

DERRY HAS BEEN HOME OF RIOTS FOR CENTURIES

Sinn Feiners Strongest in Numbers But Unionists Hold the Pay Rolls.

HAS POPULATION OF FORTY THOUSAND

For Three Hundred Years Unceasing Warfare Has Raged Between Factions.

By C. H. BRETHERTON.

Copyright, 1920, by Public Ledger Co. Londonderry, June 26.—That hotbed of the civil war in Ireland, Londonderry, is a town of some 40,000 souls, rising steeply above the river Foyle. The streets, for the most part, are narrow and mean. By a consensus of all sections of the Irish people, north and south, Catholics and Protestants, Unionists and Sinn Feiners, Londonderry is the last place God ever made—principally because of the industry of the place (the natives call it Derry) is the manufacture of shirts and collars, but knitted woolen goods also are made.

As these industries employ female labor only, and there was nothing for men to do, the population of Derry, before the war, was in the ratio of ten women to one man, but in the course of the war the Government started a shipyard there which created things somewhat. But it also sowed seeds of trouble. Before the war the Protestants had things fairly well their own way. There were just enough Catholics to indicate the traditional riots which from 1600 and something have been conducted at the same places on the 17th of March, Saint Patrick's Day; July 12, the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, and other holidays, and the obligation has been met with extreme punctuality and vigor ever since.

The shipyard workers are mostly Catholics from the country districts, with a generous admixture of Scottish Sinn Feiners from the Clyde, to teach them the shipbuilding business. The Sinn Feiner does not take kindly to a Derry Protestant, who is a capitalist and intends to win one, even if he has to use his own capital to do it. But the Sinn Feiner and Sinn Feiner go together like oil and vinegar in a French salad. The advent of the shipyard, put there by the irony of fate by the British Government, has put the Sinn Feiner on top numerically and therefore politically, but the Unionists still remain in complete command of the payrolls.

There is less to do in Derry than in any other place north of Mexico City. There is no social life, and a shirt manufacturer who should be seen going to the theatre would have his loan called in by the bank on the following Monday.

Until recently a Derry riot was a quite sociable affair and lethal weapons were strictly barred. On several occasions one side or the other has been known to divide its ammunition with the enemy rather than have any riot at all. The Sinn Feiners have spoiled all that. To try to put the blame for what is going on in Derry at this moment on the Sinn Feiners would be unfair, but the introduction of firearms and the spirit of murder in the game must certainly be laid at their door.

Derry is copying Dublin and Cork, only in Derry the "gun pulling" is not all done by one side. The present fighting has got somewhat beyond the traditional battlefields.

According to tonight's reports, the Irish volunteers, the Sinn Fein army, has appeared in Derry and has routed the Orange desperadoes. It only remains for the Ulster volunteers to arrive in force and attack the Sinn Fein, and we shall have the makings of a picture of what Ireland will be like when the British army, which is holding most of the strategic points in Londonderry in a vain attempt to put a stop to the thing, has gone home. Thomas Johnson and the Irish Trades Union Congress want it to go.

When things in Londonderry are just warming up, in Dublin it has dawned upon the dockers that a general strike would be playing the Government's game and not the Sinn Fein's, and so they have executed a rapid if somewhat clumsy volte face. Thursday they were threatening to strike hard. Yesterday they announced that they "will not be goaded into a strike by the Government." The Government, it need hardly be said, is doing nothing except sending soldiers, policemen and their supplies by train to wherever they are wanted.

The transport workers are refusing to move trains, the trains are standing still and bringing other trains to a standstill and the railways are dismissing men who refuse to move them. The thing, in fact, is an out-and-out climb down for the Irish Transport Workers' Union and the Irish branch of the N. U. R. But from the point of view of success of the Sinn Fein, to which they all profess allegiance, it is a necessary climb down. Meanwhile if the men continue to refuse to handle trains carrying troops and policemen they will be dismissed one by one instead of going out in a body, and the end will be the same—a complete stoppage of the Irish railway systems, and as the Irish labor leaders have belatedly discovered that that is just what they do not want, the men will undoubtedly be told to swallow their pride and move whatever munitions and troops they are told to move, leaving the task of defeating activities of the Government to the Irish republican armies.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of The Standard, Limited, will be held at the company's office, 82 Prince William street, St. John, N. B., on Tuesday, July 13th, at 3 o'clock.

THOMAS BELLA, Secretary.

SUPPORT OF CABINET RESTS ON SPA RESULT

German Government Will Stand or Fall According to What Takes Place There.

By S. B. CONGER.

Copyright, 1920, by Public Ledger Co. Berlin, July 2.—The debate on the government programme in the Reichstag today shows that the government need count only one party in active energetic opposition, the Independent Socialists. The Nationalists on the right announced an attitude of armed neutrality, and the Majority Socialists evidently have chosen the part of benevolent neutral. Herr Scheidemann, even declared the cabinet would find his party upon its side so long as it remained true to the labor programme as outlined in Chancellor Fehrenbach's declaration. Scheidemann, who today spoke as leader of the party instead of his successors in the chancellorship, Bauer and Muelner, as well as his old party colleague, Ledebour, spokesman of the Independent Socialists, devoted their speeches rather too polemic with each other than to criticism of the new cabinet. This is symbolic of what the two Socialist parties consider their main mission in political life.

For the present, the new cabinet will be judged, and the length of its life depends upon its fruits at Spa. Fehrenbach's declaration, therefore, is a significant first part of his hour's programme speech to foreign relations and the governmental attitude toward the Allies. He found a new formula in which to clothe Germany's reluctance to comply with the Entente demands for reduction of the army to 100,000 men, declaring that Germany must comply with its obligation under the peace treaty to reduce the army to the size necessary to maintain order in Germany and to police its frontiers, the latter being an elastic measure which Entente statesmen will scarcely accept as in harmony with the obligations of Versailles.

Herr Fehrenbach was able to pledge the entire cabinet, including the representatives of the People's Party, to support the republic in less ambiguous terms than at first anticipated, the formula that it was the firm and united will of the government to build up the shattered fatherland on the basis of the republican form of government going decidedly further than the phraseology first considered, in which the People's Party representatives reserved their views as to the ultimate form of government.

The Democrats succeeded in including a plank against anti-Semitism to which there was some objection, but for fear of offending the Nationalists and a large part of the People's Party, a declaration against overcentralization and in favor of states' rights.

CANADIANS IN ENGLAND

London, July 2.—From Ontario: Mr. George W. Beardmore, president Toronto Hunt Club, is at the Claridge Hotel. Mr. J. M. Cosgrave, or Trinity College, Toronto, is staying with Dr. Cosgrave at Burton, Westmoreland; he will leave for Canada at the end of August. Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Bowby, of Windsor, with Miss E. Margaret Bowby, have rented The Knolls, Leighton Buzzard, Leicestershire for three months, and will return home at the end of September.

Mrs. Joseph Elliott, of Gooderich, is leaving for the country, and returns home at the end of this month. Mr. Geo. C. Coppley and Miss L. Coppley, Hamilton, are at the First Avenue Hotel, London.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Stewart are staying with friends at Earls Court, London, and return to Canada in the middle of August.

Captain M. L. Douglas, Woodstock, has arrived in London and is stopping at 23, Woburn Square.

From Alberta: Mr. Franklin Candell, Calgary, is staying with friends at Ashford, Middlesex; he returns to his home at the end of the month.

From British Columbia: Mrs. Jonathan Rogers, Vancouver, who is at the Hotel Alexandra, Hyde Park, London, leaves for home, via the Continent, at the end of June. Mrs. S. O. Benwell, Vancouver, is staying with friends at Sidcup, Kent. Mr. M. E. Garvin, Vancouver, is with friends at New Malden, Surrey.

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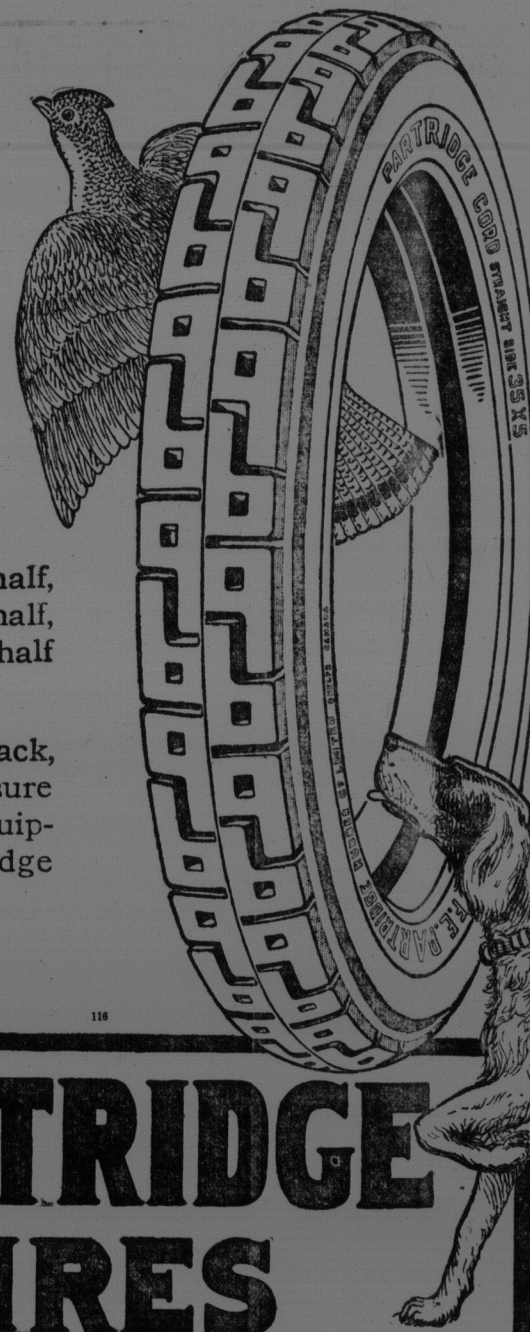
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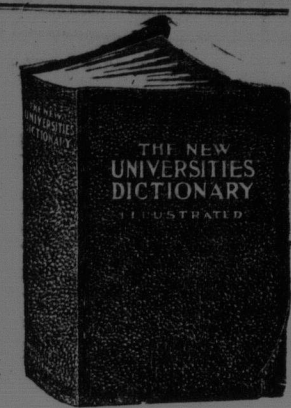
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