TWO MORE POLICE SHOT

One Fired at in the Dark

ANOTHER KILLED IN DAYLIGHT

The Cork and Limerick Tragedies

The shooting of two policemen in two Irish counties is reported today.

Sergt. Neazor was mortally wounded by armed men in the commercial room of a hotel at Rathkeale on Wednesday night. A constable who was with the sergeant was wounded.

Constable Scully, while returning from patrol duty last night with two comrades, was ambushed near the village of Riverstown, four miles from the City of Cork, and died from his injuries.

In both instances the attackers made good their escape in the darkness.

SHOT IN THE BACK

Constable Ambushed Near Cork

Another shooting sensation occurred near Cork last night, Const. Scully being shot dead.

Shortly after 10 o'clock three policemen were returning from patrol duty to Riverstown barracks, Glanmire, about 4 miles from the city.

It was very dark at the time. As the patrol approached the village they were walking on the footpath, which is very narrow.

Two of the police walked together and the third man, Const. Scully, followed a few paces behind.

Mortally Wounded.

A short distance from the barrack a shot rang out, and Const. Scully fell, mortally wounded in the back.

As far as can be ascertained the party who fired the shot was not observed, and got away in the darkness.

The other constables went to the assistance of their comrade and conveyed him to the post office in the village.

A doctor was summoned and pronounced life extinct.

Lived Only Ten Minutes.

Death took place ten minutes after being shot.

Deceased had 36 years' service, and leaves a widow and family.

CROSS CHANNEL ARRIVAL

Mysterious Prisoner Removed to the South

A man in charge of two detectives was brought by the mail boat from Holyhead to Kingstown yesterday.

On arrival he was handed over handcuffed to an escort of eight armed R.I.C. men in charge of a sergeant, who accompanied him in a train which left for the South of Ireland.

The man is about 40 years of age, wears a moustache, and is apparently a manual worker. It was impossible to ascertain his identity.

It was learned in the course of inquiries that he was accompanied from Liverpool by Scotland Yard men, and was taken in charge by Irish detectives at Holyhead.

Daniel Hegarty, a native of Mallow, who was arrested in Liverpool, in connection, it is alleged, with the murder of Private Jones, of the Shropshire Regiment, in Fermoy last September, was brought to Cork yesterday, and later formally remanded. There are other prisoners at present in custody on the same charge.

"IT IS DEPLORABLE"

Shooting of Police Condemned by Archbishop of Cashel

His Grace the Archbishop of Cashel, writing to Rev. Michael Finn, P.P., Drom, in reference to the recent shooting of Constable Horan at the Rags, Thurles, says:—"Now that the inquest on the victim has made the situation sufficiently clear, I express to you my horror at the event.

"It is deplorable that men should so despise the laws of God as to take human life in this unholy fashion.

"I deeply sympathise with you in your grief."

MAIL CAR "HELD-UP."

The mail car, which leaves Thurles at 1.30 a.m., for Nenagh, was held up yesterday by masked and armed men at Killinan, a mile from Thurles. The driver was not allowed to return to Thurles.

It is stated the car carried no money.

The mail bag from Doon to Cappamore was seized on Wednesday night by an armed party, telegraphs our Limerick correspondent.

Mr. S. Burke, Woodford, while cycling to a convention of the G.A.A. as Tynagh, near Loughrea, was waylaid on the road by a party of unknown men, who, having bound and gagged him, deprived him, as alleged, of a sum of £80.

CLOSING SMALL BARRACKS

A number of small police barracks throughout Ireland are being closed. Amongst the latest whose occupants have received "notice to quit" are Broomstown, Carbury, Kilcock, Maynooth, and Rathangan.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ald. O'Brien's Letter to Port and Docks Board

At the meeting of the Dublin Port and Docks Board yesterday the following letter was read from Alderman Wm. O'Brien, who was recently arrested by the military and deported to England. It was dated "Wormwood Scrubbs Prison, March 6th, 1920," and was addressed to the secretary of the Board:

Sir—I desire to inform you that my address has been changed from 77 Botanic road to Wormwood Scrubbs Prison, London, and I request that you will kindly order that all official communications for me will be forwarded to the latter address until further notice. I do not know how long I am likely to be here, but I trust I may assume that the Board will grant me the necessary leave of absence from your meetings.—Thanking you in anticipation, faithfully yours, Wm. O'Brien.

For Legal Advice.

Mr. Goodbody—Two months.

Mr. Farrell—I suppose you will let him have his letters and correspondence?

Chairman—I do not know if he has signed the statutory declaration.

Several Members—He has.

Chairman—Then I will refer it to the Law Agent.

TRAGIC HOTEL SCENE

Sergeant Killed in Commercial Room

A sensational occurrence took place in Rathkeale on Wednesday night when a party of masked and armed men entered Ward's Hotel and shot Sergt. George Neazor dead and wounded Const. Doyle.

The police were stationed in the Listowel district and went to Rathkeale as an escort for a Kerry farmer who had business at the fair.

Revolver Shots.

After the day the police were in the commercial room, when the door opened and a party of men discharged revolver shots at them.

Sergt. Neazor was killed instantly and Const. Doyle was wounded in the wrist, but not as seriously as was at first reported.

When the shooting took place there were not many people in the vicinity, but the report of firearms caused something like a sensation in the hotel.

When the armed party left the constable came out of the room, and medical assistance was promptly summoned.

Removal of Remains.

Sergt. Neazor's remains were removed to a private residence, and the constable conveyed to the Workhouse Hospital. His condition yesterday was reassuring.

An inquest on Sergeant Neazor was to be opened last evening.

Sergeant Neazor was a native of Rathkeale, and leaves a widow and 4 children. He was for many years stationed in Tralee.

"A Struggle Took Place."

Another report states that a struggle took place and that the raiders took away the rifles and ammunition belonging to the police.

PATIENTS' PROGRESS

Property Damaged During Raids on Cork Clubs

District-Inspector McDonagh, who was shot in Cork on Wednesday night, near South terrace, passed a fairly good night and day. He is still, however, in a rather critical condition, but the doctors are hopeful of his recovery if no complications set in.

The young man named Fitzgerald, who was also wounded during the firing, is still in a weak condition.

The bullet was extracted from his body yesterday. His life is not considered to be in immediate danger.

Clubs and Houses Raided.

Police and military raided two Sinn Fein clubs and several private houses in Cork yesterday morning.

The Sinn Fein headquarters in Grand Parade was entered about 2 a.m. There was nobody on the premises at the time. After the visit the rooms presented a dilapidated appearance. All the pictures, chairs and tables were broken. Five chairs in the front room appear to have been taken and swung against the table on the floor with considerable violence.

Two tables were broken and the floor strewn with broken glass. Other property was also damaged.

Cross From Parnell's Grave.

A frame hanging in the front room contained grass and leaves from the graves of Parnell, O'Donovan Rossa, and The O'Rahilly. This was torn down and the contents strewn about. About 1.30 a.m. military and police also searched the Thomas Ashe Club, Matthew quay, where the results were similar.

Visit to an Alderman.

Police also visited the residence of Alderman Sean O'Sullivan, Abbey street, on entrance being effected by a door which has been locked and nailed up for 30 years.

The alderman was not at home. Pictures, ware, and ornaments, it is stated, were broken during the progress of the visit.

A private hotel in Washington street was searched. No arrests were made.

WORSE TREATMENT

How Political Prisoners Are Faring in Mountjoy

Mr. Frank Thunder, who is well known in musical circles in Dublin, and has been connected with a number of opera companies, visited Councillor Carolan, of Belfast, in Mountjoy Prison Hospital on Wednesday.

Councillor Carolan is undergoing a term of six months' imprisonment in connection with a recent speech, and gave a vivid account of his prison treatment. He stated that before the arrival of the new Governor he and 24 other political prisoners, though interned in the Criminal Wing of the prison, had certain privileges, such as wearing their own clothes, smoking, daily exercise, and intercourse with each other.

Privileges Withdrawn.

Coincident with the change of governorship the privileges extended to Mr. Carolan and his companions were withdrawn, and they are enduring solitary confinement, no exercise, no visits, no letters.

Mr. Carolan is in hospital suffering from nervous breakdown. Even in hospital he is in solitary confinement, and is denied letters.

Hunger-striker Sent Back.

Mr. Maurice Crowe, Tipperary, who was arrested in bed early on Monday morning in a farmer's house at Lackelly, near Galbally, Co. Limerick, has been sent back to Mountjoy, where he had been on hunger-strike, to complete his unexpired term of imprisonment.

Messrs. John Fitzpatrick and John O'Meara, arrested in the same house on the same occasion, were still detained in Tipperary up to Thursday afternoon. Mr. Fitzpatrick had disobeyed a military order commanding him to leave Munster.

DESERTED!

Fears of Unionists of South & West

BELFAST "DECISION"

Should They be Asked to Run Away from Their Customers?

Unionists in the South and West of Ireland have not hesitated to state that they have been deserted by Sir Edward Carson and his Ulster followers, as a result of the decision in Belfast on Wednesday to accept the principle of Home Rule coupled with partition.

They make no secret of their views in declaring that the pass has been sold.

The decision reached showed, said one of them, a peculiar lack of confidence in the principles and conditions upon which all Unionist opposition to any form of Home Rule is based. The position of the "loyalists" in the South and West of Ireland, it was pointed out, had always been one of the main planks in Ulster's opposition to Home Rule. According to the doctrine preached in that province Rule in the South and West would be intolerable for Protestants and Unionists under a Parliament in Dublin; but they boasted that the residents of the North-East corner would look after themselves. Their great concern was the direct protection required for their scattered brethren in the South which would be afforded by the Imperial Parliament, though many Southern Unionists ridiculed any fears of persecution because of religion or politics from their Nationalist fellow-countrymen.

Will Not Accept.

To show how much this idea is scorned, a Unionist has placed it on record that his fellows have very little intention of accepting the invitation of Sir Edward Carson to flee into Ulster and take protection under the wing of his "Parliament" in the event of a separate legislature being set up in Dublin.

"Scattered," he states, "all through the South are Unionists and Protestants living at peace with their fellow-countrymen, and doing good business. Is it really asked of them that they should flee from their customers?"

This statement puts the position of those people in the right perspective, and is endorsed by several leading adherents of the Unionist cause in Dublin.

Unionists, while professing not to have been taken by surprise by the decision of the Ulster Council to violate "the solemn League and Covenant," admit that it has placed them in a peculiar and serious position. The Irish Unionist Alliance, which claims to represent the Southern Unionists, almost simultaneously with the official announcement of Ulsterites to abandon their brethren in the South, declared their resolve to continue to fight by every means in their power even against the emasculated and mutilated form of self-government offered by the Lloyd George Cabinet.

Mr. Jellett's Words.

In the course of an interview about a month ago Mr. Jellett, K.C., M.P., asserted that to enforce a settlement on those lines would lead to civil commotion. In July last he proposed a resolution, which was passed at an Orange meeting in Dublin, recording the determination of the Unionists of the South and West to support the loyalists of Ulster in resisting "by every means in their power" any scheme of Home Rule in any shape or form; and, on the same occasion, a Mr. Laddie, in seconding the resolution, hoped, as a result of the meeting, that the Dublin battalion of the loyal volunteers would be re-established, for drilling and discipline were very good for their physical welfare.

In the course of inquiries yesterday it was impossible to find out whether "the opposition by every means in their power" would take, on the part of the members of those organisations, a constitutional shape or the "Ulster form"; but it was learned that, as a preliminary, an effort is being made by the Unionist Alliance to win back to their ranks the Southern Unionists, who left after the Irish Convention and formed themselves into the Anti-Partition League, with Viscount Midleton at their head.

A "Rally" in London.

In this connection it is announced that representatives of the latter body are active in promoting a Parliamentary meeting in London on the 24th inst., when the case for Southern Unionism is to be submitted to members of the Coalition of both sections.

Most Rev. Dr. Bernard, the Provost of Trinity College, and Lord Midleton will be the principal speakers on behalf of the League.

It is doubtful if the attempt to reunite these two political elements will be successful, having regard to the circumstances in which the rupture between them took place.

It was sought yesterday to obtain the views of several prominent Unionists in Dublin on the new situation, but the majority of them were reticent, as they prefer to await developments, as they expressed it.

An Impression.

One of them, however, while apparently somewhat chagrined at what had taken place, conveyed the impression that it was the view of many of the Southern Unionists that the action of Sir Edward Carson and his Ulster followers would not ultimately be to their disadvantage, trusting, as they did, that the situation that would develop with the opposition of Nationalists to partition and to the lack of legislative power in the proposed assemblies would lead to another deadlock, and that Mr. Lloyd George would not press his scheme into law.

Another representative of the Unionist creed, while expressing his disappointment at the attitude adopted in the North, gave it as his view that unless Sir Edward Carson had very good reasons for his present policy, he would not have advised his followers to accept the Government's proposals.

On the other hand, he pointed out that in some Unionist quarters it was strongly felt that the Ulster Council had entirely ignored the interests and desires of their fellow-Unionists in the rest of the country by having, as they did, given any countenance to the principle of Home Rule for Ireland, opposition to which had been ever a cardinal tenet in their political doctrine.

BURIAL OF J. C. BYRNE

Church of England Ceremony at the Graveside

John Charles Byrne, of Romford, who was shot under mysterious circumstances at Glasnevin last week, was buried with Church of England rites at Romford Cemetery yesterday. The hour of the burial having been kept a secret, no one was present except the family mourners. The body was interred in the family grave. The proceedings were delayed for twenty minutes by the absence of a clergyman. There were many beautiful wreaths.

MORE COAL FOR DUBLIN

Our London correspondent writes:—

Another pressing appeal from the Dublin Chamber of Commerce urging Parliamentary action towards relieving the acute coal situation in Ireland was received by Irish members yesterday. Capt. Redmond put a private notice question, through which he elicited the fact that within the past few days 13 additional ships had been added to the amount of tonnage running to Ireland. Sir Maurice Dockrell had an interview with the Secretary to the Board of Trade on the same subject, and was assured that the matter was receiving attention.

NO DIRECT ACTION

T.U. Congress Declares Against the Miners

3 to 1 MAJORITY

By a majority of over 3 to 1, the Trades Union Congress, at a special meeting in the Central Hall, Westminster, yesterday, decided against direct action.

The Congress was specially convened to discuss the action to be taken to compel the Government, says the Press Association, to adopt Mines Nationalisation, in accordance with the Sankey Report of the Coal Commission.

Two alternatives were placed before the 700 or 800 delegates, representing over 5,000,000 trade unionists by the Parliamentary Committee:—

(a) Trade Union action in the form of a general strike;

(b) Political action in the form of intensive political propaganda in preparation for a general election.

After a two hours' debate a card vote was taken on both alternatives, and resulted as follows:—

For Political Action	3,732,000
Against	1,015,000
Majority for	2,717,000
For Direct Action	1,050,000
Against	3,870,000
Majority against	2,820,000

Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, who presided, accordingly declared the resolution in favour of political action carried.

The Right to Strike.

The right to strike, said Mr. Thomas, could not be seriously challenged, but it was accompanied by heavy responsibilities. Upon the decision of Congress would rest the future position of the political and trade union movements of Labour.

"Recent events," he said, "point firmly to a general belief in the early possibility of a Labour Government, when our party will find itself the guardian and protector of the whole community rather than the trustee of a section.

The policy of defying those in power and elected by the people would be an excuse for retaliation against those who are its sponsors.

The policy of defying the Constitution was advocated in connection with Ireland by some of those now in authority, but no party has denounced such measures more than our own. If it were wrong for others it could not be right now for us by merely changing the label.

Intelligent Use of Power.

The workers desire no privilege that they are not prepared to concede to others, and accept no policy they would refuse to their opponents.

Political action had not failed. It had never been fully tried. Trade unionists in the past had not used their political power as intelligently as they might.

"What right, then," he asked, "have we to call on the men and women to force the Government by action which could not fail to inflict on the nation an industrial evil which would involve bloodshed while not necessarily obtaining what we want, and while a less costly remedy is within our reach?"

The Miners' Secretary.

Mr. Frank Hodges, Secretary of the Miners' Federation, who proposed the direct action resolution, said the whole purpose of the Coal Commission must have been that a government should have observed the findings of the majority.

"If it were not so then we have been the victims of a gigantic political fraud. We have placed our faith in the existing political institution and our faith has been shattered." If the miners failed in this effort they were brought back into the vortex in which they all appeared to be swimming.

The endeavour to make wages catch up with prices was an almost endless race in which they got left further and farther behind. They should tackle the whole question of the relation of capital to the problem of production. Apparently they would have to wait an indefinite number of years before the influence of Parliament could be made effective to change or modify the economic laws running throughout society.

"Cruellest Method."

Mr. Tom Shaw (Textile Workers), opposing the strike policy, said they could be as desirous for the uplifting of the workers as Mr. Hodges and yet believe that this method was the cruellest ever devised against the working classes themselves (cheers).

Mr. Clynes said he opposed direct action because in the main it was wrong. "I risk the opinion," he said, "that the man in this country who would most welcome direct action is not in this conference at all, but in Downing street, as the head of affairs." Mr. Lloyd George might be lacking in some things but not in political strategy, and if they were to announce a general strike he would give them a general election on conditions in which they would find that their class would be sent in twain while all other classes would be united to fight this aggressive step by Labour.

Playing the Coalition Game.

The calling of a general strike would be playing the game of the leaders of the Coalition, for the issue at a general election would be their conduct and not whether nationalisation would improve industry.

The force which it was now proposed to employ, Mr. Clynes declared amid some interruption, was not a British but a Prussian characteristic.

Mr. Tom Mann, general secretary A.S.C., supported the miners.

The vote was afterwards taken with the results stated, and the Congress concluded.

"BATTLE NOT OVER"

Carson Appeals for Support to the Women of Woodvale

Sir Edward Carson yesterday attended a conference in the City Hall, Belfast, when members of the Education Committee met the Ulster M.P.'s relative to the provisions of the Education Bill.

In the evening Sir Edward was presented with a loving cup as a gift to his son from the Woodvale Ladies' Parliamentary Unionist Association.

In the course of his reply the Ulster leader said they had gone through a very trying week. They had had the most complex situation to deal with that he had ever had in his public life.

"I believe," he said, "we have got through it, still maintaining the full confidence of the people who have hitherto trusted us, and I believe each and every one of you have known and understood that in the momentous step we had to take we had one consideration before us, and one only, and that was—What was the best for Ulster?

Appeal for Sustained Help.

"The battle is not over yet," he went on, "we are about to enter upon it within a week or so of the time we go back. We will want all your help and all your organisation behind us, and all that strength that comes from the knowledge that we are co-operating with a great force at home."

The whole horizon of the future was full of great doubt and great difficulties, and no one really knew, as far as Ireland was concerned, into what difficult and turbulent seas the ship of State might be driven. Until they had her safe in port and secure at anchorage it would be madness for any part of the organisation in that province to relax its efforts.

FUNERAL OF CONSTABLE RYAN.

The funeral of Constable Thomas Ryan, who was fatally wounded in the attack on Huggintown Barracks, took place from Ballybrideen Church, yesterday, after Office and High Mass. The place of interment was Rutlerstown, a sub-parish of Ballybricken.

A large force of police attended the obsequies.

H. C. L.

THE 1/- LOAF.

BREAD IS DEAR—THANKS TO BRITISH MISGOVERNMENT.

HIGH COST OF LIVING.

The Government, when the proposed withdrawal of the bread subsidy becomes an accomplished fact, will have put a worthy apex to the monument of muddling which they have already reared.

One thing after another has been so badly done, or left undone, by people in high places, to make the cost of living daily dearer, that the people might be thought to have no voice in the matter.

Already there are indications that the people have a voice, and on one hand is heard alarm and on the other the demands of Labour.

Naturally, official efforts to soothe are prompt. Mr. McCurdy, in his reply to Lieut.-Colonel Assheton-Prownall, very ingenuously expresses the opinion that the quartern loaf will in many places be 11d. or even less.

He also assumes that the rise in the price of flour and bread will leave the cost of other commodities unchanged.

But even in the absence of a sympathetic increase in the price of other commodities—a comfortless reservation—he makes a bland acknowledgment that the cost of living will have risen six points.

ALARM IN IRELAND

How Institutions and the Poor May Suffer

It is quite evident, from the information that is hourly accumulating, that the general public are roused to a keen sense of alarm at the prospect of a rise in the price of bread. As we stated yesterday, the consequences of such an event would be widespread and serious, as it would obviously in the first place lead to acute discontent among the workers, demands for increased wages, and labour complications of various kinds, probably ending in a widespread paralysis of industry.

Crippling for Ireland.

In Ireland, where the standard of living is modest compared with the rest of the United Kingdom, and bread takes a foremost place in the people's diet, a dearer loaf would mean much misery. It would mean, most certainly, that a considerable portion of our population, especially in the cities, and in Dublin above all, would be actually starving. It would mean, too, an increase in the case of the upkeep of hospitals and public institutions, which would in many cases be utterly crippling.

Changed Views.

Alarm is being rapidly taken in England, and papers which at first viewed the withdrawal of the subsidy with indifference or even favour, have now come to a very different frame of mind. It is curious what vague ideas the majority of persons have on such a detail of domestic economy as the exact amount of bread consumed under given conditions by a family or group, and when this matter is gone into it is very readily seen what a blind step in the dark the Government are taking.

A Government "Feeler"?

Inquiries by a FREEMAN'S JOURNAL representative yesterday elicited the belief in some quarters that the Government proposal was put forward as a feeler.

"I should not be surprised," he was told by one gentleman, "if the violence of public opinion on the subject should in a very short time compel a reconsideration of the proposal."

In Dublin, the ordinary loaf is 2lb; it is the "quartern" that is 4lb. The price of the 4lb loaf is at present 10d delivered, and 9½d in the baker's shop. With flour at 19s 3d per sack, and a yield of 82lbs, there would be an increase of about 2½d in the quartern, or 1d in the ordinary loaf. An easy calculation may therefore be made as to the weight of extra tax upon the domestic budget.

Early Consequences.

Already he learned in another quarter that there are discussions amongst the men employed in the milling and bakery trades as to the desirability of demanding an increase of 5s. a week.

Members of the bakery trade are of strong opinion that the Government proposal is a mistake of the first dimension. That is also the opinion of the van delivery men. The latter find that it is bread that, above everything else, is the staple food of the poor.

A meeting of the Dublin Master Millers' Association, convened by Mr. McAvin, secretary, was held this afternoon at the Commercial Buildings, to consider the situation created by the proposed withdrawal of the subsidy.

Sir Joseph Downes was in the chair, and it was decided that, in the uncertain situation existing, it was not desirable that any action should be taken for the present.

The Two Announcements.

Mr. Wm. Richardson, Secretary of the Retail Purveyors and Family Grocers' Association, interviewed in connection with the bread subsidy, said he would like to call attention to the fact that Mr. Lloyd George, who originally made the announcement, left it in such a form that it seemed as if the wholesale price was to be advanced on the 15th of this month, and that anybody who didn't happen to have a stock of flour at the time would either have to buy at the increased price and sell at the old, or go out of business altogether for the time being—between that and April 12.

The Order issued yesterday made it perfectly clear that by making a return of the stock in hands on Saturday night the retailer will be entitled to recover compensation though he will have to purchase at the higher price and sell at the lower between the two dates.

Mr. Richardson, in conclusion, stated that in the official notice one item occurred of importance—namely, that "on and after Monday, April 12, all maximum prices at present governing the retail sale of flour and bread will be removed." That, he remarked, was interesting for the public.

Mr. McCurdy's Optimism.

Mr. McCurdy writes, in reply to Lieut.-Col Assheton Prownall, that the present maximum permitted price for the quartern loaf is 9½d, although in exceptional cases licences are granted to sell at higher prices, while in certain populous areas bread is sold at as low a rate as 8½d per 4lbs. Although it is not proposed to fix an increased maximum price for bread to meet the advance in the wholesale price of flour, it is anticipated that, as at present, prices will vary locally, probably varying from 11d to 1s 1d per quartern, and that though 1s may be the ruling price in a majority of districts, bread would be sold in many places at 11d, or even less. On this basis the general "cost of living" index figure, as published in the "Labour Gazette," would rise by about six points, assuming that the prices of articles other than bread and flour remained unchanged.

NEW FOOD MENACE

Dublin Farm Labourers to Strike on Monday

By the decision of the Co. Dublin farm labourers to strike on Monday the city is faced with a labour trouble likely to have serious effects upon the food supply.

At a conference between the farmers and the workers' representatives held this week an offer was made providing for an advance in wages of 3s weekly, with a reduction in the working hours from 60 to 54.

This offer was rejected by the labourers. A ballot, the result of which was announced last night, showed an overwhelming majority of the men to be in favour of a strike.

The effects of a cessation of work at such a crucial period in the agricultural year would be far-reaching. The sowing of the crops would be interfered with, and the city food supply would be sorely depleted later in the year.

Crops May be Affected.

"If the dispute lasts a fortnight or three weeks," said a leading farmer last night, "a great deal of ground will be left unsown, and at the end of that time it will be too late to sow the crops. The Dublin markets will also be left without vegetables." He also feared difficulties in connection with the caring of cattle.

An official of the Transport Union told a FREEMAN representative that a number of farmers in the county would be prepared to enter into agreements conceding a wage of 42s for a working week of 54 hours. Their present wages were 37s for 60 hours. About 2,000 labourers are involved.

But Still There is Hope.

In the interests of the public it is to be hoped that the farmers and their labourers will make another effort to adjust their differences by pacific methods before resorting to the destructive arbitrament of the strike weapon.

UNEASINESS IN GERMANY.

Berlin, Thursday.

Reviewing Germany's economic situation at yesterday's sitting of the Economic Council, the Under-Secretary of State, Professor Hirschab said the food situation was not so favourable as it was last year, and it was absolutely necessary that farmers should carry out the obligations undertaken by them. Germany had already paid foreign currency for half a million tons of corn which were to be imported.—Reuter.

ONLY ONE OBJECTION.

The Prime Minister stated in the Commons that the Ministry of Food had received only one protest from a bakers' association against increasing the extraction from wheat to 80 per cent. No objection had been raised by private individuals, and the Government were unable to suspend or abandon these proposals.

TIFLIS EARTHQUAKE

Thousands of People Rendered Homeless

Reuter's Agency learns that details have just come to hand of a disastrous earthquake that occurred at the end of February in the neighbourhood of Tiflis. There were altogether two shocks. Tiflis itself was only slightly damaged, but the neighbouring town of Goli and several villages in the vicinity were entirely destroyed. Tens of thousands of persons have been rendered homeless and many killed.

The railways were much damaged.

The universal severity of the weather is accentuating the sufferings of the people. In one town of 30,000 inhabitants there is not a single house left fit for occupation. The British Government has authorised an expenditure to provide comforts for sufferers, and American, French, and Italian Missions at Tiflis are providing money and relief.

FRENCH MINERS OUT

Paris, Wednesday.

In the "Pas de Calais" Department 55,000 miners are now out on strike, but no instance of disorder has occurred.

The effect of the strike upon the north-eastern provinces, which are yet recovering from the war devastation, are very serious. This is especially the case at Lille. Numerous factories have had to close down, including the glass works at Valenciennes and Aniche. The surface coal stocks of the mines are completely finished.—Reuter.

TEXTILE WORKERS ALSO ON STRIKE.

Paris, Thursday.

It is reported from Anzin, Department du Nord, that the miners' union of the district at a meeting to-day voted for a strike, which, it is believed, will become effective on Friday.

Messages from Sialenoble state the miners' delegates of the Nord Department decided to consult the different trades union sections on the question of a sympathetic strike.

It is reported from Lille that a strike of textile workers has become general in Roubaix and Tourcoing. It is believed the number of strikers now out amounts to 65,000.

THE CANADIAN NAVY.

Ottawa, Wednesday.

Lord Jellicoe's report on the proposed Canadian navy laid on the table of the House of Commons to-day, submits four alternative schemes, costing from five million to twelve million dollars.

Lord Jellicoe suggests a fleet adequate purely for the protection of Canada should consist of three light cruisers or a flotilla leader, twelve torpedo craft, eight submarines with one parent ship, and certain auxiliary small craft for training purposes.

CORONEL DISASTER

Story of Craddock's Fight with Von Spee

THE FALKLANDS REVENGE

The first volume of the official history of naval operations in the war, compiled by Sir Julian S. Corbett, is published by Longmans, Green, and Co., based upon official documents and written in collaboration with the Historical Section of the Committee of Imperial Defence, the volume, which is the first instalment of a completed work of four or possibly five volumes, carries the story of naval operations from the first mobilisation, which by account or design so greatly increased British naval resources, to the battle of the Falklands in December, 1915.

Of the disaster of Coronel, when Admiral Craddock, overwhelmed by the superior squadron of Von Spee, perished in the Good Hope, and the Monmouth, manned and helpless, was driven to the bottom, Sir Julian says that the main action lasted little more than an hour. The German ships, lost in the obscurity of the eastern horizon, were almost invisible to Admiral Craddock's squadron, which, silhouetted against the after-glow on the western horizon, offered a well-defined target. The flag-ship Good Hope was on fire almost from the commencement of the battle, and her end came within a hour, when "the gloom was rent with an immense explosion where the Good Hope was dimly burning. It took her amidships; her forepart gave out, and a huge sheet of flame rising two hundred feet high; her firing ceased, but what looked like her afterpart could be faintly seen in the glow of flames which occasionally rose out of it."

Escape Only Possibility.

When the flag-ship had gone escape was the only possibility. But the Monmouth, badly mauled, was by sheer ill-luck sighted by the Nurnberg. The Monmouth had "a list of ten degrees to port, and steam was escaping dangerously amidships. As the Nurnberg approached her the list increased, so much that she could not use her port guns, and the Germans could open fire on her with impunity at close range. The Nurnberg ceased firing for several minutes to let her surrender, but in the Monmouth there was no such thought. . . There was no choice for the Nurnberg but to give her the only end she would accept. It came quickly. The Nurnberg had to make but one more run, pouring in a lacerating fire at point-blank range, and then the defiant British cruiser capsized. To the last her flags were flying and still flew as she went down. Every soul on board was lost, for the sea was too high to permit of the Nurnberg lowering her boats."

Such was the disaster of Coronel, brought about chiefly by the absence of the Canopus, the ship that was intended to ensure the safety of Cradock's squadron. "On whose the responsibility for the disaster lay," says Sir Julian, "must always be a difficult question to decide, since we can never tell what was in the Admiral's mind. . . Whether under the conditions of the meeting it was possible for him to have declined action till he had fallen back with the Canopus is doubtful. If it was, then his conduct may be regarded as quixotic; but even so we can do no less than remember him as we remember Sir Richard Grenville of the Revenge."

The Account Closed.

One effect of the disaster was to sting the British Admiralty "into an activity which, for reach and completeness, had never been equalled in our annals." For Von Spee retribution came little more than a month later at the Falklands, when Admiral Sturdee with the Invincible, Inflexible, and Carnarvon destroyed the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. Again was repeated, this time by the Germans, the tale of dauntless heroism. The Scharnhorst went down with her flag flying, and not a soul of her crew was saved. After her sister had gone the Gneisenau was mixed with concentrated fire from three separate bearings. "For half an hour she endured the concentrated fire, replying with well-timed but badly spotted salvoes, till all her 8-inch ammunition was spent. . . . She was listing more and more and burning furiously, but, still undefeated, she from time to time fired a gun, and her fire had to be returned. After a few rounds, however, she was again silent. She was thought to have struck, and 'Cease fire' was signalled. But in another minute she began again, and the signal had to be annulled . . . but there was no more to be done . . . very suddenly she heeled over on her beam ends. For a minute or so, the remnants of her crew could be seen walking on her side, and then she plunged down to join her sister."

Coronel and the Falklands are the cardinal features of the first six months of naval warfare. But although the memory of this early phase is largely overshadowed by the greater happenings which followed, Sir Julian's history vividly recalls those anxious days when the potentialities of the submarine constituted a strategical menace of inestimable gravity, when the Emden and the other raiders were harrying the trade routes, and when upon the navy fell the almost intolerable burden of securing the food supplies, escorting contingents from the Dominions, clearing the seas of depredatory Germans, keeping clear the Channel for endless streams of men and munitions, co-operating with our fighting forces in Flanders, bottling up the High Seas Fleet in the Kiel Canal, and vigorously guarding their shores from the possibility of invasion.

TOWNSHEND'S OWN STORY

Stand at Kut Saved British from Disaster in Mesopotamia

In the course of the preface to his book, "My Campaign in Mesopotamia," now published, General Townshend points out that after his victory at Kut-al-Amara he indicated to Sir John Nixon, the Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia, that in order to take Baghdad he must have two divisions—say 30,000 men. Otherwise there was a strong probability of disaster. But General Nixon decided that he should proceed without reinforcements. There was, accordingly, nothing for him to do but obey, though such a task with a handful of troops was one at which Bonaparte or Hannibal might have despaired. And its magnitude would be the better appreciated when it was considered that General Maude, to effect the same task, was given 113,000 to 120,000 troops, as against General Townshend's 15,000, with a full proportion of guns, supplies, steamers, railways, etc. "Although the advance was against my judgment," he says, "and only boldness of manoeuvre and shock action could possibly give success in such an enterprise, I felt that if it could be done, possibly I could do it, for I had absolute confidence in my command."

Retreat a Great Achievement.

The retreat to Kut after the battle of Ctesiphon General Townshend regards as a very great achievement. "The discipline of my troops and their suppleness in manoeuvre was perfect. Soldiers will understand what this means after such a battle as Ctesiphon—where we had the most desperate bayonet fighting, where the Turkish trenches were absolutely heaped with dead, where guns were taken and retaken at the point of the bayonet, and where we had casualties amounting to 33 per cent. of our effectives. The conduct of such a retreat is, I venture to think, the hardest test which can be put to a general or to the rank and file under his command."

Occupation of Baghdad.

The author maintains that his resolution to stand at Kut saved the British from being simply kicked out of Mesopotamia. "Not till my men were dying on an average of over twenty a day from starvation," he says, "and not till I was ordered by wireless by the Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia to make what terms I could, as he was unable to relieve me in the time, did I surrender. In the same way as Massena's stand at Genoa in 1800 made it possible for Bonaparte to fight and win the critical battle of Marengo, or as Osman Pasha's stand at Plevna gave time for the Turks to bring reinforcements from Asia Minor, so my five months' stand at Kut enabled the Government to unite in Mesopotamia reinforcements from overseas, and eventually, with an overwhelming force of some 120,000 men, to advance on and occupy Baghdad."