

DEMAND EARLY PEACE PARLEYS

British Press Insists On Speedy Conference

To Avert Anarchy All Over Europe.

London Cable—The past week has witnessed a strong and general demand from the most influential British newspapers, regardless of politics, for the prompt meeting of the Peace Conference and prompt action to stem the tide of chaos which is threatening Germany because of the introduction of Bolshevism by way of the border states. There is a growing recognition that if anarchy seized Central Europe the decisions of the Peace Conference in drawing boundaries and levying indemnities can be enforced only through military control by the allies, otherwise becoming merely scraps of paper.

The chief desire of the British people is to have the army demobilized as quickly as possible. The Labor elements in particular oppose the retention of a large conscripted army for the policing of foreign territories, with the possibility of being drawn into conflicts with their people. The Sunday Observer, under the heading of "A Warning," gives prominence to the following:

"The Allies are in some danger of precipitating in Germany what they should most wish to avoid. They are perfectly entitled to insist upon the disbandment of the army. They are also perfectly entitled to maintain the full right of blockade. But simultaneously to empty millions of men into civil life and to exclude the raw materials which alone can give them employment is the most rapid process for making Bolshevists that has been discovered.

"Unemployment and Bolshevism soon establish a vicious circle of mutual stimulation, and it has already begun to operate in Germany upon a very serious scale. Nothing could be more calculated in that country to frustrate the appearance of an authentic Government with which peace might be concluded.

"There are arguments both for military and economic pressure. But one must be chosen and the other adjured, on the penalty of giving the empire of chaos a most menacing extension. It is an option that cannot be deferred until the Peace Conference has finished its labors. A tidal wave of Russo-German Bolshevism sweeping over Europe might have more embarrassment at Paris than the escape of Napoleon did at Vienna."

The warning of the Observer is in line with the growing belief that the most urgent business now before the conquering nations is to restore the conquered nations and all of central and southeastern Europe to a status of order and normal living, or something as near to this as possible.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Seventy Killed in Fire Damp Explosion in Mine Near Metz.

WILSON AT VATICAN

Cardinal Mercier Again Said to Be Coming to America.

January dividend payments in Canada will amount to \$16,990,510.

President Wilson was received at the Vatican by Pope Benedict.

Spanish "flu" has broken out afresh in and around Thamesford to an alarming extent.

Rights of citizenship have been granted by Roumania to all Jews born in that country.

Cardinal Mercier will go to America soon. It is announced by the newspapers of Brussels.

One Windsor physician is alleged to have issued 150 prescriptions for liquor a day for ten days at \$1 each.

Flags of the Allies were presented to the Great War Veterans' Association of Sault Ste. Marie for its club room.

Sir Arthur Pearson, the blind British publisher, is in Toronto in the interests of soldiers who lost their sight in the war.

The opening of the International Socialist Congress at Lausanne has been postponed from Jan. 13 to Jan. 20.

The Chief Censor's Department of the British Admiralty will be closed after Saturday night. This announcement is made by the Admiralty.

Prof. W. H. Day has resigned from the staff of the Ontario Agricultural College to take a position with a manufacturing firm in Guelph.

The Levis Board of Trade supports the Three Rivers Board in the request that bilingual inscriptions be placed on the new Canadian coins shortly to be issued.

A two-hourly motor truck service has been arranged between Lunenburg and Lambert, which place was cut off from the city when the L. & L. E. ceased operation some months ago.

Montreal Commissioners have voted \$666.44 in payment for attendance of the military police during the recent police and firemen's strike, and \$920 for balance of expenses in connection with that of the engineers and firemen at the pumping station.

W. F. Massey, Premier of New Zealand, and Sir J. G. Ward, Minister of Finance of New Zealand, passed through the Panama Canal on their way to London by the direct route.

Maxim Goriky, the Russian author and revolutionist, has been elected a member of the Petrograd Soviet, according to Russian advices received in Zurich.

The German Cabinet has deposed Elchorn, chief of police of Berlin, who refused to vacate his post. Herr Ernst, director of the Vorwaerts Publishing Company, has been appointed to succeed Elchorn.

The German Government has instructed its Armistice Commission at Spa to request the Allies to release all interned Germans, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Amsterdam.

Seventy persons were killed as a result of an explosion of fire damp in a mine near Metz Friday night. Thirty bodies have thus far been brought to the surface.

The condition of Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, is reported to be very much more favorable than had been the case. Mr. Ballantyne is at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, where he was operated on for appendicitis.

The five small children of Arthur Wells, all boys, among whom are two sets of twins, and the youngest of whom is only five years old, were made orphans by the death of their father at London from Spanish influenza.

A head-on collision between a work car and a street car occurred on the Nipissing Central Railway between Cobalt and Halleybury. The street car was loaded with miners returning from work at Cobalt. One man is reported seriously injured and a number slightly injured.

SERBIA WOULD RENEW STRUGGLE

Will Resist Italy's Claims On Adriatic.

Minister to France Gives Plain Warning.

Paris Cable—"Should the treaty recently signed by England, France, Russia and Italy in 1915, whereby Italy was to come into possession of the eastern coast of the Adriatic after the war, be confirmed by the coming Peace Conference, then Serbia would fight again, and fight to the finish. Serbia did not enter this war to become the vassal of any nation. She cannot agree to have Italy control the territory in question."

Such was the straightforward statement given to the Associated Press by Dr. M. R. Vesnich, the Serbian Minister to France, in an interview yesterday. Dr. Vesnich added, however, that he believed the presence of the United States, which has already declared against secret treaties and in favor of the rights of small nations, assured "fair play."

So far as the Jugo-Slavs were concerned, he said, they did not recognize the existence of compacts made among certain of the powers after the beginning of the war.

"Serbia goes to the conference believing that affairs will be directed there in accordance with the public announcements of the great powers, especially those of President Wilson," continued the Minister. "We feel that America will look after the rights of small nations. The position of Serbia and the Jugo-Slavs would be desperate if their hopes did not rest in the principles laid down by America. They would be desperate because certain of the great allied powers, while announcing these principles, have entered into opposing conventions and understandings. Some of these understandings were directed against Serbia."

"Serbia is the only nation in Europe which has made no treaty of any kind with the allies. She has marched on from the first with justice as her only weapon."

RUSS GENERALS MURDERED.

Stockholm, Jan. 6.—Gen. Brustoff, former commander-in-chief of the Russian armies, has been killed at Moscow, according to reports received here today.

A despatch from Bergen stated that Gen. Kuropatkin, who commanded the Russian armies in the Russo-Japanese war, had been murdered. Bolsheviki, the despatch said, deny responsibility for his death.

\$40,000,000 IN TIMBER ORDERS

To Be Distributed Among Canadian Firms.

A Fair Share for All Districts.

(From John W. Defoe, Correspondent of Canadian Government.)

London Cable—The 1,000,000 square feet of timber which the British Timber Controller will buy in Canada, is to be of all grades, and will be bought through British brokerage houses and Canadian timber agents in London, who will deal direct with the Canadian lumber producers.

It is understood that every Canadian producer who is registered on the lists of the Board of Trade at Ottawa will be given an equal opportunity to sell. There is also to be an allocation of purchases to Western Canada. All the British Columbia lumbermen are represented here by L. C. Beale, timber commissioner for the province, who is attached to the staff of F. C. Wade, K. C., agent-general for the province in Great Britain, and he will deal directly with the timber controller. This lumber is to be bought within the next 12 months. It will represent a total transaction in money value of about \$40,000,000.

WOULD CHOOSE HER OWN TERMS

New German Foreign Minister States Policy.

Peace Terms Must Be Those of Wilson.

Copenhagen Cable—Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, the new German Foreign Minister, has issued a statement outlining his policy, but it has not yet reached Copenhagen. From comment in the Tageblatt of Berlin, it appears he declared that Germany must not yield to every peace condition her opponents may wish to dictate. The Tageblatt adheres to the minister's point of view and says:

"No peace must be signed which differs by the breadth of a hair from the principles of President Wilson's fourteen points, which Germany has accepted and the entente willingly, or unwillingly, has signed."

The Tageblatt then discusses Germany's decisions before the war, and says these were fed by a "fatal propaganda which drove America into the war and led to the inevitable catastrophe."

"It is necessary," the paper continues, "to avoid the self-deception of which the Minister speaks, but it is not necessary to plunge madly into self-annihilation. Continuous lamentations and half-hearted weakness must lead the entente to see that the German people have no will of their own and may bend under any yoke of slavery. Thus, bereft of its most valuable territories, Germany might be held down in continuous impotence."

"We regard it as urgently necessary that Germany should convince the world of her firm will and loyalty to realize President Wilson's peace, but not to accept any other, especially that of Premier Clemenceau. Minister Brockdorff-Rantzau has said this with a plainness and a frankness which the German policy too long has been lacking. He rejects a peace of violence, destruction and subjection, despite the serious crisis in Germany. The people will back him up."

FOUGHT BATTLE IN DEEP SNOWS

Americans Driven Out of Kadish Temporarily.

Canadian Guns Then Recovered the Place.

With the Allied Army of the Dvina, Cable—American troops, fighting desperately near Kadish, has driven back Bolshevist troops which made an advance there. The Bolshevists also launched attacks on the Onega sector and bombarded the allied front. The Americans came into battle along the Petrograd road and in the frozen swamps that border it. The battle was fought in snow from two to four feet in depth.

On Tuesday, the Bolshevists operated a terrific fire from three and six-inch guns and launched a counter-attack against the buildings recently captured by the Americans in Kadish. So hot was the artillery fire that the Americans were withdrawn temporarily from the village. The line, however, was not taken back very far and the

new positions were firmly held. The enemy did not occupy Kadish because the barrage fire from the American guns made the place untenable, snails falling on the frozen ground spread their zones of destruction twice as far as they would under normal conditions.

Later, under the protection of Canadian artillery fire, American detachments again swept forward and re-occupied the town.

The Petrograd road leads southward to Plesetskaya, a large village on the Vologda railway which is the enemy's base of operations at the Kadish and Onega fronts.

Allied positions on the Onega front near the village of Pechura were attacked unsuccessfully by the enemy yesterday.

In this sector, allied forces advanced on snowshoes over soft snow a few days ago. Beneath the snow was an unfrozen swamp and the men often sank into the mud up to their waists in spite of their Arctic footgear. The battle with the elements makes the fighting here of the utmost difficulty.

Further evidence that the Bolshevists are mutilating allied wounded and dead came to headquarters today in a report that Lieut.-Col. Corberly, who was in command of American forces in the vicinity of Shekhurst on November 29, Americans were the victims, according to the report. A patrol of 60 American soldiers and two officers was surprised early on September 29 by a force of about 700 Bolshevists. Seven Americans were killed and seven others were missing after the fight.

Today the fighting about Kadish apparently had ceased except for spasmodic artillery action. The headquarters report said: "The situation is unchanged in all sectors."

BRITISH SHIPS SHELLED RIGA

Bolsheviki Had Captured the City.

40,000 of the Enemy Are There.

Copenhagen Cable—Riga is in the hands of the Lithuanian Soviet troops, according to a wireless despatch from the Russian Bolshevist headquarters received here. Fighting has been raging in the streets of Riga, according to the Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin, which says the German theatre has been set on fire. The German steamer, Luciworunn, is reported to have left Riga yesterday with several hundred fugitives on board.

British warships to-day returned to Riga. The Rival bombarded successfully the Bolsheviki quarters in Riga. Officers estimate that there are 40,000 Bolsheviki in Riga, and that the total inhabitants of the city number 200,000.

A British warship has arrived in Freeport, on the western side of the outer harbor of Copenhagen, with 392 refugees from Riga. The refugees are of various nationalities. Prince Obolenski and his family and other Russian princes and princesses are in the party.

RUSS FLEET TO JOIN BRITISH

May Attempt to Meet Them in the Baltic.

Riga in Panic at Bolsheviki Advance.

London, Cable—Bolshevist troops continue their advance westward in Estonia and Livonia and are marching on Riga and Riga, according to a Russian wireless report received here today. South-east of Riga the Bolsheviki have taken Romersdorf on the Dvina.

A Copenhagen despatch says: "Riga is panic-stricken over the advance of Bolshevist forces, which are but 18 miles away, and many families are fleeing from the city, according to advices from Berlin. The Russian fleet will attempt to leave Kronstadt and meet the British in the Baltic. Two battleships and some cruisers, manned by Estonians and Lithuanians tried to put out to sea recently but were fired upon from the Finnish coast and subsequently returned to Kronstadt."

Uta, capital of the non-Bolsheviki Government in the area west of the Ural mountains, was captured on Tuesday by the Bolsheviki, according to a Russian wireless despatch received here today. The wireless message adds that the Lithuanian Bourgeois Government has left Vilna for Kovno.

Ideal Guestroom.

The guestroom need not be the best and sunniest room in the house, but it should be light and airy, and be so decorated and furnished as to be informal and homey. The idea is to have a guestroom a little detached from the rooms which are occupied by the family. The bed should be the most comfortable bed procurable. If possible have twin beds.

It takes a thick-headed fellow to butt in and get away with it.

GREATEST OF MYSTERY SHIPS

Battle Cruiser Hood Would Have Surprised.

Wonder Work in Building Battleships.

London Cable—In an article on shipbuilding to-day the Sunday Observer states that the total output of the United Kingdom during 1918 of both naval and mercantile ships was 1,245, vessels of 1,876,411 tons and 4,439,260 horse-power.

"The wonder work of the war period," says the Observer, "is to be found not in mercantile shipbuilding but in naval, and, above all things in naval engineering. On the Clyde alone during the war 481 vessels of 770,347 tons and 6,093,830 horse-power were constructed as additions to the naval strength of the country. In this total are included no merchant vessels ordered by the Government and no general service trawlers, tugs or hawycraft built on Government order."

"The list is composed of battleships, battle cruisers, light cruisers, destroyers and submarines, together with those new vessels known as sloops, which are really little lighter than cruisers or low-speed destroyers; gunboats, patrol boats, hospital steamers, and also the 'Q' boat and 'PQ' boats of which so little could be said while the war was on or can even yet be said."

"The battle cruiser Hood was the greatest of all our mystery ships. She and the Rodney would have been the greatest surprise packages of the war. In speed and gun power they were to have exceeded anything afloat. Only the Hood, however, will be completed, as a great specimen of the last in British naval architecture. All that exists of the Rodney will be scrapped."

"But it is really on marine engineering that the year 1918 and the war period as a whole have been extraordinary. The twelve months' record in production of ships' machinery is held by the Wallsend-Slipway Company, of Wallsend-on-Tyne, which turned out engines of 316,290 horse-power, but other great firms have turned out machinery of amounts which would have been notable in normal times."

"The year 1916, however, was the year of the highest records, the Fairfield Company on the Clyde alone producing marine propelling machinery totalling 498,410 horse-power destroyers were being turned out almost en masse by all firms for the purpose of hunting down German submarines, and it will live for all time in the industrial annals of the United Kingdom as a year of extraordinary shipbuilding activity and one which contributed more than any to the supremacy at sea which ultimately strangled Germany and compelled her to cry aloud for peace."

10,000,000 TONS OF GOODS YEARLY

Excess That Can Be Imported Into Britain

As a Result of the Ending of War.

London Cable—(Reuter Despatch).—Sir Joseph MacLay, the Minister for Shipping pointed out in an interview to-day that the ending of hostilities had eased the shipping position enormously and had permitted tonnage available for bringing imports to the British Isles to be increased by something equivalent to 10,000,000 tons of goods per annum.

"Shipping losses having ceased and the output of tonnage continuing to increase," said Sir Joseph, "the position grows easier day by day. The time is not far distant when it will be possible to release tonnage from requisition on a substantial scale and thereby create a free market in tonnage and freight."

"Already the amount of space available for commercial cargoes in the North Atlantic has been doubled, and instead of cargo competing for space, space is now competing for cargo. In spite of our heavy losses we have no reason to think that British shipping will not be fully equal to the demand likely to be made upon it."

"The great need of the moment is coal for export. On coal exports the whole of our shipping and financial positions depend. We hope that with the release of miners from the army it will not be long before ships which now have, perforce, to go in ballast, can take outward cargoes, thereby at once relieving the financial situation and reducing the cost of our imported supplies."

"English as She is Spoke."

The wife of a workman in the Midlands (England) was describing a quarrel between two other women, and her final comment was as follows: "if er'd said to 'er what 'er said to 'er er'd 'ave killed 'er or 'er 'er!"