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WEATHER—SNOW

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## PREMIER MAY MAKE HISTORY TODAY; FRENCH CONTINUE THEIR BIG DRIVE

### THE WORLD AWAITS LLOYD GEORGE'S WORD

Premier Will Reply to Germany at 4 p. m., Greenwich Time, Today, in House of Commons -- Address Expected to Be Most Memorable Since That of Viscount Grey Delivered Before War.

**FRENCH ARMY HAS REGAINED THE ENTIRE OCCUPANCY OF CHAMBRETTE FARM, NORTH-EAST OF VERDUN—MORE THAN 11,000 GERMAN PRISONERS AND 115 CANNON AND 107 MACHINE GUNS TAKEN.**

The British Prime Minister will reply Tuesday afternoon in the House of Commons to the German peace note, which has been transmitted by the American ambassadors to the British and French foreign offices, and will also outline the policy of the new government, a pronouncement which will have a far-reaching effect on the world war.

French troops have regained the entire occupancy of the Chambrette Farm, northeast of Verdun, and about the centre of their advance of last week. The prisoners taken in the latest French thrust on the Verdun front now total more than 11,000, in addition to 115 cannon and 107 machine guns captured or destroyed. Paris reports the repulse of several German offensive attempts in the Somme region.

Unofficial estimates made in Berlin place the losses of the French army to date at 3,800,000 men, and the British losses at 1,300,000. The Anglo-French losses on the Somme to the end of November are estimated at 800,000, the British share being 550,000. The German losses on the Somme are declared by the Germans to have been less than 500,000.

#### In Roumania.

In the region of Buzeu, Berlin states, the soldiers of Field Marshal Von Mackensen have been successful in minor engagements. Petrograd asserts that in the region of the Filippopolis railroad station, east of Buzeu, hostile attacks were arrested.

The Babadagh-Pecineaga line, about 40 miles north of the Tchernavoda-Constanza railway, has been crossed by the Teutonic troops, who have now taken virtually all the ground they held during their previous advance in Northern Dobruja. The advance in Dobruja brings the forces of the Central Powers near the important railroad and storage centres of Ibraila and Galatz.

#### Russians Gain.

On the western Moldavian frontier the Russians have taken two ridges of heights, according to Petrograd, one ridge was in the Ural Valley and the other east of Glanoutze, where more than 200 prisoners were captured.

Except for the repulse of Russian attacks by the Austro-Germans near Lutsk in Volhynia and near Zboroff, in Galicia, there has been little activity on the other battle fronts. Berlin announces that a French battleship of the Patrie class was damaged heavily by a torpedo from a German submarine in the Mediterranean Sea on December 12 and that on the previous day a French transport, carrying 1,000 soldiers, was torpedoed southwest of Sicily. The French admiralty denies the loss of a French warship of the Patrie class.

Seventeen American muleteers were killed on December 14 when the British horse transport Russia was sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean Sea, according to an announcement by the British admiralty. Eleven members of the crew also lost their lives. The Russia is declared to have been empty at the time she was sunk.

#### Premier Lloyd George.

London, Dec. 18.—The speech of Premier Lloyd George in the House of Commons tomorrow is looked forward to by the press and public as the most important utterance of the kind since the memorable speeches in which Viscount Grey discussed whether Great Britain would come into the war. Mr. Lloyd George has recovered from his indisposition, and was at work today. He will rise to address the Commons tomorrow at about four o'clock, and will probably speak for an hour and a half.

The prime minister's speech will be not only a reply to the German peace

note, but will also outline the whole policy of the new national government, the trend of which may be roughly anticipated from the fact that the new ministry is avowedly in power for the definite object "of carrying on the war with all the vigor the nation can command to a successful end."

**Balfour on Vacation.**  
Today's news from government circles included the announcement of the departure of Mr. Balfour, the secretary for foreign affairs, for three weeks' vacation.

Although this comes at an important juncture, the organization of the foreign office permits affairs to proceed uninterrupted under the direction of Lord Robert Cecil and Baron Hardinge, the under-secretary, while the larger questions of general policy doubtless will receive the attention of the war cabinet, over which the Prime Minister presides. Lord Curzon and Milner are also members with wide diplomatic experience.

It is recalled that Mr. Balfour's designation as foreign minister met with severe criticism from the Northcliffe press, and Lord Northcliffe, himself, urged Mr. Lloyd George to follow the precedent of Lord Salisbury in directing foreign affairs, as well as assuming the premiership. While Mr. Balfour's absence is said to be due to indisposition following illness, and there is no suggestion of its being prolonged beyond three weeks, yet it has the effect of leaving the shaping of the larger policies regarding the German note and other foreign issues largely in the hands of the premier.

### PRESENTATION OF COLORS TO POPULAR 104TH

London, Dec. 18. (Montreal Gazette cable).—There will be a presentation of colors on Christmas Day to the 104th Battalion of New Brunswick, in command of Lieut. Col. George W. Fowler, M. P., by F. W. Sumner, agent-general for the province.

One of Sir George Perley's earliest decisions as overseas minister of militia was the removal of the Canadian discharge depot, under Lieut.-Col. Paul Hanson, of Montreal, from a location near Brighton to Buxton, the discomforts being so great as to earn the title of happy valley.

### MR. STANFIELD RESIGNS SEAT IN PARLIAMENT

Chief Conservative Whip Follows Action of His Brother in Protesting Against Certain Railway Appointments

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, Dec. 18.—John Stanfield, M. P., chief whip of the federal Conservative party, has resigned his seat. He has done so as a protest against the administration of the government railways in Nova Scotia by Hon. Frank Cochrane, the minister. At a general meeting of the Conservative Association of Colchester county, held at Truro, he handed his resignation to the chairman, after his brother, Frank Stanfield, M. L. A., had resigned his seat on similar grounds.

**Forwarded to Speaker.**  
John Stanfield in handing his resignation to the chairman asked that the executive forward it to Speaker Seigney at Ottawa "in order that there be no misunderstanding."

Frank Stanfield had said that he resigned his seat in the legislature as a protest against the unsatisfactory way Dominion matters were conducted, especially in respect to the Canadian Government Railways. His chief reason for resigning was as a protest against the way Maritime Province men, capable employees of the road,



JOHN STANFIELD, M. P.

were being used in the matter of promotion. He said he had found that it was impossible to obtain fair play for these men. He said he absolutely refused to accept the explanation of the management that capable men could not be found among the employees to fill important positions.

**In Hands of Party.**  
John Stanfield in resigning explained that that was the most explicit way for him to place himself in the hands of the party.

The chief whip's letter of resignation reads:  
Dec. 14th, 1916.  
To the Hon. Speaker of the House of Commons, Ottawa:

Dear Sir—I hereby tender my resignation as representative of the electorate of Colchester county.

Yours truly,  
JOHN STANFIELD.  
Witnessed—John Glassey  
George L. Fisher.

**Political Sensation.**  
The resignation of the chief whip has caused a great political sensation at Ottawa. There is no doubt that his resignation has rendered action of some kind on the part of the Prime Minister necessary. He has been chief whip since 1911 and was a whip

### CANADA MAKES QUICK RESPONSE TO APPEAL FOR WAR TRUCKAGE URGENTLY NEEDED IN FRANCE

Hon. Mr. Cochrane, General Manager Gutelius and Others Arrange to Ship Rails and Other Equipment Sufficient Material to Load One Steamer on Way—Non-Government Roads Assisting.

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, Dec. 18.—The Imperial government has asked the Dominion to help solve the difficulties of the French railway situation, both in the relief of port congestion and the movement of guns and munitions behind the lines. The transportation facilities in France have been inadequate to permit the Allies to take full advantage of the material and supplies available, and it is felt that the war could be considerably shortened and thousands of lives saved if sufficient additional railway facilities could be provided promptly.

**Trackage Wanted.**  
The British government is doing what it can to supply the deficiency from England, and Canada was asked whether there was any possibility of securing rails and other track material from the Dominion to meet what is regarded by the British Minister of War as a vital need and suggesting that if no other solution were possible certain already existing trackage might be taken up and sent forward. The call on the Dominion is for from 1,200 to 1,500 miles of railway trackage.

This information was received in Ottawa Thursday afternoon, and the Canadian steel situation was immediately canvassed. It became apparent that the munitions works with which the Canadian mills are at present engaged precluded any possibility of early delivery of rails, tie plates, bolts, etc., from those quarters, and it was evident that the situation could be properly and promptly met only by the taking up of Canadian track.

**Gutelius Consulted.**  
It so happened that the Minister of Railways, Honorable Frank Cochrane, was unavoidably absent from Ottawa and could not return at once, so on Friday afternoon Mr. Graham A. Bell, financial controller of the department, left for New York with the necessary documents to place the matter fully before the minister, and at New York Mr. Cochrane was able to consult with his colleague, Honorable Dr. Reid, who as acting Minister of Railways at various times, is also closely in touch with the Canadian railway situation. Mr. Bell reached New York early Saturday morning, and before ten o'clock a telegram to the department was on the wire directing that Mr. Gutelius, general manager of government railways, be instructed to arrange immediately to take up 300 miles of government railway sidings, and to also supply whatever track material was immediately available. With these instructions Mr. Gutelius, who had been called to Ottawa, left for Montreal on Saturday afternoon and has already under movement to the seaboard sufficient track material, including rails, tie plates, bolts, spikes and ties to equip one complete section of twenty miles of railway including sidings. To enable the general manager to do this the Canadian Northern Railway, through Mr. D. B. Hanna, very generously came to his support with ten miles of spike material.

**Other Roads Aid.**  
With the 300 miles from Canadian Government Railways as a start, Mr. Cochrane at once got busy with the

for some years before that. He recommended Colchester from the Liberals and for some time was the only Conservative from Nova Scotia in parliament.

**Mr. Stanfield Talks.**  
Mr. Stanfield arrived in Ottawa today and was asked by The Standard if he had anything to say regarding his resignation.

"Only this," he said, "I will stand no more from the Minister of Railways. The situation is unbearable. He refuses to recognize the rights of the people of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and I am finished with him. I have handed my resignation to the executive of the Conservative Association of Colchester county, and I am in their hands. But I may say that they are behind me to a man."

other railways. Mr. E. J. Chamberlain, president of the Grand Trunk Pacific, happened to be in Washington and was able to meet the minister in New York on Sunday. In the meantime Mr. Cochrane had been in consultation with Mr. A. H. Smith, president of the New York Central, and chairman of the commission which is investigating the Canadian railways situation, and as a result Mr. Coch-



HON. FRANK COCHRANE.

rane decided that the first request to be made of the privately owned Canadian roads would be the taking up of the 220 miles of duplicate mileage in the mountain section between Edmonton and the coast. For this distance the Canadian Northern Railway and the Grand Trunk Pacific parallel each other. Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the Dominion railway commission, has approved of this. Hon. Dr. Reid left for Ottawa Saturday night to follow the matter there and has recommended to council the granting to the Minister of Railways of power to order up existing rails and material whenever the investigating railway board may agree as to the practicability.

There are divisional points on the Transcontinental where parage has been provided which cannot possibly be utilized for many years to come and a considerable mileage of rails and material can be spared from most of these divisional points. Further, wherever a siding anywhere on government railways is not urgently required it will be taken up. The same practice will be followed on Canadian government railways branch lines, and there is also a lot of material in connection with the Hudson railway construction which will be available if necessary.

As already stated the first twenty mile section sufficient to load one steamer is on the way, and other material will be forwarded as promptly as British bottoms can take care of it at the seaboard. It is expected that at least one thousand miles of complete roadway will be supplied by Canada, and in order to facilitate the taking up of rails all local labor available will be used, but where this is not sufficient, troops will be employed to rush the work through.

**Lloyd George Speaks Today.**  
Premier Lloyd George's speech in the House of Commons Tuesday is expected to show the general attitude of the British government. Thereafter exchanges between the Entente Allies will determine the nature of the joint reply, but informal conferences already have prepared much of the ground.

It is understood the assertion made in the German note that the war was forced upon Germany will not be permitted to go unchallenged, and that as a matter of historical record Germany's part in the events leading to the war will be clearly shown. What is termed by British officials as Germany's methods of conducting war against a civilian population, women and children, particularly in the recent Belgian deportations, also is likely to be pointed out. According to the latest advices reaching the Entente Allied governments the number of Belgians deported has reached 120,000.

**Germany Seeks Conference.**  
While the note as presented makes no reference to a conference there con-

### ENTENTE ALLIES HANDED PEACE NOTE OF TEUTONS

Ambassador Page of United States Makes Delivery to Lord Robert Cecil—Note Will Be Considered by British Cabinet.

**PREMIER DAVID LLOYD GEORGE WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TODAY—IT WILL BE A WEEK PROBABLY BEFORE DEFINITE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE.**

London, Dec. 18.—The peace note of the Central Powers was handed to the British government today by United States Ambassador Page, who called at the foreign office early in the day. In the absence of A. J. Balfour, the foreign secretary, he presented the note to Lord Robert Cecil, under secretary for foreign affairs.

There were no formalities in connection with the presentation of the peace proposals by Mr. Page. The ambassador went in an automobile from the embassy and was received in the foreign secretary's office by Lord Robert Cecil, who was acting for the foreign minister, Mr. Balfour having just started on a three weeks' vacation.

#### No Comment Made.

The note was enclosed in a large white envelope. It was handed by Ambassador Page to Lord Robert Cecil without any comment and the recipient made no reference to the question of peace, simply thanking Mr. Page for the transmission of the message from the Central Powers.

The two diplomats spent a short time in conversation, but as one said: "We talked about everything but the contents of the envelope." The note will be considered by the British cabinet. It being received too late today to enable the council to be called.

#### Will Take a Week.

The next step after the meeting of the cabinet will be to get into communication with the Allies of Great Britain so that joint action may be taken. This is expected to take at least a week. It has been ascertained that the note contains no terms and the impression prevails in official circles that until these are disclosed a conference is impossible.

The presentation of the German note to the Entente Allied governments has now practically been accomplished.

While the British foreign office was receiving the document from Ambassador Page similar delivery was taking place in Paris. The Swiss minister at Rome has presented the note to the Central Powers to Italy without comment, and through the same channel the message was presented to Belgium and Portugal, also without comment. The Netherlands minister tendered the peace proposals to Serbia in behalf of Bulgaria.

#### No Specific Terms.

Prior to receipt of the note by the British foreign office the deliveries to Italy, Belgium and other countries had permitted exchanges concerning the exact official contents, which proved to be substantially the same as given in the speech made in the Reichstag by Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg and without containing any specific indication of terms.

It is also being observed in official circles that the note was uniformly presented without comment. This is taken to indicate that Germany framed the communication so that the neutral intermediaries would act only as forwarding agents, at least at the outset.

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tinued to be indications that Germany is seeking a conference. This has led to a careful scrutiny of the last precedent, that of the conference preceding the peace congress at the close of the Crimean war. A preliminary conference was held at Vienna in 1854, and proved abortive, but when the peace congress, which finally settled the terms, was held at Paris a year later the discussions at the conference served largely as a basis of settlement.

### BRITISH STILL ACTIVE NEAR KUT-EL-AMARA

Positions Have Been Improved, Although No Resumption of Offensive Operations Made.

London, Dec. 18.—The British forces on the Tigris front have improved their positions in the last two days, although no resumption of offensive operations on a considerable scale is indicated in today's official report on these operations.

The gains made below Kut-el-Amara last week were achieved with comparatively small losses, the statement says.

"During Saturday and Sunday Gen. Maude extended his hold over the Hal River, and consolidated the line to Magasid-Kal-Haji-Ruhan, while the enemy's positions were bombarded with good results," the announcement says.

Cavalry reconnaissances during the day disclosed the fact that the Turks were constructing a new position on the bridge west of Sintran bend of the Tigris, some six to eight miles west of Kut-el-Amara. Several large parties of Arabs have been driven off by shell fire.

The total losses to date are inconceivable, a large proportion of the wounds being slight.

### JAPAN WON'T SURRENDER

Tokio, Dec. 18.—The German peace proposals probably will be delivered to the Japanese government tomorrow.

Commenting on the proposals, the newspapers declare that Japan will never agree to surrender Kiao Chou. In general they express the opinion that the peace project, as it has been reported in the news despatches, is a farcical procedure and will be unacceptable to the Entente because it is tantamount to the abandonment of the object for which the Entente Powers have waged war.