

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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To-Day's Cables

Empty Boast of Hun War Lord

Kaiser Full of Wrath and War Like Gestures

LONDON, Dec. 16.—Confident that we are complete victors we yesterday made proposal to enemy to discuss the question of further war or peace, said German Emperor addressing troops in Alsace recently, according to despatch published in Cologne Gazette, says Reuter despatch from Amsterdam. What will come of it I do not yet know, Emperor continued. It is a matter for the enemy now to decide, if fighting is still to go on, if enemy still thinks it has not had enough, then I know you will. Here the Emperor, says correspondent, made a warlike gesture which produced a fierce smile on the face of his men. The steadfastness of our troops west, he said, despatch continues, made it possible to deal effective blows east. He spoke, correspondent relates, in words most wrathful, and of contempt of that people in east who had put a dagger in back of our enemies. The judgment of God had fallen on them. Emperor declared the old gods of battles directed, we were instruments and proud of it. Afterwards, correspondent states, Emperor talked with officers for half hour about Roumanian campaign, which he described as irony of fate, which had permitted corn purchased by English to fall into German hands. "English," correspondent quotes Emperor as saying, "we paid for it. We eat it, that has been called war starvation."

WHAT IS THIS FOR?

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Dec. 15.—The first chamber of the Netherlands parliament to-day passed a bill authorizing the issue of a state loan of 125,000,000 florins at 4 per cent.

FRENCH GAINS AT VERDUN

LONDON, December 16.—The French troops again made effective thrust in Verdun region, striking German positions between Meuse and Woivre Rivers, north Douaumont, N. E. fortress along front 6 miles French forced back soldiers of German Crown Prince for a distance of almost two miles, more than 7,500 prisoners and numerous guns taken from Germans. Paris announces in its latest communication German War Office admitted "advantages" had been obtained in this region by attackers.

Buseu, an important railroad centre N.E. Bucharest, and excellent base from which to begin operations on Moldavia, has been captured by Austro-Germans. Retreating Russians and Roumanians are reported to be burning villages behind them. Four thousand additional prisoners Mathiesens' army. Simultaneously have been taken by Field Marshal with taking Buzeu. Austro-German-Bulgarians began an offensive on Dobruja. Russians and Roumanians, Berlin states, evacuated positions under pressure exerted by advance great Wallachia.

Greek Government accepted demands Entente Allies contained in ultimatum presented to Athens Government Thursday. It is reported officially that Greek troops are to be withdrawn from Thessaly, only certain number are to be stationed in Peloponnesus, it is said.

MAKE PLAIN OUR TERMS

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Spectator leads its discussion on peace with this quotation from Lincoln: "We accepted this war for an object, a worthy object, and the war will end when that object is obtained. Under God I hope it never will end until that time." This prominent weekly then continues: "If we were the Government we would meet the German peace proposals with one word, 'Reparation.' We would tell the Kaiser and his Chancellor, if they will accept the principal reparation for Belgium, ruined and desolate; for the devastated cities and fields of France, for Serbia ravages and overrun, for the massacre of the Armenian nation, for the nameless horrors that have dragged the foodstuffs of the Germany Army in the East and West; reparation for every woman outraged, every child bayoneted, every hostage murdered every home given to the flames. That is the only basis of reparation. We can tell them our terms, but on no other basis. If they do not promise full reparation for the deeds whose infamy can't be matched in the records of mankind, then we would answer. "We have nothing further to say to them." No matter how tempting their actual terms may be, not one of the Allies will listen. Silence is the only reply.

Presentation to Mr. Mews

A pleasing event occurred at 4 p.m. on Friday at the Standard Mfg. Co. when the employees through their Manager, Mr. C. R. Duder, presented their late co-worker Mr. A. W. Mews with a beautiful electric reading lamp; as a token of esteem. Mr. Duder in a few choice words, paid a tribute to the work done by Mr. Mews during his ten years of service with the Company. In asking Mr. Mews to accept the gift, he wished Mr. Mews on behalf of the employees the highest success obtainable in the new work which he has taken up. Three cheers for Mr. Mews were then called for by Mr. McCoubrey, and were given with hearty good-will. Mr. Mews in reply, thanked his fellow-workers for the gift, and said that no proof was needed by him of the good-will that has always existed between them; advising all to render faithful service to the Company that employed them, as good service apart from any other consideration always brings its own reward. With the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" this pleasant event terminated.—"Daily News."

Mr. Mews is now Editor of the Mail and Advocate with editorial supervision of the projected morning paper which is to be issued on Monday.

A NEWFOUNDLANDER WOUNDED.

In one of the most recent Canadian casualty lists appears the name of Gunner H. W. Taylor. He is a resident of Trinity Bay and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Taylor of Green's Hr. and was for some time a teacher at Grand Falls, having enlisted at Kingston, Ont.

DUE AT 5 P.M.

The Kyle's express, with the following passengers, is due at 5 p.m. Mrs. A. D. Fraser, Master E. Fraser, Mrs. C. B. Blackie, F. and Mrs. Reid, Miss A. Grant, L. Vatcher, S. A. Hessler, A. Summers, W. J. Moore, S. Moulton, J. Morgan.

CHANGE IS COT FUND

Mr. S. Roberts asks us to note that Master Joseph Elliott's donation was omitted from the former list, also that in the Horwood list Mr. Aquilla Woolfrey's donation should read \$10 instead of \$100.

THE HERRING FISHERY

Mr. LeMessurier, C.M.G., had a message from Bay of Islands yesterday saying that the boats at Wood's Island secure about 12 tubs of herring daily at Green Island. No reports were had from other ports.

CAKES AND PUDDINGS.

The Ladies' Khaki Guild's Cake and Pudding Sale will be opened at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday next by Lady Davidson. The Scotch concert takes place at 8 p.m.

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

Last Night's Cables

FRENCH TAKE 7500 PRISONERS

PARIS, Dec. 14 (Official).—After several days of artillery preparation we attacked north of Douaumont, between the Meuse and the Woivre on a front of more than 10 kilometres. The attack started at 10 o'clock and the enemy front broke down everywhere to a depth of about 3 kilometres. Besides numerous trenches we captured the villages of Vacheraville and Louvement farms, Chambréthes and the fortified works of Hardaumont and Bezen Vaux. We have taken a great number of prisoners, whose exact number has not yet been determined. Seven thousand five hundred of them, including two hundred officers, have already passed through the commandants' posts. We have taken or destroyed numerous pieces of heavy field artillery, also a considerable quantity of material. Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather conditions our aviators took a brilliant part in the fighting. Our success was complete, and the troops have given vent to great enthusiasm. Our losses were slight.

DEPORTATION OF BELGIANS CONDEMNED

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Vigorous expressions of indignation were voiced at a great mass meeting held here to-night, to protest against the "enslavement of the Belgians" by the German Government. The deportation of the Belgian populace was condemned in "letters read from Theodore Roosevelt, Archbishop Ireland, Joseph H. Choate and other prominent men. Equally forceful addresses were delivered by Elihu Root, Jas. M. Beck former Assistant Attorney General of the United States, Alton B. Parker and Rev. William T. Manning, Rector of Trinity Church, who presided. Resolutions were adopted urging the government of the United States to protest with all its force and earnestness against these outrages, emphasize the detestation with which the American people regard these abuses and request the German Government in the name of all neutrals to cease its policy of expatriation and slavery "pledging our utmost support to administration whatever way it may conclude."

GREECE LIKELY TO ACCEPT TERMS

ATHENS, Dec. 15.—The demands of the Entente Allies presented to the Greek government to-day were in the nature of an ultimatum. All Greeks are to be withdrawn from Thessaly according to the demands, and only a certain number of soldiers left to be concentrated in Peloponnesus. The demands for reparation for the events of December 1 and 2 when fighting took place between the Entente landing forces and Greek troops are to be formulated later. The ultimatum expired 3 o'clock to-day and there are indications that the terms are agreed to, but so far the British Foreign Office has received no news of their acceptance.

STRONG WORDS FROM "R. CONNOR"

LONDON, Dec. 15.—"Brazen bombastic but dying bunkum" is the alternative phrase used by "Ralph Connor," Rev. Major C. W. Gordon, in an open letter to the Daily Chronicle to Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg on his peace proposals. The preacher-author advises the German Chancellor to look at men rather than at the map. He concludes:—"Because we earnestly pray and long for peace, we intend to press this blood red path of war for months or years until the Germans are ready to accept a just and honourable peace offered by the Allies."

VOTE OF CREDIT

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The new war credit for 400,000,000 pounds was introduced in the Commons yesterday by Andrew Bonar Law and passed through all stages in the Lower House this afternoon.

The Situation Favorable if Rightly Handled

Not Vengeance But Reconstruction.

BRITISH TROOPS TAKE POSITIONS

LONDON, Dec. 15.—British troops have taken the offensive in the region of Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia, and have occupied Turkish positions on the Hai river, south of Kut-el-Amara, says an official statement issued to-night. In this offensive movement the British crossed to the right bank of the Hai river and took Turkish trenches near Kala Haji Fahan, two and a half miles from Kut-el-Amara. The statement follows:—"Our forces on the Tigris assumed the offensive on Wednesday and Thursday. Turkish positions at Sannayat on the left bank were subject to effective bombardment. During Wednesday night British forces secured the left bank of the Hai river, between Atab and Barrugiyeh, and crossed to the right bank, and secured ground to a depth from one to one and half miles. Cavalry subsequently clearing Turkish troops from the trenches on the right bank about Kala Haji Fahan, the positions occupied being consolidated by our infantry. Our casualties were light. Kala Haji Fahan, on the right bank of the Hai river, is two and a half miles from Kut-el-Amara. Atab is on the left bank five and a half miles from Kut-el-Amara."

JAPAN WILL NOT AGREE TO "STATUS QUO ANTE"

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The Herald this morning publishes the following despatch from Tokio:—"I have it on the highest authority that Japan will not entertain the thought of peace as long as the restoration of the status quo ante bellum is insisted upon by the Berlin Government, as a basis of settlement Japan will stand staunchly by her Allies in their determination to continue the war until the main purpose of overthrowing Prussian militarism is accomplished. Japanese statesmen smile when Germany's demand for a restoration of her Colonies is mentioned. The restoration of Kiao Chau is not considered a possibility in this country, and Kiao Chau was the Colony of which the Germans boasted the most. Public sentiment in this country may approve of the return to China of that portion of Shantung now in Japan's hands, provided arrangements favorable to Japanese trade and enterprise can be made, but never would approve its again becoming a Germany Colony."

SUCCESSFUL FRENCH VERDUN ATTACK

BERLIN, Dec. 15.—The French attacks delivered to-day on the east bank of the Meuse in the Verdun region resulted in a gain of ground for them towards Louvement and Hardaumont, the War Office announced to-night. A supplementary statement said the engagement was not yet concluded.

LOYD-GEORGE BETTER

LONDON, Dec. 15.—An official communication issued this evening concerning the condition of David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, says the Premier's condition is improving, but he has not yet received visitors. The Chief of the Imperial Staff, however, spent some time with him this evening, transacting urgent business.

NO PEACE FOR RUSSIA

PETROGRAD, Dec. 15.—The Duma unanimously passed a resolution against the acceptance of German peace proposals after a spirited speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Public opinion as represented by the British Press is largely occupied to-day discussing the brief expression made yesterday by Andrew Bonar Law, the government leader in the Commons, that the British Government's policy still was based on "adequate reparation for the past and security for the future. A noticeable number of influential papers take the view that this leaves a way open for not summarily refusing to consider a proposal for an enunciation of the essential aims and objects for which the Entente Allies are contending. The Manchester Guardian, reflecting provincial sentiment, and the Westminster Gazette are among the papers taking this view. The Westminster Gazette says: "If the German proposal takes an offensive form and appears as though demanded by conquerors from vanquished, the only reply to the insult would be contemptuous silence. But if it is sincere we should desire to answer it with a reasonable explanation of why our principal aims can't be compromised, and what kind of a European system we think necessary to secure the future." The newspaper points out that Germany's chief appeal is to neutral sentiment, and that it is therefore of the greatest importance that Britain should carry neutral opinion to a final stage by presenting our aims and objects in a manner which will kindle neutral sympathy and be clear to their understanding. The Westminster Gazette expresses the opinion that the situation is favorable to Britain if rightly handled, and continues, "if the judgment of the world is that we stand for adequate reparation of the wrongs which we are bound to see righted, adequate security against the renewals of the horrors, and that we seek not vengeance but a reconstruction of Europe which will enable us to live and let others live, then we shall have used this situation to promote an ultimate settlement."

OBTAINS THE V.C.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—King George has conferred the Victoria Cross on Lieut. Commander Bernard Cecil Freyberg. Lieut. Commander Freyberg headed the naval battalion which on Nov. 13th captured the village of Beaucourt, north of the Ancre river, in France. He is 7 years old and served with distinction on the Gallipoli Peninsula, where he was wounded and won the Distinguished Service Order. During the Beaucourt exploit he was wounded four times.

EXPLOSIVES DROPPED

LONDON, Dec. 15.—A War Office announcement to-night says:—"Naval aeroplanes yesterday threw bombs on the Kule-Burges bridge over the Maritz river south of Ardianople. Great weights of explosives were dropped and extensive damage is believed to have resulted."

THE DANISH WEST INDIES

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 15.—The endorsement by popular vote in Denmark of the proposal to sell the Danish West Indies to the United States, means that the matter will now be taken up by the Danish Government.

NOTES NOT FORWARDED YET

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—After a Cabinet meeting to-day, Secretary Lansing said it could be positively announced that the notes would not go forward to-night, but that nothing could be said as to the action this Government would take.

The schar. Artizan, which will be commanded by Capt. J. Callahan, is loading fish at Bowling Bros for Oporto, and will take about 3,000 qts. should get away early next week.



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