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Enemy Ready For General Peace Without Forcible Annexations and Indemnities

STILL ANOTHER RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT

Believed Kerensky Cabinet Men Are Directing Movement—Fail to Bring Bolsheviki and Rada Together

Seattle, Dec. 27.—Nicholas Bogolovinsky, Russian consul here, announced yesterday that he had received a cable by way of India, telling of the establishment of a new Russian government at Voronezh, the capital of a province of the same name between Moscow and Rostov, on the Azov Sea.

He believed the leaders in the movement were members of the Kerensky government who had fled from Petrograd.

Petrograd, Dec. 26.—The present delegation which went to Kiev to effect a compromise between the Bolsheviki and the Ukraine Rada report no success.

The central executive committee of the workers' and soldiers' delegates yesterday approved the appointment of seven social revolutionists as members of the council of national notables to replace Bolsheviki members of the council is ten, including one woman, who is minister of public welfare.

Amsterdam, Dec. 26.—Berlin says that the commission provided for in the Russo-German armistice agreement left Petrograd today. It will undertake to reach a settlement with the Russians for exchange of civilians and incapacitated war prisoners and also devise measures to restore relations between Germany and Russia.

TRAGEDIES OF A DAY

Worry Over Conspiration Leads to Suicide of Mother—Jealousy Believed Cause of Alleged Attempted Murder

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—Fear that her nephew would be conscripted and worry over the defeat of Sir Wilfrid Laurier are the reasons assigned for the suicide of Mrs. Cleophas Cousineau of Angers, Que., who drowned herself in a well. She had been in ill-health for some time.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—Joseph Martell of Buckingham Township lies at death's door and two of her young children are carrying ugly wounds as the result of an attack alleged to have been made on them by the woman's husband, Joseph Martell, who was arrested.

Fort William, Ont., Dec. 27.—An Italian named F. Last evening from heat stroke died in the street on Christmas morning.

Bridgford, Ont., Dec. 26.—John E. Code, a Grand Trunk detective, was found dead in his room here this morning. He was asphyxiated by fumes from a flueless natural gas stove.

DEATH OF SAMUEL A. CORBITT

General regret was expressed this morning when it was learned that Samuel A. Corbitt of Apohaqui, formerly of this city, had passed away. Mr. Corbitt was for several years in partnership in the grocery business with the late Geo. Robertson of this city, several times mayor of St. John. He afterwards was secretary of the Imperial Drydock Company and, retiring from that position, went back to his former occupation as a chartered accountant.

Mr. Corbitt resided in this city until three years ago, when he removed to Apohaqui. He was well known not only in this city but throughout the province and was a general favorite of those with whom he was acquainted. His genial manner won for him many friends. His wife was Miss Kate M. Robertson, sister of Struan Robertson of this city. Besides his wife he leaves two brothers, Henry Corbitt of Millstream and Edward L. Corbitt of this city, and one sister, Mrs. Annie McLeod of Apohaqui. The funeral will take place on Saturday afternoon from the residence of Mr. Robertson, 254 Germain street.

THOS. S. O'BRIEN DIES SUDDENLY

Many will learn with regret of the death of Thomas S. O'Brien, which occurred suddenly at his residence, 294 Germain street, last evening about midnight. Mr. O'Brien was about the city yesterday and was apparently in the best of health. He retired at his usual hour last evening and about midnight he took a bad spell and died suddenly. Mr. O'Brien was well known in the retail liquor business in Hill street for more than twenty years. He was about fifty-four years old and leaves two brothers, John S. and Joseph P. of this city and three sisters, Miss Nora of Boston; Mrs. H. Lacey of South Boston, and Mrs. George Morgan, of New Wood, Mass. The funeral will take place on Saturday morning.

Fire in Boston Boston, Dec. 27.—The paper supply plant of W. W. Bevan & Company, Sears street, was destroyed by fire to-

STOCKS TAKE UPWARD BOUND

Taking Over of Railroads The Reason

BUSY TIME IN WALL STREET

Baltimore and Ohio Leaps 17 Points From New Low Record of Yesterday—Shots in Panic in Effort to Cover Contracts

New York, Dec. 27.—Stocks soared at the opening of the stock market today, denoting the satisfaction of the financial community with the president's decision to take over the railroads. The advances ranged from two to three points in the railway list, all the standard shares being bid up furiously.

Baltimore & Ohio, which only yesterday made a new low record, recorded a gain of seven points, Delaware and Hudson made a total advance of fourteen points within about ten minutes. The advance spread to all the other parts of the list, including war shares, equipments and utilities. The latter issues, strengthened perceptibly as a result of the president's taking over the railroads, without a guarantee that Russia's allies would recognize them and carry them out honestly toward the Central Powers.

The count explained the position of the Central Powers in a statement as follows:— "The delegation of the allied (Teutonic) powers, acting upon the clearly expressed will of their governments and peoples, will conclude as soon as possible a general peace. The delegations in complete accord with the representatives expressed view point of their governments, think that the basic principles of the Russian delegation can be made the basis of such a peace.

"The delegations of the quadruple alliance are agreed immediately to conclude a general peace without forcible annexations and indemnities. They share the view of the Russian delegation which condemns the continuation of the war purely for aims of conquest.

"The allied (Teutonic) governments in programmes and statements have emphasized time and again that for sake of conquest they will not prolong the war a single day. The governments of the allies unwaveringly have followed this view all the time. They solemnly declare their resolve immediately to sign terms of peace which will stop the war on the above terms, equally just to all belligerents without exception.

"It is necessary, however, to indicate most clearly that the proposals of the Russian delegation could be realized only in case all the powers participating in the war obligate themselves scrupulously to adhere to the terms in common with all peoples.

"The powers of the quadruple alliance now negotiating with Russia cannot, of course, one-sidedly bind themselves to such terms, not having the guarantee that Russia's allies will recognize and carry out these terms. It is necessary to reserve with regard to the quadruple alliance. Starting upon these principles, and regarding the six clauses proposed by the Russian delegation as a basis of negotiations, the following must be stated:—

Clause by Clause. "Clause 1—Forcible annexations of territories seized during the war does not enter into the intentions of the allied powers. About troops now occupying seized territories it must be stipulated in the peace treaty, if there is no agreement before regarding the evacuation of these places.

"Clause 2—It is not the intention of the allies to deprive the political independence of those nations which lost it during the war. Those questions which lost it to that or the other country of those nationalities who have not political independence cannot, in the opinion of the powers of the quadruple alliance, be solved internationally. In this case it must be solved by each government together with its people in a manner established by the constitution.

"Clause 3—Likewise, in accordance with the declarations of the statesmen of the quadruple alliance, the protection of the rights of minorities constitutes an essential part of the right of peoples to self-determination, indicated by a constitution.

"Clause 4—The governments of the (Teutonic) allies also recognize this principle. (This refers to Clause 5 of the Russian peace terms, stipulating that no belligerent country shall be required to pay contributions and that private persons shall be compensated for losses incurred during the war from a special fund contributed by all the belligerents on a proportional basis). There is a material possibility of mutual refusal not only to refund war expenditures but also to pay for damages caused by the war. In this case each belligerent would be required to bear only the expense of its subjects made to civil subjects of an adversary by deliberate violations of international law. The creation of a special fund for this purpose, as suggested by the Russian government, can be discussed only in case other belligerents join in peace negotiations before the expiration of a certain time.

Wants Her Colonies. "Clause 6—Of the four allied powers, Germany alone possesses colonies. On the part of the German delegation, in full accord with the Russian proposals regarding that, the following is declared:— "The return of colonial territories forcibly seized during the war constitutes an essential part of German demands, which Germany cannot renounce under any circumstances. Likewise, the Russian demand for immediate evacuation of territories occupied by an adversary

conforms to German intentions. Having the view of the colonial territories of Germany, the realization of the right of self-determination, besides the above outlined considerations, in the form proposed by the Russian delegation is at present practically impossible.

"The circumstances that in the German colonies the natives, notwithstanding the great difficulties and the probability of victory in a struggle against an adversary many times stronger, and who had the advantage of unlimited import by sea, remained in the gravest circumstances faithful to their German friends, may serve as proof of their attachment and their resolve to carry out their obligations in accordance with the principles of the quadruple alliance proposed by the Russian delegation in connection with the six clauses are approved wholly by the delegations of all allied powers who always have denied any economic restrictions and who see in the re-establishment of regular economic relations, which are in demand by the self-determination of peoples, one of the most important conditions for bringing about friendly relations between the powers now engaged in war."

Some Russian Views. Chairman Ioffe of the Russian delegation expressed gratification at the willingness of Germany to conclude peace on the basis of no annexations, no indemnities, and the self-determination of peoples, but pointed out that the self-determination of peoples within the limits granted by constitutions, as stated by the German reply, was not complete as it renounced the application of the right of the stronger nation with regard to the territories occupied during the war. He said the powers of the quadruple alliance at the same time give all their opponents an immediate peace ground. They affirm that the right of the stronger nation to self-determination of peoples shall be preserved with all its integrity within each of the countries with no regard for little and oppressed nationalities.

"The war cannot end without the violated rights of those nationalities being re-established. Those nationalities must, in the very next peace treaty establishing a general peace among all nationalities, receive on the basis of international agreement guarantees that their lawful rights will be protected. The lapse of time in no case legalizes the violation of one people by another. Regarding compensation for the maintenance of prisoners of war, the Russian chairman said it might be construed as an indemnity. He insisted that an international fund be used to pay damages against private persons. He had no objection to Germany's request that her colonies be evacuated by Entente troops. Russia's delegation, he said in conclusion, notwithstanding differences of opinion, thought that the German declaration that Germany has no aggressive plans offered the possibility of the immediate beginning of negotiations for a general peace among all belligerents. He proposed a ten day recess until Jan. 4, so that the peoples whose governments have not yet joined in the negotiations for a general peace may have an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the principles of such a peace as now is being established.

At the expiration of the indicated time, he declared, the negotiations must be resumed, disregarding whether or not other belligerents have joined in the negotiations or how many.

The next session of the conference was set for Dec. 26.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The conditions surrounding Count Czernin's proposals for a basis of peace cause officials here to feel some apprehension for their security.



THE REAL STEAM-ROLLER. WILHELM: "Vot are ve to do about it, Hindy! It greeps steadily closer!" HINDENBURG: "Vot greeps closer! I can't see noddings." —Passing Show.

Gloomy Christmas In Germany; Women Begging In Streets for Food

Geneva, Dec. 27.—Features of the German Christmas, according to news here, were women and children openly begging in the snow-covered streets for food, and the closing of churches in many of the towns. Only the rich enjoyed a good, but ordinary, dinner, and for this they paid as much as \$50. Most of the churches in Germany were closed owing to lack of coal.

FRANCE HOLDS BACK BREAD CARDS; NOT NECESSARY NOW

Paris, Dec. 27.—The issuance of bread cards which was to have been made on January 1, will not be carried out. The minister of provisions said the inhabitants of Paris and the other chief cities seemed to have grasped the seriousness of the appeal for food conservation, and that he was satisfied with the bread consumption of the last few weeks.

THE SUBMARINES' WORK

Paris, Dec. 27.—In the week ended December 22 one French steamer of more than 1,600 tons, and one of less than that tonnage, were sunk by submarines and mines. No fishing vessels were lost.

FORGE FOOD CARDS IN GERMANY

Amsterdam, Dec. 27.—German food cards are now being issued on a special water-marked paper, as a protection against counterfeiting, which had become a profitable business.

CORN AND OATS

Chicago, Dec. 27.—Notice that the government would take possession of the railroads had a bearish effect today on the corn market. A majority of traders inclined to the belief that the government action would result in a larger movement of grain from the interior to the principal terminals. Selling based on this theory, however, was of an aggressive character, opening figures to 3/4 to 1/2 cent lower, with January 1.26 1/2, and May 1.24 1/2 to 1.24 1/2, were followed by a moderate setback all around.

THE TAKING OVER OF THE AMERICAN RAILROADS

New York, Dec. 27.—Almost without exception prominent bankers and executives of railroads having their headquarters here today expressed approval of the action of President Wilson in taking over the country's railroad lines.

In the financial district bankers expressed relief that the uncertainty over the situation had been ended. It was asserted that the president's statement regarding guarantee of compensation to the railroads will have the effect of reassuring holders of railway securities. Authorities on railroad finance said that in their opinion the change in status would have little, if any, effect on the operation of the railroads.

British Report London, Dec. 27.—"Except for some hostile artillery activity north and east of Ypres," Field Marshal Haig reports today to the British war office, "there was nothing to report last night."

Gould Arbitration Taken Up Here Today

Mr. Gregory Argues at Length For Claimant in Matter of Valley Railway; Continuation This Afternoon

This morning before His Honor Chief Justice McKewen, who is acting as arbitrator, hearing in the matter of a claim of A. R. Gould and others against the provincial government in connection with the Valley railway was continued. The session was taken up by J. A. Gregory, K. C., of Fredericton, who began argument on behalf of the claimants. He contended that Mr. Gould and his associates could have built the railway with money available from bonds and mortgages if the government had given promised support. The amount asked by the claimants as contractors was \$445,500 and as an alternative say that they are at least entitled to the value of their shares, which they set at \$384,240.

Mr. Gregory started by outlining the premises upon which his claim was founded. He read sections of a government act passed in 1910 and spoke about the agreement entered upon by the company and the government. He also read extracts from evidence brought out during the enquiry to show that the traffic arrangement made by the company was one of the best ever made with the government. He said that the standing of the railway was equal to that of the Transcontinental. The construction of the railway proceeded favorably until the fall of 1913 when the stress of financial conditions developed and caused some trouble. He said that Mr. Gould and his associates offered to retire from the construction of the railway at that time, but the then premier offered on behalf of the government to support them in the construction.

He read the contract entered upon by the company and the government on Dec. 15, 1911. It was agreed in event of the company failing to fulfill or carry out the contract that the government would take certain recourse. Mr. Gregory here read several letters addressed to the government informing them that if they would guarantee four and a half per cent of the second mortgage bonds of the railway work, he would proceed with and completed. He then said that, instead of assisting in this, they allowed a chance to dispose of the said bonds to be passed and eventually sold them at 91. He also told about claims being filed with the government against the railway for more than \$200,000, while the company's books which had been audited showed that the whole liabilities did not exceed \$280,000. He also said that an act passed in 1915 nullified tremendous injustice to Mr. Gould. Several letters were read regarding the financial condition of the company and the carrying out of their contract. These were sent to the government, but Mr. Gregory said, no notice had been taken of them.

Mr. Gregory said that not one dollar had been diverted from the sale of bonds or other assets. No charge was made for brokerage when mortgage bonds were disposed of as those interested realized that they were building the railway for themselves. For nearly six years they had given their time and attention to the building of the railway and not only put in thousands of dollars of their own money but pledged personal securities to trust companies for loans in order to complete construction. He further contended that the government, in taking the railway into their own hands, derived all the benefits and had not shown any default on the part of the company. He said that the true measure of compensation should at least be the valuation of the stocks, but contended that it should not be limited to this valuation. The government was getting the benefit of the work and the company were treated as mere contractors. He contended that as they had paid par value for part of their stock they were certainly entitled to be paid.

At the conclusion of Mr. Gregory's arguments the adjournment took place until 2:15 o'clock.

FIRE IN HALIFAX

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 27.—Fire today destroyed the Clayton Military Convalescent Home, in the north end of the city. There were no patients in the building. The matron, cook and orderly escaped without injury. Some time ago the building was handed over to the military hospital commission by W. J. Clayton to be used as a convalescent home for returned soldiers.

BURIED TODAY

The funeral of David E. Swin took place this morning from his late residence, 12 St. Andrews street. Services were conducted by Rev. Walter P. Dunham. Interment was made in the Church Street cemetery.

The funeral of Charles D. McPherson took place this afternoon from his late residence, 361 Union street. Services were conducted by Rev. J. A. MacKeigan and interment was made in Fernhill.

The funeral of Mrs. Annie Blair took place this afternoon from her late residence, 242 City road. Services were conducted by Rev. J. H. A. Anderson. Interment was made in Fernhill.

PIRE LOSS ADJUSTMENT

The adjusters in connection with the losses in the recent fire in the building at the corner of Mill and Union streets, occupied by J. F. A. Johnson and the National Clothing Company, have decided that the National Clothing Company sustained a total loss. They carried insurance to the extent of \$30,000. The adjustment in the Johnson loss has not been completed.

MAJORITY IS 956

Montreal, Que., Dec. 27.—The official majority of W. E. Baldwin, Liberal, over Dr. Sturtevant, Unionist, in Stansfeld county is 956.

PRESIDENTS OF THE RAILWAYS BACK UP WILSON

Government Operation to be Effective at Noon Tomorrow, With McAdoo in Charge

Washington, Dec. 27.—President Wilson has proclaimed that on Dec. 29, at noon, government possession and operation of the nation's railroads for the war will be effective. William G. McAdoo, retaining his place in the cabinet as secretary of the treasury, is placed in charge as director-general of railroads.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 27.—Four railway presidents—Louis W. Hill of the Great Northern, J. M. Hannafor of the Northern Pacific, Edward Pennington of the Soo Line, and J. P. Clark of the Chicago, St. P. C. Minneapolis & Omaha here last night met the announcement of President Wilson with pledges to cooperate unreservedly in carrying out the government plan.

New York, Dec. 27.—Presidents of the railways having their terminals in New York expressed little surprise at President Wilson's decision. Frederick D. Underwood of the Erie Railway was enthusiastic over the action taken. W. H. Truesdale of the Lackawanna Railway, also expressed approval. President Loree of the Delaware & Hudson, declined to comment. E. E. Loomis of the Lehigh Valley was non-committal although he said the move was not a surprise.

SAME PRICES FOR STEEL TO CONTINUE

New York, Dec. 26.—According to the Iron Age, the war industries board, after a conference on Saturday with the federal trade commission, has recommended to the president the indefinite extension after January 1, of the price for steel products. Wilson's decision, Frederick D. Underwood upon them in the past three months.

WONDERFUL CAREER OF MAJOR H. LYLE

Vancouver, Dec. 26.—To be mentioned in despatches seven times, to be awarded the D. S. O., and to be chosen from all returned officers in Canada to be military commandant of the Carnegie Technical Institute of Military Training at Pittsburgh, is the record of Major H. Lyle, who has returned here from France.

At the outbreak of the war, Major Lyle, who was serving with the 1st Canadian Infantry, immediately resigned his commission and came to Canada in order to be granted a commission and go overseas with the first draft of reinforcements for the P. C. L. I. unit, arriving in England in December, 1914. In January, 1915, he went to France and served with the P. C. L. I. until March, 1915, when he was wounded in the leg at St. Eloi and on recovery went back to France as second in command of a battalion, and while serving with that regiment he was the inventor of the raid which is known now as a "stealth" raid. The raid in question is made by not more than ten men, headed by an officer, who creep up to the German trenches and before the Germans realize what has happened they are bombed and if any are left in the immediate vicinity alive they are taken prisoner back to the British lines. These short tactics, the major said, had a bad effect on the morale of the German troops and are more than disconcerting to the enemy.

EIGHT BELOW

The temperature this morning was the lowest recorded during the month of December since 1914. Between eight and nine o'clock the thermometer dropped to eight degrees below zero. Fortunately there was little or no wind and it was not penetrating. At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon it was one degree below and a report from the observatory in Douglas avenue was to the effect that a continuance of the cold spell was to be expected.

Majority is 956. Montreal, Que., Dec. 27.—The official majority of W. E. Baldwin, Liberal, over Dr. Sturtevant, Unionist, in Stansfeld county is 956.