

President Confers With Irish Delegation

A New York dispatch, dated March 12, says: President Wilson refused tonight to confer with the delegation named by the Irish race convention in Philadelphia to urge his support of Irish freedom until Justice Daniel F. Cohalan of the New York state supreme court mentioned in the Bernstorff correspondence had withdrawn from the room at the Metropolitan opera house in which the meeting was held.

According to Thomas J. Breslin, a member of the delegation, the President asked W. J. Morgan, who headed his secret service bodyguard, to inform the Irishmen of his refusal to attend the conference if Justice Cohalan was present.

At the close of the President's address at the Metropolitan opera

house, Breslin said, Moran appeared in the room assigned for the meeting and delivered the message. Justice Cohalan insisted upon leaving the room rather than interfere with the conference.

Meanwhile the President, with Joseph P. Tumulty, his private secretary, remained in an ante-room, after having stated he would give Justice Cohalan five minutes to leave. On receiving word that he had done so, the President remained in conference with the Irish delegation for nearly half an hour.

Former Supreme Court Justice John W. Goff made the following statement regarding the incident:

"At the request of the committee, Mr. Justice Cohalan declined to say anything at the present time, as it is not a personal matter with him. A message was received through an authoritative channel stating to me that the President would not enter the room where we were if Justice Cohalan was present. The members of the committee with the spontaneous unanimity said they would leave rather than permit Justice Cohalan to leave. Then Justice Cohalan entered the circle of members discussing the matter and said: 'The cause is bigger than any one man; bigger than I am.'"

Among the documents seized by agents of the department of justice when they raided the offices in this city of Wolf von Igell, the German agent according to disclosures made by the committee on public information, was one marked "very secret" and signed by Count von Bernstorff, then German ambassador, in which he said: "Judge Cohalan requests the transmission of the following remarks." The message said in part:

"The revolution in Ireland can only be successful if supported from Germany. Therefore help is necessary. This should consist, primarily of aerial attacks on England and a diversion of the fleet simultaneously with Irish revolution. Then if possible a landing of troops, arms and ammunition in Ireland and possibly some officers from Zeppelins."

Justice Cohalan promptly repudiated the message and declared he was the victim of British enmity.

More than a year earlier Justice Cohalan had been mentioned by Major Price in testimony before the Irish commission in Dublin investigating the Sinn Fein revolt in connection with money sent from America to foster it. Cohalan stamped as ridiculous the statement that he had anything to do with sending to Ireland funds to finance the Sinn Fein.

The Irish delegation which conferred with President Wilson tonight made public a message from Prof. De Valera, leader of the Sinn Fein party in Ireland, which Justice Cohalan received today.

Frank P. Walsh, former joint chairman of the war labor board, also addressed the President, the statement said, calling to his attention the fact that people of Irish blood had stood solidly behind the President when he declared that the war was for the right and liberty of small nations.

The President, according to the statement interrupted to say "I agree with your argument. Yes, I agree with what you say."

The President turned to Judge Goff and explained that the Irish question had not yet been presented to the peace conference and "when this case comes up I will have to use my best judgment as to how to act."

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Socialism versus The State. By Emile Vandervelde (Member of the Belgian Government). Charles H. Kerr & Company, Publishers, Chicago. Price \$1.00.

The Maine Law. By Ernest Gordon. Studies and Documents of the Anti-Alcohol Movement No. 3. Fleming H. Revell Company, New York. Price 30c.

International Arbitration. The Isolation (Or non-intercourse) Plan.

With a proposed convention. By William H. Blymyer, 49 Wall Street, New York.

The Gallery of Art. Poems. By Joshua Reade. Published by The Reade Publishing Corporation, New York.

The World 1919 Almanac and Encyclopedia. Issued by the Press Publishing Co., Pulitzer Building, New York. Single copies 35c. By mail 50c.

Ten Years Near the German Frontier. A Retrospect and a Warning. By Maurice Francis Egan, former United States Minister to Denmark. Illustrated. George H. Doran Company, Publishers, New York. Price \$3.00, net.

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