

peace be conducted between the cabinets instead of by a conference.

English Affairs.

The conference of eight leaders, two each from the Liberals, Unionists, Nationalists and Ulstermen, that took place in Buckingham Palace at the invitation of the King, came to naught. Meetings were held on the 21st, and on the three following days, but no agreement was reached. The Ulstermen insisted upon the exclusion of the whole of Ulster, while the Irish Nationalists demanded the two Catholic counties of Fermanagh and Tyrone. The deadlock of the conference leaves the whole Irish question in a state of doubt and uncertainty. [See current volume, page 710.]

What was called "King's interference" in calling the conference, brought hostile criticism from all quarters, the Liberals criticising him for overstepping his prerogative, and the Conservatives for allowing himself to be drawn into party strife. The comment of many Liberal papers was veiled, lest it embarrass the party leaders. But a few spoke with great freedom. In answer to parliamentary critics, Mr. Asquith assumed full responsibility for the action, declaring: "The speech was sent to me in the ordinary way by his majesty the day before it was delivered." The Daily News, in commenting on the explanation, said:

The speech of the king is the speech of his ministers, approved by the king. On this occasion it was the speech of the king submitted to his ministers. This new departure suggests the relations of the German emperor to his ministers rather than of the relation of our monarch to his ministerial advisers. There are those who are anxious to implicate the sovereign as well as the army in the quarrel, but it cannot too clearly be understood that intervention of the crown in politics can only be followed by consequences which no one with any sense of responsibility would wish to contemplate.

The London Nation said:

We do not quarrel with the king's idea of calling on both parties, with some solemnity and authority of phrasing, to find a remedy, but in his summoning of the chief rebels to the palace and in his flattering speech about them there is so much indorsement of a certain kind of treason of which the higher powers seems to approve that we wonder where British sovereignty and British constitutionalism are being led.

Three men and one woman were killed and more than sixty persons were wounded in Dublin on the 26th when the soldiers fired into a mob. A gun-running exploit took place at Howth, nine miles from Dublin, where 10,000 rifles and 70,000 rounds of ammunition were landed from a private yacht

at noon on the 26th. A battalion of British troops was sent to capture them. The soldiers did not get the arms, but such ill-feeling was aroused that they were attacked by mobs on their return to Dublin, and the shooting followed.

The effect of the clash between the soldiery and the Dublin mob is such as to interrupt the parliamentary program. The Amending bill was to have come up for consideration by the Commons, on the 28th, but the Irish members were so exasperated over the killing of men in Dublin that the Premier realized they were in no frame of mind to make concessions to Ulster. The Laborites and many Liberals supported them. Premier Asquith declared the government was impartial in its dealings with Ireland. The deputy police commissioner who ordered out the Dublin troops was suspended. John Redmond demanded the suspension of Sir John Ross, police commissioner of Dublin, as a man unfit for his office.

Titles for Women.

A petition has been addressed to King George of England, asking that "no further list of birthday or New Year's honors may be issued without recognition of the highest degree being conferred upon members of both sexes equally." The Women's Freedom League has prepared the following list of names to be recognized in the distribution of honors hitherto confined on men alone:

Imperial Service—Lady Lugard, Miss Meriel Talbot, Lady Henry Somerset, Mrs. Annie Besant, Miss Haldane and Miss Agnes Weston.

Social Service—Miss Margaret Macmillan, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Bramwell Booth, Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Sidney Webb, Miss Eva Gore Booth, Miss Esther Roper, Miss Mary MacArthur, Mrs. Creighton and Mrs. Barnett.

Writers—Flora Annie Steel, Olive Schreiner, Alice Meynell and Lady Gregory.

Art—Ellen Terry, Lena Ashwell, Miss Horniman, Mme. Clara Butt, Dr. Ethel Smyth and Lucy Kemp Welch.

Science—Mrs. Hertha Ayrton, Lady Huggins, Dr. Annie Porter, Mrs. Gordon Oglivie, Dr. Scharlieb and Dr. Garrett Anderson.

Education—Emily Davies, Frances Dove, Isabella Cleghorn, Miss Jones, Louisa Lumsden and Sophie Bryant.

Distinguished Service—Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, ambulance and military service; Miss Violet Markham, publicist and philanthropist; Miss Edith Durham, war correspondent; Lady Aberconway, politician, and Maude Royden, speaker and writer.

Matrons of hospitals—Miss McIntosh, Miss Lloyd Still, Miss Louise Victoria Haughton, Miss E. C. E. Luckes, Miss E. McCall Anderson, Miss Young, Miss M. McEvoy, Miss A. M. Bird, Miss I. C. Bennett, Miss B. Sherratt and Miss Garrett.