

Will the Moderates Form a Centre Party?

Protection Defeated by over 3,000,000 Votes--Baldwin will Resign--American Fishermen Forbidden to Operate in Canadian Waters--Rum Runners Active--17,000 Miners on Strike in Pennsylvania.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CENTRE PARTY.

LONDON, Dec. 9. While the various leaders and press organs of the three big parties are loudly proclaiming that they will not enter any coalition, it is self-evident that only by some sort of coalition can the King's Government be carried on without resort to another general election. This none desires immediately, if only on financial grounds, as it is estimated the elections just held involved expenditures in the neighbourhood of a million and a half pounds. It is assumed as almost a certainty that Baldwin will resign not beyond that everything is still speculative. If the Conservatives decide to carry on the Government it must be under the Earl of Derby or some statesman not strongly committed to the Protectionist policy, and this would rule out men like Austen Chamberlain. The present stalemate situation, with three parties of such nearly equal strength as to prevent any of them from forming a stable administration, gives an opportunity for a solution said to have been long in the mind of Mr. Lloyd George. This solution would be a measure to obviate the objections to a coalition: it involves the creation of a new "centre party" formed from the more moderate elements of the Conservative and Liberal parties and an idea which might appear to a large number of men in these groups who desire above all things to prevent a Labor government. Birkenhead, Churchill and close associates of Lloyd George in the last coalition are said to favor the plan.

GUESSING.

LONDON, Dec. 9. What Premier Baldwin will do, now that his party has no majority over the combined Laborite and Liberal opponents, and how the administration of the country will be carried on, are comate questions to which the public, the press, politicians and his Majesty's Ministers are trying to find satisfactory answers. Premier Baldwin and leaders of the Conservative Party have made no statement. The Daily Express states the favorite guess is that Mr. Baldwin will resign both the Premiership and leadership of the Conservatives. Nearly all suggestions of the political writers turn on two alternatives, other some coalition is possible or that the Conservatives as the strongest party numerically will continue the Government by entrustment of the opposition parties. Prospects for a coalition seem at the moment hopeless as the Labor party officially announced there would be no Liberal labor coalition. Mr. Lloyd George's secretary is quoted by the Daily Mail as saying there would be no Conservative-Liberal coalition. Political statisticians announced the total votes cast approximately as follows: Conservatives, 5,250,000; Laborites, 4,650,000; Liberal, 4,250,000; Independents 220,000.

EIGHT WOMEN NOW.

LONDON, Dec. 9. The spot light of attention that used to be focused upon Lady Astor as she sat in the House of Commons, one little woman in the midst of six hundred big, little and middle-sized men, will have to diffuse its beams to all sections of the Chamber when Parliament convenes, for there will be eight women to answer the roll, three Conservatives, three Laborites and two Liberals.

MORE LAWYERS THAN EVER.

LONDON, Dec. 9. The legal profession returns to Westminster stronger than ever, and the legal representatives belong to all parties. The Labor party possesses three King's Councils.

ELECTS NATIONALIST AND SINN FEIN.

BELFAST, Dec. 9. T. J. S. Harbison, Nationalist, and Cahnr Healey, Sinn Fein, were elected to the Imperial Parliament for the two seats representing Tyrone and Fermanagh. Healey is at present in prison.

PROTECTION OVERWHELMINGLY DEFEATED.

LONDON, Dec. 9. The Free Trade estimate of polling on December 6th is as follows:—3,800,000 for free trade; 5,249,000 for protection.

BOOTLEGGERS TAKE THEIR MEDICINE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. The Dutch schooner Zeeland, believed by Federal authorities to belong to Mannie Kessler, the King of bootleggers, but declared by its captain to be bound to Halifax, was seized off Fire Island to-day with two hundred thousand dollars worth of assorted liquors; and a few hours later Kessler and his partner, Morris Sweetwood, decided to take their medicine and withdrew their appeal from conviction of wholesale bootlegging, which carried with it a sentence of two years in Atlanta and a ten thousand dollar fine.

CANADA PROTECTING HER FISH-ERMEN.

OTTAWA, Dec. 7. Following a news despatch from Washington on Saturday which commented on the fact that notification had been received from the Canadian Government of the abrogation of the *modus vivendi*, effective from Jan. 1st, a statement was given out to-night concerning this Act of the Canadian Parliament which was passed at the last session but not acted upon until the announcement of an effective date, by Hon. E. M. Macdonald, Minister of National Defence. Speaking in brief he said that after Jan. 1st, American fishing vessels would not be allowed to enter Canadian ports and ship their catches to the United States, while Canadian shipments are taxed, nor will American craft be allowed to catch within the three mile limit. The chief reason for this step,

as announced some time ago in an official statement, was that the great bulk of the Atlantic fisheries product must find a market in the United States and this process is made both difficult and unprofitable by the heavy duties imposed under the Fordney Tariff. Canadian fishing vessels, it was stated, were unable to compete with the United States fishing vessels engaged in the same areas, by reason of the fact that the latter were privileged to use ports of Nova Scotia as bases from which to operate, delivering their catches at United States ports directly from the fishing grounds, or trans-shipping them thru a Canadian port without payment of duty.

17,000 MINERS STRIKE.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 9. Seventeen thousand mine workers of the Lehigh Coal Company, employed at the collieries of the Moosic Pittston District, went on strike to-day. The chief complaint of the miners is that the Company has failed to provide each local union with rate sheets.

U.S.-GERMANY TRADE PACT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9. A new commercial treaty between the United States and Germany, was signed on Saturday by Secretary Hughes and Ambassador Welfeld. The pact takes the place of that abrogated during the world war, and will be prepared for early submission to the Senate for ratification.

ONLY ONE SHIP.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 9. The Mexican Navy, supporting the Huerta revolt against the Government, consists of only one vessel, the *Zaragosa*, which was condemned as unseaworthy a year ago, it was stated Saturday by the Mexican Consul General here.

COOLIDGE WILL ACCEPT NOMINATION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9. The announcement of the candidacy of President Coolidge for Republican nomination for President in 1924, was made to-night by Frank W. Stearns of Boston, who is known as his closest personal and political friend.

HUERTAN OFFICIALS DEPOSED.

DAREDO, Texas, Dec. 9. The military forces of Nueva Laredo took over that city early this morning and placed it under martial law. All Huerta officials were deposed and supplanted by Obregon men, according to reports which stated that General Huerta had also been relieved. The coup was carried out quietly.

ACTIVITIES OF RUM RUNNERS.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Dec. 8. Coastguards to-day reported that during the night rum runners from Atlantic City and vicinity completed one of the most successful landings from the fleet ever made south of the Highlands, hitherto the centre of smuggling operations. The fleet, in daytime, stands outside the proposed 12 mile limit, but at dusk is reported to move closer inshore to the old 3 mile limit.

DON'T WANT TO BE ABSORBED.

VENICE, Italy, Dec. 8. Five hundred women of Murano, a little island town a mile north of Venice, have organized themselves into a battalion of death to save their town from being absorbed by Venice, government orders for the change having been issued.

PRINCE IN RACE.

LONDON, Dec. 8. The Prince of Wales, who frequently has ridden before the public in his motor car, had his first mount yesterday at Sandown Park, in a race on the flat under the recognized rules of the Jockey Club. He finished third in a field of seven.

JOINS OREGON.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 8. General Galles has renounced his candidacy for the Presidency and has offered his services to President Obregon against the insurgent forces in Vera Cruz and Jalisco. The President has accepted and named General Galles as head of the Federal opposition to the De La Huerta-Sanchez rebels. Twenty-eight thousand Federal troops, it is said, are converging upon Vera Cruz.

Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Clift, assisted by charming young ladies, will serve Afternoon Tea on Friday, December 14th, at the Child Welfare Sale, in the Presbyterian Hall.—Dec 10, 21, 22, 23.

Express Passengers.

The following passengers crossed over from North Sydney by S. S. Kyle yesterday and joined the express due here this afternoon:—J. Peters, Mrs. M. McLean, J. and Mrs. Warren, T. Smyth, E. Rose, P. Taylor, J. North, G. Jones, G. Evans, D. Moore, E. Moore, Miss H. Pike, A. Bartlett, A. Hall, M. Churchill, Miss G. Harris, Miss M. Doyle, E. Hynes, P. and Mrs. Casew, T. Boland, Miss E. J. Wyse, J. T. Moore, M. Hearn, G. Richards, G. Brocklehurst, W. D. McDonald, Mr. W. Digwell.

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