

PLAIN TALK BY TROTSKY TO GERMANS

In Notifying of Refusal of Terms Which Held Russ Lands.

ENEMY HOPEFUL

Russian Factions Seem as One in Declining the Foe's Offer.

Petrograd cable: The Bolshevik Foreign Minister, Leon Trotsky, declared today that the Government of the Russian workers would not consent to the German peace proposals. He said Germany's proposals were "hypocritical."

M. Trotsky's declaration was made before the Central Committee of the Council of Soldiers' and Workers' Delegates. He asserted that the Government of Russian workers would not consent to such conditions. He said that if the Central Powers did not agree to free disposal of the destiny of the Polish and Lithuanian nations, it would be urgently necessary to defend the Russian revolution. He said that the needs of the front would be satisfied, whatever effort might be necessary.

Representatives from all the fronts who attended the meeting declared the troops would defend the revolution, but said bread and boots were necessary.

The Executive Committee of the Pan Soviet today adopted resolutions appealing to the German people, urging assumption of the right to negotiate "a general democratic peace."

The resolution declared that the German terms "evade the principle of no annexation and are not acceptable to Russia."

The Soviet appealed to the people of the Central Powers thus: "You compel your Government to accept our motto, 'no annexation and no indemnities,' but they are trying to carry out their old policy of invasions. Remember, an immediate democratic peace depends on you."

Evidences multiplied today that irreconcilable differences between Russian and German peace conferences will force discontinuance of future separate peace negotiations and that the armistice may not be renewed. The Russians are now apprehensive of Germany's trickery in every move by the Teutonic delegates and agents here and at Brest-Litovsk.

The halt in the negotiations and indications of a German refusal to move the conference to Stockholm have revived universal discussion in Petrograd of a resumption of fighting with a greatly reduced army, probably three million men.

TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS.

London cable: Notwithstanding the unfavorable reception of their proposals by the Bolsheviks and the Russian suggestions that the negotiations be continued in a neutral country, preferably at Stockholm, the delegates of the Central Powers are returning to Brest-Litovsk on the assumption that the conference will be resumed at the appointed time. Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, departed from Vienna this morning, accompanied by a large staff of diplomats. The Turkish delegation sent forth from Constantinople on Tuesday, intending to visit Berlin on the way to Brest-Litovsk.

The Petrograd News Agency is quoted in a Central News despatch from Copenhagen that the effect of the Russian delegation declared, in declining to accept the German peace proposals, that they were likely to deprive of its value the initial German reply, laying down a basis of discussion on the principle of no annexation or indemnities. The Russians describe as "ridiculous" that there already has been a free expression of the will of the peoples in the occupied territories.

ATTEMPT AT DISTORTION.

The Central Committee of the Council of Soldiers' and Workers' Delegates, after listening to an address from Foreign Minister Trotsky, adopted the following resolution: "This assembly confirms the fact that the programme proclaimed by the representatives of the Quadruple Alliance at Brest-Litovsk recognizes in principle the conclusion of a peace without annexation or indemnities. This recognition establishes the basis for further negotiations with the view of a general democratic peace."

"However, already in this declaration the representatives of the German Government have refused to admit the free right of oppressed nations and colonies seized before the beginning of the war in 1914 to dispose of their own destiny. This restriction, which was immediately reported by the Russian delegation, signifies that the dominant parties in Germany compelled by a popular movement to grant concessions to the principles of a democratic peace, nevertheless are trying to distort this idea in the sense of their own annexationist policy."

APPEALED TO PEOPLES.

The resolution concludes: "We say to the people of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria: 'Under your pressure your Governments have been obliged to accept the motto of no annexations and no indemnities, but recently they have been trying to carry on their old policy of evasions. Remember that the conclusion of an immediate democratic

peace will depend actually and above all on you. All the people of Europe look to you, exhausted and bled by such a war as there never was before, that you will not permit the Austro-German Imperialists to make war against revolutionary Russia for the subjection of Poland, Lithuania, Courland and Armenia."

STEFANSSON.

Party in Good Health—Return Next Summer.

Dawson, Y. T. report: Vilhjalmur Stefansson is at Herschel Island and expects to reach Nome, Alaska, next summer, according to reports reaching here from Fort Yukon, Alaska. The entire Stefansson party was reported in good health. A Northwest Mounted Police winter patrol left here today with mail for Fort McPherson, to connect with a similar patrol from Herschel Island. The patrol will probably return here in March with full details of the results of Stefansson's expedition.

HUNS CHANGING.

Released Men Say They Think for Themselves.

London, Cable.—A release British news, an author and competent observer according to the Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily News, told on arrival there of a changing attitude among the German people. He said that, judging from the officials and soldiers concerned with the administration of the Ruhrgebiet camp, "the Germans are beginning to think for themselves."

"They no longer do and believe everything is a mechanical, undisturbed way as it has been from above," he said. "The old expressions of hatred of England are no longer heard. The soldiers themselves are longing only for the end of the war. They don't talk now think about victories, and they say they want to be friends with us again."

Generally speaking, relations between the interned men and their guards now seem to be good.

QUEEN'S MEMORIAL.

Kingston, Report.—After war Queen's plan was carried out, a "union building," which will be a memorial to the students of the college who have been killed in action. The building will be a kind of clubhouse for the students. The plan, which has not yet been definitely planned, carries with it an endowment of a million dollars, which would be sufficient to erect and equip the building.

MANITOBA BY-ELECTION.

Winnipeg, Report.—F. C. Tipping, president of the Trades and Labor Council, will be the opponent of Robert Jacob (Unionist) in the North Winnipeg by-election, to be held January 15th. Mr. Tipping will run as a straight Socialist, although he is a member of the Socialist Democratic party.

WARNS BRITAIN TO SAVE FOOD

Food Controller Says Situation Not Alarming.

Will Improve, but Country Must Be Careful.

London cable says: The Director of Meat supplies announces that Tuesday will be the meatless day in London and Wednesday in the provinces.

London, Jan. 3.—Compulsory rationing is to be put into effect in England at an early date, according to Lord Rhonda, the Food Controller, speaking at a luncheon today. He prefaced his announcement by saying that he was afraid that compulsory rationing would have to come, and that it was on its way, and then declared that his department had completed a scheme, and that, as soon as the sanction of the Cabinet had been received, it would be carried out.

Lord Rhonda warned his hearers that there would continue to be a shortage, though the position would improve, and improve steadily.

"There is nothing alarming in the situation," he said. "You have only to tighten your belt. The people of this country are undergoing nothing like the privations in Germany. There they have less than a pound of meat a week."

The Food Controller pointed out that the import of butter in November and December, 1917, amounted to only three thousand tons, as compared with thirty thousand tons in November and December, 1915. However, there had been an enormous increase in the production of margarine in England, and by June the capacity of the factories would be four times what it was in 1915.

Referring to the meat shortage, Lord Rhonda said he did not want to threaten, he did not want to command cattle, but the machinery would be there to carry the cattle to market when the time came.

There was going to be a great shortage of meat during the next couple of weeks, but after that he hoped the position would improve considerably. Before the war forty per cent. of the meat consumed by civilians was imported from abroad; today a large part of the imported meat went to the army, leaving less than ten per cent. for civilians. There was, however, no great depletion in cattle in the country. It was leaner cattle, but there was a large supply.

"Food," said Lord Rhonda, "in my opinion, should have priority of tonnage and finance. There has been an enormous increase in wages, aggregating one hundred millions sterling a year, and this increases the difficulty of getting down the price of food."

The food controller strongly supported communal kitchens, and said that Government grants would be made where necessary to establish them. He incidentally disclosed the fact that Lady Rhonda got the Christmas dinner for her family from one of these kitchens, and added: "What is good enough for my old woman is quite good enough for any one."

GLORIOUS VICTORY WON BY TERRITORIALS IN PALESTINE

Did Not Yield One Inch of Ground to Turks Trying to Retake Jerusalem—While the Foe Lost Terribly in Their Furious Assaults There.

London cable: An inspiring story of British gallantry is told by W. T. Massey in a despatch to the Daily News, dated at Jerusalem, on Monday, and describing the Turkish failure to recapture the Holy City on December 27. The main enemy attack was made by the Third Turkish Corps, including a new division from the Caucasus, from the north, along Nablus road. At the same time the Twentieth Turkish Corps made a demonstration from the east and fought very hard for some vital position. The enemy's first objective was Tel El Ful, a high, conical-shaped hill just east of the Nablus road, and commanding the British lines east and west for a considerable distance. During the daylight of Boxing Day (Wednesday) the Turks showed no movement, but just before midnight a post north of Ful was driven in.

At 12.30 the first attack on Ful was made. At the same time an advance was begun against Beit Hannina, about a mile west of the road. This line was defended by the London Territorials, who added to their grand record during the campaign by meeting attack after attack with magnificent steadiness and standing like rocks against the most furious onslaught. Never once did they yield an inch of ground.

DEAD SHOW BAYONET WOUNDS.

Two companies defending Hannina were attacked four times by storming troops, each attack being stronger than the preceding one. The fourth, delivered by 500 picked Turks, was entirely beaten back after prolonged hand-to-hand fighting.

The enemy dead show many bayonet wounds, while the hillside is strewn with Turks killed by machine-gun fire. There were eight attacks on Tel El Ful, these likewise being made with great weight and determination. The strongest of them all was delivered at dawn with a reinforced line, supported by heavy artillery fire. All were defeated with great loss to the enemy.

BRITISH FRONT.

German Raids Were All Repulsed.

London cable says: To-night's statement from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters reads as follows:

"In addition to the raids reported in this morning's communication, the enemy attempted last night to raid one of our posts in the neighborhood of Oppy, but was driven off before reaching our trenches."

"This afternoon the enemy's artillery has shown increased activity in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Comines Canal. On the remainder of the front there was nothing of special interest."

"Yesterday evening, under cover of a heavy bombardment, three parties of the enemy attempted to raid our positions in the neighborhood of Mericourt, southeast of Lens. The hostile parties were disorganized by our artillery fire, and they failed to reach the trenches. They then were attacked in No Man's Land by our patrols, who inflicted many casualties and secured a few prisoners."

"Other raids attempted by the enemy in the course of the night south of Lens, at Hill 70, in the neighborhood of the Menin road and north of Pessendaele were all repulsed. We secured a few more prisoners in these encounters."

NO FRICTION IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Premier Morris Resigned to Maintain Harmony.

Will Give Innings to the Other Side.

London cable: (Reuter despatch)—Premier Morris of Newfoundland, whose resignation was announced yesterday, in an interview today stated that there was no difference of opinion between himself and his colleagues. On the contrary, he was at one with his colleagues on all matters. His resignation was made after most careful consideration, and dictated entirely by a desire to preserve harmony in the country on all national issues, particularly the conduct of the war, which would be rudely jostled in a duel which a general election means.

After referring to the formation of a coalition Government in August, in the course of which he acknowledged as reasonable the manner in which he was not by Lloyd Coaker, Premier Morris said coalition worked out successfully in dealing with the important problems of shortage of tonnage, fishery exports and military recruiting. He had arrived at the conclusion that the other political side was not entitled to an innings, and that he was justified in standing aside at present in the interests of Newfoundland.

The Empire press remarks that Premier Morris' public-spirited and disinterested action recalls ex-Governor Davidson's recent tribute. Premier Morris will possibly take up literary work.

Between 7 o'clock and noon the enemy organized for a last big effort, about 12.30 the Turks tried to assault the whole of the Londoners' line. This final attack was pressed right up to the British positions, the Londoners and Turks getting to deadly grips.

The enemy fought with the bravery of desperation. He proved no match, however, for the London Territorials, who, after raking the advancing waves with machine-guns, cleared his breastworks at a bound, met the foe with the bayonet, forced him back, and then, with well-supported counter-attacks, made him cry "enough."

PUT IN THE IRISH.

Meanwhile the British commander, swiftly realizing how deeply committed the Turks were to the attack on Jerusalem, put in the Irish and dismounted Yeomanry against the enemy right. This caused the Turks to divert the new Caucasus division from the Jerusalem attack to try and save their right flank, but the flanking movement was carried out with such dash that much more ground was actually made than could have been hoped for if the British had been acting on the offensive.

Those who have seen the terrain marvel at the dismounted Yeomanry, the Irishmen, Zeitan ridge, taken by the Irish, was a tremendous obstacle. To scale it was a great feat, but to fight and defeat a stubborn foe on top of it was to almost achieve the impossible.

TERRIBLE TURK LOSSES.

The Irish captured seven machine-guns on this ridge.

That was the last attempt of the Turks to recapture Jerusalem, and in the fighting on subsequent days it was apparent how much their morale had been affected by the terrible losses they sustained. The result of the battle is that the defenders of the Holy City have been immensely strengthened and the British have secured an unlimited water supply.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Belgian Girls and Women Forced to Dig German Trenches.

CORTES DISSOLVED

An Effort May Be Made to Unseat London's New Mayor.

The Royal Palace at La Granza, in Spain, was burned.

Passengers on a train in Mexico were massacred by Indians.

Rev. Robert Godfrey, a pioneer of Methodism, died in Saskatoon.

Toronto street railway earnings for 1917 showed a large increase over the earnings for 1916.

The International Hotel, at Niagara Falls, N. Y., was destroyed by fire; \$1,000,000 loss.

The dates for the Toronto Patriotic Fund and Red Cross campaign were fixed for January 22, 23 and 24.

At the Toronto Trades and Labor Council it was charged that the civic coal distribution was an election dodge.

A deputation from western Ontario asked for a Government investigation into the natural gas supply of several counties.

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Carr, of Thorold, Ont., celebrated their golden wedding in the presence of their immediate family circle.

Several Canadian naval officers have been awarded decorations by the King of Italy. Admiral Sir C. E. Kingsmill becomes Grand Officer of the Crown of Italy.

A fatal accident occurred at the British Chemical Works, Trenton, when a weight fell on a man named Cote from Montreal.

King Alfonso signed a decree dissolving the Cortes. Elections will be held on February 17th, and the new Chamber will meet March 11th.

As he does not have the necessary qualification, Henry Holmes is unable to qualify as alderman in Ward Five, Galt, after being chosen by acclamation for the seat.

Mr. J. A. Neilson who has been a lecturer on horticulture at the Manitoba Agricultural College for the last year, has received the appointment of lecturer in the same department at the O. A. C.

The legality of the majority election of New Year's Day was called in question at London, Ont., and it is reported that Dennis Flanagan will move to unseat Mayor C. R. Somerville.

Mrs. W. Hayes Jackson, widow of the late Lieut. Col. Jackson, who was prominent in the military circles of the Dominion, died at her home in Brockville, aged 95 years.

Belgian girls and women are being compelled to dig trenches on the new German lines on the Flanders front.

This is announced by the Belgian Legation.

Frederick Webster, who pleaded guilty in the Peterboro police court to two charges of bigamy, was sentenced to seven years in Kingston Penitentiary. Webster was married three times.

Collingwood's only centenarian, James McDonald, passed away at the home of his son-in-law, Fred. Dunbar. The deceased would have been 107 years of age had he lived until April 6th next.

The latest returns of the referendum upon the vote show a majority for conscription in the Australian forces of 750. The totals of all classes of votes gives a majority against conscription of 170,000.

Daniel Hand, H. C. McVean, Samuel Hammond, Robert Scott, Charles Beckerson and Daniel Cronin, all returned Canadian soldiers, have been appointed to the Canadian customs staff at Windsor.

From the effects of the burns which he sustained when the explosion occurred at the Gar Works, M. D. Montgomery, manager of the Ingersoll Gas Light Company, died in Alexandria Hospital.

Fritz von Pils, former employee of the Prussian Government, sometimes known as Baronet Frederick Depilis, was arrested at New York by agents of the Department of Justice, upon orders from Washington as an active and dangerous enemy alien.

As a result of the resignation of Premier Morris three members of the Newfoundland Cabinet retired. They are Richard Squires, Colonial Secretary; John Bennett, Minister of Militia, and Michael Gibbs, Minister without portfolio.

Pending an investigation into charges that she harbors pro-German feelings and has made statements which some people, rightly or wrongly, believe brings her loyalty into question, Miss Frieda Held, a Toronto teacher, will not resume her duties.

It is the intention of the Ottawa Separate School Board to appeal to the Privy Council for a decision as to the constitutionality of the Ontario Provincial Government Act which empowers the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to name a school board to administer the separate schools.

STILL COCKY.

German Liberal Leader Sees Victory Sure.

The Hague cable says: The German Liberal leader, Gustav Stresemann, reviewing the events of 1917 in the Hamburgische Correspondent, and commenting on the first eleven months of the ruthless submarine war, asserts that it is a mistake to consider America's war declaration as a result of the ruthless submarine campaign, and that if Germany's diplomacy had not been so clumsy, President Wilson could never have counteracted the "strong pacifist movement" in America and declared war on Germany.

Herr Stresemann says that Germany's overtures in Mexico had more to do with the Washington declaration of war than the submarine war, just as Luxburg's telegrams did more harm in antagonizing the South Americans than the sinking of South American ships.

America's entrance into the war has complicated the situation, Herr Stresemann says, but the people are mistaken in believing that America has caused a turning of the war current in favor of the Entente. Nine months have passed without any considerable American army arriving on the battlefield, he asserts, and the pacifist feeling is now growing beyond Wilson's control, the election in New York being cited as proof of this.

Herr Stresemann concluded that no one can contest Germany's military victory, and that it only remains for Germany to secure a diplomatic victory.

U-BOAT CREWS ARE FINE MEN

No Loss of Morale Among Them, is Report.

Best of Hun Navy, Says U. S. Admiral.

Washington report: Admiral Benson, chief of operations, told the House Naval Committee today it was folly to believe there was any loss of morale among German submarine crews, and that from information gathered from German prisoners he believed their morale was the best in the German navy.

During the session, which was in private, in the course of the committee's investigation of the navy's part in the war, Admiral Benson is also said to have told the Congressmen that a court of enquiry found that some mistake as to convoy might have contributed to the loss of the transport Anahita, torpedoed by a German submarine with the first important military loss of the war.

Admiral Benson also said frankly that submarine chasers did not come up to expectations and that he was responsible personally for not building any considerable number.

The number of American ships torpedoed, he said, was less than one per cent. of those going into and out of the submarine zone under escort.

TRAIN WRECK KILLS MANY.

Amsterdam, Cable.—The wrecking of a passenger train near Sambar, in Galicia, 40 miles south-west of Lemberg, occasioned the death or injury of many persons. The train was carrying the Russian ambassador to the Rottensamsche Court. The train caught fire while traveling at a full speed. Owing to the fire the emergency brakes could not be operated.

A REFORMED SOCIAL ORDER FOR AFTER WAR

Draft of Reconstruction Plan of the British Labor Party.

FOUR BIG POINTS

Which Form the Nucleus of Their Scheme for Better Things.

London cable: Universal enforcement of a national minimum, democratic control of industry, a revolution in national finance, and the surplus wealth for the common good—these are the four cardinal points of the labor reconstruction policy after the war as submitted in a draft report of the British Labor party prepared by a sub-committee of the executive committee for submission at the party conference next June, or before, should a general election render it necessary. The title of the draft report is "Labor and the New Social Order" and the report declares that what has to be reconstructed after the war is not this or that Government department or social machinery, but "Society itself."

"If," continues the report, "we are to escape the decay of civilization itself, which the Japanese statesman, Count Okuma (former Premier), foresees, we must ensure the building up of a new social order."

DEMOCRATIC CONTROL.

"Regarding democratic control of industry the report complains that neither the Government nor either of the great political parties has yet formulated any plan for dealing with the demobilization of the millions of soldiers, and says: 'Any Government allowing discharged soldiers or munition workers to fall into the clutches of charity or the poor law would have to be instantly driven from office by an outburst of popular indignation. The Labor party has refused absolutely to believe that the British people will permanently tolerate any reconstruction or the perpetuation of the destruction, waste and inefficiency involved in their abandonment to a jostling crowd of separate private employers, with minds bent not on the service of the community, but, by the very law of their being, only on the utmost possible profiteering.'

"The Labor party holds that whatever may have been the shortcomings of Government importation and control, it has demonstrably prevented a lot of profiteering, not only at the end immediately on the declaration of peace."

"The people will be extremely foolish if they ever allow indispensable industries to slip back into the unfettered control of private capitalists who are actually at the instance of the government itself, now rapidly combining, trade by trade, into monopolistic trusts."

After definitely repudiating all proposals for a protective tariff, the Labor party programme calls for more warmth in politics and much less apathetic acquiescence in existing inequalities.

MINIMUM WAGE.

The report suggests a minimum wage of 30 shillings weekly as the very lowest statutory base line for the least skilled adult workers, and that the hours of labor, wherever practicable, should not exceed 48 weekly. It urges that the Government should prepare for the demobilization period of all kinds of public work, including the building of millions of cottages for the rehousing of the population.

The report demands the removal of all wartime restrictions on freedom of speech and publication, and declares against the continuance of conscription a moment longer than is imperatively required by the war. It insists upon the abolition of the House of Lords and strenuously opposes any new second chamber. It demands also the nationalization of the land, railways, mines, and the production of electrical power, and urges the taking of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drink out of the hands of private enterprise, "whose interest is to promote the utmost possible consumption."

The report concludes by stating that the party seeks no increase of territory, and disclaims all idea of an economic war.

"We stand," says the report, "for the immediate establishment, as part of the treaty of peace, of a universal league or society of nations, a super-national authority, with an international high court to try all justiciable issues between Britain and an international legislature, to enact such common laws as can be mutually agreed upon and an international council of mediation, to endeavor to settle without ultimate conflict even those disputes which are not justiciable."

"The world has suffered too much from the war for the Labor party to have any other policy than lasting peace."

BOLSHEVIKI RECOGNIZE FINLAND

Petrograd report: The Bolshevik news agency announces that the Council of People's Commissioners has decided to recommend to the Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Delegates recognition of the political independence of the Republic of Finland. A special commission has been appointed to take measures for the separation of Finland from Russia.

Mistress—You can have this dress, Katy; I don't intend to wear it any longer. Katy—Thank you, ma'am. Mike likes me in that dress best of all.—People's Home Journal.