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LLOYD GEORGE ADDRESSES TRADE UNION OFFICIALS AT GLASGOW

Appealed to Trade Unions to Help Their Fellow Countrymen in the Trenches—Will We Have to Get American Workmen Over Here to Make the Necessary Guns and Ammunition Necessary for the Successful Management of the War? Asks Lloyd George

"TIME IS VICTORY AND TIME IS LIFE"

Victory is impossible he Says Unless British Workmen Follow the Example of the French People Without Cavi and Above all Without Delay—Will Britain's Skilled Workmen Suspend Their Rules to Save Their Fellow-Countrymen on the Battlefield Asks Lloyd George

LONDON, Dec. 26.—David Lloyd George addressed a meeting of some three thousand trade union officials and work stewards at Glasgow on Saturday, on the imperative need of dilution of skilled by unskilled labour. He explained that he had come to submit proposals for acceptance on which depended not only victory, but the saving of numberless lives. It was impossible for him to report through Parliament to the British Army that skilled workmen refused to suspend their rules to save their fellow workers on the battlefield, he declared, and added that he refused to believe that British workmen were less patriotic than the French, whose devotion and self-sacrifice had enabled the French to successfully withstand the terrible machine which, with the aid of German workmen, had scored a great victory over the Russians. Time was vital, and help must be given without delay.

The Minister of Munitions said, in closing in his appeal to the workmen, either we must tell the soldiers that we are sorry that we cannot get the guns to enable them to win throughout 1916, owing to the trade union regulations, or we must tell them that if they manage to hold out for another year perhaps American workmen will help us to get a sufficient supply for 1917. Another alternative is that we might tell the Kaiser frankly that we cannot go on. He might let us off with the annexation of Belgium, and with the payment of indemnity, and with a British colony or two, but he certainly would demand that Great Britain surrender her command of the sea, and Great Britain then would be as completely at the mercy of Prussian despotism as Belgium is to-day.

The Minister of Munitions' scheme to amend the trade union regulations was proposed by a committee, including seven trade unionists. "We don't trust trade union leaders," several voices in the audience cried. "Whom do you trust?" Mr. Lloyd George demanded, and the voice replied, "Nobody."

Mr. Lloyd George then proceeded to explain how the national gun and munition factories were being established throughout the United Kingdom, and that 80,000 skilled workmen

were required. "You won't get them," some one in the meeting declared. "I come here and face three thousand Glasgow trade unionists," the Minister shouted in reply. "Will that gentleman venture to go to Flanders and face three thousand British soldiers in the trenches?" (prolonged cheers.)

Continuing, the Minister emphasized the point that the Russian retreat was due to the aid the German workmen gave their comrades in the field by manufacturing an endless supply of guns and shells and it was the French workmen, he declared, coming to the rescue, that enabled France to successfully face this terrible machine. Victory is impossible, he said, unless the British workmen frankly followed the example of their French comrades without cavi and, above all, without delay. "I cannot return to Parliament," he declared, "and report through the House of Commons to the British Army that skilled workers won't suspend their rules to save their fellow-countrymen's lives on the battlefield."

Referring to the excellent work he had seen done by women during the last few days, Mr. Lloyd George said that skilled British workmen, whose patriotism was manifested by their readiness to give their sons to fight their country's battles, would give such an answer. Time is vital, he declared time is victory, and time is life. There already are 540,000 casualties, including 300,000 between the Trade Unions and the Government in March. Further delay means further loss, and I appeal to the workmen to help thoroughly and quickly. Such aid will strengthen your claim at the end of the war upon the British people. As for the protests of the minority of this meeting, I feel that I can thank the vast majority for an appreciative hearing.

Near the close of the address, Mr. Lloyd George said that he wondered how many people fully realized the magnitude of the war and its tremendous issues. Sometimes, he feared, he said, that they treated it as a passing shower, but this is not a passing shower, it is the deluge; it is a convulsion of nature; it is a cyclone, which is tearing up by its roots the ornamental plants of modern society, and wrecking some of the flimsy trestle bridge of modern civilization. It is an earthquake which is upheaving the very rocks of European life. It is one of those seismic disturbances in which nations leap forward or fall backward for generations in a single bound. All this chattering about relaxing a rule and suspending a custom is out of place. You cannot haggle with an earthquake, and I beg the skilled workmen of this country, in whose keeping are the doctrines of nature, to lift up their eyes above the mists of distrust and suspicion, and ascend to the height of the greatest opportunity that ever opened before their class, and by so doing there will emerge, after this war, that future hope which the great leaders of democracy of all ages have pictured in their dreams.

At the outset of his appeal the Minister said that he had come to Glasgow on behalf of the Government, at the request of the British Army, to

OFFICIAL BRITISH

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Headquarters in France report that an enemy bombing attack on Ploegsteert Wood failed.

Artillery was active at Hartmannsweilerkopf. The French abandoned captured positions on the right retaining the left and centre on a front of a mile and a quarter.—BONAR LAW.

LONDON, Dec. 24 (official)—General Townshend, commanding the British troops at Kutelamara reports the nights of Dec. 21-22 quiet.

LONDON, Dec. 24 (official)—Early this morning the enemy made an unsuccessful bombing attack, on our posts near Ploegsteert Wood.

The day being bright the artillery was active, but the preponderance of activity was on our side.

OFFICIAL FRENCH

PARIS, Dec. 26.—The following official communication was issued by the War Office last night. In Belgium during the day the artillery continued to display marked activity on both sides in the region of Lombartzyde. In Artois our batteries successfully bombarded German works to the South of Angres, and in the region of Arras. In Champagne we dispersed an enemy convoy on the road from Tahure to Somme. In the Vosges there was an artillery duel of a rather intense character, the enemy bombarded without effect our position on the Hirzstein and on the slopes to the north of Hartmannsweilerkopf.

The Belgian official communication reads: Calm prevailed last night and this morning; the enemy this afternoon showed some activity before the central part of our front. There batteries were immediately silenced by our artillery which afterwards destructively shelled the German works at Vicogne and an important enemy work to the north of Dixmude.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—A statement issued by the French War Office to-day says the night was calm along the whole front.

FOR AND AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The repeated postponement of Asquith's announcement of the figures of Earl Derby's recruiting campaign, is now said to be due to pressure brought to bear by the anti-conscriptionists. It is also alleged that the Premier can only hold his Ministry intact by introducing some form of conscription, although he himself is not in favour of this course.

According to Parliamentary gossip the number of single men attested under the recruiting scheme was only a quarter of the total of single men on the National Registry, and it is asserted that when men unfit for service or engaged in munition work are eliminated, only very few will be available for the army.

Of course it is impossible to confirm these statements before the official figures are forthcoming, but there is little doubt that there is a strong force within the Cabinet working for conscription on the ground that single men responded inadequately to the appeal of Earl Derby. On the other hand, there is a very strong party in Parliament dead against conscription. According to the "Weekly Nation," this party numbers two hundred and is well organized and determined to fight.

KAISER'S CONDITION IS VERY SERIOUS

LONDON, Dec. 24.—According to rumours in Berlin, Emperor William's illness is very serious, says the Morning Post's Rotterdam correspondent, but these rumours have been officially denied. It was only when the rumour insisted that an operation for cancer was necessary in order to save the Emperor's life, the correspondent adds, that physicians issued a bulletin declaring that his illness was due to inflammation of the cellular tissues.

Suggestions that German Influence is at Work in Foreign Office are Emphatically Denied by Lord Cecil and A. J. Balfour

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Most important speeches before the House of Commons adjourned to-night for the Christmas recess were made by Lord Robert Cecil and A. J. Balfour.

Lord Robert Cecil's speech was a defence of the Foreign Office. He denied rumours of dissensions among the Cabinet, of dissensions among the Allies, and pro-German influence in the Foreign Office. He announced the Foreign Office would shortly issue a White Paper stating the principles on which the British blockade of Germany is based. Until the resignation of one or more members of the Cabinet, he said, every one is bound to accept the view that it is united on the main lines of its policy. As to the unity of the Allies, they have carried on the war in a manner which, in his considered history, is really an unexampled performance. Suggestions have recently been made in various forms that some one in the Foreign Office is in the pay of Germany, or at least is pro-German. This is a grotesque and serious charge. It shows that there are some people who are

unable to stand up to the strain of the war and have become mere hysterical neuretics. When things are not going right for the moment, such people think the proper course is to turn on the men who are trying to save their country and shout traitor! traitor! This is a disgrace, un-British state of things. It is utterly destructive of the morals of the country, and it is the duty of every patriotic man to stamp these things out.

"I assure the House that everything that could be legitimately done to prevent goods going to Germany has been done. One member of the Commons has said the only way to effectively blockade Germany is to go to war with the neutral countries surrounding Germany. I want to say frankly this is not the policy of the Government. The great difficulty of the blockade is to discriminate between goods with enemy destinations and those genuinely for consumption by neutral countries. As to our Balkan policy, the aim throughout has been to produce in these unhappy countries unity instead of discord. The suggestion that the Foreign Office rejected an alliance with the assistance of Greece is absolutely without foundation.

Balfour, replying to various speakers who had complained of the shortage of ships for mercantile purposes, said, the whole possibility of carrying on the war rested on the British Navy and its mercantile fleet. He was willing to confess that there had probably been some wastage of tonnage but the first business of the Admiralty was not to save tonnage but to win battles. We cannot expect to carry on the war with the same economy that we manage the ports of Liverpool or Hull, said the First Lord of the Admiralty. The first thing has been to see that every warship was ready to fight whenever required, and that every soldier was supplied with all that was necessary to make

OFFICIAL RUSSIAN

PETROGRAD, Dec. 26.—The following official communication from General Headquarters was issued yesterday. On the Western Russian front six verstas, about four miles, northeast of Buczacz, we repulsed enemy attempts against our advanced trenches. In the region of Narancze we took an enemy post by surprise, capturing twenty-one prisoners. The enemy's desperate attempts to recapture the position were ineffectual.

MONTENEGRO

PARIS, Dec. 26.—A Montenegrin official statement received here late last night says: "On Dec. 23rd. our Sanjak army, in continuance of its offensive attacked the enemy towards Loponatz. After a severe struggle the enemy was completely repulsed and driven back on Bjelopoljje, leaving on the field five hundred dead. We took as prisoners, one hundred men including a Captain. On the other fronts there has been artillery duels and infantry combats."

TURKISH

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 24.—The Turkish War Office gave out the following statement last night:—"The situation on the Irak front is unchanged."

"On the Caucasian front, Russian detachments which attempted to approach us in a mile section were repulsed."

"On the Dardanelles front, five torpedo boats and one cruiser were compelled to retire, the cruiser having been hit. At Seddul Bahr there was a violent artillery action on the right wing. A hostile aircraft was shot down at Birshebat."

MAKING ENERGETIC PREPARATION

GENEVA, Dec. 24.—Despatches speak convincingly of German preparations for an attack on the Suez Canal which is now timed for the end of January, but the British press continues to declare that the defensive preparations would make an attack in that territory simply folly.

From Russia comes reports that Germans and Russians alike are making energetic preparations for new operations early in the new year. The Russian military organ says the winter campaign on the Russian front will not be confined to a war of attrition. Important events may be looked for very soon. Russians and Germans declare the war will be decided on the Russian front for no successes elsewhere can have a preponderating effect, until a result has been obtained here.

Peace Talk Gets No Support

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The Petrograd correspondent of Reuter's wiring under date of Thursday says:—"To the full sitting of the Budget Committee of the Duma to-day the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sazonoff made a statement on the political situation, in the course of which he said that relations with Greece, following the Entente Allies' fortifications of Salonika, were perfectly well defined."

He continued, "The occupation of Hamadan and Kum enables us to prevent the Germans causing trouble in Persia. In future it behooves Russia to adopt a firm attitude in regard to Persia."

Professor Miluffok put a question about peace rumours, to which M. Sazonoff replied, that they had no foundation, and referred to the unshakable determination of the Russian government to carry the war to a successful issue.

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him the best fighting unit. He urged the wisest remedy for the shortage in tonnage was to go on with the building of merchant ships, which he thought should be recognized as war work, and second only to the manufacture of munitions.

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS NOW FACING A POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

Greek Uneasiness Increases Hourly

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Despatches report some clashes between Russians and Austrians in Galicia with minor successes on both sides. Russian forces are also reported within 25 miles of Teheran.

Despite the fact that there has been no severe fighting for several days, Greek uneasiness over possible Germanic operations in Greek territory increases hourly. The Greek domestic situation is so ruffled that it is stated that the first act of Parliament when it meets will be the proclamation of martial law, in order to muzzle the Opposition newspapers which have been mercilessly attacking the Government.

A Reuter despatch says Germany has informed Greece she hopes to reach Salonika on January 15th, promising also to evacuate Greek territory as soon as her task is finished.

Other despatches assert that the Teutonic allies will take up strong positions in the Macedonian defiles and there await an offensive movement by the Entente Powers.

Bulgars Swipe Red Cross Supplies

PARIS, Dec. 27.—The Salonika correspondent of the Corriere della Sera of Milan says that General Castelnau, Chief of the General Staff, has just arrived and has had a long conference with General Sarraill, the French commander in the Near East.

General Castelnau's visit under present circumstances is of great importance, says the correspondent, and the best proof that decisions taken by him are in accord with General Sarraill's views is to be found in the fact that transports are arriving every day and material is being landed. Only now is the real Expeditionary Corps being organized.

The Bulgarians in possession of Monastir, the correspondent adds, have requisitioned a great quantity of flour, which was handed over by the retreating Serbs for the American Mission for distribution among the poor. Monastir is still lacking all the necessities of life and the people are suffering greatly from hunger.

Every Man Is Needed

LONDON, Dec. 27.—It is announced officially that the armet scheme, which is already in force for men enrolled under the Derby plan has been extended to give the right to wear a special symbol to men who have been refused for military service on account of medical reasons. Earl Derby has issued a booklet on the administration of the group system in which he says in a preface note that the duration of the war will depend on man power the allies are able to put in the field such an overwhelming majority of men and guns that no matter at what cost the offensive could be pursued until the enemy armies were largely destroyed and their country invaded the war would not be prolonged. Every man who can possibly be spared for the army and navy directly assists in shortening the war, thereby diminishing industrial loss.

WILL CLOTHE BULGARS IN GERMAN UNIFORMS

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Newspaper correspondent at Athens and Salonika cable that the Bulgarians will be in the vanguard in the Teutonic advance on Salonika. All pretended German guarantees, says the Morning Post's correspondent, are mere sedatives intended to induce Greek public opinion to take the bitter dose as quietly as possible.

A rumor is in circulation that the Germans are preparing to clothe the Bulgarians in German uniform so that Greece cannot object to their entry.

Christmas Day Passed Without Heavy Firing on the European Fronts—A General Abandonment Now the Order of the Day of the Truce Between all Political Parties—Northcliffe's Papers Lead in Attacking the Government

ACCUSE GOVERNMENT GENERAL MISMANAGEMENT

Speculation Continues Over the Future of the Allies at Saloniki—Some Sources Say it is Feared the Central Powers Will Bear Down on Saloniki From Three Sides—Turkey and Bulgaria Still Try and Hold Friendship With Greece

LONDON, Dec. 27.—Christmas Day passed without heavy fighting anywhere on the European fronts, but it passed also without a truce which gave a touch of humanity to Christmas Day a year ago.

The United Kingdom, however, witnessed a general abandonment of the truce between the political parties which was observed during the early months of the war and which apparently was cemented for the duration of the war when the Coalition Government was formed. The past week has seen a steady growth of the newspaper attack on the Government, the general burden of which is slowness, the lack of foresight and decision and the mismanagement of the Dardanelles enterprise. While the newspapers disclaim any partisan motives all the more prominent ones participating in this opposition belong to the Conservative party, with the exception of the Manchester Guardian.

David Lloyd George is the only candidate in advance for succession. He commanded Lord Northcliffe's support some time ago by his spirit in charging the Government with being late at the most important crisis of the war, at the same time gaining for himself a large following.

The two latest accounts of indictments of the Cabinet are the postponement until after the holidays of the Munitions Bill and the postponement giving the country insight into Lord Derby's report and the receiving the results in time.

The verdict of union labor on Lloyd George's appeal to relax union rules in munition works to permit the entry of eighty thousand unskilled laborers is awaited with interest. One hundred and fifty delegates of the Engineering Society met in London this week to consider terms for settling all differences with the Government.

Speculation over the development of the attack on the Entente Allies at Salonika continues. Some papers credit the Central Powers with the plan to bear down on Salonika from three sides, the Germans forming the centre with Turks and Bulgarians on the left and right wings respectively.

From different correspondents come various reports on the situation in the Balkans, some contending the Bulgars have accomplished all territorial gains within their immediate ambitions, and therefore, will move no further. Other correspondents represent them as being determined to extend their boundaries and Germany is probably confronted with the problem of reconciling the conflicting ambitions of her two Balkan Allies. Turkey and Bulgaria are also trying to keep their friendships with Greece, whose support she is credited with still hoping to gain. The latest reported Greek move is the prohibition of the export of food supplies from Greece to the Franco-British army at Salonika.

General Castelnau, Chief of the French General Staff, visited King Constantine and met the Greek Army Staff and Minister of the Allied countries.

King Peter of Serbia has arrived at Italy from Avlona and will be a guest of King Victor Emmanuel. King Peter will be entertaining in the Royal Palace at Caserta.

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