

The Irish Home Rule bill, which had been passed three times by the House of Commons, in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Act, in spite of its rejection by the House of Lords, was signed by the King on the 18th. Its date of operation has been postponed for one year. Great enthusiasm among the Nationalists and Liberals was manifested when the announcement was made in Parliament, where the Irish for the first time joined in singing "God Save the King." The Welsh Disestablishment bill also was signed by the King. Parliament was prorogued until the 27th of October.



South Africa.

The campaign of the British against German Southwest Africa, in which little has been reported, is brought into prominence by the resignation of Brigadier General Christian Frederick Beyers, Commandant General of the Union of South African forces, because of his disapproval of Great Britain's action in sending commandoes to conquer the Germany colony. General Jan Christian Smuts, minister of finance and defense of the South African Union, in reply said that the coast of the Union was threatened, that mail boats have been held up, and that her borders had been invaded by the Germans. "I cannot," he said, "conceive of anything more fatal and humiliating than a life of loyalty in fair weather and a policy of neutrality and pro-German sentiment in days of storm and stress."



Anti-Imperialist League on the War.

The Belgian delegation, which has called on President Wilson, received a letter from the Anti-Imperialist League as follows:

Boston, Mass., Sept. 16, 1914.

To the Belgian Delegation:

Gentlemen—The Anti-Imperialist League, believing that the neutralization of small countries is a very long step towards the preservation of international peace and an important curb upon aggressive imperialism, desires to express the indignation and horror with which it has seen Belgium and Luxemburg invaded and the people of Belgium visited with all the terrors of war, in violation of solemn treaties guaranteeing that the territory of each country should be inviolable, and it hopes that when this war ends the losses which the people of Belgium have suffered will be made good so far as it is humanly possible, and the independence of both Belgium and Luxemburg re-established upon a foundation which is not hereafter to be shaken.

ERVING WINSLOW,
MORRFIELD STOREY, Secretary.
President.

The Associated Press refused to transmit an account of this letter.

Washington News.

Opposition to the proposed tax on freight shipments forced Majority Leader Oscar Underwood of the House of Representatives to withdraw his bill on September 15. On September 21 a new war tax bill was reported by the Ways and Means Committee. As finally drafted it levies a tax of \$1.50 a barrel on beer; sweet wines, 20 cents a gallon; dry wines, 12 cents; gasoline, 2 cents a gallon; bankers, \$2 on each \$1,000 of capital and surplus and undivided profits; brokers, \$50 each; pawn brokers, \$20; commercial brokers, \$20; custom house brokers, \$10; proprietors of theaters, museums and concert halls in cities of 15,000 population or over, \$100 each; circus proprietors, \$100 a year; a proprietor of other exhibitions, \$10, and proprietors of bowling alleys and billiard-rooms, \$5 for each alley or table. Tobacco dealers and manufacturers are taxed the same as in 1898 except that in the largest class, tobacco dealers not specifically provided for, the tax is \$4.80 each. The bill levies a tax of 5 cents on bonds and certificates of indebtedness for each \$1,000 involved; 1 cent on telephone messages costing 15 cents or more, and 1 cent on all telegraph messages; indemnity bonds, 50 cents; certificates of profits, 2 cents; certificates of damage, 25 cents each; life insurance policies, 8 cents on each \$100; fire marine, casualty, fidelity and guaranty insurance policies, 1/2 cent on each dollar; goods withdrawn from custom houses all to pay a stamp tax of 50 cents, and goods entered at custom houses from 25 cents to \$1 according to value. A tax of 2 cents for each seat in a parlor car and for each berth in a sleeping car is levied. On passage tickets from an American to a foreign port a tax of from \$1 to \$5 is levied. A tax of 10 cents is levied on brokers' contracts; deeds and other conveyances, 50 cents for each additional \$500; mortgages 25 cents for each \$1,500; power of attorney to vote 10 cents; power of attorney to sell 25 cents; protest of a note, bill of acceptance, etc., 25 cents. The war tax is effective immediately upon passage, except that the stamp tax provisions is operative November 1. [See current volume, page 898.]



A telegram protesting against the proposed tax on liquors was sent on September 15 from the national headquarters of the W. C. T. U. at Evanston, Illinois, as follows:

To the President of the United States, Washington:—Three hundred thousand members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union respectfully entreat you to discourage the plan to raise any part of the proposed emergency revenue by placing an added tax on alcoholic liquors.

We believe such a tax will give still greater government protection to a ruinous trade now facing final defeat.

Another protest had been sent to the President