

Armament Conference Receives Setback.

France Refuses to Abandon Submarine Building--Britain Has Gone to Utmost Limit With Ireland--New Canadian Ministry Announced.

THE SUBMARINE ISSUE.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 28. Efforts to limit the naval strength of the powers in submarines and auxiliary craft came to an abrupt end to-day, after "they" had driven the French and British Arms Conference delegates into a plain spoken exchange over the possibilities of future war between France and the British Empire. The French delegates, acting on instruction from their Government, told the Conference that France must remain free to build a submarine fleet of 90,000 tons, nearly three times as great as she now possesses, and to construct in addition "crusiers," destroyers and other auxiliary craft up to 330,000 tons. The Japanese, Italian and American delegates replied with expressions of surprise and regret, while the British openly charged that such a building programme must be regarded as a menace to British shores. Arthur Balfour added that he had no doubt of occasion—arose, Britain would be equal to it, but only if she reserved complete freedom of action as to the construction of all types of auxiliaries useful against underwater craft. Balfour declared that while it was unthinkable that anything but friendship should prevail between Britain and France, history recalled that they had been in conflict in the distant past. Britain had always possessed superior naval armament and inferior land forces to France, he said, adding "never in the history of France has she had to fear the power of Britain to strike at her heart. No inferior military power has ever been able to invade or seriously imperil a superior military power merely because she had more ships. Supposed the inconceivable happened, and close allies became enemies, it is perfectly clear that in that case no British superiority in capital ships would imperil the life of France for an hour. Now compare the position of France in the face of a superior British surface fleet with the position of Britain in the face of France with the largest submarine fleet in the world. She could use that fleet for commerce destruction, and it is difficult to believe that in time of stress she would not use it if Britain were unarmed against the submarine. It was evident that France has the feeling the weapon could destroy her very existence. Agreeing that further argument would be useless the committee turned its attention to collateral subjects.

THE UTMOST LIMIT.
LONDON, Dec. 28. A statement from Premier Lloyd George was made public to-night, declaring that the British Government had gone the utmost limit in the Irish Agreement and would not reopen negotiations. The delay in ratification, the statement said, was holding up the evacuation of the

Labor, James Murdock (not definite); Secretary of State, A. B. Copp; Minister of Agriculture, W. R. Motherwell; Minister of the Interior, E. J. McMurray; Portfolio not yet allocated, Dr. J. S. King, Senator Bostock, T. A. Low and D. D. McKenzie.

NOT YET COMPLETED.
OTTAWA, Dec. 28. Official announcement of the new Canadian Cabinet will not be made to-night.

DECLARES FOR TREATY.
DUBLIN, Dec. 28. Special meetings to consider the Irish Treaty continue to be held. The Cavan Urban Council has adopted a resolution setting forth its high appreciation of the terms of the Treaty, and while recognizing the great services of the members opposing ratification, declare "we unanimously request them for the sake of our dear country to bury their differences and stand for ratification."

MEANS RATIFICATION ASSURED.
LONDON, Dec. 28. The Central News has what it calls a reliable report from Dublin that at a secret meeting of Dail Eiranna leaders representing supporters and opponents of the British-Irish Agreement a compromise was reached which will insure ratification.

AUSTRALIAN CABINET.
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, Dec. 28. The Australian Cabinet was re-constructed to-day as follows: Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs, W. M. Hughes; Home and Territories, Geo. Foster Pearce; Re-creation, E. D. Miller; Trade and Customs, A. S. Rogers; Postmaster General, Alex. Poynton; Treasury, S. M. Bruce; Works and Railway, R. W. Foster; Vice, President Executive Council, J. Earle.

ADHERE TO "NO VIOLENCE" CREED.
AHMADABAD, INDIA, Dec. 28. An attempt to force adoption by Indian Nationalists to-day of a motion declaring that complete independence from the British Empire should be attained by "possible and proper means" instead of by "legitimate and peaceful means" was frustrated by Mahatma Gandhi, Nationalist leader, who warned the Congress against alienating the sympathies of moderates. A special committee of the Congress rejected the motion by overwhelming majority and adopted Gandhi's resolution in favour of maintaining the existing creed of non-violence. When an attempt was made to move the extremists' resolution in full the Congress President ruled it out of order.

FISH-FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER.
OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 28. The total catch of sea-fish on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts for November, totalled 487,542 cwts., valued at \$1,332,118 as compared with 382,208 cwts., and value of \$1,155,115 in November of last year. The big increase in the herring catch on the Pacific was largely responsible for the higher figures. Cod, haddock, hake and pollock totalled 55,781 cwts., in November, compared with 61,912 cwts., last year. Three fishermen were drowned on the Atlantic coast in the month.

PURITY OF PARLIAMENT.
PARIS, Dec. 28. If a resolution in the Chamber of Deputies, which forbids members of Parliament from accepting places on directorates, is carried out eleven senators and thirteen deputies will have to give up either positions as

directors of corporations, according to the Louvre.

DEATH OF SIR JOHN HARE.
LONDON, Dec. 28. The death of Sir John Hare, noted English actor and manager, was announced to-day. He was seventy years of age.

DISCUSSING NEWSPRINT.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 28. The attention of the Senate tariff-makers was to-day given to newspaper manufacturers who are asking for protection and newspaper proprietors who are urging that paper be kept on the free list as proposed in the Fordney Tariff Bill.

U. S. FARM CROPS.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 28. Important farm crops of the United States were valued this year at \$5,475,877,000 based on prices paid to farmers on December 1st, the Department of Agriculture announced to-day in its final estimates. Last year the same crops were valued at \$4,075,388,000.

Origin and Development of Money.

Personal ornament appears to be the chief form that money takes when the idea of a unit of value is evolved from the ordinary practice of fair barter. Several factors, no doubt, help to determine the trade value of these currencies. The first consideration would perhaps be the natural attractiveness of the commodity used—its colour, lustre or shape—the second, the difficulty in obtaining it, and lastly, as civilization advances, the labor required in order to turn out the finished article.

Photographic reproductions of specimens in the A. E. Ames Collection, at the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology, illustrate the nature of shell and bead currency in use to-day or within recent times, in certain parts of Africa and the East Indies. We see here a single stage in the development of the idea of money, but a number of consecutive stages in the advance towards higher civilization. From the former point of view, the African tribesman is still in the condition of primitive man, but as seen from the latter, he has arrived at a stage of development where he compares not unfavourably with the pioneers of the great civilizations of the past, using the same materials and delighting in the same combinations of colour and form.

One group shows a set of cowrie shells formerly used as currency in southern Nigeria. The cowrie is a gastropod found chiefly in the shallow water along the shores of the Indian Ocean, and its use for ornamental and currency purposes probably began in the coastal districts of East Africa and southern India. In time, however, cowrie currency spread along the African and southern Asiatic coasts and into the interior of the former continent, where it was well-established by the end of the last century. It was formerly in use in Bengal, where 3,840 shells were counted as being equal to a rupee, and in West Africa it was used as tender until about 1860. For ornamental but not for currency purposes, cowrie shells are well-known in Europe, and the larger shells have frequently been carved into cameos. The shells shown in the illustrations are between three-quarters of an inch and one inch in length; they are highly polished and are white and light purple in colour. The general uniformity of their appearance makes them fairly accurate units of value, but their small individual worth as media of exchange has gradually brought about their withdrawal in favour of the modern currencies that have followed the introduction of European civilization. This currency is still used, however, in the remoter parts of Africa.

Two examples of worked shells are also shown. These are chalk-white conch shells with brownish-red and blue natural markings, which have been scraped and cut so as to form armlets. Their value depends on their size and the labour expended on them, and the larger shell, shown on the left, three and a half inches in diameter, is worth a pound sterling in New Guinea, where it passes as currency. The ornament seen on this specimen consists of black dried seeds and red shells.

Another is a highly polished solid cylinder of deep red coral, in use on the Gold Coast, and worth its weight in gold. It is strictly speaking a store of wealth rather than an ornament for it can be converted to ornamental use at any time by further cutting, and is a compact and portable form of primitive money. A and B are examples of simple shell and bead currencies. The remaining figures illustrate the use of more synthetic forms and of highly-worked materials.

There is also a type of East African currency of the last century, consisting of a necklace of discs cut from ostrich egg shells and strung closely together on fibre cord, the alternate discs being painted black. The thickness of the shell is about one-sixteenth of an inch. It may be of interest to note that ostrich egg shells were used by the Egyptians to make the bowls of chalices, and a very fine

Preparing a Salad.

Speaking on the servant problem the other day, Miss Cleely Debenham, the well-known actress told an amusing story concerning a young mistress who, upon the sudden departure of her cook, volunteered to assist the kitchen-maid to prepare luncheon. Suddenly the startled girl remembered that she had forgotten to wash the lettuce, and said so: "Never mind, Annie," put in her considerate mistress. "That's easily remedied. Get along with what you are doing and I'll wash the lettuce. Where do you keep the soap?"

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