

take a prominent part in the coming elections, Mr. Thomas Johnson, secretary to the Irish Labour party, announced in a speech here on Saturday. Labour had decided, he said to seek representation in the Irish Parliament, because it had a definite social, economic and industrial programme to put through, and the labour party stood independent both of the Free State and republican parties and went forward on its own programme, devoting its energies to the workers' interest. Other speakers expressed the hope of the eventual establishment of a commonwealth.

Genoa, May 14th.—France has appealed to the United States to participate in the proposed international commission to investigate the Russian situation. The United States Ambassador informed the Representative of the Associated Press last night that such a proposal had been submitted to him by the French Delegation, and, as he understood the French proposal, it suggested that the United States, if the invitation was accepted, would have a dominant voice in the action of the commission, but that she would not be bound by her acceptance to agree to any decisions of the commission of which she did not approve, and that if the United States accepted the invitation, France would agree to the Russians being represented on the commission.

London, May 15th.—The five years campaign on behalf of temperance by the combined religious bodies took a forward step yesterday when the President of the Wesleyan conference entertained a number of Anglican Bishops, the President of the Baptist Union, Presbyterian Moderators, Salvation Army leaders and others. Extreme measures were distinctly eschewed and prohibition was not advocated, the points emphasized being local option, the prevention of the sale of liquor to persons under eighteen years of age, Sunday closing and the extension of the licensing law to clubs, and on these points it was considered that every shade of religious opinion could be united. While this gathering was in progress in London, there was a gathering at Manchester to protest against the price of beer. This meeting was called by the district licensed trade, but its promoters declared it had been called because their customers had constantly asked for an opportunity to protest against the heavy taxation on liquor.

London, May 15th. Canada, Australia, South Africa, India, The British West Indies and other colonies and also the Royal Colonial Institute, were represented in one powerful deputation of the Empire sugar producers which waited upon Major Wood, under Secretary, Of State for the Colonies, for the purpose of urging the necessity for increasing the imperial preference on sugar. Major Wood replied sympathetically, but made nothing in the way of promises. He admitted the strength of the arguments ad-

vanced by those colonies who had given a preference to Great Britain, but said that the Government had not seen its way clear to double the existing preference on sugar, but would promise to continue the existing preference for at least ten years. By not reducing the gross duty, the British Government was he declared, making a valuable concession, which afforded the ground for a conference which should directly assist the industry.

Barbados, May 17th. By the S. S. "Ingoma" His Excellency Sir Charles O'Brien K. C. M. G. and family left for England yesterday. Consequent on His Excellency's departure on leave Honorable W. E. F. Jackson, C. M. G. Colonial Secretary was sworn in Acting Governor by His Honor the Chief Justice at 2.30 p. m. yesterday in the presence of the members of the Executive Council and Executive Committee.

Barbados, May 16th. A mist which is said to have commenced on Sunday continued over the island yesterday. Distant objects could not be clearly perceived and over the sea the same conditions existed.

Washington, May 16th. The text of the State Department's message to Ambassador Child further said: "The inescapable ultimate question would appear to be the restoration of the productivity of Russia, an essential condition which is still to be secured and must in the nature of things be provided for within Russia herself". The communication also said that the American Government had always been ready to join other governments in arranging for an enquiry by experts into the economic situation of Russia and the necessary remedies. Such an enquiry, it added, could deal appropriately with the economic requisites for the restoration of Russian production, without which sound basis for credits would be lacking.

London, May 16th. Mr Lloyd George, in a message given to the Genoa Correspondent of the Yorkshire Evening News says, "We have reached a new phase of Western Civilization. There have been wars of Religion and Dynastic wars with which to nourish trade and commerce, but the new phase is the interdependence of Europe and the whole world. No modern nation can exist by itself, it is dependent upon other nations, whether neighbouring or remote, and a pact of non-aggression is fundamental to economic reconstruction. Every nation of Europe must recognize the sanctity of its neighbours boundaries, and frontiers will then become open doors to commerce and not barriers. Peace is essential.

London, May 16th. Great Britain has asked for the cooperation of the United States, France and Italy in investigating recent atrocities by the Turks on Christian minorities in Asia Minor, as reported by the American Relief Administration recently, it was announced in the House

of Commons yesterday, the announcement being made by Mr. Chamberlain, who said that Lord Curzon was requesting the French, Italian and United States Governments together with Great Britain to designate a carefully selected officer to proceed to Trebizond, or some other Black Sea port, with the view of an investigation. The question was brought before the House by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, who asked if the Turkish authorities over the murder of ten thousand Greeks, followed by the seizure of their widows and daughters for transfer to harems and the starving of their children to death. Mr. Chamberlain said that confirmation had been received of the statements made by a Major of the American Relief Administration, indicating deportation by the Turks in a deliberate plan to get rid of the minorities. Witnesses had said that the Turks used winter weather in preference, for driving deportees to the mountains and that fifteen hundred bodies had been counted on the road, while two thousand persons had died on another. The Turks, continued Mr. Chamberlain, had repeatedly been warned that these atrocities, now extending over seventy years, would adversely affect the Allied policy, but repeated warnings and protests had been entirely without effect. The British Government, which in the proposed terms of peace had assumed responsibility for the protection of the minorities, could not, he added, allow such reports to remain uninvestigated, or such incident to continue unchecked.

Brussels, May 16th. The German Government yesterday deposited with the Belgian Treasury the final payment of fifty million gold marks under the provisional moratorium granted by the Reparations Committee.

Genoa, May 16th. Signor Schanzer, upon learning from the Associated Press, at an early hour this morning, the decision of the United States Government not to join the proposed commission on Russian affairs at the Hague, expressed great surprise, especially at the rapidity with which a decision was taken and which may have great influence on further discussions at Genoa. Great disappointment at the decision of the United States is expressed generally in conference circles as the belief had gradually been forming here that the United States was ready now to join the other powers in dealing with Russian economic problems.

Houston, Texas, May 16th.—More than a million acres of crops have been destroyed by flood waters from the Colorado, Trinity, Brazos, Neches and Sabine Rivers, and approximately twenty-five thousand families will need help to replant their crops.

Genoa, May 16th.—The Poles and the Germans yesterday signed the Upper Silesia Treaty in the Council Chamber of the League of Nations, many spectators being present.