

Weather Forecast:
Light Snow

The London Advertiser

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

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FRENCH PUSH GERMANS BACK TWO MILES AT VERDUN

Russians Repulse Foe Advance On Moldavian Front

RUSS DRIVING INVADING FOES OUT OF VALLEY ADVANCE BACK

Secre Success On Moldavian
Front, Says Petrograd.

BOMBARD BULGARIAN COAST

Warships Destroy Mills Sup-
plying Enemy With Flour.

STRUGGLES OF DESPERATION Trench Near Konukhi Changes Hands Four Times in Battle.

Petrograd, Dec. 15.—Russia
troops have repulsed an Austro-
German force which was attempting
to advance in the Otuz Valley, on the
Moldavian front of Rumania, the war
office announced today.

A successful bombardment of the
Bulgarian Black Sea coast by Russian
warships also is reported. The state-
ment says:

"Rumanian Front: On the Moldavian
front, the enemy's advance in the
Otuz Valley was repulsed.

"With a view to the destruction of
mills supplying the Bulgarian army
with flour, our vessels successfully
bombarded the port of Zaitchik (Chal-
chik, on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast)
on Wednesday. We were bombarded by
shore batteries and attacked by sea-
planes.

Changes Hands Four Times.
"The Western Front: In the region east
of the village of Konukhi the struggle
continued until 7 p. m. for the posses-
sion of trenches of one of our ambu-
sades which was occupied by the Ger-
mans. The trench changed hands four
times. The result was that the south-
ern portion was left in the hands of
the enemy.

"Small enemy detachments that at-
tempted to approach our position, the
region of Jeupouille were driven back
to their trenches by our fire.

"In the wooded Carpathians, strong
(Continued on Page 13, Column 2.)

Irish Question's Speedy Solution Being Forecast

MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC WINS RECORDED TODAY, LIFT LOUD OF GREAT ANXIETY AND UNCERTAINTY

French Advance, British Victory in Mesopotamia, the Greek
Acceptance of Allied Demands and Bright Prospects of
Irish Settlement Bring Real "Merry Christmas" To
Britain.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]

London, Dec. 16.—The week closes in enthusiasm and opti-
mism for Britain and her allies.

Four big military and diplomatic victories are proclaimed by
today's papers as showing tremendous flip to the Allies' cause
induced by recent drastic reorganizations in the British and French
governments. Britain settles down to Christmas shopping and
cultivation of Christmas spirit with a great load of uncertainty
and anxiety lifted from its shoulders.

The French advance near Meuse River, with capture of prob-
ably nine thousand German prisoners, fifty machine guns, large
stores and some guns of larger calibre, with eleven square miles
of territory, including fifteen important villages, farms and other
points of vantage, was a welcomed thrust for the Allies.

Even more unexpected was the news of the big advance of
Major-Gen. Maude's columns in Mesopotamia against the Turks,
right up to the very gates of famous Kut. Saturday afternoon
reports from Cairo say this advance is continuing with great success,
and heavy captures of Turkish troops, guns and materials. Today
Athens dispatches corroborate reports that King Constantine's
Government has completely acquiesced in the demands of the
Allies' latest ultimatum.

Another "diplomatic" victory, more local to Britain, is the
possibility of the more immediate prospect of a settlement of the
Irish question, as developed by debate in the House of Commons
yesterday.

On the whole it's a much merrier Christmas in prospect than
appeared last week.

NEW PREMIER EXPECTED TO PROPOSE IRISH SOLUTION AT HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY

Reconciliation Pleas of Nationalist Leader's Brother, An Old
Ulster Soldier, Bonar Law and ex-Postmaster-
General Stir British House of Commons.

London, Dec. 15 (New York Times Cable).—
Reports that Lloyd George will seek the first opportu-
nity to propose a plan for the settlement of the Irish
question continue to gain substance.

The parliamentary correspondent of
the Daily Chronicle says:
One of the chief incidents of the
proceedings in the House yesterday
was a moving speech delivered by
Major Redmond, with its impressive
appeal for the settlement of the Irish
question. Fresh from the battlefields
in France, he bore testimony to the
extremely cordial relations that exist
between the Ulster and Nationalist
soldiers. With feeling in his voice, he
spoke of how the men, who in the
past had been bitter political oppo-
nents, realized in the face of a common
enemy, and amid perils shared in com-
mon, that they were brother Irishmen.
Why not similar reconciliation at home,
reconciliation which would lead to the
settling up of a more satisfactory gov-
ernment in Ireland? It was a little
speech, simple, instinct with true
patriotism and vibrating with sincere
emotion.

Ulsterman's Co-Operation Plea.
"An Ulster soldier of the old regular
army, Col. McCalmont, followed in a
sympathetic strain, and appealed to
Major Redmond and his friends to join
with the Ulstermen in devising a plan
to secure recruits in Ireland, to repair
the wastage in Irish regiments.

"Mr. Bonar Law realizes the signifi-
cance to the fact that for the first time
in our history Ireland is on our side in
a great war. He remarked that Lieut.
Shaw's speech on Thursday, and Major
Redmond's today, made by men
straight from the front, showed how
trivial are the political incidents at
home, except in so far as they help to
give support to the men who are under-
going great hardships and risking their
lives in our behalf. He handsomely
acknowledged the patriotic spirit that
had been taken by Major Redmond,
Continued on Page 13, Col. 2.

CULT OF MANSLAUGHTER FOR TIMES DYNAMITING

Accused Bomber of Los Angeles To Be
Sentenced Monday.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 15.—David
Caplan was found guilty of manslaughter
yesterday afternoon at his second
trial for complicity in the Los Angeles
Times explosion October 1, 1916, when
twenty men were killed.

The penalty for manslaughter is from
one to ten years. Caplan will appear in
court Monday to receive sentence.

Greeks Promise To Stop Menace of Mobilization

LOYD GEORGE'S STATEMENT MAY BE POSTPONED

Peace Answer Will Have To
Wait Another Week
at Least.

CONDITION DEMANDS IT

Pacifist Leader Wants Repara-
tion, But Would Accept
Reasonable Terms.

London, Dec. 15.—It appears doubt-
ful today whether Premier Lloyd George
will be able to be one of the House
of Commons on Tuesday night. He is
making steady progress towards recov-
ery, but it is considered unlikely that
his physicians will allow him to speak
next week, as his voice is affected.
At any rate, it is not expected that the
Government will be by that time in a
position to make a statement regard-
ing the German peace proposals.

Philip Snowden, Socialist member for
Blackburn, one of the leaders of the
small pacifist group in the House of
Commons, has made it known that he
intends to state the views of that group
in the Commons. Its members believe
that negotiations should be opened
if only to state the terms of the En-
tente to the Central powers.

Not "Peace at Any Price."
The Westminster Gazette today says
it will be found that Mr. Snowden is
by no means an advocate of peace at
any price and that his party has very
definite views as to the reparation
which Germany should make. The belief
of this group is that Germany is pre-
pared to grant reasonable terms is not
shared by the House of Commons, shared
by a great majority of the House.

The first essential of peace, in the
opinion of the nation, is that both sides
shall concede the right to independence
of all nations. Commenting on Ger-
many's peace offer, the Nation says:

"The test will come when our answer
is given. Lloyd George has to decide
whether he will modify her offer and
come nearer to our position. The real
onus for the continuance of the war will
be on the side which maintains any
demand which would be fatal to the
independence and future of any bel-
liever."

Must Be Reasonable.
"If Germany's peace offer has really
included at least one point which con-
victs her of either unbelievable stupidity or
mere insincerity, it is a point which
maintained, precludes further discus-
sion. But even to an offer including
such a point our answer must be reason-
able and precise. It is not a question
of the world's court of honor by re-
jecting that claim, but let us not lose
sight of our guiding principle that this
war is waged for the ending of militar-
ism. If Germany made a sincere offer
of the destruction of an independent
nation the war is not yet morally won.
Her reputation of unselfishness will be
the test of her sincerity."

GREAT BRITAIN WILL DEMAND SAFETY OF SMALLER NATIONS

Adherence To "Reparation"
Policy Seen in Speech.

THREE COURSES OPEN

Refusal To Negotiate Absolu-
tely, Statement of Allies'
Aims, Request for Terms.

London, Dec. 15.—The speech deliv-
ered last night by Arthur Henderson
is being commented on as more specific in
regard to the peace proposal of the cen-
tral powers than any other utterance
from a responsible Government source.
Mr. Henderson is one of the five mem-
bers of the war cabinet which has just
been formed, and has supreme authority
in regard to the general conduct of the
war. He defined the reparation which
the Government was still the policy
of the Government as being "repara-
tion of a desire by the Government and
Poland and Poland have suffered."

Mr. Henderson's statement that Great
Britain entered the war "in defence of
small nationalities" was taken as an in-
dication that the defence of small na-
tionalities would be one of the essen-
tials of security for the future to which
Mr. Bonar Law referred in general.

One of the foremost diplomatic au-
thorities of England said today that
the trend of public opinion in this
country was far from showing that three
courses were open: first, categorical re-
fusal to negotiate, on lines similar to
Duma; second, refusal to negotiate and
a statement of the essential aims and
purposes of the Allies, in order to place
their position rightly before the world;
third, a request for Germany's terms,
which would be expected to disclose to
the Allies that these terms were im-
possible of acceptance. It was the view
of this authority that British sentiment
had not yet crystallized as to which one
of these three courses should be
adopted.

IRRESISTIBLE WAVES OF FRENCH ENCIRCLED GERMAN POSITIONS AND HURL FOE BACK TWO MILES

HORRORS! HAIRPINS NO LONGER POSSIBLE

London, Dec. 15.—According to
the parliamentary correspondent of
the Daily News, the Government's
orders for checking the
use of metal in non-war manu-
factures include the prohibition
of the further making of women's
hairpins.

SEE POSSIBILITY OF IRISH SETTLEMENT IN ANSWER OF LAW

British Papers Hail Redmond's
Speech With Acclaim.

TIPIFIES TRUE FEELING

Spirit of Ireland Brought to
Fore by Major's Stirring
Address.

London, Dec. 15.—The morning
papers comment with warm approval
on Major Redmond's plea for an un-
derstanding between the Irish factions
and the reply made by A. Bonar Law,
chancellor of the exchequer. The Daily
News regards the two speeches as "the
most hopeful of recent ones" to-
wards settlement of the Irish ques-
tion, and contends that "despite past
failures, despite the rebellion, and all
the resentment that followed the re-
bellion, the true spirit of Ireland is
the spirit that animated John Red-
mond's historic words when he pledged
the services of Ireland in the war."

The Chronicle similarly thinks that
the two speeches are a good augur
for progress in the near future. It
especially commends the suggestion
of Mr. Redmond that both sides un-
doubtedly agree to end the annual cele-
brations of historical events which
are among the most potent influences
in perpetuating feuds between Ulster
and Nationalist Ireland. The Mail
under the heading, "Now Is the Time"
says: "So many great things have been
accomplished in the present war and
the new Government has brought about
so many salutary changes, that it is
difficult to understand why this prob-
lem also should not be settled."

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
Following were the highest and lowest
temperatures recorded in London during
the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last
night: Highest, 14 above; lowest, 4 be-
low.

The official temperatures for the 12
hours previous to 8 a.m. today were:
Highest, 9 above; lowest, 1 below.

TOMORROW—LIGHT SNOW.
Forecasts.
Fair today, with higher temperature;
light local snow tonight and on Sunday.

The following were the highest and
lowest temperatures during the 24
hours previous to 8 a.m. today:
Victoria ... 44 ... 38 ... Rain
Canary ... 40 ... 28 ... Fair
Winnipeg ... 2 ... 12 ... Clear
Port Arthur ... 2 ... 14 ... Cloudy
Port Said ... 16 ... 2 ... Fair
Port Stanley ... 14 ... 2 ... Fair
Buffalo ... 20 ... 6 ... Clear
Toronto ... 24 ... 8 ... Clear
Kingston ... 24 ... 8 ... Cloudy
Ottawa ... 12 ... 6 ... Fair
Montreal ... 16 ... 10 ... Snow
Quebec ... 18 ... 16 ... Cloudy
Father Point ... 12 ... 12 ... Snow

Weather Notes.

The low area which was on the mid-
dle Atlantic coast yesterday is now
central over Nova Scotia as a severe
storm. The weather has continued cold
in Ontario and Quebec, but has be-
come milder in the west.

In Brilliantly Planned Attack by New Commander of the
Western Line, 100,000 Men Drive Enemy Back
To Starting Point of Verdun Offensive.

7,500 PRISONERS CAPTURED; 15 VILLAGES, 80 GUNS

"Pepper Hill," Louvemont, Hardaumont, Vachereauville,
All Fall Before Victorious Rush of Divisions On a
Six-Mile Front.

NO COUNTER-ATTACKS.

Paris, Dec. 16.—Although there has been a lively
bombardment along the entire front north of Verdun,
from the Meuse to the Woivre, over which the French
swept in their advance of yesterday, no counter-attack
was delivered by the Germans during the night, says
today's war office statement.

Four French divisions engaged in yesterday's at-
tack took prisoner soldiers belonging to every regiment
of five German divisions, the statement adds.

Paris, Dec. 15.—As his last act before assuming
the chief command of the French armies on the western
front, Gen. Nivelle today smashed the German line
east of the Meuse along a front of six miles. The vic-
tory has advanced the French positions two miles, and
they are now within a short distance of where the Ger-
mans stood at the outset of the great Verdun drive. The
military authorities describe the victory as complete
and crushing, and carried out without a hitch.

Since his last great stroke, when the blood-soaked ruins of Fort Vaux and
Douaumont fell once more into the hands of Verdun's defenders, General Nivelle
has been quietly preparing to push his advantage by an attack on a larger
scale, "on and guns had been assembled, shells piled, and everything was in
readiness for the moment when the general should see his opportunity. Then
the blow fell like a thunderbolt.

FLATTEN GERMAN TRENCHES.
A terrific artillery preparation flattened the German defences, then the guns
were elevated and threw a curtain of steel, behind which the infantry from
every trench from Pepper Hill to beyond Dauloup dashed forward on an enemy
stunned by the bombardment.

In places the Germans gallantly strove to hold their ground, but General
Nivelle's dispositions were so well made that they were generally powerless to
stem, even momentarily, the tide. One after another, Vachereauville and
Louvemont villages, Chambrille farm, and the Hardaumont and Bezonvaux
works, fell without the defenders having time to carry away either guns or
material, and prisoners began to stream steadily forward to pens prepared for
their reception.

WEATHER LULLED ENEMY.
The weather, according to hitherto accepted notions, was all against the
offensive. It was wet and misty, and the French officers believe that this fact
undoubtedly led the Germans to miscalculate the probabilities of attack. The
clouds, even momentarily, did not prevent also the aviators from rendering valuable aid
to the attack, and their services were believed to have had an important bearing
on the fact that the French losses were slightly smaller. The large number
of prisoners, according to latest advices nearly 8,000, is an indication of
the surprise nature of the onset.

OFFSETS RUMANIAN LOSSES.
The news of the victory was received in Paris with enthusiasm as a welcome
relief to the gloomy tidings from Rumania. General Nivelle is the man
of the hour. His latest achievement justifies, it is felt, his choice as commander-
in-chief, and augurs well for the future.

Nivelle Planned Attack.

The French plan of attack was drawn
up by Gen. Nivelle, now the command-
er-in-chief, with the concurrence of
Gen. Petain, who at the time was his
superior officer. The assault proper was
left to Gen. Mangin. It was made by
five divisions or close to 100,000 men, un-
der command of such leaders as Gen.
De Maunoy and Gen. Du Passage.

The front which the French infantry
held held also the recapture of Douaumont
and Vaux ran thus: The southern
slopes of Pepper Hill, east of the Meuse,
between Bras and Vachereauville, Hau-
drumont Wood, Hardaumont Quarry,
the region north of the village, Fort
Douaumont, the quarries northeast of
Fort Douaumont, the small wood south-
east of Fort Douaumont, Hardaumont
Wood, the village of Vaux, and the fort
of Vaux, behind that line Gen. Nivelle
had distributed groups of powerful bat-
teries, which for 76 hours before the
attack hammered the German positions,
particularly those on Pepper Hill and
Hardaumont and Bezonvaux.

Dominates German Positions.
From the positions occupied by the
French, it may be seen that they were
installed on a series of heights, some
dominating the German positions, but
Continued on Page 16, Col. 4.

GERMAN ADMISSION

Berlin, Dec. 16.—Via Wireless to
Saville.—The German official state-
ment issued today reads:
"Western front: Army of Field
Marshal Duke Albrecht of Wurtem-
burg: In the Tross and Wytschato
salients, the artillery duel tempo-
rarily increased to considerable vio-
lence. Our attacking troops south
east of Zillbeke advanced into the
second British line of which the gar-
rison had fled.

"Army group of the German
Crown Prince: The French, on De-
cember 15, succeeded on the north-
east front of Verdun in pushing us
back from the most advanced posi-
tion into the prepared second line
of Talou Ridge, the heights north of
Louvemont, Chambrille and south
of Bezonvaux."

Advertiser Again Smashes London Newspaper Records

416 Columns of News and Advertising in Two Issues Mark
a New Achievement in Western Ontario
Journalism.

Another newspaper record for this city falls to The Advertiser, and
its advertising patrons. Friday and today from this office 32 pages of
newspaper composition have been given to London and Western Ontario
—an achievement that represents at once the metropolitan character of
Advertiser equipment, service and management, and the enterprise of
London merchants in developing vital Christmas advertising through
London's favorite medium.

Never before in 53 years of Advertiser history has there been
such a volume of Christmas advertising in a London paper. Never before
has London merchants sought to reach the big city covered by this
London newspaper with so much of vigorous potent advertising
appeal. Today The Advertiser has 152 columns of advertising and 104
columns of news space. Yesterday 85 columns of advertising were
printed, and 75 columns of news space. Fifty-two pages, or 416 columns
in two days. Many, many, many.

The Advertiser is about to round off the third year of its history in
the morning field. It has been a long pull, but a steady one. The staff
can scarcely recognize the papers of a few years ago as coming from
the same plant. The morning paper has been a success, a merited
success, we are bold enough to believe, because the people of London
and Western Ontario have "got behind it" from the start. Advertiser
circulation has all but doubled in three years—a record in Canadian
journalism. The morning paper was a great new industry for London,
the building up of another story on a London institution that seeks to
serve and prosper. And the merchants of London have shown that they
realized the spirit of development for the city marked by the coming of a
morning paper. They have responded to every Advertiser plan for
pushing out into fields further away and for the bringing of more
business to London, thereby making by The Advertiser these advertising
plans have been carefully developed by The Advertiser with the con-
stant aim of making Advertiser advertising vital. The increase in pat-
ronage has been enormous.

A spirit of harmony has pervaded the institution in the securing of
this result. Business office, editorial staff and the whole mechanical de-
partment have worked together, with a pride of corps that counted.
The spirit of accomplishment has dominated, and when that spirit enters
a concern it will not be denied. The Advertiser is fortunate in the pos-
sion of a working force that is loyal, tireless, determined, and seeking
to do a better day's work each day. The assembling of such a paper as
appears today, not as a special, but as a regular edition, would have done
credit to the staff of any metropolitan paper. It was a "big drive" in
the midst of the busiest newspaper season.

The businessmen of London have responded to the opportunity to
sound the clarion call to Christmas shoppers in a manner that would be
the pride of many a larger city. The greatest stores in London were
partners in the enterprise, and their co-operation, it is certain, will
mark another milestone in the history of the city's business progress.

The past year has been the greatest year in the history of London
business. Advertiser and business spirit have gone arm in arm, and
the development of The Advertiser in its larger field has been singularly
coincident with the building up of bluer business for this city. And
recent that 100,000 more people came to the launch of the morning edition
as a city where business is conducted on high, sane levels, and where
honor and enterprise are synonymous terms.