

CRISIS IN BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS MAY BE REACHED TODAY

Momentous Session May Mean General Election with Radical-Labor Alliance.

HOME RULE BILL UP AGAIN ON TUESDAY.

Suggested that Asquith May be Disposed to Make Further Concessions, but Nationalists Will Stand Pat Against it

Bulletin—London, Mar. 29.—Momentous session of British Commons tomorrow may mean general election with Radical-Labor alliance.

What has been pronounced "the greatest crisis for statesmanship in three hundred years" is simmering over Sunday. Both houses of parliament will treat their heaviest guns upon the whole complicated affair on Monday. Passions are running high and country houses where the politicians customarily spend the weekends, are deserted.

The party leaders are conferring in London and urgent summonses have been sent to all members to attend. If the outcome of the crisis is to be a general election in the near future, the Radical wing of the Liberal party will form a close alliance with the Labor party, the coalition crystallizing the platform into the battle-cry "The aristocrats against the people."

Whatever may be the results of their campaign, it seems to hold possibilities of vote-getting which the Conservatives shy at.

The Westminster Gazette and the Daily Chronicle, foremost among the Liberal papers, are saying that Col. Seely must relinquish his portfolio. The name of John Burns is mentioned as his probable successor.

That a democratic government could be carried to such lengths as to give supervision of the army into the hands of the sturdy character who came into the limelight first as a labor agitator would have been inconceivable a decade ago. Yet the recognition of the soldier as on the same plane as the officer in the charter rights and duties which the government has claimed today is a long step towards the same leveling of the classes.

The King's actions and attitude during the crisis are gradually becoming known. The attacks of the Radicals and Laborites on the King for his alleged interference in politics have subsided. The Unionists are criticizing His Majesty but quietly among themselves, and the Unionists have the most serious of complaints against the King's policy.

The King followed his ministers' advice from the beginning of the Home Rule controversy. While maintaining impartiality, apparently he had a personal leaning toward Home Rule.

Col. Seely was closeted with the King recently, Major-General Sir William Robertson, director of military training at the war office, accompanied by a colleague visited the palace, according to reliable information, and asked to be admitted to a conference on urgent business. The request was granted and the officers announced that they and a majority of the cabinet would resign immediately unless the government made its peace with the Curragh officers.

Premier Asquith's explanatory statement to the House, the first interview which the Premier has granted in office, was the result of the impression which this ultimatum had been delivered.

Home Rule Bill Tomorrow.

The Home Rule bill will come up again on Tuesday, which with the following days will be devoted to the second reading. The events of the past week have in no way modified the plans of the ministry regarding the Home Rule bill and with Welsh disestablishment before an appeal to the country.

The expectation of some opposition journals that the government will be bound to go under in consequence of the military upheaval seems likely to be disappointed. The government organs declare that the ministry is as strong as ever, pointing to Monday's majority of 93 while even the opposition journals admit that there is a lull after the storm of last week.

Although it has been suggested that the premier may be disposed to make additional concessions to Ulster tomorrow it is asserted that the Nationalists have pronounced themselves against any further surrender being made. The ministers have denied the current rumor concerning their readiness to consent to a general election conditional upon Home Rule and Welsh disestablishment being allowed to pass and in fact the opposition is not inclined to enter into any negotiations with them now, it being a case of war to the knife.

Disolution is July is anticipated before which the government counts on placing the two principal measures on the statute book.

The cabinet will again meet today, when it is expected Mr. Asquith will report to his colleagues on the result of his representations to Field Marshal French.

Reported That Villa Has Been Wounded

Injured Soldier Says Rebel Chief Had to Retire from Front—News of Capture of Torreón Seems to have Been Premature—Strategy of Federals Succeeds.

Juarez, Mexico, March 29.—It was believed here today that the assault of General Villa on Torreón last night was repulsed, or at least that some incident unknown here prevented the attack.

The last word from the rebel general came at 11 o'clock last night, when a telegram from him was quoted as saying that the taking of the city was not a matter of hours but of minutes. Chihuahua, March 29.—Such news as reached here from the front today was unfavorable to the rebels. Wounded rebel soldiers continued to arrive by train, bringing the number now here to 588. Several hundred other wounded were being provided for at Jiminer, and batches of wounded were distributed at Parral and Santa Rosa.

This evidence of the conflict at Torreón, with the suggestion that the list of dead on the rebel side necessarily would be great, led to make headquarters retreat about the progress of the battle.

The report originated from one of the hospitals after a wounded soldier stated General Francisco Villa had been wounded slightly and compelled to retire from the front. The report is based merely on the word of a wounded soldier, who, however, insisted he had seen Villa wounded. He declared that for moral effect the news was withheld from the rank of the rebel army.

Federal Strategy Succeeds.

A German military observer who arrived today from the front said: "The federal army lured us right into Gomez Palacio, a suburb to the north of Torreón, before they opened fire. Then they let loose a hail of rifle and machine gun shot as would have completely demoralized an ordinary Mexican army. The men fell by the score. A cotton bale platform by the railroad tracks was so covered

with dead rebels that one could not walk across it without stepping on a body. General Villa had such a large army that he felt he could afford to sacrifice many men to get a foothold. Almost the whole Zaragoza Brigade, under General Benavides was wiped out, although I think General Benavides escaped.

"Three or four days fighting up to the time I left failed to bring about any results."

Mexico City, March 29.—With the exception of the somewhat contradictory information contained in the press despatches, and a laconic assurance by General Velasco, federal commander at Torreón, to the war department, both official and unofficial Mexico were in official ignorance today of Villa's efforts to capture from Huerta's army the point, the occupation of which, at this time, is regarded by military men as essential to the early success of either side.

President Huerta is showing concern, but lack of telegraph communication has prevented General Velasco from rendering any but the most meagre reports of the operations, and the president and the war minister have found an outlet for their energies by sending forward every available detachment of troops as reinforcements.

The government asserts that General Velasco under his command from twelve thousand to fifteen thousand men, and with the reinforcements reported enroute there should be facing Villa before he can claim Torreón from fifteen thousand to eighteen thousand federals.

That President Huerta has any idea of abandoning the fight has not been indicated. Plans for the opening of congress are, Wednesday, and there is no apparent reason to believe the president intends to lose the 50,000,000 pesos for which he arranged last week with the bankers.

The commissioners are also instructed to consider the position of the existing and projected Gulf lines via Galveston, and what their influence would be regarding diversion of traffic from the lakes and St. Lawrence route; also the effect upon the movement of the traffic for this district; also a comparison between the proposed Georgian Bay canal route, and all the competing routes in existence and in course of construction; the economic advantages of the waterway in regard to western grain export; the development of the iron industry and other mineral resources of the pulp industry, of water power development and trade development generally.

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BRUTAL MURDER IN NEW YORK

Man Found in Cellar Was Choked to Death with Belt and His Skull Crushed in With Axe.

New York, March 29.—Arthur J. Slevin, said to be a graduate of St. Francis College, Montreal, was found murdered in the cellar of a Sixth Avenue saloon where he was employed, today. He had been choked to death with a belt and his skull cleft with an axe. The pockets of the clothes were inside out, but the police said that Slevin was without money they did not believe robbery was the motive of the crime. An employee of the saloon is being sought.

Slevin, twenty-six years old, formerly a salesman for a Chicago packing house, was said to be the son of the owner of a chain of barber-shops in Boston. Letters and postal cards were in Slevin's pocket.

INQUIRY MAY BE EXTENDED OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS

Georgian Bay Canal Commissioners Have Extensive Programme Laid Out

WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDED.

Study of Whole Transportation Problem in Relation to the Proposed Waterway, one of Their Duties.

Ottawa, Mar. 29.—The order in council appointing Messrs. W. S. Evans, F. S. Meighan and Edward Gohier to be commissioners to inquire into and report upon the proposed construction of the Georgian Bay Canal specifies in considerable detail the nature and scope of their inquiry. The commissioners are instructed to study the whole transportation problem in relation to the proposed waterway; the feasibility of the largest type of lake carriers navigating such waterway and the influence on the rate regulation, of east and west bound traffic; the competition of the waterway with the railways and the possible creation of a holding company. The view is expressed tonight that in any case the present management will become subsidiary.

While nothing official can be obtained at the moment, it is observed that those who were so bitterly opposed some time ago to the government taking steps which would enable Mackenzie and Mann to raise funds to complete the road are less uncompromising in their attitude. It is said that one of the proposals which meets with most favor by the leaders of the Conservative party, and the most responsible men in the opposition, is a complete reorganization of the Canadian Northern and the possible creation of a holding company. The view is expressed tonight that in any case the present management will become subsidiary.

The commissioners are also instructed to consider the position of the existing and projected Gulf lines via Galveston, and what their influence would be regarding diversion of traffic from the lakes and St. Lawrence route; also the effect upon the movement of the traffic for this district; also a comparison between the proposed Georgian Bay canal route, and all the competing routes in existence and in course of construction; the economic advantages of the waterway in regard to western grain export; the development of the iron industry and other mineral resources of the pulp industry, of water power development and trade development generally.

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ATMOSPHERE HAS CLEARED CONSIDERABLY

Expected Government Will Have Complete Statement of C.N.R.'s Affairs Today—Attitude of Opponents Less Uncompromising.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 29.—It is expected that a complete statement regarding the affairs of the Canadian Northern Railway as prepared by the government's auditors will be in the hands of the government tomorrow. For ten days they have been at work examining into the liabilities and assets of the railway for the purpose of enabling the administration to come to a decision as to whether or not a further issue of C.N.R. bonds should be guaranteed.

While nothing official can be obtained at the moment, it is observed that those who were so bitterly opposed some time ago to the government taking steps which would enable Mackenzie and Mann to raise funds to complete the road are less uncompromising in their attitude. It is said that one of the proposals which meets with most favor by the leaders of the Conservative party, and the most responsible men in the opposition, is a complete reorganization of the Canadian Northern and the possible creation of a holding company. The view is expressed tonight that in any case the present management will become subsidiary.

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TRURO PEOPLE DRIVEN FROM HOUSE BY FIRE

HOUSES ARE BURIED UNDER MOUNTAIN SLIDE

Portion of Mountain Detached by Seismic Disturbance Blots Out Farms and Cottages.

Brive, France, March 30.—A large section of a mountain has become detached by seismic disturbances and is slowly sliding down the valley sweeping over everything in its path. Already a number of farms and cottages have been blotted out, and the high roads from Brive and Lantoull have been destroyed for more than half a mile.

Heavy rumblings indicate that the mass is gaining headway, and the inhabitants are fleeing from their houses. Government engineers are seeking a means to limit the extent of the disaster.

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