

ENGLAND STILL HOPEFUL PEACE MAY BE REACHED

Believes Plebiscite Would Result in Acceptance of Offer for Dominion Rule.

DAIL MEETS SECRETLY

LONDON, Aug. 18.—England still clung to the hope that the Dail Eireann would not take the responsibility for once more plunging Ireland into war.

Two propositions were expected from the Sinn Fein parliament. It was believed the Dail will either:

Reject the British offer and put forward counter proposals leading to a renewal of conferences here; or Refer the question to a plebiscite of the people.

The reasons for England's hope today were:

First, despite uncompromising statements, the Sinn Fein official bulletins had, night, said:

"The road is still clear for an honorable understanding."

Second, the belief that a plebiscite will result in acceptance of the British offer.

Third, Sinn Fein's knowledge that the result of war will mean the obliteration of Sinn Fein.

PARLIAMENT IN SECRET SESSION

DUBLIN, Aug. 18.—Dail Eireann was in secret session here today and it was understood the members were debating the British peace offer as the preliminary to formation of an official communication to Premier Lloyd George containing counter proposals. The Irish Times in commenting upon the peace situation, said:

"If a deadlock has been reached, then the Dail will have to offer the British government's offer to the people. The people are certainly entitled to be consulted on a question concerning the life and peace of every man, woman and child. If a deadlock has not been reached and if Dail Eireann thinks that some advance, however small and tentative, can be made towards a settlement, then it ought to be made very quickly. To us the British government's offer appears to be definite and final."

The Freeman's Journal calls for a plain statement from the British government whether or not it endorses General Smuts' endorsement of the English proposals. If so, says this paper, it must go a long way.

DOMINION RULE IS GUARANTEED.

General Smuts, in a letter to De Valera, says England guaranteed Ireland dominion rule. De Valera in his speech to Dail Eireann denied Ireland would have dominion rule under British status.

De Valera has announced that the British offer cannot be accepted, there has been no recurrence of disorders and both sides still are observing the armistice.

As the Sinn Fein parliament met behind closed doors in the Mansion House, sentries of the Irish Republican Army paced up and down the corridors. Only a few hours earlier, sentries of both sides of activity around Black and Tan barracks. Hundreds of khaki clad British soldiers were arriving on every train, that pulled into the railway stations.

Members of the Dail Eireann, arriving at the Mansion House for the secret session in which they were to determine the fate of their country, looked serious and worried.

PEACE OR WAR RESTS WITH COLLINS.

Huge Mickey Collins was the center of interest for a crowd which gathered early to assist him. The men, who waited for the leader in the hall of this mild mannered man, long feared by the English as the most daring leader of Sinn Fein arms, lay the decision for peace or war.

The present closed session, which will determine the issue, may last until next week, members of the Dail Eireann said.

De Valera, in his speech, gave the final word in connection with the British peace offer, but it gave the signal for nervous preparations for more fighting.

HUMANE SOCIETY LAUGHS AT LAW

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solely under the direction of the humane society's "executive committee" remains only to its members. It is in no way amenable to the police, rules governing sergeants in the field. More recently, the humane officers have been compelled to make regular reports to the Gamewell operators at police headquarters.

The statute also say that these humane officers shall attend the "special and stated meetings of the Humane Society." But such an injunction has come to naught, for the reason that the humane society, having no mere membership, does not hold either special or stated meetings of the society, but transacts its business at secret meetings of the board of directors concerning the details of which not even the secretary of the society is permitted to make complete minutes.

Probably the most flagrant and important disregard of the statute, however, is that in this provision which says that "whenever a humane statute of the State has to this knowledge been violated, they shall if directed by the PRESIDENT of such humane society, file the affidavit of one of their number before any magistrate of the city, etc."

LOCAL SOCIETY HAS NO ROLL OF MEMBERS.

This provision of the statute has been disregarded by the society, which is now operating the Indiana State Humane Society to make the city's humane officers subject to the orders of the chairman of the "executive committee" of the society, who is neither the president nor an appointee of the president.

It was under this distorted interpretation of the statute that Dr. C. A. Pfafflin recently declared to members of the society:

"I am your chief of police. Complaints of law violations must pass through my hands."

In accordance with this theory it is apparent from the reports of the humane officers that they are not being "directed by the president of such humane society" to file affidavits against violators of the humane laws and ordinance of whom they have knowledge. These individual officers, who are the humane officers themselves, are passing on the question of whether arrests shall be made in some cases and are not being instructed by either the president of the society, who has the power, or the chairman of the executive committee, who has no power under the statute.

The result of this laxity in carrying out the statute is that such humane officers, for whom a separate room is maintained in the crowded police headquarters, are powerless to enforce the laws they are presumed to be enforcing and are holding down what is generally regarded by the police department as "soft" assignments, while the board of directors of a society without a membership holds secret meetings and determines what law violators shall be punished and what others shall be privileged.

World Is Laughing at Boob Americans, Bergdoll Writes

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, writer, reporter in Switzerland, is writing a book about his escape from the American military authorities. This was revealed in the report of the House committee which investigated his escape.

Excerpts from a letter from Bergdoll to his mother in Philadelphia, which was intercepted, are included in the report. These contain Bergdoll's charges that there were several grafters involved in his case who should be exposed.

"I am writing a book which gives away the whole swindle from beginning to end," Bergdoll wrote from Eberbach, Germany, "and the American public will wake up when they read it in the near future. We made the Americans look like a bunch of boobs before the whole world. They are all laughing at them."

ARMY OFFICERS SCORED IN THE BERGDOLL CASE

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present, must be obscured, to Governor's Island. This transfer from Washington to Governor's Island was so absolute that even an official letter of warning sent from Philadelphia to Washington forecasting Bergdoll's escape was never heard of again. Bergdoll was hidden away in a pigeon-hole never to find its way to Bergdoll's prison, that he might be properly guarded.

PUTS PUNISHMENT UP TO CONGRESS.

"We see the commandant of the prison turn deaf, dumb and blind to every direction that might hinder Bergdoll's escape. Finally, and as a fitting sequel to this sordid tale, we find the derelict commandant of Governor's Island was prosecuted by one whose shame was only equal to his in covering the filmy presence—only a pretense at prosecution—the commandant's fate was given to a court composed of military officials who found him 'not guilty.'

"Bergdoll escaped through the misdoing of somebody other than the Bergdoll family and their immediate personal associates. It is hoped that this report will reach to Congress the others who are more easily won over by the Bergdoll family. Shall they go unwhipped of justice?"

The committee declared that "every direction which looked toward Bergdoll's safe keeping was rejected by Hunt and everything that might facilitate his escape was done without question or qualm."

In commenting on Hunt's trial, the committee said: "Colonel Cresson, the prosecuting judge, advocates, 'Give notice that he would not, if he could, prove that he did not furnish a sufficient guard if he was bribed not to do so.'"

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