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WEATHER REPORT. Toronto (noon)—Fresh west to north west winds; cold to-day and on Tuesday.

VOLUME 1, No. 56.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1914.

PRICE:—1 CENT.

SITUATION CONTINUES VERY SERIOUS ON QUESTION OF IRISH HOME RULE

Wholesale Resignations of British Army Officers Reported From Ireland.

REFUSE TO ACT AGAINST THE ULSTER COVENANTERS.

And They May be Arrested and Court-Martialed for Their Action.

KING GEORGE ACTIVE FOR PEACE.

Devlin Says the Government are Alone Responsible.

London, March 23.—The Government's military precautions to preserve order in Ulster have precipitated a crisis without parallel in the history of the British Army; and rather than be placed in a position where they might be called upon to act against Ulster Covenanters, numbers of officers have resigned their commissions.

While the War Office refuses to say how many have resigned, popular belief based on reports from different regiments is that the number of withdrawals have crippled the whole military organization in Ireland, and prevented carrying out orders for moving several large bodies of troops.

Almost Unique. Marquis Londonderry, one of Ulster's leaders, said to-night, nothing of such a character had occurred in the British Army since the days of the American revolution.

Dublin curiosity is at fever heat over the question, how the Government intend to deal with the resignations; but Liberal sentiment is that the seceding officers should be court-martialed.

Many Conservatives argue that the situation amounts to civil war, and that the officers should be at liberty to choose which faction they should ally themselves with.

The entrance of King George on the scene as Peacemaker, was the dramatic event of the day. He had long conferences with the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for War, Colonel Sedley, and several high officers. He afterwards summoned Field Marshal Lord Roberts, who has been criticized by the Liberals for encouragement to officers to refuse to obey orders. From the Palace the veteran Field Marshal drove directly to the War Office, where he had a long talk with the Secretary of War.

The Army Council held a long sitting at the War Office, the Generals and lesser officers of staff coming and going through the day.

Precautions Only. An official report issued to-night, says: "All proposed movements of troops in Ulster are now being carried out. These movements," the report continues, "were purely of a

precautionary kind with the object of giving adequate protection to depots of arms, ammunition, stores and other Government property against risks. There has not been and is not now any intention to move troops into Ulster, except for these purposes."

Conferences between King George, Premier Asquith, and other ministers with reference to Ulster, continued all day. Churchill twice visited the Prime Minister in the morning, as did Birrell, Secretary of State for War, who had a long conference with the King, while Asquith and Field Marshal French, Chief of General Staff, later in the day spent an hour at the Palace.

The Prime Minister also had an interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Somewhat Easier. In a general way the situation to-day seems to be somewhat easier, the public being inclined to await with patience the expected statements in the Commons to-morrow.

Regarding the movement of troops in Ulster and the resignation of officers, Beresford said: "I know for a fact that many officers including those of high rank, and some of the best men we possess, will resign their positions if ordered to take part in the coercion of Ulster, or even if the order alone is issued."

Speaking to a Nationalist demonstration to-day, at Glasgow, Joseph Devlin said: "The Irish party had never asked for the army in Ulster. If the Government felt it their duty to see to it that law and order were preserved in the face of threats, the responsibility was the Government's. If there should be riot and disorder, the responsibility was not with the Nationalists."

DREADED DAY WAS QUIET

Both Sides Doing All Possible to Avoid An Actual Conflict.

London, March 23.—The dreaded Sunday has passed without the slightest disturbance of order in Belfast or any other part of Ulster. The King has thrown his influence earnestly on the side of conciliation, and seems to have made a personal appeal to the officers who had resolved to resign rather than face the possibility of being called upon to fight in Ulster, and it may be taken for granted that the King is equally exerting his influence with his Ministers in the same direction.

Proofs are not wanting of a desire on both sides that everything possible should be done to avoid any chance of conflict.

The Nationalists have abandoned their proposed parade at Londonderry and Carson continues to voice his

desire to do his utmost to avoid any provocative acts.

The Government announces that all intended movements of troops in Ireland have now been completed, but this may be a decision necessitated by the threatened resignation of officers.

Apparently no further actual resignations have been offered. As a result of a meeting of party leaders, Bonar Law will move an adjournment of the House with a view to securing a discussion of the whole situation.

Asquith conferred with the King to-day and the utmost activity prevails in all Government quarters. Among political leaders, however, the situation is considered more favorable.

The London Sunday Observer asserts on high authority that General Sir Arthur Paget visited Curragh on Friday and gave General Gough, of the Third Cavalry Brigade, the option of taking the command at Ulster or of retiring. Gough, who was allowed two hours for consideration, resigned immediately.

The Observer says that the Government has decided to issue two hundred warrants for the arrest of leaders in Ulster.

AMMUNITION DISAPPEARS

Thousands of Rounds Are Missing From the Curragh Magazine.

Dublin, March 23.—Stocktaking at Curragh Magazine disclosed that thousands of rounds of ammunition are missing. London and South West ern railroad has received notice from the War Office to have rolling stock in readiness to move any number of troops up to ten thousand, with horses, wagons and supplies at short notice.

The Marquis of Londonderry said this morning he thought the wholesale resignation of officers was the first instance of its kind in the British Army since the crisis preceding the war against the American Colonies.

KING GEORGE TAKES A HAND

Confers With Liberal Ministers on Question of Securing Peaceable Settlement.

London, March 22.—In order to prevent outbursts, the police in Ireland have been told not to take any steps to enforce the gun license act, in cases where the members of the Ulster volunteers are seen carrying rifles in camp or elsewhere. The

MINER KILLED AT BELL ISLAND

Ambrose Clarke of Harbor Grace Crushed to Death by Falling Stone. Another Miner also Injured.

Mr. A. Proudfoot of Bell Island, who was in the city last week, had a message Saturday that Ambrose Clarke of Harbor Grace had been killed by a falling roof in the submarine mine.

William Pye, another laborer, was badly injured and one of his legs had to be amputated.

Act empowers the authorities to seize all unlicensed fire arms. The greatest danger is believed to lie in the possibility of anti-Home Rule and Nationalist workmen coming to blows, as this might start a general conflict.

King George Active.

King George is keeping in closest touch with the situation. He summoned the Secretary of State for War to Buckingham Palace at an early hour, and also sent his private secretary to the Premier's residence in Downing Street to secure the latest official information.

In the meantime the movement of troops continues in Ireland, the centre of attraction shifting to Curragh, 25 miles from Dublin, where the third cavalry brigade, under General Gough, and the fourteenth infantry brigade, under Col. Roit, were stationed.

General Sir Arthur Paget, Commanding the forces, spent all day in camp, where he held conference with fifty officers of Curragh, Dublin, Kildare and Newbridge garrisons.

Officers Resigning.

It was said that orders had arrived for the despatch of the third brigade to Ulster, but that this could not be carried into execution, because practically all the officers had resigned. Orders for the despatch of the sixteenth Lancers also failed in execution, the reason being the wholesale retirement of officers.

According to some reports, military men have unanimously refused information, but a Dublin despatch says the resignation from the Curragh forces numbered forty, while others place the number at fifty.

The Government is embarrassed by the dissatisfaction which even exists among the officers who continue on duty, for the army is officered from aristocratic families, and the great majority of the aristocratic classes sympathize with the covenanters.

Issued Ultimatum.

Many rumors were afloat throughout the day. Among those published and denied were reports that the Government issued an ultimatum to officers giving them twelve hours to decide whether to obey orders, and that two companies of the Dorsetshire regiment in Belfast had thrown down their arms.

A Dublin message to the London Press Association, says that the off-

COMMUNICATION IS RE-ESTABLISHED WITH SEALING STEAMERS ON THE FRONT

Henry Pridham of Petty Harbour Dead on the Bonaventure—No Details Yet to Hand.

SHIPS ARE MEETING WITH VERY HEAVY ICE.

Prospects so Far Not Very Good for Anything Like a Satisfactory Voyage.

STORMY WEATHER PREVAILS

Patch Cut Up by the Ships Contained About Fifty Thousand Seals.

Mr. Gerald Harvey had a wireless from Captain Parsons of the Bonaventure yesterday morning that Henry Pridham, of Petty Harbour, had died on board. The cause of death was not stated. Mr. Harvey immediately got in touch with Rev. Fr. Tierney and requested that gentleman to break the sad news to the relatives.

On Saturday night the operators at Fogo had the wireless station in working order again and word was at once received from the ships on the North East coast.

The reports received are not at all encouraging, indicating as they do that the biggest catch so far does not exceed twelve thousand.

There is a ray of hope in Mr. Coaker's message to the effect that a body of ice sixty miles in extent was sighted passing Belle Island. Probably some of the ships will succeed in locating this herd or apportion of it.

Heavy Ice.

Unfortunately, however, the ships all report extra heavy ice and this is likely to militate against their chances of doing well with the seals.

To-day Job Brothers received a message from Captain Barbour of the S.S. Nascope, in which he says:

"Ice very heavy. Tight ice as far as can be seen. Few scattered whitecoats. Fogata 10 miles N. West from us. Jammed."

Bowring Brothers also heard to-day from the Florizel, Stephano and Eagle. The Stephano is apparently high liner of Bowring's fleet, report-

ers who refused to obey orders will be arrested, and that many of those who had undertaken to go to Ulster have done so on condition that they are not to carry arms against the Unionists.

Throughout the two days' crisis there has not been witnessed a breach of the peace anywhere, and if Sunday passes without rioting, officials will draw a sigh of relief.

Nationalists, acting on John Redmond's advice, have abandoned their parade in Londonderry, which would have been almost certain to result in fighting with Orangemen.

NASCOPIE HAS 12,000. ON BOARD, S.S. NASCOPIE, March 21, 1914. (Special Wireless to The Daily Mail.) Nascope in the same position. All the ships but the Kite, Ranger, Newfoundland and Diana are here. The Newfoundland is probably taking seals. About fifty thousand seals were taken from the patch which is now cut up. Body of seals covering sixty miles of ice is reported as having passed Belle Isle. Our ship will probably strike a larger patch by Monday. Our seals average fifty-five pounds. Nascope has secured twelve thousand. News of the appointments of Squires and Blandford has reached us and has created nothing but scorn and contempt amongst the crew for the Government. W. F. COAKER.

ing 11,500 as on board and stowed down.

The Messages

Florizel (Sunday)—"9,000 stowed; 50 pans still out. Ice very heavy; weather stormy. J. KEAN."

Stephano—"On board and stowed down 11,500. Ice very heavy. A. KEAN."

Eagle—"4,000 stowed. Seals scarce. Weather stormy. E. BISHOP."

Harvey's Fleet

Messrs. A. Harvey & Co. had the following messages from their ironclads yesterday:

Bellaventure—"9,000 seals on board and 1,000 panned."

Adventure—"7,000 on board and stowed down."

Bonaventure—"Between 6,000 and 7,000 seals on board."

A telegram to Job Brothers under to-day's date reports the Diana as clean. It says: "The Diana came here at 4 p.m. yesterday (Sunday) and left again at 6 p.m. bound north. No seals.—J. NORRIS."

Doing Well

Hon. J. C. Crosbie had a wireless from Capt. Joe Kean Saturday night that the Sagona was panning and taking on board all day Friday.

The Sagona was 5 miles to the N. W. West of the Florizel Saturday, too far away to ascertain what she had.

The Beothic reports her in the same position.

From the Gulf

Word received from the Neptune to-day reports the ship as being 15 miles Northwest of Grosse Island. A strong breeze with snow squalls was blowing from the North West.

The Neptune has 4,000 whitecoats on board and stowed down, and 6,000 more panned. She reports the whitecoats as of large size. The following is a copy of a telegram received by Messrs. Harvey & Co. from Halifax yesterday, March 22nd:

"Seal reports for 5,000, and all ships jammed together since Friday sixty miles North Grindstone. The patch the Gulf steamers struck has been cleaned up. The Seal does not report catch of any other steamers. FARQUHAR & CO., LTD."

Saturday's News.

Job Brothers & Co. had the following message on Saturday evening from the Nascope:

"Poor day yesterday; seals scattered; all the steamers here except Ranger, Kite, Diana and Newfoundland."

Beothic—"8,000 seals on board and 16,000 on the ice; all ships here except Ranger, Kite and Newfoundland."

Sunday the Beothic reported—"Yesterday was a fierce day; had 100 men out all night, but all are on board this morning O.K.; on board and stowed down 12,000; 130 flags averaging about 80 each are still out; cannot get them up; ice awfully big and tight; men out doubling pans and think will get 4,000 on board to-day; N. W. storm; spoke the Florizel this morning; she has 5,000 on board and 8,000 on the ice; average weight of seals on first day was 54 lbs., on the second 62, on the 3rd 63, and yesterday 64; seals taking to the water."

From the Nascope.

Nascope (dated Saturday night)—"On board and stowed down 10,000; strong breeze from N.W. and heavy snowstorm to-day; unable to see anywhere; ice very heavy; took a few whitecoats to-day."

Neptune (8 p.m. Saturday)—"Position 25 miles N. of Grindstone; gale from N. W. with heavy snow; tight ice as far as can be seen; on board and stowed down 3,000; still on the pans 7,000; all ships are in sight but have no reports from them."

Messrs. Bowring Brothers received the following messages Saturday night, which were sent the night previous giving an account of Friday's work:

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Jeff Says, "Faint Heart Never Went to Sing Sing," By "Bud" Fisher.

