

elements which it would not seem possible to ignore. In regard to the relinquishments by Turkey of her rights in Mesopotamia, Arabia, Palestine, Syria and the Islands, the reply continues, this Govt. suggests that the method resorted to in the case of Austria should be adopted, namely, that Turkey should place those provinces in the hands of the Great Powers, to be disposed of as those Powers determine.

London, March 30th—Mr. Asquith in the House of Commons today described the Irish Home Rule Bill as a cumbrous duplication and multiplication of institutions and offices, adding that from the viewpoint of efficiency there is nothing to be said for it. He recalled the fact that in nineteen-fourteen he gave a pledge that Ireland should have one Parliament, and declared that he adhered to that view now. He disagreed with those who believed there could be no constitutional changes until order was restored, and asserted that the root of the trouble could not be arrived at until there was a wide reform in the Government system. The substitution of the Bill for the measure on the statute books, he continued, took from the Irish people what the majority of them wanted, in one form or another, and attempted to force on them something the great majority disliked, and would always refuse to accept, and he advocated the amending of the nineteen-fourteen Home Rule Act, and the enlarging of the powers of the Irish Parliament and Executive so as to give them to all intents and purposes the status of a Dominion. He further declared that he still favoured "County Option for Ulster", whereupon Sir Edward Carson asked the speaker if he favoured "County Option" for the South of Ireland. Mr. Asquith answered in the affirmative. "Then we can have a Sinn Fein Country," retorted Sir Edward. Mr. Lloyd George changed his plans for entering the debate deciding to reply tomorrow to Mr. Asquith's attack upon the Bill. Mr. Bonar Law followed Mr. Asquith in today's debate, declaring that if the Liberal leader proposed to amend the existing law as indicated, his proposal would be condemned unanimously by the representatives of Southern Ireland, as is the present Bill. He asked what Mr. Asquith meant by "County option", whether he meant that any county could refrain from joining the Govt. until it was ready to come in. The Govt. leader said the new Bill was not the result of free choice on the Govt's part. It recognized that when the last of the Peace Treaties was signed the existing law for Irish Home Rule would become effective and this would have meant that Ulster would be forced to join the Dublin Parliament against its will, which was something the Govt. would not attempt to carry through. There were four al-

ternatives, he said, the first was the repeal of the Home Rule Bill Act. Secondly, to establish Dominion Home Rule. Third, to give self-determination to the Irish people, which would mean an Irish Republican and fourth, to give Ireland the largest measure of Home Rule compatible with national security. The pledge that had been given last, he declared, was what it was intended to give through the present Bill and the Govt. spokesman challenged the labour party to say whether it was ready to grant an Irish Republic. It was a childish mistake, he added, to assume that because Ireland was separated by a sheet of water, that she is in any degree less essential than if she were part of the British Isles, and those who were advocating self-determination might clearly see where they were going wrong. If southern Ireland was composed of people satisfied with nothing but a republic, then no settlement was possible.

London, March 31st.—The House of Commons passed the second reading of the Irish Home Rule Bill today. The vote was 346 to 84.

Panama, March 31st.—The prominent members of the British Colony here will present an address to the Prince of Wales aboard the "Renown" and the rest of the day will be spent in sight seeing. In the evening the Panama Govt. will give a state banquet in honour of the Royal Visitor, which will be followed by a reception and formal ball. The "Renown" will sail on Thursday for San Diego after taking two thousand barrels of oil at Balboa.

London, March 31st.—During the Home Rule debate in the House yesterday many references were made to Dominions, particularly in regard to the statement by Mr. Asquith that he would give Ireland in effect the status of a Dominion. Mr. Bonar Law, referring to this, pointed out that the existence of the Empire depended upon the operation of the principle that the Dominions shall decide their own destinies. Everyone, he declared, recognized that the connection of the Dominions with the Empire depended upon this, and that if one of them chose to say tomorrow we will no longer remain part of the British Empire, no attempt would be made to force them to make a different move. Mr. Asquith had complained, he said, that poor communities would be burdened with two Parliaments, but precisely the same thing was seen in Canada, not only in prosperous provinces like Ontario and Quebec, but in the west where the population was poor.

NEW YORK, March 31st 1920.
Flour, Blended Clear St. Lawrence Brand pr. brl. \$12.00
Meal, Kilndried per 100 lbs \$4.20
New Season's Pork per brl. \$43.00
Heavy Mess Fork per bbl. \$41.00
Sugar---Crystals maximum per 100 lbs,

\$13.54.
Molasses Sugar 89° test, per 100 lbs., \$13.29.
Cotton, Middling Upland, at Liverpool per lb. 27 63-100d.
Exchange, New York and London, 60 days' sight \$3.84
Exchange New York and London, sight \$3.86½

LONDON, March 31st 1920.
Sugar-Demerara Crystals prices fixed by the Royal Commission per cwt. 100s. 0d. -nominal
Sugar Muscovado prices fixed by Royal Commission per cwt. 90s. 0d. nominal
German Beet 88° f.o.b. no sales during the war
White Java sugar cif U. Kingdom cif without engagement. 83s.0d—84s. 0d.
Demerara Rum, per gal. nominal.
Trinidad Cocoa, Good Middling Red per cwt 144s. 0d.
Cotton, Medium Fine Sea Island, at Liverpool nominal per lb.
Bank of England rate of Discount per cent. 6.
Consols 46.
Three per cent rentes in Paris Fcs. 57.00.
All prices subject to change.

We are glad to mention the return of Mr. Fortunato Beretta who arrived here by the schooner Virginia two weeks ago. Our not being posted relative to his early arrival is the cause of our lateness, but having been interviewed today, we take this medium of welcoming him back home. This young soldier who from the outbreak of the war had been fighting on the Italian front, and by rendering invaluable service in the cause of the Entente Allied forces is the proud possessor of the following honors:

- 1 Italo Austrian Campaign 1915 with three stars.
- 2 Cross of War. 3 Volunteer of War,
- 4 Civil Services. 5 Interallied Medal,
- 6 Medal for assistance to refugees of war.

We beg to congratulate him for the bravery which must have won these honors and also the Beretta family for having so deserving a son and brother.—*St. Thomas Bulletin, March 31st.*

The Rev. J. F. Pilgrim, of All Saints', was a passenger for Windward by the s. s. "Guiana" on Tuesday. During his absence the services will be conducted by the Rev. Theodore Branch.—*St. Thomas Mail Notes, April 3rd.*

OPTICAL AID.

YOUR prescription filled same day as received, repairs dispatched by return of mails.

F. M. CORNEIRO,
St. Thomas, U. S. V. I.