

IRISH PEOPLE HAVE THEIR FUTURE ENTIRELY IN OWN HANDS

Winston Churchill Presents British Government's Case for Adoption of Free State Bill Enabling Dublin Authorities to Secure a "Sensible Parliament in Ireland."

A despatch from London says:—In moving the second reading of the Irish Free State Bill in the House of Commons on Thursday, Winston Churchill, Secretary for the Colonies, laid stress on the necessity of giving effect to the treaty by clothing the Provisional Government, as the treaty provided, with lawful powers and enabling it to hold an election at the earliest moment.

"It is the view of the Irish signatories of the treaty," he said, "that an Irish Republic had been set up by the Irish people at the elections and that the Republic could only be converted into a Free State by the decision of the people. We don't recognize the Irish Republic and never will."

The objects of the proposed election, added the Secretary, were to secure an adequate constituent assembly, and "a fresh, normal, and, if I may say so, sensible Parliament in Ireland."

Of the present Irish Parliament Mr. Churchill declared that it was not chosen because of the fitness of its members to govern, but because they were thought to be most obnoxious to Great Britain and men who hated England most. The Irish Minister must know where he stood. Some people felt they had waited too long already, but in any case the sooner an election was held the better. The success of Mr. de Valera at the election he characterized as "an ugly hypothesis."

"It is perfectly clear that the repudiation of the treaty by Ireland would free all parties from their engagements," the Secretary continued,

"and the position of Britain, standing on the treaty and ready to carry it out if the others were found on behalf of the Irish nation to do their part, would be a position of great moral, as well as undoubted material strength."

"The position of Southern Ireland, on the other hand, would be one of the greatest weakness and difficulty, absolutely isolated from the sympathy of the world and bitterly divided in herself. The position of Northern Ireland would be quite unaffected."

All the Government's information led it to feel that such an assumption as the success of de Valera was incorrect. "In any case," added the Secretary, "it would be a pity for us to go threatening and blustering at this stage and give the impression that the Irish people were being made to vote under duress or at the point of the bayonet. If this were indulged in it could afterwards be stated that the vote had been given under duress, tending to impair the authority of the decision."

Alluding to the report of a coup d'etat to overturn the Provisional Government, Mr. Churchill said: "There are those who think that the Provisional Government may be overthrown by a coup d'etat and a red Soviet Government set up. The British Government does not think that at all likely, but if it were, it is quite clear that a Soviet Republic would ruin the Irish cause for a hundred years, while not in any respect impairing the foundation of the British Empire or the security of Ulster. No people really are less likely to turn Bolshevist than the Irish."



DUBLIN CASTLE
The Headquarters of the Provisional Government of Southern Ireland.

SINN FEINERS SET FREE BY ULSTER BORDER COMMISSIONS NOW ASSURED FOR BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH IRELAND.

Belfast, Feb. 19.—Viceroy Fitzalan to-night ordered the release of the Sinn Fein football players who have been in jail at Derry since their arrest several weeks ago, charged with carrying arms and ammunition into Northern territory.

In return for the release of these men, Michael Collins gave his promise to free at once the remaining eighteen Ulsterites still held by kidnapers.

This information was given late this evening by Colonel Spender, Secretary of the Ulster Cabinet. The release of the prisoners by both sides followed all-day negotiations by wire between Belfast and Dublin.

The arrest of the Free State men was the primary cause of the present delicate situation between the North and the South, which has been aggravated by promiscuous clashes in Belfast streets. Following an unexpected session of the Northern Cabinet yesterday, Premier Craig telegraphed Downing Street his intention of dropping the case against the prisoners.

The move is accepted here as a tremendously courageous action on the part of Premier Craig, especially as the authorities claim to have an exceptional prima facie case against the Southerners, who are known to be prominent officers of the Fifth Northern Irish Republican Army Division.

The prisoners, who have been consistently refused bail, will appear formally before the Assizes when they will be discharged. It is anticipated, however, that they will now apply at once for bail, as the reason for it being previously refused has disappeared.

A Border Commission has now been assured for Southern Ireland. Three Colonels, Algood, Bates and Boys, of the British Army, with two officers to be selected by the Provisional Government, will have headquarters in County Monaghan.

For the North, Colonel Sutton and Major Calemson, of the British Army, with two officers of the special constabulary, will have headquarters at Clogher.

The duties of the Commission will be to note the presence of ill-disposed persons and other potential causes for trouble. The two bodies will have direct communication with each other, but will not necessarily cross the boundaries into the opposite territory. Their cars will have special flags and the members will wear distinguishing armlets.

Will Spend Honeymoon in Florence

London, Feb. 19.—Princess Mary's honeymoon will be spent at the Villa Medicea, Florence after a comparatively short stay at Weston Park, Shifnal, the home of the Earl and Countess of Bradford, according to the London Times. The bridal couple will visit Paris for a few days on their way to Florence.

To Preserve Fort as Historic Memorial Site

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Fort Prince of Wales, situated at the mouth of the Churchill River, in Manitoba, has been placed under the control of the commissioner of Dominion parks for the purpose of preserving it as an historic memorial site and park.

The Farmers' Course.

The Short Winter Course for Farmers which has been going on at the University of Toronto for the past two weeks seems to have been even a greater success this year than last. Two hundred and twenty-five men and women of various ages, but mostly in their twenties, have been hard at work taking notes on lectures, asking questions and engaging in discussions. The students are representative of thirty-four counties in the Province; one comes from Rainy River and one from Manitoulin. The women in the course have been particularly pleased to have the opportunity of receiving up-to-date instruction in Household Science. The complete range of subjects is as follows: English, Economics, History, Public Speaking, Commercial Geography, Hygiene, Biology, Psychology, Engineering, Architecture, and Household Science. Interspersed with the lectures have been several social functions intended to relieve the strain of hard study. The university authorities speak highly of the wholesome type of student attending this course and of the earnest work that is done.

BELFAST IS NOW COMPARATIVELY QUIET No Disorders Reported on the Ulster Frontier.

A despatch from Belfast says:—Only three shots were fired in Belfast on Friday and no disorders were reported on the border.

All the kidnapped civilians have been released, but a score of specials are still detained.

There are said to be 20,000 well-armed specials on the northern side of the border and an uncertain number of Republican soldiers on the southern side, with British troops at Newry, Enniskillen and elsewhere. Hence it is considered important to get a liaison commission working whose business it would be to move about the border and keep peace. The commission, it is stated, will consist of two British officers, two police officers representing the North and two Republican army officers representing the South.

Strong Sentiment in England Against Mormons

A despatch from London says:—The savage agitation against the Mormons here has resulted in several attacks on members of the creed. A number of women recently confronted a Mormon elder, knocked off his hat, and tore up his tracts. One night four large stained glass windows of the Mormon headquarters were smashed in with a hammer. So great has the hostility grown that the Home Office says that if the anti-Mormon sentiment continues the Mormons would be compelled to leave England for their own safety.

Decorated Football for Princess Mary

A despatch from London says:—One of the most curious gifts ever presented to a bride-elect was included in Friday's presents to Princess Mary, namely, an historic football, decorated with portraits of Princess Mary and Viscount Lascelles. The ball came from the inhabitants of Ashbourne, Derbyshire. It is similar to those used in a strange game played at Ashbourne each Shrove Tuesday since the year 1200.

PHOTOGRAPHERS OF ROYAL WEDDING PAY \$5,000 FOR BEST CAMERA SITES

London, Feb. 19.—Completed plans for reporting and photographing Princess Mary's wedding on February 28 reveal the fact that photographers, in order to procure desirable vantage spots for their cameras, will be called upon to pay huge sums of money.

From forty to fifty motion picture cameras will be employed, and about 100 press cameras for snapping photographs of the procession. A favored place for taking pictures will be near the Westminster Abbey Gateway, where the bridegroom, Viscount Lascelles, King George, Queen Mary and other members of the Royal family, as well as the chief guests, will alight from their carriages and enter the building.

For the privilege of taking pictures there the Abbey authorities are said to be asking £1,000, the money to be devoted to the fund for restoration of the edifice.

The Westminster Hospital, directly opposite the Abbey, has a portico over the doorway, affording a splendid position for several cameras. Space for each of them is being assessed by the hospital authorities at £100.

House owners along the line of the procession are also trying to reap "golden hay" from the photographers. Ten guineas is not an unusual price asked for the privilege of standing in a window or a door to "shoot" the bridal party as it drives slowly past.

26 ULSTERITES ARE RELEASED

Provisional Government Sets Kidnapped Northerners Free.

A despatch from London says:—Mr. Churchill told the House of Commons that, according to the latest information, 26 of the kidnapped Unionists had been released through the exertions of the Provisional Government.

He said both the Northern and Southern Government had agreed that there should be an impartial investigation of last Saturday's shooting at Clones.

Accordingly, he had notified them that the Imperial Government would place at their disposal any suitable judicial officer on whom they might agree, who would conduct a public inquiry.

Dollars and Cents to Replace Sterling in S. Ireland

Dublin, Feb. 19.—Proposals for a new Irish currency are being discussed by the Free State authorities. Reckoning by pounds, shillings and pence will doubtless continue for some time, and English silver and copper will continue to circulate; but it is anticipated that the Free State will adopt the decimal system of coinage as soon as practicable, and that Irish dollars and cents, or whatever their equivalent Gaelic names may be, will ultimately take the place of the sterling money.

GREEN IS NOW COLOR OF IRISH GOVERNMENT

Replaces Red on Post Boxes—Design for Flag Not Yet Determined.

A despatch from Dublin says:—Green will be the color scheme of the new Irish Government, although the design for the flag is as yet undetermined. All the post boxes, the postal vans and the messenger bicycles, now red, will soon be repainted an emerald green. The British Royal arms and the lettering "G.R." for George Rex, will be obliterated and Gaelic inscriptions substituted.

In adopting the color, the Postmaster-General was unimpaired by Parnell's version of green and his superstition that a change from the old Irish blue as the national color would be fatal to Irish freedom. Parnell held to the end that Ireland would remain nationally unlucky until it reverted to the old color.

The first issue of Irish postage stamps, with the overprint, "Rialtas Sealadack Na Bircann," meaning "Provisional Government of Ireland," was available to-day. Lines of visitors besieged the principal postoffices for hours, but supplies equalled the demand.

The average length of life in England and Wales is 51.5 years.

"AN ENGLISHMAN A DAY" SLOGAN OF ASSASSINS IN EGYPT

London, Feb. 19.—A despatch to the London Times from Cairo says a series of attacks on Englishmen during the past week appears to confirm statements recently attributed to irresponsible Egyptian circles that an Englishman would be shot daily until the return of Said Zagouh Pasha, former Minister of Justice, who some time ago was taken into custody by the British authorities. The despatch adds that there appears to be no doubt these attacks are directed against Englishmen, irrespective of their position or character.

An attempt was made on Saturday upon the life of D. Alfred Brown, Controller-General of the Egyptian Ministry of Education. He was struck by a revolver bullet and seriously wounded.



Sir Charles Gordon

Who will represent Canada at the Genoa Conference. Associated with him will be Prof. Edouard Monpetit of the Economics Department of Laval University. These financial and economic experts will inquire into how far Canada should go with credits to other European countries in addition to participating in the regular work of the Conference.

The cost of a country home water system employing gas or electricity as power for pumping from shallow wells runs from \$100 to \$400. These figures do not include piping through the house.

REGULAR FELLERS—By Gene Byrnes

