

tain order under conditions of unexampled difficulty and danger. It is my most earnest hope that all sections of the people of Ireland will insist upon a return to constitutional methods which alone can put an end to the terrible events which threaten ruin to that country and make possible reconciliation and a lasting peace. Then announcing briefly the passage of the home rule bill, the speech continued. I sincerely hope that this act, the fruit of more than 30 years of ceaseless controversy, will finally bring about unity and friendship between all the peoples of my kingdom. The King concluded by recounting the measures passed during the course of the parliamentary session. He referred to unemployment as the darkest cloud on the horizon, springing less from international causes than from contraction of the export trade arising out of the poverty of nations and their inability to secure credits. The Govt. he said, was giving unremitting attention to the problem. The session was somewhat unusual. It was expected that parliament would prorogue about 8 o'clock, but there was difficulty in adjusting the differences between the two Houses over the Agricultural Bill, which had been to shed about from Lords to Commons and from Commons to Lords throughout the evening. This resulted in delay. Though the Lords insisted in their amendment the govt. suffered four defeats in succession and in most of these cases the House of Commons had perforce to accept these amendments to prevent the Bill from becoming a dead letter.

New York, Dec. 23rd.—New York's crime epidemic appeared to be waning rapidly today before intensified police activity supported by drastic measures of criminal court judges. 84 men, most of whom had been released on low bail, were sent to jail by judges in the court of general sessions where the amounts of the sureties were raised so high the prisoners could not furnish them. Bail amounting to \$150,000 was ordered forfeited in the cases of 60 others, who failed to appear when ordered. Bail of one prisoner, who the record showed had been at liberty on \$5,000 on two separate charges was increased to \$35,000 by Judge McIntyre, who declared that if this was not forthcoming he would raise the amount still higher. Announcement was made that on Monday 500 men will be started on a course of intensive training preparatory to joining the regular police force. Few serious crimes were reported today. Numerous arrests were made however, and several prisoners were held on charges of carrying concealed weapons.

Newark, N. J. Dec. 23rd.—Judges following the precedent established in New York today decided to fix high bail in cases where prisoners are charged with using or possessing weapons. Those

using revolvers or black jacks will be held in \$20,000, virtually double the maximum in the past while \$5,000 was fixed as the sum in cases where the prisoners are charged with having such weapons.

Berlin, Dec. 23rd.—General Hoffman, ex-chief of staff for the German East army who played an important part in the Brest-Litovsk negotiations, declares in an interview published in the Berlin Russian Daily Rul that Bolshevism having ceased to be regional, is a world problem now which can be solved only by armed intervention by the great powers acting in concert. An international army, under the leadership of Generals Pershing, Joffre or Foch should occupy Petrograd, General Hoffman says, then march on Moscow, which he asserts is bound to fall before any well equipped and properly officered force. With the occupation of Moscow Trotzky and Lenine would be unhorsed and their 3,000 commissaries overthrown and the members of the whole regime would ask "safe account to pass by the shortest way to oblivion". He feels certain that the Russian workmen would be glad to desert their present leaders at the first indication that their overthrow was imminent. Moscow must be spoken to in the language of Brest-Litovsk not in the language of Mr. Lloyd George in London. To remodel bolshevism is impossible. Any entente attempt to incorporate Bolshevism in the European concert would be powerless. Any trade relations with Russia would only furnish a cloak for red propaganda, for Bolshevism will be a world revolution. Trotzky had studied the history of the French Revolution and knows the use of the scourge. Under this system no man can rise to power from the army, the appearance of a new Napoleon in Russia is out of the question. The crash of the Soviet regime would be inevitably followed by a reign of unparalleled anarchy. The only thing that remains is armed intervention by the great powers. As chief of the staff of the Eastern Army during the war I directed the propaganda against the Russian army. The general staff made use of every possible means to break through the Russian front. One of the means was poison gas, another was Lenine. The Imperial regime despatched Lenine to Russia from the Swiss frontier in a sealed car for a definite purpose. With our consent Lenine and his friends disorganized the Russian army. Von Kuhlmann, former German Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Count Czernin, Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister and I then closed the Brest Litovsk treaty, so that we could throw our Army against the western front. While in Brest we were convinced that the Bolsheviks could not hold power more than three weeks, on my word of honour as a German General. In spite of the valuable service Trotzky and Lenine rendered we

neither knew or foresaw the danger to humanity from the curse of this journey of Bolshevism to Russia. At that time we weighed the matter with as little consideration as the entente does now. Would the Allies and especially Mr. Lloyd George carry on negotiations and make concessions if they fully realized the frightful danger which Bolshevism represents. General Hoffmann says that the army command realized the danger and a plan was laid before the supreme command of the eastern army for the overthrow of Bolshevism but events developed so rapidly, following upon the assassination of Count Von Mirbach, the German Ambassador to Russia in Moscow, and the situation on the western front had become so critical, that it was impossible to force the issue.

Paris, Dec. 26th.—"Le Journal" says today that it learns from Berlin that it is reported in political circles there that a manifesto has been prepared by the Austrian Government addressed to the League of Nations asking that Austria be attached to Germany. Dr. Simons, the German Foreign Minister and Count Cludenitz, former Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, are said to have drafted the document. The Petit Parisien declares that the recent treaty signed by Italy and Jugo Slavia specifically provides for reciprocal support to prevent the restoration of the monarchy either in Austria or Hungary. A Copenhagen despatch of December 8th., quoting the Berlin correspondence of the Politikon, said that Cludenitz was in Berlin discussing the possibility of unity with Germany and Austria, following the latter's admission into the league of Nations.

Dublin, Dec. 26th.—Two men who fired on the Crown forces at Tralee were shot dead by the artillery when they tried to escape. They had revolvers and "dum dum" bullets in their possession.

Friest, Dec. 26th.—Italian regulars have reached the factories on the edge of Fiume and are closing in gradually on D'Annunzio's stronghold. It is expected Fiume will be taken this evening or tomorrow morning.

Rome, Dec. 26th.—The world is affected by five great plagues, said Pope Benedict, replying to the greetings of the Sacred College presented by Cardinal Vanutelli at a reception to the Pontiff. The Pope enumerated these as the negation of authority, hatred among brothers, thirst for pleasure, dislike for work and forgetfulness of the supernatural object of life. These evils can only be overcome with the aid of the Gospel, said the Pope and therefore he would never cease to remind the people of it, this being his mission and his intention of his predecessors, celebrated three midnight masses in the Pauline Chapel, which was beautifully decorated.