Weather Forecast: Fair and Colder

The London Advertiser

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HOME EDITION

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Allies' Reply to Germany Practically Ready

STUBBORN RESISTANCE TO GERMAN DOBRUDJA ADVANCE

1917 HOLIDAY FINDS BRITISH MORE CHEERFUL THAN BEFORE

Despite the Unseasonable Weather, Canadians Refuse To Be Unhappy.

WILL BE HOME NEXT YEAR

Sure War Will Be Over Before Another Yuletide Arrives.

INUNDATED WITH PARCELS

Flood of Mail Swamps Boys of Maple Leaf in Britain and in France.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]

London, December 23. Christmas finds Britishers and Canadians here and in France cheerful and more optimistic than for many months. The weather both here and in Flanders is decidedly "un-Christmassy" when compared with the crisp, bright Canadian climate, but Canadians absolutely refuse to be unhappy despite the rain and mud. There is a general spirit of "Let's make the best of it this Christmas—we have to be here to watch Fritzie, but next Christmas we will be home in Canada and the war all over."

Canadians in British training camps, French billets and the firing line, are literally inundated with parcels and letters from home.

FAITHFUL NEWSBOYS BRAVE ALL WEATHER

With the first fall of snow, commences the hardest season of the year for the little fellows who deliver The Advertiser to London homes. No matter what the weather, they must be on duty six days of the week, and their work often entails a walk of as much as four miles with a load of nearly a hundred papers.

Few subscribers have complaints to make. It is not surprising that out of a route of at least seventy customers one should occasionally fail to receive a paper. Throughout the whole year the evening newspaper is brought to nearly every house in the city long before supper-time comes round.

Those who maintain the morning delivery service do so under even greater difficulties than the evening carrier boys. They must be at the newspaper office before 5 o'clock every morning, even in the coldest weather, and long before most Londoners are awake the paper is lying on their doorsteps. Among the faithful who are remembered at this season, the newsboy is worthy of a prominent place.

TEUTON ADVANCE IN DOBRUDJA IS COSTING HEAVILY

Russians Still Retreat, But Inflict Heavy Loss On Enemy.

REARGUARD FIGHTING ON

Four Guns Damaged and Squadron Bayonetted in One Village.

Petrograd, Dec. 23—Via London—(British Admiralty, per Wireless Press).—Russian troops in the Rumanian Province of Dobrudja continue to retire to the northward, says the official statement issued by the Russian war department today. The Russian rearguard yesterday fought engagements with the Teuton forces which continue to advance. The text of the statement reads:

"Rumanian front: Northwest, west and southwest of Rimnik-Sarat, the enemy yesterday pressed back our advanced posts and lively battles were conducted in the region of Rakovitcheni and Vadulsoresoi.

Bayonet Squadron.

"In the region of Balatchenulone of our companies which penetrated Rochisiu damaged at that place four guns belonging to the horse artillery and surprised a sleeping squadron which they bayonetted. An enemy battalion coming from Kirlenka surrounded our company, but the company broke through the cordon taking with it killed and wounded comrades.

Beat Enemy Back.

"Aggressive attempts by small detachments of enemy infantry at Vichani and cavalry at Stankutza were beaten by our fire and dispersed.

"In Dobrudja our detachments have been withdrawing to the northwards. The enemy, continuing his advance, came in contact with our rearguards."

MORE THAN $1,000,000 IN PRINCESS' ESTATE

Much-Married Detroit Girl's Will Divides It Between Children and Husband.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—The will of Mrs. Clara T. Recciardi, formerly Clara De Kiquet, Princess de Chimay, formerly Clara L. Ward, and a petition for letters testamentary, were filed in probate court here yesterday by John W. Gary. The petition recites that the estate is worth approximately $1,234,835.96 in personal property and $50,000 in real estate, practically all of which is left to Guiseppe Recciardi, who is in Italy; Marie De Chimay, a daughter of Jos. De Chimay, a son, who resides in Paris. Mrs. Clara L. Blakeslee of Chicago, a cousin, is given a bequest of $15,000.

Under the terms of the will the estate is to be divided into three trust funds for the benefit of the husband and two children. Thomas R. Lyon, Wm. Gurley and John W. Gary are named as trustees of the estate. Mr. Lyon died in 1909. The will was signed in 1914.

Mrs. Recciardi died in Italy several days ago. She was the daughter of Eber B. Ward, a millionaire shipbuilder of

HIGH COURT SITTING.—Chief Justice Falconbridge presided at the weekly sitting of the high court at the court house today. One case only was disposed of, an application re the Fagen estate, to pay insurance moneys into the court. The case was allowed to stand over for four weeks.

EON SAID TO BE IN HANDS OF VILLA

Mexican City Reported Capitulated To Bandit Chieftain.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 23.—Unconfirmed reports that Torreon had been captured by Francisco Villa's forces, were forwarded to Washington by Government agents early today. These reports stated that the fighting started early yesterday morning and continued until 1 o'clock in the afternoon, when the city capitulated.

SANTA ROSALIA TAKEN.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 23.—Santa Rosalia, 75 miles southeast of Chihuahua City, was captured December 12 by Villa forces, according to a message received today by an El Paso man who own property in Santa Rosalia. Three hundred Carranza soldiers who had entrained there to go to Chihuahua City were captured and nearly all, including their commander, were executed, the message said. No property was destroyed.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW — FAIR AND COLDER.

Toronto, Dec. 23—8 a.m.

Forecasts.

Fair and colder tonight and on Sunday.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

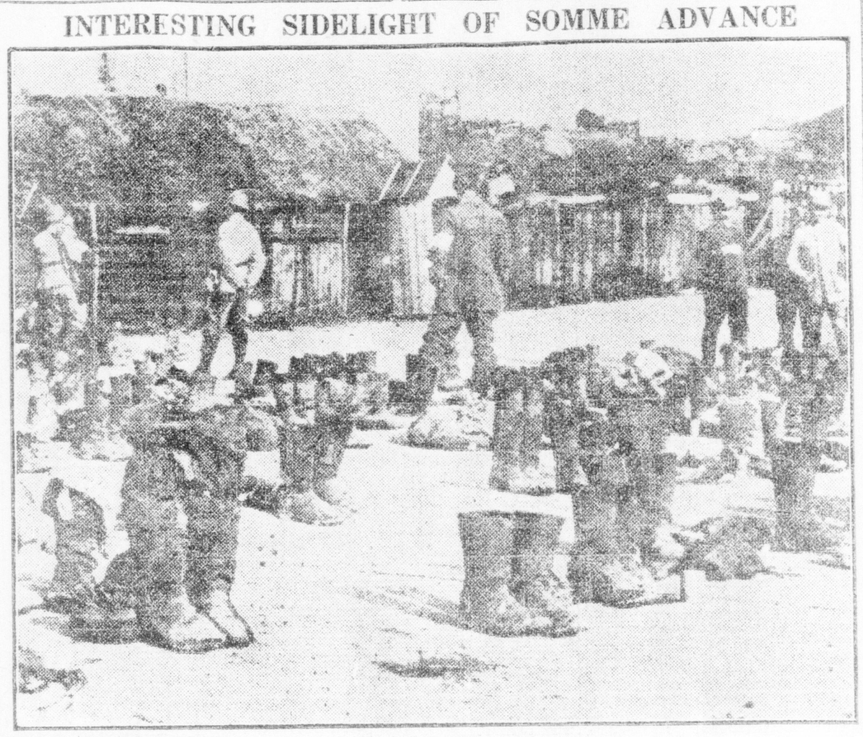
Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	40	36	Cloudy
Calgary	6	—2	Cloudy
Winnipeg	2	—10	Clear
Port Arthur	4	—4	Cloudy
Parry Sound	18	12	Cloudy
Port Stanley	26	18	Cloudy
Buffalo	26	18	Cloudy
Toronto	25	13	Cloudy
Kingston	24	20	Cloudy
Ottawa	28	6	Clear
Montreal	32	8	Clear
Quebec	32	14	Cloudy
Father Point	30	30	Snow

Minus (—) means below zero.

Weather Notes.

The disturbance which was near the middle Atlantic coast yesterday morning has moved northeastward to the Gulf of St. Lawrence with increased intensity, and has caused gales with rain in the Maritime Provinces and heavy snowfalls in Eastern Ontario and Quebec. In the Western Provinces the weather is fair and cold.

INTERESTING SIDELIGHT OF SOMME ADVANCE



Advertiser Illustrations.

With the French army on the Somme. These are "Somme" boots, removed from German prisoners and assembled for disinfection. Their owners were captured in the reeking trenches of the Somme. This is an official photograph.

ALLIES' PEACE ANSWER SETS FORTH CLEARLY WAR RESPONSIBILITIES

Not Only Gives Grievances of the Entente but Crushing Culpability of Central Powers.

NOT TO BE CHRISTMAS BOX.

London, Dec. 23.—The foreign office states there is hardly any possibility that the reply to the German peace note will be dispatched before Christmas. Owing to difficulty in communication, it is even possible that the answer will not be forwarded with-

Paris, Dec. 23.—The Allies' answer to Germany's peace proposals is almost finished, according to the Petit Parisian. The paper says it is a rather long document, and sets forth clearly both the "grievances of the Allies and the crushing culpability of the central powers."

TRAINS HOURS LATE COMING FROM EAST HAMPERED BY SNOW

Passenger Traffic Heaviest in Years, Say Officials of Both Lines.

G. T. R. and C. P. R. officials report today the heaviest Christmas passenger traffic in years.

All trains were reported late. G. T. R. trains from New York and Montreal arriving from two to six hours behind time.

The C. P. R. train from Toronto, due to arrive at 11:15, was reported four hours late.

The lateness of the trains from the east on G. T. R. lines was attributed principally to heavy snow in New York State.

Several of the trains are running today in sections in order to provide better accommodation.

SUBMARINE MENACE INCREASES RATES

Government War-Risk Insurance Moves Up Says Daily News.

London, Dec. 23.—The Daily News says that owing to the increased submarine menace the Government war risk insurance office has raised the insurance rate per voyage for British vessels to 40 shillings per cent.

SUB BLOCKADE HAS MEANT BUT TRIVIAL LOSS TO SHIPPING

Ten Shillings in 100 Pounds Is Estimate of Sir Norman Hill.

London, Dec. 23.—In the shipping paper Fair Play, Sir Norman Hill, secretary of the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association, makes calculations that the effect of the German campaign on British shipping has been as follows:

"In twenty-seven months of war, from August, 1914, to October, 1916, 435 team vessels of more than 1,600 tons, representing 1,744,000 tons gross register, were lost through war perils. Great Britain started the war with 2,600 steamships, of 16,000,000 tons gross, so that the losses represent twelve per cent in numbers or eleven per cent in tonnage, being less than one-half of one per cent a month.

The value of the cargoes lost is valued at .049 per cent of the total by Sir Norman, who adds: "A ten shillings in one hundred pounds blockade will never starve us."

GERMAN ATTACK ON FRENCH EASILY REPULSED

Paris, Dec. 23.—The text of the French official statement on the progress of hostilities in France, given out this afternoon, reads as follows:

"In the Champagne district, after a spirited bombardment, a detachment of the enemy endeavored last night to approach our lines to the west of Auberive, but they were easily repulsed.

"The night passed quietly on the remainder of the front, except in the region of Hardaumont and near Chambrettes, where the artillery of the enemy showed considerable activity."

NO MACEDONIAN MOVES.

Paris, Dec. 23.—Bad weather along the Macedonian front on the 22nd of December prevented any military operations, according to the official announcement given out in Paris this afternoon.

TIMES SKEPTICAL OF WAR THEORY TO EXPLAIN ACTIONS

Refers To Wilson's Note as Ill-Judged Move.

OPPOSITION IS GENERAL

Even More Charitable Chronicle Points To Parallel of German Threats.

London, Dec. 23.—The Times editorial is rather skeptical concerning the explanation offered from some American quarters that President Wilson wants Germany to commit herself to a program which would warrant him in asking the American people to enter the conflict. It says:

"Our regard for the American people and for President Wilson's high moral character have imposed in this country a large measure of restraint upon expression of feelings which his ill-judged action undeniably caused. These feelings, however, are strong and deep, and may be aggravated by American applause of the president's initiative. The fact that this applause is a tribute to his idealist pursuit of pacificism and humanitarianism hardly lessens the danger of misunderstanding and estrangement. The best safeguard against such a danger might perhaps be found in the views of eminent Americans such as Dr. Eliot, Joseph H. Choate and Theodore Roosevelt."

The Chronicle editorially finds unusual unanimity in the opinion of the British papers.

Striking Parallel.

"While it is advisable not to attach undue importance to Secretary Lansing's statement about the verge of war," says the Chronicle, "it is impossible to overlook the parallelism between this statement and the dark hints of German propagandists concerning new forms of frightfulness unless peace comes. Though the president's love of peace is genuine and profound we decline to believe that he could thus allow himself to be blackmailed as Secretary Lansing's words seemed to suggest. Until the contrary is proved we prefer to suppose that both the president in his note and Mr. Lansing in his statement have done themselves less than justice and that, if the Allies show reason on their side, the American Government will show reason also.

Decries Propaganda Theory.

In another editorial the Chronicle vigorously protests against a section of the Unionist press, which blames the German propaganda and the "masterly inactivity" of the late Asquith administration for the president's note. It says that whatever prompted the president it was not the activities of the German propagandists.

The Telegraph sees indications that the Allies' reply to the German note will be a very full document, setting forth why the Allies are bound not to halt in their work until Germany's military collapse is complete. It expects this reply to precede the answer to President Wilson and, passing through his hands, to leave him little room to doubt the fate of his own suggestions. The Telegraph, Daily Mail and other papers follow the Post editorially in considering the premier's speech an ample reply to President Wilson's note.

REPORTS DISCONTINUED.

New York, Dec. 23.—The Associated Press is advised by its London office that all shipping reports, except announcements of casualties, are discontinued by an official order issued last night.

U.S. SELFISHNESS ENOUGH TO STOP ANY HOSTILITIES

German Press Sees Hint of War in Wilson Note and Laughs.

VARIANCE OF OPINIONS

Some Papers Joyful, Some Cynical and Some Wait Allied Reply First.

AGAINST ANY ARMISTICE

Truce Impossible, Says Vossische Zeitung, Which Talks of Increasing Severity.

Berlin, Dec. 22.—Via London, Dec. 23.—The Berlin press receives President Wilson's note to the belligerent powers with varying views, scarcely any two papers looking alike at the proposition. The views range from the enthusiastic welcome accorded the plan by the Tageblatt to the unexpectedly cynical quasi acquiescence of the Vossische Zeitung, with the middle grounds represented by the Lokal Anzeiger, which prefers to await the answer of the Entente powers to the emperor's note before deciding for or against.

George Bernhard, in the Vossische Zeitung views President Wilson's proposal as actuated purely from American, selfish motives. America, he says, finds itself in the position of having passed the heyday point in its financial operations with the Entente and now wants peace and the co-operation of England in preparing for what it alludes to as the inevitable Japanese trouble.

Relies on American Selfishness.

Herr Bernhard refers to Secretary Lansing's statements regarding America being drawn to the verge of war as a distinct tip to Germany, yet he is convinced that America desires to avoid such a conflict, primarily, for selfish reasons. The suggestion that neutrals as well as combatants participate in the peace conference is energetically and vigorously rejected by the newspaper, which declares that this must not come to pass in any circumstance. The Vossische Zeitung declares also that President Wilson need not deceive himself into thinking that he can lay down any precepts for the conference. There will be no truce, it

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3.)

ARABIA NEVER IN ALLIED SERVICE, BRITISH REPLY

"Unarmed Auxiliary" Alibi of Germany Exploded.

TO GET ALL INFORMATION

All Data Asked by State Department Will Be Forwarded.

Washington, Dec. 23.—An official report from the British Government on the British liner Arabia, sunk without warning by a submarine in the Mediterranean, declares the Arabia was not at that, or any other time, in the service of the Allies.

Germany claimed, in a note to the American Government, the Arabia was an "unarmed auxiliary."

The British report was made in answer to an inquiry from the state department, and further information probably will be asked to clear up doubtful points after that at hand has been forwarded to Germany.

The report was summarized in the following state department announcement:

No Coolies On Board.

"The department of state has received a reply from the British Government to the inquiry regarding the status of the steamer Arabia, to the effect that she was not at the time she was sunk,

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3.)

PRESIDENT ANSWERED BY SPEECH REPLYING TO GERMAN PROPOSALS

British Press Takes This Attitude Over Wilson Appeal---Polite Reply Will Be Drafted.

London, Dec. 23.—The American note to the belligerent nations still is the dominating feature of the news in Great Britain today. Practically all the newspapers continue to devote leading articles to the note, while British, French, German and other comment is prominently displayed under such headings as "Lansing's Verge of War Blunder," "The Snare of Peace," and "Wilson's Mistake."

So far as Great Britain is concerned, the press says that President Wilson already has been answered by Premier Lloyd George when he delivered in the Commons on Tuesday his speech in reply to the German proposals, by the address made on Thursday night by Andrew Bonar Law, the chancellor of the exchequer, and finally by the emphatic declaration of the cabinet through the King's speech on proroguing Parliament.

However, it is recognized in official circles that a formal polite reply is due to President Wilson, and this, it is said, will be drafted after consultation with Great Britain's allies. Like his uncle, the late Lord Salisbury, Foreign Secretary Balfour is a masterly dispatch writer. This was displayed in the communications written by him when he was first lord of the admiralty in refutation of various German statements.

FRENCH SOCIALISTS REALIZE IMPORT OF FIGHT FOR VICTORY

Those Struggling for Liberty Determined To Conquer.

KINDLY TO AMERICAN

Leader Expresses Belief That Wilson Note Will Force Germany Into Open.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The only reference to President Wilson's note at the public sitting of the Chamber of Deputies was made by Deputy Renaudel, who expressed the belief that it would compel Germany to tell plainly her war aims. Deputy Renaudel made his brief reference in announcing that the Socialist party would vote for the appropriations for the first six months of 1917, which were subsequently passed. He said:

"We vote for these appropriations because they are conditions of national defence which we could not refuse without threatening the safety of the country. Twenty-nine months of war have allowed us to realize its full horror, but those who suffer aggression and who are struggling for their liberty remain firm in their determination to conquer. However, the enemy has spoken of negotiations, and whether as a ruse or a sincere appeal, the result must be to awaken in all peoples the desire for the return of an organized and lasting peace. We therefore ask the Government not to decide negatively, without examination or without sound reasons publicly proclaimed, against the offers of the enemy, provided clearly that they are stated in such a way as to hide no trap.

"Today the president of the United States of America asks the belligerents to make known their views as to the objects of the war. We do not wish to judge his intention. We only wish to see this—neutrals, guided, we believe, by a concern for justice and right, helping to obtain more light. Our enemies can now no longer keep making baiting statements. They must speak out clearly."

TWO BURNED TO DEATH IN NEW JERSEY FIRE

Two More Injured When Woman Doctor's Residence Falls Victim to Flames.

Grantwood, N. J., Dec. 23.—Two persons were burned to death and two others badly hurt early today when the residence of Dr. Margaret Brewster, a woman physician, was destroyed by fire. The dead are Dr. Brewster's brother, Harold Powell, a lieutenant in the 7th New York Regiment, and her 9-year-old daughter, Margaret.

STATES REALIZE PEACE MOVE IS MERELY A TRAP

Parisian Temps, in Authoritative Article, Makes This Answer to Wilson.

CANNOT BE SET ASIDE

New Crimes of Germany Place That Nation Outside Pale.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The following editorial in the Temps is understood here to represent authoritative views in French official circles.

Referring to President Wilson's note the Temps asks: "Can new crimes, such as the Belgian deportations, which at this moment are provoking the indignation of people in the United States be set aside? In a word, can one put in the same order words which pass and acts which remain or believe thing which at the same time developments deny? Evidently not. As to the harm caused by the war this is certain but it is not in the power of any belligerent to avoid it absolutely. Furthermore, there are two kinds of harm. On the one hand there are the inevitable consequences of war, search at sea, blockade and similar things; on the other there are violation of the written law, torpedoing of neutral ships with the drowning of women and children.

Not Single Act by Allies.

"Can a single act of this latter kind be imputed to the Allies? Everybody knows there cannot. In Germany these acts are codified in a doctrine. On land and sea a systematic disregard of the rules made by centuries of civilization is at the basis of the direction of the war. War is made, as it is declared, in the sovereign name of force. Here again is there any assimilation possible between these two groups of belligerents? Evidently not.

"The United States is suffering from the war and nobody denies it, but they suffer by the fault of those who desired and brought on the war. They cannot forget moreover that in the present contest Frenchmen, companions in combat for American independence, defend French independence. It is not a moment when our forces and those of our Allies, developed or created during the war, are promising our just revenge that we can be asked to sheath the sword. They know that the German note, destitute of substance, lacking strength, is only a war manoeuvre and not an act of peace. They know that the Germans are offering us a peace trap as two years ago it was a war trap, and they cannot ask us to be caught therein. We want a victory which will prevent a return of aggression and save us and neutrals from the horrors of war and its consequences.

Only Guarantee of Peace.

"In this firm resolution, affirmed by all the governments of the Entente, America finds the only valid guarantee of its pacific aspirations. She cannot find it in the German word so often violated. All support, even moral, given Germany now would have no other result than to aid her in escaping by diplomacy the responsibility of war and reserve for the future her liberty of aggression. It is not that that from all the evidence the Washington cabinet wishes, and there is no doubt in our mind regarding its intentions. But intentions are not all, and consequences must be foreseen. It is this prevision, enlightened by the study of facts and based on the study of rights, that the French people expect from the American people as, more than a century ago, the American people awaited and procured it from the French people."

100 WOMEN REPORTED HURT IN FOOD RIOTS OF DRESDEN

Soldiers Brought in When Police Prove Powerless To Check March Past Palace of King—Many Arrested for Using Insulting Language About Monarch.

London, Dec. 23.—A Rotterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that there were food riots in Dresden on December 17, 18, and 19, especially on the 19th, when troops were called to help the police in suppressing the trouble, which arose from the closing of several food shops on Sunday because they were without stocks. The dispatch says the women stoned the shops on Sunday, and then marched through the streets, but the police did not interfere. There was another parade on Monday when the paraders passed the king's palace shouting for food. Several women are said to have been arrested for using insulting language about the king. The disturbances were renewed on Tuesday, when a sharp fight occurred, in which 100 women and three policemen are reported to have been wounded. The soldiers then charged the crowds and cleared the streets.

The Larger Christmas

Give each new day its own good cheer,
All other days apart,
And every day throughout the year
Keep Christmas in thy heart.

ALBERT D. WATSON.

CHRISTMAS, 1916.