

SAYS RELIGION IS NOT CAUSE OF IRISH FIGHT

MacSwiney's Sister Declares Protestants, Too, Are Active for Freedom.

TESTIFIES IN CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The religious question does not enter into Ireland's fight for independence, it was declared here today by Miss Mary MacSwiney, sister of the martyred Lord Mayor of Cork, who testified before the American Commission on Ireland. "Indeed," said Miss MacSwiney, "many of Ireland's most revered leaders have been Protestants."

Miss MacSwiney was the first witness to appear before the commission when it resumed its hearings. Two new members were seated, ex-Senator J. J. Martine of New Jersey, and Senator Thomas F. Walsh of Montana. Congressman-elect C. L. Knight of Akron, Ohio, also had an invitation to be a member.

Miss MacSwiney began her testimony with a detailed account of the causes for the Irish troubles of today. She explained Ireland's history and that of her family, the members of which she told the commission with flashing eyes, had always been identified with the fight for Irish freedom.

"It is merely a new fight," she declared. "It is merely the continuation of a fight begun centuries ago. It is not a rebellion, for a rebellion can only be made against a legally constituted authority. This is an insurrection, an insurrection against a tyrannical authority which Ireland has never recognized."

Ireland has suffered from landlord tyranny for years, she said. One particular thing which the Irish object to, she said, is that Catholics are compelled to contribute to the support of non-Catholic clergy who did not reside in Ireland and who were paid out of public funds, gathered in taxes.

In anticipation of hearing Mrs. Muriel MacSwiney, widow of the lord mayor, a great crowd gathered about 410 Seventh street, where the hearing was held. It is planned to put the widow on the stand later in the day.

CABINET VIEWS PEACE OVERTURES

LONDON, Dec. 8.—A full session of the cabinet was held to discuss the Irish peace overtures. Father Michael O'Flanagan, acting president of the Sinn Fein. From a well informed source it was learned that a reply probably will be sent to Father O'Flanagan's telegram asking for further information as to his powers and what guarantees he is able to offer.

"Hope for peace in Ireland before Christmas is fading," said the Times. In coming days upon the Irish peace offer Dispatches from Dublin and other Irish cities to the Westminster Gazette say that "management has been aroused in Ireland by the announcement in the House of Commons by Sir Hamar Greenwood, chief secretary for Ireland, that the government will not enter into a truce until the leaders of the Irish republicans are arrested or have surrendered."

"The moderates were winning peace, but now they have been blocked," said a Dublin dispatch to the Westminster Gazette.

CHARGE AGAINST WOMAN STRONGEST

(Continued from Page One.)

information. Should the lead prove up to expectations of Attorney Brown, official probably will be dispatched immediately to El Paso for the woman's arrest and instructions that she be placed in custody and returned to Ardmore.

RUTH WALKER HAMON TELLS OF AFFAIRS

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 8.—That Frank Ruth Hamon, alleged to have married Clara Smith at the hands of Jake L. Hamon, Oklahoma oil king, made the declaration just before he disappeared five years ago that he was going to see the millionaire and "have it out with him," was the declaration made here by Ruth Walker Hamon, present wife of Frank Hamon. She declared that her husband had received a check for \$100 a month regularly from Hamon, the oil man, for having married the Smith woman, but that he was disappointed because he learned Mrs. Jacob Hamon was receiving an allowance of \$1,000 a month.

She declared that her husband was divorced from the Smith woman in Texas in 1917, and has never lived with her. Before coming to California, Mrs. Hamon said, her husband had attempted to take her to Oklahoma, but had been told by his uncle, Jake Hamon, to "clear out and never bring that woman around here."

She told of meeting Clara Smith Hamon in Tucson, Ariz., and declared the Smith woman at that time had shown her an automatic pistol.

"She told me she always carried it for protection," said Ruth Walker Hamon.

Mrs. Hamon said she had been able to secure no trace of her husband since his disappearance five weeks ago.

No Damages Awarded in Mulford Lawsuit

Special to The Times.

GREENSBURG, Ind., Dec. 8.—After eight hours' deliberation the jury which heard the evidence in Christian vs. the Standard Oil Company et al. case, in which \$10,000 was asked by the plaintiff, returned a verdict for the defendant.

The litigation grew out of the death of Mrs. Carrie Christian of Mulford, who died last March from burns received while starting a fire. She poured gasoline on the fire from a container supposed to be filled with kerosene. It was alleged the gasoline was placed in the kerosene container through negligence of employees of the Standard Oil Company.

Belgian Business Hit by Depression

LONDON, Dec. 8.—A grave business crisis in Belgium is reported in a dispatch from Antwerp today. Persistent rumors are current in that city, the dispatch says, of the imminent collapse of large business concerns, including important banks. The Belgian government is said to be taking precautionary measures to avert a panic.

TRACK ELEVATION ASSURED. SOUTH BEND, Ind., Dec. 8.—Track elevation in South Bend is assured by the announcement from the Grand Trunk Railway that the road's officials have been promised to the end of working their line as to bring their tracks into the city in the vicinity of the present New York Central roadbed. The work is expected to start in the spring. The company has agreed to move the tracks from one of the business streets just outside the business center. The proposed change will cost \$4,000,000. The city has agreed to pay one-tenth of the sum.

Disposal of Rat Tails Worries City Controller's Office

Employes Lie Awake Trying to Dope Out Scheme for Handling Them.

Employees in this city controller's office almost lie awake nights trying to figure out what they are going to do with the rat tails which will begin to roll in by the hundreds when people, particularly school children, learn that the city council had passed an ordinance providing a price of 5 cents for each pair of appendages delivered. Employes are living in hopes that the slaughter of the rodents will not become wholesale until City Controller Bryson recovers from an illness which confines him to his home at present so that he and not they, may work out a scheme for the disposal of the tails.

The controller's office cannot get away from the tails because the ordinance specifically provides that the controller shall pay the bounty on those delivered. It will be necessary to make close track of all brought in to make sure that those for which Willis Jones is paid do not get into the hands of Johnny Smith so he, too, can collect on them.

Various schemes are being suggested. Miss MacSwiney began her testimony with a detailed account of the causes for the Irish troubles of today. She explained Ireland's history and that of her family, the members of which she told the commission with flashing eyes, had always been identified with the fight for Irish freedom.

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HOUSTON MAKES TAX PROPOSALS

(Continued from Page One.)

Letters of appeal from little folks are beginning to arrive at the Elks' Santa Claus headquarters in the Standardized building, 131 Pennsylvania street, and more than seventy-five requests for baskets of food have been made by old people.

One of the letters recently received which shows the need of a Santa Claus is as follows:

Dear Elk's Santa Claus,
One partial substitute for the excess profits tax would be a tax on undistributed profits of corporations, as nearly as possible equal to the surtax imposed on the saved income of the individual. If individuals doing business in partnership pay 20 per cent on undistributed profits, individuals doing business as a corporation should pay 20 per cent.

Another partial substitute for the excess profits tax adopted Congress should prohibit various devices by which corporations distribute statutory "dividends" while actually retaining their profits in business. He urged the advisability of requiring every corporation, 95 per cent of whose stock is held by a single individual, to be treated as a partnership personal service corporation.

Losses in revenue through repeal of excess profits probably will amount to \$300,000,000, which must be made up in new taxes.

INCOME SURTAX RECOMMENDATION.

2. Income surtaxes must undergo drastic modifications, as they are unnecessary and driving wealthier taxpayers to transfer their investments in tax free securities, setting up needless and dangerous competition with industrial and railroad securities, with consequent impediments to business development and foreign trade expansion, the secretary asserted.

"The effective way to tax the rich is to adopt rates which do not force investment in tax exempt securities," he said.

3. Consumption taxes are recommended to reach a class of surplus income of "taxable capacity," but from which the government derives no revenue. This proposal is designed to cover, the secretary said, luxurious and wasteful consumption of the rich.

4. The secretary recommended that the tax on certain other luxuries, and Congress is urged to substitute heavier taxes on certain other luxuries. Regarding low excise and luxury taxes, the secretary asserted.

5. It is not necessary to tax every luxury. It is desirable to avoid absolute necessities of life, because some individuals have little or no waste income to be tapped either directly or indirectly."

Present luxury taxes are defined poorly and uncertain and difficult of collection, the secretary said.

WILSON'S TIPS TO BE SKIRTED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—President Wilson's recommendations to Congress are to be dismissed with scant consideration by Republican leaders, they made plain today in informal discussions of the message read to the two Houses yesterday.

The Republicans, in an effort that while they agree with Wilson that the reconstruction job should be tackled and finished as soon as possible, there is no hope of agreeing with him as to the methods to be followed.

One exception was noted in the general rejection of the President's request for immediate action. This was the budget bill, which would have passed the Senate and would have been signed by Wilson.

Tax revision will be deferred. There is a strong feeling that something should be done for the disabled soldiers and sailors, but that too will have to wait, according to present plans. Governmental reorganization will be brought about fully until Governmental reorganization is accomplished under the next administration, leaders maintained.

The recommendation for a loan to Armenia was scouted on all sides. There is a wide variance of opinion regarding the Philippines. The law of the Philippines will fail to regulate cold storage, as was agreed to regulate cold storage.

His proposal to license all concerns doing an interstate business was greeted by Republicans and many Democrats with the condemnation that it was "socialistic" or paternalistic.

Attorney Davis to Address Credit Men

Lawrence B. Davis, Indianapolis attorney, will speak on "Investigation and Prosecution of Criminal Fraud" tomorrow, at a specially arranged luncheon of the Indiana Association of Credit Men, at the Clappooy Hotel. The committee for the State conference of credit men, which will be held in this city Friday, Jan. 21, at the Clappooy Hotel, will be announced at the luncheon.

\$2,700,000 GOLD ARRIVES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—The Finland, arriving from Antwerp and Southampton, brought \$2,700,000 in gold for Kuhn, Loeb & Co., the bankers who have been engaged in the business of getting gold from London for several months and which now totals approximately \$70,000,000.

SEEK 2 NEGROES IN NEAR DEATH

Police Hold Several After Agent's Skull Fractured by Shovel.

As the result of a brutal attack by an unidentified assailant, W. F. Purcell, 34, a collector of the Empire Sick and Accident Insurance Company, is in a serious condition today at the City Hospital.

Purcell, whose home is No. 231 Brussels, a one-story insurance agent's apartment at the home of Miss Williams, 319 Toledo street, last night, and five minutes later was found lying on the rear steps of the Williams home unconscious. He had been hit on the head with a shovel.

The blood-covered shovel was found near him. His hat and 30 cents were found nearby. The police do not believe Purcell was robbed, as his purse containing \$23 and his diamond ring were not taken.

Three negroes, Mose Williams, Henry Baker and Jackson Dickson, all living at the Toledo street address, were arrested as vagrancy charges. The police are searching for two other negroes said to have been in the house.

Williams, who found the injured man and who notified the police, made a statement.

He said Purcell had called at his home and that he paid him 75 cents for his insurance. He said Charles Woods, negro, did not have the money to pay Purcell, and that Purcell and Woods, accompanied by another negro whom he did not identify, came from the house by way of the rear door.

Williams said he heard Woods say, "I have no money now, and if I would get sick I don't think you would pay me anyway."

Five minutes after Purcell left the house, Williams said he heard him groaning and found him lying on the steps. Purcell's skull is fractured.

Neither Woods nor the unidentified negro has been found.

APPEALS MADE TO ELK SANTA CLAUS

Members of Lodge to Be Solicited for Benefit Fund.

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Mrs. Harding to Buy Clothes in Gotham

MARION, Ohio, Dec. 8.—One woman shopper from the little town of Marion, Ohio, who knows what she wants and won't take anything less, will soon have New York shopkeepers jumping over counters displaying their goods with great eagerness.

Mrs. Warren G. Harding, the next first lady of the land, is going to "the city" to buy her White House clothes.

Mrs. Harding hasn't decided just what she will buy, but she may change her mind several times, so New York shopkeepers will have to guess along in laying in their stocks for the present.

"I will have a minute during the campaign to buy any clothes," Mrs. Harding said, discussing the state of her wardrobe. "But I'm going to make up for it now."

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