

TRY AGAIN TO SETTLE IRISH CASE

British Government Will Make Another Effort to End Troubles.

ULSTER IS WARNED

Bonar Law Says They Must Be Ready for Sacrifices.

London cable says: In the course of a debate in the House of Commons to-night on a resolution offered by Sir James Henry Dalziel, Liberal, urging the Government to make another attempt to settle the Irish difficulty, Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced that the Government already had decided to make such an attempt. The Dalziel motion accordingly was voted down. The Nationalists, considering that they had already stated their position, did not participate in the debate, which manifested a strong desire for a settlement on the part of all the Unionist and Liberal speakers, with one exception. The exception was Lord Hugh Cecil, who declined to believe that war-time was favorable to such an attempt.

The Dalziel resolution urged the Government to take immediate steps to bring about a settlement of the Irish question. Sir James argued that Ireland was a weak spot in the great task before the country, and said he thought the Government ought to appoint a commission to endeavor to reach a settlement of the Home Rule controversy. Great Britain had entered the war for a scrap of paper, he added, but he was unable to forget the existence of an Irish scrap of paper, which was endorsed by the will of the British people.

It would be impossible for the Government to persevere with its motion to extend the life of the present Parliament, Sir James continued, if there was a solid body of opinion in the House of Commons against them, and every day's delay was recruiting a supporter to the physical force party in Ireland.

Ronald McNeill, Unionist member for Kent, on behalf of Ulster County, entered a strong protest against the suggestion of John Dillon, one of the Nationalist leaders, in the House on Tuesday night, that there had been negotiations between the Ulster leaders and Baron Kuhlmann. He declared that this was a trumped-up charge and that it would prove a great obstacle to a settlement of the Home Rule question. He further expressed the belief that the statesmen of the Dominions "would refuse to touch this Irish commission with a galle pole."

Mr. Bonar Law welcomed the tone of the debate. He declared that far from desiring a general election on the Irish question, as had been suggested, he would detest such an idea. The present situation, however, was a blemish on British statesmanship, besides being a handicap in carrying on the war. All parties agreed that it was impossible to impose a settlement on Ulster by force. The Government, the Chancellor continued, was anxious for a settlement, but sacrifices must be made on all sides. He hoped Ulster would prove less adamant and if the Nationalists would openly avow their readiness to act with the same spirit of the British parties the task would prove a much easier one.

"If we make another attempt and fail," said Mr. Bonar Law, "the position will be worse. But we have decided in spite of the risk, that it is worth while for us who are responsible to make that attempt."

Mr. Bonar Law's announcement was received with loud cheering. "The House knows the difficulties, and therefore we hope it will not press us for particulars, but will give us time for consideration."

Former Premier Asquith having expressed profound gratification at the announcement of the Chancellor, said: "I think it better to make the attempt and fail than not to make it at all, and I am certain the Government will have not only the sympathy but the active co-operation of the whole House."

EX-EMPEROR IN PETROGRAD

Submits Fully to Decision of New Government.

Return to Old Conditions Impossible.

London cable says: The former Emperor of Russia, Nicholas Romanoff, has arrived at the Tsarskoe Selo Palace, says a Reuter despatch from Petrograd.

"Alighting from the train at Tsarskoe Selo," says the correspondent, "Nicholas appeared calm, but was haggard. He wore the flowing uniform of the Sixth Kuban Regiment of Cossacks and a black bushy. Around his shoulders was a purple muffler, and he had a cossack dagger in his belt. Pinned on the breast of the former monarch was the Order of St. George. Nicholas was accompanied by Prince Dolgorouff.

"Nicholas was awakened while aboard his train at nine o'clock on Thursday morning and entered the dining saloon about ten o'clock. He

invited his suite to have morning coffee with him and conversed with them for an hour. He then bade farewell to his suite and servants, kissing all of them. The servants kissed him on the shoulder. Addressing those about him, Nicholas said: "I thank you for your services. Farewell!"

The four commissioners from the Duma, whom the Government sent to Mohilev to arrest the former Emperor, were received by General Alexieff, to whom they showed their mandate. Their arrival caused no excitement at headquarters. Nicholas was aboard the Imperial train, where the Dowager Empress bade him farewell. General Alexieff informed Nicholas of the commissioners' arrival, and he replied: "I am ready to go anywhere, and submit to any decisions."

The various formalities occupied about an hour. Rear Admiral Nijoff wished to travel with the former Emperor, but the commissioners refused to permit him.

A silent chow witnessed the departure of the train, which consisted of ten carriages, and a group of officers paid their respects to the former monarch.

The following statement was made by Grand Duke Nicholas, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian forces in the Caucasus, to the newspaper correspondents at his headquarters in Tiflis, Trans-Caucasia:

"A return to the old regime is impossible and I would never consent to such a retrograde step. I look forward to ultimate victory in the war, but a necessary condition, in the interval, is internal peace. I am sure the Government will be able to prevent anarchy, but only with the support of the people."

20 U. S. SAILORS WERE DROWNED

American Tanker Healdton Torpedoed Unwarned

By German Sub in North Sea, Consul Reports.

London cable says: Germany is believed to have added other American lives to her roster of death in her intensified submarine campaign. The American tank steamer Healdton has been sent to the bottom by a torpedo in the North Sea. One of the crew is known to have died in a small boat which put away from the sinking vessel, and 14 others are believed to have been killed by the explosion of the torpedo. Only seven of the crew of 33 are known to have been landed.

A boat containing seven of the Healdton's crew has reached Ter-schelling (North Sea). The steamer Healdton, of 4,430 tons, sailed from Chester, Pa., on January 26, for Rotterdam, with 2,377.71 gallons of refined petroleum. The Healdton was owned by the Standard Oil Company, and was commanded by Captain Christopher. She carried a crew of 33 men.

Thirteen members of the American steamer Healdton's crew have arrived at Ymuiden, Holland. They say the steamer was sunk without warning in the so-called "safe zone," and express the belief that nineteen men aboard the vessel were drowned.

WASHINGTON WERE DROWNED. Washington report says: American Consul Mahlin, at Amsterdam, cabled the State Department to-night that the American steamer Healdton, sunk by a submarine yesterday off Ter-schelling, Holland, was torpedoed without warning, and that 20 of the crew were drowned.

The steamer Maryland, of Milwaukee, Philadelphia to London, has been posted by Lloyd's as missing, according to State Department advices today from Consul General Skinner at London. No details were given. Vice-Consul Kroh at Rotterdam, advised the State Department to-night of the sinking by gunfire from a German submarine of the Dutch tank steamship Lacampine, with an American captain, Gustav Claude, on March 13, in the North Sea safety zone. The crew was saved after being buffeted 26 hours in a lifeboat.

HAD THEM RIGHT.

Why Spy Bureau Heads Pleaded Guilty in N. Y.

New York despatch: The reasons were assigned to-night by Government officials for the unexpected pleas of guilty entered by Charles N. Wunnenberg and Albert O. Sander, indicted for engaging in a military enterprise against a power with which the United States is at peace, in carrying on which they sent spies to England to obtain information for the benefit of Germany.

One of the causes of their move, it is said, was the knowledge that Federal agents raided their offices yesterday and seized papers declared to be highly incriminating. When what appeared to be blank papers were treated with a solution of chemical tablets dissolved in vinegar, the authorities found, they asserted, secret writing in German. Translations were made and would have been used as evidence by the prosecution.

The second reason for the plea was believed to be the fact that a letter which one of the defendants sent to a friend admitting "they had done right" came into the possession of the Government.

While the decision of Wunnenberg and Sander not to stand trial has stopped for the time being a full exposure of their plot, it is still probable, it was said, that some of their agents who are detained in neutral European countries may be sent back here for trial. Two of these agents are in Holland and a third in Denmark. Another is being hunted for in Canada and a fifth if abroad is aboard a steamship now approaching English waters.

BRITISH ADVANCE RAPIDLY; 40 MORE VILLAGES TAKEN

Gen. Haig's Forces Have Reached Points Ten Miles East of Somme.

Disgusting Tactics By the Huns In Their Abandonment of Territory.

London cable says: Since the Allied pursuit of the retreating Germans, on Saturday, the enemy has given up over 1,700 square miles of French soil and 325 towns and villages, and the vast retirement still continues, stirred on by the British and French cavalry, airmen and infantry, and hammered by the artillery, the positions being organized by the allies as fast as they are conquered.

London, March 21.—Again the British are moving rapidly against the retreating Germans. Forty more villages have been taken by the British in the districts south and southeast of Peronne. To the north, between Nurlu and Arras, the Germans at a number of points are beginning to resist the British vigorously, but despite this, their rear guards are being steadily driven back, and the progress of the British continues.

The communication from British headquarters in France says: "South and southeast of Peronne we have advanced rapidly during the last 24 hours and reached points some ten miles to the east of the River Somme. We have occupied another forty villages in this area."

"Between Nurlu and Arras the enemy is beginning to develop considerable resistance at a number of places. Nevertheless, his rear guards are being steadily driven from their positions, and our progress continues."

CLAIM SUCCESSES.

The German headquarters report issued to-day says: "Western theatre: Owing to rain and a snowstorm there has been limited fighting activity. Between Arras and Bertincourt and northwest of Ham and north of Soissons our protecting troops forced some mixed detachments of our adversaries to retreat with losses."

UNSPEAKABLY FOUL.

British Headquarters cable says: Opinions as to where the enemy will stop are merely opinions. What are not mere opinions is the last evidence of the base conduct of the Germans in the country from which they have gone. No Europeans but Germans would have acted at the dictation of such a depraved, unclean and malicious policy. One feels that these men were defiled at the source of their origin, and are ignorant of whatever keeps humanity on a common level with the general sense of what is right behavior.

I can understand national monuments being removed as war material, but I cannot understand the smearing of filth over the portraits of children. At Bapaume yesterday proof of the enemy's curious national traits was seen in the city itself, which had been

deliberately converted into a mass of muck. There is now no Bapaume. When in future Germans talk of the world's need of their culture, Bapaume and Peronne should silence them.

There is much in Bapaume to make the mind and stomach sick, but among broken mirrors, crockery, smashed furniture, plaster, old papers, in what had been a stationer's shop a photographic enlargement of a group of three little girls, evidently once a family treasure, but made foul by a German trooper, was a trivial but ultimate piece of sickening evidence. The destruction of the orchards, killing of trees, throwing ordure and shot dip down wells, defiling books and portraits of little things in homes which were not worth looting turns one in disgust from the name of German. If he could even win the war he could never win his name from being anything but an insulting epithet.

South of Peronne the villagers are still being found by our troops. In one place our men released some hundreds from barns in which they were locked by the Germans. Groups of old men, women and children to whom the British were only a myth welcomed the advanced guard with tears.

"Are you many?" asked one woman doubtfully of a staff officer. "We are 2,000,000 now," said the officer. The woman's relief and joy were fine to see. What these people had meant, better or let for two months. They say that the German soldiers are getting less to eat now, and grumble a good deal.

At Nesle the inhabitants told us that the Boche began preparations to go only ten days ago, and seemed glad of retreating to what they called the Hindenburg Line, because, apparently he thinks he will be safe there. When the French troops arrived at Ternier where the Compagnie du Nord had large workshops and locomotive sheds they found everything destroyed with dynamite.

A Berlin telegram which describes the movements of the German withdrawal, beginning with the evacuation of Grandecourt, says the greatest consideration was paid to the inhabitants. The road from Chauny to Noyon was one continual stream of refugees from villages beyond Chauny, sacked and burned by the Germans. The refugees consisted exclusively of women, babies and small children. For weeks past the Germans had expelled them from village to village, in preparation for retreat. When the final moment came, the houses were sacked, then burned before the eyes of the refugees, who were left helpless and without food to await the French advance. At Noyon, owing to the fact that the Germans had concentrated there 10,000 women and children refugees, they promised to leave the American

Relief Commission sufficient supplies to feed them. Nevertheless, the last patrols to leave Noyon completely sacked the American Relief storehouse of all catables, then dynamited the building, and finally turned on the canal water, with which they flooded that part of the city in ruins.

Whistler Before Whistler.

Mortimer Menpes told the following story of Whistler, who was to deliver an address one day to the Society of British Artists: "The master at length entered, faultlessly dressed, walking with a swinging, jaunty step, evidently quite delighted with himself and the world in general. He passed down the gallery, ignoring the assembled members, and walked up to his own picture. And there he stayed for quite fifteen minutes, regarding it with a satisfied expression, stepping now backward, now forward, canting his head and dusting the surface of the glass with a silk pocket handkerchief. We watched him open-mouthed. Suddenly he turned round, beamed upon us and uttered but two words—'Bravo, Jimmy!'—then took my arm and hurried me out of the gallery, talking volubly the while."

FOOD CRISIS IN GREAT BRITAIN

Two Meatless, Potatoless Days Weekly Likely.

Food Hoarding and Traders' Schemes Must End.

London cable says: The food question is pressing daily with increasing stringency on the British public, and according to authoritative reports, a few days will see new and drastic steps on the part of the Food Controller, Lord Devonport, to meet the situation and prevent exploitation of the public by traders.

The Controller announced in the House of Lords to-day that although voluntary rations had brought about excellent results, much more in this direction was required, otherwise it might be necessary to resort to compulsory rationing, which would be a national calamity. He was very desirous of avoiding this, owing to the tremendous machinery needed. This machinery, however, was ready, he declared, if required, and a great reduction in bread and sugar was still imperative. The Controller also intended, he said, to introduce a strong measure to prevent the hoarding of food.

According to an unofficial report, the Government intends to introduce two meatless and two potatoless days weekly in all restaurants and hotels, and to forbid more than five ounces of uncooked meat to be served for each person.

With regard to hoarding it is said the police will be empowered to search private houses, and if more than a fortnight's supply of sugar, on a basis of a weekly allowance of three-quarters of a pound per capita, is found, the persons so hoarding will be severely punished. Traders would also be prohibited, under penalties, from attempting to compel purchasers to buy other things before being supplied with sugar, potatoes, and similar commodities, as this system has led to mischievous waste.

METHOD IN DESTRUCTION BY THE HUN

May Have a Political Motive in Ruining Freed Territory.

THREAT TO FRANCE

That All Held Ground Will Be So Treated If Negotiations Fail.

London cable says: Germany's her work of devastation which is turning the abandoned territory on Northern France into a desert may have a political motive in the direction of a threat this to treat all occupied territory unless France enters into peace negotiations. The theory advanced by Major-Gen. F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the War Office, in his weekly talk to the Associated Press to-day.

"The extent of the German retirement was no surprise to us," he said, "and you may feel that I prepared you for it. Just where the new line will be formed it is impossible to say. It is by no means certain that the Germans will again fight on the Cambrai-Laon line."

"Theories as to the ultimate withdrawal are purely speculative, as, for instance, pivoting on Lille the Germans may extend their defence from Cambrai. On the other hand, while using the same pivot, they may form a line along the lower slopes of the Ardennes."

General Maurice then showed a number of photographs of ruined and burning villages taken before they were actually abandoned by the Germans, showing an almost total destruction. With reference to these villages he said:

"Some were never under our artillery fire. Of course, destruction dictated by military necessity is permissible, but the Germans have turned the abandoned country into a desert. Every crossroad is marked by a brown mine crater. Other measures of this sort were adopted as a military necessity to retard our advance, but the wanton destruction of buildings, homes and splendid chateaux cannot be defended on this ground."

"When a military motive is lacking we must look for a political, unless the Germans are animated by a pure love of savagery. This political motive may be a threat to France that unless peace negotiations are entered into the remainder of the occupied territory will be turned into the same sort of a desert now marking the German retreat. Of course, the primary object of the destruction is a desire to avoid battle at any cost until the enemy is securely fixed in another line where he can resume the initiative after compelling us to make new preparations on the devastated terrain."

"Unofficial reports of fires and explosions north of Arras have been verified and may mean a retirement in that direction, as similar actions marked the preliminaries of the present retreat."

"Stronger resistance by the enemy on both flanks of the German withdrawal is quite natural. At these points the Germans have the support of their guns and do not show the same disposition to avoid battle."

"The lack of reports of prisoners taken or of the capture of material is not surprising in view of the fact that our advanced troops are too busy with more important operations to send back detailed reports covering anything except the most vital movements."

REFUGEES IN SYRIA HELD

Teutons Refuse Guarantees to U. S. Vessels.

British Advance Their Only Hope Now.

Washington despatch says: Turkey again notified the State Department to-day that neither German nor Austria-Hungary had indicated a willingness to give assurances for the safe passage of the American cruiser Des Moines and the American navy collector Caesar from Alexandria, Egypt, to Beirut to deliver relief supplies to the destitute Syrians, and to bring out 1,000 or more American refugees. The plight of the American's stranded at Beirut is causing increasing concern here, for officials feel they virtually have exhausted every diplomatic resource to reach them. Ambassador Elkus is expected to renew his efforts for a safe conduct, but in the face of the growing seriousness of the situation between the United States and Germany there is little hope that any guarantee will be given making it safe for the American vessels to proceed through the mined and patrolled waters to their destination.

Turkey some time ago consented to give such a guarantee for herself, but Germany and Austria apparently have been procrastinating while their differences with the United States were solving themselves.

What the Americans at Beirut may be suffering meantime is unknown here, though it is hoped the British advance soon may extend far enough to free some of them.

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