

# THE UNION ADVOCATE

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Manager.

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## PEACE TERMS

While the war goes on as fiercely as ever, except in Russia, where, however, the civil strife is nearly as exhaustive as that formerly waged on the frontier, peace is being for the first time formally considered by a section of the belligerents—the enemy countries and Russia.

The terms offered the world by the Socialist government of Great Russia—Little Russia (Ukraine), the Cossack provinces, Siberia and Finland having declared and apparently won their independence—are as follows: Peace to be declared, with no annexations and no indemnities, a rehabilitation of wasted countries to be financed from an international fund, and, further, that each nationality that is dissatisfied with the position it occupied before the war shall have the privilege of determining its future status for itself. With these terms the Little Russians, Cossacks, Siberians and Finns are, as they have already set up for themselves, evidently in perfect agreement.

The government of Great Russia followed up the publication of its peace terms with the offer of a general armistice for their discussion. Only the four enemy nations accepted the armistice, and on its signature between them and Russia, peace negotiations commenced at Brest-Litovsk, a Lithuanian town belonging to Russia but occupied by the Austro-Germans. There, on Christmas Eve, Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian minister, stated the enemy's terms, as follows: Peace, without forcible annexations or indemnities, and without any consideration in the peace treaty of the right of any nationality subjected before the war to determine its own future. And even these terms are binding only when accepted by all of Russia's Allies. This is vastly different from the Russian proposal, and may wreck the meeting.

Russia's proposals are the most far-reaching ever made in any peace Congress. Carried to their logical conclusion, they would result in the dismemberment of not only Russia herself but of every other belligerent except Bulgaria, Montenegro and Greece. However, as one of the Russian ministers said his government had no objection to the return of Germany's colonies, all of which except a few little islands peopled by Brown men are inhabited by Blacks, Russia may not be making any stipulations as to the independence of the Black and Brown races. If she refers only to Whites and Yellows she would allow the separation of the Poles from Russia, Austria and Germany; the Czechoslovaks (Bohemians), Serbs, Slovenes, Croats, Rumanians and Italians from Austria-Hungary; of the Magyars from Austria; Bulgarian provinces from Rumania and Serbia; Danish districts from Germany; Corsica from France; Roumanians from Russia; Quebec from Canada; the Irish from Britain; Morocco, Algeria and Tunis from France; Tripoli from Italy; Egypt and southern Arabia, and perhaps India from Britain; Arabia, Southern Syria and Bagdad and other districts from Turkey; Persia from Russia and Britain; Cuba and Porto Rico from the United States and Korea and China from Japan. The only belligerents that could gain territory by Russia's plan would be Rumania, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria and Germany by the latter winning a little more by the absorption of the German-speaking parts of Austria than she would lose to Poland and Denmark. Italy would remain the same in population, although her loss would be entirely Arabian and her gain Italian, and thereby she would reap an advantage. Belgium, where the Flemings in the north speak Dutch and the Walloons of the south talk French,

and China, where the south has a different speech from the north, might each be broken up into halves. In that case southern Belgium would have to join France, and the north might have to throw in its lot with Holland, Britain and the United States would be left the two leading states of the world, with Germany the next in power but Great Russia the third in resources and possibilities.

President Wilson, several months ago, declared that there could be no negotiation whatever with the present autocratic government of Germany but that peace could be discussed just as soon as the German people freed themselves and adopted a democratic constitution. That being accomplished, his further terms bore a striking resemblance to those of Russia, which had been first published a short time previously.

The Russian proposals although she herself is prepared to make the sacrifice involved are too radical for either group of the more active belligerents.

The American declaration presupposes a popular revolution in Germany itself before peace can be made and the enemy governments have no idea, as yet, of accepting such terms. The enemy's terms look very nice on the surface, but will not bear close examination. They would restore to Germany her colonies, which are not at all suitable for White settlement but would afford excellent submarine bases for another war; they say nothing of the rebuilding of the desolated regions of Belgium and Serbia, to say nothing of Northern France, Poland and Rumania; and they would leave Austro-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey in the military and commercial grip of Germany, which would then be the greatest

single power in the world. Remembering the fate of Serbia and Belgium, and therefore still doubting the enemy's sincerity, and fearing that such a settlement would be followed soon by another attempt by Germany to enlarge her dominions, the Entente Allies are unwilling to sign a peace which would leave Germany's present allies permanently under her control.

The French Foreign Minister, on the 27th ult., declared that France could not accept the enemy's terms. On the solution of the question of Alsace-Lorraine depended whether or not the world should have a durable peace and such peace must be guaranteed by international agreements, that is, there must be a society of nations.

The British premier on the 28th declared that the achievement of the purpose for which the Allies are fighting is essential to the future freedom of mankind. He added that a statement on war aims could be made only in agreement with Great Britain's allies.

Through a Petrograd despatch of the 27th ult. said that the negotiations had been postponed for ten days, it appears that the discussion and informal negotiations are going on during the recess. On the 28th, provisional agreements were reached between the Russian and enemy delegates regarding exchange of prisoners, resumption of trade, etc. subject to ratification by the governments concerned.

The latest from Petrograd is that the Russians demand that the Germans evacuate all Russian territory and release German Socialists and Liberals held as political prisoners and all Polish civilians who have been taken to Germany to work

## IMMIGRATION After The WAR

By Col. J. S. DENNIS

CANADA'S greatest need is agricultural producers. Out of her population of less than 8,000,000 people, only slightly more than half are from the rural districts. Nature's most bounteous bequests to Canada were in our rich farm lands. She should not only raise all her own food products, but should be an exporter of these products upon a large scale. The balance of trade in favor of Canada is now piling up at the rate of half a billion a year, as compared with a reverse balance of some \$275,000,000 in 1913. To maintain the balance of trade on the right side of the ledger is the great problem that Canada must face during the reconstruction period after the war.

During the ten year period previous to the war, some 2,500,000 immigrants came into Canada. Of this total, Great Britain provided, roughly, 1,600,000; the United States 500,000; the balance coming from other countries. Only a small proportion of the immigration from Great Britain settled on our farms, while most of the settlers coming here from the States went on to farms in Western Canada.

Our problem will be, how we can obtain settlers for our vacant farm lands, and at the same time care for the unskilled labor which is quite sure to flock to our cities after the war.

The United States at the close of the Civil War practically threw open her doors and invited immigration from most parts of the world. A comparison of conditions prevailing in the United States then, and Canada now, however, shows a number of important differences. The urban population in the United States was only about 15% of the total at the start of the Civil War. A large proportion of the enlistments in the Union Army came from among the farmers, as against only 12% of our enlistment from among farmers and ranchers. When the Civil War ended there was a wave of industrial development that called for a large quantity of labor. The returning soldiers for the most part turned back to their farms, or moved with their families to the newly opened homestead lands in the Central West. This made it possible to absorb the unskilled labor from Europe as rapidly as it came to the States. In the meantime, the agricultural production soon was brought back to a normal basis and then started to increase rapidly. The opening of the new lands in the West created a demand for extensive railways, and about 15,000 miles were constructed in the central and Mississippi Valley States during the half decade following the Civil War. This in turn added to the demand for labor and helped to absorb the flood of immigration.

A survey of labor conditions in Canada indicates that there will be employment for about 300,000 more men after the war than are needed at present. This would take care of the returning soldiers but for the fact that when the manufacturing of munitions ceases, probably 200,000 persons now employed will be seeking other jobs. Perhaps of this number 75% will not require positions; still this leaves fully 100,000 to be cared for even after the returning soldiers are placed.

This situation indicates that we should restrict our immigration to the cities as much as possible and encourage our agricultural development to the greatest extent possible. We cannot hope for the railway construction boom that absorbed the surplus labor in the United States. Canada,

already has a greater rail mileage per capita than any other country in the world—some 35,000 miles for a population of 8,000,000, while the U. S. boasted only 24,000 in 1870 with a population of 35,500,000. Our industrial development must come in manufacture and mining, backed up by as large an increase in agriculture as possible.

It will not be patriotic or good business to invite unrestricted immigration from the Mother Country after the war. Great Britain will need to look to her own agricultural development. There will be a demand for labor there to rehabilitate British industry. It has been the desire of economists to develop a larger portion of the British population into farm workers. It would seem that the reconstruction period will afford this long sought opportunity.

Canada must look to the United States and to the northern European countries for agricultural immigrants. In the United States alone, there are a large number of young men each year who leave the farms and flock to the cities because of their inability to obtain cheap farm lands. Every effort must be made to interest these men and by placing the inducements of Canada before them, attract them to this country.

There is every reason to suppose that the tide of immigration that flowed to Western Canada from the United States before the war can be started again through the proper direction. But most of all of this immigration was from experienced farmers, whose training had been under practically the same conditions of climate, soil, government, language, money and society, as they found in Canada. Failure among this class of immigrants has been the exception. In large numbers of cases these immigrants came from European countries originally, having merely passed a period of acclimatization to American continent conditions during a stay in the United States.

Canada will continue to attract numbers of agricultural immigrants from the northern countries of Europe in spite of the rigid laws, in many of these countries, against emigration. Sweden, Norway, Denmark have sent many valuable farm producers to our borders, and we may expect many more. Even Russia, in spite of the broadening democratic development there, should be a source from which a large number of good agricultural settlers can be obtained.

Special homestead provisions for British soldiers have been proposed as a possible means of colonization in the Dominion. Canada's experience with such a plan after the South African war was anything but satisfactory. The objective of providing liberally for the men who have fought for the Empire by granting farms through the issue of land scrip was reached in only a small percentage of cases. Instead, the plan made it possible for land speculators to obtain the choicest of the Government lands through the purchase of the soldier scrip at a heavy discount. And it has been the experience of the west that speculators have held back the development of large areas of excellent land. In our Western Provinces, drastic measures have been taken for forcing this unoccupied land, held by speculators, into the hands of producers by the imposition of a surtax on unimproved land. As previously stated, the crying need of Canada is greater agricultural production. Colonization by our returning soldiers that will place a number of our producers in the hands of our producers will help us

solve both the labor and immigration problems, but we know from experience that the men from the cities, the stores and the trades, will seldom make good on the farm, unless they are given some sort of special training in the principles of agriculture or have had some experience in this line of work. One way to successfully place soldiers upon the land would be to organize them into military colonies after they have been given one year's instruction at a district agricultural school.

It would be an excellent investment for the Government to even support the families of such soldiers, through the same separation allowance that was given soldiers' families during overseas duty, while they were attending the agricultural camps. Agriculture is a business requiring special knowledge, just as store-keeping, or any of the trades. The Civil War veterans were allowed a rebate in time equal to the period of their service in the army in obtaining title to their homesteads. A similar provision has been adopted in Canada. Due care should be taken in the other regulations surrounding the homesteading of soldiers as well as civilians, so as to be sure that every entry comes from a man who has a sincere desire to engage in the business of farming. It must be remembered in this connection that almost 90% of our Canadian soldiers, and even a higher percentage of those of Great Britain, have had no experience in farming. As against this, the predominance of farmers among the Civil War veterans, and the population of the country, was almost 3 to 1. Yet the history of the Central Western States during those reconstruction days is filled with stories of hardships endured and ultimate failures of those veterans who were not familiar with conditions attending farm life.

Canada has been wont to consider that all her farm problems are located west of the Great Lakes; that the Eastern Provinces are sufficiently settled. We have now to face quite the same problem that the United States faced a decade after the Civil War, namely the re-population of the farms in the older sections, left vacant during the rush to the prairie lands in the West. Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and other States were for years dotted with vacant farms. The same situation is to be found in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces today. Our Provincial and Federal Governments have only recently come to realize this fact and are now putting forth a concerted effort to bring a betterment of these conditions.

And again we have large areas of new lands in both Ontario and Quebec—lands tributary to rail service even— which are yawning for occupation and production.

Canada's immigration problem, concerned as it is with the economic foundation of our future prosperity, should receive the most careful attention of our Government, and the deepest thought of our statesmen. Canada's greatest economic need is more farmers. This need translates into other terms means a necessity for a prolific immigration of the sort of settlers who have the inclination to go on to our lands and the knowledge of how to make these lands produce the utmost, so that Canada may at least feed herself, and finally develop a surplus to sell abroad. This need is not a mere slogan, but only be secured through an intensive campaign which the direction of the very best experts is available.

## Men's Shirts AND Drawers \$1.00 each

We offer for sale this week a quantity of Nova Scotia Underwear at this very special price. The quality is very good and at ordinary value would sell at \$1.50 a garment. All sizes are offered in the lot and we advise you to buy for future needs, as it will be a long time before you can buy again this big value at \$1.00

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### THE WAR

Latest advices from the war front show that the Germans have not during the last week been able anywhere to make any appreciable gains, despite the calm on their eastern front. The Allies open the New Year full of courage and hope that this year will end the struggle in the right way.

### GAVE \$5.00

In our last notes of the Blackville Women's Institute, Mr. Schaffer is credited with giving \$5.00 towards the Xmas parcels. It should have read \$5.00.

### BLOCKED THE TRACK

On Tuesday morning, at Ludlow, a Steam Log Hauler which was being used in hauling lumber, got out of control and slipped over the bank

across the railway tracks, blocking the line for several hours. No one was hurt in the accident and the log hauler not seriously damaged.

We Wish our Patrons one and all a

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