

The Standard Extends to All Its Readers Its Very Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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WEATHER—CLEARING

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## ENTENTE POWERS WILL SEND IDENTICAL REPLY TO PRESIDENT WILSON'S SUGGESTIONS OF PEACE; DOBRUDJA ONLY REAL BATTLE AREA YESTERDAY

### ALLIES STAND ABSOLUTELY TOGETHER ON PEACE QUESTION

"The Answer for One Will Be the Answer for All," is Reply to Pres. Wilson—This Will be Decidedly Different from Germany's Method of Procedure—Attitude of Russia and Italy Gives Especial Pleasure to London.

London, Dec. 22, 4 p. m.—In official and diplomatic circles in London it was generally predicted today that President Wilson's note to the belligerents would be met by an identical reply from the Entente Powers. This method of answering the note will differ from the reply to be made by the Entente nations to the German peace note in which it is understood that, while agreeing to the principles, each member of the Entente will be free to express any individual views which they may feel desirable to utter.

For the foregoing reason it is hardly likely there will be an early reply to President Wilson's note as it is expected full consultations between diplomats 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 note was received in official circles with the utmost pleasure, especially that of Italy as expressed in the speech of the Italian foreign minister, Baron Sonnino.

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

### MESSAGES TO THE SOLDIER BOYS AT THE FRONT

Leading public men of New Brunswick in the Governments at Fredericton and Ottawa have sent forward from this city cables to the gallant sons of New Brunswick at the front, extending the warmest 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. Baxter last evening despatched cables to those who are not with us at this joyous season congratulating them on the great services they are rendering to the British Empire, and expressing the hope that their Christmas may be as joyous as possible under all the prevalent circumstances.

#### MESSAGE FROM HON. J. D. HAZEN.

Hon. Mr. Hazen's message is as follows:  
F. W. Sumner,  
Agent General New Brunswick,  
London.

Please convey to our New Brunswick boys who have brought such undying honor and glory upon their Province my appreciation, in common with that of all citizens of New Brunswick, for the way in which they have done their bit. New Brunswick feels intensely proud at the conduct of its gallant sons who have so nobly upheld its best traditions and proved themselves such worthy representatives of the great races from which they have sprung. I wish them all success and happiness during the coming year and a safe return to their native land.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK'S PREMIER SENDS GREETINGS.

Hon. Mr. Clarke's message is as follows:  
F. W. Sumner,  
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 greetings from the people of New Brunswick.

We trust that Christmas may prove a pleasant respite from the arduous work in which they are engaged, and that the New Year may bring victory to our arms.

New Brunswickers with the sons of Empire from all climes are fighting for the principles on which are based the highest ideal of civilization, and these must ultimately prevail.

#### FROM 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 Brunswick's distinguished Battalion fighting for a stable and glorious peace a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

JOHN B. M. BAXTER.

### RUSSAINS AGAIN FIRE ON THE SACRED FLAG

Rome, Dec. 22, via London.—The war office communication today says: "Along the whole front there has been desultory artillery activity. The military hospital in Gorizia was again

shelled, despite its protection by visible Red Crosses. Of the military personnel two were killed and four wounded.

#### The Fight at Tarnopol.

Petrograd, Dec. 22.—"North of the Zolotchev-Tarnopol railway the enemy after an intense artillery fire attacked our detachments in the region of Zvishin. Notwithstanding our fire he occupied a portion of a demolished trench belonging to one of our companies. He was driven back by a counter-attack launched by our companies occupying adjacent positions.

### ONLY WAR ZONE IS IN THE EAST

Northern Dobrudja the Scene of Yesterday's Fighting.

### RUSSO-ROUMANIANS STILL BATTLING

Though Troops of the Central Powers are Now Pressing them Hard—Vigorous Campaign on Tarnopol Railway.

Except in the Northern Dobrudja, where the troops of the Central Powers continue to drive the Rumanians and Rumanians towards Bessarabia, there has been little important activity on the battle fronts of Europe.

The Russian troops in Dobrudja, Petrograd announces, were forced to retire northwards under heavy attacks from numerically superior hostile forces. Berlin states that the Teutonic army in the Dobrudja continues to advance successfully and announces the capture of 800 Russian soldiers. East of Lake Salsadagh a Russian regiment, Petrograd records, drove a force of Bulgarians into Lake Bolata. A great number of Bulgarians were drowned and 1,000 were made prisoners.

The artillery bombardment continues at various points on the eastern front. Berlin reports increased activity, especially in the Somme sector and on east bank of the Meuse in the Verdun region, the scene of the latest French advance.

In Galicia near the Zlochov-Tarnopol railway there has been a spirited engagement. Berlin reports the breaking in of the advanced Russian line northwest of Zalostse, while Petrograd says the Austro-Germans were compelled to retire after occupying some trenches. Some fighting has taken place in the Trosna Valley on the Moldavian frontier and along the Bystritsa river in the Carpathians.

El Arish, 90 miles east of the Suez 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 it. The defenders fled from El Arish on the approach of the British army.

#### Russians Retire.

Petrograd, Dec. 22, via London.—(British admiralty per wireless press)—Russian troops in the northern part of the Rumanian province of Dobrudja having been attacked yesterday along the whole front by superior numbers of Teutonic forces, says the Russian official statement issued today, they have begun a further retirement to the northward.

#### The French Report.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads: "In the course of the day rather spirited artillery fighting took place in the region of Hasmont work, Louvemont and the Chabrettes Farm (Verdun region). Several surprise attacks, which were carried out to the east of St. Mihiel, in the Gerechtants Wood, at Chapelette, north of Celles (Voeges), and in the Fave Valley, enabled us to destroy small enemy outposts and to bring back some prisoners. On the rest of front there was intermittent cannonading."

#### The Belgian communication.

"On the southern portion of the Belgian front the bomb and artillery

### WHERE THE L N TRAINS OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS WEND THEIR WAY TO OUR BOYS AT THE FRONT

A Strange Procession on the Travel-Scarred Roads of France to Where Mightiest Armies in World are Locked in Life and Death Struggle.

Parcels for Every "Tommy" Regardless How Humble his Station—Our Boys Received Most of Their Mail Last Week and are Finding it Difficult to Obey Injunction Not to Open Before Christmas.

With the British army in France, Dec. 22, via London, Dec. 23.—(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 roads of Northern France to where the greatest armies the world has ever known are locked in a life and death struggle.

Veiling with the seemingly endless trail of motor trucks groaning under capacity weights of powder, shells and all the varied and sinister material of war, are numberless other trucks fairly bulging with presents and greetings of the Yuletide. It appears now that no soldier, regardless of how humble his station, will be forgotten.

The handling of the vast amount of mail for the English, Canadian and Australian troops, fraught with great difficulties, for powder and shell assert their prerogative of preference, and the holiday season will bring no lessening of the gun pressure on any part of the front. Despite the complex problems connected with the task, the organization 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 posting in London. One reason for this is that the mail is being handled and distributed by "Tommys" who formerly were postal employees.

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 with a number of parcels which never will reach their intended owners.

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 manner of souvenirs 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 "Tommys" are sending home is one on which loving mottoes are woven with various colors of silk threads.

### THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTS COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—A new and important development in the fight against the high cost of living—The Department of Labor and Justice have arranged for co-operation in the working out of the recently enacted regulations designed to reduce prices and at the instance of Hon. T. W. Crothers, the minister of labor, W. F. O'Connor, K. C. of Halifax, has been appointed to investigate into certain conditions which are assumed to have much to do with the prevailing high prices of necessities of life.

Mr. O'Connor until last spring was one of the foremost and busiest legal practitioners of Eastern Canada and is a skilled accountant and cross-examiner. Since spring he has been engaged in the justice department in connection with war legislation and other matters of great importance.

He will immediately undertake to delve into the doings of the barons who control Canada's food supply and other necessities of life and he will proceed to a quarter within Canada where in the opinion of the minister

struggle has been very violent. Our field and trench batteries silenced the enemy artillery.

### SIR ROBERT BORDEN ENTHUSES TORONTO AUDIENCE AS HE TELLS WHY CANADA IS FIGHTING TODAY

Waves of Enthusiasm as Premier Discusses Germany's Peace Terms—The Purpose of the Nation will Never be Fulfilled Until Canada's Glorious Objects are Attained R. B. Bennett Makes Splendid Impression.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—Sir Robert Borden, at a meeting in Massey Hall here tonight in connection with the national service commission discussed the question of peace.

He spoke very slowly and with much deliberation, emphasizing every phrase until warning up to his subject, and allowing a measure of expression of his feelings, he carried his audience into an enthusiastic outburst of applause that lasted several minutes.

"In the last few days," he said, "there have been heard suggestions about peace and about that I would give, and there is no need of emphasizing it, that the people of Canada were and are a peace-loving people. Before August, 1914, they were immersed in the development of their country and engaged in the solution of the tremendous problems that will remain to be settled after the great conflict is over. But Canadians have shown that they were not afraid to fight in a great cause for the security of the Empire and for the ideals of civilization. There is not one but earnestly desires that we shall have peace, and that on the northern half of this continent we shall continue working out our destiny as in the days before the war. But there is not a man here tonight who would not shrink from any peace that would not fulfill the purpose for which this was undertaken.

Belgians' Heroic Choice. "We have seen some rather remarkable statements lately. I may only allude to them, as one must use certain restraints in such matters, but I had 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 country 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 Serbia 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 Serbia, and, with the sanction of Germany, precipitated a war for which it had long been preparing. It has been said that the warring nations are fighting for the same object, the protection

of weaker nations, but none of you would regard the action of Germany toward Belgium and Serbia in that way. When the ultimatum was presented to Belgium, Germany gave that nation the alternative of going to war with her or with France, and all honor to her for the choice she made.

"When I read of 100,000 Belgians being torn from their homes and forced into worse than slavery, I can't hold myself in the ranks of those who say Germany is fighting for the rights of the weaker nations. Some publicist has said of late that the causes of the war are now only of historic significance. I say that the causes are of world-wide significance, and will continue till the end of time. We cannot yield while military aggression goes unchecked in pursuit of world domination, for the purposes of the war would be useless unless the result be an absolute triumph for the Allies. We seek peace, but not a mere truce, of which Germany and Austria will take advantage to sharpen their swords to renew the conflict. The message I bring to you from the great western country is that the purpose of the nation will never be fulfilled till every resource and every power is organized to bring about a complete realization of the aims and objects with which Canada entered upon the war."

A great wave of enthusiasm spread over the hall at the conclusion of Sir Robert Borden's speech, many of the audience rising in their seats and cheering him for several minutes.

Mr. Bennett Also Impresses.

An equally strong impression was made by Mr. R. B. Bennett, chairman of the commission, who impressed upon the audience the vast importance of the conflict in which Canada is engaged. He came into conflict with his audience when he insisted that any measure of compulsion at the present time would be liable to result in insurrection and civil war.

There were cries of "No, no," from all parts of the hall, but Mr. Bennett reminded his hearers that they must not judge all of Canada from the local atmosphere. They must think in larger terms. He had just completed a trip of 6,500 miles and a week ago in Vancouver, he had been waited upon by delegations insisting that there should be no compulsion now. They must allow for differences of opinion and afford every man an opportunity of measuring what his responsibility was.

### BARON DE REUTER KILLED IN ACTION IN SOMME FIGHTING

Son of Head of Great News Gathering Association Meets Death on the Battle Front.

London, Dec. 22 (3.30 p. m.)—Baron Hubert De Reuter, only son of the late head of Reuter's Telegram Company, Limited, was killed at Beaumont Hamel on the Somme battle front November 13.

He was born in 1878, and was serving as a private in the Black Watch Regiment. With a small detachment Baron De Reuter captured 62 Germans in a trench and carried three wounded men away, under a heavy fire in the course of the action. The news of his death was received in a letter from the colonel of his regiment.

### BERLIN "NOT ON THE MAP" OF CANADA

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—Many persons continue sending letters to Berlin, Ont., instead of to "Kitchener," regardless of the fact that the name of that place and post office has been officially changed. Today the post office department announces that no letters addressed to "Berlin" will be delivered but will be returned to the senders marked "No such post office in Ontario."

### NEW ZEALAND MINISTER GIVES HIS OPINION

London, Dec. 22 (4.30 p. m.)—"There should be no such thing as a misguided expression of opinion in regard to the war," said Sir Joseph Ward, financial minister of New Zealand, speaking in London today.

"We should not allow any suggestion emanating from a great country that we should knock down before this war is over."