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WEATHER—SNOW

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ENTENTE ALLIES WILL DEAL WITH HUN NOTE BEFORE TAKING UP MR. WILSON'S--- TEUTON ARMY CAPTURES RIMNIK SARAT

GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE IN UNISON

Reply of Entente Allies to Peace Proposals of Central Powers May be Dispatched by End of Week, Although Verbal Alterations in Notes of Other Entente Countries May Necessitate Further Delays.

IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY STEPS WILL BE TAKEN BY GREAT BRITAIN AND OTHER ENTENTE COUNTRIES REGARDING PRESIDENT WILSON'S NOTE AND ITS SWISS COUNTERPART UNTIL THEY HAVE DEALT WITH GERMAN PROPOSALS.

Logdon, Dec. 27.—Communications continue to pass between the capitals of the Entente Allies' nations regarding the reply to be made to the peace proposals of the Central Powers and their allies. The answer has been prepared in Paris, and is now the subject of discussion between the various ministers. It is unlikely that any steps will be taken by Great Britain and the other countries of the Entente regarding President Wilson's note and its Swiss counterpart until the Entente Allies have dealt with the German proposals. It is understood here that the responsibility does not give specific terms, but refers generally to the objects of the Allies. These participating in the discussion speak of the difficulty of expressing the general purposes in concrete form, so that the reply may be definitely responsive and at the same time convey to neutral countries an adequate idea of the aims and purposes for which the Entente Allies are contending.

Not Naming Specific Terms.
The reason for not stating the specific terms is said here to be that the terms of the Allies largely depend upon the extent of the military victory which they confidently expect and that any statements of terms now would be upon the existing military and territorial situation which the German Imperial chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, claimed was based on a German victory.

Therefore it is held that Germany is in a position to state her terms, whereas the Entente terms become definite when military successes have been achieved.

Settlement Against Peace.
New York, Dec. 27.—A news agency despatch published here today follows: (Continued on page 2)

FAMOUS WOMAN WHO FORETOLD THE EUROPEAN WAR IS DEAD

Paris, Dec. 27.—Madame de Thebes, famous as an astrologist and clairvoyant, is dead at her country residence at Meuz-sur-Loire, aged 72. Her real name was Anna Victorine Savignac. She possessed innumerable secrets concerning the private lives of men and women of note.

Remarkable Career.
Mme de Thebes, seeress and prophetess, occupied the position of the "Mother Shipton" of the present generation ever since the night she was launched on her career by the younger Dumas himself.

She had been engaged by Dumas to read the palms of 12 distinguished guests whom he invited to dinner, and so remarkable were her statements that an account of the seance was published in the Figaro and her success was assured.

STRENGTH OF ENEMY IS WANING

Germany Feeling that Her Complete Defeat is Near at Hand, Says Emperor Nicholas.

HOUR OF RETRIBUTION FOR WRONGDOINGS

To Conclude Peace at this Moment Would Mean Failure to Utilize Fruits of Un-told Trials.

Petrograd, Dec. 27, via London, (British Admiralty per Wireless Press).—In the course of an order issued to all the units of the Russian army, dated Dec. 25, the Emperor, in a brief review showing how the inequalities in the technical resources for war, as between the Allies and the Central Powers, are being gradually removed, with the result that the enemy's strength is apparently waning, while that of Russia and her allies is continually growing, proceeds to say:

"Germany is feeling that her complete defeat is near at hand, and near also is the hour of retribution for all her wrongdoings and violations of the moral law. As in the time of her strength she declared war, so now, feeling her weakness near, she suddenly offers to enter on peace negotiations, desiring to complete such negotiations before her military talent is exhausted.

Not Time for Peace.
"At the same time she is creating a false impression about the strength of her army by utilizing her temporary success over the Roumanians, who lack experience in the conduct of modern warfare."

Arguing that the Allies are entitled to choose a favorable hour for peace negotiations just as Germany chose a favorable hour for declaring war, the order says: "This time has not yet arrived. The enemy has not been driven out of the provinces he has occupied. Russia's attainment of the tasks created by the war—regarding Constantinople and the Dardanelles as well as the creation of a free Poland, from all three of her now incomplete tribal districts—has not yet been guaranteed. To conclude peace at this moment would mean failure to utilize the fruits of the untold trials of the heroic Russian troops and fleet. These trials, and the still more sacred memories of these noble sons of Russia, who have fallen on the battlefields, do not permit of thought of peace until final victory over our enemies. Who dares to think that he who brought about war shall have it in his power to conclude the war at any time he likes?"

To Expel Enemy.
In conclusion the Emperor, expressing confidence that no Russian soldier would desire peace until the enemy had been expelled from Russian soil and had given guarantees to prevent a possible repetition of a treacherous attack, says: "Let us be firm in the certainty of

NATIONAL SERVICE PLAN DOES NOT INVOLVE CONSCRIPTION SAYS SIR ROBERT BORDEN

Premier Declines, However, to Give Assurance that it will Never Come—If it were Necessary to Preserve Existence of State He Would Not Hesitate to Act Accordingly.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—Correspondence between Sir Robert Borden, R. B. Bennett, M. P., Director of National Service, and the executive of the Dominion Trades and Labor Council, having reference to national service, was given out tonight by the labor executive. The Premier says that the national service plan does not involve conscription. He declines however to give the assurance that it will never come, stating that if it were necessary to preserve the existence of the state he should not hesitate to act accordingly.

Under the circumstances the executive appeals to organized labor to fill in the national service cards.

Premier's Letter.
The Premier's letter, addressed to J. C. Walters, president; P. M. Draper, secretary; James Simpson and R. A. Blag, M.P.P., vice-presidents, reads as follows: "Prime Minister's Office, Ottawa, December 27, 1916.

"Dear Sirs: "With reference to our interview of this morning I repeat, once more, that the proposals for national service are not connected with conscription. Rather, the idea was to make an appeal for voluntary national service, which would render unnecessary any resort to compulsion.

"You have asked for an assurance, that under no circumstances will conscription be undertaken or carried out. As I stated to you at our interview, I must decline to give any such assurance. I hope that conscription may not be necessary, but if it should prove the only effective method to preserve the existence of the state and of the liberties which we enjoy, I should not hesitate to act accordingly. For your future information with regard to the purposes of national service I enclose copies of the order-in-council, under which the director general and the directors of national service have been appointed.

Accumulated Wealth.
"You have urged upon me the importance, and indeed the necessity, that the accumulated wealth of the country should bear its due proportion of contribution and sacrifice in this war. The government has already accepted and acted on this principle. Any further proposals in that regard must be submitted to parliament, in the first instance, after obtaining the sanction and approval of the Crown.

"The ranks of organized labor in Canada have made a splendid response to the call for service to the state. Many members of your organizations are fighting at the front, and not a few have made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of liberty, humanity and civilization. The men at the front have the right to feel that we in Canada are doing our utmost to aid and sustain them in their devoted effort for that cause. This indeed is the inspiration and ideal of national service. That each shall do his part as best he can, and to the greatest advantage of the state to which he owes allegiance." (Signed) R. L. BORDEN.

Mr. Bennett's Letter.
Mr. Bennett's letter reads: December 27, 1916.

"Dear Sirs: "Referring to our several interviews, I now confirm my verbal statements to you, viz: While it is obligatory to correctly fill in and promptly return the national service cards, it is only essential that the answers given to questions other than those of fact, should express the conscientious conviction of the person answering those questions. "In view of the assurance given by Mr. R. B. Bennett, K.C., M.P., director general of national service, that no penalty or coercion will be applied if correct and conscientious replies are given, the undersigned members of the executive council recommend that all members of affiliated unions fill in the answers according to their conscientious opinion, and return the cards as directed."

The executive makes this statement: "In view of the assurance given by Mr. R. B. Bennett, K.C., M.P., director general of national service, that no penalty or coercion will be applied if correct and conscientious replies are given, the undersigned members of the executive council recommend that all members of affiliated unions fill in the answers according to their conscientious opinion, and return the cards as directed."

ROUMANIA'S GRAIN AND OIL CENTER IN DANGER

Field Marshal Von Mackensen's Troops Capture Important Points and Net of Army Now Closing in on Braila.

PETROGRAD ADMITS RUSIANS AND ROUMANIANS ARE FORCED TO FALL BACK—ARTILLERY DUELS AND TRENCH RAIDS IN FRANCE—DEMOLITION OF GREEK ARMY PROGRESSES.

The net of the Teutonic allies apparently is fast closing in upon Braila, Roumania's oil and grain center on the Danube. Having taken Filipesti, thirty miles to the southwest, Field Marshal Von Mackensen's troops have now captured the railroad town of Rimnik Sarat, relatively the same distance to the east, while the guns of the Dobrudja army are still hammering, and with some success, the Russo-Roumanians at the bridgehead of Matchin, on the east bank of the Danube, opposite Braila.

Prior to the fall of Rimnik Sarat the Teutonic allies defeated the Russians on a front of ten and a half miles southwest of the town, while the Teutonic Danube army captured several fortified villages, according to the Berlin war office. Petrograd admits that the Russians and Roumanians have been forced to fall back north of Megura, by says elsewhere the invaders were defeated with heavy casualties.

Many Prisoners Taken.
Since December 22, says Berlin, more than 8900 prisoners and twenty-seven machine guns have been captured in Roumania.

Artillery duels, sapping operations and attacks by small patrol parties featured Wednesday's fighting on the front in France. There have been sporadic battles at several points along the line in Russia and Galicia from Volhynia to the Carpathians, but no important results have been attained by either side.

The usual bombardment is in progress in the Austro-Italian theatre. In Macedonia comparative quiet prevails. The demobilization of the Greek army, in accordance with Greece's promises to the Entente Allies, is being carried out, according to information received at the British foreign office.

The Russian emperor, in an order of the day to the Russian army dealing with Germany's proffer of peace, asserts that the proffer was made because Germany feels that her complete defeat is near. The Emperor added that the time for peace had not yet arrived, and he was confident that no Russian soldier would desire peace until the invader had been driven from Russian soil and had given guarantees to prevent a possible repetition of a treacherous attack.

Fierce Attacks.
Petrograd, Dec. 27, via London—(British admiralty per Wireless Press)—The following statement on military operations was issued today by the war office: "Roumanian front: Throughout the day the enemy made a number of fierce attacks along almost the whole of our front. In the region of the upper stream of the River Rimnik, north of Megura, he succeeded in pressing back slightly our cavalry detachments and infantry detachments of the Roumanians.

"On the Rimnik high road our detachments, after having repulsed a series of attacks, were obliged to abandon first line trenches, which were demolished by artillery fire. "Enemy attacks in the remaining sectors were beaten back with great losses to him, and in the village of Valea Seltzei, by our counter-attack, we captured several machine guns.

Battle Continues.
"The battle along the front continues. "In Dobrudja there were operations by small detachments. "In the vicinity of Lake Van our detachments, after having dislodged a Turkish patrol guard, developed an attack and occupied the village of Attman. Under our pressure, the Turks, about a battalion strong, retired eastward."

French Raid Trenches.
Paris, Dec. 27.—The official statement on the campaign issued by the war office tonight reads: "Marked artillery activity was displayed in several sectors south of the Somme. One of our bombardments caused two fires and an explosion in an enemy battery. "In the region of Beauvaisnes, south of the Ancre, we exploded successfully several mines. At the conclusion of this operation our men raided the trenches, bringing back prisoners. The day was calm on the rest of the front."

CANADIAN TROOPS IN GT. BRITAIN

Montreal and Western Units Arrive Safely in England.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—It is officially announced through the chief press censorship office that the following troops have arrived safely in England: The 199th Irish Canadian Rangers, Montreal; 187th and 211th Alberta Battalions; 226th Manitoba Battalion; 239th Railway Construction Battalion. Drafts artillery, engineers, infantry, army service corps, army medical corps and dental corps.

A tremendous downpour of water and a high wind accompanied the storm, and railroads today were facing washouts, high water and torn up telegraph lines. For a hundred miles from Grant county, over portions of Polaski, Lonsdale, Jefferson and Preston counties, the tornado spread destruction. Relief crews were sent out immediately after the storm from Pine Bluff to reach the stricken area.

SIX PERSONS KILLED IN C. P. WRECK

Smith's Falls, Ont., Dec. 27.—Six passengers were killed and six seriously injured when the eastbound Toronto-Montreal C. P. R. express crashed into the westbound Cornwall local at six o'clock this evening near St. Polycarpe Junction, according to reports at divisional headquarters here tonight.

The crews of the trains, who were all from Smith's Falls, have notified relatives here that they are safe.

THINK PEACE NEGOTIATIONS PROGRESSING

Washington, Dec. 27.—In spite of the wide gulf between the insistence of the Central Powers for an immediate peace conference and the forecast of an unanimous refusal by the Entente Allies to enter such a conference without knowing Germany's terms in advance, the American government believe that the negotiations in progress are resulting in good.

Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, tonight authorized the Associated Press to make the following statement: "I regard the note of my government as constituting an acceptance of everything suggested by President Wilson in his note to the belligerent nations of Europe."

It was made clear at the embassy that Germany stands ready to make known her terms on the first day of any conference that may be held, and officials expressed themselves as being greatly surprised at the view prevailing in some quarters here that the Berlin government had failed to meet the President's suggestions by not setting down, in the reply, the terms upon which it is willing to make peace. The German diplomats say President Wilson had no intention of drawing a public declaration concerning terms from the Central Powers.

TWELVE DEAD IN ARKANSAS TORNADO

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 27.—Twelve persons were killed and twenty-three injured in the tornado which swept over Central Arkansas last yesterday, according to reports received here today. It was feared reports from districts not yet heard from would add to the casualties. Estimates of property damage ran as high as \$3,000,000. Apprehension regarding the fate of the state convict farm at Tucker, in the path of the storm, was allayed today, when a report came saying no one was injured there.