

resolution of the Galway County Council recently, which suggested that the abandon meeting of the Irish Republican Parliament should be withdrawn in order that delegates might be appointed to discuss the situation with the Govt. In making the announcement regarding martial law. The Premier said that the Govt. has been driven to the conclusion especially after the last two terrible incidents that it must take stronger action in certain disturbed areas, side by side with the encouragement the Govt. was anxious to give all those who desired peace. They were growing in numbers and independence. Showing that intimidation was decreasing. The Govt. was determined declared the Premier, to do all in its power to break up the terrorists. Under Martial Law a proclamation would be issued demanding that all arms and uniforms be surrendered within the prescribed areas by a certain date. After that date unauthorized persons found possessing arms would be treated as rebels and be liable to death penalty on conviction by military court martial. The same penalty would be applicable to unauthorized persons wearing uniforms. A reasonable time would be allowed for the surrender of arms before these provisions came into effect.

New York, Dec. 10th.—An influenza epidemic, starting about the first of the year, which probably will reach about half the intensity of last year's epidemic, was predicted today by the Health Commission.

London, Dec. 10th.—The commission on the Egyptian situation, presided over by Lord Milner has now signed a unanimous report and presented it to the Govt. the report makes the following proposals: 1. Recognition by Great Britain of the independence of Egypt, and her safeguard against foreign aggression. 2. Acknowledgment by Egypt of Great Britain's privileged position in the Nile Valley, and assurance of free access by Great Britain to Egyptian territory in case of war.

3. Maintenance of British garrison in the sphere of the Suez Canal, probably at Kantara.

4. Control by Egypt of her Foreign relations, subject to her not making treaties at Varianna with British policy. Egypt also to have her own diplomatic representation abroad, these not to be confined at first to those countries where Egypt has commercial interest. In other countries the British representation would act for her.

Barbados, Dec. 10th.—U. S. S. Florida arrived here yesterday, the ship is on her way to South America and on board are the American Secretary of State Mr. Colby and Party who, it is stated, are on official business.

Trinidad, December 10th.—A venereal disease commission composed of Dr. Wright and Miss Dr. Fairfield has arrived here and for the past fortnight they have been lecturing in town and country upon the subject of the prevention and treatment of venereal diseases. At their first meeting Dr. Wright stated that the commission had been sent out by National Council under the auspices of the Colonial Office to lay before them the modern discoveries of venereal diseases, the danger and what was being done at home in the way of treatment to combat them. He gave a brief history of the disease and their various stages and urged the necessity for clinics where patients could receive free treatment and continue it until the Drs. certified that they had received sufficient treatment. Lectures have been delivered at the Colonial Hospital to doctors only and conferences held with them there. Dr. Fairfield has also delivered lectures to women and with Dr. Wright addressed a meeting of ministers of religion and social workers at which Dr. Wise the Surgeon General presided. The Commission will probably visit Demerara and proceed to Bermuda.

much mail destroyed in steamer fire

MUCH MAIL DESTROYED IN STEAMER FIRE

Practically all of First Class Mail on Philadelphia Destroyed or Damaged.

FIRE RAGED SIX HOURS.

From 1.30 a. m. Saturday Until 7 Ship was in Danger; Cause of Fire Unknown.

Passengers on the Philadelphia had recovered completely from their fright, caused by a fire at sea, which raged for six hours Saturday morning, by the time the ship arrived here Wednesday morning, 24 hours late.

The exact loss and damage caused by the fire probably will not be known for a long time.

Most of the first class mail, including registered mail and the official mail, was destroyed out right while all of the mail amounting to 559 bags, all hold baggage and all cargo was badly damaged by either fire or water.

The rumors that the Philadelphia had been lost, which were circulated here Saturday afternoon and Sunday, proved not to be true when the ship crowded into her dock here Wednesday morning. But how nearly the ship came to being a total loss will probably never be known except to the officers and some of the crew. After having been through the fire experience one of the officers of the ship said that it was lucky indeed that the Philadelphia was still afloat.

It was shortly after one o'clock Saturday morning that passengers of the Philadelphia were notified that there was a fire on the ship and they were all instructed to put on their preservers and

report to their life boats in the event the fire was not gotten under control.

For more than six hours the passengers remained on deck knowing little of what was happening below deck that remaining calm and prepared for any emergency.

The fire was discovered in the mail room and at the time the passengers were notified of fire it had made such headway that it was thought for a time that the ship would have to be abandoned. The mail room was locked and until holes could be chopped through deck it was impossible to get water on the flame. It took six hours of stiff fighting to get the flame under control.

Shortly after the fire was discovered a wireless call was sent out to find out whether any ships were near enough to give assistance. At daybreak, passengers of the Philadelphia saw the steamship Mohawk nearby ready to aid the Philadelphia but when it was found that the fire was out the Mohawk proceeded on her way to New York.

While practically all of the cargo of the ship was damaged, including all of the passengers' baggages in the holds, probably the greatest loss is in mail. Probably it will require several weeks or months to get the mail loss straightened out. While the mail bags were being taken from the ship shortly after its arrival here, every bag removed was checked by Post Office employees. All that remained of many of the bags was the metallock. The bags of registered mail for San Juan was completely destroyed, while apparently there were only two letters saved out of the official mail pouch. What was not burned or scorched had been flooded and water-soaked.

Out of the 559 bags of mail for Porto Rico, 64 bags were filled with letters. These letters in many instances contained checks or other valuables, some of which may or may not be replaced once their loss has been established. Whatever mail there was that could be delivered was in such condition that it was very very difficult to sort and deliver at the Post Office — Porto Rico Progress, Nov. 26th.

Money Order Rates.

The following rates of conversion are now in force and effect in the transaction of international postal money order business.

Great Britain....	1 Pound	=	\$3.75
Netherlands.....	1 Florin	=	35 cents
Sweden.....	1 Krona	=	22 "
Denmark.....	1 Krone	=	16 "
Norway.....	1 "	=	16 "
France.....	\$1	=	13 francs
Belgium.....	\$1	=	13 "
Italy.....	\$1	=	20 lire

Post Office, Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. Nov. 22, 1920.