

London, Jan. 4th.—Proposals for the formation of a corporation capitalized at £10,000,000 for the purpose of facilitating trade between Russia and Great Britain, which it is understood, had been approved by the Government and M. Krasin, is announced by the "Times". The plans await the action of the Russian branch of the London Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 12th. The corporation, the capital of which will be subscribed equally by Russia and Great Britain, the "Times" says, will be controlled by a Board of Governor's selected by both countries.

Washington, Jan. 4th.—Assurances that the United States is not contemplating military intervention in Cuba were given today to the Cuban Minister by Secretary Daniels, it was learned at the State Department.

Dublin, January 5th.—Two rumours spread through Dublin rapidly last night, one that a manifesto to the Irish people would be issued by Professor De Valera, the other that De Valera had come to Dublin. Confirmation of either could not be obtained in quarters usually well-informed on Sinn Fein affairs. It is considered not unlikely, however, that some message will be forthcoming from De Valera in a day or two. The public may never know how De Valera managed to reach Ireland, and it is believed that the means by which he landed in Ireland will be kept a secret, as other Sinn Fein leaders, absent from the country, may find it necessary to utilize the same plan. De Valera's presence in Ireland has been generally taken as meaning a marked acceleration of the efforts to find a basis of peace acceptable to both sides. Since his arrival the Dail Direann has not held a meeting, but one may be arranged soon. It is reported, in what is considered reliable circles, that orders have been received from London forbidding the Crown forces to arrest De Valera. The tension prevailing in Dublin before Christmas has greatly relaxed.

\$40,000,000 IN INCOME TAXES UNPAID IN NEW YORK

THOUSANDS MAY FACE GOVERNMENT PENALTY.

SILK, TEXTILE, GARMENT, GROCERY AND AUTOMOBILE LINES HARDEST HIT AS RESULT OF DEPRESSION—COLLECTOR EDWARDS HOLDS OUT HOPE OF RELIEF.

With the expiration at midnight last night of the time for paying the last quarterly instalment of Federal income taxes it was estimated by William H. Edwards, Collector of Internal Revenue for this district, that fully \$40,000,000 of the \$100,000,000 said to be due at this

time from residents of New York city was still unpaid.

He was unable to give figures to show the approximate number of delinquents, but it is believed they run into the thousands. All of them face a penalty of 5 per cent interest for failure to pay on time and interest at the rate of 1 per cent a month will be added.

Inability to pay the tax seemed to be widespread. It affected the men of small means and many persons who a few months ago could have paid far greater amounts without feeling it. But the general business depression, which has swept over the country with increasing force during the latter half of the year, has wrought havoc without regard to persons and has played no favorites.

Collector Edwards said that more people had found it difficult to pay their taxes than ever before. With some it was impossible. They frankly told the collector so and said they would have to stand for the imposition of penalties. Those who thus took the collector into their confidence included brokers, business men, corner groceries and manufacturers.

Regret Not Paying Before

Many expressed regret that they had not paid in full at the time the first quarterly instalment became due last March. Money was plentiful then and they could have done so, they said, but held off in the hope of getting a little more interest from their money before turning it over to the Government. Now, unable to get credit because of the fall in value of their assets and with money owed them on contracts withheld, or with contracts cancelled, they could not pay.

Collector Edwards declared that the silk, textile, garment, grocery and automobile lines had been the hardest hit.

In the crowds which thronged the corridors of the Custom House yesterday were many who were obliged to present liberty bonds in settlement of claims. This is the first time they have been received here, but Collector Edwards announced they would be accepted only at market value.

The largest check reported yet was that of one corporation for \$3,164,000. This included the quarterly instalment of income and excess profits tax. The smallest that came to notice was a quarterly payment on \$10.38 made by a bare-headed Italian woman from the East Side, who rushed about the corridors in search of the cashier's window, ever fearful that if she didn't pay Uncle Sam would "get her."

EDWARDS HOLDS OUT HOPE.

In discussing the situation Mr. Edwards said that as he had received no communication on the matter from Washington he doubted reports that extensions were being granted in other cities. He

declared that the evidence of the straightened condition, abundant as it has been in his office, represents but a small percentage of the actual number of persons who yesterday found themselves unable to pay the tax.

It was said that many individuals in various lines of industry had reported their inability to obtain loans at the banks and this fact made the tightness of money all the more apparent and distressing.—Journal of Commerce.

LURE OF VESUVIUS.

NEOPOLITANS CANNOT STAY AWAY FROM VOLCANO.

It is commonplace to say how reckless in men to build and live all about Vesuvius and creep ever higher and higher towards its cone, husbanding every yard that will grow a vine or vegetable, in spite of the terrible lessons Vesuvius has taught them.

"The truth is," says Mr. G. A. B. Dewar in his new book, "A Younger Son," "the greater the lesson he gets, the greater will be the recklessness of the Neopolitan. If Vesuvius were a live volcano in England instead of Italy, the same thing would be seen: a little time after it had poured out lava and mud and ash, and killed us in hundreds or thousands, and spoilt our homes and crops, we should return to Vesuvius and re-build and creep up its sides anew. I suppose that sooner or later Vesuvius will fly into a violent passion again, and pour down her lava streams as she poured them to Torre Annunziata not a generation since.

"What a darkness Vesuvius might make, you understand if you go down to the shore by any of these towns, and look at the sand. It is black. The sand of the whole Bay of Naples is black. When Vesuvius is in a passion, ashes fall in Rome, Genoa, Turin; they fall in Paris.

Conceive all these towns spoiled tomorrow as Messina was spoilt by Etna, none the less, in a few years time they would rise from the lava and mud and ash finer than now. As Resina rose on Herculaneum, a new Resina and a richer would rise on the old. The greater the bane of Vesuvius today, the greater the balm to-morrow. The ashes and mud turn to gold, you need not much knowledge of the fruits of the earth to learn that lesson.

Vesuvius will never lose its hold on men whilst it remains active and terrible. It will only come into contempt and be left to itself when its mud streams dry up and its ashes are all spent, for it is worth nobody's while to live for long under an extinct volcano".—Barbados Globe, Dec. 6th.