

Nationalist or Government Party has 23, the Country party 6 and Liberals and Independents 3. The complete returns, however, will probably render necessary a revision of the totals.

London, Dec. 17th.—The majority whereby Mr. Hughes was re-elected to Parliament today is placed at 5,000, in a Reuter's despatch from Melbourne. A Central News report from Sydney says that the assistant Minister for repatriation, Mr. Lamond was defeated. Other Ministers whose seats are considered insecure, are Mr. Green, Minister of the Navy and for defence, Mr. Poynton, Postmaster General, and the speaker Sir Elliot Johnson, most of the other Hughes' colleagues were defeated. This gives the Nationalists approximately 36 seats, Labour 25, the Country Party 21, and the Independent Nationalists 2. But the outstanding results from Fribourg constituencies may alter the position.

Ausanne, Dec. 17th.—The labours of the Lausanne Conference have advanced so far that already the official scribes have begun their task of writing out the preliminary draft of the treaty. This document will enumerate the broad lines of the pact and is being prepared so as to have in concrete form those problems which have already been solved and also have the preliminary signature of the agreement of all parties. There is a feeling that too much time is being wasted on secondary questions in the sub-commissions and that the big aim of the Conference is in danger of being lost sight of during the interminable discussions often petty, in nature. Speed is now the watchword at Lausanne. The Straits problem has practically been settled, great progress has been made on the question of minorities and the general economic and financial subjects have found their essential solutions. The persistent dragging in of several thorny points, such as the deportation of the Greek Patriarch, the Mosul Oil dispute and the difficulty over foreign tribunals in Turkey is checking the forward swing of the Conference, hence the decision to put on paper the accomplished facts. The Russians have been practically obliterated as a conference factor, but have again complained that they are being ignored. They recently protested that they were being systematically shut out of the Straits discussion and have written another note to the President, remarking ironically, that as they have received no answer, they assume their original note was lost. Everybody here gives to the reported United States plans for economic assistance of Europe, overwhelming importance, as an international event. All the delegations have been optimistically affected by this news and seem to feel it a double duty to make the Conference a success, and thus hasten the work of European reconstruction and European peace.

Dublin, Dec. 17th.—The last eighteen

posts occupied by British troops were transferred today to the Irish National Army. The evacuation of the British was effected amidst scenes of real enthusiasm and good will, both sides evincing a desire to forget by-gones. All the evacuated posts are in the Dublin area. They include British General Headquarters in Park Gate Street, the Royal Hospital and the Royal Irish Constabulary Depot in Phoenix Park. Between 3,000 and 4,000 troops left Dublin today. Mr. Mulcahy, Minister of Defence and his Staff took over each post from the British Commanders. At the Royal Barracks detachments of both British and Irish troops were drawn up in the Barracks square with full equipment. Mr. Mulcahy saluted the colours of the departing troops and the British soldiers returned the courtesy. At the Royal Hospital, General Macready, the British Commander before leaving paid a personal visit to the wards containing pensioners many of them veterans who had fought under the British flag in many parts of the World. Before they left the British hauled down the Union Jack and the incoming Free State troops immediately hoisted the Irish tricolour which now floats from all the barracks and government buildings in Dublin. The British troops marching along the quays to Northwall with their bands playing and their colours flying, made a picturesque scene which attracted enormous crowds. 15 British armoured cars and a number of Irish armoured cars patrolled the streets to keep a clear path for the troops as they marched past General Macready, who had taken up a position on the Northern Quayside. The troops everywhere were loudly cheered.

Warsaw, Dec. 18th.—Martial law became effective in Warsaw today by Proclamation of the Cabinet. Captain Niewadomski, the insane artist who assassinated President Maratowicz on Saturday has been sold for trial by the Court Martial. At his preliminary examination yesterday the man declared he had acted on his own initiative in shooting the President and that he had no accomplices. The declaration of Martial Law has added to the sense of security felt by the people who, with General Joseph Pilsudski, established as Chief of Staff of the Army and General Sikorski as Premier, await the convocation of Parliament on Wednesday for the election of a new President. One of the first acts of Sikorski in taking over the Premiership was to order the arrest of several of the former soldiers of general Harler, whose influence in the Army has been capitalized by the Nationalists in their opposition to General Pilsudski.

Roehampton, Eng., Dec. 16th.—Oxford easily defeated Cambridge today in their annual cross country run, a distance of seven and one half miles. Oxford's time was 41 minutes 29.5 seconds.

Washington, Dec. 18th.—Between No-

vember 6th 1917, when the Soviet Government came into power in Russia, and the end of 1921, authorized executions aggregated 1,766,188. These figures are said to be official and have been compiled by the Soviet authorities. Covering about 50 months, these figures show an average of more than 1,166 executions a day.

Cambridge, Mass. Dec. 18th.—A slight earthquake, apparently centred in or near the West Indies, was recorded at the Harvard College Seismographic station today.

Paris, Dec. 18th.—The Herald this morning says reports are current in Paris that De Valera has been captured by the Irish Free State authorities.

Ponce, P. R., Dec. 18th.—Prolonged shock earthquake 8.35 a. m.

Auckland N. Z., Dec. 18th.—The postponed match of Auckland V The Marylebone Cricket Club resulted in a draw, Marylebone scoring 350 runs including Titchmarsh 154 and McLaren 54. Auckland's score was 106 for five wickets. The match was abandoned owing to rain.

Lausanne, Dec. 19th.—The Russian Foreign Minister, M. Tchitcherin conferred today with Lord Curzon. It is understood M. Tchitcherin did not touch upon Great Britain's failure to recognize the Russian Govt., but expressed regret that trade relations between Russia and Great Britain had not progressed satisfactorily under the trade agreement signed in London on March 16th 1921.

London, Dec. 18th.—With reference to the forthcoming Empire trade conference, Mr. Arthur Balfour one of the leading figures in the British steel trade, in an interview says if the conference results in nothing further being accomplished than placing emigration on a sound basis, in certainly will be warranted. As on the export trade, with the Dominions, Mr. Balfour says the only way it can be improved is to give the Dominions exactly the kind of goods they require, instead of forcing on the goods which we think they want, as we have done in the past. The overseas section of the Empire, can help the Mother Country by a policy of extending their public works. It is desirable that industrial experts with a knowledge of colonial and dominion trade attend the conference for the purpose of giving advice.

Melbourne, Dec. 18th.—The death was announced today of David Lindsay, noted explorer, through whose pioneering investigations the great West Australian gold field was discovered.

BONES RETURNED TO CHINA.

An American steamship recently sailed from Boston carrying the bones of 350 Chinese who died in New England during the last 40 years. The bones were inclosed in tin boxes and were destined for Hong Kong where they will be buried in ancestral soil.—*Pathfinder*.