

rights of internal sovereignty were untouched, and that the obligations of the Crown to the States remained unaltered.

A further clause authorised the representatives of the States to proceed with the negotiations on the terms of the Mandate, and reserved the right of the Chamber to examine and ratify the Federal scheme when completed.

*April 2nd.*—The Governor-General in Council issued a Proclamation declaring that, as from April 1st, 1932, Aden had become a Chief Commission-ship, separate from Bombay.

*April 6th.*—The Government refused an application from the Congress authorities for permission to hold its annual session, on the ground that the civil disobedience movement was still being pursued.

*April 8th.*—Publication of import trade survey. (*See Great Britain.*)

*April 12th.*—Disturbances occurred at several points on the North-West Frontier during the voting for the new Legislative Council of the Province. "Red Shirt" detachments picketed the polling stations to prevent voting.

### Irish Free State.

*April 10th.*—In his first speech since his assumption of office, at Ennis in County Clare, Mr. de Valera said the Irish people had emphatically declared their will to abolish the Oath to the British Crown as the first step in the new march to independence and unity; also to cease making payments to the British Government which were due neither in justice nor law. He denied that there was any attempt to pick a quarrel with England; was it any affair of the British Government or people what conditions Irishmen required of members of the Irish Parliament? Great Britain had already formally abjured the claim that she so long unjustly made to have any voice whatever in their domestic concerns. For ten years the Irish nation had been dishonoured by the profession of an allegiance which Irishmen did not and could not feel; Ireland was not a British colony; it was one of the oldest nations in the world with all the rights of nationhood. "We cannot admit," he continued, "and we have never freely admitted that our right to sovereign independence is derived from a British statute. It is older than any British statute, older than the British Parliament, and older than the British nation itself."

Any claim which Britain might have had to the land annuities was deliberately renounced by the British Parliament in 1920.

*April 11th.*—Publication of White Paper containing correspondence exchanged with British Government. (*See Great Britain.*)

### Italy.

*March 30th.*—The Ministry of Finance announced an estimated Budget deficit of nearly 1,595 million lire (say £17 millions) for the year 1932-33. A new loan of nine-year treasury bonds with interest at 5 per cent. was to be issued up to an amount of 1,000 million lire (say £11 millions).

*April 8th.*—The Government sent to Geneva a memorandum explaining how its disarmament proposals, put forward in February, could be put into effect. The proposals were stated to represent "an organic indivisible plan in the sense that the abolition should comprise all the means of war indicated." Further details were given of the armaments to be prohibited, i.e., tanks and heavy artillery, and of the limitations of gun calibre, ship tonnage, etc., to be imposed. The memorandum added that the qualitative limitation of armaments must be accompanied by a revision of the laws of war and by adequate measures for the control of civil aviation.