

British War Minister Resigns His Office

House Of Commons Buzzed With Excitement To-day

Reputate the Hellish Suggestion Shouted Winston Churchill When Asked if This Precautionary Movement of Troops Would Lead to Fighting?

Churchill Had Admitted That Battle Squadron Had Been Ordered to Irish Coast—Panderemonium Broke Loose After Churchill's Statement—Was Reprimanded.

London, March 25.—Resignation of Colonel John Seely, secretary for war, followed quickly after publication today of the "white paper" giving details of the crisis in the British army.

The resignation is absolutely without precedent in the broadest sense. The ministry took no initiative of any kind.

Correspondence between Colonel Seely and officers in Ireland had assumed the country and in the opinion of seasoned politicians demanded one of two courses—the cashiering of the secretary for war or the resignation of the entire cabinet.

After a brief sentence or two from Andrew Bonar Law, leader of the opposition, asking for the presentation to the house of details which had been omitted from the "white paper," Colonel Seely opened his defense.

The secretary for war declared he had nothing to conceal, and foreswearing his impending resignation, said he thought it was of the information received by the government it was necessary to take certain steps to protect the government depots.

Mr. Churchill, continuing his reply to Lord Charles Beresford, said: "The admiral wanted the field guns to exercise his men in case of 'bad weather.'"

London, March 25.—Col. John Seely today resigned his portfolio as secretary of state for war in the British cabinet.

Colonel Seely speaking in the house of commons today asked the indulgence of the house in view of a statement he would have to make before the close of the sitting. This was generally accepted as confirmation of the report of the secretary for war's resignation.

The house of commons buzzed with excitement and was crowded to its utmost capacity when Lord Charles Beresford opened the attack on the government by demanding information as to the naval movements in connection with the situation in Ulster.

"Was the battle squadron ordered to steam at full speed from Spanish waters to the Irish coast and ordered to embark field guns?" he asked.

Amid ministerial cheers and derisive laughter from the unionists, Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, admitted that the battle squadron had been ordered to Lamish "so as to be in proximity to the coast of Ireland in case of serious disturbance arising. When it was clear that no military precautionary movements had been carried out without opposition it was decided that this movement of the fleet could be delayed until the Easter leave period was over."

The statement of the first lord was followed by a cyclone of questions. A unionist member asked if Mr. Churchill expected that "this precautionary movement of troops would lead to fighting." In a moment the first lord flared up.

"I repudiate the hellish suggestion," he shouted.

When the consequent uproar had subsided the speaker reprimanded Mr. Churchill, saying that such an expression should not have been used.

London, March 25.—Premier Asquith refused today to accept Colonel Seely's resignation. After the sympathetic reception by the house of commons of the secretary for war's explanation of his action regarding the army officers in Ireland the premier decided that he would not sacrifice his lieutenant.

THE WEATHER.

Forecast for North Carolina: Cloudy tonight and Thursday, probably rain in interior. Moderate east and southeast winds.

NO DEFINITE NEWS FROM SCENE OF WAR

Latest Report From Juarez Stated That Fighting Was in Progress This Morning in Outskirts of Torreon.

Other Reports Tell of How Rebels Were Repulsed in Fierce Fight and Driven Back--Feds Said to Have Put up Strong Resistance.

By Associated Press. Juarez, March 25.—Constitutionalist officials were without authoritative information early today about the situation at Torreon.

General Chao received no confirmation of the report that two caudillos in Torreon had been taken. The last definite news was the Associated Press dispatch from Chihuahua last night stating that fighting at 5 p. m. yesterday continued at Gomez Palacio.

Vigil of officers at rebel headquarters continued today without authoritative information as to the outcome of fighting at Torreon.

Says Rebels Were Repulsed. El Paso, Tex., March 25.—Miguel Diebold of the Mexican federal consular service, said today that he had been officially informed that the rebels were repulsed with heavy loss at Torreon and that some of them were driven back twenty miles.

Washington, March 25.—The Mexican embassy has received the following cablegram from the city of Mexico dated last night:

"The rebels were repulsed today in an attempt to reach Torreon. General Velasco well prepared for attack."

Federal Fight Hard. Bernajillo, Mexico, March 23.—(By courier to El Paso, March 25.)—Rebel wounded from Gomez Palacio and the lesser recent fights in the vicinity are being brought north in large numbers and it is officially admitted the Federal put up an unexpectedly strong resistance at Gomez Palacio.

A train load of injured soldiers started north from Birmingham Junction today. They were to be deposited at all water tank stations along the railroad where hospitals had been established, the report said.

Nothing Known Definitely. What the exact situation in the Torreon district might be today was only a matter of speculation. The few rumors that sifted into Juarez last night and today were variously interpreted.

Officers at rebel headquarters were silent about the fact that no press dispatches came through and also about the statement at Mexico City that the rebels had been repulsed at Torreon.

The last newspaper telegrams last night stated that the rebels had possession of the railroad road house on the outskirts of Gomez Palacio.

A personal telegram from General Benavides to his father here said: "All is well with us."

Special to The News. Raleigh, March 25.—Before the whiskey confiscated from negro drug stores as "blind tigers" was given public execution this afternoon the best of it was selected and sent out to the several Raleigh hospitals. Quantities of standard brands were found among seven hundred or more bottles.

The remainder was taken to the corner of Martin and Fayetteville streets and emptied into the sewer by Sheriff Sears, with officers of the Anti-Saloon League as masters of ceremonies.

Results at Milwaukee. Milwaukee, Wis., March 25.—Mayor Gerhard A. Bading, non-partisan, and Emil Seidl, socialist, were nominated for mayor at yesterday's primary.

They will figure in the municipal election on April 7. Seidl led the field with 21,054 votes against 20,022 for Bading. Former Mayor David S. Rose ran third with 17,511 and Theobald Otjen last with 2,875 votes. All but Seidl were on the non-partisan ticket.

BIG FIRE AT A. & M. COLLEGE EARLY TODAY

The Textile Building Almost Totally Destroyed—Was Valued at \$62,000—Only 35 Per Cent of Insurance Carried Because of Lack of Funds.

Special to The News. Raleigh, N. C., March 25.—The textile building of the A. & M. College was almost totally burned early this morning.

All that remains is a section of the east wing, one of the "openers" of the building, being valued at about \$3,000.

The state department of insurance reports the insurance schedule for the college property was only 35 per cent of the valuation covered by insurance owing to a lack of sufficient appropriation to carry full insurance.

The college plant was valued at \$808,500 for insurance and 35 per cent is protected by insurance.

The textile building and contents burned are valued at \$62,000, the insurance companies being liable for 35 per cent of the total damage from fire is a loss to the college and the state.

Students discovered the fire about 2:30 o'clock this morning. It was already well developed and within an hour the building was burned down in spite of the most heroic efforts to subdue the flames.

The students worked heroically and the city fire department was summoned, its efforts being, however, hampered by low water pressure in small and elevated water mains of West Raleigh. Indeed the building was already wrapped in flames before the Raleigh department could be gotten to the scene.

The building was erected in 1901. Loss \$80,000.

By Associated Press. Raleigh, N. C., March 25.—It was announced today that a new textile building is to be built on the site of the one destroyed. The loss is now estimated at \$80,000.

JAMES J. O'BYRNE WAS NOMINATED

By Associated Press. Paterson, N. J., March 25.—James J. O'Byrne, secretary to United States Senator Hughes, was nominated by democrats in yesterday's primary as candidate to succeed the late Representative Bremner, democrat, from the Seventh New Jersey district.

Drukker, was nominated by the republicans who divided nearly 9,000 votes among eleven candidates. The total democratic vote was 4,500 divided among five candidates. The progressives and socialists, each with one candidate, polled 40 and 700 votes respectively.

The letter continues that it is the duty of soldiers to obey commands for the protection of life and property and its support of the civil power in the event of disturbance and the army council is glad there never has been and never will be any question of disobeying such orders. It continues:

"The government must retain its right to use all the forces of the crown in Ireland or elsewhere to maintain order and support the civil power in the ordinary execution of their duty but it has no intention whatever of taking advantage of this right in order to crush political opposition to the policy or the principles of the home rule bill."

London, March 25.—Mutiny of a section of the officers of the British regular army in Ireland when they believed they were to be ordered to fight the Ulstermen was again before parliament today. Correspondence between the war office and the army officers which led to the recent wholesale resignations and reinstatements was made public in the shape of an official communication to parliament. It is shown the war office was informed last December of the possibility of resignations of officers in case the Ulster situation came to a crisis. Because of this information Col. John Seely, war secretary, interviewed the general officers in command and explained to them that an officer of the British army was compelled to obey orders to shoot "only in case the order was a reasonable one under the circumstances."

Colonel Seely told them that no one from a general down to a private was expected to use more force than was required to maintain order and the safety of life and property.

ONE KILLED BY EXPLOSION. Washington, March 25.—One man was killed and three scalded, clerks fainted, shoppers fled in panic in a downtown department store today when a boiler exploded. Principal property damage was in rumpledinery of shoppers making a hasty exit.

By Associated Press. Washington, March 25.—The bill to restore Captain Templin M. Potts to the navy active list and promote him to be a rear admiral was killed today by the senate naval affairs committee.

CAPT. POTTS LOSES. Captain Potts was "plucked" on the eve of his promotion and several naval officers of note testified that his case was an exceptional one. The committee decided the bill set a troublesome precedent.

INVESTORS Get today's CHARLOTTE NEWS and look over the valuable real estate offered for sale "under the hammer." Pages 12 and 13 today contain special announcements that may mean money to you if you attend the sales. 'NUF'CED.

MUTINY OF OFFICERS BEFORE PARLIAMENT

The Action of British Officers in Ireland in Resigning was Elaborated on in Parliament Today—Past Correspondence is Offered.

By Associated Press. London, March 25.—Documents made public today officially revealed that the British government gave officers in Ireland a written guarantee that it would not use the army to crush Ulster's political opposition to the home rule bill. The correspondence, however, points out that the government retains its right to use the army to maintain law and order.

Orders issued by the war office about duties of the army in Ireland, chiefly in connection with the protection of government stores, arms and ammunition, are given very completely. The correspondence, however, omits the verbal communication made by General Sir Arthur Paget to the officers at the Curragh camp which led to their resignations and which the government argues was the result of a "misunderstanding."

That the version of General Paget's communication read by Andrew Bonar Law, opposition leader in the house of commons on Monday, was substantially correct seems clearly indicated. Mr. Law on that occasion read a letter in which General Paget stated that "active operations were to begin against Ulster and that it was expected the country would be in a blaze by Saturday."

The Irish commander-in-chief wrote that he was in close communication with the war office and had received instructions from headquarters to notify his officers that those of them domiciled in Ulster would be allowed to disappear and be afterward reinstated. They must, however, give their word of honor not to fight for Ulster.

In the published correspondence Brig. Gen. Hubert Gough underlines phrases such as "active operations" when asking for further information and it appears evident that he was quoting the remarks of General Paget.

After an interview with Colonel Seely, leader General Hubert Gough wrote to the war office:

"One of the first questions asked by our officers will be: 'In the event of the present home rule bill becoming law can we be called upon to enforce it on Ulster under the expression of maintaining law and order?' This point should be made quite clear. Otherwise there will be renewed misconceptions."

In reply to this Brig. Gen. Gough was given a letter initiated by Colonel Seely as war secretary and by Field Marshal Sir John French in which he was authorized to inform the officers as follows:

"The army council is satisfied that the incident which has arisen in regard to their resignations was due to a misunderstanding."

Mr. Marshall, as is known, is regarded as one of the most forceful and pleasing public speakers among the distinguished list of public speakers in official life at Washington. His aptitude for breaking into public print with some sententious remark on this or that topic is a matter of daily comment among the paragraphs. He sees everything from an original point of view and his treatment of any subject is refreshing and entertaining.

The announcement that he will be the chief speaker and the guest of honor for the big celebration will be a drawing card that will insure thousands here on the 20th cause for thanking the committee for securing him.

Mr. Carraway says that the committee is under many obligations to Secretary of the Navy Daniels, who consented to become the chairman of the invitation committee and lead the way to a conference with the vice president; to Senator Overman, who helped arrange an audience with the vice-president yesterday; and to Congressman E. Y. Webb, who aided the committee in every possible way and who spent the greater part of yesterday with them.

Vice President a Mason. Mr. Marshall is an active 33rd degree Mason and it is probable that some arrangements will be made here to entertain him during his visit, not only as the guest of the city, but as a visiting Mason of high rank.

The committee from Charlotte was augmented by President W. J. Martin of Davidson College, who was in Washington and who was asked to join the committee representing the city of Charlotte and the county of Mecklenburg.

Mr. Dowd entertained the Charlotte party at dinner at the Ebbitt last night.

Secretary Daniels entertained the Charlotte party and Congressman Webb yesterday at dinner at the Army and Navy Club, the affair being handsome and elaborate.

HENRY PHIPPS RESIGNS DIRECTORSHIP. New York, March 25.—Henry Phipps, identified with the United States Steel Corporation since its organization, announced today his resignation from the directorate and the finance committee of the corporation. James A. Farrell, president, succeeds him on the finance committee. It was said Mr. Phipps wished to devote his time to private enterprises and philanthropic work.

A DOUBLE TRAGEDY AT GRAVE SIDE. Pulaski, Tenn., March 25.—As the body of D. C. Biles, a Confederate veteran, was being lowered into its grave near Conway, Tenn., Biles' friend, B. F. Chambers, also a veteran, dropped dead near the coffin yesterday. The shock was too much for Henry H. Reece, a third veteran, who was carried away suffering from paralytic stroke.

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Mr. Page's speech, some twenty-five hundred words in length, was furnished to the senate in full. The portion relating to the Panama canal was as follows: "I will not say that we constructed the Panama canal even for you. For I am speaking with great frankness and not with diplomatic indirection. We built it for reasons of our own. But I will say for reasons of our own, the pleasure of building that great work that you will profit by it. You will profit most by it for you have the greatest carrying trade. I can say a similar thing about the recent lowering of our tariff we did not lower it in order to please you. It was for purposes that we considered economically sound for ourselves. Nevertheless it added to the pleasure of doing that to reflect that thereby we should have more trade with you. Concerning the recent message of the president I take it upon myself, on my own responsibility, to say this. He delivered that message not to please you but to express the true sentiment and self-respect of the American nation. As I interpret it his was the voice of the people. Nevertheless it adds to the pleasure of hearing that voice to know that it does please you." The portion referring to the Monroe doctrine follows: "May I put in another parenthesis, also on my own account, and correct an impression that a part of your press seems to have about the attitude of the United States government concerning the investment of your colonial earnings in states of Central America that have volcanic tendencies? I sometimes read that the United States is entering upon a policy to discourage foreign investments there. That is untrue. I think that some events are happening there that have discouraged them somewhat, but I hope that they cannot be charged to the United States. There is a policy forming in the minds of our government and our people which is not new that would discourage such investments or such concessions as would carry with them the control of the government in any of those states and only such, for as far as the United States is concerned you know how heartily we have welcomed your investments in our land and still welcome them and always will. You may be assured that it is none of the business of the United States to put any let or hindrance upon any legitimate investments of yours anywhere in the world, and they most heartily welcome your investments in any part of the Americas, provided only you do not make them so that you may possibly take the country with them. "The Monroe doctrine meant this, when it was first formulated, that the United States would object to any European governments taking more land in the new world. In those days the only way that a foreign government could gain land was literally to go and take it. Now we have more refined methods of exploitation, and there are other ways to take it. That is the only protest that the United States has ever whispered. You will, I am sure, understand why the United States prefers that no land in the new world should be acquired in these new subtle ways. Would you do us the kindness clearly to understand that, and possibly to correct the misimpression that has gone abroad?"

Now Famous Speech Of Ambassador Page Before The Senate

VICE PRESIDENT MARSHALL TO BE A DRAWING CARD

Charlotte Invitation Committee on Speaker for 20th of May Celebration Contemplating Itself Upon Securing Vice President Marshall.

Committee Piloted by Secretary of Navy Daniels and Congressman Webb—Secretary Gives Dinner For Committee—Mr. Dowd Entertains at Ebbitt.

Secretary Carraway of the Greater Charlotte Club and Capt. John A. Parker, who went to Washington, together with Mr. W. C. Dowd as a special invitation committee to secure a speaker for the 20th of May celebration, returned this morning. From Washington Mr. Dowd went to New York and other points north, expecting to be absent for possibly two weeks.

As stated in The News yesterday in a dispatch from The News' correspondent at Washington, Vice President Marshall gave the committee his promise that he would be here on the day of the 20th. Mrs. Marshall will come with him. They will arrive on a special car from Washington on the 19th and return to Washington on the night of the 20th.

The committee congratulates itself on securing the vice president as the principal speaker on the 20th. All who are acquainted with the vice president, or who have, in any degree, kept up with men in public life, will echo this opinion.

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At Request of the Chamberlain Resolution Secretary Bryan Today Forwarded to the Senate the Full Text of Address Requested.

Excerpts Over Which Objection Arose Quoted Wherein Reference Was Made to The Monroe Doctrine and the Canal Tolls Question.

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