

ing to the Duke of Parma, the climate of Madeira not being favourable. Budapest, April 10th.—Z. ho-Slovakia, and Rumania have notified Hungary that they will oppose the return of the Ex-Empress Zita to Hungary through fear of complications.

San Francisco, April 12th.—A verdict of acquittal was returned by the jury tonight in the third trial of Roscoe C (Fatty) Arbuckle, on a manslaughter charge growing out of the death of Miss Virginia Rappe, motion picture actress. The jury was out six minutes.

Dublin, April 12th.—The coming conference between the adherents of Michael Collins and De Valera will not be convened with any expectation of political accommodation being shown. The object of the conference is to secure the peaceful conduct of the election campaign, discourage disorder in the country and facilitate free elections. It is now believed that De Valera is more favourable to joint action, if it can be arranged without prejudicing the Republican cause but he rigidly opposes elections on the existing register, which would exclude many young men and women who have reached the suffrage age since the register was compiled and who he believes largely support his views. Arthur Griffith still expects to hold the election early in June, on the existing register, but De Valera will refuse to be a candidate on these conditions and his followers will imitate his example. An election without republican candidates might, it is believed, be prevented by the dissident section of the Irish Republican army. Lord Mayor O'Neil of Dublin tonight informed the associated press that no representatives of labour or of other organizations were being invited to the conference. It is expected the only participants will be Messrs De Valera, Griffith, Collins, Burghs, Lord Mayor O'Neil, Archbishop Byrne of Dublin and Stephen O'Mara, Lord Mayor of Limerick.

London, April 13th.—The Bank of England today reduced its discount rate to four per cent. The last previous reduction was on February 16th last, when the rate dropped from five to 4½ per cent. The reduction, coming on the Eve of the Easter Holidays, was an entire surprise to the money market and financial interests. Business in Lombard Street had commenced this morning without the usual "subject to lower bank rate" which is usually quoted when there is a possibility of reduction during the day and the belief is expressed that the action was prompted by the Treasury, which has been ruling the money market for some time past. The reduction however was welcomed as another step in the restoration of more normal conditions and the loosening of money for trade purposes.

New York, April 13th.—With the exception of Switzerland, Great Britain now has the lowest bank rate in the world the result of the Bank of England re-

ducing its discount rate to four per cent today. Switzerland cut its four per cent rate to 3½ per cent on March 2nd, on account of an excessive gold supply in that country. The present British rate compares high of ten per cent on August 1st and a low of three per cent on January 29th 1914.

London, April 13th.—The Russians at Genoa will give all the financial guarantees demanded in the programme prepared by the Allies experts, but flatly refuse to accept the clause providing for mixed tribunals to fix responsibility, says a Genoa despatch to the Exchange Telegraph. The Russians consider the tribunal clause as an infringement of Russian Sovereignty.

Genoa, April 13th.—Canada is represented on two of the most important sub-commissions of the Economic Conference entrusted with the preparation of reports for the four main commissions. A Professor, Edouard Montpetit is a member of the sub-commission of Russian affairs and transport, and Sir Charles Cordon is on the economic and transport sub-commission.

Genoa, April 13th.—Nikolai Lenine, Soviet Premier, will come to Genoa to replace George Tchitcherin as head of the Russian delegation when the negotiations at the economic conference reach the proper stage, says the newspaper Secolo. The newspaper adds that an apartment is being prepared for Premier Poincare of France at the Villa Paggio and that he is expected here shortly. The meeting of the commission on Russia has been postponed until tomorrow as Mr. Tchitcherin is awaiting instructions from Lenine at Moscow with whom he is in direct communication.

Dublin, April 13th.—The peace conference, opened by Lord Mayor O'Neill of Dublin, begins its session in the Mansion House here this afternoon. The proceedings will be private. All the leaders of the opposing factions the Mayor had invited, in an effort to bring about unity, or an understanding, to prevent further disorders, were present.

London, April 13th.—Formal official announcement was made yesterday that an Earldom had been conferred upon Sir Arthur James Balfour, former Premier, and at present Lord President of the Council. Mr. Balfour now goes to the House of Lords with the title of Earl Balfour of Whittingham. In the Upper Chamber he will retain his own name, as did John Morley on becoming Earl Morley. The elevation of Sir Arthur to the Peerage creates a vacancy in the important Parliamentary seat for the City of London.

London, April 13th.—Sir Ross Smith, the Austrian aviator, who with his brother, Sir Keith, had planned to start from Croydon on April 25th for an attempted flight around the world, was killed when his plane crashed in a practice flight at Brookland. Lieutenant Bennett, an engineer, who was planning

to accompany Sir Ross and his brother on their round the world flight, also was killed. The machine which crashed was the one the Smiths intended to use in their flight. Captain Conkerill, of the Vickers Company, had previously flown it for a half hour, then handing it over to Captain Smith. As the machine was approaching the airdrome to land it got into a spin and the fatal crash followed. The accident occurred fifteen minutes after Capt. Smith and Lieut. Bennett began their flight. Sir Keith had intended to make the trial flight with them, but he arrived at the airdrome too late and was among the crowd that witnessed the tragedy. The machine had climbed gracefully to a height of more than 4,000 feet when suddenly her nose dipped and she went into a spin. The spectators thought at first that the air-men were attempting a stunt for the purpose of testing the wings of the machine, but it soon became apparent that the plane was out of control. It started downward in a slow spin, which became faster and faster until the machine hit the earth with such a terrific impact that the plane was practically splintered. Sir Ross was killed instantly and Lieutenant Bennett died a few minutes after the crash. Captain Smith yesterday entertained at the Vickers works in Weybridge a large party of friends who came to wish him luck on his attempted world flight. He had completed all of his arrangements and he talked to his visitors with modest confidence in his chances for success. Sir Ross was a pilot remarkable for his skill rather than for feats of the dare-devil type. He never took chances beyond the necessary ones. "Safety first" with due regard to the accomplishment of the task before him, was his motto in the air.

Paris, April 12th.—The French Committee have decided that the Olympic games of 1924 will take place at Colombes, near this city. They will ask the Government for a subsidy of fifteen million francs, instead of the twenty millions previously decided upon. The racing club of France will at once commence work on the stadium, which it is expected will be finished in October next, and the swimming pool and tennis courts will be ready in July 1923.

Brussels, April 12th.—The German Charge D'Affaires today appeared before the Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and demanded that Otto Habisch, arrested by the Belgian military on a charge of having assassinated Lieutenant Graff, near Dusseldorf, two weeks ago, should be delivered into the hands of the German police. The German Government claims that the murder having been committed on German territory, Habisch should be tried in a German court, but the Belgian Government refuses to surrender him into German hands before he has proved an alibi which he has set up.