The St. John Standard Extends to All Its Readers Its Best Wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year

The St. John Standard

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ENTENTE ALLIES IN REPLY TO OFFER FROM GERMANY'S NOTE, REFUSE TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL WHICH IS EMPTY AND INSINCERE

[E]NTENTE ALLIES STANDING FIRM

[Allie]s Put Blame for War on Germany and Decline to Admit Von Bethmann-Hollweg's Charge That S[tr]uggle Was Started by Them.

Pa[ris], Dec. 30.—In reply to the proffer of Germany and her allies for a peace conference, th[e] Entente Allies, in a collective note, declare that they "refuse to consider a proposal, w[hi]ch is empty and insincere."

The [n]ote was handed to American Ambassador Sharp today by Premier Briand, and was ma[de] public simultaneously in London and Paris, as follows:

"The Allied governments of Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Portug[al,] Roumania, Russia and Serbia, united for the defense of the liberty of their peoples and f[ai]thful to engagements taken not to lay down their arms separately, have resolved to rep[ly] collectively to the pretended propositions of peace which were addressed to them on be[h]alf of the enemy governments through the intermediary of the United States, Spain, [S]witzerland and Holland. Before making any reply the Allied powers desire particular[ly] to protest against the two essential assertions of the note of the enemy powers that pr[et]end to throw upon the Allies responsibility for the war and proclaim the victory of the C[e]ntral Powers.

Allies Avoided War.

"The Al[lie]d governments cannot admit an affirmation doubly inexact and which suffices to rende[r st]erile all tentative negotiations. The Allied nations have sustained for thirty months a [war] they did everything to avoid. They have shown by their acts their attachment to pe[ac]e. That attachment is as strong today as it was in 1914. But it is not [on] the word of [G]ermany, after the violation of its engagements, that the peace broken [by h]er may be ba[se]d.

[A] mere suggestion, [wit]hout a statement of terms, that neg[oti]ations should [be op]ened is not an offe[r o]f peace. The [putt]ing forward by the [Im]perial government, of a sham pr[opo]sal lacking [all s]ubstance and precis[ion], would appear to be less an offer [of] peace than [a wa]r manoeuvre. It [is fo]unded on [a ca]lculated misinterpreta[tion] of the [chara]cter of the struggle [in] the past, [the] present and the futur[e].

[As] for the past, [the] G[er]man note [takes] no account of [the] facts, dates and [figur]es which estab[li]sh th[at] the war [was] desired, provo[ke]d and d[ec]lared by [Germ]any and Aus[tria-Hungary].

[A]t th[e] Hague conferenc[e it] was a [Germ]an delegate who refus[ed] all proposals for disarmament. In [Ju]ly, 1914, [when] Austria-Hungary, [aft]er [having] addressed to Serbia [an] unprecedented ultimatum, decl[ared] war [on] her in spite of the sa[tisfa]ction [whi]ch had at once been acc[orde]d.

"The Central Empires then [rej]ected [al]l attempts made by the En[ten]te to [b]ring about a pacific solution [of] a [p]urely local conflict. Great [Bri]tain [s]uggested a conference. Fran[ce] pro[po]sed an international commi[ssio]n; [th]e Emperor of Russia asked the [G]er[ma]n Emperor to go to arbitration, [a]nd [Ru]ssia and Austria-Hungary came [to] [an] understanding on the eve of the con[fli]ct. But to all these efforts Germany gave neither answer nor effect.

"Belgium was invaded by an emp[ire] [w]hich had guaranteed her neutral[ity] [an]d which had the assurance to pr[o]claim that treaties were 'scraps [of pap]er,' and that 'necessity knows [no la]w.'

"At the present moment these sham [off]ers on the part of Germany rest on [th]e 'war map' of Europe alone, which represents nothing more than a superficial and passing phase of the situation and not the real strength of the belligerents. A peace the aggressors who, after imagining that they would reach their goal in two months discovered after two years that they could never attain it.

"As for the future the disasters caused by the German declaration of war and the innumerable outrages committed by Germany and her Allies against both belligerents and neutrals [d]emand penalties, reparation and [gu]arantees. Germany avoids mention [of] any of these.

"In reality these overtures made by [the] Central Powers are nothing more [tha]n a calculated attempt to influence [th]e future course of war and to end it [b]y imposing a German peace. The object of these overtures is to create dissension in public opinion in the Allies countries. But that public opinion, has, in spite of all the sacrifices [e]ndured by the Allies already given [it]s answer with admirable firmness [an]d has denounced the empty pre[ten]se of the declaration of the enemy [pow]ers.

(Continued on page 2)

CANADIANS STILL MAKING GOOD IN NORTH FRANCE

Men Show Great Coolness Under Heavy Barrage— Losses Slight—Ontario Hero in "No Man's Land."

Special cable from the Montreal Gazette resident staff correspondent, Canadian headquarters in France, via London, Dec. 31—That the first division is still maintaining its old spirit of dash and courage is demonstrated by a deed recently enacted on this front. The hero was a lieutenant of an Ontario battalion. In daylight he went over "No Man's Land" and made a reconnaissance, but returning was shot through the body. Seeing his plight a sergeant went to his rescue, and the lataer was also shot in the head, though both got back to the lines. The lieutenant, knowing that his recovery was impossible, summoned up all his strength, and asking for the colonel related the information he had gained, and gave up the instructions and documents that were in his possession, and then died contented.

Canadians In Raid.

London, Dec. 31—(Montreal Gazette cable)—The Canadians made a successful raid the latter part of last week. Assisted by Canadian heavy artillery, they attacked with bombs and grenades, meeting with practically no resistance and taking about sixty prisoners. Our losses were light. Our men showed great coolness in front of a heavy barrage, which was admirably played upon by our artillery, and attained all the objectives.

HOW GERMANS TREATED MEN OF BRIARDENE

[N]ew York, Dec. 31.—How members [of] the crew of the British steamship [Bria]rdene, sunk off Kirkwall on De[cem]ber 1, were forced into lifeboats [and] compelled to carry to their own [ship] from a German submarine the [bombs] with which their vessel was de[stroyed,] was told here today by Capt. Jo[hn] F[aul]kner of the Briardene, a Nova [Scotian,] who was a passenger on the [steamer] St. Louis from Liverpool.

[As the] Briardene was nearing Kirk[wall, Capt]ain Faulkner said, she was [stopped by] three shots from the sub[marine, w]hich came up out of the [mist. The] submarine commander or[dered the h]ands, numbering 28, into [the boats.] The men were then told to [come along]side the submarine. Sev[eral ... of] the crew of the sub[marine ...] them, after loading the [small boat w]ith bombs, each about the size [of a to]mato can.

Germans Board Her.

"The Germans directed us to pull up alongside the Briardene," said Captain Faulkner, "and as we did, our men were told to unload the bombs on the decks of the Briardene. Several of the Germans boarded the Briardene and placed the bombs in various parts of the ship. Then we pulled away and in a little while the bombs exploded, blowing a hole in the hull of the vessel which quickly sent her to the bottom."

Captain Faulkner said there were 7,000 boxes of Annapolis Valley apples on board of his ship and when the explosion occurred there was a shower of apples which literally covered the sea for some distance around.

The submarine immediately submerged, but soon afterwards came to the surface again and towed the captain and crew of the Briardene to the side of the Norwegian steamship Luna which was sighted a few minutes later. The Luna took the men to Kirkwall. From reliable sources Captain Faulkner said he had learned that 31 vessels had been sunk in the vicinity of Kirkwall on December 1, 2 and 3.

Captain Faulkner is now on his way to his home in Nova Scotia.

Margaret Cameron.

Margaret Cameron, the 5 year old dauhgter of Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, 107 Erin street, passed away last night at the General Public Hospital after a short illness.

MANY PERSONS LOSE THEIR LIVES IN QUEBEC ASYLUM

Forty-seven Women Patients Burned to Death when Building was Destroyed—Asylum was at St. Ferdinand de Halifax in Megantic County.

Quebec, Dec. 31.—Forty-five insane women patients, inmates of the Asylum of St. Ferdinand De Halifax, and a sister of the community of the Sisters of Charity of the Quebec branch, were burned to death when the asylum building was completely destroyed by fire shortly before 7 o'clock Saturday night.

The asylum was situated in the little parish of the same name in the County of Megantic, and fifteen miles from Plessisville. It was one of the regular government establishments for the care of insane, it being used, however, only for the care of female patients.

Another wing of the building was employed by the Sisters of Charity as a school for young girls of varying ages, and when the fire broke out there were thirty girls in the building. All the girls were rescued, but owing to the difficulty of handling the insane women forty-five persons perished. There were 180 insane in the building at the time, and it was only with greatest difficulty that 135 were saved. The building is situated at some little distance from other habitations, from which assistance could readily come, and when the flames secured a stronghold there was but little chance of making rescues. The sister who perished did so in an endeavor to save another patient.

Owned By Sisters.

The building was the property of the Sisters of Charity, Quebec, and the patients were taken care of in virtue of the usual government arrangements. It was a large building capable of handling considerably more than the number of inmates that were in the place at the time. It was reduced to ashes.

The loss is approximately $100,000 and the amount of insurance is small. According to information received last night. What fire fighting organization there was proved to be inadequate in view of the fact that there was practically no water pressure.

Considerable of a problem was found by the sisters in taking care of the insane who had been saved, but finally al were rounded up in the hospital building a short distance away, and which is operated by the same order of sisters. The girl boarders are also being taken care of in the hospital for the present.

It was a bitterly cold night, and the unfortunate people, inmates, sisters and the young girls, suffered terribly for a time until some assistance came, and they were taken to the hospital for refuge. For the most part the insane women were in good order, the sisters keeping close watch over them. Some of them showed fear as they gazed at the flames shooting, as it seemed to them, all about them; others again acted as the feeble-minded do under such circumstances. The difficulty of clearing the building of so many insane was naturally great, as indicated in the death list.

Some obeyed directions docilely; others again could not understand that their lives depended upon them jumping, and failed to do so. Those on the lower floors were saved for the most part. There was only a few minutes in which to attempt rescues, for the building was an old one, and with a heavy wind blowing and a good start to the flames, prompt action alone enabled anyone to be saved. There were no men to do the work of rescue.

No cause has yet been learned as to the origin of the fire, and in view of the fact that nothing remains of the building, and the death roll is so heavy, it is believed highly improbable that the cause will be learned.

The instituiton is situated within the diocesan district of Quebec, and information here tonight is to the effect that steps will be taken within a short time to rebuild.

THIRTEEN PERISH IN DISASTER

Steamer Alondra Strikes Rocks off Baltimore, Cork Co., Ireland.

Queenstown, via London, Dec. 31.—Twenty-one survivors of the crew of the Liverpool steamer Alondra, engaged in the fruit trade with the Canaries, have arrived here. They report that their vessel was wrecked on the rocks off Baltimore, on the southwest coast of County Cork. The crew suffered terrible experiences.

The captain and officers remained aboard for sixteen hours, buffetted by great waves. The others took to the boats.

Several of the men were marooned for twenty hours on a rocky island, waving signals of distress until they were rescued by a motor boat. One lifeboat, with 15 men aboard, capsized thrice in attempts to avoid the rocks. Nine men were drowned, while four others died from exposure.

German Statement.

Berlin, Dec. 31, via Sayville—After a hard battle in Roumania, north and east of Rimnik Saurat, the Teutonic troops entered Russo-Roumanian positions and repulsed strong counter-attacks, the war office announced to day. In Doubrudja the Bulgarians are making progress towards Matchin. On the western front there was violent artillery fighting south of La Bassee Canal, on both sides of the Somme and northwest of Rheims.

CORONATION OF KING OF HUNGARY

Successor of Francis Jospeh Crowned with Imposing Ceremonies as Monarch of Hungary,

Budapest, Saturday, Dec. 30, via London, Dec. 31.—An assemblage of 1,500 Hungarian nobles witnessed the coronation of King Charles and Queen Zita. It was the most brilliant in the history of the country. Not even the crowning of Franz Joseph presented such a spectacle of the kingdom's wealth.

The coronation was entirely a Hungarian event. No foreign princes were present except King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, who attended in the capacity of a Magyar magnate, which he is by birth.

Coronation of King.

The king and queen appeared at the church at nine o'clock, and the crown was placed on the king's head by Premier Tisza on the stroke of ten. The service obliged the king to kneel long and frequently and he moved uneasily while Cardinal Csernoch, primate of Hungary, was reading the prayers. During the few short intermissions in the protracted religious ceremony the king chatted with members of his entourage and nodded to friends in the church.

While wearing the crown the king also put on the ancient St. Stephan cloak of faded purple, covered with an old design in gold and held the ancient sword of St. Stephan with which he made the customary passes which symbolize the intention of the monarch to defend the kingdom against enemies. In making the passes with the sword the king neglected to cut behind him until the officiating bishop drew his attention to the ommission.

After the church ceremony the king repeated the oath of office before a great crowd, from the base of Trinity fountain before the church. There was cheering for 15 minutes.

HEAVY BATTLE RAGING ALONG ROUMANIAN FRONT

Field Marshal Von Mackensen's Forces Gain Fursher Successes on Moldavian Front and in Wallachid and DobrudJa.

VIOLENT FIGHTING IN ROUMANIA — ARTILLERY OPERATIONS IN FRANCE—BRITISH BLOW UP MINE NORTHEAST OF NEUVILLE ST VAAST—SUCCESSFUL BOMBARDMENT OF TRENCHES SOUTH OF LE TRANSLOY.

Petrograd, Dec. 31, via London, (British Admiralty per Wireless Press.)—Heavy fighting is proceeding along the Roumanian front. The Germans and Austrians have received reinforcements on the Moldavian front and there, as in Wallachia and Dobrudja, have gained further successes. The war office today issued the following account of these operations:

"On the Moldavian frontier the enemy after artillery preparation launched stubborn attacks in the valley of the Sulta river and south of this valley. All these attacks were repulsed by our fire and by counter-attacks.

"In the region north of the Doftiana river and south of the ... Valley fierce battles continue. The enemy has received reinforcements in this region and succeeded, after repeated attacks, in taking possession of several heights in front of our positions south of the Oituz river, compelling us to retire to a new position.

Stubborn Attacks.

"The enemy continues to make stubborn attacks on the Roumanian front, on the Upper Kasino river, at the Moldavian frontier. In the region northwest of Sevej, on the Upper [S]ushitza, the enemy assumed the offensive, defeated the Roumanian troops and captured a large number of prisoners and a machine gun company.

"In the morning the enemy began an attack on the Roumanian front near the village of Kosa, on the upper stream of the River Putna. The heights in this vicinity changed hands several times and eventually remained in possession of the enemy. Attacks by the enemy near the village of Bordeschi, twenty versts southwest of Fokshany, and north of that point continue. Our detachments and Roumanian troops, as a result of an attack, dislodged the enemy from the village of Bordeschi, which he occupied yesterday. Enemy attacks in the region of the Bezeu-Braila railway line and near the village of Bordoeuverbe, south of the Yanka station on the same railway were repelled by our detachment.

Roumanians Repulsed.

"The enemy succeeded in repulsi[ng] the Roumanians in the region nor[th]west of Bezeu-Braila railway. In [a] sector southeast of the same rai[lway] were repelled by our detachment. all enemy attacks were repulsed.

"In Dobrudja the enemy, reinforced by heavy and light artillery, three times attacked our positions four versts northeast of the village of Grotchi, twenty versts southeast of Braila. The third attack enabled the enemy to occupy a height in the centre of our positions."

London, Dec. 31.—The report from British headquarters in France tonight reads:

"Southeast of Le Transloy the enemy's defenses were effectively bo[m]barded during the day. An enemy ammunition dump was blown up as the result of our fire.

"The enemy's artillery has been somewhat more active than usual in the neighborhood of Martinpuich. Beyond the usual artillery activity [on] other points on our front there is [noth]ing further to report."

(Continued on page 2)

END OF WAR NOT YET IN SIGHT

Earl Curzon, Member of War Council, Says Enemy Shows Signs of Exhaustion.

London, Dec. 31.—In a New Year's message to the Primrose Club Earl Curzon, a member of the war council, says:

"This is the third year of such a message in circumstances of war, and we all pray it may be the last year. It is impossible, however, to say as yet that the end is in sight.

"Signs of exhaustion are visible in many quarters, peace kites are flown, but meanwhile the struggle goes on and neither side has obtained that decisive preponderance which points to conclusive results. It seems likely that well into another year, perhaps longer, must we continue this dreadful tragedy that is turning the world into hell and wrecking the brightest promise of nations. Our spirit cannot falter, since an inconclusive war or a patched-up peace means for us not only humiliation but destruction."

London, Dec. 31.—Last night's report from British headquarters in France reads:

"A mine was successfully blown by us Friday evening northeast of Neuville St. Vaast. The artillery carr[ied] out an effective bombardm[ent] d[uring] the night on enemy pos[itions] ... neighborhood of Serre, ... ber of places of mili[tary] ... behind the enemy lines.

"Today enemy trench[es] ... Transloy were bomb[arded with good] results. East of ... Neuve Chapelle, a Bri[tish] ... prisoners."

WARN U... AGA...

...invited to at... ...ake any portion of ... they are interested.

...K DEPARTMENT ...CULTURE, ...MURRAY, Minister.

...30 ...rn... ...ello ... Mgr.

... the ... has been ... put in ...ossible. ... C. CHESLEY, ...ne & Fisheries Dep. ...N. B., Dec. 28th, 1916.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

Notice is hereby given that Pease Island Ledge bell buoy has been reported not ringing. Will be put in commission as soon as possible.

J. C. CHESLEY,
Agent, Marine & Fisheries Dept.
St. John, N. B., Dec. 28th, 1916.