

## ASQUITH SUCCEEDS SEELY AS WAR SECRETARY WHEN LATTER RESIGNS

### PREMIER'S COUP OUTWITS STORIES SAVES CABINET

John Seely Resigns War Portfolio on Account of Army Muddle—Asquith Takes Office, Resigning Seat in Parliament to Stand for Re-election

Vicount Morley Expected to Resign Cabinet Post of Lord President of Council—Election in East Fife.

LONDON, March 30.—John Seely resigned today as British war secretary and Premier Herbert H. Asquith took over his portfolio.

Asquith himself announced what had been done. The premier may hold any portfolio he pleases or even more than one. This Asquith will do. He was already first lord of the treasury and will continue as such.

Seely was, of course, forced from office by the controversy arising from his surrender to the army leaders, who insisted that he promise not to use troops to force home rule on Ulster. It was expected Viscount Morley would also have to resign the cabinet post of lord president of the council since he saw the memorandum Seely gave to Brigadier General Gough making the required promise.

Morley admitted in the house of lords this afternoon that he saw the paragraphs subsequently repudiated by Premier Asquith and raised no objection to them because he supposed the other cabinet members had approved them.

Lord Curzon thereupon asked him why he, like Seely, did not resign, and Morley replied he would make a statement tomorrow. The general impression was that this statement would take the form of announcement of his retirement.

After explaining in the house of commons the new cabinet arrangement he had made, Asquith said he would resign his seat in parliament as East Fife's representative and go before the people at a by-election for return to office as head of the war office.

The East Fife election writ will be issued tomorrow and probably will fix the election for April 13. Colonel Asquith was the conservative chosen to oppose the premier at the polls.

As he is practically certain of victory in East Fife, he will by this means regularize his position as holder of the war portfolio and at the same time have secured what the Liberals will consider an electoral endorsement of his policy without a dissolution of parliament and a general election, which the Conservatives might carry.

An Adroit Maneuver  
The maneuver was everywhere regarded as one of the most adroit in the history of British politics. The unexpectedness with which it was announced completely disorganized the opposition and threw the Liberal-Labor-Irish coalition members of parliament into a frenzy of enthusiasm.

Despite War Minister Seely's retirement, Field Marshal Sir John French and Adjutant General Sir John Ewart refused to withdraw

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### GOOD UNDERTONE IN STOCK MARKET

NEW YORK, March 30.—A good undertone marked the opening of the stock market today, with prices holding close to last week's close. Changes were confined to a slight fraction, except for a few specialties, which were weak. American Tobacco dropping 2 and American Car 2. American Car and Studebaker, on the other hand, rose about a point.

Bonds were easy. The market closed steady.

### FEDERALS STILL HOLD TORREON AGAINST VILLA

Velasco's Force Reduced to 3000—Battle in Streets Raging, Though Rebels Reported as Still Gaining Ground.

Rebel Dead Estimated at 1500—Villa Reported Wounded and Taken From the Field.

EL PASO, Tex., March 30.—With his force of able-bodied men reduced, the rebels believed, to not more than 3000, General Velasco, federal commander at Torreon, was still resisting at 1 a. m. today, according to a dispatch filed at that hour from the fighting front.

The battle in Torreon's streets was still raging when the message was sent, and although it was stated that the rebels were slowly gaining ground they admitted the struggle the federals were giving the members something they had never dreamed of. It was estimated that fully 2500 federals had been killed and as many wounded. The rebel loss was also very heavy, but no figures were given.

1500 Rebels Slain  
Arrivals here from Chihuahua City said they believed at least 1500 constitutionalists had been killed. Of their wounded, they asserted that 600 had already reached Chihuahua City and that the hospitals at Parral, Jimenez and Santa Rosalia were filled.

One wounded rebel soldier at Chihuahua City was quoted as saying that General Villa was hit by a bullet and that he saw the rebel leader carried from the field. Constitutional officials at Chihuahua City denied this story, however, and it was not generally believed here.

According to other wounded men who took part in the earlier fighting in the environs of Torreon, General Villa's force very narrowly escaped annihilation at Gomez Palacio. The federals pretended to retreat from the town, the rebels pushed in after them and immediately several mines exploded in the streets, creating a dreadful havoc, while at the same time a terrific machine gun and rifle fire was opened by federal soldiers hidden behind the parapets which surround the roofs of most of the adobe houses.

General Benavides' brigade was similarly entrapped at Sacramento and lost twenty-five per cent of its men, though it did succeed in capturing the town, and with it control of the railroad eastward from Torreon. Benavides was reported as wounded, but this was unconfirmed.

The rebels were said to have executed many of the federal officers they have captured and to have given their choice between execution and joining the rebels to the rank and file, nearly all of whom accepted the latter alternative.

### ORDER SEIGEL STORES SOLD FOR CREDITORS

NEW YORK, March 30.—United States Judge Hough this afternoon ordered the disposal of the assets of the Siegel Stores corporation to the creditors' organization. This means the reopening of the corporation's two big stores here.

By compromising the claims of the depositors in the Siegel bank against the Simpson-Crawford company and the Fourteenth street store, \$25,000 will be paid within a week to Henry Melville, the bank's receiver.

### 35,000 COAL MINERS IN YORKSHIRE ON STRIKE

LONDON, March 30.—Thirty-five thousand Yorkshire coal miners struck today and as many more are to go out Thursday. They demand higher pay.

### SCENES AND PRINCIPALS IN IRISH HOME RULE FIGHT



### Men of the Hour

THE upper picture shows Sir Edward Carson inspecting his Ulster Volunteers, an army which Mr. John E. Redmond says "never had the slightest intention of fighting." The lower picture is of Mr. Redmond making a speech at Tipperary.



### BOURNE TO AID IN SECURING HARBOR AT CRESCENT CITY

Jonathan Bourne, Jr., who was requested by the county court to represent Jackson county at the Crescent City harbor hearing, has wired as follows:

"Washington, D. C., March 28. Hon. F. L. Ton Velle, county judge, Medford, Or.

"It is always a pleasure to serve in any way in my power Oregon, and particularly Jackson and Josephine counties. Please immediately mail me detailed statement, giving present commerce of Crescent City, and also available commerce, specifying nature, probable annual amount and value, provided government improves Crescent City harbor.

"JONATHAN BOURNE, JR."

### HEAVY TOURIST TRAFFIC PREDICTED BY SCOTT

"Indications point to a very heavy world's fair traffic in 1915," states John M. Scott, general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific railroad, who spent Monday in Medford. "Eastern railroad representatives report widespread interest throughout the continent.

"The Crater Lake excursion rates will be well advertised by the railroad company and should result in increased traffic this summer. Conditions are bright for an extensive tourist traffic."

### ROGUE RIVER FISHING SCENES AT CLUB BANQUET FRIDAY

The second of the Commercial club's get-together banquets will be held at the Hotel Medford Friday evening, April 3, at 8 o'clock. The committee having this work in charge has delayed this affair in a determination to get an entertainment that would be sufficiently attractive to insure a large attendance. This has been done. The piece de resistance for Friday evening's entertainment will be the showing of an exceptionally fine series of moving picture films by State Game Warden W. I. Finley, illustrating every feature of the fish and game preservation work in this state.

These films are the most complete in use, covering this particular field. They were shown at Portland recently and made a hit. The state office has been bombarded with requests for the films and our Commercial club considers itself fortunate in getting them so promptly—the result of our having a representative at the Portland gathering.

The moving pictures make a most entertaining and instructive show. They illustrate the whole range of fish and game propagation; the gathering of fish eggs at the rocks, their fertilization and hatching, the distribution of the "fingerlings" and some time views of fishing for salmon in the Willamette with rod and line, and fly fishing for the steelhead in Rogue river by local sportsmen.

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### WILSON RESENTS AS INSULT TALK ABOUT BARGAIN

President Styles Knowland's Charge as Crowning Insult of a Number of Insults Injected into Tolls Debate—No Agreement With England.

Regrets Debate Has Degenerated into an Organized Attempt to Discredit Administration.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—President Wilson today resented as "the crowning insult" Representative Knowland's charge on the floor of the house that he entered into a bargain with England whereby the exemption clause of the Panama canal tolls act would be eliminated in return for England's support of America's Mexican policy. Replying to a specific question as to whether he had entered into any deal with Sir William Tyrrel, President Wilson said:

"Of course that answers itself. It is just the crowning insult of a number of insults that have been injected into the tolls debate.

### Wilson Tells Story

"The whole thing reminds me of the story of a very effective debater who sent a challenge into a county very hostile to him for a debate. The people down there did not like the job very well, but they put up the man they liked best, a big, husky fellow named Tom. The challenger was given the first hour of a two hours' debate and had not spoken more than thirty minutes when it was evident that he had convinced the audience that he was on the right side. One of Tom's partisans from the rear of the hall, however, rose to his feet and shouted: 'Tom, call him a liar and make him fight.' That is the stage this debate has reached."

The president was especially incensed at Knowland's allegations. He said he regretted that the debate had degenerated into an organized attempt to discredit his administration, but he insisted that the repeal resolution was certain of passage.

### Party Not Disrupted

President Wilson said that not all of those opposing him were participating in the "campaign of misrepresentation." He also declared he did not expect the party to be disrupted on account of the tolls dispute. He said the question was merely a capital surgical operation and pointed to two planks in the democratic platform declaring against subsidizing, either direct or indirect.

The president added that if the international situation had not demanded it, he would not have advocated the repeal, although he believed free tolls to be nothing more nor less than a subsidy. He said he believed that as congress, over which he had jurisdiction, passed the law, it would have remained unchallenged by the administration if the international situation had not been a factor in the case.

### COURT WITHHOLDS SLAVER'S SENTENCE

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., March 30.—Though Nicholas Lande pleaded guilty before United States Judge Dooling today to violating the Mann white slave law, the court refused to sentence him until investigation convinced him that Lande was a real "white slaver."

Lande admitted that he and Miss Harris came here together from Providence, R. I. Miss Harris, he said, induced him to make the trip and paid the fares. Later she appeared against him before the federal grand jury.

Judge Dooling intimated that while he was opposed to any let-up in white slave prosecutions, he did not think the law should be invoked in cases where vice was not commercialized.

### PEACE OR WAR WITHIN PARTY UP TO SPEAKER

Belief Growing Clark Will Not Attack Wilson When He Closes Debate Upon Canal Tolls Resolution—Trouble If He Wants It.

Tedious Debate Progresses in Congress—Michigan Republican Defends President.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The belief was growing this afternoon that Speaker Clark will not attack President Wilson when he speaks against the canal tolls repeal resolution. Either Representative Adamson or Representative Covington will reply to Clark, and they intimated this afternoon that it depended entirely upon the speaker's address whether there would be peace or war. Only nine of the 20 hours allotted for debate on the Sims resolution had been spent when the house met at noon today. The session will end at 7 o'clock this evening, leaving four hours of debate for tomorrow. Then will come the vote on the resolution itself.

### Republican Defends

Representative Hamilton of Michigan, a republican, defended President Wilson's stand on the tolls question.

Seated in an invalid's chair in front of Speaker Clark's desk, Representative L'Engle, a sufferer from rheumatism, denounced the Sims resolution and also England's attitude on the tolls question.

Representative Knowland of California again reiterated this afternoon the charge that Sherley Bunn had reported in London that President Wilson had agreed to the tolls repeal and also that the peace centenary appropriation would be voted upon to the satisfaction of England.

### Their Master's Voice

Representative Bell also spoke against the repeal.

"The democrats are listening to their master's voice and are brushing over treaty provisions with a few graceful sentences and at the same time giving out veiled forebodings," Bell said. "If we believed all they tell us we might expect to hear momentarily of the Japanese bombarding California and other nations blowing up New York and other seaboard cities. The people resent these frantic appeals to break down the party's platform."

### SCHIFF DENIES REPORT OF BANK'S POSITION

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Jacob H. Schiff denied here this afternoon a report from New York that he had been offered and had accepted the governorship of the federal regional reserve bank board.

NEW YORK, March 30.—The Dow Jones ticker service sent out today the following bulletin:

"It is reported on high authority that President Wilson has offered the position of governor of the federal regional bank reserve board to Jacob H. Schiff, and that Schiff accepted it."

### WHOLESALE CONVICTION FOR TOTERS OF GUNS

NEW YORK, March 30.—Fifty-five gunmen and one "gun girl" were sentenced this afternoon in general sessions court here. Nearly all the men were given terms in Sing Sing, Elmira and on Blackwell's Island. Sarah Lippman, the gun toter, was given a term in the Bedford reformatory.