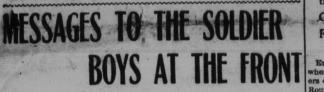


reply to President Wilson's note as it is expected full consultations between diplomatists of the Entente countries will take place before a formal reply is made.

The attitude of both Russia and Italy in regard to the German peace ote was received in official circles with the utmost pleasure, espec that of Italy as expressed in the speech of the Italian foreign minister. Baron Sonnia

While declining to make any official statement, it is readily appar-ent that the British foreign office feels that the solidarity of the Entents never was stronger than it is today.



Leading public men of New Brunswick in the Governments at Fredericton and Ottawa have sent forward from this city cables to the galiant sons of New Brunswick at the front, extending the wannest season's greetings from the people of the province to those on the firing line. Hon. Mr. Hazen, Hon. Mr. Clarke and Hon. J. B. M. Bax ter last evening despatched cables to those who are not with us at this joyous season constantiating them on the great services they are rend-ering to the British Empire, and expressing the hope that their Christ-mas may be as joyous as possible under all the prevalent circum-stances.

MESSAGE FROM HON J. D. HAZEN.

Hon. Mr. Hazen's message is as follows:

Hon, Mr. Hazer's message in Market and Market

## **RUSSO-ROUMANIANS** STILL BATTLING

Though Troops of the Central Powers are Now Pressing them Hard --- Vigorous

Campaign on Tornopol Railway.

Except in the Northern Dobrudja, where the incops of the Central Pow-ors conthuie to drive the Russians and Roumanians towards Bessarabia, there has been little important activity on the battle fronts of Europe. The Russian troops in Doubrudja, Ferrograd announces, were forced to retire nonthwards under heavy attacks for on numerically superior hostile forces. Berlin states that the Teutonic army in the Dobrudja continues to ad-anothe states that the Teutonic army in the Dobrudja continues to ad-tacke Bubadagh a Russian soldiers. East of Lake Bubadagh a Russian soldiers. The Galica near the Slochof Tarpo-por railway there has been a spirited

(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press)—In these last days before Christmas, it is a strange procession, indeed, that winds its way on the travel scarred reads of Northern France to where the greatest armies the world has ever known are locked in a life and ath struggle.

death struggle. Vieing with the seemingly endless trail of motor trucks groaning un-der capacity weights of powder, shells and all the varied and sinister material of war, are numberiess other trucks fairly buiging with pres-ents and greetings of the Yuletide. It appears now that no soldier, re-gradiess of how humble his station, will be forgotten. The handling of the vast amount of mail for the English, Canadian and Australian trept is fraction to the solid or the folday season will bring no lessening of the gun pressure on any part of the front. Despite the complex problems connected with the task, the erganization behind the British front makes it possible for letters and parcels to reach the men in the front line trenches forty-eight hours after their reach the men in the front line trenches forty-eight hours after their posting in London. One reason for this is that the mail is being handled and distributed by "Tommies" who formerly were postal employes. The Canadians received the bulk of their mail last week, most of

the soldiers obeying, with childish impatience, instructions not to open the parcels until Christmas. The mail of the Australian troops necessarily was posted six or seven weeks ago, and naturally there were many casualties in that period, so that the authorities are confronted number of parcels which never will reach their intended owners. with a

A feature of the Christmas army mails is that the outgoing post is almost as heavy as the incoming, with a strange cross current of money orders going home and coming out. Some idea of the army postal problems may be gained from the fact that normally the British army sends 1,100,000 letters and postcards and 11,000 parcels daily. This number is being doubled and trebled during the Christmas rush. Another interesting fact is that a soldier receives an average of four letters a week, and writes one.

The packages being sent from the front contain all maner of sou-venirs from the battlefields and trenches. Letters and parcels for the men on the very front line are sent to them with their rations. The favorite Christmas card that the "Tommies" are sending home is one on which loving mottoes are woven with various colors of silk threads.

**COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE** 

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

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Belgians' Heroic Choice. "We have seen some rather remark-able statements /ately. I may only allude to them, as one must use cer-it han thought that the cause of the war had been made abundantly clear more than two years ago. If I have a correct recollection, a distinguished statesman of Italy said that his coun-try, had been invited to join Germany

m which they have sprung. I wish them all success all ring the coming year and a safe return to their native h J. D. HAZEN.

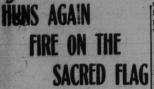
NEW BRUNSWICK'S PREMIER SENDS GREETINGS.

Hon. Mr. Clarke's message is as follows:

Agent General for New Brunswick,

Agent General for New Brunswick, London, Eng. Please convey to all those from the Province who are engaged in any capacity with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the most cordial greatings from the people of New Brunswick. We trust that Christimas may prove a pleasant respite from the arduous work in which they are engaged, and that the New Year may pring victory to our arms. New Brunswickers with the sons of Empire from all climes are achting for the principles on which are based the highest ideal of itvikization, and these must utimately prevail. GEO. J. CLARKE.

Hom HON. J. B. M. BAXTER TO THE 26TH, Hon. Mr. Baxter's message is as follows: Lieut.-Colonel A. E. G. McKenzie, Commanding 26th Battalion, C. E. F., France. Wishing the officers and men of New Brunswich's distinguished Battalion fighting for a stable and glorious peace a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



pol railway there has been a spirited magagement. Berkin reports the break ing of the advanced Russian line north-west of Zalostse, while Petrograd says the Austro-Germans were compelied to retire and along the Bystritar river in the Trotus Valley on the Moldavian frontier and along the Bystritar river in the Carpathians. El Arish, 90 miles east of the Seuz Canal, in Egypt, has been captured by British troops. The town had been occupied for two years by the Turks, who had built strong entrenchments around 4. The defenders field from El Arish on the approach of the British army.

Setatesman of Italy said that his country try had been invited to join Germany try had been invited to join Germany and Austria in making war on Serbia, and she had refused because it was a war of aggression. When Austria sent its note to Everla and the latter country yielded to all the demands, excepting one, and on this point offered to submit to the judgment of The Hague, Austria declared war on so by delegations insisting that there many, precipitated a war for which it had hog been preparing. It has been said that the warring nations are fighting for the same object, the protection

