

DE VALERA REFUSES OFFER FOR TRUCE

Will Not Accept Fiscal Autonomy as Price for Partition of Ireland, He Says

NOT RELIGIOUS WRANGLE

By the Associated Press
Dublin, March 17.—Eamon De Valera gave a personal interview yesterday to the Associated Press correspondent, the first he has accorded to any newspaper representative since his return from the United States.

If any proof of the extraordinary precautions taken by his devoted followers to insure his protection were needed, it was afforded by the extreme care taken in escorting the correspondent to and from the presence of the Irish leader. For an hour after leaving Mr. De Valera, the correspondent was under the closest surveillance, not only from his escort, but, as it seemed, from everybody in Dublin.

During the conversation of three-quarters of an hour, Mr. De Valera told of the impressions he had brought back from America, and remarked: "The saddest thing there to me was to see the Irish question treated by so many people as if it were a religious wrangle. It is not a religious question, even in so far as the differences here between the North and South are concerned."

He spoke bitterly of the English Government's "lack of principle and statesmanship."

De Valera in Excellent Health
"England," he said, "is trying to win by playing on human weakness. As a matter of fact, though it does not realize it, England is playing not on the weakest, but the strongest, quality of the Irish people—their spiritual quality. The young men of Ireland are eager to themselves: 'At best, the span of life is only seventy years. We must all die. So why not now in circumstances like these?'"

The Irish leader is in excellent health, but his friends in America would hardly recognize him, for he is on the run, and naturally does not reveal himself unnecessarily. Obviously, it would not do to describe his appearance in detail, but he looks extremely fit, and conveys the impression of being free from any sense of personal danger.

The interview was a complete surprise. Until fifteen minutes before it took place the correspondent had no intimation that it would be accorded. A questionnaire for submission to the leader through the same channels as were used in the submission of the questionnaire of last January had been leader through the same channels as proceeding to the rendezvous for that purpose, when suddenly he was invited to climb into the silencer of a motor-cycle and don goggles, which effectually blindfolded him. The car sped through Dublin by an intricate route, and after an indeterminate period the correspondent found himself in a well-furnished living room, and soon in the presence of De Valera.

After leaving the house the correspondent was taken up and examined, first by members of the Irish republican army, within sight of the president's residence, and, second, fortuitously by the military.

Thinks Americans Understand
When he was asked if he intended to issue a St. Patrick's Day message, part-

icularly to the people of America, Mr. De Valera said: "I think the people of America understand, and if the other peoples of the world have not yet realized that it is might and right contending in this awful struggle—if they are left cold when it is so evident that it is a great principle at stake, for which millions of the bravest of many countries lost their lives in the late war—it would be futile to endeavor to move them by mere words."

Questioned whether the offer of full fiscal autonomy would induce acceptance of the partition act, he replied: "The partition act is the act of a foreign hostile assembly; the Irish people as a whole will never accept it. The people, even of the six counties, were never consulted about it in any recognized way. It was designed to perpetrate division and sectional rancor among Irishmen."

While no definite agreement had yet been reached between the Sinn Fein and the adherents of the Irish party in Ulster with respect to the elections under the partition act, such an agreement would not be difficult, said Mr. De Valera, when the time for action arrived. It was a mistake to suppose that only Nationalists and Republicans were in the field. That would be proved when the election came.

Washington, March 17.—The question of the status in the United States of Donald O'Callaghan, lord mayor of Cork, which came to the Harding administration as a legacy from its predecessor, will be up shortly for solution by the State Department and the Department of Labor. O'Callaghan, who arrived in the United States as a stow-away aboard an American ship and gained temporary admittance on a workman's certificate, issued by the Department of Labor, now is on a speaking tour of the country in behalf of Irish independence. The State Department considers the plea of his lawyers that he is a political refugee entitled to permanent asylum in this country.

Officially the Department of Labor, including Secretary Davis, take the position that no further steps looking to the deportation of the lord mayor can be taken until the State Department acts definitely on the refugee plea.

Chicago, March 17.—Police reinforcements last night were called to Orchestra Hall to quiet a tumultuous audience gathered to hear Sir Philip Gibbs, English author and war correspondent, speak on the "Irish Question." A dozen hecklers, said to be Sinn Fein sympathizers, were escorted from the gallery to the street and released.

Sir Philip told the reporters it would be only a matter of time before there would be another great European war. "The world hasn't moved forward as a result of the recent conflict," he declared.

He said the Franco-Polish and other European alliances "mean merely the continent is choosing sides for another big fight."

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KRONSTADT FALLS, RIGA RUMOR SAYS

Russian Mission Hears Soviet Troops Have Recaptured Great Fortress

By the Associated Press

Riga, March 17.—The Russian mission here asserted today that the Bolsheviks had recaptured Kronstadt from the revolutionists last night.

Copenhagen, March 17.—(By A. P.) The Bolshevik batteries on the Karelian headland opened a strong fire against Kronstadt yesterday, says the Helsingfors correspondent of the Berlingske Tidende today.

The bombardment from Kronstadt caused four extensive fires along the coast toward Petrograd, the warships at Kronstadt participating in the bombardment, the correspondent adds. Finnish refugees from Systerbak report the Bolsheviks are making extensive preparations for a new attack on Kronstadt, four artillery divisions with forty-eight four-inch and six-inch guns being concentrated between Systerbak and Petrograd.

Last night there was a violent artillery duel between the fortresses of Kronstadt, Krasnaya Gorka and Oranienbaum.

Warsaw, March 17.—(By A. P.)—Polish, Russian and Ukrainian delegates will sign the treaty between Soviet Russia and Poland at 7 o'clock tomorrow evening, it is officially announced here. Negotiations on the treaty, which will establish peace between Russia and this country, have been completed at Riga, where the ceremony of signing will take place.

London, March 17.—(By A. P.)—A green army is forming against the Russian Government, says a refugee who has just arrived in Riga from Petro-

BRITISH PAPERS RAP SOVIET TRADE PACT

London, March 17.—(By A. P.)—

The Anglo-Russian trade agreement, which requires the sanction of the House of Commons before it can become operative, is strongly criticized by several of the London newspapers this morning, and especially the covering letter in which Sir Robert S. Horne, president of the British board of trade, tells Leonid Krassin, the Soviet representative, that Bolshevik agitation in India must cease forthwith "if the good faith of the agreement is to be preserved."

Both the Daily Telegraph and the Morning Post express profound amazement at the government having signed the agreement before this condition was fulfilled. The Morning Post appeals to Parliament to save Great Britain from dishonor by refusing to ratify "this deplorable transaction."

The newspaper also calls attention to the fact that no reparation is exacted in the agreement for the "murder and ill treatment of British prisoners in Russia."

The Daily Mail says: "Bitter disillusionment awaits those who have placed hopes in Russian trade. Russia has nothing to export but propaganda."

CATANIA SCENA DI GRAVE RIBELLIONE

La Stazione Devastata Causa la Mancanza dei Vagoni per gli Agrumi

Roma, 16 marzo.—La situazione in conseguenza della crisi agrumaria in Sicilia si va sempre più aggravando, particolarmente a Catania tale crisi ha avuto una grave ripercussione per la mancanza dei vagoni per il trasporto degli agrumi, mancanza che determina una larga disoccupazione con danni ingenti per quella popolazione.

In seguito a tale mancanza di vagoni, una folla straordinaria assalì la stazione ferroviaria e prima che potesse

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accorrere la forza pubblica e la truppa compiva opera di distruzione, devastando ed incendiando. I danni sono gravissimi.

L'ordine è stato ristabilito e numerosi individui, ritenuti gli istigatori della rivolta, sono stati arrestati. Purtroppo la situazione è estremamente grave e si spera che il governo provveda con tutta sollecitudine per sollevare la Sicilia dalla crisi nell'industria agrumaria, la quale rappresenta una delle maggiori ricchezze di quell'isola.

Il giornale "Il Popolo d'Italia," organo dei combattenti-fascisti, pubblica che in vista delle elezioni generali Gabriele D'Annunzio ha deciso di lasciare il suo soggiorno di Gardone per recarsi in Roma, ove conta di svolgere la sua propaganda.

Sempre in tema di elezioni generali, il giornale socialista "Avanti!" pubblica un articolo nel quale, considerando tali elezioni imminenti, esorta il proletariato ad unirsi e prepararsi alla proletraria lotta elettorale.

Lo stesso giornale scrive che il Governo vistosi contrariato in parecchie sue proposte, ora ricorre allo scioglimento della Camera per mandare a casa tutti, ma soggiunge che una tale manovra potrebbe avere tragiche conseguenze.

un manifesto nel quale dicono che essi mirano alla pace e che quanto i socialisti dicono sul loro conto è falso. Intanto da Baginoli giunge notizia che è stato arrestato quel sindaco, sotto l'accusa di avere incitato alla rivolta.

E' morto il giovane poeta e drammaturgo Ercolo Morelli, autore di "Glauco," una tragedia che fu data per la prima volta nel maggio 1919 all'Argentina di Roma, ottenendo un successo grandioso.

I fascisti di Firenze hanno pubblicato

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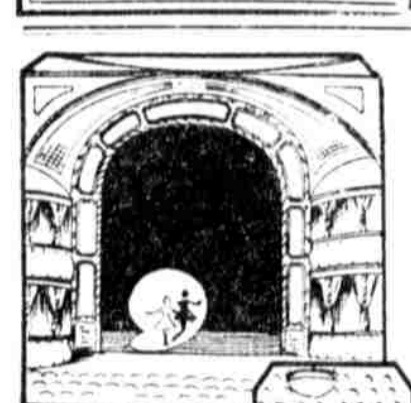
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