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ASQUITH GOES TO IRELAND TO CONSULT AUTHORITIES

Factions There Called On to Settle Differences For Empire's Good

John Dillon's Grave Charges—Disarmament For All Fixed.

London cable says: The most dangerous factor in Ireland's situation which had been recognized since the brief rising flashed in the pan was that the punishment of the rebels would cause a reaction of sympathy among the people. This threatened danger appears to be fast materializing.

John Dillon, who is one of the most respected of the Nationalists, but often one of the bitterest antagonists of British rule, attacked the Government to-day in the House of Commons in a speech which for bitter denunciation has not been surpassed at Westminster since Parnell's days.

Premier Asquith has personally stepped into the breach and is taking the unprecedented course of journeying to Dublin to investigate the situation on the spot, and doubtless to give instructions to General Sir John Maxwell regarding the policy which the military Government must pursue, now that the chief civil administrators, Lord Wimborne, Augustine Biggell and Sir Matthew Nathan, have retired from office. The Premier left here to-night by the Irish mail train on his way to that city.

Mr. Asquith once more took the reins in his own hands at a crisis by assuming the Secretaryship of War, when the threatened Ulster revolt in 1914 caused the resignation of Col. Seely.

The Prime Minister's finest powers have been displayed in playing the part of a conciliator, and he now has a task which is likely to demand their utmost exercise. He announced that he was going to consult with the authorities in order to arrive at some arrangement satisfactory to Irishmen of all parties, and no statesman ever attempted a harder achievement. He frankly declared that the present situation could not continue.

Many of the newspapers, particularly the Liberal organs, call upon the Irish factions to seize the present opportunity for settling their long standing differences.

ALL IRELAND TO BE DISARMED.

The Marquis of Lansdowne intimated to the House of Lords that the disarmament of all Ireland will be undertaken. This would mean the disarmament of the Ulster and Nationalist Volunteers, and whether that can be done depends on Sir Edward Carson and John Redmond.

The House of Commons negatived without division Mr. Dillon's motion demanding the Government should immediately declare its intentions. The House of Lords adopted without division Lord Loreburn's motion expressing dissatisfaction with the Government's management of Ireland.

THE PREMIER'S STATEMENT.

Premier Asquith announced in the House of Commons that he felt it to be his duty to go to Dublin to-day to consult the civil and military authorities.

Mr. Asquith said he would leave for Dublin within a few hours. His trip, he explained, would not be made with the intention of superseding the executive authority in Ireland, but for the purpose of consulting the civil and military authorities at first hand, and arriving at some arrangement for the future which would commend itself to Irishmen of all parties and to Parliament. He added that the present government of Ireland was in an anomalous and unsatisfactory position, which could not continue indefinitely.

The number of casualties among civilians up to May 9 was given by Premier Asquith as 130 killed and 614 wounded. The Premier's statement increased the total number of dead in the Irish uprising to 104, not including those executed, and the wounded to 1,002, an official statement this week reporting the death of 124 soldiers or policemen and the wounding of 338 others.

"It was of the utmost importance," said Mr. Asquith, "that after these disturbing events we should forsake all past prepossessions and recognize that the vast mass of the Irish people have shown themselves loyal to the Crown, determined to maintain the law, and resolved to prosecute the war. We ought to seize the opportunity of developing these potential sentiments of unity, good feeling and co-operation, and endeavor, putting aside all controversies of the past, to unite Ireland herself and Ireland as a constituent of the United Kingdom and the Empire in the common task which absorbs all our common energies."

With reference to the Skeffington case, Mr. Asquith said that on the facts known to the Government he seemed to be an inexorable act, but the case was sub judice, and all he could say or promise was that an open enquiry would be held.

National volunteers who were followers of John Redmond and who were arrested as Irish volunteers are

now being released. Gen. Maxwell, the British commander, has granted facilities for the identification of loyal volunteers.

FOURTEEN EXECUTIONS.

Fourteen persons have been executed in Ireland, Harold J. Tennant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for War, told a questioner. Seventy-three persons have received sentences of penal servitude, and six imprisonment at hard labor, the Under-Secretary added.

Mr. Tennant said two others had been sentenced to death, but the sentences had not been carried out. The number deported from Ireland was given as 1,706. Those deported have not yet been tried, and are still in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Tennant added that six officers and 24 others of the Sherwood Foresters were killed in Dublin, and 15 officers and 142 others wounded, besides nine being missing. The total casualties were about 1,000, of which 400 were killed.

DILLON'S RESOLUTION.

The text of the resolution presented in the House of Commons by John Dillon is as follows: "That in the interest of peace and good government in Ireland it is vitally important that the Government should make immediately a full statement of their intentions as to continuance of executions, in that country, carried out as a result of secret military trials, and as to continuance of martial law, military rule, and the searches and wholesale arrests now going on in various districts of the country." Mr. Dillon's motion was voted down without a division.

In speaking on his resolution Dillon referred to the execution of Thomas Kent in County Cork, saying it looked as though they were a roving commission to carry out "these horrible executions." To-day Mr. Tennant announced there had been 14 executions, he continued, although the previous figure was 12. He asked what people were to believe, and added that it was no wonder many viewed the matter with gravest concern, lest another explanation had been held back from the Premier and might be brought to light later.

Mr. Dillon said he drafted his resolution in order to confine the discussion to the narrow, but important issue of military executions and the continuance of martial law. He complained that Premier Asquith was kept in the dark by the military authorities, and that he would hold General Maxwell and other military authorities responsible for the execution of P. Sheehy Skeffington, but pointed out that Mr. Skeffington was shot on April 26 and the military authorities did not hear of it until May 6th.

How could anyone blame the people of Dublin for believing dozens of others have been shot secretly in barracks?" he asked. "Horrible rumors are current in Dublin, and they are embittering the population."

WASHED OUT IN SEA OF BLOOD.

Mr. Dillon said that the fact that nine out of ten people in Ireland were on the side of the Government was due to the life work of the Nationalists and now the present rule was "washing out that life-work in a sea of blood."

Out of the whole of Ireland, Mr. Dillon continues, there were only four or five spots where there was insurrection, yet the whole country was under martial law and there was absolutely no trace of the civil administration. The Irish people, he declared, would refuse to accept the well known high character of Gen. Maxwell as the sole guardian of their liberties, and if the military rule was to be continued the Government had better get ready to send men to garrison the country.

"If the Ulster members had not been so dense, said Mr. Dillon, they could have had many of the rebels fighting for them in the British army—men who were misled into rebellion but of whose courage he was proud.

This statement brought forth cries of "shame." "Who stopped them?" Unionist members—You did." Dillon—That is an infamous falsehood.

Men arrested, continued Mr. Dillon, had been threatened with death and actually placed against a wall in order to persuade them to become informers.

At present everything conceivable, said Mr. Dillon, was being done to spread disaffection throughout the country. Limerick, Clare and Mayo Counties were not in a disturbed condition and their reward was the sending out of troops to make arrests.

"If Ireland were governed by men out of Bedlam," shouted Mr. Dillon, "they could not pursue a more insane policy. You are letting loose a river of blood between two races, which after three hundred years of hatred, we had nearly succeeded in bringing together. You are washing out our whole life work in a sea of blood."

After declaring that the primary object of his amendment was to put an absolute and final stop to the executions, Mr. Dillon proceeded: "In my opinion the present Government of Ireland is largely in the hands of the Dublin club. What is the use of telling me that the executive authorities acted in close consultation with the civil executive officers of the Irish Government? Who are these officers? There are none; they have all

disappeared. There is no Government in Ireland, except Maxwell, and the Dublin club. Everybody in Dublin knows that.

"Before the civil officers took flight the military officers treated them with undisguised contempt and from the day martial law was proclaimed, the civil Government came absolutely to an end. The men of the old 'ascendancy' party are going about the streets of Dublin to-day openly glorying in the rebellion; they claim that it brought martial law and real government into the country. That is what makes the situation so terrible.

"If the programme is to be enforced in Ireland you had better get ready one hundred thousand men to garrison the country. And then what sort of appearance will you make as the champions of small nationalities?"

"DAMNABLE AND INTOLERABLE."

Mr. Dillon charged that men had been threatened with death unless they gave evidence against comrades. In one case a boy fifteen was ordered to give evidence. He said, "I won't" and the officer said, "You will be shot." The boy replied: "Shoot away."

The boy was then blindfolded and taken away and asked to inform, but replied: "No." He was then made to hear the click of rifles. Afterwards the bandages were taken from his eyes and he was sent home. After describing this incident Mr. Dillon said: "I call that damnable and intolerable."

This remark met with loud cries of "Shame!" but the speaker went on: "I am proud of their courage, and if the English people were not so dense they would have these people fighting for them."

Mr. Dillon contrasted the treatment of Ireland and South Africa. It was recognized he said, that these men were the victims of misdirected enthusiasm. What was wanted was not a military bill for Ireland, but a means to find a way to the hearts of the Irish people. The Government would then obtain the best troops in the world.

THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

Premier Asquith opened in grave tones in reply to Mr. Dillon. He expressed deep regret that the Premier in most parts of his speech had forgotten some of the elementary rules of justice which ought to be a guide in dealing with such a serious situation. The Premier appealed to the House to remember the infinite mischief done at a moment when he was still hoping that events might lead to something like a great approximation of sympathy among all the people of Ireland. When Mr. Dillon spoke of the rebellion having been drowned in a sea of blood, some regard must be paid to the actual facts. It was impossible, he said, to measure life for life in such circumstances, but he must refer to the actual casualties, which in the military were 124 killed and 397 wounded and of civilians 150 killed and 614 wounded.

The Premier made a feeling reference to the case of the Sherwood Foresters Territorial Regiment which, while in training was suddenly called upon to fight in the most unwelcome task at the call of duty. There was no question of revenge, he added, but these men were cut off in their prime, their youth, their homes left in mourning.

"Let not our sympathy be entirely captured by the unfortunate, misguided victims of this unhappy and criminal act," added the Premier, who said that some sense of proportion must be preserved, as no fair man could blind himself to the "terrible, wanton, inexcusable and unprovoked injury" which had been inflicted on the military and civilian population.

Premier Asquith explained that actually 13 persons had been shot, the last case being that of Kent, for murder. The Premier promised that further court-martials for murder would be conducted publicly.

DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES.

The persons executed, he said, could be divided into three categories. The first was composed of those who signed the proclamation of the provisional government and were the leaders of the actual rebellion in Dublin. Of these, five out of seven had suffered the extreme penalty. The second class consisted of those who were in command of the rebels actually shooting down troops and police. Of these there were seven. The third class comprised men like Kent, who had been guilty of murder. There were two other persons, Mr. Asquith said, under sentence of death. Both of them had signed the proclamation and had taken an active part—one of them a most active part—in the insurrection in Dublin.

The Premier did not see his way to interfere with the discretion of Major-General Maxwell, the commander of the troops in Ireland, and said that the extreme penalty should not be inflicted. He was unable to reconcile it with his conscience or his judgment that differential or preferential treatment should be accorded in the case of men of equal guilt.

Proceeding to refer to the rank and file of the rebels as "the dupes," he said they had been misled almost unconsciously, and the Government desired that they should be treated with clemency and that every opportunity should be given them in the future to redeem their error. The Government regarded the existing situation in Ireland as anomalous and in many ways unsatisfactory, but he had the greatest confidence in General Maxwell, and believed that under the very trying conditions, and in the exercise of very delicate and difficult jurisdiction he had shown discretion and humanity.

"I am personally perfectly satisfied with the manner in which he has discharged his duties," the Premier declared.

L. R. Fagan, of Kansas City, Mo., the other day paid \$1 for a tame turkey he shot 27 years ago.

ANAESTHETICS.

British Soldiers' Kits All Carry Them Now.

New York despatch: Small bottles of anaesthetic are now being placed in the kits sent to the soldiers of the British army by the Vacationer Relief Association. A spraying apparatus is attached to the bottle, so that the wounded soldier may apply the liquid to his wound quickly. This produces local anaesthesia, which continues for three hours, and releases the soldier from pain while awaiting the arrival of an ambulance. Use of this anaesthetic is said to have been authorized by the British army medical service and by Russian hospitals.

South African agricultural fairs for 1918 have all been called off owing to war.

SHOT AGAIN IN VERDUN ATTACK

Pressure by Enemy Again On East Meuse Bank.

Joffre Never Counseled Retreat There.

Paris cable says: The heavy German attacks on the west bank of the Meuse against the French positions on the front, including Hill 304, Hill 287, and the wooded district between them, have not been resumed within the past 24 hours.

Even the artillery was comparatively silent in this sector, the Germans shifting their attack to the east bank of the river, thus resuming the tactics which were a marked feature of their operations against Verdun some weeks ago, swinging their pressure first to one bank of the Meuse and then to the other.

A violent bombardment was directed against the French positions in the Caillotte wood and their second line on the right bank of the Meuse. Bombardments also have taken place along the front held by the Belgians and mining operations and artillery duels have predominated on the British front. A severe duel is in progress around the Hohenzollern redoubt between the British and Germans.

The tenacity with which the French have held their positions at Verdun is revealed in a semi-official statement issued to-day in denial of a report published yesterday by the Matin, saying that Gen. Joffre, at the beginning of the battle of Verdun, ordered the eastern bank of the Meuse evacuated, but that General Castelnau countermanded the order when he reached Verdun.

"At no moment during the Verdun battle," says the statement, "did the high command order the French Meuse. On the contrary, on the morning of Feb. 23, Gen. Langie de Cary notified the troops on the right bank that the occupation of all points even when outflanked, and of all hills, must be maintained at all costs; and that there must be only one order, 'Hold on.'"

"On Feb. 24th, the commander-in-chief issued orders to hold the front between the Meuse and Woivre plain by the employment of all available means. He immediately sent Gen. Castelnau to Verdun.

"Finally, on the evening of the same day, the commander-in-chief sent Gen. Petain the following order when he took up the command: 'Yesterday I gave orders for holding the right bank of the Meuse north of Verdun. Any chief who gives an order to retreat will be court-martialed.'"

BRITISH REPORT.

London cable says: The following official communication was issued to-night: "The enemy made an unsuccessful attempt to raid our trenches near Orville last night. To-day there has been no mining activity near Beaumont, Hamer and Enloutour, both sides blowing up camouflages. The advantage remains with us.

"The artillery on both sides has been active about Angres and south-east of Ypres. At the Hohenzollern redoubt a severe mutual bombardment developed this afternoon."

RUSS TROOPS IN GREAT FEAT

Captured by Turks, They Turned On Captors and Won

Desperate Fighting is On in the Caucasus.

London, Cable.—Desperate fighting is in progress in the Caucasus, both the Russians and Turks claiming to have the advantage. The Petrograd official report claims that a Turkish attempt at an offensive in the direction of Erzingan was repulsed by Russian troops, and that the Grand Duke's troops are advancing west and south-west of the town of Platava, and continues:

"In engagements in the region west of Ashtarak the Turks surrounded a detachment of our soldiers forming the reserve and captured them. These resisters, preferring a glorious death to a shameful surrender, hurled themselves on their Turkish escort, defeated them and rejoined their regiment."

In an all-day battle in the Mount Kope sector on the Caucasus front the Turks drove the Russians out of positions nearly ten miles in length, capturing more than 200 men and four machine guns, according to today's official announcement by the Turkish War Office.

THE LOST KIRBY.

Survivor Tells of Disaster On Lake Superior.

Milwaukee, Report.—James True, second engineer of the steamer Kirby, which sank in Lake Superior Monday, arrived in Milwaukee to-day. Mr. True was among those reported lost, but was picked up by the barge Hartnell. Mr. True gives the following account of his experience:

"We were well out in the lake and heading for the Soo when suddenly and without warning the boat crumpled up and broke in two and went down. The boilers exploded after the vessel broke up. "When the boat began to go to pieces the whistles were blown. Captain Girardin, who was in his quarters, raced to the bridge and stuck to his post until he saw it was necessary to desert. John Madra, the first mate, had charge of the deck. As the boat was going down the members of the crew dashed about seeking pieces of timber, life buoys and rafts and then jumped.

"The captain, first mate, Otto Lindquist, fireman, of Pequaing, Mich., and a Cy Smith, of Marine City, had a raft and I was on a life buoy. The captain was clinging to the raft, and finally was rescued. He was bleeding from the mouth and had a hemorrhage. The steamer Berwind picked up Madra. The first mate, Madra, was rescued by Smith, and I got on to the barge Hartnell, which the Utley towed behind Keweenaw Point."

ASQUITH BUSY IN OLD DUBLIN

Premier Working to Settle Unrest in Irish Capital.

Martial Law to Go—Probing Skeffington Case.

Dublin cable: Premier Asquith arrived in Dublin to-day, and was taken in an automobile to the Vice-Regal Lodge. The Premier's programme for the day was, first, a conference with departmental chiefs, and afterwards consultation with General Maxwell in regard to the military situation, which is well in hand.

It is reported that in all likelihood a proclamation will be issued shortly abolishing martial law, the provisions of which have been greatly modified in the last few days.

The situation in some parts of the provinces is said to be still rather disturbed, and it is likely that military control will be continued in these districts for some time longer.

Premier Asquith intended also to meet several civilian deputations, so as to learn at first hand their ideas concerning the reconstruction of the disturbed portions of Dublin, and perhaps to formulate a plan for compensating the population for the promised cessation of executions, which were beginning to cause considerable agitation.

London, May 16.—(New York Sun Cable).—Regarding Premier Asquith's trip to Dublin, one view, which is much favored by some Liberals and Nationalists, is that the Premier is seeking a compromise arrangement by which the new executive representative may be an Ulster man, and Nationalist interests may be established. The most that can be said of this view is that it is purely speculative.

The Morning Post's Parliamentary representative cannot discover any ground for the rumor of negotiations to settle the Irish question. He says: "If there were any ground for hopes for a sort of understanding between Sir Edward Carson and John Redmond with reference to disarmament or any other question, they were destroyed by Dillon's outburst, which caused consternation and anger among some of 'the oldest friends of Home Rule in the English Liberal party.'"

The Morning Post's correspondent summarizes the view of the majority that the visit is a clever, well-meaning device to stave off further exhibitions of Nationalist hostility, and allow time for the bitterness evoked by Dillon's speech to disappear. Cool editorial views, tinged by the political predilections of the Liberal press, mainly seen in the visit a worthy, hopeful effort toward peace.

London, May 16.—(Central News despatch from Dublin.)—The day's court-martial in Dublin says that a officer believed to have been responsible for the putting to death of A. F. Sheehy Skeffington, the Irish editor, who is said to have been executed without the sanction of the military authorities.

TEDDY WILL RUN.

Ex-President in the Fight to the Finish.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Report.—Theodore Roosevelt to-night swept aside all doubt as to his attitude toward the Presidential nomination. He is in the fight to the finish.

In a recent letter to Col. Roosevelt, Guy H. Darden, National Secretary of the Roosevelt Non-partisan League, said: "The platform that is absolutely vital in our opinion for the safety of the country during the four tremendous years which lie ahead is the platform strongly in your recent Chicago speech. We believe that you are the only man now available who can carry out this platform, and who at the same time has any chance of being elected."

In his reply Col. Roosevelt once more emphasized the platform of patriotism and preparedness which he has declared to be the dominant issues and says: "I emphasize its devotion to these principles and supports me only as representing the principles. This is emphatically the proper attitude to take, and because this is your attitude and because you are working in this spirit I very earnestly approve your work."

It can be said with certainty that behind the declaration is a plain purpose of disabating all rumors as to Col. Roosevelt's attitude toward other candidates for the Presidential nomination at Chicago and of dispelling all doubt as to his position in the fight.

British Columbia railways last year spent over \$25,000,000 in construction work.

FOOD SUPPLY FOR POLAND

Britain Modifies Blockade in Her Interest.

Germany Must Do Her Share of the Work.

New York despatch: Cable despatches from London to-night announced that through the efforts of John D. Rockefeller, jun., and the Rockefeller Foundation, and for the sake of the starving people of Poland, the British Government has so far modified its food blockade as to permit German ships, flying a neutral flag, to carry foodstuffs to three million starving Poles until Oct. 1.

Germany upon her part has already agreed to contribute fifteen million marks, gold (\$3,750,000), for the purchase of this food, and she has engaged to feed the 12,000,000 more persons of Poland and Russia now governed by her military staff. In addition, she gives the ships that will carry the food from New York and other ports to Danzig, on the Baltic.

The one condition accepted on the part of the Allied and the Central powers is that the entire transaction from the purchasing to the final distribution shall be solely under the control of a new Polish section to be organized by H. C. Hoover, of the Commission for the Relief in Belgium, and the Foundation's representatives.

Because of the urgency of the case, an agreement is about consummated with Sweden whereby that Government will lend food until the American cargoes begin to arrive. The work may start at once.

The British Government is quoted as saying that in its opinion it was the duty of Germany also to see to it that the starving of Serbia, Albania and Montenegro are fed.

RUSSIA HAS AGREED.

London, May 16.—The Foreign Office to-day announced the acceptance of the proposals of the Rockefeller Foundation for relief in Poland. The plan provides that America, in conjunction with Germany will supply food to civilians in Poland until Oct. 1.

Germany must undertake to supply the starving people of Serbia, Albania and Montenegro.

GEN. SCOTT AND OREGON FAIL

Negotiations as to U. S. Troops in Mexico Shift.

Another Raid Into Texas Has Been Reported.

Washington despatch: Negotiations with the Carranza Government over disposition of American troops in Mexico were transferred to Washington to-day by failure of Generals Scott and Funston, of the United States, and General Obregon, Mexican War Minister, to reach an agreement at El Paso last night. Hereafter discussion will be conducted through diplomatic channels directly between President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing, and General Carranza and Eliseo Arrardondo, Mexican Ambassador designate.

Diplomatic relations now are precisely the same as before they were started at El Paso about two weeks ago.

President Wilson is still determined, it is said, to carry out his original intentions of keeping American troops in Mexico until the bandit bands are completely broken up, and danger of raids on American border communities is past. The continuance of these, reported unofficially last night, demonstrated to administration officials that the Carranza Government is not yet in a position to guarantee a cessation of such assaults.

ANOTHER RAID.

Marathon, Tex., Despatch: Mexican Bandits Again Crossed Into American Territory Wednesday Night and Attacked Civilians and Soldiers.

The raid was made four miles north of Boquillas, at a terminal station, and directly behind Major Langhorne's column, which up to that time had not crossed into Mexico. After a short skirmish the bandits fled.

BIG FIRM QUILTS.

Extensive Dealers in White Wear Will Liquidate.

New York despatch: Mills & Gibb, capitalized at \$3,300,000, and said to be one of the most extensive dealers in white goods in this country and England, will liquidate before Jan. 1, it was announced last night by William T. Evans, president and treasurer of the firm, after the bank's accountants employed by the experts that handle the concern's paper, had finished an examination of its books. A committee was appointed to look after the concern's affairs.

A statement issued by Mr. Evans said the firm was solvent, and that few of its departments had been affected by the European war.

Mills & Gibb is one of the old commercial concerns in New York. It was founded more than a quarter of a century ago.