AID TO END SO MUCH SORROW, TO PRESERVE THESE BOYS AND GIRLS FOR THE LAND WHICH NEEDS THEM, AND FOR THE PEOPLE THEY LOVE.

WILL YOU NOT AID TO BRING TO THEM AT HOME UNDER THEIR OWN FLAG THE BLESSINGS OF THE LIBERTY THEY MIGHT HOPE FOR, AND WHICH YOU ENJOY UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES.

DEMAND FOR THEM THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN WAY OF LIFE AND OBEDIENCE. IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NECESSARY. YOU MUST ORGANIZE TO BE EFFECTIVE. BEGIN AT ONCE IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY. TEACH YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS THE JUSTICE OF IRELAND'S CAUSE. IT IS THE CAUSE OF WORLD LIBERTY AND TRUE DEMOCRACY.

SEPTEMBER,
1919 A. D.

Eamon de Valera