

FIGHTING NATIONS TO SECURE PEACE

All Neutrals With Typewriters Cannot Guarantee No More War.

TO CHANGE NOTHING

Petrograd Press Believes Outsiders Will Fail to Stop Campaign.

Petrograd, Dec. 27, via London.—Switzerland's endorsement of President Wilson's initiative in soliciting the formulation of peace terms by the warring powers and the news that other neutrals will follow suit has decidedly strengthened the impression made here by the American proposal and corrected whatever tendency there existed in certain quarters to regard Mr. Wilson's note as inspired by other motives than those set forth in it.

In well-informed quarters it is said there is no reason to believe that the added influence of other neutrals will in any way change the point of view expressed by the foreign office, which the national conviction that the present time is inappropriate for the consideration of peace terms.

The tone of the press comment, however, has become today considerably more inclined to view the possibility of intervention on its own merits. The New Review, which bitterly reproached President Wilson in its earlier comment for what it termed ill-timed interference, now says that however President Wilson's efforts may be received there can be no possible interpretation of the note as unfriendly to the entente allies or having been sent with other than the best of intentions.

The Bourne Gazette, which expresses the belief that the suggestion of President Wilson was not a casual act of the American Government, but the result of organized efforts of the neutral powers, which are already equivalent to a neutral league with a united aim, says: "The picture is now quite changed. The union of neutral governments in an effort to secure a general and lasting peace opens up quite a new combination of world interests, and the part played by the neutrals will have a tendency to lay the basis for a stable world peace."

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

(Continued From Page 1.)

This thing may be easiest done by opening up the Baltic. The coming year is not unlikely to be marked by stirring naval events.

In active aeroplane operations on the western front the British machines destroyed one German craft and compelled five others to land thru damage. Three British machines are missing.

In an order issued to the Russian army on Dec. 25 the Russian emperor lays down the principle of no peace until final victory is won. He opens his declaration by referring to the great superiority of the enemy's technical resources for war over those of the allies.

News from Petrograd shows that the violent battle which began five days ago on the whole of the Rumanian front, is still proceeding. The German front a little in the Russian positions and they showed back the Russian to the occupation of Rimnik-Sarat and also, yesterday, laid claim to the Russian front in this region. What is really happening is that the enemy is bringing up his artillery and shells rapidly by railway, able to bring forward a sufficient number of guns to neutralize the effects of the German artillery fire.

Paris now perceives that the Germans have been exercising pressure on neutral powers to send forward the peace note as belligerents and that the firms what was written in these columns the other day that the present scheme, whether President Wilson was driven to it for the League to Enforce Peace, or more frightfully and sea and so responded to blackmail by threats induced to act from mere philanthropy and humanitarianism are questionable. President Wilson has now placed himself in a dilemma, and since that he will not consent to the entry of the United States into the war, for of avoiding. In reality Germany has been waging war against the United States for the past 18 months by destroying the lives of American citizens on home everything with great meekness. His peace almost at any price policy has been endorsed. It must be remembered, by the electorate of the United States.

RETURNED SOLDIERS

Quebec, Dec. 27.—Following is a list of soldiers returned home from England and who reached Quebec last night. Most of them did not go to the front, having been refused for some deficiency or over age.

Three Rivers.—A. Gagnon, A. Cadorette; Hull, Nap. Roy.

L. Alard, J. Delisle, E. Colpin, L. Dwyer, F. Elliott, E. Ferreault, E. Gibson, H. Hammond, E. Houle, J. Hamel, G. Lay, J. W. Poirer, M. Taylor, M. Vite, F. Waters, G. Waing, T. Whiston, T. Delaine.

Toronto. E. Boyle, S. Barber, W. Blare, R. Craig, F. Elliot, M. Flynn, A. Fralick, A. Fitch, A. Garcia, A. Griffiths, H. Hubbard, D. Hand, J. Johnson, C. Lussier, J. Montgomery, A. Peck, D. Robinson, J. Stevenson, J. Small, J. Thomas, W. Wild, H. Johnson, J. Bush, L. Smith, N. Kent, A. Bullock, E. Marquis, S. Burnett, M. Long, E. Elliott, J. L. Gilpin, G. H. Urquhart.

Welland. A. Paalkner; Windsor, J. A. Hicks, W. G. Lamb; Beaver-ton, R. Howe; St. Thomas, C. Lovelgrove; Fort George, J. Mason.

London, Peter Malgan, A. R. Murray, E. Ross, H. Bead, R. River, J. O'Mara; North Bay, A. Roche; Stratford, Thos. Sherwood; Victoria, E. Youngs; Hamilton, R. Robinson, J. Oswald, Geo. Yates, J. Moore, C. Weller; Kingston, H. McDonald; St. Thomas, A. Yashley; Ingersoll, C. E. Jones; Galt, A. Franks; Windsor, T. Williamson; London, E. P. Butler, Glencoe, A. J. Berdan; Guelph, J. A. Milne; Brantford, M. B. Reynolds, R. Montgomery; Welland, P. Mark; Dundas, J. Collins.

Five Battalions of Drafts Have Reached England Safely

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—It is officially announced, thru the chief press censor's office, that the five battalions of drafts which were sent to England, have arrived safely in England.

The 19th Irish Canadian Battalion, Montreal; 13th and 21st Alberta Battalions; 23rd Manitoba Battalion; 23rd Railway Construction Battalion; Drafts: 2nd Infantry, 2nd Army Service Corps, Army Medical Corps and Dental Corps.

New Zealand's Surplus Meat Contracted for by Britain

Washington, Dec. 27.—The British Government has contracted for the entire exportable supply of New Zealand mutton until at least three months after the close of the European war, according to reports reaching the commerce department from its agents abroad. Higher prices will be paid than the dominion's export supply commanded last year.

Downing Street Conference Foreign Secretary Balfour Able to Attend

New York, Dec. 27.—According to a news agency despatch from London this afternoon a ministerial conference on the international situation was held at Premier Lloyd George's official residence, 10 Downing street, today.

Gulf Fire on Italian Front

Rome, Dec. 27.—In the Adige valley, the Italian artillery kept the Austrian lines under a vigorous fire, says today's London official communication. Working parties of the foe were disturbed by the Italian gunfire. Italian fighters on other sections of the front was interrupted by skirmishes with the Austrian advanced posts.

BECK'S BULLETS

Sir Adam Frustrates Attempts to Influence People Against Hydro.

CAUSES MUCH FUN

T. J. Stewart Riled Unmercifully at Meeting Held in Hamilton.

Hamilton, Thursday, Dec. 28.—Hydro radicals are practically assured for Hamilton, according to the enthusiasm shown by the job-wonners at a huge mass meeting held in the Sons of England Hall last night. The hall was packed and the attendance was a record for the city.

While there were no speakers listed to oppose the bylaw, few members of the board of trade, headed by H. L. Frost, attempted to block the way. The enthusiasm for the scheme, but their efforts were futile. T. J. Stewart, M.P., was also in the hall, and his opinion of the City of Hamilton would have to continue paying a deficit for 50 years after the road was completed from Toronto to Hamilton via Hamilton and St. Catharines.

Sir Adam simply walloped facts and statistics and proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that the route chosen by Hydro, consisting of the proposed radial line was the best in America. Also that the equipment was to be compared to none.

The line will never be a liability to the City of Hamilton, declared Sir Adam, "but on the contrary will pay for the line but you must pay for the traveling public will pay. It simply amounts to this: Shall it be a Canadian Northern road built by your money and owned by somebody else or a road built by your money for your own convenience and owned by you ratepayers? The hydro radial road stands for public ownership. I would like to know why you should not be a public man should recommend you to vote against the bylaw. I recommend you all to vote for it. (Applause.)"

Amuses Audience. "You want not going to let me speak," shouted a man jumping to the platform but cries of "Who are you working for?" and "What are you getting out of the corporation?" greeted his announcement. However, upon the request of Sir Adam he was given a hearing.

Mr. Stewarty spoke of the London-Port Stanley Railway and declared that from his own figuring, the line had not paid. Mr. Stewart said that the hydro scheme was a laughing matter, "I do not care what Sir Adam Beck tells you men, but I know personally that the hydro scheme is a failure. If you carry the bylaw on Monday you will have to make up any deficit that will occur in the next few years. The audience were again highly amused when Mr. Stewart stated that if Hamilton did not vote for the hydro scheme, it would not permit the radial cars to stop in this city. Here a few remarks were made by a man who called the audience in reference to what interest he represented.

Here Sir Adam stated that he was willing to resign if the speaker could do any better than he had done, but a voice from the audience shouted, "It is not in it." "You do not know any more about the hydro scheme than I do," said Sir Adam. "What the corporations are putting into the papers," said Sir Adam, springing to his feet and driving the people into an undiminished roar that he has made no money with the London-Port Stanley line, and that he has lost money at the present time we have \$1,000,000 in the bank. He asked the audience if they would like to see a bill for \$1,000,000, which means that we will spend \$1,000,000 on the hydro scheme. Amid prolonged cheers, Sir Adam stated that the commission had no intention of driving the people into a state of ruin. "In five or six years, perhaps, we will want to come back to this city, and we would not want to see it in a state of ruin. We do not face you ratepayers with confidence in the fact that we had not given you a square deal."

Opposes Scheme. Representing the board of trade, H. L. Frost, stated that the hydro scheme should not be put into effect until the railway and the hydro project were certain lines which the hydro project will parallel. Mr. Frost presented a few facts which agreed very much with some of Mr. Stewart's statements. Engineer Gaby was called upon to answer the question of the board of trade members present. Mr. Frost's statement that ninety per cent. of the people would not use the line was greeted with shouts of mirth. He also looked into the future, and stated that motor cars would take the place of radials in twenty-five years.

GERMAN AGENTS HAVE ARRIVED AT THE HAGUE

London, Dec. 27.—A despatch from The Hague to the Exchange Telegraph Company says German agents have arrived at The Hague to make preliminary arrangements for German delegates to the peace conference suggested in the German reply to President Wilson's note.

The despatch follows: "In view of the preparatory meeting of delegates to a peace conference, make and in the German reply to President Wilson's note, German agents have arrived at The Hague and are making enquiries as to hotel accommodations for German delegates."

GERMANY'S ANSWER

Berlin, Dec. 27.—The German answer to President Wilson's note was taken to the United States Embassy today by Foreign Minister Zimmermann.

Dr. Zimmermann lunched with Ambassador Gerard. No indication of the tone of the note appeared in the German papers today. Its text will be published tomorrow.

BRITISH ATTACKS REPULSED

Berlin, Dec. 27.—A German official statement issued tonight says that notwithstanding the fact that the British had repulsed the attacks by the British had been repulsed.

DEATH OF LECTURER CAME UNEXPECTEDLY

Frank Roberson Had Been Believed to Be Recovering After Operation.

New York, Dec. 27.—Frank Belmont Roberson, lecturer and explorer, died last night at Denver. It became known here tonight. For the last ten months he had been lecturing in Canada on "The Nations at War" and recently had gone to Denver to spend the holidays with his wife, formerly Jessie Worthington Wharton of Washington. Mr. Roberson was born in New York in 1871. He had been around the globe four times and had made thirty-three visits to Europe. In 1900 he made an extensive tour of the world. His death was due to a relapse after an apparently successful operation for appendicitis.

U.S. AND GERMANY MAY HAVE BREAK

Submarine Menace is Recognized as Assuming Grave Proportions.

GERMANY OBSTINATE

Assurances Asked for by Wilson Are Persistently Withheld.

New York, Thursday, Dec. 28.—In a despatch from Washington to The New York World, a strong supporter of the Wilson administration, Henry H. Hall in this morning's edition makes the unqualified statement that "danger of a United States-German break lies before us." The despatch says that the peace moves of the Kaiser and President Wilson.

The New York Press says: "The New York Press says: 'By our reply President Wilson's policy is at once allied with our own. The entente can refuse nothing to the central powers from the fact that they also refuse to President Wilson. The entente no longer faces us alone, but also America, with whom we are in full harmony.'"

Boast of Strength. "The Reichspost says: 'Our proposal gives the entente a favorable opportunity even at the last moment honorably to turn from the crime of war to the reconstruction of civilization. Moreover, the fact that President Wilson made his demarche almost simultaneously with ours shows that he also considers every fundamental change in the war situation impossible.'"

Wilson's Determination. President Wilson was determined to do everything humanly possible to keep the U. S. out of war, and he fully realized that a rupture of relations with Germany would mean a resumption of hostilities. He was determined to keep the U. S. out of war, and he fully realized that a rupture of relations with Germany would mean a resumption of hostilities.

SAVE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS. Colchester Men Tramp Five Miles Over Rough Ice.

Colchester, Dec. 27.—John Knapp and his assistant, Oscar Knapp, arrived home from Colchester Reef Light-house this afternoon. Lewis Goodchild and Otto Dewey undertook the perilous trip of tramping over the rough ice a distance of five miles with a small boat rigged on runners to bring them ashore, as there were no sleds available at the time. They just arrived in Colchester last night, a day or two longer.

SOUGHT SAFETY IN FLIGHT

Guelph, Dec. 27.—The police found a case of liquor in a Chinese laundry last night and the Chinaman promised to appear in police court this morning, giving \$16 as security. He failed to show up, however, and it was subsequently learned that he left the city.

DUTCH PACIFISTS SPEAK

The Hague, Dec. 26, via London. Dec. 27.—The Dutch section of the World's Union of Churches held a crowded meeting tonight in the largest church in the city. The speakers endorsed President Wilson's "act of faith" in the sending of his note to the belligerents, and exhorted his brethren in the belligerent countries to foster an atmosphere in which the idea of peace might be developed.

SEIZED VENIZELIS' LETTER

Strong Effort to Bring Greece Into War Urged.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Copies of a letter from former Premier Venizelos to General Kornas, head of the Greek revolutionary movement in Athens, calling for extreme efforts to bring Greece into war on the side of the allies, even to "the destruction of the proper hour of all designated persons no matter who they may be" were delivered to the state department today by Greek Charge Vouras for its information. The letter was said to have been seized in the general's house and was dated Nov. 25.

RAILWAY CORPS TO BE RECRUITED

Toronto to Be Headquarters of Two New Units Organized.

START WORK AT ONCE

Big Railway Development is in Prospect in Allied Countries.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—Two railway construction corps are to be authorized at once by Hon. A. E. Kemp and the militia council, and they will be recruited from over Canada, but the headquarters will be in Toronto. The commander of one will be Col. McConnell and of the other Col. Martin. It is understood that great railway development is in prospect in the allied countries and Canadian railway construction corps have acquired an enviable reputation for efficiency, hence the fact that they are being recruited in this work.

Recruiting will start immediately and will be of great assistance in the building up of two excellent battalions. The corps have not yet been issued but will be in a day or so.

It is thought likely that the new units will be employed in the resurveying of the 2000 miles of rails, which Canada has promised to send overseas for the use of the allies.

WILSON IN HARMONY WITH CENTRAL POWERS

Austrian Papers Make Comment on U. S. Offer to Intervene.

BOAST OF STRENGTH

Desire is, However, Expressed to Put End to Bloodshed.

London, Dec. 28.—A Reuters despatch from Vienna, by way of Amsterdam, quotes some of the Austrian papers regarding the peace proposals. Commenting on Austria's reply to President Wilson, the Fremdenblatt says: "The central powers contemplate the possibility of the continuance of the war with full confidence, but feel they will do everything in their power to bring about a peace which will terminate the bloodshed, if at all possible."

WALKED SEVENTY MILES. Aged Man Hunting for Relatives Was Badly Frost-bitten.

Windsor, Dec. 27.—In quest of relatives said to be living here, Thomas Clarke, aged 65, arrived in Windsor this morning badly frost-bitten after having walked all the way from Gloucester, a distance of more than 70 miles. Clarke said he had been out for about a week. He was found wandering about the streets by the police who, seeing his condition, sent him to the hospital. Part of his hands may have to be amputated.

WEDDINGS POSTPONED

Windsor, Dec. 27.—An unusually heavy rush in marriages was responsible for Windsor being without one marriage license blank today. The shortage was discovered, much to the chagrin of four couples who persistently canvassed every minister and issuer of licenses. More blanks are expected from Toronto in a day or so, they were told.

CHARGED WITH FORGERY

Brantford, Dec. 27.—H. W. Freeborn, an employe of Bow Park Farm, was charged with forgery of a note signed by Elmer Burch. It is alleged that the face value of the note was changed from \$50 to \$200. The case was adjourned until tomorrow.

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

Brantford, Dec. 27.—Nominations for the separate school board were held in St. Basil's School this morning. The following were elected by acclamation: Ward one, Thomas M. Ion; ward two, W. J. Hampel; ward three, Dr. S. B. Stinson; ward four, Frank Walker; ward five, John W. Fitzgerald acted as returning officer.

INDUCTION IN JANUARY

Brantford, Dec. 27.—It has been announced that the new rector of Grace Church, Rev. Mr. Fotheringham of Gloucester has received an appointment not yet made known.

REFUSE TO DISPLACE WORKERS

Sarnia, Dec. 27.—The local city government tonight turned down a proposition from the Soldiers' Aid Society of Galt asking Sarnia to \$28,000 in a petition to the government to replace some of the present munitions workers and inspectors with returned soldiers.

PHILADELPHIA MAKES OFFER

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—If the belligerent nations of Europe agree to meet in peace conference, they will be offered the use of Independence Hall. Mayor Thomas B. Smith has announced that he will urge President Wilson to use his influence to bring the diplomats here. The mayor will not act, however, until he is convinced there is a chance of success in bringing about the proposed conference.

VILLA HOLDS TORREON

Confirmation of Occupation of City is Received. El Paso, Dec. 27.—Official confirmation of the occupation of Torreón by Villa forces was made today by the Carranza command here. Torreón was evacuated by Gen. Talamante and his command of 1500 de facto troops, the consul said, because of a superior opposing force. He denied rumors that Gen. Francisco Murguía, commander at Chihuahua City, had made no effort to oppose Villa's recent capture of Chihuahua City.

RETURNING ON LEAVE

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, Dec. 27.—The following have gone to Canada on leave: Lieut.-Col. J. Stagg, Capt. Somerville, Lieut. G. F. Atkinson, Capt. Stairs; sick leave to Canada: Capt. E. C. MacKenzie, Artillery Ltut. E. M. Roberts, Medicine, A. G. Morley; gone overseas, Lieut. G. L. Marshall and C. L. Abbott.

WOODSTOCK POLICE CHIEF TENDERS HIS RESIGNATION

It is Accepted and Official Escapes Charge of Drunkenness.

Woodstock, Dec. 27.—Chief of Police Sam Bickley tendered his resignation to the police commission tonight and it was accepted, thus escaping the necessity of facing a charge of being drunk while on duty. A similar charge faced Constable Moore, but was dismissed. Market Clerk Stewart appeared before the commission and stated he had visited the chief's office Friday afternoon about 5 o'clock and found both officers "desperately drunk" and stretched across some chairs. Moore denied he had not even had a drink. The commission gave him an honorable acquittal.

Pays Two Hundred Dollars For Breaking Temperance Act

Guelph, Dec. 27.—The heaviest fine imposed for a violation of the Ontario Temperance Act in Guelph was recorded at the police court this morning. The defendant was George Prior, who had pleaded guilty yesterday morning on the charge of having liquor on his place of business. Magistrate Watt imposed a fine of \$200 and costs of three months in jail. His works gave the defendant two weeks in which to pay the fine.

PICTURE HOUSE BURNED

Fan Wanted Cheap Entertainment and Caused \$2,000 Fire.

Waukeville, Dec. 27.—A moving picture fan is blamed by the police for a blaze discovered in the Family Theatre, Waukeville, early this morning. About \$2,000 damage was done. Investigation of the ruins showed that the operating booth was broken open and a reel of film placed in position for release. It was evident that the police, by what was left of the machine before his carelessness started the blaze.

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BRITISH SEARCH LINE OF FOE'S TRENCHES

Party Does Great Damage to German Position Without Casualty.

AEROPLANES IN FIGHT

Six German Machines Fall Before Prowess of Allied Attackers.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. London, Dec. 27.—Searching of the German trenches for a few hundred yards was done with great success by a British patrol northwest of Lens on Tuesday night, according to tonight's official communication of Sir Douglas Haig. The British search party had done a great deal of damage and returned to its trenches without the loss of a man. In aerial combats, British machines destroyed one German plane and forced five others to land in a damaged condition. Three British machines are missing. The had brought down nine allied machines.

The report from British headquarters in France, at midnight, reads: "On Tuesday night a party of our troops searched for some few hundred yards the trench line south of the trench line northwest of Lens, from Haig's headquarters and doing considerable damage to his defences. After completing their work our men returned without casualty."

Our positions on the right of our line north of the Somme and near Lesars, were heavily shelled by the enemy at intervals Tuesday night and Wednesday. Bombardments of the enemy were directed against our trench placements were made south of Arras, in the neighborhood of Hulleuch and west of Messines. Elsewhere there was the usual artillery activity.

On Tuesday much successful work was done by our airman in co-operation with our artillery. In the course of a number of fights in the air, a fighting machine was destroyed and five others were forced to land in a damaged condition. Three of our machines are missing."

The official statement on the campaign issued by the war office reads: "Much of our artillery activity was directed in several sectors of the Somme. One of our bombardments caused two fires and an explosion in an enemy battery."

In the region of Beauvertrun south of the Avre, we exploded several mines. At the conclusion of this operation our men raided the trenches, bringing in many prisoners. Today was calm on the rest of the front."

Premier Asquith Denies His Daughter is Engaged

London, Dec. 27.—Former Premier Asquith issued a statement tonight denying that his daughter Elizabeth is engaged to be married.

Several of the London newspapers Tuesday morning reported the engagement of Miss Asquith to Hugh S. Gibson, first secretary of the American embassy in London.

Huns Promise to Respect Neutrality of Switzerland

Paris, Dec. 27.—A despatch to the Journal des Debats from Geneva says: "The Swiss Federal Council has accepted the neutrality of Switzerland as a formal assurance from Germany guaranteeing once more Switzerland's neutrality. The assurance were given as the result of the necessary pressure of the German government to break thru Switzerland into France and Italy."

SCORE'S TALK ON WINTER CLOTHES

To meet the existing conditions which are solely attributable to the devastating war, our company have decided to specialize suits and overcoats at very moderate prices.

FOR CHEAPER PETROLEUM

Scientists at Albany to Deal With Problem.

Albany, Dec. 27.—Methods of developing and cheapening for commercial purposes the supply of petroleum in the United States and Canada will be among the principal subjects discussed at the annual meetings of the Geological Society of America, the Palaeontological Association of American states Geologists, the first of which were held today. Scientists from all parts of the country, including thirty-six state geologists, are here for the sessions.

SWEDEN'S PEACE NOTE

Berlin Announces New Move in Support of Wilson.

Berne, Dec. 27.—The Tagblatt announces that the Swedish diplomatic representatives have handed to both belligerents a neutral note in support of those of President Wilson and the Swiss Government.