

BRITISH HOUSE WRESTLES WITH IRISH PROBLEM

LLOYD GEORGE'S OPTIMISM RELIEVES TENSION IN DEBATE ON THE IRISH SITUATION

LET BOTH RACES WORK TOGETHER TO DISPEL MUTUAL DISTRUST IS WAR MINISTER'S APPEAL — DEBATE GROWS LIVELY AT TIMES — ASQUITH'S SPEECH FAILS TO MOLLIFY NATIONALISTS — REDMOND'S MOTION DEFEATED.

London, Oct. 18.—The Irish question has been again brought to the fore in the House of Commons with the introduction by John Redmond of a motion criticizing the system of government of the island. The motion reads:

"That the system of government at present maintained in Ireland is inconsistent with the principles wherefor the Allies are fighting in Europe, and is or has been mainly responsible for the recent unhappy events and for the present state of feeling in that country."

Since Mr. Redmond gave notice of his intention to attack the government the Irish leaders have held a number of conferences with Baron Wimborne, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, but these have had more to do with the suggestion of the extension of conscription to Ireland than with the grievances arising from continuance of martial law and the failure to release all those arrested during the uprising in Ireland last spring. However, the question of conscription did not come under Mr. Redmond's motion. It doubtless will be discussed tomorrow, when the whole subject of the man power of the Empire comes up under review.

John Rawlinson, Unionist member for Cambridge University, proposed an amendment to the Redmond motion the following:

"Having regard for the importance of the United Kingdom and Ireland, combining with the rest of the Empire in presenting a united front to the enemy, it is not desirable at the present time to discuss controversial matters of domestic politics."

Mr. Redmond told the House of Commons that the inclusion of Sir Edward Carson, the Ulster Unionist leader, in the coalition government when the cabinet was reconstructed, meant to thousands of Irishmen the belief that they had been betrayed. He said he had prayed that Premier Asquith leave Ireland out of the coalition. The premier had refused and the result was fatal.

Mr. Redmond moved his resolution in the presence of a crowded House. Among those in the gallery were Baron Stanfordham, King George's private secretary. The Irish leader said it was undeniable that the situation in Ireland was full of menace and danger, and he contrasted this state of affairs with the genuine enthusiasm in Ireland for the Allies at the beginning of the war. He proceeded to review the situation in detail.

Mr. Redmond said the situation was full of menace and danger; of menace to the principles and aspirations of Ireland and to the English understanding between Great Britain and Ireland, and full of menace to the highest interests of the Empire at the present moment.

"My object is to ally, not to inflame, feeling, and to show how it is possible to save the situation," he continued.

"I do not want to make a party speech, and accordingly start my survey with the outbreak of the war."

Nationalist Leaders Snubbed.

"From the very first the efforts of the Nationalist leaders were thwarted and snubbed, and looking back I am amazed at the success which, under the circumstances, attended their efforts. Ireland had 187,000 men in the army, of whom 82,000 were Catholics, and 10,000 in the navy. Thirty thousand Nationalist volunteers had enlisted, and if it had not been for distrust of Ireland in the early phases of the war the number of volunteers would have been trebled."

The Nationalist leader complained that the delay in putting the Home Rule bill on the statute book gave the opponents in Ireland an opportunity of saying that they were about to be cheated in their trade. The promise made by Premier Asquith as to the creation of an Irish army corps also had never been accorded, he commented.

The difficult task of the Nationalists to popularize the army had been systematically thwarted, Mr. Redmond continued.

The new national university was not allowed to organize an officers' training corps, while a number of privileges had been granted Trinity University. He complained generally of the unsympathetic attitude of the war office in regard to various measures suggested to popularize recruiting in Ireland. Changes were made, but too late, he declared.

Taking each trade individually, he went on, the effect was small, but cumulatively the effect was enormous, and the undoubted enthusiasm at the beginning of the war began to die away.

The final blow came in the formation of the coalition government, the speaker declared. From that day recruiting for the army had diminished, and recruiting of the Sinn Féiners had increased. From that day things went from bad to worse, and finally came the rebellion.

"I am profoundly convinced that if the rising had been dealt with in the spirit with which Premier Bothera dealt with the rising in South Africa, it would have meant the saving of the situation," Mr. Redmond went on.

"Ireland was denounced because a couple of thousand men had attempted this mad rebellion—Ireland, who had not been trusted like South Africa, Ireland, who had not had ten years' experience with free institutions, like South Africa."

Mr. Redmond asked what was the purpose of the government in setting up a Unionist administration in Dublin, and what they proposed to do? Had the new chief secretary found a solution? Was it proposed to maintain martial law? He said he would do everything possible to maintain the Irish regiments at their full strength, but it was no use asking him to do the impossible. It was the duty of the Empire to remove all that made for bad faith and bad management and settle Ireland on a basis of freedom and responsibility. Compulsion, he declared, could only aggravate the difficulty, and he asked that the Irish recruits enlisted in the United Kingdom should be sent to Irish regiments.

Withdrawal of Martial Law Necessary

"The whole situation can only be met by boldly grappling with the Irish situation," continued Mr. Redmond.

"So long as the present state of government exists in Ireland, so long will the present excited and irritated public feeling exist, so long as the Irish people see that England, fighting for the rights of small nationalities in Europe, is maintaining, by martial law, the Unionist government against the will of the people of Ireland, no real improvement can be hoped for."

"Let the government withdraw martial law, and put in command of the forces in Ireland a man who has not been connected with the unhappy transactions of the past. Let the administration of the Defense of the Realm Act be as stringent as they like, but animated by the same spirit and carried into effect by the same machinery as in Great Britain. Let the 500 untried prisoners be released. Let the penal servitude prisoners be treated as political prisoners, and, above all, let the government take courage in its own hands and trust the Irish people, one and all, by putting the Home Rule Act in operation, and resolutely and on its own responsibility face any problems which that might entail."

Mr. Redmond declared that present conditions were injuriously affecting the British cause throughout America, and the dominions, especially, at the present moment, in Australia. As one who had honestly done his best and who was prepared to continue honestly to do his best to win the war, no matter what the risk to his own popularity in influence might be, he begged the government to hearken seriously to his warning advice.

Henry Edward Duke, the chief secretary of Ireland, replying to Mr. Redmond, said he recognized that underlying Mr. Redmond's speech was a profound desire that Ireland should play a part worthy of the highest traditions of her countrymen in this great struggle.

Recruiting Mistakes Remedied.

The real question, he continued, with which this country and Ireland were confronted was whether, when Ireland was fighting for her existence, Ireland, from one cause or another, should stand aside. Those grounds of criticism which referred to mistakes and recruiting mismanagement were capable of remedy, he added, and Mr. Lloyd George, the secretary for war, was particularly qualified to deal with them.

Mr. Duke said that 500 men still interned for participation in the Irish uprising were ringleaders.

The time had not come, he continued, when many of the interned men could safely be allowed to return to the countryside, but men who made application and who had been able to offer security were not released.

There must be some restraint, he insisted, upon men from the south-west who took part in or sympathized with the rebellion and who had not abandoned what he characterized as their foolish ambition, and if nothing better could be devised martial law would have to be continued.

The rising in Dublin, Mr. Duke declared, could not be regarded as a local happening, and it was impossible for the government to accept the prescriptions of Mr. Redmond. The secretary said he sympathized with the Nationalist disappointment in the delay of the application of the Home Rule Act, but declared that the real obstacle was the disagreement among Irishmen themselves, and for that the British system of administration could not be blamed. He pleaded the necessity for a speedy settlement of the Irish problem.

"In regard to martial law, the government must bide its time, he added. It must withdraw every restriction as soon as possible, but its paramount duty was to secure to every law-abiding subject of Ireland protection by every means at its command."

Means Coercion, "T. P." Says.

T. P. O'Connor said that Secretary Duke's speech simply meant coercion, more coercion, and still more coercion, but the whole history of Ireland proved that coercion was useless. The present administration of Ireland, Mr. O'Connor asserted, was incompatible with the principle for which the Entente Allies are fighting. The government, he said, could not enter with clean hands the peace which he prayed and believed would follow the Entente victory, unless Ireland was pacified.

After Mr. O'Connor had spoken, John F. P. Rawlinson, Unionist member for Cambridge University, moved an amendment to Mr. Redmond's motion as follows:

"Having regard for the importance to the United Kingdom of Ireland combining with the rest of the Empire, in presenting a united front to the enemy, it is not desirable at the present time to discuss controversial matters of domestic politics."

Mr. John Simon, the former home secretary, contended that the continuance of martial law in Ireland was needless. Its removal, he said, would assuage the bitter and dangerous feelings.

Premier Asquith.

John Norton Griffith, Unionist, having expressed the opinion that it would be impracticable to attempt to apply conscription in Ireland, Premier Asquith, rising, admitted that there had been a regrettable mistake and blunder in recruiting in the early stages, and said that Mr. Redmond's suggestions for filling up with Irishmen the wasted ranks of the gallant Irish division would receive the most careful and sympathetic attention. No man had rendered more constant, loyal or effective service in the recruiting, he declared, than the Irish leader.

Repudiating the allegation that Dublin Castle was being run by a Unionist administration, the premier said it must be remembered that they were dealing with a provisional and, he hoped, a transitory situation. Martial

law in the commonly accepted sense was not being applied to Ireland, and if the desired ends could be secured by different means nobody would be more anxious to adopt them than the government.

He did not consider it safe, in view of the possible recurrence of recent events, to disperse with the existing safeguards, but the government was desirous, at the earliest possible moment, to revert to normal conditions. Turning to the question of the Irish prisoners, some stormy passages occurred. Mr. Asquith promised that those detained should be liberated at the moment it was considered safe to do so.

The Nationalist member, Alfred Byrne, representing a division of Dublin, shouted: "They are starving."

Any complaints brought to the notice of the home secretary, said Mr. Asquith, would receive immediate attention. "It is the hardest-hearted jailer we ever had,"

"The hon. gentleman," replied the premier, "knows that that description is not applicable to the home secretary. Let him produce his facts."

Mr. Healey shouted: "It is false to do so. Let the American ambassador visit the prisoners."

"If the American ambassador will give himself the trouble," responded the premier, "I shall be most happy. I take nothing back of what I said on my return from my visit to Ireland with regard to the impossibility of forcibly imposing on any part of Ireland a form of government lacking their consent."

Nationalist cries of "what are you doing now?"

In conclusion the premier said that the atmosphere now existing in Ireland could only be dispensed by an agreed settlement. He believed there was no party, no sane politician in Great Britain, who would not welcome with joy such an agreement and co-operate wholeheartedly therein, and he prayed it might be soon reached.

The premier's speech was received with manifest signs of disapproval by the Nationalists.

Joseph Devlin, Nationalist member for West Belfast, regretted that he was unable to congratulate the Prime Minister on a single suggestion toward solving the Irish problem, or a single word of sympathy with those endeavoring to preserve the constitutional movement in Ireland.

Lloyd George.

The government had handed over Irish affairs to Lord Lansdowne, Major Price and the editor of the Morning Post, and he suggested that that triumvirate should take over the work of recruiting in Ireland and see whether they would succeed. The government could get all the men it wanted in Ireland, he declared, if home rule were granted.

Dave Lloyd George, Secretary for War, said:

"At the most crucial period of recruiting, at the beginning of the war, some stupidities, which at times almost looked like malignance, were perpetrated in Ireland, and were beyond repair. It is very difficult to recover a lost opportunity of that kind, where Nationalist sympathies have been offended and original enthusiasm killed."

Every effort, he continued, was being made to keep Irishmen in Irish regiments, and only in cases of military emergency were Irishmen drafted into non-Irish regiments. He was sorry to say that some of the Irish battalions of English regiments had ceased to be Irish in character. The total number of recruits from Ireland since the beginning of the war," said the War Secretary, "was 106,000, or 2 1/2 per cent. of the population, which was very low compared with the remainder of the United Kingdom and the Dominions."

Looks at the urgency of the military problem, he hoped that the men of all parties would help Mr. Redmond to their utmost to solve his difficulties and create a better atmosphere in Ireland with regard to recruiting. He desired to see this gallant and warlike people brought back to their original temper at the outbreak of the war. Everybody in England, and the men of all parties in Ireland, should consider how to remove the causes of injustice, distrust and suspicion between the two races which rendered it impossible for them to co-operate.

"I believe it can be done," said the secretary. "Before beginning any controversy about recruiting in Ireland, I should like to see that considered. I am making this appeal as Secretary for War, because I know how vital it is that everything the Empire can do in every quarter should be summoned to our aid in this great struggle. Let us make it easy for Ireland to assist. Let everybody in Great Britain subordinate everything to securing the assistance of this great race. And I make the same appeal to Ireland."

Mr. Redmond's motion was defeated, 303 to 196.

German Statement.

Berlin, Oct. 18, 4.34 p. m.—French attacks in the region of Morval and Rancourt, north of the River Somme, were repulsed yesterday after hard fighting, says the official statement issued today by army headquarters. British and French attacks near Thiepval, Courcellette and Bouchavesnes, the statement adds, also failed.

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James Malcolm, Erin Street, and S. J. Small, of Milford, Give Lives on Empire Battleground.

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Order Given by Commander of Second Division Bury all Dead as Soon as Possible.

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"The commander saw in the fore most lines a considerable number of unburied corpses many of which must have been lying there before the occupation of the position by the Canadian corps. The corps commander requires from every division in the first line a systematic examination of the ground and the burial of all corpses as soon as possible.

"The chief commander orders that this be communicated to all ranks, and that it must be accomplished, not only for reasons of humanity, but principally for hygienic reasons. It is ordered that dead Germans also must be buried."

OPPOSED TO ALL-RED CABLE ROUTE

Toronto, Oct. 18.—Mr. J. Ross Robertson of the Toronto Evening Telegram, and president of the Canadian Associated Press, testified today before the Dominion Royal Commission investigating Empire resources and relations. He strongly deprecated the idea of the all-red cable route, and said he suspected that it was a game of Australia to get Canada to help pay the cost of a better cable service to the Antipodes.

He roundly condemned the proposal of an imperial wire service across Canada as too costly to contemplate. "It would cost the newspapers of Canada \$237,000 a year. Canada got all the British news she wanted," he said. There was no foundation for talk of "Americanizing" the news.

The New Zealand representative on the commission, Hon. J. R. Sinclair, said:

"Australia will bear her own burdens. The various governments pay their proper share of the cost of their cable service."

"I do not thank them for trying to make us pay for something we do not need," said Mr. Robertson.

says today's German official statement, and took 350 prisoners and 12 machine guns.

The announcement follows.

"French troops which advanced to the attack from the region of Morval and Rancourt were repulsed after a hard fight. The enemy has forced his way into Salilly-Salillisel, and fighting there is still going on."

"Adjacent to the principal place of attack near Thiepval, Courcellette and Bouchavesnes, attacks made by the enemy failed to gain any success for him."

"Five enemy aeroplanes were brought down in the course of aerial fighting."

HUNGARY PLAYING OWN GAME IN WAR

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