PRESIDENT WILSON ASKS FOR PEACE DISCUSSIONAL PROPERTY OF THE P VOL. XXXVI.-No. 13,189 Greek Government Protests to the Entente Powers

made

lined

ollars,

patch

boys

good

5.69

reast-

close

n lin-

asted

apels, patch

belt.

es

obes.

k and

China

and

large

and

nade

3.95,

1.25

1.25

.00,

88

4.75

1.95

les, 4.75

Many Prominent Americans Urge Action on Behalf of Belgium.

PREPARE BIG PETITION

Civilized World Views With Indignation German Reversion to Barbarism.

New York, Dec. 21 .- A petition calling on the President of the United States "to throw the whole influence of his office against the deportation of the Belgians by the German Government," will be forwarded to Washington tomorrow, it was announced here tonight by Elihu Root. The petition says:

"Inasmuch as the chief magistrate Eleven Shot Last Saturday of a country is entitled to know the definite sentiments of the people, we hereby petition the President of the United States to throw the whole influence of his office against the deportation of the Belgians by the German

"And we especially desire that in whatever manner seems best to him, steps may be taken to join this country with the other neutral states of the American continent, in a determined protest against this reversion to barbarism in warfare, not to be indignation."

Diversified Support. A statement issued tonight regarding the petition said: It is a response to the call of the president for the voice of the people.
Almost every city of the country sends the names of its eminent men. Su-preme court judges of the various states john with idealists and reformbishops, archbishops and prominent clergy, unite with skeptics, rail-road presidents with labor leaders; manufacturers with men of letters; bankers and business men with sculptors and painters, leaders of the bar with heads of the laboratory; pacifists with retired officers of the army and pavy; Democrats with Republicans; n equal fervor to support the presi-Whole bodies of men in the various cities have signed the petition. Statesteen have sent special letters."

BIG GAINS IN NOVEMBER FOR TRADE OF CANADA

Exports and Imports Both Show Very Marked Increases.

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—Huge increases Canadian trade are indicated for Canadian trade are indicated for the month of November and the eight months of the fiscal year.

November trade was \$186,066,351, as against \$154,225,481 in the corresponding month last year. For the eight months, total trade was \$1,499,255,942, against \$86,670,349 November imports increased \$27,000,000, to \$72,690,790. In the eight months, imports increased by nearly \$250,000,000, to \$557,225,197.

nestic exports for November totaled Domestic exports for November 1014164 \$103,558,950, an increase of \$17,000,000. For the eight months these exports increased by over \$300,000,000, to \$731,592,-

Railwaymen in Ireland Given Increase in Wages

ARMSTRONG TO DIRECT

Assistant Provincial Secretary Takes New Post for Duration

Ottawa, Dec. 20:-S. A. Armstrong, assistant provincial secretary for Ontario, has been appointed director of the miliary hospitals commission, a post created today by order-in-council. The Ontario Government has agreed to Mr. Armstrong's acceptance of the new post for the duration of the war. His splendid work in connection with the Ontario Reformatory at Guelph and the insane hospital at Whitby makes him eminently fitted for his duties. He will be charged with the organization and supervision of the various branches of the commission's undertakings.

Japanese Foreign Minister Believes Germany Insincere

TO KILL BELGIANS

After Being Accused of Spying.

Deported Citizens of Ghent Have Been Taken to Somme Front.

sentenced to various terms of penal servitude and 64 others ordered deported to Germany.

The newspaper adds that another

ported to the Somme front were kill-ed or very seriously wounded recently, during a fight, by French machine suns. The correspondent adds that a thousand men from Ghent are compelled to work on that front, and that Virton, among them children between the ages of 12 and 15. The correspond-ent adds that a large number of work-men were deported Friday and Satur-

Tax on Excess Profits Producing Big Revenue

Reduce Trains, Raise Fares

Given Increase in Wages

London, Dec. 20.—The complaint of the railway men in Ireland was amicably settled at the board of trade today. The men have been granted an increase of seven shillings weekly in their wages; they had asked for ten shillings on the ground of the increased cost of living.

London, Dec. 20.—With a view to curtailing travel and thus enabling British railways to use more rolling stock for war and food purposes, it has been decided to decrease, after the first of the year, the number of passenger trains, and to increase fares fifty per cent. This will not apply to workmen's tickets or to season tickets for distances not exceeding forty miles. This was announced by the government in the house of commons today.

* WAR SUMMARY *

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

FTER the allies had disposed of the German offer of peace President Wilson of the United States has come along with a In taking this action the president ignores the recent decision of the Lloyd George, and as at the present time the campaign is undecided and Germany has won most of the glory, it can be seen by the dullest has exasperated many persons in Europe, and especially in England.

(Continued on Page 2, Columns 1 and 2.)

of the War.

Tokio, Dec. 20.—Viscount Motono, foreign minister, today told members of parliament that he believed the German peace proposal lacked sincerity and that Germany does not really desire peace. He added that Japan's reply to the proposal would be made after consultation with her allies.

HUNS FIND EXCUSE

EXPOSED TO GUNFIRE

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 20.of 20 Belgians who had been sentenc- Some Newspapers Regard Retial at Hasell, 11 were shot last Satorday, says The Maastricht Les Nouvelles. Forty-four other persons were

To Help Cause of War

note suggesting a comparison of the views of the belligerents did not play a part in maintaining the officers and 700 men. Her displacement on peace terms, with a view to a settlement, that will be lasting. | Ilbertles of the world! The president has was 12,750 tons. allies to reject offers of peace and the statement of terms by Premier that the action of Washington is more favorable to Germany than enemy direct; and they have already to the allies. In his note the president is also careful to preserve done it. But it is, to us, primarily a his correct neutral attitude. It has been this supercilious tone that matter of person, even more than terms. The president says that the United States has many interests involved beaten and prostrate kaiser! A people fox, Japanese cross in the war and he expresses a fear that the present war of attrition restored in its mind will get better terms and Russian fox.

Will continue until both sides are exhausted and the United States than an arrogant war load. The prices range as will continue until both sides are exhausted and the United States than an arrogant war lord. will suffer. He also throws in some observations about giving hu-

RONG TO DIRECT MILITARY HOSPITALS SKIRMISHES MARK RMISHES MARK RUMANIAN FRONT WILSON ISSUES STRONG APPEAL

Russians Engage in Rifle Firing, Artillery Duels and Scouting.

CHECK FOE ON DANUBE

Allies Stop Retreat to Offer Enemy Strong Re-

sistance.

Special to The Toronto World.

London, Dec. 20.—On the Rumanian front the Russian troops are engaged in nifle firing and artillery duels with the Germans under Von Mackensen. Their scouting parties have conducted successful operations in the direction of Rimnika-Buzeu and on the left bank of the Danube, opposite Hirsova, attacks of the foe were repulsed. attacks of the foe were repulsed.
South of the Danube in the Dobrudja advanced detachments of each army are engaged in the region of Cerna Village on the right flank and in the region of Umachea in the centre.

A German seculars protested by a region of Umachea in the centre.

A German seaplane, protected by a battleplane, dropped bombs on Sulina, northeastern Dobrudja, and when attacked by a Russian aviator, the battleplane was brought down into the

most northern part of the Dobrudja, the allies, who have retreated there, are again offering resistance.

It is believed by observers that the contest will settle down to trench warfare for at least a few weeks, at any rate until the Rumanian army is ready

(Continued on Page 11, Col. 1).

VIEWS OF VIENNA ARE NOT HOPEFUL

jection of Peace Offer as Certain.

OTHERS LESS GLOOMY

court-martial was begun to hear the cases of 192 Belgians who were charged with espionage.

The frontier correspondent of The Amsterdam Telegraaf asserts that many citizens of Ghent who were deferred to the Somme front was bell.

Way to Negotiations Not Entirely Closed, is One Opinion. Opinion.

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 20 .-Some of the Vienna newspapers, com-4000 more are about to be sent there.

Les Neuvelles says a large number of young people from villages in the Relgian Province of Luxembourg have been deported from the commune of Virton arrang them abilities in the rejection of the peace offer of the Teutonic allies by the entente allies is virtually certain. The Fremden is virtually certain. The Fremdenblatt says:

"After Mr. Lloyd George's speech, men were deported Friday and Saturday from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and that at Aix-la-Chapelle from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and that at Aix-la-Chapelle from the Continuation of the world war is inevitable. Great Britain does not want to end the war until her aim has been attained. This aim Mr. Lloyd George designated by the dark word 'reparation.' He obviously demands reparation for the fact that the central powers dared defend themselves Berlin Throws Light on Fate He Insists on Right to Conduct London, Dec. 20.—The tax on excess profits has produced £73,699,000 up to Dec. 16, Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, told the house of commons today.

The original estimate for the full year ending March 31 was £86,000,000, an amount which he considered likely to be greatly exceeded.

tral powers dared defend themselves against world enemies standing under England's command. Fate will now take its course, and the day doubt-less will come when Mr. Lloyd George, shudderingly, will recognize that England by rejecting the peace offer has really stuck its head into a noose with the rope in our hands" with the rope in our hands." The Neue Freie Presse, however thinks that Mr. Lloyd George's speech

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 5).

PRESIDENT WILSON STARTS HIS KNITTING.

President Wilson has written a note to he belligerents to the effect that if they each set down what they are fighting for, and what terms they would settle for, a groundwork might be found for adjustment, Indeed, peace might follow; and after that the nations might get together and settle how it is to be maintained thenceforward.

He says the United States is seriously affected by the war; so much is she concerned that she must determine how best selves, barring out neutral nations who set out to find a way how his nation can get into the situation. The allies, we believe, prefer to keep them out.

We take it that the allies will prefer to set down their terms of peace to the The person must be a regenerated Ger- fox, black fox, cross many, disowning military autocracy, or a fox, red fox, grey

We take it that the people of the ties. W. &. D. Di-United States may have to do a lot of neen Co., Limited, hard knitting before they get a stocking. 140 Yonge street. Store open evenings.

FOR DISCUSSION OF PEACE TERMS BRITISH PARTY CAPTURES

WHOLE GERMAN PATROL Lively Encounter Occurs North of Neuve Chapelle-Much Trench Raiding Proceeds.

Special Caple to The Toronto World.

London, Dec. 20.—A war of bombardments and trench raids continues in France. The chief firing obtained south of the Somme today, chiefly about Belloy-en-Santerre, Berry, Pressoire and Ablaincourt. The Germans did much gun firing and the allies answered energetically. On the British front the German lines were raided and damaged near Gommecourt and also north of Arras, and in a patrol encounter north of Neuve Chapelle the British killed the German leader and took his men prisoner. The German artillery was particularly active north of the Somme and about Festubert and Ypres. The British shelled German trenches at Gommecourt and about Loos and Hulluch.

The Germans announce that in the GREECE SENDS A PROTEST EXPRESSING ASTONISHMENT

Royal Government is Amazed That Revolu- the notes were well on their way to the American ambassadors in the beltionists Are Allowed to Pass Allied Blockade and "Terrorize" Islands.

vening. It reads:

"The government is most astonished to see allied warships permit the stonishment that a large number of revolutionists to perpetrate these acts.

astonishment that a large number of revolutionists, under command of seditious officers from Salonica landed several days ago on the Island of Syra, despite the blockade the allied fleet maintains, arrested all the high functionaries and many notables and committed every sort of outrage, since when it has continued to terrorize the inhabitants of the islands.

"Later a British warship landed a detachment and arrested the chief of detachment and arrested the chief of vigorously against "the allied naval

detachment and arrested the chief of police.

"The revolutionists spread their activity to other islands in the archipelago, where they committed depre-

Britain's Army Increased

London, Dec. 20.—The house of commons today passed a resolution presented by the government, "that an additional number of land forces, not exceeding 1,000,000, shall be maintained at home and abroad." It was explained that no question of policy was involved, but that the colonial troops and forces of the crown exceed the four million already authorized and a vote was necessary in order to regularize the position.

GERMAN TORPEDO

of Missing French Battle-

ship.

More Than Seven Hundred Threat to Resign Forced Dis Lives Lost When Warship Went Down.

Berlin, via London, Dec. 20 .-- A German submarine torpedoed and sank the French battleship Suffren, according to an official statement given out tonight. The statement reads: "One of our submarines sank on Nov. 26 by a torpedo an enemy ship of the line northwest of Lisbon. It was the French battleship Suffren, reported lost with the entire crew by

the French admiralty on Dec. 8."

to safeguard her interests. In fact, we believe, the United States is more than concerned as to where her people will land in case the allies should make a wide and far-reaching trade deal among the states of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffren, which left port on Nov. 24, had not been heard from since that time, and that the ministry of marine considered the vessel lost with the state of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffrence is the state of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffrence is the state of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffrence is the state of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffrence is the state of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffrence is the state of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffrence is the state of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffrence is the state of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffrence is the state of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffrence is the state of Dec. 8 reported that the batleship Suffrence is the state of Dec. 8 reported that the State of Dec. 8 reported t A Paris despatch under date of far-reaching trade deal among them- board. The Suffren sailed from Lorient. She had on board a staff of 18

DINEEN'S FOX SETS. The fur of the fox makes up most

acceptably into sets, giving a highly dressy effect and pro-



HUN CHANCELLOR PLAYS LONE HAND

Peace Negotiations Himself.

contented Ones to Make Surrender.

London, Dec. 20 .- A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Zurich says information has been received there from Berlin that Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Imperial Chancellor, in a secret conference with the party Germany's peace offer in the reichstag, was given full powers to conduct peace negotiations without further consultation even with the party leaders.

even with the party leaders.

"The chancellor," says the despatch, "refused point blank to give the leaders any detailed particulars of his peace terms, altho he stated bluntly that these terms would not take any consideration of the various expressed wishes of the numerous parties within the empire. When the leaders objected to granting the chancellor's demands for full powers to negotiate, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg countered with the statement that he would resign forthwith unless his demands were met.

mands were met.

"After a long argument, the leaders voted the powers the chancellor wished, explaining later to followers that they were compelled to do this owing to the fear that if Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg resigned he would be succeeded by Admiral Von Tirpitz."

Danish West Indies to Be Sold to the United States

Copenhagen, Dec. 20.—After a single reading, the folkething today adopted the bill ratifying the treaty for the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. The vote was 90 in favor of it and 16 against. Five members were absent.

President Sends Notes to All Belligerents Suggesting Conference for Avowals of Their Respective Views as to Terms on Which War Might Be Concluded and Arrangements Which Would Be Deemed Satisfactory As Guarantee Against Its Renewal.

Washington, Dec. 20.—President Wilson has appealed to all the belligrents to discuss terms of peace.

Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation, the president has sent formal notes to the governments of all the warring nations suggesting that an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guarantee against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future as would make it possible frankly to compare

Wholly without notice and entirely contrary to what administration officials have described as his course, the president last night despatched the notes to all the belligerents and to all the neutrals for their information.

This latest development in the rapidly moving world events toward a ligerent capitals and probably already in the hands of some of them.

A Surprise to Officials. It was a most distinct surprise to all official Washington, which had been led to believe that with the formal transmittal of the proposals of the Athens, Dec. 19, via London, Dec. 20.

—A note was presented by the Greek Government to the entente powers last or the allies' blockade.

dations, made arrests and abolished the legal authorities, whom the government to the entente powers last or the allies' blockade.

dations, made arrests and abolished the legal authorities, whom the government to the entente powers last or the allies' blockade.

central powers the offices of the U. S. would await further moves between the belligerents themselves, and that certainly in view of the speech of Premier Lloyd George and the announcements in Russia, France and Italy, further action by neutrals would depend upon the next careful and delicate further action by neutrals would depend upon the next careful and delicate

moves of the belligerents. Nowhere on the surface appears any indication of the history making events which diplomatists generally are convinced must have transpired, since the German allies brought forth their proposals, to dispel the generally prevalent belief that such an action on the part of President Wilson would

e unacceptable to the entente powers. British embassy officials declared they were utterly taken by surprise. ere wholly unable to explain it and were emphatic in their statement that no exchanges whatever had passed thru the embassy here as a preliminary.

The wish and hope of the German powers that President Wilson would ntercede in some way has long been well known and has been conveyed in different ways to the White House. Entente Allies' Attitude

The attitude of the entente allies, as expressed by their statesmen and certainly until recently in official advices to the American Government, has been that a peace offer by the U. S. would be considered almost the next thing to unfriendly.

Diplomatists consider it incredible that the president would bring orward such a proposal at such a time unless he had reason to believe it would receive respectful consideration at the hands of all the belligerents and above all would not prejudice the position of the U. S. as a possible

The German embassy view, consistently hopeful that proposals of the central allies would lead to a discussion of peace, was expressed in this authorized statement by Count Bernstorff, the German ambassador: "Now,"

said he, "I am perfectly convinced that there will be a conference." The president looks forward in the notes to the part the neutrals shall take in assuring the future peace of the world. He expresses justification in "suggesting an immediate opportunity for a comparison of views as to the terms which must precede those ultimate arrangements for the peace of the world, which all desire, and in which the neutral nations as well as those at war are ready to play their responsible part."

Began Note Some Time Ago. SAILED FROM LORIENT DEFIES PARTY LEADERS note some time ago, probably even before the German proposals came out, There are indications that President Wilson began preparation of his and that the offer of the central powers and the succeeding developments

made a more favorable opportunity for its presentation. The fact that the president asks first only a clarification of terms, is taken as indicating that he is not expecting an immediate conclusion. In a war involving so many conflicting interests, not only between the two belligerent groups, but even between nations of the same group, it is realized that much time may be needed even to bring about the mere preliminaries of a conference. It is desired, therefore, to clear away as many of these preliminaries as possible, so that when a solution is near, either by

victory or exhaustion, not a day of needless slaughter may be necessary. When the note was finished has not been disclosed, but it is known that it went to the cables yesterday. On Monday the higher officials of the state department were taken into the president's confidence and the text was sent to the public printer to make copies for the diplomatic corps. The fact that the note was completed not later than Monday and its despatch Tuesday inleaders, preceding his announcement of dicate that it was sent regardless of anything that Lloyd George might say.

How Note Will Be Received. Officials expect the note to be received with general favor in Germany, but many believe the real test will come with its arrival in the entente countries, where many influential persons have feared and sought to prevent any American intervention until the military situation changed. From the fact. however, that Lloyd George's reply to the central powers was milder than generally had been expected, and still left the way open for further negotiaons, it is believed that the allies will meet the present note in at least a friendly spirit,

So far as Germany is concerned, the view held here is that she would be perfectly willing that a committee of three, formed of a representative of the central powers, a representative of the entente and a representative of the United States, should hold preliminary discussions. The main idea of Germany and her allies is to get each set of belligerents into direct personal communication with the other. The method is considered of secondary im-

portance. The view prevails in German quarters that all the belligerents will make some definite statement in reply to the United States. The very phraseology of the American communication, it is felt, calls for replies far more definite. than mere acknowledgments of receipt.

Instructions to Lansing. The notes to the belligerents are prefaced with this instruction by Secretary Lansing to the American ambassador presenting them: "The president directs me to send you the following communication

to be presented immediately to the minister of foreign affiars of the gove ernment to which you are accredited. "The texts of the notes themselves then begin identically as follows: "The president of the United States has instructed me to suggest to the (herein is inserted a designation of the government addressed),

course of action with regard to the present war, which he hopes that the