

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF 100 IS "FALSE AND MISLEADING," DECLARES BRITISH EMBASSY

Ireland Is the Most Prosperous Part of the United Kingdom and Probably of Western Europe," Says Statement—Declares Sinn Fein Established Itself by Terrorism.

Washington, D. C., March 31.—General conclusions of the unofficial commission of the "committee of one hundred" investigating conditions in Ireland, as reported on the British Government's statement, are characterized as "biased and wholly misleading" in a statement issued today by the British embassy in answer to the commission's report.

The report, the embassy statement said, was "entirely untrue" and "judgment based entirely upon the evidence of ex-communicated persons, and forward for the most part by persons admittedly holding extreme views."

The statement issued by the embassy said: "The facts speak for themselves. Ireland, so far from being a devastated country, is the most prosperous part of the United Kingdom, and probably of a whole of Western Europe. Separate trade statistics for the various parts of the United Kingdom, forming, as they do, one fiscal unit, are not readily available, but a reliable index to the general prosperity of the country can be found in the returns of deposits in joint banks, which have increased as follows:

1914—£147,000,000.
1915—£165,000,000.
1916—£200,000,000.
1917—£220,000,000.

"This prosperity continues and is affected in a very minor degree by the general industrial depression."

Facts are ignored. "The report of the committee lays stress on so-called reprisals and ignores the fact that even before the Irish proclamation, in September, 1920, that reprisals were taking place, 20 police, 12 soldiers and 23 civilians had been murdered in cold blood, and 69 policemen, 58 soldiers and 74 civilians wounded, in most cases without a chance of defending themselves. By the same date 1,200 buildings had been burned and wholly or partially destroyed."

Rebel Terrorism. "Sinn Fein has established itself by the terror of the revolver, which has alienated the moderate opinion of the vast majority of Irishmen. It desired to claim for the Irish republican army the status of belligerents, ignoring the fact that the members of that force constantly, indeed, invariably, violate the laws of war as recognized by every civilized community, in a manner which, according to the same laws, justifies the penalty of death for all offenders. Their methods are those of assassins, their deadly work is done by stealth by persons in the garb of civilians, who move about under the protection of the law until the moment comes for the attack, and who, immediately after killing their victim, resort to the aspect and demeanor of peaceful citizens. Expanding bullets are frequently employed by these Sinn Fein men. Increasing pressure by crown forces has succeeded in forcing them

more and more to abandon the method of individual assassination, in favor of organized attack by armed bands, but the further character of their activities still continues.

Absolutely False. "The crown forces under almost incredible provocation patiently borne during many months, have on some occasions broken the bonds of discipline and committed unjustifiable acts of violence. It is not denied, but to say that such acts have been ordered by the British Government is absolutely false. The interests which suffer most by acts of indiscipline are those of the Government itself."

"The actual facts with regard to specific points raised in the report of the committee are as follows: 'The total ration strength of the crown forces is 61,000. The antecedents of all recruits are carefully investigated and no man of known bad character is retained for a moment.'

Record Is Clean. "There has been no indiscriminate killing; men have been shot through falling to halt when challenged by sentries, and innocent persons, including women and children, have suffered death or wounds in course of armed conflict resulting from unprovoked attacks made by Sinn Fein upon forces of the crown in crowded streets. Apart from these and similar inadvertent casualties the record of the crown forces is absolutely clean so far as women and children are concerned."

"Reports of torturing of prisoners have been completely disproved when ever attempt was made to bring forward tangible evidence."

"There are the strongest grounds for attributing to extreme Sinn Fein the murders of prominent Republicans, such as Lord Mayor MacCurran of Cork, and the mayor and alderman of Limerick."

Fulfilled Purpose. "The practice recently adopted of carrying hostages has entirely fulfilled its sole purpose, namely, to minimize attacks on crown forces and to prevent loss of life."

"Captured documents show clearly its restraining effect. No woman has ever been carried as a hostage."

"The military authorities have destroyed as a legitimate penalty the property of persons who are known to have been able to prevent serious outrages but did not do so."

"Fines are not levied on towns and villages."

Ceased to Function. "Some months ago the authorities of the law had been entirely over-ridden throughout a large part of Ireland. This is no longer the case. Sinn Fein courts have everywhere ceased to function, and there are no republican civil officials who are not in hiding. The regular police courts were held throughout Ireland in the month of March."

"The votes polled by the Sinn Fein

or Republican party at the general election in 1918 represented, in spite of widespread intimidation, less than half a million out of an electorate of nearly two million. In addition, they secured twenty-three uncontested seats, but the total electorate of the constituencies concerned, which was by no means entirely Sinn Fein, was less than 450,000."

Fight Cactus In Australia With Insects

Prickly Pear Has Become a First Class Nuisance.

PARIS, March 31.—The kind of cactus which we called the "prickly pear" has become a first-class nuisance in Australia. It grows very fast, spreads with great rapidity and forms masses of vegetation so dense that the clearing of ground once occupied by the plant is accomplished with utmost difficulty. Incidentally, it renders the land unavailable for agricultural purposes.

In response to urgent request, the United States Government is sending to Australia certain insects that prey upon the prickly pear. Hope is entertained that they may do enough damage to discourage the spread of the cactus plague in this part of the world.

Many species of American insects feed upon the prickly pear, one of them being the tiny cochineal bug, which in former days was so highly valued for the dye it furnished. It would not be useful for the purpose here in question; but there is a large green caterpillar, nearly two inches long, which ought to prove exceedingly efficient as a cactus destroyer. It is the offspring of a moth, and one of the most important enemies of the plant known in the United States, its method of attack being to bore into the fleshy leaves of the prickly pear and eat out the insides.

This caterpillar is to be sent to Australia, its transportation being easily accomplished by forwarding a quantity of infested leaves of the cactus. Another insect that is to go is a beetle, about the size of a cricket, which is a great destroyer of the prickly pear. The adult feeds on the outer parts of the joints, while the young grub penetrates and devours the interior of both joints and stems.

COUNTER CHARGE OF BIGAMY IS LAID

Peculiar Duplex Matrimonial Tangle To Be Aired in Montreal.

MONTREAL, March 31.—A case involving a duplex matrimonial tangle, originating overseas during the war, and now continued in the courts here, was called before Chief Justice Decarie in the sessions court today.

The complaint is laid by Charles Kately, who alleges bigamy on the part of his wife and his cousin, Percy Hancock. Kately was a soldier, and while he was in England contracted a marriage, despite the existence of a wife in Canada. Upon learning of his second matrimonial venture, the original wife went to England and laid a charge of bigamy against Kately, who was found guilty in an English court and sentenced to ten months' imprisonment.

Upon completing the sentence Kately returned to Canada, to discover, according to his allegations, that his former wife had married Percy Hancock, his cousin. He in turn laid a charge of bigamy against the pair.

INSPECTED PERTH REGIMENT. STAFFORD, March 31.—General Panel of London, O. C. of Military District No. 1, conducted his official inspection of the 28th Perth Regiment and the Machine Gun Unit at the arm the officers and men on their showing.

IDLE FORTUNES ATTRACT MANY

British Officials Are Besieged With Claims for Blake Millions and Other Riches.

London, March 31.—One of the alluring "unclaimed fortunes" which ever have proved such irresistible lodestones to people the world over (and the United States particularly) who believe themselves to be the rightful heirs thereto, appears likely to come again into the public eye in the near future. The "Blake millions" have been a perfect swarm of claimants in the past 30 years, and in attempting to establish his claim at least one citizen of the United States has reduced himself to hopeless beggary and ended in a London poorhouse.

The "Blake Millions," as they have been imagined by the many "heirs," actually amount to £250,000, or roughly one million and a quarter dollars. This money has been for upwards of a quarter of a century in the hands of the British national debt commission.

Elopement Starts Story. Its story is a colorful romance of special interest to Americans. It begins with the elopement, away back in 1820, of one Captain Robert Dudley Blake, son of a wealthy Northumbrian English baronet, with Helen Sheridan, a beautiful Irish girl, daughter of a Mayo peasant. According to one account she was the manageress of the Traveller Hotel in Castlebar; according to another she was a dressmaker's apprentice in Dublin. She met and eventually eloped with Captain Robert Dudley Blake, son of Sir Francis Blake, second baronet of his line, and the head of a wealthy family of coal owners of Northumberland. The Blakes had Twissel Castle in the county of Durham and the estates of Tilmouth Park and Seghill in Northumberland.

Captain Blake sent the Irish girl to school and married her in 1821. He was discovered forthwith by his family, and shortly afterwards migrated with his bride to Ohio, where they established a millinery business. Some years later he inherited great wealth from his father and returned with his wife to England, where he rose to be a general in the army.

Only Direct Heir Died. The Blakes' only child died in infancy, and General Blake, dying in 1860, left all his property to his only son, in September, 1876, died in London without leaving a will. Among her papers, however, various documents were discovered, indicating some of her intentions as to the disposal of her property. Acting on these the lords of the treasury directed payment of about \$5,000 in certain contemplated legacies, including \$5,000 to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, England's Grand Old Man.

Old Man. The possession of the estate and advertised for next of kin.

Sheridan, in a common Irish name, and it was not long before claimants began to appear. Seven bobbed up in 1877, but none could satisfy the crown or the courts that he was entitled to the property. Twissel Castle, which formed part of the estate, was sold by the crown to the branch of the Blake family represented by the present Sir Francis Blake, who, since 1916, has sat in Parliament as a coalition member for Berwick-on-Tweed, and who lives at Tilmouth Park, Cornhill-on-Tweed.

After law costs amounting to about \$250,000 (intending American claimants to English fortunes would do well to note this figure) had been defrayed, the balance of about a quarter of a million sterling, or \$1,250,000, was handed over to the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt.

Many Claimants Appear. Since that time many claimants have appeared, all claiming descent from one or other of Helen Sheridan's sisters, or from her cousins.

A pitiful story was that of the American claimant, Daniel Sheridan, who, when he was 70, in 1885, came to England, saying he was Helen Sheridan's cousin and a playfellow in her childhood. He left behind him Quinley, Ill., a farm of several hundred acres, some cattle and an oil well.

This old man lodged with a widow in Hullbank for four years, exhausting his money and running up a long bill. The authorities rejected his claim, and he finally was sent to the Lambeth workhouse.

The new claimant is Louis Northway, an Irishman in the fifties, a former member of the metropolitan police. He believes his mother, Mary Ann Northway, was a daughter of Priscilla Sheridan, the younger sister of the beautiful Mayo girl, who eloped with Captain Blake.

"It is a question of documentary evidence," he said, when interviewed recently, "and so far we have not been able to secure what is necessary, but I think with perseverance we may succeed. My mother, who was in receipt of an annuity from either Helen Blake or General Blake, used often to say to us children that when Aunt Blake died we should never have to work."

The actual claimable funds in the possession of the British Government may be grouped roughly under two

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heads. First, the so-called "dormant funds" in chancery; second, the money and estates left by persons who have died intestate, that is, without wills and without heirs.

The former are in the keeping, not of the old court of chancery, which ceased to exist 25 years ago, but in the hands of the supreme court of judicature. The estate of intestates are dealt with by the treasury.

Most Unclaimed Estates Tiny. As it is the dormant funds, supposedly aggregating hundreds of millions sterling, that excite "heirs" the world over, the cold facts may be given first. The "untold millions in chancery" really are not more than seven, counted in dollars, and the estates which this sum represents aggregate over 4,000. According to the latest report of the supreme court of judicature, the dormant funds do not exceed \$750 each, and only about one-twentieth are over \$5,000. Thus vanish the "Jennens millions," the "Page millions" and the other phantom fortunes with which "next of kin" sharks are still baiting their traps for suckers the world over.

Page "Millions" Lure Many. Perhaps the most glib bait the "unclaimed money" fakers ever invented was that of the Page "millions." Most Americans of the name have had a fling at this alluring prize. They have been dazzled no doubt by the beautiful coat of arms adorning the edition-de-luxe of the work describing the "Page estate in chancery," which has been widely circulated in the United States. The fact is that the property was distributed among the rightful heirs many years ago and it was never in chancery. Nearly ten years ago an application was made to the courts by one claimant and the judge then refused to reopen the case, ruling it closed for all time.

The Jennens case was settled over 50 years ago, the estate in dispute being awarded to an ancestor of the present Earl Howe. This was the case which Charles Dickens satirized so well as "Jarndyce versus Jarndyce." The Jennens case made the names of several lawyers and was a real gold mine to many legal luminaries, but the successful claimant, after the case had run its course of many years, won no more than a moral victory. The lawyers had swallowed up the estate in costs.

The last claimant to the Jennens estates was another American—Mrs. Mary Jane Griswold, who appeared as administratrix of William Jennens of Indiana, one of the alleged next of kin. In 1905 the court dismissed her case with costs.

JUDGE DENOUNCES DEALER'S CONDUCT. GUELPH, March 31.—Lynn and Charles Lash, local real estate dealers, were convicted by Judge Spotton today of unlawfully entering the home of Mrs. William Dickleson on March 3, and evicting her and putting the household effects out on the street. Judge Spotton suspended sentence, but the accused received a scathing denunciation from the court for their actions. At the time of the eviction Mrs. Dickleson was alone in the house, and the local police force carried out the work of dispossession despite the fact that Mrs. Dickleson produced a receipt for a month's rent paid in advance to J. J. Shaw, another real estate dealer, from whom she rented the house on February 25. Both Lashs and Shaw claim ownership of the house.

PASS MILLION MARK. WINDSOR, March 31.—Building permits up to noon today totaled \$738,851, as compared with a total of \$583,235 in March, 1920, and \$143,225 in March, 1919. Figures for the first three months aggregate over \$1,000,000.

KITCHENER PAVING WILL BE POSTPONED

Street Railway Extension Is Also Laid Over Temporarily.

KITCHENER, March 31.—At a joint conference here today of the board of works, the light commission and the water commission it was decided to hold up certain paving work this season owing to the inadvisability of putting in local improvements at this time. The pavement of Lancaster street, leading to Bridgeport, will be proceeded with, but space allowed in the boulevard for the laying of the water mains, which will later connect the city with the Bridgeport water development. The extension of the street railway will also be laid over.

For the first time in Canada the works of a number of English and Italian water-color artists are being exhibited at the public library. The collection, which just arrived from England, contains some notable sketches.

A Waterloo County farmer was found guilty of keeping liquor for sale when tried in police court today. The booze taken at his farm by inspectors recently represented an investment of \$1,240. Sentence was deferred.

KEEN INTEREST IN THE BABY CLINIC

Large Number of Visitors Attended Session in Library.

ST. THOMAS, March 31.—Considerable interest is taken by the mothers and doctors in the baby clinic at the public library auditorium, and the session was also a large number of visitors during the exercises this afternoon. About half a hundred babies were brought for examination, some of whom were found to be wanting in development, and there were others, too, who were in the pink of condition. The clinic is under the direction of the local Red-Cross Society. Much good is predicted to follow the advice and admonitions given the mothers on the subject and only way to be taken for the health and growth of the little ones.

The clinic will be continued tomorrow (Friday) afternoon, when Dr. G. H. G. will address the assembly.

BYLAW MAY BE RATIFIED SHORTLY

GUELPH, March 31.—Civic officials expect to hear at an early date of the ratification of the bylaw passed by the Legislature, before becoming effective over the operation of the Guelph Railway, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-governor-in-council and the Legislature, before becoming effective on May 1. Three copies of the agreement were recently forwarded by Clerk Leaday to the hydro commission for signature, and word was received that the necessary order-in-council had not yet been passed.