

**PEACE PARLEYS BEGUN IN IRELAND**

**Australian Bishop Acts as Intermediary at Lloyd George's Request**

**RAID DUBLIN CITY HALL**

By the Associated Press  
Dublin, Dec. 6.—Determined efforts to bring about an early peace in Ireland are being made here. Conversations have been in progress more than a week, and hope was expressed today by some of those engaged in the negotiations that within another week a tangible basis of settlement might be reached.

The chief intermediary at work is the Rev. Patrick Joseph Clune, bishop of Perth, Australia, who, it is understood, has been asked by Premier Lloyd George to sound out Sinn Fein sentiment and prepare, if possible, the ground on which a foundation for the peace edifice can be reared.

Despite the peace efforts of Monsignor Clune, the auxiliary police raided the Dublin city hall today and arrested six members of the corporation.

Monsignor Clune is a native of County Clare, and went to Australia twenty-four years ago. He arrived in Ireland last August, and after visiting for several weeks at Ennis and other districts in County Clare, made a number of trips back and forth to England.

Expects Truce by Christmas  
He stated to the Associated Press yesterday that negotiations still were progressing, but that it was too soon to make any positive prediction relative to their success. He declared, however, he cherished great hope that good would be forthcoming from efforts made in the last week, and expressed confidence a truce could be arranged before Christmas.

He is exercising full powers of mediation and arbitration to achieve that end.

Monsignor Clune planned to have a final interview today with Sir Hamar Greenwood, chief secretary for Ireland, about a special week-end trip to this island in connection with the peace movement. The Australian prelate expects to go to London tonight or tomorrow to report on the result of his work to Premier Lloyd George.

Every facility to carry out his mission had been given him by the government, he said, and he was so free from espionage that he has talked not only with Arthur Griffith and other Sinn Fein leaders, but with men prominent in the active element of the Sinn Fein movement on whom the government is trying its utmost to lay its hands.

"It is too early to make public what

has thus far been accomplished," he said. "Whether my efforts bear fruit is for London to determine, for it is there peace must be made and not in Ireland. My work has been merely to try to arrange the preliminaries, and I will know, perhaps in a week, whether it has been successful."

So far as can be ascertained, members of the British labor commission visiting Ireland are not directly concerned in the peace movement which Monsignor Clune is engineering. Arthur Henderson had a long talk with Cardinal Logue yesterday and is returning to England, leaving other members of the commission to pursue their investigations.

Another of Monsignor Clune's conferences was with the Most Rev. M. Fogarty, bishop of Killaloe.

(A dispatch to a London newspaper today reported that the residence of the bishop of Killaloe at Ennis was raided on Sunday during his absence and that some papers were confiscated.)

The Rev. Michael O'Flanagan, acting president of the Sinn Fein, has sent the following telegram to Premier Lloyd George:

"You state that you are willing to make peace at once, without waiting for Christmas. Ireland also is willing. What first step do you propose?"

**Strong Sentiment for Truce**  
There is a general sentiment, strongly backed by ecclesiastical influence, in favor of a truce, but there is no expectation that any Sinn Fein member of an authoritative position will meet the government on essential conditions. Leading Sinn Fein members are participating in the rumored negotiations.

The Sinn Fein organ says that the government's impressive measures are merely undertaken to force a compromise, which must be resisted. Until the eye of Arthur Henderson's visit to Ireland, Griffith, MacNeill and other reputed moderates were not molested. They were then arrested and are still held, the government allegation against them being either culpable ignorance in the employment of Dial Eireann funds or knowledge that these funds were being used by the republican army to promote violence. This, it is pointed out, is considered inconsistent with the government's desire for a truce.

Arthur Griffith, founder of the Sinn Fein, who is in prison, says Mr. Henderson issued this message to the Irish people: "Today is Ireland's Valley Forge, tomorrow will be Ireland's Yorktown."

London, Dec. 6.—(By A. P.)—Unofficial relations between members of the British ministry and Sinn Fein leaders have not been entirely interrupted, says the London Times in commenting on rumors of peace negotiations in Ireland.

During the last six weeks, at least four channels for unofficial communication with various sections of influential Nationalist opinion in Ireland have been kept open in spite of criticism in Ireland and reprisals on the part of crown forces there, the object of maintaining order and restoring peace not having been lost sight of by either side.

Reports of recent exchanges of views are confirmed by the newspaper, which says these were not initiated in any official capacity, but that some members of the government had taken opportunities to hear accounts of the true conditions in the island from sources other than those to which the government's official informants had access.

**Griffith Arrest Checked Exchanges**  
"An eminent Irish writer," says the Times "recently furnished Premier Lloyd George with more valuable information than had been contained in official reports, but the arrest of Arthur Griffith, which was made without the knowledge or consent of the cabinet, checked, if it did not actually interrupt, exchanges of views."

"Discussions that had been going on have not involved any question of abandoning the home rule bill, the issue being an amendment of that measure in a direction of fiscal and financial autonomy, provided that after a truce was arranged the majority of the Irish electorate outside the six counties of Ulster should indicate readiness to accept the measure thus amended."

"Though one phase of the negotiations may have broken down, the government is still exploring such avenues toward peace as may still be open. It is clear influences inimical to any Irish settlement are seeking deliberately to obstruct the government's plan. It has been suggested Premier Lloyd George has acted behind the backs of his colleagues, and that any dealing with leading members of the Sinn Fein movement in Ireland will incur strong disapproval from one section of the coalition cabinet."

**Hope Parleys Will Continue**  
Hope that "neither the premier nor the government should be deterred by mischief-making of this kind" is expressed by the newspaper.

Soldiers conducting a raid in Queenstown have arrested Hugh O'Reilly, the town clerk, it being alleged that seditious documents were found in his possession, says a dispatch to the Daily Mail.

The residence of the Most Rev. M. Fogarty, bishop of Killaloe, at Ennis, also was raided on Sunday during the absence of the bishop, and some papers were confiscated.

The newspaper's labor correspondent states that during the interview between

Arthur Henderson, labor leader in the House of Commons, and Cardinal Logue, primate of Ireland, last week, the cardinal said he was extremely anxious to assist in ending the reign of terror, and that the Catholic hierarchy would exert every effort to bring about a permanent settlement of the Irish problem.

**ARREST FIREBUG SUSPECT**  
State Troopers Take Man in Custody for Burning Series of Schools in Belleveron, Pa., Dec. 6.—(By A. P.)—Troopers of the state police and officers from here today arrested a man near Fairhope, Pa., in the belief that he knew something of the incendiary fires which for the last six weeks have destroyed school buildings and other property worth more than \$500,000 in the vicinity of Fayette City, Pa.

The man, who said he had been employed at a gas plant, had been loitering in the vicinity for several days. He resisted arrest, but was quickly overpowered and brought to the Belleveron jail.

In an effort to protect school buildings and other property which have been the prey of what the authorities believe is an organized gang of firebugs, a Legion citizens' protective society has been organized and all roads leading to Fayette City are nightly patrolled by overseas veterans.

**3 Million in Christmas Saving Fund**  
Scranton, Pa., Dec. 6.—Twelve banks in Scranton today are mailing 12,000 checks, totaling \$3,000,000, to the members of their Christmas saving clubs. It represents weekly deposits running from five cents to \$5.

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Huge Protest Against 60 Per Cent Increase  
Vienna, Dec. 6.—(By A. P.)—A huge demonstration in protest against a 60 per cent increase in the cost of food and clothing within the last month was held here. Government action to ameliorate conditions was demanded. Government employees to the number of 25,000 have announced that they will strike tomorrow because their wage and other demands have been refused and it is possible the police also will walk out. In Baden, striking bank clerks invaded the town hall today, smashed

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