

LOCAL

The S. S. Guiana" is expected to leave New York on the 26th inst.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Simla, April 14th.—The Public Health Commissioner states that there has been a rise in the mortality from the plague which began in December last and which caused 36,000 deaths up to the end of March. In the estimate for the four years the mean average shows 14,000 deaths had been caused each year. This rise in the number of deaths is serious, as it shows the plague is ready to assume epidemic proportions when the conditions therefor are favourable and public health measures are neglected to any extent. However, favourable conditions are present now in good harvest and the atmospheric conditions. India should make an organized attempt to stamp out the plague, which so far she has not done.

Paris, April 14th.—The French and Belgian Government Ministers at their meeting here yesterday afternoon decided upon new measures of pressure to be applied to Germany if she remains unyielding on the reparations question. The nature of the measures was not disclosed, but the Ministers announced in an official communique that they are determined to continue pressure until the Berlin Government makes direct overtures for a settlement.

Berlin, April 14th.—Leading employers and representatives of the workmen of all industries and shades of opinion in the new and old occupied territory, who are meeting at Berlin this week, have unanimously decided to pursue their policy of passive resistance to the measures taken by the Franco-Belgian occupational authorities. The conference reiterated that the starting point of any negotiations with the Franco-Belgians must be a guarantee for complete evacuation of the occupied territory, indemnity for damages during the occupation, release of persons arrested and the return of those expelled. The aim of such negotiations, it was added, must be the conservation of the Iner-German territory and a settlement of the reparations problem which will enable the Germans, while accepting all bearable obligations, to live and work "like free men".

Des Moines, April 14th.—In the presence of an audience of several thousand men and women, including feminine leaders from all parts of the United States Lord Robert Cecil last night addressed an appeal to the women to further actively the cause of world peace. Concluding an address in which he had outlined the accomplishment of the League of Nations and the hopes that are held for its further usefulness, the British representative in the assembly

of the League said:—"I have no request to make to you, no advice to give you. I wait with interest any comments or question you may have to make on the matter. I can only say this. Do not, I beseech you, forget the importance of the question, important to all alike, but perhaps most of all to women. Think I pray you, of the sufferings of the late war, sufferings which you yourselves must have endured, sufferings which have been more widely and deeply felt by other nations of the world. Think of what is still going on all over the world, unrest and disquiet, passion and hatred which are oppressing more everywhere. Do not in the presence of such events pass by on the other side. We cannot avoid our responsibilities as human beings, we are all members of one family. This is an absolute truth, an avoidable fact". The meeting to which Lord Robert Cecil spoke was a public mass meeting held by arrangement of the National League of Women Voters, in convention here. The speech throughout was addressed to women, and phrased to interest them. Lord Robert said:—"Women have, or ought to have, a special passion for peace. I know in my country there is scarcely a woman who has not suffered some terrible loss in the late war, a loss more terrible than the loss of her own life. I do not know how it may be in America, but in Europe we are asking how this thing can be stopped for the future and it is to make some contribution towards an answer to that, I am here. Not that I have a cut and dried plan to force down your throats, but I have some information to give you, and I look forward, I hope—not in vain, for some helpful suggestions from you".

New York, April 14th.—Senator Borah, replying here last night to the recent League of Nations speeches of Lord Robert Cecil, declared his conviction that no peace league "can function for peace" until war has been outlawed as an institution. The present League, said the Senator, not only had failed to make war a crime, but had been dominated by Governments which convinced the United States people they—"do not want peace upon any terms compatible with equality and justice". He added that the proper field for dissemination of a gospel of peace was the old world and not the new.

London, April 14th.—The International rugby football series reaches its last stage today, when Ireland travels to Paris to contest the tenth game of the Franco-British fixtures. The game is interesting chiefly for the fact that it will decide which country finishes up at the bottom of the International table. The championship was annexed by England when they defeated Scotland at Edinburgh on March 17th, thereby registering four straight wins. The Scotchmen came second in the table with three wins, while Wales and Ireland have each

won one game. France has gone through the series without a win, has had the largest number of points scored against, with the fewest for.

Dublin, April 14th.—Irish Free State troops this morning captured Austin Stack, former Republican "Minister of Home affairs", according to the Exchange Telegraph. The ex-minister was hiding in a ditch in the mountains near Clomel, in the district where Liam Lynch was captured recently.

London, April 14th.—De Valera has apparently eluded the Free State troops under General Prout, who has been searching for him in the Tipperary mountain areas, says a Dublin despatch to the Central News today. The whole district was thoroughly combed yesterday by thousands of soldiers, aided by airplanes. Several prisoners were taken. General Prout expressed the opinion that the region had been cleared of Irregulars.

Capetown, April 14th.—Premier Smuts in a speech here yesterday dwelt chiefly on the "rapidly developing crisis in Europe where forces are being set going, which in the end may ruin European civilization." The policy of the British Empire, he said, ought to be clearly defined to the world, so that there would be no doubt or misunderstandings. "It should speak," the Premier continued, in a sincere, impartial friendship and humble loyalty to the cause of peace, before it is too late. I trust it will realize the greatness and glory of its peaceful mission and speak the great word which, with the exception of America, it alone can still speak among the nations of the world."

Washington, April 14th.—Earth tremors of moderate intensity were recorded yesterday by the Georgetown University seismograph. The disturbance began at 10.42 and reached a maximum at 11.20 and died away at noon. Father Tondor, in charge of the observatory, estimated that it was centered 5,100 miles from Washington, apparently south.

Dublin, April 14th.—As soldiers of the Free State were looking all over Ireland for Eamonn De Valera, the leader of the insurgents tempted the fates on Friday the 13th, by issuing a statement to his adherents. From the fastness of the Tipperary mountains De Valera appealed to the soldiers of the Republic as follows:—"Renew at the bier of your dead chief, Liam Lynch, your devotion to the Republican cause, which is immortal. The weariness from the exacting struggle and temporary losses and defeats cannot prevail against our ultimate triumph".

Constantinople, April 15th.—Hassen Fehmi Bey has resigned as Finance Minister. He took this action because the Great National Assembly supported the war minister's demand for an additional credit on the ground that war was still not impossible.