

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear Not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1, 1866.

Sumter, S. C., Saturday, February 25, 1922

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SENATE HAS CHANGE OF HEART

Resignation of Senator Christensen as Chairman of the Finance Committee Brings Tax Question to a Focus

Columbia, Feb. 22.—A complete change of heart seems to be coming over the state senate, following the resignation from the chairmanship of the finance committee of Senator Christensen, due to the fact that the majority of the people of the state agree with Senator Christensen in his position as to the tax reform program, judging from expressions made privately and in the public prints, as well as from various platforms and in various political and legislative assemblies. The resignation of the Beaufort senator from the chairmanship of the important finance committee brought the situation to a focus, with public gaze centered on the senate with burning fierceness.

One strong evidence of the change of the senate's heart was the action taken Tuesday night when the upper branch recommittees the luxury tax bill to the finance committee, of which Senator Gross is the new chairman. There was some objection to the recommitment, but this was overcome. The former unfavorable report of the finance committee on this bill was taken as omen of its certain defeat. The recommitment is taken to mean that the committee may now report it differently, possible favorably.

Within recent days the attention of the state has been called in various ways to the fact that the House passed the half dozen or more big revenue producing bills, which make up the 1922 tax reform program, and that the opposition in the Senate, so strong that one of the bills, the hydro-electric tax proposal, has already been killed by the Senate, influenced no doubt by a strong and outspoken lobby against the bill, which was carried on for many weeks.

There is now talk of a re-introduction in the House of the bill to create a tax on hydro-electric power, and if this takes place, it will likely be passed in the House rapidly, and then sent to the Senate again, in order that the upper branch may have another chance to vote on the measure. This new turn in the program has not been finally decided by the ways and means committee of the House, as yet, though the proposal is being given consideration.

The vast sentiment regarding the tax program, the pending important tax measures, the hearings before the finance committee of the Senate on the appropriations bill, and other important matters yet to be disposed of, including election of University trustees, make it appear more certain than ever that the legislative session will extend far into the middle part of the month of March.

The new income tax bill, prepared by a special committee, of which Senator McGhee, of Greenwood, was chairman, was reported to the Senate Tuesday night. The tax provided is about twenty-five per cent of the federal income tax schedule.

OPPOSE RAILROAD STRIKE

Chicago, Feb. 22.—The United Mine Workers do not want the railroad employes to join them in the strike. John L. Lewis, president of the miners, said today in opening the conference of leaders of mine and railway unions.

TROOPS PRE-SERVE PEACE

Pawtucket, R. I., Feb. 22.—The Blackstone Valley textile plants were quiet today under military surveillance.

HENRY FORD'S BID MODIFIED

Washington, Feb. 22.—Modifications to clear the intent of the offer made by Henry Ford for Muscle Shoals was agreed to by the Detroit manufacturer.

NO EXPLANATION OF ROMA DISASTER

Norfolk, Feb. 22.—Major Gen. Patrick in a statement said the disaster was due to an accident in control regulating the altitude of the Roma and declared there was no explosion or fire while the ship was in the air. Captain Walter J. Reed, chief pilot, in a statement, declared he doubted if the cause of the accident will ever be known.

Boston, Feb. 21.—District Attorney Joseph C. Pelletier, of Suffolk county was removed from the supreme court today, having been found guilty on several counts of charges of malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance in office.

MILLER'S RAILROAD BILL PASSED

Commission Enlarged and Combined With the Public Utilities Commission

Columbia, Feb. 23.—Without a single vote in opposition, but after a long and somewhat sensational debate, the house of representatives Wednesday night voted unanimously in favor of the so-called Senator Miller railroad commission bill and sent it to third reading, where it is apparently safe on its way to become a law. The bill would enlarge the railroad commission to seven members, the four additional to be elected by the legislature, with the three present members to hold till their terms of office expire.

The debate in the house Wednesday night was on various amendments offered in turn by Representatives McInnes and Barnett. One of Mr. McInnes' amendments provides that the railroad commission shall meet at least once a month, with special meetings called by the chairman at the request of at least two other members.

Another McInnes amendment provides that the commissioners shall receive not more than ten dollars a day for the days the commission is in session, with travel expenses added.

Of the several Barnett amendments, one of those adopted provides that the commission regulate service and rates furnished by all public utilities of the state. Another Barnett amendment adopted provided that a tax shall be levied against the railroads and public utility corporations for support of the commission, just as the railroad commission is now financed by the railroads.

An amendment that caused a most unusual legislative fight was one to continue the present present commissioners in office and also to continue the present public utilities commission in office to act jointly with the present railroad commissioners, but the seventh member of the commission to be elected by the legislature. The house voted for this amendment and was on the verge of putting on the parliamentary clincher, when Representative Hughes made a speech against it, arguing that the amendment would be legislating the present utilities commissioners into office, where the constitution and the new bill have to do with the railroad commission and provide for territorial representation, one member from each congressional district. Representative Sapp made a strong speech along the same line, and whereby the house had passed the amendment by a vote of 59 to 24. It reconsidered that action and, reversing itself, killed the amendment by a vote of 55 to 36.

An amendment was also adopted to the bill to eliminate any amount of money for financing the commission, this being left to the appropriation bill.

When the bill becomes law, it will mean the election by the present general assembly of four railroad commissioners.

MAJOR RICHARDS MAY BE IN RACE

Talk Also That Prof. Daniel, of Clemson May Run

Columbia, Feb. 23.—Politics is being talked around the halls of the legislature and there are rumors of interesting things this summer. Major John G. Richards, of Liberty Hill, is in the capital and it is said that he is being approached with the request that he run for governor, as advocate of tax reforms. He was at one time chairman of the ways and means committee of the house and is considered an authority on tax matters and a strong tax reform advocate.

It is also rumored that Prof. D. W. Daniel, of Clemson College, is being urged to run for governor. Prof. Daniel is a brilliant orator and would, it is said, make a strong campaign. He has hosts of friends and admirers, also it is pointed out, and would make a good governor.

MORMONS FIND HARD SLEDGING

Plymouth, England, Feb. 23.—A number of Mormon missionaries were pursued through the streets by a mob, because of utterances made in Market Square. Newspapers recently conducted a campaign against Mormon activities, alleging that missionaries were trying to obtain women converts who would embrace polygamy. They denied it.

ANOTHER CUT IN RAILROAD WAGES

Chicago, Feb. 23.—Another pay slash, hitting ten thousand railroad firemen, and others was made by the United States railroad labor board, when it announced rules effective March 1st, eliminating extra pay until after tenth hour, and setting up split tricks of eight hours within period of twelve hours without overtime pay.

NO DEMOCRATS ARE ELIGIBLE

Senators Criticize Action of President Harding in Naming All Republicans on Funding Commission

Washington, Feb. 22.—President Harding's appointment of four Republicans and no Democrats to the allied debt funding commission was attacked by Democrats and defended by Republicans today in a lively partisan tilt in the senate. Earlier the senate finance committee had reported favorably the four nominations—Secretaries Hughes and Hoover, Senator Smoot (Republican) of Utah and Representative Burton (Republican) of Ohio.

"Keen disappointment" over the fact that no Democrats were chosen for the commission was expressed by Senator Simmons of North Carolina, ranking Democrat and former chairman of the senate finance committee. Senators Walsh of Massachusetts, the Republican leader, and Senator Kellogg (Republican) of Minnesota defended them.

Senator Walsh announced that he would oppose confirmation of Senator Smoot and Representative Burton on the ground that they were ineligible under the constitution to act as "officers" of the government.

Senators Simmons, Walsh and Williams also, they had no personal fault to find with the four appointees. Mr. Simmons said all were "able, upright, experienced and competent," but he added that at least one Democrat should have been named to the commission. Senator Williams urged that two Democrats be chosen and two Republicans dropped.

Recalling that there had been "sharp conflict" over the allied debt commission bill, Senator Simmons said that under the circumstances and "in view of the general interest of all of the people in these loans it does seem that priority should be for the opposition party to have at least one representative, continue the present public utilities commission in office to act jointly with the present railroad commissioners, but the seventh member of the commission to be elected by the legislature. The house voted for this amendment and was on the verge of putting on the parliamentary clincher, when Representative Hughes made a speech against it, arguing that the amendment would be legislating the present utilities commissioners into office, where the constitution and the new bill have to do with the railroad commission and provide for territorial representation, one member from each congressional district. Representative Sapp made a strong speech along the same line, and whereby the house had passed the amendment by a vote of 59 to 24. It reconsidered that action and, reversing itself, killed the amendment by a vote of 55 to 36.

Senator Kellogg pointed out that the allied debt bill did not receive a single Democratic vote in the senate when it was passed. He added that the president had appointed men "in sympathy with the plan of settlement" of the allied loans.

Former President Wilson's letter of 1918 asking election of a Democratic congress was recalled by Senator Heflin, who said the Republicans were "a great deal of opposition" to shut out the "Republican."

"And now you ain't going to let even one Democrat in to see what's going on," he said, addressing his remarks to the Republicans. "You Democrats," he added, turning to that side, are good enough to put up the coin of the realm, good enough to pay taxes to help win the great World War, but you're not good enough to sit in the council chamber."

Senator Heflin said that if Mr. Wilson had acted as President Harding had regarding the debt commission, Senator Lodge and other Republicans would be indignant and "would be bobbing up and down like one of these cuckoo clocks."

Senator Williams recalled that Mr. Wilson had appointed "nearly all" Democrats on the Paris peace commission to "make action and responsibility synonymous" and had been criticized by the Republicans for not giving that party representation.

"And now you won't let any Democrat even act as an observer," said Mr. Williams.

COLD WAVE PREDICTED

Icy Storm Moving Southward From the Northwest

Chicago, Feb. 23.—The storm and cold wave, which have made the northwestern part of the country toward the Ohio Valley, Tennessee and East Gulf states, and will overpass the Atlantic Coast region by tomorrow says the weather bureau.

KARDOS & BURKE'S LIABILITIES LARGE

New York, Feb. 23.—The liabilities of the brokerage firm of Kardos & Burke, which went into receiver's hands last night, are estimated at seven hundred thousand to a million and a half dollars, John Burke, former United States treasurer and governor of North Dakota, said he lost every dollar in the collapse.

CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST

Henry Cabot Lodge Pestered by Reservations to His Own Treaty—Appeals to Harding For Help

Washington, Feb. 23.—The advice of President Harding as to the acceptance of reservations to the four power Pacific treaty was sought at a conference with the executive by Senator Lodge. The conference is regarded as having the important bearing on the progress of the pact towards ratification.

DAIRY INDUSTRY CAMPAIGN

Specialists to Make Speeches in Sumter County

Hundreds of letters are being mailed out from the Sumter Chamber of Commerce to farmers and bankers, merchants and other business men about the creamery and dairy industry drive next week in Sumter county with the view also of interesting farmers in Lee and Clarendon counties in producing butter fat to sell to the Sumter Creamery company. Sumter has an established market for butter fat.

Mr. Everett Russell of the International Harvester company, and Mr. C. W. Schmolke, dairy extension specialist of the United States department of agriculture, will be the speakers at meetings as scheduled below. Mr. Russell is the "Silly Sunday" of the dairy industry when it comes to "filling the idea" to farmers and other business men. He furnishes a fine of information about the "Mother of Prosperity," the dairy cow, beating the boll weevil to it, and the milk cow as "the factory on every farm" bringing in money the year around, and puts the information so interestingly and convincingly that those who hear get the proposition into their own systems and go out prepared to sell it to others.

Mr. Schmolke is a dairy specialist of practical as well as scientific success and experience, and a splendid talker, also. A committee on the Young Men's Business League and the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, cooperating, will be with Messrs Russell and Schmolke, as "expert exhorters" to help "put it over the top." Three days will be given to the work with the special dairy exchange talking, and the public men and women are urged to attend at these meetings. Friday's program has not yet been arranged for, but will be announced later.

Schedule of dates of meetings: Wednesday, March 1st.—Trinity School, Shiloh Township, at 10:30 a. m. Norwood School, Shiloh Township, at 2:30 p. m. Shiloh School, Shiloh Township, at 4:30 p. m. Thursday, March 2nd.—Sumter County Mass Meeting, at Sumter Court House at 11:30 a. m. Bethel School in Privateer Township at 4:30 p. m.

DECLARED HUGE AIRSHIP UNSAFE

Chicago, Feb. 22.—Lieut. Clifford E. Smythe, of Chicago, killed in the Roma disaster, wrote to his father just after the dirigible's recent trial flight to Washington that the airship was so unsafe that it would be "criminal negligence" to fly her again without making changes in her construction," according to Dr. J. M. Nicholson, a friend of the Smythe family, who made public the letter tonight.

"The Roma behaved so badly on her first trial over Washington that she was declared unsafe," said the letter, according to Dr. Nicholson, "and the majority of those on board were advised to make the return trip by train. If anything has been done to alter her, except to change the engine, I don't know what it is. It looks to me like criminal negligence to fly her without making changes in her construction. But what can I do?"

"The dirigible seemed sluggish and slow to respond to the controls. While she sailed the trip all right, she displayed her rudder several times in a way that was alarming. The rumor was that on her first trial over Washington that she was declared unsafe," said the letter, according to Dr. Nicholson, "and the majority of those on board were advised to make the return trip by train. If anything has been done to alter her, except to change the engine, I don't know what it is. It looks to me like criminal negligence to fly her without making changes in her construction. But what can I do?"

Robert Smythe, Jr., lieutenant Smythe's brother, said Lieutenant Smythe made the return trip from Washington by boat.

JEWELRY BROKER HELD UP BY BANDIT

New York, Feb. 23.—Two bandits forced Jacob Winternick, a jewelry broker, into an automobile with pistols, and stole twenty thousand dollars worth of diamonds.

Japan may feel a little mortified, but even that is cheaper than continued effort to be fortified.

TROUBLE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

San Salvador and Honduras About to Fight Over Question of Central American Union

San Juan, Del Sur, Nicaragua, Feb. 23.—The relations of Salvador and Honduras are reported to be critical over differences concerning the Central American Union. Troops in San Salvador City are reported to have rebelled and are concentrating on the Honduran frontier.

THE MAN WE CANNOT FORGET

House of Representatives Endorse Woodrow Wilson by a Rising Vote

Columbia, Feb. 23.—A dramatic scene was witnessed in the house Wednesday night in the midst of a program in honor of the name of George Washington, when a motion was introduced as tribute to Woodrow Wilson, and by a standing vote, unanimous except for one member, the house adopted a resolution expressing confidence in and love for the man who led the world to victory in the world war. The only member who did not vote for the resolution was Representative Hamahan, of Winnsboro, and in a few remarks preceding the vote he declared that he considered Woodrow Wilson the "worst Democrat we ever had," and he added, "I don't believe he's any Democrat at all."

The remark by Mr. Hamahan precipitated the vote of affection for the former president and brought applause for Wilson not only from the gallery but from the floor of the house.

At the conclusion of the reading of George Washington's farewell address, as appropriate to the day, Representative Evans, of Marlboro, moved that the recent editorial in Collier's Weekly, "The Man They Cannot Forget," and quoted in many newspapers of the state, be read to the house and printed in the journal. Representative Sapp expressed the belief that it should be read, but that reading it was not necessary, as most of the members had read it and the time was needed for business of legislation. To this Representative Hamahan agreed and declared that he did not consider Woodrow Wilson a good Democrat, adding that "that's why Collier's, a Republican magazine, printed the editorial."

This remark precipitated a heat wave. Mr. Evans jumped to his feet and demanded that the editorial be read. The motion carried with a loud "aye," and during the reading the house was still and the members leaned forward. At the conclusion Representative Curtis, of Clarendon, stating that he was a veteran of the world war, who fought under Wilson's leadership, moved that by a rising vote the house endorse the sentiment of the editorial read and express its sympathy and devotion to the former president. The motion was carried unanimously save for the one vote.

Another feature of the George Washington program in the house was the adoption of a resolution by Mr. Blease, of Newberry, to the effect that the hooded statue of Washington on the capitol plaza be repaired. This was adopted.

BLANKET RESERVATION MODIFIED

Washington, Feb. 23.—Modification of the blanket reservation to the four power Pacific treaty, providing that nothing in the treaty can be construed as committing the United States to exercise armed force without consent, was laid before the foreign relations committee by Chairman Lodge. Several Republican and Democratic members opposed. Committee adjourned until tomorrow.

NO CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE

Newport News, Feb. 23.—Col. A. S. Fisher, chief of the lighter than air service at Langley Field, said "Knowing Lieut. Clifford Smythe, as I did, I cannot believe he is correctly quoted in the letter in which he is said to have declared the Roma unsafe." Col. Fisher said he was certain there was no criminal negligence and there was nothing wrong with the Roma when the flight began.

SEC. DAVIS MAKES STATEMENT

Lima, Ohio, Feb. 23.—Relief of the unemployment situation by the removal of over two million children from industry was advocated by Secretary of Labor Davis in an address here.

GASOLINE TAX BILL RATIFIED

Conferees Agree on 2-Cent a Gallon Levy—Corporation License Measure Report Also Approved by Both Houses

Columbia, Feb. 22.—Agreement on the conference report on the gasoline and corporation license taxes by both Houses, agreement among the conferees on the bill increasing the membership of the board of trustees of the University of South Carolina, passage by the House of the Leopard bill providing a license on cotton and stock exchanges, decision to debate the consolidated railroad and public service commission bill in the House and the rejection by the Senate of the Hubbard bill to require railroad trains to stop at important crossings were some of the salient features of a busy morning session of the General Assembly.

Although it has met death in the Senate since this session, the bill to provide a tax on hydro-electric power was reintroduced in the House by E. T. Hughes, of Marion; Eugene S. Blease, of Newberry; and Thomas S. McMillan, of Charleston. The bill requires quarterly payments of one-third of one mill on each kilowatt hour for plants producing 25,000 kilowatt hours or more during the three months period. The bill is a duplicate of the one introduced and passed by the House during the first part of the session and rejected by the Senate by a vote of 26 to 18.

It has been contended by many that the hydro-electric tax is the keystone to the entire structure of revenue legislation and that its revamping has jeopardized the whole fabric. It is believed by many, and the gossip in the lobby generally bears this out, that there is a reversal of the sentiment regarding the revenue legislation and doubtful measures now have a good chance of passage there.

The gasoline license tax carrying a levy of two cents a gallon was approved by both Houses and ordered ratified. As the measure will become a law, if approved by the Governor it will divide the tax between the State and counties, one-half going to the State and the other half to the counties for road purposes. The House accepted the Senate amendment which increased the gasoline tax from one to two cents and eliminated the petroleum products.

Another revenue measure on which the conference report was adopted was the tax on foreign corporations. This makes three of the revenue measures which have been given their final consideration in the General Assembly—the inheritance, gasoline and foreign corporation taxes.

AUGUSTA WOMAN FATALLY SHOT

Mrs. Essie Hays Dies on Way to Hospital—Bullet Glances From Tree

Aiken, Feb. 22.—A fatal ending to a stolen joy ride and clandestine party occurred this afternoon at 4 o'clock when Mrs. Essie Hays, of Augusta, Ga., died en route to the Margaret Wright Hospital from a rifle bullet fired at a target by W. R. Demore, for years connected with the shops of the C. and W. C. railroad.

From the story as told by Demore, who is now in Aiken jail, Mrs. Essie Hays, another Augusta woman, a man named Reese and himself left the city of Augusta on a stolen joy ride for the Hamburg woods, across on the Carolina side of the Savannah river, when near Violet Hill the Durant car of Demore's was parked by the roadside and the four delighted one of the party had carried along a rifle for the purpose of shooting. The four scattered through the woodland and when about to re-enter the car saw a Ford approaching, going towards Augusta, when they took to the woods, fearing it was a police car. They were seen by a man who knew them, ran off and hid in the hill. To disarm any suspicions Demore states he cut across to shoot at objects along the side of the road. He shot at a small tree and the bullet glanced, entering the breast of Mrs. Hays, who ran to him, crying out, "Look, you have shot me." She was hurriedly placed in the automobile and taken to the Margaret Wright Hospital, where upon arrival it was found by physicians that she was dead. She and the other woman have husbands and children and both men have families.

Demore at once surrendered to Sheriff Plunkett, of Richmond county, Georgia, who telephoned Sheriff Howard of the affair and turned his prisoner over to Deputy Sheriff Butler, of Aiken. Mrs. Hays was about thirty-four years old, coroner Tarver, of Aiken, will hold an inquest tomorrow morning.

RUDDER WAS DAMAGED

Dirigible Roma Had an Accident Sometime Ago

Newport News, Feb. 23.—The bodies of the Roma disaster victims were claimed by relatives today and many were here to attend the public funeral tomorrow. It became known that a rudder accident occurred at the field some time ago when the Roma was making a landing, a hole being torn in a rear compartment. Reports that the Roma was out for a record the day she was wrecked is denied by the survivors.

SEARCHING FOR A REMEDY

Delegates Meet in New Orleans to Ascertain Why Cotton is Unprofitable

New Orleans, Feb. 23.—Delegates appointed by the cotton states governors met here to establish the reason why the production of cotton is unprofitable and to find a remedy, if possible.

This motor: Open your eyes and shut your mouth.

SINN FEIN CONVENTION IN DUBLIN

De Valera Will Make Final and Decisive Fight Against the Irish Free State

Dublin, Feb. 20.—The hotels of Dublin were crowded tonight with delegates who tomorrow will attend the opening of the Ard Eileis, or National Sinn Fein convention. More than 2,000 delegates had arrived up to a late hour this evening.

The convention is expected to have an important bearing on the efforts of Eamon De Valera and his followers to prevent the treaty with the British government from being carried into effect. Mansion House is expected tomorrow to be the center of a most contentious assembly. Mr. De Valera as president of the Sinn Fein, will preside.

It is expected that the convention will last one day, as the executive committee of the party has recommended that a vote be taken tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock. It has been recommended that the number of speakers on each side of the questions be limited, but the followers of Mr. De Valera may possibly disregard the recommendation.

Elaborate arrangements have been made for recording the vote, but even if the balloting takes place at 8 o'clock the result may not be determined until 11 o'clock. Therefore it is considered possible that the figures will not be available until early Wednesday morning.

The issue to be determined by the delegates is clearly recognized as being for and against the treaty. Mr. De Valera has given notice of a resolution that the Sinn Fein organization will continue to adhere to the spirit and the letter of the constitution adopted by the Ard Eileis in 1917 and that "accordingly, until international recognition of Ireland as an independent republic has been secured, the aim of the organization shall be, as before, to secure that recognition."

At an executive council arranged for the Ard Eileis last 11 o'clock today made a statement by De Valera to construct the Irish constitution in its strictest sense. It undoubtedly is his view that acceptance of the treaty would be a departure from the constitution and that the Ard Eileis can not depart from the constitution except by a two-thirds majority.

It was conceded tonight that a two-thirds majority can not be obtained. There is much interesting speculation concerning the line Mr. De Valera, as president of the assembly, may take on the effect of the resolutions. The meeting will determine whether the Republic shall continue to adhere to the Free State constitution in view of the forthcoming elections.

Control of funds would follow control of the organization. The funds in question, however, would not mean the war chest of the Sinn Fein movement, but merely the working capital of the party organization. These funds, it is believed, do not amount to more than 200 pounds.

It is regarded as certain, no matter which side wins in the controversy that the defeated party will not submit, but will start a rival organization of its own.

ROBBERY AT LITTLE MT.

Richland and Newberry Officers Hunting For Yegmen

Columbia, Feb. 23.—Officers of Richland and Newberry counties are searching for yegmen who robbed two stores at Little Mountain Monday night, blowing to pieces big safes in both stores. The stores robbed were the Corbitts at Shady Co., and the W. Derrick Co. In the first the yegmen entered through a door whose lock they picked. The other they entered through a window. The booty secured totaled only about \$2,000 in Liberty bonds, war savings stamps, currency and checks.

A general alarm has been sent to Augusta, Greenville, Spartanburg, Charleston and other cities.

All day Monday a grizzly stranger was seen in Little Mountain, but his actions did not arouse suspicion at the time. It is now recalled that once he was seen in the rear of one of the stores robbed.

Los Angeles, Feb. 21.—The suit against the Los Angeles Evening Express by the Ku Klux Klan, demanding one thousand dollars damages for the publication of alleged libelous articles was dismissed in the superior court.

SINN FEIN TRYING TO COMPROMISE

Attitude of Clubs in Regard to Question of Free State and Republic to Be Defined at Meeting in Dublin

Dublin, Feb. 21 (By the Associated Press).—There is a possibility that a split in the Sinn Fein over the Anglo-Irish treaty will be avoided. The Ard Eileis, the national Sinn Fein convention, which met at the Mansion House today for the purpose of defining the attitude of the Sinn Fein clubs on the treaty whether for a free state or a republic, adjourned until tomorrow with instructions to the leaders of the two parties to come together and devise a plan to keep the Sinn Fein organization united.

This unexpected outcome was due to the direct initiative of the meeting in general, and was not prompted by the leaders of either side. After Eamon de Valera had presented a resolution pledging adherence to the constitution adopted by the Ard Eileis in 1917, looking to "international recognition of Ireland as an independent republic" and stated his objections to the treaty on republican principles, the debate, unlike the discussion in the daily stream, did not settle down into an examination of the merits and demerits of the treaty.

Arthur Griffith, president of the daily stream, replying to Mr. de Valera raised up new points, he merely asserted that the treaty gave Ireland the opportunity it needed. Cheers from both sides greeted the suggestion of Sir Gwynor, an influential member of the standing committee composed of both supporters and opponents of the treaty, for a three years' postponement of the elections and proved that the prevailing sentiment of the convention was for unity in the organization in view of possible eventualities and that it should not be difficult for Mr. de Valera and Mr. Griffith to reach an arrangement avoiding disruption of the organization on which Ireland in the case of a breach between the British minister and Ireland might be compelled to rely.

Mr. de Valera argued that elections at the present time would be unfair because the Irish people would have only the vaguest idea of what they were offered in exchange for the republic. Michael Collins did his best to meet this objection and indicated that he did not desire that the elections be included but was unable to give a guarantee against elections.

He pointed out that as long as the elections were delayed it was open to the supporters of de Valera to defeat the provisional government in the daily and last defeat by even one vote on a minor point would compel the government to resign.

Mr. Griffith emphasized the same points and charged that de Valera was trying to avoid a decision by the people. Mr. de Valera presented this and meeting the objection of Collins and Griffith that they could not guarantee that Mr. Lloyd George would not force elections, contended that no elections would be held without the sanction of the daily stream and the press.

Subsequent speakers reinforced the plea that the leaders should endeavor to avoid a split, the most notable being Patrick, who without exception took this line. The latter part of the meeting was dominated by the interjection of Richard Maloney, who, as minister of defense and head of the army, carried great weight. Mr. Maloney granted a resolution directing that the leaders meet tonight and seek a basis of agreement for submission to the convention tomorrow.

Dublin, Feb. 22.—An agreement to adjourn the Ard Eileis, the Sinn Fein national convention, for three months was reached today, providing for a vote in the daily stream shall require the recognition of the provisional government and no election is held meanwhile. When the election is held the new constitution under the Anglo-Irish treaty shall be submitted to the country.

Newport News, Feb. 23.—The bodies of the Roma disaster victims were claimed by relatives today and many were here to attend the public funeral tomorrow. It became known that a rudder accident occurred at the field some time ago when the Roma was making a landing, a hole being torn in a rear compartment. Reports that the Roma was out for a record the day she was wrecked is denied by the survivors.

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