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WEATHER—FAIR

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WORLD AWAITS PUBLICATION OF GERMAN'S PEACE TERMS

TIME NOT OPPORTUNE TO DISCUSS PEACE

Feeling, However, Prevails That Something Would be Gained by Making World Acquainted Definitely With Objects of Belligerents—House of Commons Meets Today.

THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION IN ENGLAND BUT THAT PEACE OVERTURES WILL BE TURNED DOWN EMPHATICALLY BY ENTENTE ALLIES, BUT NO DEFINITE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE AT THIS TIME.

London, Dec. 13, 5.20 p. m.—Premier Lloyd George will refer to the speech of the German chancellor before the Reichstag when he makes his statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday of next week. The vote of credit will be moved tomorrow by Andrew Bonar Law, whose remarks will have to do solely with financial matters.

Although little confidence is shown in London that any result will come from the peace proposals of the Central Powers, and the opinion prevails quite generally that the time is not opportune even to discuss terms, there is an undercurrent of feeling that something would be gained by making the world acquainted definitely with the objects of the belligerents.

The attitude of the British government toward the offer will be known in the House of Commons tomorrow, provided sufficient time shall have elapsed to permit consultation with Great Britain's allies, and this statement is awaited with the greatest interest.

May Make Terms Known.

If the press which supports the administration correctly interprets official opinion little time will be taken up by consideration of the movement of Germany and her allies, although the moderate opinion of the country does not favor too hasty rejection of the overtures. It is believed the German people once they are acquainted with the objects of the Entente, might be more inclined toward peace, and for that reason, if for no other, the terms of the Entente Allies should be made known officially to the Central Powers.

The possibility that President Wilson will make some suggestions when forwarding the offer also is much discussed. It is intimated he might, at least, express willingness to convey the terms of the Entente to the Central Powers.

The report is current here that Emperor William is about to announce the granting of a parliamentary form of government to Germany.

One of the factors which, according to an opinion expressed here, militates against acceptance of the proposals is that the opening of negotiations would necessarily be followed by an armistice. No specific suggestion of an armistice is made in the proposal, so far as is indicated by the unofficial reports received, but it is said the precedent of 1866, in the Austro-German peace negotiations, and of 1870, in the Franco-German negotiations, establishes that an armistice and suspension of all military activity follows the opening of negotiations.

The view expressed here is that Germany would have the most to gain from an armistice, owing to recent losses on various fighting fronts and economic stringencies within Teutonic territory. For that reason the prospect of an armistice is not regarded with favor in London, and the suggestion is advanced in some quarters that one of the chief motives prompting the proposal was to gain time.

Concerning unofficial reports that one of the Teutonic proposals is a return to the status quo before the war, except as to the creation of Polish and Lithuanian kingdoms, it is said here that this apparently is impossible from the British viewpoint, as it would not provide any compensation to Belgium, whose defense has always been referred to as one of the principal motives of Great Britain in entering the conflict.

In the same circles Russia's refusal also is expected of any settlement which would leave parts of Serbia within Teutonic authority, owing to the bearing of the Serbian question on Russia's entrance into the war.

TEACHING ENGLISH TO EAT HORSE MEAT?

Washington, Dec. 13.—Reports to the United States on food conditions abroad say Belgian refugees have opened a horse slaughter house at Halifax, Yorkshire, and are teaching English workmen to eat horse meat, long a staple food in Belgium.

SUMMERSIDE IS SCOURGED ONCE MORE BY FIRE FIEND

Eighteen Buildings, Including Big Departmental Store of Sinclair & Stewart, Where Blaze Started—Two Persons Injured—Total Loss \$325,000; Insurance \$175,000—Holman's Large Store Saved.

(Eastern Press.)
Charlottetown, Dec. 13.—The worst fire in the history of Summerside swept over the town today causing nearly twice as much damage as the big fire of 1906 when the residential portion suffered. Today it was the business section, and the damage is estimated at \$325,000 with about \$175,000 insurance, spread out among thirty different companies.

The fire broke out at 6.15 a. m. in the basement of Sinclair & Stewart's big brick departmental store on Water street, and before it was under control at 11.30 a. m. eighteen buildings were destroyed and several gutted.

Charlottetown Helped.

At 8 o'clock a message for help was sent to Charlottetown, and a special train with firemen and apparatus rushed to the scene. They arrived in time to save the eastern portion of the town from destruction. The wind, blowing a gale from the south, then from the west, carried the flames from the waterfront up in to the town, and the whole place at one time threatened.

Sinclair & Stewart lost stock valued at \$150,000. They occupied two buildings, one owned by Neil Sinclair, valued at \$25,000, the other by Otto Crabbe, \$125,000, all burnt; total insurance \$143,000. The other losers are Hon. J. A. McNeil, warehouse with agricultural implements, carriages, etc., barn, blacksmith shop, \$3,000; building occupied by several tenants, \$5,000.

Losses by Tenants.

These tenants lost as follows: John Steele, barber, \$500, stock; A. Ching, grocer, \$3,000; A. C. Rogers, agent, \$500, furniture, etc.; Arnett & Stewart, agents, \$500, furniture, etc.; H. H. Beer, stock of boots and shoes; \$3,000; J. E. Dalton lost his building occupied by himself as druggist and Mrs. McLellan as book store total loss \$20,000.

Neil Sinclair lost building occupied by W. B. Mills dry goods, total loss \$5,000; C. McCullough, tailor, building and stock, \$4,000; Collin Milligan, tailor, building and stock, \$5,000; J. H. Locke, grocer; Roy Silhant,

butcher, stock, \$3,000, occupying building owned by G. C. Gardner, \$2,500; Thomas Andrews, agricultural implements, etc., warehouse and stock, \$12,000; F. W. Strong & Company, general store, warehouse and stock, \$33,000; H. P. Strong, building occupied by C. Lafferty, barber; Heath Strong, lawyer; E. W. Strong, lawyer; W. J. Lidstone, general store, total loss, \$25,000. Percy Bowness, photographer studio, undertaking rooms and residence occupied by himself, store by J. Tanton, butcher total loss, \$800.

Holman's Store Saved.

The origin of the fire is unknown. It is supposed to have started from spontaneous combustion. It started under the stairs in the basement where the dust-bane and other oily materials were stored. Sinclair & Stewart lost practically all their goods, the building being destroyed in half an hour. R. T. Holman's big departmental store was saved by their own water system.

Two men were taken to the hospital, one with a broken foot, the other with a broken leg.

Summerside, although a town of not more than three thousand population, is widely known throughout Canada and New England on account of its being the principal summer port on the island side of communication between the mainland and the "Garden of the Gulf," the steamers running each week in the season of navigation between that town and Point du Chene. It is the second largest centre of Prince Edward Island, and the shiretown of Prince county. It was devastated by a fire in 1906.

The fire of yesterday will injure the town irreparably, not only because of the calamity itself, but because of the coming transference of a large part of the town's strait traffic to Point Borden (formerly Carleton Point, where the new car ferry system from Cape Tormentine will land.

GERMAN PROPOSALS ARE READY SAYS BERLIN

Dr. Theodore Wolff, Editor of Tageblatt, Makes Plea in Behalf of His Suffering Countrymen and Speaks of Their "Being Driven."

REICHSTAG MEMBERS ALLEGED TO HOLD OPINION THAT GERMANY WOULD HOLD ADVANTAGE NO MATTER WHAT OUTCOME OF PEACE OFFER—KAISER EVIDENTLY HAVING INTERNAL TROUBLE.

Berlin, Dec. 13, via London.—Although Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg did not disclose the definite proposals on which Germany and her allies are prepared to make peace in his speech before the Reichstag, such proposals are ready and will be communicated to the Entente Powers if the chancellor's offer should fall upon responsive ears. The general opinion expressed by members of the Reichstag was that the situation would be advantageous to Germany, whether or not the chancellor's offer was accepted by the Entente.

Some of the opponents of the chancellor are opposed to any movement in the direction of peace, except on the basis of "wee to the conquered." Most members of the Reichstag, however, express the opinion that the Emperor's decision was wisely and timely and showed pleasure at the formal step taken toward ending the war.

To Renewed Massacres.

Commenting on Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech in the Reichstag, Dr. Theodore Wolff, editor of the Tageblatt, says:

"If the opposing governments should decline the peace overtures, or disdain them as a sign of weakness and suffering, the people will once more ask themselves the question whether they are not being driven senselessly and without urgent need to new sacrifices, to renewed massacres. The German people, if their opponents' answer is negative, will see clearly that it is their duty to bear their heavy burden, or even heavier burdens, as long as earth, good will to men."

there is no possibility of agreeing upon an acceptable and sensible peace."

The evening edition of the Lokal Anzeiger refrains from predicting success or failure for Germany's peace overtures.

The editorial lays stress on the declaration that the offer is an indication of strength, and not of weakness. It calls the day epoch-making in importance, but doubts whether this Christmas, at any rate, can bring to realization the Biblical "peace on earth, good will to men."

BRITISH CONTINUE THEIR BOMBARDMENT OF GERMANS

Roumanians Still in Retreat Northeastward — Russians Continue to Attack Enemy in the Carpathians and Along Moldavian Frontier.

The announcement of the Teutonic Allies of their readiness to discuss peace with the Entente Allies continues the absorbing feature in the war news. As yet, however, no announcement has been vouchsafed as to the basis on which they desire to attempt to bring an end to the war. Neither has there come from any of the Entente countries any official announcement as to the attitude they purpose to take with regard to the proposal.

Meantime the conquest of Roumania by the Teutonic Allies continues. All along the front the Roumanians are in retreat northeastward, and the Ninth German army is nearing the important railroad junction town of Buzou.

Still Fighting.

In the Carpathians and along the Moldavian frontier the Russians and Germans are still at grips, with the Russians the aggressors at most points. There is little, if any, change

in the situation in these regions, however.

Heavy artillery fighting is in progress north of Monastir, Serbia. Otherwise calm prevails. A new feature in the Balkan situation is a report from Sofia that 6,000 Albanians have defeated a force of Italians near Pansnesia, Epirus, the Italians fleeing.

On the front in France and Belgium and in the Russian and Austro-Italian theatres there is little activity aside from artillery duels.

British Statement.

London, Dec. 13.—The war office communication issued tonight says: "Hostile patrols endeavored to enter our trenches last night east of Armentieres, but were driven off."

"There was the usual artillery activity throughout the day at different points along our front. We carried out bombardments of the enemy's trenches in the neighborhood of Poperinghe, Neuve Chapelle and Ypres."

TOKIO EXCHANGE SHUT

Tokio, Dec. 13.—The peace proposal of Germany and her allies caused such a violent slump on the stock exchange that the market has been closed temporarily by the directors.

TODAY IS NOMINATION DAY IN EAST TORONTO.

Ottawa, Dec. 13.—Hon. A. E. Kemp went to Toronto tonight. He will attend tomorrow the nomination proceedings in the East Toronto by-election necessitated by his acceptance of the portfolio of militia. Considerable uncertainty prevails here, as to whether opposition will be forthcoming at the last minute.

TWENTY MEN LOSE LIVES IN COAL MINE

Pittsburg, Kansas, Dec. 13.—Twenty men have lost their lives in an explosion which wrecked the Reedy & Ryan coal mine at Stone City late today. Mine officials declared 39 men were trapped in the drifts.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT THROWS UP SPONGE.

London, Dec. 14.—The Austrian government has resigned. This announcement is made in a Reuter despatch from Amsterdam.

FORTY-SIX ARE INJURED ON HOODOO SHIP

Steamer Powhatan in Collision off Thimble Shoals, Md., and Beached.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 13.—The merchants and miners steamer Powhatan, bound from Norfolk for Providence, R. I., reported by wireless tonight that forty-six of her passengers and crew had been injured when she was in collision with an unidentified vessel off Thimble Shoals, Chesapeake Bay, and that the ship had been beached to prevent her from sinking.

The Powhatan has been in trouble on numerous occasions, and was ashore last month.

UNION ISSUE LEADS TO RESIGNATION

Special to The Standard.
New Glasgow, Dec. 13.—Rev. J. Macartney Wilson has tendered his resignation as pastor of United Presbyterian church here. The reason ascribed is antagonism of ideals and division of opinion on the question of union. The officers and a large majority of the members are pledged to continue the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Wilson said his conscience directed him along an opposite path. He believed in union, and believed it would be the greatest venture for good the church in Canada had ever undertaken. A separation would have to come some day, and he felt it had better come early and be over with.

A congregation meeting will be held on December 19th, to consider the resignation. Mr. Wilson is said to be one of the ablest Presbyterian ministers in the maritime provinces, and his resignation is deeply regretted by the entire congregation.

PRINCE HENRY XII KILLED IN BATTLE

Berlin Dec. 13, via Sayville.—Prince Henry XII, of Reuss was killed in battle on November 29 on the Russian front, according to the Overseas News Agency. Prince Henry was 24 years of age, and a lieutenant in a Prussian cavalry regiment.

FIFTY LIVES LOST WHEN CANADIAN WARSHIP SINKS

Torpedo Boat Grise, Formerly Private Yacht of J. K. L. Ross, Founders in Heavy Sea off Nova Scotia Coast.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Dec. 13.—The first serious loss of life in the Canadian naval service since the outbreak of war occurred off the Nova Scotia coast yesterday. The Canadian torpedo boat "Grise" went down with all on board.

The Grise was before the outbreak of the war the private yacht of J. K. L. Ross, chairman of the pensions board. Mr. Ross turned his yacht over to the government and it was refitted as a torpedo boat and has been in coast patrol work. The Grise with on its way from Halifax to Bermuda. The crew of the Grise numbered fifty, chiefly from British Columbia. The commander was Lieut. Walter Wingate of British Columbia.

Official Statement.

The following official statement was issued from the office of the chief press censor today:

"The minister of the naval service regrets to report that it is feared that H. M. Canadian torpedo boat Grise, commanded by Lieut. Walter Wingate, R. N. C., Vancouver, has been lost at sea with all hands. The vessel left Halifax at three p. m. Dec. 11 for Bermuda. At four a. m. Dec. 12th a wireless message was received from her stating that a moderate southeast wind was blowing.

"At three p. m. Dec. 13 another wireless message was received stating that owing to the state of the weather she was returning for shelter to Shelburne, N. S. At 7.20 p. m. Dec. 13 she called S. O. S. stating her position as latitude 43.40, east longitude 64.50 west.

"At 7.30 p. m. a final message was received 'now sinking'.

Nothing Heard Since.

"No word has been received of her since. Orders were immediately given for all available vessels to proceed to her assistance and endeavors were made from: A. Anderson, Victoria, B. C.; F. Churchill, F. A. German, Winnipeg; J. Annette, A. Donnelly, Vancouver; R. P. Robinson, Dartmouth; F. Lucas, yeoman of signals; O. E. Brown, Severn Bridge, Ont. Signalman; H. W. McAuley, Halifax. Engine room artificers, G. G. Ross, F. S. Warbrick, Kingston, Ont.; H. Taylor