

been lowered those 30 feet and move into another artificial body of water, Miraflores Lake, only a mile long. At its southern end we pass the town of Miraflores and enter the locks of the same name, a double flight that lets us down once more to sea level.

The Exciting Part of the Passage

is over, but there is yet much of interest to see. Down the broad channel we look clear out onto the glittering waters of the Pacific Ocean. Nearer at hand, on the left, Ancon Hill raises its verdure-clad summit, and clustered on its slopes we see the many structures of the big hospital, the new administration buildings of the canal, and the barracks of the marines. And now, steaming between filled in swamp lands, we come to Balboa, which the government has made into a fine naval station, with an immense dry dock and extensive machine shops.

Stretching out from Balboa into the Pacific is a breakwater, two miles long, which protects the harbor from storms. At its outer end is a cluster of little islands, Naos, Perico, Culebra, and Flamenco, and here we pass under the powerful guns that guard the Pacific end of the canal. They are mounted high up on the summits of these rock islets, rifled cannon, one shot from which would sink a battleship, and huge mortars whose shells can be dropped behind Tobago Island, twelve miles away in the direction of Japan.

In ten hours we have crossed through the continent and now float on the broad Pacific. As we look back the picturesque city of Panama lies bathed in the light of the westering sun and on the side of Ancon Hill shines the big white Tivoli Hotel. The sudden night of the tropics is soon to fall, and already, as far back as we can see along our route and beside the ocean channel, are twinkling the lights that Uncle Sam has set up to guide the world's commerce through this most wonderful of canals which he has built.

THE HOME RULE BILL

IMPORTANT SPEECH BY MR. CHURCHILL

On the course of an address at Dundee, where he had a great reception, Mr. Churchill denounced the Unionists' action in Ulster, and declared that the Home Rule Bill was going to pass. But the Bill was not unalterable. The Parliament Act rendered far-reaching alterations possible, but only on the condition that there was an agreement. He invited Ulster to make advances.

The speech is regarded as an official statement of the Government's attitude towards Ulster.

He commenced by denouncing the campaign against the individual Ministers by polecats of politics, but the malevolent, malodorous tribe had been defeated by the constituencies and the law courts.

Turning to Home Rule, he said the Tories had grown fretful under the long enforced continuance in the minority. They used to rely on the Lords' veto, but they were now inclined to induce their King to take sides with the Unionists. The last substitute for a party majority was a civil and religious war in Ulster, accompanied by the mutiny of the army and the boycott of the Territorials. The Government intended to stand firm against a bully's veto more arbitrary than the veto of the Crown, which was abolished 300 years ago. The elections of 1910 gave the Government the fullest authority, and it was intended to act on that mandate. Before legislation was passable by the Irish Parliament there must be a general election. If the result was the transference of power it would be open for the Unionists to repeal the measure. Meanwhile it was useless to mock at Ulster, which was in earnest. Excited and distressed Protestants had a full apprehension of the question of how to make their anxiety appreciated by the British public. The claim of North-east Ulster for special consideration was a very different claim. The defeat of Home Rule could not be brushed aside without the Government's full consideration. There was no advance which Ulstermen

could make which could not be met and matched, and more than matched, by their Irish fellow-countrymen, and the Liberal Party as one party could carry Home Rule, but it would take more to make Home Rule a lasting success. Peace was better than triumph, provided it was peace with honor. Only one thing, however, would compensate the Irish for the grievous loss of efficiency and strength which would result from even the temporary absence of North-east Ulster. That would be the co-operation of both British parties in carrying the settlement through.

Referring to the land question, Mr. Churchill said that the proposals of the Chancellor did not injure any legitimate interest.

Interviewed by the *Daily Mail*, Mr. Churchill expressed a strong personal belief that the settlement of the Irish question would be attained before long.

The *Daily Mail* (U.) states that Mr. Churchill's speech regarding Home Rule opens the door to negotiations, and if a settlement is reached it will be largely due to his conciliatory utterances. Other Unionist papers, however, regard the speech as provocative, but the *Pall Mall Gazette* (U.) expresses surprise at their adverse criticism, and characterises the speech as the turning point in the controversy.

The *Westminster Gazette* (L.) says that while the Government should meet Ulster's grievances it cannot sacrifice Ireland's national integrity.

The *Manchester Guardian* (L.) contrasts the unyielding attitude of the Home Secretary (Mr. McKenna) with Mr. Churchill's placatory speech.

The Belfast papers ridicule the exclusion of the north-eastern counties as affording a solution of the Home Rule difficulty, and scout any idea of compromise.

The Nationalist papers declare that the mutilation of Ireland is a preposterous idea.

At an open-air meeting at Dundee Mr. Churchill declared that the Government would not allow a measure of conciliation to defraud a great political party of victory and baulk a nation of the realisation of its birthright. If the Irish question were settled the ground would be cleared for consideration of self-government in other parts. He was absolutely unrepentant of his speech made a year ago dealing with Federalism. He believed many would live to see the Federal system in Britain, which would be the forerunner of an Imperial Federation and the gathering together of British here and overseas.

OBITUARY

MRS. J. BUCKLEY, LISTOWEL, IRELAND.

Death has removed from the community of Listowel in the person of Mrs. Buckley, wife of Mr. Jeremiah Buckley, Main street, one of its most estimable and exemplary members. The deceased lady had been ailing for a considerable time, and died fortified by the rites of the Catholic Church, of which she had all her life time been such a faithful and devoted member. The late Mrs. Buckley was the mother of the Very Rev. Francis Buckley, of Auckland, New Zealand, and the late Rev. John Buckley, B.A., of Sydney, and sister to the Rev. Edward O'Flaherty, of Crawfordsville, Indiana, and also sister of the late Francis O'Flaherty, manager of the National Bank at Ballinasloe. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Buckley, who is one of the oldest and most highly-respected inhabitants of Listowel, and for many years identified with the commercial and civic life of the town; and this fact was well evidenced by the representative character of the funeral cortege to the local cemetery, after last Mass on the 15th August, which was offered up for the repose of the soul departed, and which was fervently participated in by the great congregation, all of whom held the deceased lady and family in the highest esteem. The priests officiating at the graveside were—Very Rev. D. J. Canon O'Riordan, P.P., V.F.; Rev. C. O'Sullivan, and the Rev. T. Farrell. The chief mourners were—Mr. Jeremiah Buckley (husband), Miss Nora and Miss Madge Buckley (daughters).—R.I.P.