

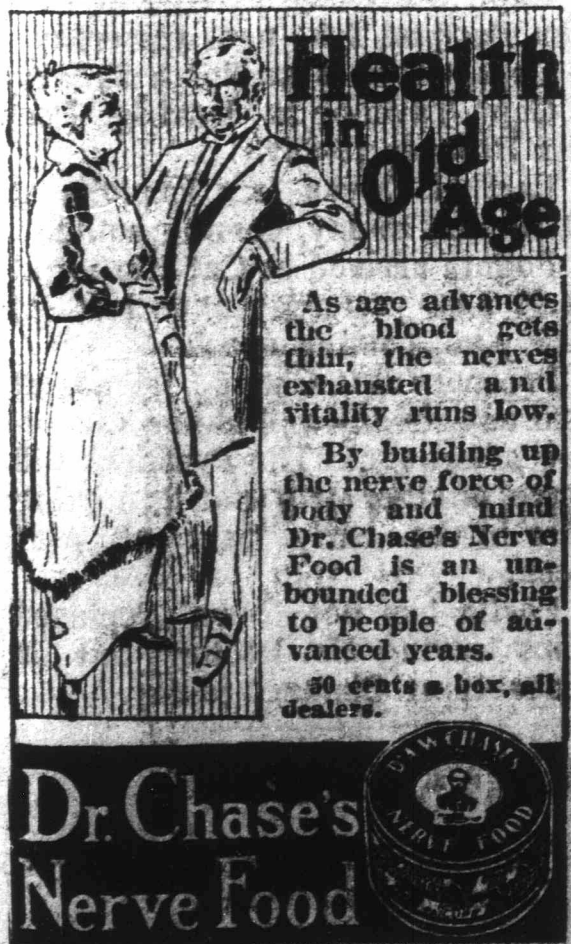
## TO-DAY'S EARLY CABLES

## Gompers' Address

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—In New Year greeting to all Organized Labor, Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, calls upon representatives and organizers to make plain to their fellows the issue involved in the war and the obligation that devolves upon all citizens. He also emphasizes the importance of seeing to it that the spirit and methods of democracy are maintained at home while the country is fighting to establish them in international relations. "The war means victory for our cause or danger to the very existence of our nation," says the address. With our nation at stake individuals can not interpose opposition to war. War has been declared by the will of the nation's representatives. Under the exigencies of war, opposition to war declared by constituted authority became treason. While this is true, there is even more than the ordinary need for the maintenance of the rights of men and women and for the careful scrutiny and fullest discussion of policies and methods before their adoption. The time for labor to interpose its needs and contentions is while the policies are in the making. The fighting and the concrete issues of the war are so far removed from the people of our country that not all of our citizens have a full understanding of the issues involved. An understanding of the principles of autocratic force which the Central Powers desire to substitute for the real principles of freedom makes it clear to all citizens of this Republic the effect of our possible defeat upon their own lives and activities. In addition to the fundamental principles at issue labor has an additional interest in the war. This war is in analysis the people's war, and its final outcome will be determined in factories, shops, mines, farms, industries and transportation agencies of the various countries which can most successfully organize its agencies of production and transportation, and the peoples and which can furnish the most effective agencies with which to conduct the war will win. The workers have a part in this war co-equal with the soldiers and sailors on ships and in trenches. Continuous production is an indispensable prerequisite to the production of the necessary war supplies. The Government as well as the workers themselves is vitally interested in maintaining such conditions that there shall be no occasion for interruption in production. The chief responsible agents of the Government have shown a desire to be fair and an understanding of the human elements involved in this problem. The organized labor movement also showed an equally broad understanding and grasp of the situation. Gompers quotes at length from the declaration adopted by the Labor representatives at their meeting here on March 12, and from resolutions of the Buffalo Convention of American Federation of Labor outlining the attitude of organized labor toward war work.

## Enemy Raids in France

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The report from Field Marshal Haig to-night said: In addition to raids reported in this morning's statement, the enemy attempted last night to raid one of our posts in the neighbourhood of Oppy, but was driven off before reaching our trenches. This afternoon the enemy's artillery has shown increased activity in the neighbourhood of the Ypres-Comines canal. On the remainder the front there was nothing of special interest.



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## Pooling All Resources

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—A definite plan was formed for more active utilization of American naval forces and an agreement was made with the British admiralty to effect certain plans for anti-submarine warfare. The contribution of the United States to a pooling of air resources was agreed upon. The agreement guarantees the full equipment of every kind would be available to all American forces sent to Europe during 1918. Arrangements were made to have the United States participate in the military deliberations of the supreme War Council as a step toward efficient and centralized unity of control of military operations. The extent of the military effort to be aimed at by the United States was clearly determined and an allied advisory board was created to advise each nation on allotments of ships so as to permit the American military effort to be perfected. Ships, resources and arrangements have been made to devote the greatest amount of tonnage possible for the transportation of American troops.

## For Joint Action

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—A constant speedy despatch of American troops to the European front is the principal recommendation made to the Government by American delegates who recently returned from the inter-allied War Council at Paris. The speeding up of the merchant shipbuilding programme, and closer co-operation with the belligerents are the other important recommendations. This was disclosed by the State Department, which made a public summary of the result of the conference which included the formation of an inter-allied Naval Council to co-ordinate operation of the naval forces of the United States and her associates in the war so that these forces may in future be operated as one in the prosecution of the war on sea and in conjunction with land forces. An agreement between the British admiralty and navy department putting in to effect certain plans relating to the prosecution of naval war against submarines. The formation of definite plans for more active utilization of American naval forces in conjunction with those nations engaged in war against the Central Powers.

## Germany's Annexation Plans Unacceptable To Russia

PETROGRAD, Jan. 2.—The Russian peace delegation returned to Petrograd today, and reported to the joint session of the special executive committee of the Soldiers' and Workmen's delegates and Petrograd Council of Soldiers and Workmen's Deputies, the progress of the negotiations with the Austro-Germans at Brest-Litovsk. Kamenef, a member of the Russian delegation, read the German terms which he characterized as showing the positive annexation plans of the Central Powers, and he declared they were unacceptable in their present form. He added the terms hadn't been discussed. If after the resumption of negotiations, the delegate said, the Germans insist upon these terms, Russia will conclude peace not with German imperialists, but with the representatives of the people, the Socialists of Germany.

## French Official

PARIS, Jan. 2 (official).—There is nothing to report to-day except quite marked artillery in the sector of Beaumont and Courrières wood. Belgian.—On the 1st of January the artillery was not very intense. On the 2nd an enemy detachment, protected by violent barrages, succeeded in gaining a footing in one of our posts in the sector of Herecken. An immediate counter attack drove back the Germans, who left several prisoners in our hands. During the day there was slight artillery activity. Eastern Theatre.—Artillery was active in the region of Gievghell and on the eastern slopes of Vetrlik. Enemy airplanes have bombed ambulances behind the Monastir front.

## Fr. Bernard Vaughan

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Father Bernard Vaughan, the famous Jesuit, and brother of the late Cardinal, speaking in Trafalgar Square for war economy said: "People asked him whether the Pope would accept his views, and added, why do I come in Biretta and Cassock to speak to you? To show you that although a priest I am an Englishman, and woe to any man who stands between me and my king, country or my flag." The sentiment was received with cheers.

## A STEADY FLOW OF GERMAN TROOPS WEST

But General Maurice Believes that the Excellent Defensive Positions of the British will Hold

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The probability of the Germans now taking a vigorous offensive attitude on the West front was pointed out by Major General Maurice, Chief Director of Military Operations at the War Office, in his weekly talk to the Associated Press today. There were two factors that contributed to this probability, the General said, the first being the steady flow of German reinforcements from the East front, and the second fact that the American forces were not ready to take any considerable part in the operations. The public should be prepared, General Maurice said, for some losses of both ground and men if the Germans attempted really determined offensive operations. They wouldn't, however, be able to inflict such losses on the Allies as the latter had inflicted on the Germans during the past year. The enemy during the past fortnight had been attempting numerous raids, mostly on small scale. At Cambrai, however, he tried a larger operation with the object of getting control of the ridge on the British salient and forcing our withdrawal. His attack, however, ended in almost complete failure, for although he gained a few hundred yards of our front trench, he failed to set foot on the ridge anywhere. These attempts to take the offensive, continued the General, are a sign of a new distribution of belligerent forces on the Western front. The enemy is steadily bringing troops from Russia with the aim of re-establishing his superiority over the Anglo-French forces. The Germans don't possess a magic carpet, and can't transfer his troops at super-natural rate, especially under winter transport conditions, nevertheless there is a steady flow of German troops westward. The Germans are still a long way from having superior numbers on this front, but the relative strength of the forces is already so altered that it is doubtful whether the Allied commanders would feel justified in undertaking offensive operations on a large scale. The enemy, constantly improving his numerical position, will on the other hand lead eventually to offensive operations by the Germans, but I see no reason to believe that he will be able to inflict anything like such losses on us as inflicted on him during the past year. Owing to our work the past year we are in excellent defensive positions, holding nearly all the high ground. On the other hand, we are everywhere on the ground where we must prepare new defensive systems, and must be prepared to leave ground, and if the enemy makes a determined attack with the usual artillery preparation, followed by energetic infantry assaults of our own experience has taught us that it is practically always possible to move a certain distance under these conditions of attack. Regarding the situation in Palestine, General Maurice said a word of caution is necessary relative to the reports of an immediate further advance in Palestine. The hills of Judea are notoriously difficult, weather is unfavorable, and the roads are impassable owing to the wet season. The transport problem, therefore, is likely to prevent any considerable movement there for some time.

## Important Figures On Submarine Loss

LONDON, Jan. 2.—A semi-official statement says, "During the first ten months of 1917, twice as many submarines were destroyed as during the whole of 1916. The number destroyed in the third quarter of 1917 equals the total destroyed in 1916. The total destroyed was between 40 and 50 per cent. of all commissioned or ready for service. Over 40 per cent. of armed merchantmen when attacked have escaped.

## Shipping Loss Increases

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Eighteen British merchant ships of 1600 tons or over were sunk by mine or submarine during the past week, according to the Admiralty report to-night. Three ships under 1600 tons were also sunk. This is a material increase over the previous week, when the sinkings numbered 12, of which eleven were more than 1600 tons.

## Austrians Repulsed

ROME, Jan. 2.—Another attempt to cross the Piave river has been defeated by the Italians, the war office announces. Half a score of vessels, loaded with enemy troops, were disposed of at Montebelluna when the crossing was attempted.

## Beth Jr's. Crew Safe

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—Capt. Weston keeping and crew of the British schooner Seth Jr., of Liverpool, arrived to-day having been rescued from his water-logged vessel on Dec. 26. The Seth Jr. was bound from a South American port to Canada and sprung a leak. The crew was rescued by a passing steamer, and the schooner sank shortly afterward.

## New York in Darkness

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The business streets here and in the cities and towns throughout the State will be entirely dark on lightless nights, except for regular street lights, under an order promulgated by the State fuel administration to-day requiring that electric advertising and display signs of all kinds be completely discontinued.

## Recruiting

OTTAWA, Jan. 2.—Recruiting figures showing the number of men enlisted in the infantry, artillery, railway construction and forestry units in Canada and the United States during first half of December and the wastage in the C. E. F. for the same period have been issued by Militia Department. The figures reveal a net loss for half month of 1621 men. Total enlistments being 2081, as against a total wastage of 3702.

## NOTICE!

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Union Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. will be held at the Company's office, Port Union, Monday, January 7th, at 11 a.m.

W. W. HALFYARD, Secretary.  
St. John's, Dec. 24, 1917.

## NOTICE!

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Union Electric Light & Power Co. Ltd. will be held at the Company's office, Port Union, Monday, January 7th, at noon.

J. G. STONE, Secretary.  
St. John's, Dec. 24, 1917.

## LATEST CABLES

## Close Co-operation

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—American troops are to be rushed to Europe in as large and constant stream as humanly possible. Nations will so arrange shipping as to provide necessary transport. Merchant shipbuilding program must be rushed. There is to be closer co-operation of all co-belligerents to present a single and united front to the German autocracy. The part of the United States has been clearly defined and arrangements made to carry it out. These are the principal results as they affect America, of recent Inter-Allied Council at Paris. Announced today for the first time by State Department those recommendations made by American delegates are the result of great councils of the heads of all co-belligerents to take in recommendations previously sent.

## Russian Steamer Released

A PACIFIC PORT, Jan. 3.—While the Russian steamer Shilkta, regarded as a mystery ship for some after her arrival here from Vladivostok under Bolshevik control, is still closely guarded by the police and Federal Officers, the sailors now are allowed the freedom of the city. Government officials, it was said to-day, have decided there is no reason for detaining the steamer. She is now taking a cargo of pig iron for the return voyage. When she arrived last month it was reported she had brought \$100,000 in gold for the defence of Industrial Workers of World now awaiting trial in Chicago, and at the time it was thought she might be interned. The sailors of Shilkta crew have been buying merchandise heavily for sale on their own account when they again reach Vladivostok. One sailor bought twenty pairs of women's shoes, retailing for \$10.00. He said they would sell in Russia for \$30.00 a pair.

## British Murdered

PETROGRAD, Dec. 31.—A despatch to the British Embassy from the British Consul at Harbin, Manchuria, says: British and French residents of Irkutsk, Siberia, have been exterminated in recent fighting against Bolshevik forces. The despatch adds that Irkutsk was under heavy bombardment for two days and much property was destroyed. The Embassy is inclined to believe that the word exterminated is an exaggeration. Although there are no official figures at hand, it is said there are not more than fifteen French and British residents in Irkutsk.

## Afraid of America

LONDON, Jan. 3.—As showing that the pretended German disregard for entry of the United States into war is feigned, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters quotes official German army order as follows: The recent entry of America into the war compels our higher command to form considerable number of aircraft units. The order proceeds to urge officers to promote the utmost number of transfers of officers to Flying Corps for necessary training. Correspondent adds the prisoners are unanimous in stating that large forces of heavy artillery are on the way from Russian front to west front.

## Matanza Floated

HALIFAX, Jan. 3.—The American steamer 'Matanza', on the ledge two hundred (?) from where the Atlantic was wrecked with a loss of 547 lives in 1873, was successfully floated to-day and brought into Halifax. She went ashore in a dense fog on morning of Dec. 22, and the cargo was half discharged before she could be floated. She is the first ship rescued from that part of the Nova Scotia Coast that has claimed so many victims. The work was carried on under the direction of H. Black, of London Salvage Association.

## Airship Activity

LONDON, Jan. 2.—More than two hundred bombs were dropped Tuesday on various targets, including a large ammunition depot near Courtrai and the Ingelmunster airfield, according to an official statement on aerial operations. In air fighting, continues statement, two hostile machines were brought down and two others driven down out of control. Another was shot down inside our lines by anti-aircraft guns. One of our machines is missing.

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