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IRELAND MUST ACCEPT THE BILL

Giving Measure of Home Rule Whether She Likes It Or Not.

ULSTER LIKELY TO ACCEPT

WHOLE BRITISH ARMY READY FOR SINN FEINERS.

A Settlement of the Irish Question Regarded as Second in Importance Only to Winning of the War.

London, Dec. 27.—Ireland may have to accept Premier Lloyd George's new Home Rule plan, introduced in the House of Commons, Monday, whether she likes it or not, an official close to the British Premier declared in an interview.

The Premier is prepared to force acceptance of his measure, this official asserted. Its passage by Parliament was assured before the measure was submitted, he added.

Lloyd George, according to this official, is "heart and soul" for passage of some legislation which will at least start a settlement of the Irish question, he continued. The Premier regards this problem as second in importance only to winning of the war.

Believe Ulster Will Accept.

It was believed in Government circles, according to the source of information, that Ulsterites will accept the Premier's plan, which provides for two legislatures, one for southern Ireland and another for Ulster, with a co-ordinating body to be known as a national assembly.

Ulster accepts the plan, and its Parliament is threatened by the Sinn Fein, the "entire British army" is available for protection of Ulster, it was asserted.

The Government realizes it is impossible to force the Sinn Fein section of Ireland to organize a Parliament, the official said, but, he pointed out, it would be easy to offer them the chance to deal with the Orangeism through a legislative body and grant the Ulsterites protection in case there was any attempt to interfere with them.

For the present, it was said, the Premier is "forgetting Ireland" until resumption of Parliament, which has been prorogued by the King until the new year. The Premier's Home Rule Bill already has been drawn up and pigeon-holed.

Lloyd George, it was said, will devote his time now to domestic questions, the content and the peace conference. He plans to leave for Paris to discuss peace problems early in January.

The Premier's advisers have assured him of speedy passage of the Irish measure—probably within two months after the reassembling of Parliament—and by that time it was hoped, most of the international questions will have been settled.

THREE LIVES ARE LOST BY A MINER'S AOT

Throw Handful of Powder on Fire, Which Blew Out Side of House.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Herbert Waters, aged 43, a coal miner at Morrisville, near here, tested the quality of blasting powder by tossing a handful into an open fire in his house yesterday. Waters and his wife, Mary Waters, aged 40, are dying in the Wayneburg Hospital, their eight-year-old daughter, Belma, is dead, and their 14-year-old son, Thomas, is in hospital from severe, but not fatal, injuries.

Waters had a keg of powder in his home, to be used in mine blasting. The explosive had become damp and the miner was in doubt as to its quality. Examining a handful as he sat in front of the fire, he tossed a few chunks into the blaze.

The resultant explosion set off the keg of powder, blowing out one entire side of the two-story brick house and hurling the occupants into the yard. All four were rushed to the hospital, where Belma died in two hours.

War Prisoners in Sorry Plight.

Geneva, Dec. 27.—The International Red Cross has sent out an appeal in behalf of the prisoners of war in Siberia. Two hundred thousand prisoners, for the most part Austrians and Hungarians, many of whom were captured in 1914, are living without shelter and virtually without clothing and little food. Any contagious disease may make terrible ravages. Typhus has already killed 12,000 of the 14,000 men at the Troitzky camp.

As it would need 225,000,000 francs to transport the prisoners to their homes the Red Cross fears that the operation would be too long, and hopes that their fate can be ameliorated quickly by assistance rendered from the outside, or all will be dead before relief reaches them.

Got Beyond Fighting Lines.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Washington, Dec. 27.—An engagement between Polish forces and Bolsheviks at Talska, a junction on the trans-Siberian railway from a branch line to Tomsk, is said to have been fought on December 23rd, according to State Department advisers, but trains bearing American Red Cross supplies succeeded in getting beyond the fighting lines. American Vice-Consuls Day and Hanson are reported safe.



FACES IN RECENT NEWS ITEMS

(1) Brig.-Gen. C. H. Mitchell, of Toronto, whom Hartley Dewar has nominated for a place on the proposed enlarged Hydro-Electric Commission. (2) L. B. McFarlane, of Montreal, president of the Bell Telephone Co., who says Toronto is to have the automatic system installed. (3) Admiral Sims, of the U. S. Navy, and (4) Josephus Daniels, secretary of the same navy, who are engaged in a nice little discussion over war honors. (5) John Torrance, of Montreal, Canadian manager for the White Star Line, who is retiring from the steamship business after 44 years.

RETURNED SOLDIER SHOT IN MONTREAL

Killed in Fight Following a Visit to His Friend's House.

Montreal, Dec. 27.—Patrick Leahy, of 109 Bencot street, was shot and killed in a fight which occurred on Wednesday at 26 DeMontigny street west, and Victor Dupuis and his wife were later arrested. The man will be charged with murder, while his wife is at present being held as a witness for the coroner's inquest.

Dupuis and Leahy were friends and attended midnight mass together. Afterwards Leahy went to Dupuis' house for refreshments. A quarrel followed and Leahy was shot as he was running through the door. He died almost immediately after being received at a hospital. Two rifles were found in the house, both containing empty shells. The dead man was a returned soldier.

HELD UP SHOPPERS IN BIG FUR STORE

Chicago Robbers Made Get-away With Loot of Value of \$27,500.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—Police today were looking for six men who late last night held up a fur store on the south side filled with Christmas shoppers and escaped with furs valued at \$25,000, cheques aggregating \$3,000 and \$500 in cash.

The robbers, with revolvers, forced all clerks and shoppers first to line up against the wall with hands above their heads, and afterward to lie flat on the floor. The men then selected the most costly furs, and in eight taking all the cash and cheques in sight carried the loot to their automobile and drove away.

ROAST TURKEY WENT A-BEGGING

Few Applicants for Free Christmas Dinners in New York.

New York, Dec. 27.—Christmas dinners went begging on the Bowery. Roast turkey, with all its "trimmings" candy and mince pie, failed to attract half as many hungry men as were served in former years. This was attributed to prevalent prosperity and prohibition.

The famous Bowery Mission served only 400 persons, where in former years they have been called to provide for at least 1,500. At Hadley's Rescue Hall less than 300 appeared for dinner. Many missions did not serve the usual Christmas repast because of the lack of applicants.

BROKEN SWITCH ROD

Caused Wreck of C.P.R. Train at Fredon Junction.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Fredon, N.B., Dec. 27.—A broken switch rod is said to have been responsible for the Canadian Pacific passenger train from Montreal breaking apart and being wrecked as it entered Fredon Junction yards yesterday. Edward Barry, the baggage master, was the only person hurt to any extent. He suffered a broken wrist and lacerations about the head. The express car was thrown across the tracks, while the baggage car crashed into a string of freight cars standing on the siding, and the second class car was thrown into a ditch on the other side of the track, where it rolled over. A party of six Russians, two other persons and the news agent were in the second class car, which was badly smashed, but all climbed out with some slight cuts and bruises.

Ottawa Minister is Dead.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 27.—Rev. Walter E. Baker, pastor of the First Congregational Church, died Christmas morning, after a two weeks' illness, of pneumonia. He was in his 40th year. He was a native of Brantford, Ont.

The appeal in the case of R. B. Russell, Winnipeg, will come before the Manitoba court of appeals the latter part of next week.

BRYAN TO AID PEACE TREATY

Former Democratic Leader Again to Be Busy in Washington Politics.

STILL A LEADING FACTOR

WILL HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH REVISING PLATFORM

Some Think He is Attempting to Gain Leadership of Party From President Wilson.

Washington, Dec. 27.—William Jennings Bryan is coming here next week to confer with Democratic Senators on the Peace Treaty and to participate in the meeting of the Democratic National Committee on January 8th.

Friends of the President who have heard of his activity say that Mr. Bryan is preparing to take the lead in Democratic politics, and that the real purpose of the conference is to place Mr. Bryan in a place of prominence in Democratic circles. Some severe critics of Mr. Bryan go so far as to say that the commoner, who resigned as Secretary of State after a difference with the President over the German submarine notes, is attempting to gain leadership of the party from President Wilson.

Whether there is any truth in these reports it is impossible to say at this time, because Mr. Bryan in his preliminary conference here last week did not fully show his hand. One thing becoming evident and that is that Mr. Bryan is doing his utmost to influence speedy action on the treaty. The presence of Mr. Bryan and National Committeemen here after the holiday recess is expected to have some result on the treaty situation.

The Republican National Committee meeting early this month had the effect of exerting pressure on the Republican Senators, who forced reservations into the treaty unacceptable to President Wilson, so the advice that Mr. Bryan is expected to give to his party leaders in the Senate may produce a situation favorable to ratification of the treaty. Republican Senators learned from the treaty leaders that the country was demanding peace, that in some States the people were changing delay to the majority, while in other sections the criticism was levelled against the President and the minority Senators.

STILL Political Factor.

Friends of Mr. Bryan say that at least eight Democratic Senators can be persuaded by the commoner in the treaty matter, as they are regarded as thinking that his position before the country is as strongly on the side of a peace and a League of Nations as the President's. On the other hand, as a political factor, Mr. Bryan, they say, cannot be ignored in the councils of the party, and they look to him, as in 1912, to be a deciding factor in the framing of the platform and in the naming of the Presidential nominee of the coming convention.

It has been learned from followers of Mr. Bryan that he will demand not only a liberal candidate but a liberal platform. In informal conversations that have been held between him and his admirers he has indicated opposition to the program followed by Attorney-General Palmer in the solution of the coal strike question. Judged by his indefinite talks, some of Mr. Bryan's friends believe that he will be found aiding the nomination of another man than the Attorney-General, and that candidate may be former Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo.

EIGHT MEN DIE

After Drinking What They Thought Was Whiskey.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Hartford, Conn., Dec. 27.—Eight men are dead here from drinking what they supposed to be whiskey, which had probably been compounded with wood alcohol. Four men are under arrest for the time being, charged with murder in connection with the deaths, and a fifth is charged with intent to transport liquor illegally. Twelve barrels of the mixture, presumed to be palatable, but requiring water to lessen its strength, were bought from a New York firm for twelve thousand dollars, according to statements made to the police.

Municipalities Get Land.

"That is very true," responded the Premier Drury and the minister of lands and forests were obviously favorable to the working out of a comprehensive scheme of reforestation for this province and the members of the deputation were greatly encouraged by their reception.

"For years," stated Mr. Clarke, "there has been talk of reforestation by the provincial government, but next to nothing has been done. I do not believe that the present system, whereby the initiative is with the municipalities, will ever accomplish anything. What is your personal opinion?" enquired Mr. Clarke of Prof. Zavits, the government's reforestation expert.

"Personally I do not believe the system which leaves so much to the municipal councils will ever amount to much, or be a success even where it is tried. I think the thing is a provincial undertaking."

"Where would the province get land?" asked Premier Drury. "You know what happens as soon as a government starts looking for land. The Camp Borden property is a sufficient example of that. It seems to me that the municipalities can get this waste land much cheaper and easier than the province."

LET OUT CONVICTS AND JAIL THE POLICE

Six Toledo Thugs Establish A Record in Releasing Prisoners.

Toledo, O., Dec. 27.—One of the most daring jail deliveries ever accomplished in this part of the country occurred here Christmas Day, when six men called at the county jail, exchanged Christmas greetings with three deputy sheriffs on duty, overpowered and locked them in a cell, then liberated four notorious burglars and safe-blowers. In the fight that followed the arrival of the visitors, Leo Noonan, a deputy, was shot through the left breast. Hearing the commotion, Sheriff John Mathias rushed from bed to investigate and was promptly carried off to the cellar and imprisoned.

The ten men then walked leisurely out of the jail.

"Drys" Are in Minority.

Wellington, New Zealand, Dec. 27.—The returns in the "no license" referendum, taken simultaneously with the general election poll, are incomplete. Thus far the official count places the prohibitionists slightly in the minority. Returns from three districts are still to be received, as well as a large number of votes of absentees.



YE OLDE, AND—

When gallant knight his lady wed And drew her close, with all her charms, "Ah, lucky is that man," they said: "He holds his fortune in his arms."

YE NEW.

The scene is changed; a turkey's got Ye lady's place on sundry farms. The farmer's is a lucky lot. He holds his fortune in his arms.

WOULD RESTORE ONTARIO LUMBER

Provincial Minister Approves Scheme For Reforestation.

MUST REPLACE THE LUMBER

THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT OF PROVINCE.

Land Which At Present Is Little More than a Nuisance Would Be Utilized.

Toronto, Dec. 27.—When a deputation of twenty from Northumberland and Durham counties, headed by Sam Clarke, M.P.P., Cobourg, waited upon Premier Drury and Minister on Lands and Forests Beniah Bowman at the parliament buildings a comprehensive scheme of reforestation was placed in the government incubator. Its hatching and maturing would mean millions of dollars in new timber for Ontario and in replacing to some extent of the huge volume of lumber that has found its way in the last couple of decades out of the forests of old and New Ontario.

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NEW IRISH POLICY FAIR TO ALL PARTIES

Many-Sided Support by British Opinion Indispensable to Success.

London, Dec. 27.—The Daily Chronicle fairly sums up the reception the premier's Irish plans met with in the press by offering the government congratulations. The various Irish sections condemn, but their condemnation in public was expected. The only hopeful way is to give up trying to placate this or that Irish section and lay down before the eyes of the world a policy fair to all. But for this course to be pursued and to end with success the Chronicle says:

"Many-sided support from British opinion is indispensable. Such support was forthcoming yesterday throughout practically the whole British press, and if the candid Conservative non-partisan note which was then manifest can be maintained, Britain may win the inestimable prize of an honest and permanent Irish settlement by the same unity of high purpose which won the war."

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RAILWAYS NEED FIVE BILLION

For Expansion And Rehabilitation And Improvement in Five Years.

JAMES J. HILL WAS RIGHT

IN HIS PROPHECY A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO.

Adequate Financing of American Roads Dependent Upon Legislation and Higher Rates.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—Five billion dollars will be needed by the railroads of the United States for expansion, rehabilitation and improvements in the five-year period following their return to private ownership on March 1st. Leading railroad men in Chicago made this statement when informed that President Wilson had fixed a date for turning back the roads.

"The roads should spend a billion a year," said Hale Holden, regional director of the Central West, "for at least a five-year period in order to provide the country with an adequate transportation machine. Extensions, improvements and additional equipment are sorely needed."

"On the legislation passed, and the action of the Interstate Commerce Commission in allowing rate increases, depend the roads' chances of getting these. At present it is difficult for the roads to borrow; financiers have not had confidence in railroad securities because of the governmental attitude toward the roads."

"If there is a disposition to permit them to earn revenue sufficient to warrant expenditure, they will have no trouble borrowing the necessary money. If the disposition is not shown by the Government, it will be almost impossible for the roads to give efficient and adequate service. The fixing of a date for the return, however, is a good thing, as it will dispel the uncertainty which had handicapped the roads in the last few months."

"I am glad the date for a return has been fixed," said R. H. Ashton, director-general of the north-west region. "The uncertainty of the last few months was not calculated to do the roads any good. Now that it is dispelled, they can go ahead, make their plans, and at the same time give the best possible service."

Commenting on Mr. Holden's statement as to the requirements of the roads, Mr. Ashton said: "Jim Hill said the same thing a number of years ago. Nobody paid much attention to it then. There seems to be no doubt he was right now."

JAPAN NOW FACES MANY BIG PROBLEMS

May Extend Franchise—People Urged to Cultivate a Broad International Spirit

Tokio, Dec. 27.—Dec. 27.—On the eve of the formal opening of the Diet, Premier Hara issued a statement asserting that "many problems exist, some of them not easy of solution."

"Extension of the franchise, the internal food problem and foreign diplomacy, especially with reference to China, stare us in the face," he said, "demanding study before a solution can be reached. The Government is optimistic, however, and expects to encounter no serious obstacles."

Concerning the franchise, we are prepared to meet the will of the people."

Premier Hara added that he believed social and industrial conditions in Japan compared favorably with those in Europe. In the matter of foreign diplomacy, he added, Japan needed a careful propaganda to correct the misunderstanding of Japanese aims and ideals. The best propaganda, he said, would be that of the people themselves, who must cultivate a broad international spirit through intercourse and the exchange of views.

"I am convinced," said Premier Hara, "that Japan is advancing with the rest of the world, and is not going behind or against it. Japan can go forward with faith in her future."

MANY LIVES LOST AT SWISS RESORTS

Heavy Avalanches Carried Death and Terror in Their Wake.

Geneva, Dec. 27.—The avalanche which occurred at the mountain resort of Davos caused terror among residents and visitors and resulted in a number of deaths in the village itself. One huge, powdery avalanche swept down upon a sanatorium, smashing doors and windows and killing a Russian woman and her nurse and seriously injuring several others. Many were imprisoned in the upper stories throughout the night. It is considered a miracle that the sanatorium did not collapse, as the walls were badly damaged.

Another avalanche, fell on the Hotel Excelsior killing two employees and doing much damage. A third avalanche almost overwhelmed the Pension Germania. Five dead have been taken from the building, but it is feared that others are buried under the wreckage.

THE LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD

Despatches That Come From Near and Distant Places.

TIDINGS FOR OUR READERS

PRESENTED IN THE BRIEFEST POSSIBLE FORM.

The Whig's Daily Condensation of the News of the World From Telegraphic Service and Newspaper Exchange.

Premier Drury will not cancel his appointment in Middlesex.

The U.S. senators now want the peace treaty ratified in some form.

The Dominion parliament is to be called for either February 19th or 25th.

Hon. S. F. Toimie, minister of agriculture, is seriously ill with diphtheria at Victoria, B.C.

Great Britain will accept a mandate for the Holy Land, the Zionists are informed.

Fourteen farmers were elected in the Australian House. Premier Hughes retains his seat.

Britain was out off for two days on the remainder of the world. No newspaper was published over the Christmas holidays.

Lady Astor may be disqualified. Her right to sit in the British Commons is called in question, as she is a peeress by marriage.

Marshal Foch has informed the republican committee of Finlanders, that he will decline the candidacy of the senate, recently offered him.

On Christmas Eve robbers with revolvers held up clerks and shoppers in a Chicago fur store and got away with furs valued at \$25,000 and \$2,500 cash.

A Newark, N.J., woman has bought two coffins for herself and her husband, so as to be sure of good burial if their money gives out in these times of high costs.

The National Steel Corporation, Ltd., recently organized under Dominion charter, has taken over the National Steel Car Company, Hamilton. The new company is a purely Canadian one.

Premier Nitti will go to London from Rome, and from there will return to Paris to attend the meeting of the Allied premiers and foreign ministers, which is expected to begin next week.

George Cartwright, an official in the stores department of the Canadian government railways, was arrested at Halifax on a charge of stealing two thousand dollars worth of silver, table linen, blankets and other Pullman and dining car accessories.



LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR PHILLIP CHETWODE. Explaining the capture of Jerusalem to His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire. Show in the British Whig travelogues being presented at the Grand Opera House next week.