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ST. JOHN N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1916

TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

Germany Asks For Immediate Meeting Re Peace

Berlin, Dec. 26---Germany proposes an immediate meeting of belligerent delegates to discuss peace.

Swiss Action Gives New Interest

A RINGING SPEECH

Arthur Henderson, British Cabine Member, to French Socialists-Not Time Yet to Let Germany Have Peace She Wants

nistered by the issue of the Swiss note

There is on the one hand a reiteration of "the rooted objection of the allies to inopportune and ill-advised intervention by neutrals," and on the other hand an appeal for courteous treatment of neutral representations, it being urged that the allies are bound to take them into account, for to do otherwise would be to reduce themselves to "the level of the aggressors, who began the war."

LASTING PEACE

IS ASSURED

aria Dec. 26.—In addresses at a national congress of the French Socialist party. Arthur Henderson, British cabinet minister, and C. H. Roberts, British M.P., both affirmed, amidst enthusiastic cheers, that the war must be fought out until full guarantees have been obtained for a lasting peace.

'In my opinion," said Mr. Henderson, if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than that is the price our enemies would exact for peace today."

Emile Vandervelde, Belgian Socialist leader, said: "Our comrades who have remained in invaded Belgium endure German dominion with admirable firmness. Nothing but encouragement reaches us from them. So it would seem that the persons most hostile to war are those farthest from it."

Mr. Vandervelde also declared that the struggle must be carried on until Belgium and Serbia are delivered and "Caesarism is laid low."

Mr. Henderson said: "In my opinion we have now reached the most dangerous and difficult period of the war. During the next few months the democracies of England and France are going to be tested as never before. Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean that the stress and strain of the fighting in the field will be more severe, although I do not ignore such a possibility. But the danger is of entirely a different character.

"Our stupendous losses, our unprecedented sacrifices, our horror of war, our

the danger is of entirely a different character.

"Our stupendous losses, our unprecedented sacrifices, our horror of war, our love of peace, may lead us to mortgage the future. With such awful experiences we are apt to forget the great moral, eternal principles and ideals for which we entered the struggle.

"We are not only fighting a negative action against material forces which are highly organized, but we are engaged in a great spiritual conflict upon the results of which depend all our great ideals. If we enter into negotiations now we do so when Germany is not repentant for her wrongdoing and is glorifying in the success of her military efforts, in fact, in the victory of German imperialism. In my opinion, if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions, with such a spirit, we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than that is the price which our enemy would exact for peace today.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, while in the city on Monday hand-

story across rather better than usual. Both party organizations are now working together in the effort to defeat the growing desire among earnest and well-in formed people all across Canada to see partizan politics swept aside and a na renewed today with a new impetus ad-

The men who count for most in public life might become weeks ago, and by the second of the party system will welcome any such change. They do not the party system will welcome any such change. til they see that it is about to come into effect.

Mr. J. W. Flavell made a speech in Ottawa on Saturday and was bil to speak in Toronto on Monday at noon. Sir Thomas White was billed to speak his hearers. They found him a man in blazing, flaming earnest. He had been away—he had seen England and what was going on there, he had seen the front of battle where Canadians are going through what they nor their fathers had

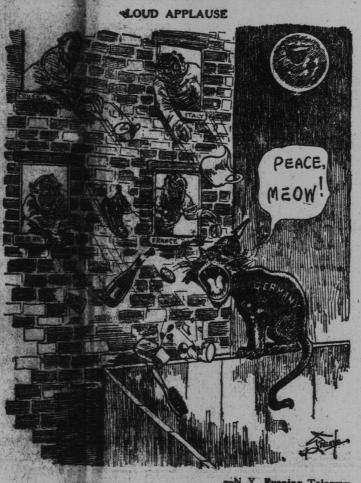
The billing of the street of battle where Canadissa are going through what they now the fathers had never endowed before, and be also comes back and be looked about him at his Ottava meeting and he scelabland—in the street of battle where Canadissa are going through what they now the fathers had never endowed before, and be lade ones back and be looked about him at his Ottava meeting and he scelabland—in the street of the street of

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Warships In Fight In Strait Of Otranto

Enemy, as Usual, Flees When Real Man-O-Warsmen Appear--Little Going on **Among Land Forces**

Rome, via Paris, Dec. 26-A naval engagement between French, Italian and austrian warships in the Strait of Otran to is announced in an official statement

"Several enemy ships attacked our patrol vessels in Otranto Channel on the light of December 23. French and Italian warships came to the rescue and the enemy fied under cover of darkness, after a sharp engagement. What damage he suffered is unknown. Two French destroyers and one patrol boat were hit and slightly damaged.

MISS ESTELLE MCPEAKE DEAD IN FREDERICTON

Sister of Capt. J. A. McPeake-General News of the Capital

Estelle McPeake died suddenly at her home here last night. She was a daughter of the late Patrick McPeake, former

UNITED STATES IN THE WAR BY SPRING

Germans Demanding Resumption of Sea Terrorism

N. Y. HERALD HEARS THIS