

In his reply Mr. de Valera claimed that "the real issue is that the Oath is an intolerable burden to the people of this State, and they have declared in the most formal manner that they desire its instant removal." He repeated that it was a matter of purely domestic concern, and that the elimination of the Oath was "required for the peace, order and good government of the State." As to the Annuities he disclaimed any knowledge of the formal and explicit undertaking referred to, but promised that any just and lawful claims would be scrupulously honoured. He also referred at length to the sacrifice which was imposed on Ireland by the Agreement of 1921, involving "the consummation of the outrage of partition," whereas since it was signed it had cost Britain nothing.

Mr. Thomas, in his reply of April 9th, pointed out that this despatch widened the issue so that "what is actually raised is nothing less than a repudiation of the Settlement of 1921 as a whole." Under this Settlement the Free State had participated in the notable constitutional developments of recent years, defining the position of the Dominions as equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations under the Crown. In the British Government's view, "there can be no conceivable hope for the establishment of a united Ireland except on the basis that its allegiance to the Crown and its membership of the British Commonwealth will continue unimpaired." The Government's adherence to the view that the Oath was an integral part of the Treaty was reaffirmed, and the despatch continued: "H.M. Government have publicly indicated on many occasions in the most formal and emphatic manner that they stand absolutely by the Treaty Settlement and to this position they most firmly adhere."

In conclusion, Mr. Thomas explained the history and character of the Land Annuities, quoted the Free State's undertaking given in the "Heads of the Ultimate Financial Settlement" between the two countries, and said that friendly relations could not but be impaired by any failure in the complete fulfilment of obligations deliberately undertaken.

The Stationery Office published as a White Paper the Protocol signed in January, 1932, for the suspension of certain payments due by Hungary under the international Agreements of April 28th, 1930; Cmd. 4052.

The Stationery Office also published the Notes exchanged with the Government of Guatemala respecting the boundary between that country and British Honduras; Cmd. 4050.

Hungary.

April 7th.—The Social Democratic Party attempted to present a memorandum to the Government, but the Premier refused to receive it on the ground that the law prohibited political strikes. (The printers of Budapest had been on strike for two days.) The memorandum demanded measures to assist the unemployed, the restoration of public rights and the abolition of martial law. Clashes occurred between demonstrators and the police and a number of arrests were made.

India.

April 1st.—The Chamber of Princes adopted unanimously a resolution declaring that the States would enter an All-India Federation, "on the assumption that the Crown will accept the responsibility of guaranteeing to them the necessary safeguards." The latter were summarised as: (1) That the safeguards were embodied as part of the new Constitution; (2) that all treaties, sanads and other obligations remained inviolate and inviolable; and (3) that the