

that they would declare the address unsatisfactory in many respects, Mr. Asquith saying it was notable for its omissions. Mr. Thomas (Labour) in the House took especial exception to the part relative to Ireland. It was expected that the coming conference of Allied and German delegates in this city, the revision of the Treaty of Sevres, Mesopotamia, Ireland, and domestic affairs would be discussed today or tomorrow in the House. Lord Robert Cecil on Friday will introduce an amendment on the financial bills before Parliament, on which economy will be urged. On Monday an independent liberal amendment criticizing the Irish administration will be laid before the House.

London, Feb. 16th.—Mr. Lloyd George speaking in the House of Commons last evening, declared it was too much to ask of these small islanders that they under take the whole burden of the defence of the gigantic Empire in every sea, and that at the forthcoming conference of the dominions in London the whole problem of Imperial defence must be considered. There must be the Premier went on, coordination, not only between the various services, but between the several parts of the Empire. The conference of the Empire Premiers, to be held in London in June, would be the most momentous event in the history of the Empire. General consent was now given to the principle that the Mother Country and the Dominions must make common cause to defend the liberties of the world, and the interests of the Empire. This did not mean that it was the intention to involve Canada, Australia and India in all the quarrels of the Mother Country, but it did mean that when there was some great cause at stake, as in the late war, the knowledge that the Empire was quite prepared in future to repeat the great common effort of the past, would be one of the soundest guarantees of peace.

London, Feb. 16th.—The debate on the speech from the throne was resumed in the House of Commons today with a labour amendment expressing regret that there was nothing in the King's speech recognizing the right of the unemployed to work or maintenance. Mr. Macnamara, Minister of Labour, announced that there was a provision in the new bill extending the unemployment insurance act to meet the present case. Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Government would take all the time of the House until the end of the financial year. A host of supplementary estimates are coming up, the first to be issued being that of 21,000,000 pounds sterling for the railways. Anti-Government members of Parliament who have been insistently proclaiming the right of the House of Commons to pass judgment on the Mesopotamian mandate before it was submitted to the League of Nations, received a

shock when Mr. Bonar Law declined to lay the mandate on the table and give the House a chance to approve it before it was turned over to the League. Mr. Bonar Law explained that the peace treaty provided that mandates were first to be submitted to the League, and the Government intended to carry out the provisions of the treaty. Answering a question as to whether the Govt. was going to commit the House to great expenditure without an opportunity of discussing it, he said that the House was already committed to possible expenditure by Great Britain in accepting the mandate. Mr. Bonar Law added that if every Parliament was to enter into a discussion before a matter was submitted to the League, then the League might as well be closed.

Pittsburg, PA. Feb. 15th.—Reductions of from 10 to 50 cents in the price of crude oil, were announced here today by the principal purchasing agencies, Pennsylvania crude receiving a cut of 50 cents a barrel, making the new prices \$3. 75.

Washington, Feb. 15th.—The Senate late today adopted the Sinnott amendment to the Fordney emergency tariff bill, providing for an import duty on sugar of approximately one cent a pound in addition to the present tariff.

New York, Feb. 16th.—Raw sugar was quiet today, and prices were unchanged at 4½c. for Cuba's, cost and freight, equal to 5.77 for centrifugal. There were sales of 15,000 bags of Cuba's to operators. Refined sugar was firmer with fine granulated quoted at 7.50 to 7.75, the demand continuing good. Futures opened 1 to 8 points higher on trade buying and covering, but eased off under renewed liquidation, and at mid-day prices were 5 to 1 points lower.

Budapest, Feb. 16th.—The financial Minister has discovered vast quantities of precious stones in an old iron trunk, deposited years ago in the treasury building. The Minister was searching the treasury yesterday in the hope of finding relief for the treasury's embarrassed state, and found the trunk which he had believed contained papers. When it was broken into, thousands of opals and other precious stones appeared, the value of which is estimated at 200,000,000 crowns.

St. Thomas, Feb. 19th.—Owing to the reported presence of bubonic plague in San Juan, Porto Rico, all vessels arriving here from that port, until further notice, will be subject to the usual quarantine inspection.

San Juan, P. R., Feb. 19th.—The Commission of Sanitation has advised the Press that one of three cases proved to be bubonic plague and that three of some rats caught in the suspected zone have shown symptoms of plague. The business houses in that district which were closed yesterday are now open. All persons working and living there have been vac-

inated, the houses disinfected and every precaution is being taken. No other cases has been reported. The two suspected and the one case are in the isolation hospital. The Sanitary Department has a large supply of plague serum on hand.

"AN AUTOCRACY OF SERVICE"

President-elect Harding already has commenced to show evidences of the terrible isolation that goes with the Presidency. He said as much recently when he took upon himself the obligations of the higher degrees of Masonry. Speaking to his friends he said:

"I wonder if you know just the feeling of a man who has been called to the greatest office in the world?

"There is an aloofness of his friends, and this is one of the sad things. And in me there is a deepening sense of responsibility.

"I have found already that intrigue and untruth must be guarded against. One must be ever on his guard. This everlasting standing on one's guard spoils a man. I wish for an atmosphere of truth and sincerity in our Government and I have no higher ambition to establish during my Administration than an autocracy of service."

Certainly Mr. Harding has gained for himself since election a great deal of respect and sympathy for the tremendous tasks that confront him and many of which he must solve largely for himself. The importance of the greatest office in the world in itself tends to isolation. Many might desire to help, but dare not presume to intrude.

It was this condition which during the War caused President Wilson to be referred to as the most isolated person in Washington.

Put the President-Elect may, if he so desires, escape a good deal of this loneliness that too frequently goes with the Presidency. If he fulfils his own desire to make his administration "an autocracy of service" he will be too busy most of the time either to be isolated or lonely despite any "aloofness" of friends. If he succeeds, as he is trying, to surround himself with the "best minds" he will be able to establish his autocracy and at the same time banish the isolation from which many of his predecessors have suffered.—*Porto Rico Progress, Feb. 4th.*

\$5.00 Reward

will be given for return of deer hide stolen from my yard during the night of February 3rd. Future trespassers are hereby warned.

W. L. RINEY.