NEAR EAST PERIL.

ALLIES IN UNISON

TO-DAY'S CABINET MEETING.

SMYRNA MASSACRE REPORTED.

The situation in the Near East will be the principal matter for consideration when the Cabinet meets at 4 o'clock this afternoon. It is hoped that the Cabinet will have before it definite statements of the attitude which both the French and Italian Governments intend to take. The French Cabinet met yesterday.

In Government circles yesterday the opinion was freely expressed that all indications pointed to a unanimity of policy among the Allies. Apparently there is complete accord at the Straits themselves, where the flags of the Allies mark the limit beyond which the victorious Nationalist Army has been warned not to continue its advance.

The British Government received a Note from the Soviet of Moscow yesterday maintaining that no settlement of the Near Eastern situation would be complete unless Russia were granted a voice in the matter. The Note, which is described in official quarters as vague and loosely framed, expresses dissatisfaction at the manner in which the Treaty of Sèvres was drawn up, accuses the British Government of giving undue assistance to Greece, and comments in enthusiastic terms on the success which has attended the valour of the Turkish arms. The Note was evidently designed to secure the attendance of Soviet representatives had the conference at Venice taken place.

Mr. Lloyd George has not yet decided whether he will visit Geneva, his movements being dependent on the advice he receives from Lord Balfour.

SMYRNA BURNING.

MASSACRE FEARS.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, SEPT. 14.

The larger part of the European quarter of Smyrna is burning. According to an American eye-witness, Miss Mills, headmistress of the American College, the fire was started by a sergeant of Turkish regulars, who entered a house carrying tins of petroleum. Estimates of the damage caused by the fire up to last evening amount to £15,000,000. The British inhabitants, with few exceptions, were safely evacuated last evening on board the warships. The British Consul-General and Vice-Consul were known to be safe up to 7 o'clock last night.

It is reported here that up to the outbreak of the fire about one thousand persons had been massacred, but it is feared here that the number is now much greater.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN THE NEAR EAST.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, SEPT. 14.

Fire broke out in the Armenian quarter of Smyrna and spread to the European quarter, where several Consulates and other houses have been destroyed. United States and Allied contingents were landed, but have been unable to prevent the extension of the fire, which now threatens the whole European quarter. British refugees from Smyrna state that there have been cases of robbery from British subjects and houses.

ATHENS, Sept. 13.—According to a Greek journalist who escaped from Smyrna on board the Messageries steamer Lamartine, Mgr. Chrysostomos, the Orthodox Metropolitan of Smyrna and the Gregorian Armenian Archbishop have been murdered.—*Reuter.*

FIGHTING AT MUDANIA.

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According to a French account the evacuation of Brusa was orderly. This is in contradiction to the Kemalist *communiqué*, which recounts the burning of a section of the town and the destruction of part of the Greek rearguard. On the other hand, there was fighting on the hills above Mudania yesterday, and it is possible that some Greek troops have been cut off there.

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ATHENS IN DEFEAT

REFUGEES SENT TO THE ISLANDS.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

ATHENS, SEPT. 13.

No stranger coming to Athens would imagine that this country had just received a serious military defeat, the full consequences of which are still far from being ascertained.

Externally the city is calm and almost normal. The public services are in full swing, and at night the fashionable districts are crowded with people sitting in the open air, watching films, or listening to the band, though they are now compelled to retire earlier than usual. A few days ago there was considerable anxiety lest disturbances might break out, but the formation of a new Cabinet has done much temporarily to alleviate the crisis.

Whether this calm will continue is a matter on which there is considerable diversity of opinion. Some people are inclined to regard the calm of the populace as being due to numbness engendered by the magnitude of the disaster. Others variously ascribe it to philosophic fatalism or to lack of comprehension, owing to the suddenness of the disaster.

Although it is impossible to obtain anything like a complete and authentic account of the reasons for the *débâcle*, and although the Government have most wisely taken the precaution of sending the majority of the refugees and of the soldiers of the Southern Army to various Greek islands and disarming the soldiers returning to the Piræus, nevertheless enough is known both in and around Athens for the quick-witted Greeks to understand the situation tolerably clearly. Camps for refugees have been provided in the outskirts of the city, and in the course of a visit to-day I saw many of the unfortunates, who have arrived in a state of complete destitution. When the others arrive their plight will be even worse, since the Greeks declare that they can only provide land, but are unable to give any other assistance.

Meanwhile, General Hajianestis, M. Stratos, General Papoulas, and other interested persons are engaged in explaining away the disaster, the general principle being, roughly, that the politicians blame the military leaders, and *vice versa*, while, of course, each apologist argues that he, at any rate, is not responsible. Concurrently, these disputes naturally are mixed up with the bickerings of Venizelists and Royalists, not to mention the distinct feeling, expounded, for example, in the Ministerial newspaper *Kathimerini*, that "the army of Mustapha Kemal Pasha received all manner of encouragement from its well-known champions, whereas the Greek Army has been abandoned to its fate by its 'invisible' champions, who were ready to put themselves at the head of the triumphal procession if the army had returned victorious, and to disappear silently if it were beaten."

The promulgation of such views was only to be expected from more sources than one; but it is doubtful whether the modern Athenians genuinely believe that the recent fighting was decided on the principle of the ancient Homeric combats, and it would therefore be premature to suggest that the danger of disturbances is definitely dissipated. It is by no means certain what reception the Government will receive from the Constituent Assembly, when there will be an opportunity for the free ventilation of all these polemics, and much will depend upon the results of the Venice Conference, and especially upon events in Thrace.

All sorts of rumours as to the situation there and in Constantinople have been flying round the city the last two days, and a reaction from unfavourable events there is more likely to be a cause of trouble here than the half-expected evacuation of Asia Minor.

LORD YPRES'S BALKAN TOUR.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, SEPT. 14.

The Earl of Ypres contradicts the report published in Paris this morning that he was going on a mission of military inspection to Constantinople.

The Field-Marshal proposes to visit the Balkans privately, and if he does so will call on the Irish Guards, of which he is Colonel-in-Chief. This regiment is at present in Constantinople, but there is no question of an official inspection. The whole journey may be postponed if the political developments in

FRANCE EAGER FOR PEACE.

TURKISH CLAIMS.

M. VENIZELOS'S PLEA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, SEPT. 14.

The situation in the Near East was one of the chief subjects of discussion at the Council of Ministers at Rambouillet to-day, at which President Millerand presided. It is understood that a reply to the communication of the British Government submitted to the Quai d'Orsay by Lord Hardinge on Tuesday will be sent to London without delay, and that it will be found that, in principle, France and Great Britain are in complete accord on the question of the freedom of the Straits. After listening to M. Poincaré's review of recent events in Asia Minor, the Council unanimously decided on the policy to be pursued to re-establish a durable peace in the Near East.

The anxiety of France for a peaceful settlement cannot be doubted. In French public opinion, that aim has been kept steadily in view by France since the Treaty of Sèvres was signed, and is represented to have been the object of the policy which culminated in the Franklin-Bouillon Agreement of October, 1921. That agreement was welcomed in France because it was considered more prudent to make moderate and legitimate concessions to the Angora Government rather than prolong the war and risk a disaster. The wisdom of that policy, it is now claimed, has been fully justified by events. Great Britain, it is contended, on the other hand, took the view that since Greece was the principal beneficiary under the Treaty of Sèvres it was for her to secure those benefits by her own military power.

Now Greece has been driven out of Asia Minor and the Allies find themselves face to face with the victorious Nationalists. Therein lies the danger of the present situation, and it is realized that a speedy end must be put to Anglo-French bickerings. In French no less than in English interests it may be necessary to put a curb on the aspirations of the Kemalist Party. France is no less concerned than England in the freedom of the Straits, but for this purpose the Neutral Zones on the Asiatic shore must be occupied by international troops. The defence of these areas is a serious problem and may be costly. France claims the credit of having had the foresight to seek a pacific solution of the Near Eastern question, and she desires still to exercise a moderating influence. It is to her interests no less than to the interests of Europe to avoid war.

THE VENICE CONFERENCE.

Meanwhile Italy is again appealing to the French and British Governments not to abandon the projected Conference at Venice. Although the question of the conditional evacuation of Asia Minor has now been disposed of by military instead of diplomatic action, and the anticipated discussion on the memorandum of last March must necessarily be postponed, the Italian Government is still anxious for a frank exchange of views on the new situation with which the Allies are now confronted. The Italian Government seems, moreover, to expect, if the invitation is accepted, that the heads of the French and British Governments will themselves go to Venice. In official circles it is expected that the French Government, while assuring Italy of its desire to hasten the re-establishment of peace in the Near East, will intimate that its acceptance of the renewed invitation to the Venice Conference must depend upon the decision of the British Foreign Office. It is in any case regarded as highly improbable, having regard to the general European situation, that the French and British Prime Ministers will be able to attend the Conference in person.

While the French Government is sincerely desirous of establishing peace on a permanent basis in the Near East, the communication addressed two days ago to London by the Quai d'Orsay lays stress upon the need of taking into account the legitimate susceptibilities of the Turks. As victors, they are entitled to different treatment from that which they might have expected had they been defeated by the Greeks.

Marshal Franchet d'Esperey, before leaving Paris for Algiers yesterday, gave his views on the defeat of the Greek Army, and denied emphatically that the victory of the Turks was due to French material aid. He declared formally that France has not supplied the Turks with any armaments. The Turks, he said, were well armed not only because they were insufficiently disarmed by the Allies, but also because they were able to urge to the French pilot who crosses from

NEW BRITISH GLIDER.

THE DE HAVILLAND MACHINE.

TEST IN THREE WEEKS.

(By Our Aeronautical Correspondent.)

The glider which Captain de Havilland has designed is now being built at the aircraft works at Stag-lane, Edgware. It will be finished in about three weeks' time, and tests will then be made with it by Mr. Cobham, the principal test pilot of the de Havilland firm, and the airman who was placed third in the race for the King's Cup.

The de Havilland glider is a monoplane with a wing span of forty feet. The fuselage is arranged with the pilot's seat in front and totally enclosed. A light undercarriage of the D.H. type is being fitted.

The tests will be made in the aerodrome at Stag-lane, where the ground rises to a slight hill in one corner.

Another glider has been designed by Captain W. H. Sayers, who is at present in Germany, studying German methods of construction. If the de Havilland machine is successful, Captain T. E. Hearn may attempt to cross the Channel in a glider of the same type later in the year.

The progress that has been made in Germany and France with gliding has aroused considerable public interest in this country, and many aircraft firms have received inquiries from private individuals as to the cost of building gliders to specified designs. Several enthusiasts have gone farther than this and have set about designing and building gliders themselves. Some of these are finding difficulty in obtaining materials, and particularly the right sort of wood. Meanwhile, the Aircraft Disposal Company has arranged to sell materials for glider-building at specially low terms to *bona-fide* amateurs. Such materials would include linen, wings, and fittings. Old aeroplane wings, having been constructed to lift a far greater load than that carried by the wings of a glider, would have to be entirely remade, and much lightened in the process, before they would be suitable for use on motorless machines.

One of the firms that has arranged to build gliders to the specification of designers is the Central Aircraft Company, of Kilburn. Another firm is prepared to construct them at £100 apiece, provided the demand is reasonably high.

It is generally agreed that not a little of the remarkable success recently achieved by German aeronautical students at the glider meeting on the Wasserkuppe, near Fulda, was due to the skill displayed in choosing the locality for the meeting. The choice was made by Professor Gutermuth of the Darmstadt Technical High School. The Wasserkuppe is a steep hill in the Rhön Mountains, and the configuration of the country thereabouts is such as to produce the strong upward gusts without which soaring flight without mechanical power cannot be carried out.

One or two authorities have declared that there is no spot in this country where the atmospheric conditions approach in suitability for gliding and soaring those at the scene of the recent German meeting. Strong hopes, however, are entertained that something may be done in the Lympne neighbourhood, or elsewhere on the South Coast. In the current number of *Flight* an airman writes from Appleby, Westmorland, stating that in his opinion the hills and broad moorlands about there provide suitable gliding country, and that gliding and soaring could be carried out there practically every day.

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U.S. AND DEB

MR. BARUCI

DIFFERENTI EXPENDI

(FROM OUR OWN CO

WASHING

A letter in which Mr deals with the main Balfour Note is regard ment of great importa considered as such Baruch was not only War Industries Board, Wilson's chief financia The change of Admini wise diminished the n all he cares to say is r sible circles, while in general his name is on receive instant attenti

When Mr. Baruch s to be exceedingly dif the American people can pay the ten bill all thoughtful people t if given time and oppo cannot pay the amour is merely echoing wha street has long been de

And when on the ass may be a general adjus between Great Britai States he proceeds to d expenditures which co be called contribution cause and others from an advantage outlastin war, he is putting into same man in the stree will tend enormously belief that whatever he debts that of Great equity and justice be r able impression made his letter when Senato caused it to be read in sufficient indication o will have elsewhere.

Mr. Baruch believes that "it is useless to co reparations or the re-a Allied debts by themselv but two symptoms of deeper." These problem be treated as a whole." forting to be able to rep the part of the Administ to adopt this as a princ

There is, however, apparent, nor was I able among members of Cong an enlarging of powers American Debt Funding would in effect be the direction—was more des the time the Act creat was passed. What course may feel justified in November elections it sible to predict, and to believe that he ternational Economic next year have no gro own desire for the con Certainly nothing will elections, and it is alr that nothing will be do Debt Commission has m America's representative ference there might, and a situation which wou Commission to ask Co discretion, and the ans will depend in a large m the country displays whe

If in the meanwhile were accepted abroad a than anything which has best American attitude o and as foreshadowing Administration will ultim will be done.

"THE LAST

PRINCE'S APPE HOSPIT

The following lette of Wales has been Organizing Committ the flag day on Octob held on behalf of th the Order of St. Joh Red Cross Society Hospitals of London. ness writes as follow of the Organizing C Day and the Prince's

I am glad to hear tha of ladies and students w the funds by selling the 6th of next month, in the desire that m workers will enrol at any of the hospitals, the citizens of London for £300,000 by the en far brought in nearly earnest and confident

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French destroyers took off French subjects and *protégés* from Mudania, as well as the Uniat Armenian Bishop of Angora with seven priests and nuns. According to arrivals from Smyrna, Greek troops were still holding Chesmé and the western extremity of the Erythraean Peninsula yesterday.

Local Press accounts of the contents of the Note sent to the Nationalist Government on the subject of the Neutral Zone are incorrect. The Dragomans of the Entente Powers, acting jointly on behalf of the High Commissioners, formally reminded the representative of the Angora Government that the Occupying Powers had proclaimed the existence of four Neutral Zones on May 18, 1921, and that when the Greek Army threatened one of these Zones the Allied Governments had given proof of their firm intention of upholding its inviolability against any attack.

Italian troops left here to-day for the Ismid Peninsula and the Dardanelles. In some Turkish circles here it is thought that the Nationalist army may advance to the Dardanelles with the object of crossing at the Narrows and entering Thrace. On the other hand, there is no news as yet of any Nationalist advance beyond Balikesri.

ATHENS, Sept. 13.—It is officially announced that the 18th Regiment from Aidin has safely reached Chesmé, and that the independent 15th Division, which belonged to the Northern Army and was missing, has arrived in good condition at Dikeli, on the coast opposite Mytilene. *Reuter.*

who have arrived in a state of complete destitution. When the others arrive their plight will be even worse, since the Greeks declare that they can only provide land, but are unable to give any other assistance.

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TURKS WARNED TO VOLUNTEER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, SEPT. 14.

A number of Turkish subjects resident in Germany have been warned by the Turkish Embassy in Rome to be in readiness to leave for Turkey and to report themselves for enrolment in the volunteer army which is being formed.

BRITISH RELIEFS FOR THE STRAITS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MALTA, SEPT. 14.

The 2nd Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment leaves this afternoon for Turkey and the 10th (medium) Battery is under orders to follow. Rear-Admiral Kelly left yesterday for Chanak on the Dardanelles.

*** The news of the impending movement of the Royal Sussex Regiment was published in *The Times* of July 8.

HIGH WOOD: SEPT. 15, 1916.

Six years ago to-day was fought the great Battle on the Somme, officially known as the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, in which High Wood and Flers were taken. September 15, 1916, is especially memorable, as tanks were then for the first time brought into action. Many names of those who fell on that day will be found on our front page.

THRACE AND THE STRAITS.

selves have to deal with the Kemalist Nationalists. Therein lies the danger of the present situation, and it is realized that a speedy end must be put to Anglo-French bickerings. In French no less than in English interests it may be necessary to put a curb on the aspirations of the Kemalist Party. France is no less concerned than England in the freedom of the Straits, but for this purpose the Neutral Zones on the Asiatic shore must be occupied by international troops. The defence of these areas is a serious problem and may be costly. France claims the credit of having had the foresight to seek a pacific solution of the Near Eastern question, and she desires still to exercise a moderating influence. It is to her interests no less than to the interests of Europe to avoid war.

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PLANS OF M. VENIZELOS.

Since his arrival in Paris, M. Venizelos has received many telegrams from Greece and Thrace urging his return to power. He is, however, determined, it is understood, to have nothing official to do with the affairs of Greece while King Constantine remains in Athens. Nevertheless, he has come to Paris unofficially to plead the cause of his country, and his friends firmly believe that if the necessity arises he will not refuse to intervene, if it is to save Greece from the consequences of her errors. In view of the recent "rapid and unexpected change of circumstances," M. Venizelos declines to make any public statement, but a prominent Greek resident in Paris who has had an opportunity of discussing the position with him has outlined the arguments which he will put before the French friends of Greece to whom he will address himself. He will plead that the Turkish victory is not only a disaster for Hellenism, but a peril to the interests of the Powers in the Near East. He will point out that even France, notwithstanding her sympathy for Turkey, has considered it necessary to send reinforcements to Skutari, Mudania, and the Dardanelles. He will dwell on the menace of an *entente* between Angora, Moscow, and Berlin, and the consequences which may follow the invasion of Thrace.

GLOOMY PROSPECT FOR GERMANY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, SEPT. 14.

The *Lokal-Anzeiger*, in a leading article in which it discusses the position of Great Britain with regard to Turkey and France, considers it most serious that Great Britain, which has shown more understanding for Germany's position, especially lately, is suddenly so overcrowded with her own troubles that she has little time left to consider those of Germany. In any case the situation is serious for Germany. Were France and Great Britain to compromise, Germany would have to be sacrificed. Should France give up her Near Eastern policy, Great Britain would doubtless sail in the wake of France with regard to her European policy. What that would mean for Germany it is not necessary to explain. The next few days may probably be the turning point for the near future of Germany.

"Whatever turn events may take," the *Lokal-Anzeiger* says, "there is no improvement for Germany. If it is possible to do anything at all, let us remain neutral, absolutely neutral, both morally and in our demonstrations of sympathy. Otherwise we might easily fall between two stools."

Meanwhile, the Aircraft Disposal Company has arranged to sell materials for glider-building at specially low terms to *bona-fide* amateurs. Such materials would include linen, wings, and fittings. Old aeroplane wings, having been constructed to lift a far greater load than that carried by the wings of a glider, would have to be entirely remade, and much lightened in the process, before they would be suitable for use on motorless machines.

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M. Blériot recalls that when he made his famous first cross-Channel flight in 1909 he used only four and three-quarter litres of petrol. His aeroplane weighed two hundred and seven kilogrammes (about 450lb.), its wing breadth was seven metres eighty centimetres (about 25ft.), and its speed seventy kilometres (44 miles) an hour. It had a twenty horse-power motor.

CELLULOID FIRE AT ACTON.

SEVEN PERSONS INJURED.

A fire in which seven persons were injured occurred at Hanbury-road, South Acton, yesterday afternoon. It originated at Boddington's Celluloid Works, and within a few minutes scores of boxes containing celluloid were blazing furiously. The works, which had been closed down, are situated in one of the poorest and most congested areas of South Acton, and in a short space of time the fire spread to a row of small houses at the back of the works, from which they are separated only by tiny yards. It was feared that a general conflagration would result, but fortunately the flames were kept within narrow bounds, and only four of the cottages were affected. A number of children were playing in the yard of the works when the fire broke out, and there was a rush to get them out of danger.

The names of the injured, all of whom were taken to Acton Hospital for treatment for burns, are:

Frances Hearn (39), of Holland-terrace.
Mary Smith (36), Holland-terrace.
Ellen Weeby (38), Holland-terrace.
Frederick Baker (4), Holland-terrace.
Henry Taylor (21), Osborne-road.
Albert Holden (54), Holland-terrace.
A baby of one year and nine months, the child of Mrs. Perks, Holland-terrace.

Mrs. Perks's baby was burned while lying in his perambulator. Mrs. Hearn was sweeping her kitchen, and was injured by a flame which shot through the window.

A number of poultry houses were destroyed and many of the hens were burned to death. A fox terrier was also lost in the flames.

LIVE BOMBS AT PECKHAM.

Four live bombs were found in an old cap on the footway in Jocelyn-street, Peckham, yesterday afternoon by Mr. Louis Baxter, whose house stands at the corner of Jocelyn-street and Commercial-road.

He saw the cap lying in an angle of the wall, and on going to pick it up noticed that the sides were pinned together. Unfastening a pin he found the four bombs, two of which he describes as Mills bombs and two as of German pattern. The police took possession of the bombs and inquiries were set on foot.

ible impression made up
his letter when Senator I
caused it to be read into t
sufficient indication of t
will have elsewhere.

Mr. Baruch believes, as
that "it is useless to consid
reparations or the re-adju
Allied debts by themselves,
but two symptoms of a
deeper." These problems, h
be treated as a whole," and
forting to be able to report
the part of the Administrat
to adopt this as a principle

There is, however, no
apparent, nor was I able to d
among members of Congress
an enlarging of powers co
American Debt Funding C
would in effect be the lir
direction—was more desirab
the time the Act creating
was passed. What course of a
may feel justified in sugg
November elections it w
sible to predict, and th
to believe that he wil
ternational Economic C
next year have no ground
own desire for the confide
Certainly nothing will be
elections, and it is almost
that nothing will be done
Debt Commission has met a
America's representatives.
ference there might, and pr
a situation which would
Commission to ask Congr
discretion, and the answer
will depend in a large meas
the country displays when it

If in the meanwhile Mr
were accepted abroad as r
than anything which has as
best American attitude on th
and as foreshadowing th
Administration will ultimate
will be done.

"THE LAST £

PRINCE'S APPEAL HOSPITA

The following letter f
of Wales has been r
Organizing Committee
the flag day on October f
held on behalf of the J
the Order of St. John
Red Cross Society and
Hospitals of London. F
ness writes as follows t
of the Organizing Com
Day and the Prince's Da

I am glad to hear that s
of ladies and students will a
the funds by selling flags
the 6th of next month, an
in the desire that many
workers will enrol at 10,
any of the hospitals. T
the citizens of London to
for £500,000 by the end o
far brought in nearly £3
earnest and confident exp
results of "Our Day" a
very materially aid in carr
result into "The last £100,0

KING OF ITA

ATTACK OF RHEUM

(FROM OUR CORRES

RO

This morning the Ita
been greatly affected b
expected news. Only t
known that the King
return from Trento,
seriously ill with a s
rheumatic fever, his tem
one time as high as 104

He has been confined
days, but at no time
been alarming, and his
now such that he may
convalescent. He wil
unable to inaugurate th
Naples.

NEWPORT BY-

P.O. WORKERS' SE LABOUR CAN

Mr. J. W. Bowen, gener
Union of Post Office Work
Newport (Mon.) constitue
Election of 1918, and he
adopted, will be the offi
candidate at the Parlian
caused by the death of
Coalition Liberal member

At the last election, w
triangular contest, the Coa
5,816, Mr. Bowen polling
14,080 recorded for Mr. H
Mr. B. P. Thomas, Indepe

"RISK" OF

NOVEL INSURAN

An insurance against
has just been effected
market. It seems that
ity for an advance ma
was a life assurance po
assurance had been eff
found that during the
risk of suicide was spec
Consequently he desired
insurance covering thi
able to do so for a promi
for about eighteen mont