

New York, May 13th.—Frank J. Marshall, of New York, retained his title as United States chess champion last night, when his eighteenth game with Edward Lasker of Chicago, ended in a draw after forty moves. The game started on Friday night. Marshall won five games to Lasker's four, while nine were drawn.

London, May 14th.—Willie Smith won the professional billiard championship of England last night from R. Newman, the previous holder of the championship, and the cup which goes with it. The elimination contests have been in progress in London for the past two months and the match between the finalists began two weeks ago. The final scores were Smith 16,000. Newman 15,180. Both men are English.

Dublin, May 13th.—Large captures of irregular troops throughout the south and the rounding up of several important columns of irregulars in the western area, are reported in an official army communication, issued last night. The communication also reports the seizure of ten thousand rounds of Thompson gun ammunition at Louth.

London, May 13th.—Labour organizations today held a meeting in Hyde Park to protest against the ultimatum to Russia. The meeting was of a similar character to those which have become well known since the war. Meanwhile Leonid Krassin, Bolshevik Minister of Foreign Trade, was reported to be flying from Moscow to London, making a journey of three stages, with stops at Königsberg and Berlin. The Russian note in reply to the British ultimatum, which is to be telegraphed to London, will consist, it is reported, of 8,000 words. In official circles it was declared today that this wording evidently would mean argument, and argument was what Lord Curzon had declared the Govt. would not indulge in. It was also stated that the Soviet Govt. could not send a better representative to London than Krassin, if it desires to patch up the trouble between Great Britain and Russia. Notwithstanding the fact that Krassin recently has been in disfavour with the Soviet and reports of his resignation have been afloat, he is considered to have been a good agent for the Russians here, having stood well with official and businessmen, largely due to the belief that he is not sympathetic with the political policies of the Soviet. The Russian trade delegation has a large staff in London, with handsome office buildings, and the members of the mission are anxious to remain here.

London, May 13th.—The text of the Govt's note to Germany, in reply to Germany's recent reparations offer was made public today. It reads, "His Majesty's Govt. has given careful attention to the memorandum of your Excellency, communicated to me on May 2nd, in which the German Govt. put forward proposals for a settlement of reparations. This action on their part is well known to

have a sequel to the suggestion I made in debate in the British Parliament on April 20th, and His Majesty's Govt. therefore has special interest in the response to that appeal. I cannot conceal from your Excellency that the proposals of your Govt. carry as a great disappointment and that the unfavourable impression they made on His Majesty's Govt., as well as on their Allies, is one which, in my opinion, the German Govt. might and ought to have therefore guarded against. The proposals are far from corresponding, either in form or in substance, to what His Majesty's Govt. might reasonably have expected would be made in answer to the advice on more than one occasion they ventured to convey to the German Govt., through your Excellency, and to the more direct indication to them in the speech referred to. The main grounds for this legitimate disappointment are as follows: First. The German Govt. offer in total payment of their acknowledged debt a sum which, falling far below the moderate amount forming the basis of the British scheme submitted to the Paris conference in January last, must have been known in advance to be unacceptable to the Allied Govts. Furthermore, payment of this inadequate sum is made dependent on the series of the international loans, the success of which, in the conditions predicted, must be largely speculative, so much so that the scheme proposed by the German Govt. actually contains provisions dealing with the contingency of the loans and materialising. Moreover, the arrangements, under this head, involve financial conditions less burdensome to Germany than if the loans were to be successful, so, no real incentive thereby is held but for her to attempt to raise them. Second. That the failure of the German reply to indicate with greater precision the nature of the guarantees they are disposed to offer, is more particularly to be regretted, and the Allied Govts, instead of receiving concrete and substantial proposal in this respect, are confronted with vague assurances and references to future negotiations, which, in a business transaction of this kind, are lacking in practical value. The disappointment is enhanced by the belief, which His Majesty's Govt. would like to entertain, that indications are to be found in the German memo that the German Govt. recognise the responsibility, resting on them to make an earnest effort to discharge their obligations under the Versailles Treaty, in a manner which the Allies could regard as both equitable and sincere. If Germany did intend to open the way to an effectual and speedy solution of the problem, the failure to settle, which is gravely disturbing the prosperity and economic conditions of Europe and indeed the whole world, then it seems unfortunate that she should not have shown keener appreciation of the terms on

which such settlement can be made. His Majesty's Govt. is persuaded that, in her own interest, Germany will see the advantage of displaying a greater readiness to grapple with the realities of the case and discarding all irrelevant or controversial issues, will proceed to reconsider or expand her proposals in such a way as to convert them into a feasible basis for further discussion. In such a discussion His Majesty's Govt. will at a suitable moment be ready to take part by the side of its Allies, with whom they share a practical interest in this question in a desire to terminate a situation of international peril, but they cannot conceal from the German Govt. that the first step forward to a realisation of any such hope must be recognition by Germany that a contribution much more serious and much more precise is required than any which yet has been forthcoming.

Rome, May 14th.—The King and Queen spent most of the last day of their visit in Rome on a sightseeing tour. Late on Saturday they left without ceremony for Asiago, to visit the cemeteries in which British war dead are buried. They were bidden farewell by all the members of the Italian Royal Family and were cheered by crowds in the streets from the Quirinal to the railway station.

London, May 15th.—Sugar in stock on the 12th inst was 82,000 tons. Last year 104,000.

Rome, May 14th.—Italy's reply to the German note on reparations says in part: Apart from the fact that the sum fixed for reparations is manifestly much inferior to any figure, however small, that might reasonably have been expected, an international loan, whereby payment of that sum would be wholly covered, is only indicated, without necessary details and without it being specified what adequate disposition would be taken for placing it and for its success. In addition, there are no concrete indications as to guarantees and pledges and no assurance that they would be properly furnished. "The German proposal thus does not offer a methodical or complete plan, such as is indispensable to form the basis of even discussions of principle. It resolves itself into a series of vague and inaccurate indications, which are the more worthless when compared with the great importance of the question to which it refers".

New York, May 14th.—The raw sugar market was easy early today and prices were lower, to the basis of 6½ cents for Cubas, cost and freight, equal to 8.03 for centrifugal.

London, May 14th.—Mr. W. C. Bridgeman, the Home Secretary, has resigned, according to the Exchange Telegraph Company. His resignation, however, has not been accepted.

Hot Springs, Arkansas, May 15th.—A terrific cloud-burst occurred here this morning. It is reported that more than fifty persons have been killed.