1—The Irish House of Parliament in Dublin, formerly the Bank of Ireland. 2—Unfinished dam at Muscle Shoals, the great power plant which Henry Ford wishes to buy from the government. 3—American Communist delegates on the balcony of the former czar's palace in Moscow.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Pacific Peace Treaty Signed and Agreement on Navy Plan Is Announced.

CHINA PROBLEM IS HARDER

Irish Pact Before British Parliament and Dail Eireann for Ratification —War Between Chile and Peru Threatened Over Tacna-Arica.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

STEADILY and surely the Washington conference is performing the great task which President Harding set for it. Such was the progress made last week that it seemed likely the major problems would be solved before the holidays and that the conference would adjourn, leaving details to be settled by experts and certain of the questions to be handled by future conferences.

The [illegible] for the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. This, in the form of a treaty, was signed on Tuesday by the delegates of the four powers and now awaits formal ratification by the legislative bodies of those nations. That it will be ratified in Great Britain, France and Japan is beyond doubt, and there are few who think that the American senate will not also accept it. Senator Borah of course has announced his opposition to the treaty, and Senators Reed and LaFollette stand with him. They profess to find in its second article commitments similar to those in Article 10 of the League of Nations covenant, and even worse than the latter. So far no one else worth mentioning has discovered the terrible danger in Article 2. Those who approve of the treaty—and they appear to be decidedly in the majority both in the senate and in the country generally—agree with Premier Takahashi of Japan, who says the pact is "the grandest contribution to the cause of peace ever recorded in history."

There were rumors in Washington that former President Wilson was advising the Democratic senators to fight the treaty, but more reliable reports were to the effect that he had urged them not to commit themselves until the conference had completed its work and the pact could be studied in its relations to the other agreements reached. Of course Senator Underwood, the Democratic leader in the senate, cannot oppose the treaty for he signed it as one of the delegates. When President Harding will send it in for ratification is not known. It may not be until after the holiday recess.

WITH that treaty out of the way the conference resumed consideration of the naval reduction and limitation plan. The Japanese pleaded earnestly to be permitted to retain their superiority in submarines. For various reasons the American delegates were not willing to do that, but finally it was agreed that the United States, Great Britain and Japan should scrap a tonnage of submarines equal to that possessed by France and Italy, which countries refused to limit their submarine construction. Further, the United States and Great Britain agreed to destroy a tonnage of battleships and battle cruisers equal to that which Japan is to retain. The exact figures have not been published, but it is understood that Japan will be permitted to keep about 600,000 tons of capital fighting ships, the United States and Great Britain about 500,000 tons each, and France and Italy about 175,000 tons each. The proportion for Japan is 60 per cent of the tonnage of the other two powers, and she will be permitted to build up to that figure in new construction if she wishes. The United States and Great Britain will be allowed to complete two battleships each, and Japan will be permitted to finish her two battleships and her battle cruiser now on the stocks. The details of the agreement will be worked out by the naval experts, who will also consider the question of limiting auxiliary vessels, such as cruisers, destroyers, etc., and will report to the conference early in January.

China's delegation stepped forward again on Wednesday with formal plea to the Far Eastern committee for the abrogation of the treaties growing out of the twenty-one demands of Japan in 1915, which China says she was forced to accept. By these treaties Japan retains her hold on Shantung and Manchuria. The Japanese delegates quickly and sharply objected to the Chinese proposal and the committee adjourned sine die. Meanwhile the negotiations between the Japanese and Chinese outside the conference are continuing, the latter putting forward a plan by which Chinese bankers propose to purchase from Japan the ownership and control of the Shantung railroad—the nub of the whole controversy over that province. It was said the Japanese had so far receded from their original claims for retention of half ownership that they were now willing to give up the road, with certain reservations concerning the methods and security for payment, and also preferential rights of investment. These rights might result in giving the Japanese actual control of the management, but China realizes that she cannot get all she asks.

The members of the conference evidently feel that the best they can do for China now is to adopt a new "bill of rights" for her which will enable her to organize a stable functioning government, and that to such a government, for the last, much of the Pacific problems and troubles.

To further complicate the Chinese problem came from the soviet government of Russia a protest against discussion of the Chinese Eastern railway by the conference. The road, which is of immense strategic and economic importance to Russia, China and Japan, was built by Russia and legally speaking belongs to Russia. For several years it has been managed by an interallied board whose chairman is John F. Stevens of America. Both the United States and Japan have spent large sums on the upkeep of the line.

Secretary Hughes made public the main points of the agreement entered into between the United States and Japan concerning Yap and the other islands north of the equator assigned to Japan by the treaty of Versailles. It confers upon the United States equal privileges with Japan in all those islands but imposes on it no obligations or responsibilities.

BRITISH and French statesmen and financiers have not yet been able to come to anything like agreement concerning the German reparations and from both countries come unofficial but insistent calls to America to take part in the discussions. The hope is expressed daily that President Harding will call another conference to handle this problem and that of world finance generally. Meantime the senate finance committee is dueling with the administration's foreign loan refunding bill and trying to do things to it which Secretary of the Treasury Mellon does not like. He especially objected to a proposed provision requiring foreign nations to make payments of interest on their indebtedness to the United States semi-annually. He said this would seriously handicap negotiations for refunding the loans.

BOTH the British parliament and the Dail Eireann, the peasant parliament of Ireland, met last week to receive the reports of the peace delegates and to act on the treaty they brought back. The British lawmakers were urged by the king and Premier Lloyd George to ratify the treaty and thwart the opposition of a few "diehards" there who seemed to be willing to do anything they could to do so. In Dublin the agreement was not having quite so smooth a path. Eamon de Valera made plain his opposition to it but in the stirring speech in which he set forth his reasons he gave no indication of his proposed course of action. It was generally believed that he would try to defeat the treaty by calling for a vote of the people, but he said he would not do that. He said he would call a convention of his party to consider the situation and he intimated that he would try to get the convention to reject the treaty. Meanwhile the Dail Eireann was in session and it was expected that it would ratify the treaty. It was known that Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith, who were the chief Irish delegates, had urged the Dail to ratify the treaty and had assured it that they had obtained the best possible terms for Ireland at the present time. They had also assured it that they had kept in close touch with Mr. de Valera and had his approval of their action. It was believed that the Dail would ratify the treaty by a large majority and that then it would be up to Mr. de Valera and his followers to decide whether they would try to overthrow the new government by force. It was generally believed that they would not do so, that they would accept the will of the majority as expressed through the parliament and wait for a chance to get what they want by peaceful means. It was said that if they should try to upset the new government they would be opposed by the majority of the people who favored ratification, and they felt equally certain that if the question were referred to a plebiscite, as De Valera might ask, a large majority of the people of southern Ireland would vote for acceptance of the peace terms.

The opposition in the British parliament was voiced in the house of lords by Lord Edward Carson and in the commons by Capt. Charles Craig, brother of the Ulster premier. Already the Ulster cabinet had sent word to London that Ulster would not enter the Irish Free State, and it protested bitterly against the making of an Irish agreement without its consent. It charged that the treaty violates the word of King George and Premier Lloyd George. In the Ulster note exception was taken also to the boundary commission plan, it being contended that to remove territory from any government without that government's consent is without precedent.

Over here in America a lot of the professional Irish, like Justice Cohalan of New York, are wildly denouncing the treaty. Just what they want us to do about it—whether to weep, or to declare war against England—they have not yet stated.

UNLESS someone intervenes, Chile and Peru are likely to have a war over the long disputed territory of Tacna-Arica. Unofficially there has been talk of war between these two countries for the past year, and the Peruvian assembly despite the recommendation of the president for the incorporation of Tacna-Arica and Tarapaca in Peruvian territory. Now, though there are no diplomatic relations between the two countries, Chile has invited Peru to take part in a plebiscite in the territory, and has intimated that if Peru declines, Chile's only alternative is to annex Tacna-Arica. No one expects Peru to accept the invitation, and the government's organ, La Prensa of Lima, characterizes the Chilean note as "a gross insult following the deportation of Peruvians from the captured provinces." This journal suggests arbitration by the United States as the best way out of the tangle.

REPRESENTATIVES of 35,000 railway maintenance of way and shop laborers met in New York and voted to reject any wage reduction proposals and to appeal to the railway labor board for increases in pay. Two days later that board dealt the maintenance of way men a hard blow in new rules it promulgated. Under this decision time and a half rates are to be paid after the tenth hour of work instead of after the eighth hour as under the old national working agreement. The "basic" eight-hour day, however, is reaffirmed, but the new rules allow the carriers and employees to make agreements for reduction of working hours below eight to avoid making force reductions. The starting time of any shift, too, is to be arranged by mutual understanding. This knocks out rigid hour stipulations in the old agreement.

THE United Mine Workers of America won a partial victory on Thursday when the United States Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago found Judge Anderson of Indianapolis was in error in enjoining the operation of the "checkoff" system and remanded the case back to him for rehearing. This action of the Court of Appeals was believed to have prevented a general strike of coal miners already started in Indiana and Illinois.

Leaders of the striking coal miners of Illinois, followers of the Alexander faction expelled Howat, were the leaders of more than the Pittsburg action which literally attacked miners who wished to work and raised gain trouble generally that state troops were sent there.

GOVERNOR HARDING of the federal reserve board, whose annual report was made public last week, is very optimistic. He says business has improved and financial conditions throughout the country have improved greatly during the past year. Although normal life is not to be established [illegible] the country [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the