

was likely to be willing to take the consequences should Mr. Lloyd George be prevented from being present at the Washington Conference on their account. Reported plans of the British delegates now attending the Washington conference to go to New York on Monday are interrupted here as indicating their reluctance to make the decisions, so far tentatively arrived at in Washington, binding and final, because of the possibility of Mr. Lloyd George participating in the final conclusions. There was an impression in official circles here today that the proceedings of the Washington gathering were being "soft pedalled" in consequence of the receipt of word from London that the British Premier might soon join in the Washington deliberations.

St. Kitts, Dec. 3rd.—H. E. the Governor of the Leeward Islands, Lt. Col. the Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart, and Lady Fiennes on their way to Antigua landed here from S. S. Fort St. George this morning and were given a hearty reception by all classes of the community.

Antigua, Dec. 4th.—His Excellency the Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart and Lady Fiennes arrived this morning by the S. S. Fort St. George, His Excellency landed at the Government Wharf at 9 a. m. and was welcomed by the Acting Governor, heads of Government Departments, and the general public. His Majesty's Commission appointing His Excellency to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of the Leeward Islands was then read. His Excellency took the prescribed oaths in the Legislative Council Chamber at 10 a. m.

Washington, Dec. 2nd.—The delegates of China and Japan in their conversations brought about by the Hughes-Balfour offer of good offices for the settlement of the Shaantung controversy between the two nations, went to the very heart of the dispute today, each nation reasserting positions taken in the four recent notes exchanged between Tokio and Peking, with particular reference to the Tsingtan-Thinanfu railway. The Chinese delegates "made clear" that in entering into this informal conference for the settlement of the Shantung dispute, they had "no desire to have it inferred" that China had receded from its known attitude with reference to treaties and statutes which are now in dispute between the two countries relative to the Kiauchow leasehold. The Japanese delegates presented the Japanese position concerning control of the Tsingtan-Thinanfu railway on the basis of the Japanese note of September 7 looking to joint control. Dr. Wellington Koo, for China, reasserted the position that the railway be owned and administered by the Chinese Govt. as set forth in China's reply of October 5th to Japan's offer of September 7th to restore the Kiauchow

leasehold conditionally. The Japanese advanced their position that the railway should be operated as a joint China Japanese enterprise, believing this to embody conciliation, since Germany, whose rights Japan contends she has inherited, had controlled the line entirely. Chinese students staged another demonstration today, prior to the Shantung meeting, in front of the Chinese Headquarters. Their efforts were fruitless however, as the delegates were away. Later several automobiles filled with students drove up to the Pan-American building, where the meeting was held; but the delegates had entered the conference before the students appeared.

Dublin, Dec. 3rd.—Five members of the Dail Eireann cabinet assembled today to consider the Government's latest proposals for an Irish peace settlement. There is little optimism as to its decision and the Sinn Fein peace delegates who have returned from London are reported as believing the revised terms will be unacceptable to De Valera and his advisers.

London, Dec. 3rd.—The armament conference itself now expected by the United States administration to determine what outside nations will be invited into the Washington negotiations as they approach conclusion.

Tokio, Dec. 3rd.—The Government had decided to leave the ratio of warships entirely in the hands of Admiral Baron Kato for decision and has communicated to him to that effect, according to apparently authentic reports here.

Berlin, Dec. 3rd.—Foreign Exchange yesterday recovered substantially from a slump caused by a panicky unloading on Thursday, and the feeling prevails that the hurry was only a one-day affair. The financial writers apparently have been unable to locate the cause for the catastrophic drop in stocks and foreign money, and as the bourse was not in session yesterday, they content themselves with deferring the drawing of conclusions until official trading is resumed next Monday. Thursday's excitement is ascribed in a large measure to a bad case of "stage fight" on the part of amateur speculators. Bankers claim that a sensational drop of several hundred points in leading industries, commercial and shipping stocks, was wholly out of proportion to their intrinsic value.

London, Dec. 3rd.—A Reuter despatch from Adelaide says that consternation has been caused by the resignation of Sir Archibald Weigall as Governor of South Australia who was extremely popular in the State. In a letter to the Government, Sir Archibald expresses keen regret that he is obliged to vacate the offices and explains that overseas deductions absorbed the whole of his salary, leaving a considerable balance to meet on expenditures essential to the maintenance of his office. This had been

met by private means, but financial obligations recently place upon him and Lady Weigall in England, rendered the continuance of such private expenditures impossible. It is reported that Sir William Allardyce, Governor of Tasmania, is shortly to resign also, because of discontent with his salary, which is £2,750. Sir Arthur's salary is £4,000.

London, Dec. 4th.—The Irish conference reassembled in Downing Street this afternoon to discuss the latest phrases of the Irish situation. Those present were Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Viscount Birkenhead and Sir Robt. Horne, representing Great Britain, and Arthur Griffith, Robt. Barton and George Gavan Duffy, representing the Sinn Feiners. The general impression of the situation after the meeting was a very gloomy one. The Irishmen submitted the result of the Dail Eireann's examination of the latest proposals of the Government, and pointed out where they were unacceptable. They had said no more on Thursday night than that the proposals required full consideration, and had not yielded any points in dispute. The meeting of the Dail Eireann cabinet in Dublin on Saturday emphasized the principles involved in the scheme and the impression conveyed was that no principle would be sacrificed to obtain Ulster's assent, or to put Ulster in the wrong if it refused assent. Mr. Lloyd George's difficulty, according to those in close touch with him, is that he cannot ask Ulster to agree to any terms which British opinion would not endorse. He is firm in the stand that the allegiance question cannot be abandoned or camouflaged, and this it is said, has proved the most insuperable of all the obstacles to a settlement. The proposal that the King might be recognized as head of the British Federation of Free States, but no King of Ireland, was objected to by the British Ministers. It was declared that it would be scouted by Ulster and would not be intelligible to the British electors. An attempt was made to devise some form of allegiance the Sinn Fein might accept, but this apparently proved unsuccessful. The Crux of partition was almost equally serious. The Sinn Fein regards Irish unity as fundamental and was firm that no proposal aimed at securing Ulster's assent should prove a possible permanent bar. The seven British representatives of the original Irish conference are expected to meet tomorrow. It is presumed this meeting may be preliminary to declaring the conference off altogether. As things stand the net result, in the opinion of the commentators, will be to throw the onus of the collapse of the Sinn Fein and this will bring the Premier to the position he assumed before the negotiations started, that British law must be maintained and authority sought for drastic action.