

signed recently at Vienna as a preliminary settlement of the dispute between those countries over Burgenland, the strip of West Hungarian territory, awarded to Austria by the Treaty of Trianon. The protocol was signed on October 13th, by the Hungarian Foreign Minister M. Banffy and the Austrian Chancellor M. Schober. The Austrian Foreign Minister acted as mediator in the negotiations leading to the agreement. One of the features of the Venetian protocol, according to the despatches at the time it was signed, was the agreement by Austria to return Oldenburg, one of the principal cities of Burgenland, to Hungary as soon as Burgenland had been cleared of Hungarian irregular bands. A number of other provisions were included in the protocol designed to clear up the whole difficulty between Austria and Hungary arising out of the Treaty of Trianon.

Naples, Oct. 30th—Several persons were drowned and property damage was caused by a flood of the river Sebello, which flows through this city on Thursday night. The inundation was caused by a severe storm lasting for 12 hours. The storm did serious damage in the Suburbs of this city, houses being destroyed vineyards and crops washed away and cattle carried away.

St. John's N. F., Oct. 30th—This section of the Newfoundland coast is in the grip of a gale of Northeast wind that has been raging for the last three days. How far the tempest has extended along the coast is unknown, as the wires are down in all directions, the railway track has been so badly damaged in a number of places that no trains are running, and news from outside the city is very hard to obtain. Commencing on Friday evening with a heavy blizzard, the storm reached its zenith in the hours of yesterday morning, at which time there were a couple of feet water over the ground in the lower levels of the city. Later the temperature rose again and the wind dropped somewhat but the storm still rages heavily, and a high sea is running outside this port. The storm was accompanied by a high tide which did a great deal of damage to flour and other perishable articles when the waters of the harbour rose so far above their usual level as to cover the floors of storage places along the harbour front to a depth of a couple of feet.

London, Oct. 30th—Effects have been made during the week end to prevent a breakdown in the Irish peace conference but a continuance of the negotiations now seems to depend almost on the willingness of the Ulster authorities to assist in coming in tune with the Sinn Fein.

Ottawa, Oct. 30th—Lady Laurier is seriously ill and fears are entertained for her recovery the last sacraments of the Church were administered today.

Toronto Ont., Oct. 28th.—Following the example of the English Banks in facilitating the international trade of Great Britain by establishing branches abroad, the Canadian Bank of Commerce is opening another foreign branch at Rio De Janeiro. Although Brazil is at present passing through a period of trade depression due not only to the marked fall in values of her coffee, cocoa rubber, meat products, hides, cotton etc. and the situation is further aggravated by the heavy discount on the value of her currency abroad, she offers through her present population of 25,000,000 a potential market for exports from this country which it should be possible to develop extensively.

London, Oct. 31st—The Govt. obtained its expected mandate from the House of Commons tonight to proceed with the Irish negotiations. The Unionist motion censuring the Govt. for initiating the Irish negotiations, was voted down 439 to 43. The Prime Minister also achieved another of his oratorical victories before an expectant audience. So far as the movement of protest was designed today to draw information as to the proceedings of the conference, it failed. The Prime Minister gave no information as to what was decided or is being decided regarding Mr. De Valera's claims of independence and the rumoured attempts to arrange concessions from Ulster for a United Ireland. These remain in the realm of speculation. One piece of information the Prime Minister did give was that unless something happened within a few days, presumably in the conference, to solve the unsettled status of Ireland's two Govts., steps would be taken to give the Ulster Parliament the powers necessary to make it a real Govt. Mr. Lloyd George declared that the time to question the negotiations was when he first proposed them to the Sinn Fein by public correspondence last July. Much of his speech was devoted to holding before the Commons the prospect of a renewal of guerilla warfare, if the conference broke down. He declared the first thing the Govt would have to do would be to ask the House to strengthen the Crown forces, but pointed out the cost of renewed warfare and the reluctance of the country to incur greater taxation and ask more young men to risk their lives. He asserted the Govt's resolve to refuse concessions, which would weaken the Empire, but to explore all paths to an honourable peace, and emphasized the fact that any agreement must be ratified by Parliament. The motion of censure was proposed by Colonel John Gretton (Unionist) and seconded by Rupert S. Gwynne. No conspicuous leaders spoke in its support. Those who most strongly advocated the policy of the motion laid much stress on their protests against negotiating with men who have denied allegiance to the

Crown. Mr. Arthur Henderson, in behalf of the Labourite, explained that that party favoured the negotiations, although opposing what he termed the previous policy of repression and retaliation. Mr. Asquith supported the Govt., but deprecated the suggestion that a renewal of fighting was the only alternative if the conference failed. This point of view finds adherents among a section of the Irish experts, who believe that a break down of the conference might be followed by a continuance of the truce. The comment of one veteran parliamentarian was that Mr. Lloyd George's talk of further hostilities was not intended as a warning to the Sinn Fein, but to Parliament not to harass those engaged in the negotiation.

LABOR CONDITIONS IN SANTO DOMINGO; WAGE REDUCTIONS OF NEARLY FIFTY PER CENT DOES NOT INCITE KICK.

(Porto Rico Progress of October 21, 1921)

All the larger mills reduced salaries from 15 to 30 per cent during the past season and the Dominican Sugar Association, which comprises all but three of the mills on the south coast, has decided to cut laborers' wages for the coming crop from \$1.48 to 80 cents.

The great bulk of the field work is carried on by Haitians and negroes from the neighboring British islands. In spite of the announced wage reductions no labor shortage is anticipated, for the recent stoppage of the Dominican government's ambitious public works program has thrown thousands of peons upon the labor market. Since the cost of foodstuffs and clothing has fallen appreciably, it is believed that the wage cuts amount to no more than the drop in living costs.—Contributed.

CAPTURED BY BANDITS.

Advices from Santo Domingo dated October first, informs us that Mr. J. A. Steele, administrator of Angelina, the second largest sugar estate in the republic was recently captured by bandits. It appears from information given us that the bandits were taking him to one of their fastnesses when the main body was encountered and defeated by a patrol of Marines. This fact was not known to Steele, who upon agreeing to "certain conditions" was taken back to his home the following evening by the bandits. These "certain conditions" Steele would not disclose, but they are supposed to be the payment of a ransom as a demand for \$5,000 was made upon him a short time before his capture.

The name of the leader of the "gavilleros" is the well known Ramon Navelas. —St. Thomas Mail Notes, Oct. 21st.