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TELEGRAMS

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, March 12th.—Lord Curzon's speech on the Turkish problem and other official statements on the subject are generally regarded as showing that the Near East tangle is quite a serious one and is causing the authorities some anxiety, which is increased by the complications threatened in connection with Syria and Mesopotamia. The shadow of Indian and Moslem opinion darkens the problem, and it is believed influences the Councils of the Allies more than is always immediately apparent. The suggestion that the employment of force against the Turks might excite the general hostility of the Mussulman world is regarded as one which cannot be safely ignored.

Montreal, March 12th.—A special cable to the Montreal Star from London says that the Irish correspondent of the Daily Graphic telegraphs that big guns are arriving in Dublin and that the streets are being patrolled by armoured cars. Excitement is reported to be high.

Berlin, March 11th.—The "Deutsche Zeitung" reports that when the German Socialists offered Field Marshal Von Ludendorff the candidature of the German Presidency, he asked for time to consider and to consult the former Emperor to whom he had sworn allegiance, according to a despatch to the London Times. As he since accepted the candidature the despatch adds, it is clear that the ex-Kaiser's opinion still carries weight in the Reich's Party.

London, March 11th.—The defeat today of the direct action proposal by the Trades Union Congress must be regarded as having three important effects.

First: It precludes the possibility of a general strike, which was standing as a threat since the Glasgow Congress last Sept., which pledged itself "to compel the Govt. to Nationalize." Second.—It shows the Labour movement is ready to enter its hopes for achieving its aspirations to the outcome of a general election, and Thirdly it marks the breaking point in the influence of Extremist elements among the Labour Leaders who last September seemed travelling towards ascendancy in the Govt. of the Council. In the course of a speech Mr. Clynes said that force as it had been proposed to employ it "Is not a British, but a Prussian characteristic" Mr. J. H. Thomas said the future of the Labour Party and the Trades Union movement depended on the decision of the Congress, and he declared that recent events pointed to a general belief of an early possibility of a Labour Government. A general strike, he said, would lead to serious consequences which would shake the country to its foundation. Mr. Snaw said that a vote in favour of a strike would be a set-back to the Trades Union movement for twenty years, and he advised against the use of a "Brute Force". Mr. Albert Thomas, President of the French Socialists, was among those on the platform and Viscount Astor and Lady Astor were also present, having been invited by the Chairman.

London, March 12th.—The Ulster Unionist Council in deciding in favour of six Ulster counties for the Ulster Parliament, reluctantly excluded the counties of Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal, but political considerations render this course advisable, a good working majority being assured in the smaller area. The "Times" thinks that, judged by what was involved in the meaning of unionism, Sir Edward Carson has suffered a humiliating defeat, and that his failure raises the question whether he has not made a fundamental effort in strategy. The paper regards the Ulster Council's decision with profound disappointment, and behind it the selfishness of Great Britain's interests, rather than the spirit of a living and progressive policy. The Daily Mail's Irish correspondent thinks that there will now probably be a demand for the offer of a Dominion, with County option to meet the Ulster pledges, and Sir Horace Pluckett, in a letter to the Press defending the suggested Constituent Assembly method of solution, expresses the belief that if the Govt. offered Dominion status to Ireland and

the majority waived their demand for a Republic conditionally on Ulster's agreeing to negotiate upon a Dominion basis, the Home Rule situation would be transformed. The "Manchester Guardian", discussing the decision of the Ulster Unionist Council, says: "A nine county Ulster would in every way be better than a six county. Its Roman Catholic population would nearly balance its protestant, and in no long time it would inevitably come to terms with its southern neighbours, and thus give some substance to the shadow of a united Ireland."

London, March 11th.—An official notification announces the accession to the League of Nations of Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Holland. All but two, namely Salvador and Venezuela, of the thirteen nations, non-signatories to the Versailles Treaty, who were invited to become original members of the League, have definitely accepted; Salvador has signified its intention of joining the League, but Venezuela has not yet declared its intention.

Washington, March 12th.—More shipping was saved by keeping track of German submarines and by routing vessels clear of them than to any other simple measure, Rear Admiral Sims told the Senate Investigating Committee to-day. The Admiral's statement was in support of his charges that the Navy Dept. had a fundamental misconception of the problem of defending home waters, in keeping the American naval forces on this side of the Atlantic, rather than by giving a whole-hearted and vigorous co-operation to the Allies. Actual experience has shown, the witness continues, that we could depend upon keeping a reasonably accurate track of all submarines at sea. We were certain we would never have to deal with more than one or two submarines at a time on our own coast, and it was possible to do a great deal toward providing for the safety of shipping in our own home waters without any anti-submarine craft at all. He had received cablegrams announcing the departure from Germany of a raider for the American coast which were sent more than three weeks before the vessel appeared in American waters. The messages, he said, were remarkable for the accuracy with which every move of the enemy was foretold, adding that they were founded on absolute information obtained by the British Admiralty. This proved, he argued, the soundness of his original recommendations to the Dept. that all available forces be concentrated in European waters.