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GALES WITH RAIN.

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NO BASIS FOR PEACE IN HUN OFFERS, SAYS LLOYD-GEORGE

IT IS NO USE CRYING PEACE WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE, DECLARES THE PREMIER IN ADDRESS TO COMMONS

David Lloyd George Says Government Stands by Considered Declarations Made at the Meetings with the Trades Unions and Does Not Recede in the Least from the War Aims as They Have Been Stated—Situation Has Become Much More Menacing, Declares the Premier.

It is Impossible to Make Statement as to Decisions Supreme War Council Reached as It Would Be Giving Information to the Enemy—Prime Minister Tells Commons If It is Not Satisfied with Conduct of War the Only Way is to Change the Government.

London, Feb. 12.—In the House of Commons Premier Lloyd George said he had read with profound disappointment the replies given to President Wilson and to the declarations of the British government by Count Von Hertling, the German chancellor, and Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister. The premier added it was perfectly true that as regarded the tone there was a great deal of difference between the two speeches and he wished he could believe there was difference in substance.

Mr. Lloyd George said the government stood by the considered declaration made at the meetings with the trades union representatives early this year.

The government, the premier added, did not recede in the least from its war aims as they had been stated. It was no use, he said, crying peace when there was no peace.

Regarding the supreme war council, Mr. Lloyd George said it was impossible to make a statement as to the decisions it reached without giving information to the enemy.

The Teuton Speeches.

Mr. Lloyd George said he would like any member to point out anything in the speeches of Count Czernin or Count Von Hertling which could possibly be regarded as proof that the Central Powers were prepared to make peace on terms which could be regarded as just and reasonable.

Germany's action regarding Russia, the premier pointed out, proved that her declarations regarding no annexations had no real meaning. No answer could be regarded as satisfactory, he declared, no answer had been given regarding Poland, or France, with her legitimate claims for the restoration of her lost provinces, not a word had been said about the men of the Italian race and tongue now under the Austrian yoke.

War Will Go On.

Until there was some better proof than had been provided in any of the speeches to which he referred that the Central Powers were prepared to make peace on terms which could be regarded as just and reasonable, he declared, no answer had been given regarding Poland, or France, with her legitimate claims for the restoration of her lost provinces, not a word had been said about the men of the Italian race and tongue now under the Austrian yoke.

It was true that he stated in November, he continued, that it was not intended that the supreme war council should have executive functions, but since then Russia had gone out of the war and a number of German divisions had been brought to the western front from the east. The situation had become very much more menacing, and the Allies had met at Versailles to consider the best methods of meeting that menace.

The premier said that if the House of Commons was not satisfied with the conduct of the war, the only way was to change the government. Field marshal Haig and General Robertson, he added, were present at the session of the supreme war council and approved its decision.

War Plans Secret.

The premier requested the House not to press the government regarding the arrangements made for counteracting the coming blow of the Germans.

The premier declared that Germany's violation of her engagement not to remove troops from the eastern front had to be borne in mind when there was any discussion of terms of peace, because it had a real bearing upon guarantees. The situation had been changed completely by those reinforcements, he asserted.

Upon the decisions of the supreme

THE RUSSIANS DECLARE THE WAR AT END

Bolsheviki Government, However Declines to Sign Peace Treaty.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIAN BEATEN

Russians Will Not Continue a War Begun by Czars.

London, Feb. 12.—A Russian statement on the Russian relations with the Teutonic powers follows: "The peace negotiations are at an end. The German capitalists, bankers and landlords, supported by the silent co-operation of the English and French Bourgeoisie, submitted to our comrades at Brest-Litovsk, conditions such as could not be subscribed to by the Russian revolution.

The governments of Germany and Austria possess countries and peoples vanquished by force of arms. To this authority the Russian people, workmen and peasants, could not give its acquiescence. We could not sign a peace which would bring to an end the struggle of the oppressed workers and peasants and suffering to millions of workmen and peasants. But we also cannot, will not and must not continue a war begun by Czars and capitalists in alliance with Czars and capitalists. We will not and we must not continue to be at war with the Germans and Austrians—workmen and peasants like ourselves.

Refuse to Fight.

"We are not signing a peace of landlords and capitalists. Let the German and Austrian soldiers know who are placing them in the field of battle and let them know for what they are struggling. Let them know also that we refuse to fight against them.

"Our delegation, fully conscious of its responsibility before the Russian people and the oppressed workers and peasants of other countries, declared on February 10 in the name of the council of the people's commissaries of the government of the federal Russian republic to the governments of the peoples involved in the war with us and of the neutral countries that it refused to sign an annexationist treaty. Russia, for its part, declares the present war with Germany and Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria at an end.

"Simultaneously the Russian troops receive an order for complete demobilization on all fronts."

The signatures of Leon Trotsky and other members of the delegation are appended.

NO ELECTION IN ONTARIO

Toronto, Feb. 12.—"We are probably in the soundest condition of any province in the world of those engaged in carrying on this war," was the statement made by Hon. T. W. McGarry, provincial treasurer of Ontario, in the course of his budget speech delivered in the legislature this afternoon. The treasurer announced a surplus for 1916-17 of \$1,751,374.59, the largest in the history of the province, as against \$1,154,996.74 for 1915-16. He stated that he expected shortly to be able to state that a loan of \$3,000,000 had been placed at a low rate of interest. No mention was made of additional provincial taxation. Supplementary estimates were placed before the House calling for an expenditure of \$1,521,786.81.

The premier introduced a bill providing for the extension of the life of the legislature until one year after the conclusion of the war.

GREAT BRITAIN HAS CONFIDENCE IN HAIG STILL

London, Feb. 12.—In the House of Commons today former Premier Asquith, commenting upon President Wilson's speech to Congress yesterday, said the president had discriminated justly, in regard to both tone and substance, between the declarations of the German chancellor and the Austrian foreign minister in their utterances regarding war aims.

Mr. Asquith said it would seem, as Mr. Wilson remarked, as though the military party of Germany alone rejected and would have nothing to do with peace based upon the lines which, in principle, at any rate, all the rest of the world was ready to accept.

The former premier asserted that nothing had been done or left undone which had in the least shaken the confidence of the nation in Field Marshal Haig, the commander-in-chief in France and Belgium, and in Gen. Robertson, chief of the imperial staff, at army headquarters.

MUST BE CLEAN AND LASTING PEACE—ASQUITH

London, Feb. 12.—The former premier, H. H. Asquith, commenting on the latest developments of the general situation, said in the Commons tonight that a number of salient and novel facts had emerged since the beginning of the year.

"We have had a re-statement of the peace aims in behalf of this country by the premier," he said, "in a statement in which I entirely concur both in the spirit and in the letter and on behalf of the United States by President Wilson. We have had, in addition, replies to these statements by Czernin and Von Hertling. We had next a resumption of the Brest-Litovsk negotiations which resulted in a treaty between the Central Powers and Ukraine."

After referring to the fact that Russia was no longer in the war, he said: "And finally, we read this morning two remarkable and sharply contrasted declarations by great and responsible persons. Firstly, a declaration by the German Emperor. The Emperor's aspiration for friendship with other nations is confined in its expression to neighboring nations. That phrase does not seem to include ourselves at first sight but perhaps it has been a lapse of speech."

Possible Mistake.

"What is more important for us to note is that past experience has taught us that it might be a great mistake to assume that what the Emperor said is a condition of peace, is what the German people and the German Reichstag really think and feel."

Mr. Asquith then referred to President Wilson's address of yesterday and said: "The president discriminated justly both in regard to the tone and substance between the declarations of the German and Austrian chancellors. It would seem as though, as President Wilson, the military party in Germany alone rejected and would have nothing to do with a peace based upon lines which, in principle at any rate, the whole of the rest of the world is ready to accept."

"It is such a peace only, and a new international order which we believe it would bring about that would compensate for the sacrifice which justified, that even necessitated the prolongation of the war."

TRACTORS AT COST FOR THE FARMERS

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—The government has purchased a thousand Ford tractors at cost. They will be sold to Canadian farmers, also at cost, plus freight. Details of freight costs have not yet been worked out, but it is estimated that the average cost to the farmer, including freight, will be about eight hundred dollars. In addition, the government has secured options on another thousand of the Ford tractors.

THE MILITARY ACTIVITY ON THE WESTERN FRONT INCREASES IN VOLUME

A NEW VERSION OF HOW WORLD WAR STARTED

Prince Lichnowsky, Former German Ambassador to London Tells Reason

WAR NOT DUE TO ASSASSINATIONS

But to Attempt to Force Revision of Balkan Settlement in Treaty.

GERMANY MUST SHARE BLAME

Monarchy Not Likely to Be Restored in Russia. Prince Says.

An Atlantic Port, Feb. 12.—A new version of the origin of the world war, ascribing responsibility for the outbreak of the conflict not to the assassination of the Austrian heir apparent and his consort, but to an attempt by Count Berchtold to force a revision in Austro-Hungarian interest in the Balkan settlement embodied in the treaty of Bucharest, is given by Prince Lichnowsky, German ambassador to London at the outbreak of the war. The German diplomat, in this contribution to the diplomatic history of the war, which appears as a three column article in a recent issue of the Berlin Tagblatt received here, does not free his own government from responsibility, maintaining that Germany's attempt to establish herself as master of the Bosphorus, was a contributory cause to the war.

Contempt For Rabble.

Lichnowsky, the born aristocrat, has only words of contempt for the present regime in Russia, which he terms oligarchy, or the rule of the mob, and says will reduce Russia to the status of a primitive nature state, without any but the most rudimentary trade, industry or foreign commerce. Should it continue Russia will cease to exist as a world power, with whose policy Germany will have no cause to worry, but in the event of Russia taking the form of a federated democratic republic on American lines, which he considers the most probable outcome, Lichnowsky declares that the question of the new Russia becomes one of the most pressing problems of Germany's future. He considers the restoration of the monarchy in Russia improbable. He declares, however, that under either a monarchy or a democratic republic, Russia is scarcely apt to accept the passing of Poland under German domination, and he sees in the present German plans for Poland a source of embarrassment and danger for Germany.

PROTEST MADE AGAINST C.P.R. CUT IN SERVICE

Special to The Standard. St. George, Feb. 12.—The people of St. George are by no means satisfied with the new arrangement made by the C.P.R. whereby there shall be but a tri-weekly train service on the Shore Line Railway. A meeting of citizens of St. George was held tonight to protest against the injury which they claim the new arrangement will do to the other thousand of the Ford tractors.

Patrol Encounters Are Being Carried Out by Larger Parties Than Has Been the Case Since the Hard Winter Set in and More Zest is Being Added to the Fighting—British Make Further Attacks Near Epehy and La Basse, Inflicting Numerous Casualties.

North of Ailette River the French Make Successful Attacks Which Result in the Capture of Nearly Three Hundred Prisoners — Attack by Germans in Verdun Sector Put Down by French with Severe Casualties—Americans Still Active —Italians Smash Austrians.

King George and David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, in addresses to the British parliament—the former before a joint session of the House of Lords and the House of Commons—have declared again that in the recent utterances of the spokesmen of the Teutonic allies there can be found no basis for a peace which will fulfill the demands of the democratic governments.

The addresses of both the Monarch and his prime minister were at one with President Wilson's speech to Congress Monday. The military activity on the western front is daily increasing in volume. The patrol encounters are being carried out by larger parties than has been the case since the hard winter set in and more zest is being added to the fighting.

The British, near Epehy and La Basse, have conducted further incursions into the enemy positions, in the latter region inflicting numerous casualties on their antagonists and also taking prisoners and machine guns. Likewise north of the Ailette river and in the Woivre sector, the French have made successful attacks which resulted in the capture of nearly three hundred prisoners. A somewhat ambitious attack by the Germans in the Verdun sector was put down by the French with severe casualties.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND OTHERS TO BE BEEFLSS

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—The food controller's regulations in respect to the serving of beef and bacon in public eating places have been amended, making Wednesday and Friday of each week Canada's beefless and porkless days, instead of Tuesday and Friday, as heretofore. The change is effective on and after tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten period. The new regulations extending their restrictions on the use of bacon to pork of all kinds, so that tomorrow (Wednesday) will be the first beefless and porkless Wednesday throughout the Dominion.

Under the amended regulations, beef must not be served at more than one meal on any day, while its use on Wednesdays and Fridays is absolutely prohibited. Similarly pork must not be served at more than one meal on any day, and on Wednesdays and Fridays must not be served at any time. Henceforth no proprietor of a public eating place can avoid serving corn bread, oat cakes or similar substitutes for wheat bread under the contention that potatoes are recognized as a substitute in the food controller's regulations. To avoid this difficulty the word potatoes has been definitely eliminated from the enumerated substitutes, and in future some substitute or substitutes must be served at every meal at which white bread is served.

chair and James Brydon was secretary of the meeting.

The chairman stated the purpose for which the meeting had been called and invited discussion of the situation, an invitation which brought responses from H. V. Dewar, Dr. C. C. Alexander, C. Hazen McGee, George E. Frauley, W. H. Boyd, Dr. H. I. Taylor, M. E. Baldwin, E. F. McLaughlin and J. W. Sothers.

Americans Active. Between the Americans and the Germans there is a constant exchange of artillery fire, and the Americans continue to carry out patrolling manoeuvres toward the enemy entanglements. The Germans evidently are anxious to gauge the positions occupied by the Americans and also to ascertain the number of men they are employing, for daily their aircraft are hovering over the lines taking photographs and making observations. Anti-aircraft guns several times have driven off the enemy.

Although the increase in the activity along the entire front in France and Belgium is noticeable, there is no indication as yet when the Germans will begin their much heralded general offensive.

A German captured by the British says that at least one big attack is due to begin some time in March. Meanwhile large concentrations of fresh troops daily are arriving behind the German line and carrying out practice manoeuvres.

Austrians Smashed.

On the Italian front the Austrians again have endeavored to test the strength of the Italians in the Sette Comuni Plateau sector. The German war office asserts that the Austrians carried out a most successful attack here but the Italian official communication declares that the Austrian columns were torn to pieces by the Italian artillery as they attempted to gain the southern slopes of Monte Sasso Rosso and other positions and the offensive completely repulsed.

There was a considerable increase in the number of aerial attacks delivered by Entente airmen on German towns in January. In all thirty-one of these raids were made, according to a German official statement.

WHO STOLE THE HALIFAX LIQUOR?

Halifax, Feb. 12.—The civic investigation into the theft of liquor from the city hall was continued today. No one excepting the officials of the police force is examined under oath and the whole enquiry seems to be becoming merely a mass of conflicting statements. Inspector Tracey swore that he had seen a member of the board of control "with quite a lot in him" and that he told him he had better go home.