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The Toronto World

FRIDAY MORNING DECEMBER 21 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,554

TWO CENTS

PEACE TALK NOW GENERAL IN EUROPE

CENTRAL POWERS ENDEAVOR TO PERSUADE ENTENTE TO NEGOTIATE TERMS RUSSIA ASKED TO SOUND ALLIES ON PEACE OFFER

Central Powers Make Effort to Induce Entente Nations to Agree to Talk Terms.

Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—According to press reports Russia has been informed by the central powers that they intend to make peace proposals to the allies.

Austrians Vote for Peace.

Amsterdam, Dec. 20.—A despatch received here from Vienna says the interhaus has adopted by a small majority a resolution introduced by the Germans and south Slavs in favor of a general peace on the basis of no annexations or indemnities, and favoring Russia's good offices to convey such a proposal to the entente governments.

Assume Important Aspect.

London, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—Peace negotiations between Russia and the central powers, an armistice having been reached, are assuming an aspect of importance. Dr. von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary, and Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, are both said to be on their way to Brest-Litovsk, being accompanied by advisory staffs from various government departments.

KAISER INTENDS TO MAKE PEACE OFFER AT CHRISTMAS

Will Deal With Territorial and Indemnity Problems—Terms as Outlined Unlikely to Gain Consent of Allies.

Washington, Dec. 20.—What purports to be an outline of the Kaiser's much-advertised "Christmas peace terms" has reached here thru the same neutral diplomatic channels which earlier in the week received information to support intimations from abroad that a new peace offer was coming.

The so-called terms, which must be appraised only at their face value, are said to include the following: "To leave the disposition of Alsace-Lorraine to a plebiscite of inhabitants. "England to pay Germany for her lost African colonies and the money to be used for the rehabilitation of Belgium, Serbia, Rumania and northern France.

Whether such a proposal of terms is merely another step in the German propaganda to impress the public mind that the allies are responsible for a continuance of the war, or whether it is really a feeler for peace, is a subject for the estimate of the governments concerned.

At first glance some are inclined to regard them as the Kaiser's much-verified Christmas peace terms, probably designed in large part to keep the German people under the illusion that they are fighting a really defensive war against foes who insist on the dismemberment of their country.

TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE AT STOCKHOLM

Peace Conference to Be Transferred From Eastern Front to Neutral Capital—Ministers of Central Powers on Their Way to Brest-Litovsk.

London, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—Some of the Petrograd despatches say that the conference between representatives of the Russians and those of the central powers at Brest-Litovsk is only a preliminary affair, and that the final decisions will be reached at a conference in a neutral place, probably Stockholm. Nevertheless, the diplomats of the central powers going to Brest-Litovsk include not only the German and Austro-Hungarian foreign ministers, but the Turkish foreign minister, Nesim Bey, and the Turkish under-secretary, Hikmet Bey, who have arrived at Brest-Litovsk on their way to the conference, while the Russians have sent their representatives of their foreign, marine and finance departments.

Today's advices from Petrograd show that rail and wire communication with the Caucasus army has been out.

GERMAN ONSET FAILS TO DISLodge ITALIANS

Continued Enemy Offense Cannot Advance Against Strong Alpine Defences of Allies.

Rome, Dec. 20.—The text of today's statement follows: "Between the Brenta and the Piave, after artillery preparation lasting for a long time, the enemy attacked yesterday afternoon on Monte Tasson-Col del Oro, but was completely driven back, suffering severe losses. A detachment which later attempted to storm Hill 1891 of Monte Solovaro was promptly repulsed by our fire.

CONSCRIPTION BEHIND IN AUSTRALIAN VOTING

Majority of 120,000 Against Draft in Early Count—Still Million Votes to Count.

Vancouver, Dec. 20.—A special cable to The Vancouver World from Sydney, Australia, states that the first returns of the conscription plebiscite gives a majority of 120,000 against conscription, with more than a million votes counted. Another million votes remain to be counted, including the soldiers' vote.

"At Piave Vecchia the local activity was very intense. Several new hostile attempts to cross the river were frustrated. At Quarta Case, the bridge-head of Cavazocherba, there were brisk encounters between advanced posts. At Cortezallo the enemy attacked in force our bridgehead, but our gallant troops drove him back and made 35 prisoners.

ENTERTAIN WAR VETERANS New York Canadian Club Honors Gen. Loomis and Major Nevin. New York, Dec. 20.—The officers of the Canadian Club of New York entertained tonight at the Hotel Biltmore, Brigadier-General Loomis, of the Second Brigade of Canadian overseas forces, and Major H. W. Nevin, of the Princess Patricia Regiment. Both officers arrived on a troopship which arrived at an Atlantic port on Tuesday. General Loomis left tonight for Montreal, and Major Nevin for another Canadian destination. Major Nevin will return to New York to attend a complimentary dinner to be tendered him by the Canadian Club of New York, on January 14.



Pack mules waiting to move up in a Flanders village. (British official photograph.)

FOE MUST MAKE RESTORATION AND MUST GIVE COMPENSATION

British Premier Proclaims Allies' Unalterable Decision to Exact Retribution From Teutons for Damage Done in Present War.

London, Dec. 20.—Complete restoration of the territories taken by the enemy, together with compensation, was demanded by Premier Lloyd George in explaining the war aims of the government to the house of commons.

The British prime minister, said that the margin of losses at sea was narrowing. The sinking by submarines, he declared, was decreasing while shipbuilding was increasing. The premier said the striking of submarines was increasing. Although the merchant tonnage was down by 30 per cent, he added, the loss had been six per cent of imports over that of last year.

Regarding the military situation, Mr. Lloyd George said it was idle to pretend that the hopes formed had been realized. This disappointment he attributed to the Russian collapse. The Germans, the premier said, had only one success which was due to surprise and this was due to an inquiry. The Germans, he stated, had lost 100,000 prisoners, valuable positions and strategic points. The Russian Prolonged War. The premier said that if the Russian army had fulfilled the expectations of the general, by this time the pride of the German military power would have been completely humbled. On the whole, Premier Lloyd George said, the British design had not achieved the expectations formed, but he declared there had been military successes in Palestine which would give greater sacrifices to strengthen its history of the world. Jerusalem, he stated, never would be restored to the Turks.

After referring to the Italian reverses the premier said it would be necessary for Great Britain to make greater sacrifices to strengthen its armies in the coming year. The need would arise to increase the nation's man-power by taking some men now exempted.

COSSACK REVOLT SPREADS NORTHWARD THRU RUSSIA

Kaledines' Followers Reported Victorious Over Bolsheviki Troops—Ukrainians Give Assistance to Cossacks.

London, Dec. 20.—The correspondence in Russia continues to emphasize the growth of the opposition to the Maximalist government in parts of the country and the consequent spread of civil war. The rejection of the Bolshevik demand on the Ukrainians for the passage of reinforcements to the Ukraine is also reported. The position of Gen. Kaledines, helmsman of the Don Cossacks, is reported to have become very much stronger, and his close association with the Ukraine is generally conceded. A despatch from Petrograd confirms the previous reports that Rostov-on-Don is in the hands of the Cossacks and that the entire anti-Bolshevik movement is causing serious anxiety to the Bolshevik commissars.

EXAMPLES TO EXPLAIN COST OF DISTRIBUTION

THIRTY-EIGHT KILLED IN COLLISION IN U. S. Speaker at U.F.O. Shows How Farmers Do Not Receive Nearly as Much as Consumers Pay for Products.

Toronto pays too much for milk and butter, said James Donaldson, a dairy farmer from Atwood, speaking last night in the Labor Temple at the convention of the United Farmers of Ontario. He claimed that he had not been able to get more than 4 1/2 a quart for his milk all season, and that there was no reason for the consuming public of Toronto to pay 14c a quart. He stated that the distributor re-elected Peel of milk from the farm to the consumer of Toronto, and that the farmer of summer should get such a profit as was allowed him by the food controller. He said also that the cost of butter in Toronto was simply outrageous.

Fred Bancroft appeared before the meeting to convey fraternal greetings to the United Farmers from the Trades and Labor Council of Toronto, and he invited the farmers of Toronto to send annually a delegate to the Labor Congress of Canada. Rod Macdonald was promptly appointed to present the greetings of the convention assembled to the Trades and Labor Council, which was meeting in the hall, below.

Among several excellent addresses yesterday before the convention of the United Farmers of Ontario, that of John Kennedy of Winnipeg, the second vice-president of the United Grain Growers' Limited, stood out possibly as of first magnitude. As Mr. Kennedy announced at the beginning of his address on "Pitfalls of Farmers' Business Organizations," the subject allotted to him was difficult of treatment so as to keep to the high level of the addresses which had preceded his. But nevertheless Mr. Kennedy as-

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BRITAIN NEVER AIMED TO CUT UP FOE'S SOIL

She Never Encouraged Idea of Republic Along River Rhine.

BACKS WILSON POLICY

Conference on War Methods More Urgent Than on War Objects.

London, Dec. 19.—Foreign Secretary Balfour made a spirited reply in the house of commons this afternoon to attacks by Arthur Ponsonby, Liberal member from Stirling burghs, a pacifist, regarding the war aims of Great Britain and her allies, the published versions of which, Mr. Ponsonby said, did not tally with the proposals of the secret treaties.

Mr. Balfour in his response declared that President Wilson's statements of war policy were absolutely identical in spirit with those of the leaders of thought in Great Britain. He did not think there had been in the whole history of the war more powerful state documents than those issued by the president of the United States.

When Mr. Ponsonby sneeringly charged that the allies were sheltering themselves behind the president's reply to the pope, continued Mr. Balfour, he presumed the member meant no more than that when a statement of policy was admirably made by the president of the great American Republic, it might not be necessary, and very often was unnecessary, that it should be at once repeated on this side of the Atlantic. The British government, he continued, had not refused to hold a conference on war aims, but the problems of a united front were so difficult, and it was his belief that friendly conversations were better than a conference for the discussion of what was desirable was a discussion of war methods rather of war aims.

Mr. Balfour defended at length the government's procedure with regard to the agreements between the allies concerning Constantinople, Persia, etc. He declared that Italy properly deserved some rearrangement of territory in her favor. Great Britain, continued the foreign secretary, never desired or encouraged the idea that a bit of Germany should be reversed from the parent state and created into a sort of independent republic or buffer state on the left bank of the Rhine. The government, he declared, had never been seriously entertained by any French proposal, and he protested against the British government being charged with lack of faith or honesty on such a flimsy foundation.

BOW RIVER GOES UNION.

Edmonton, Alta., Dec. 20.—In the Battle River constituency, Blair, Unionist, is officially elected by 400 over Warner, Liberal.

INVEST IN DINEEN'S FURS.

Make your Christmas purchase one of furs. The high cost of wearing apparel does not apply to furs, and prices are therefore moderate. There is an article at Dineen's for every value may be counted at 15 to 25 per cent. price advantage in quality. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street. Store open until 10 o'clock Friday, Saturday and Monday evenings.

POWERFUL GERMAN ATTACK IN LORRAINE IS FAILURE

Serious Surprise Assault Also Repulsed By French in Upper Alsace—Dunkirk and Calais Bombed By Enemy.

Paris, Dec. 20.—A heavy bombardment in Lorraine and a strong German attack against the French trenches north of Reims occurred, according to the war office statement tonight. The text says: "The two armies were moderately active along the whole front, the cannonading being more spirited in the region of Courieres Wood. "In Lorraine a powerful German attack, preceded by a violent bombardment against our trenches north of Reims, completely failed. The enemy left numerous dead on the ground. "In upper Alsace we repulsed a serious surprise attack which the enemy attempted against our positions at Guckerswald, southwest of Kalkreuth. Yesterday enemy airplanes dropped bombs in the region of Dunkirk and Calais. Four persons were killed and six injured. "Eastern Theatres, Dec. 18.—In the region of Lake Doiran the enemy artillery was quite active. In the region of the lakes Russian troops dispersed enemy reconnaissances."

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