

The Evening Times Star

VOL. XIII. No. 62

ST. JOHN N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1916

TWELVE PAGES—ONE CENT

ALL GERMANY, AS REPRESENTED BY THE REICHSRAT, EAGER FOR PEACE

Not a Dissenting Voice As Chancellor Announces His Proposal

British and American Papers See in Offer of Negotiations Admission That All is Not Well in War Situation From German View-point—The Terms Out of Question For Allies to Accept

Berlin, Dec. 12, via London, Dec. 12.—The speech of chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg before the Reichstag today, in which he declared that Germany was willing to make peace, was not marked by a single dissenting voice, while the significant passages were greeted with hearty bravo and cheer. It was noticeable, however, that Count Friedrich Von Westary, Conservative leader, and others of his following sat silent and unmoved even when the galleries and newspapers men joined demonstratively in the applause.

These terms upon Germany and her accomplices. New York Papers. New York, Dec. 12.—Commenting on Germany's proposals the World says in part: "This is shrewd and far-sighted politics. At the same time it is a formal admission that Germany is growing tired of the war and would be glad to find a way out. The old catchwords of 'Welnschick' and 'Welmacht' now fall upon deaf ears. They were the outpouring of a military rhetoric that no longer appeals to the German imagination. The German people are prepared to accept much less than 'welnschick,' but are determined upon something better than 'Welmacht.' They are finally discovering that this is a world in which one must live with his neighbors and that is what the imperial government admits in effect when it makes its first tentative proposals for peace."

Note to Vatican. Berlin, Dec. 12.—The note presented by Dr. Von Muller-Berg, German minister to the Vatican, to Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, concludes as follows: "Certain of our own strength, but realising the danger and future of the war, we are ready to give peace to the world by setting before the whole world the question whether or not it is possible to find a basis for an understanding. The imperial government is firmly confident that the initiative of the four powers will find friendly welcome in the part of His Holiness, and that the work of peace can count upon the precious support of the Holy See."

SHOWS THE GERMAN SITUATION CRITICAL. Paris, Dec. 12.—The German offer of peace is received with derision in the French press. The newspapers are unanimous that it is an admission that the situation is getting critical in Germany and that the chancellor's intention is to force it to be too late. His move is considered to have the additional advantage that, in the event of its falling, it will enable him to throw the blame for the continuance of the war on the allies, which he hopes will have a moral effect in Germany and the neutral nations.

GERMAN PAPERS ARE EMPHATIC. London, Dec. 12.—The morning newspapers in their editorial views on Germany's peace proposals are unanimous in their opinion that the offer should be rejected. It should be with a statement of terms which the Entente is willing to effect peace, leaving it to the central Powers to accept or reject it. "Germany," says the Morning Post, "knows she has reached her zenith and her decline must decline. Nothing, therefore, will better serve her purpose than an armistice." The Daily Mail describes the offer of the central Powers as "an impudent old case trick which is becoming as hackneyed as the conjuring of rabbits out of a hat." It adds that Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg is no more entitled to the courtesy of a reply than if he were an armed brigand in a private house. "The allies will not be caught in this 'white-whiskered device,'" adds the Daily Mail. "They know that no peace with a stain of tigers and murderers and statesmen who regard all treaties as scraps of paper would be worth the paper ink."

ONLY PEACE TERMS HOPE IN ASQUITH'S WILD HALL SPEECH. London, Dec. 12.—The German proposal is emphatically rejected by the Times, which says: "Germany's proposal has no relation whatever to the objects for which we are fighting. It has been trying by all the means at her disposal to induce us to make the suggestion of mediation. The attempt is as lamentably and conspicuously failed as she does not judge that a neutral power could proffer mediation with much advantage, she falls back on this indirect offer to the belligerents as a 'faller.'" It is above all things a symptom of her conscious weakness. "The allies must absolutely reject any offer of mediation in any shape and from any quarter so long as the basis proposed is the triumph of might and not of right. They must refuse with equal firmness even to talk about an armistice until the lands which the enemy has overrun are restored and compensation made. They must renew the enunciation of their peace terms, laid down once for all in Mr. Asquith's Guild Hall speech. It must redouble their efforts to force

BYE-ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD

British Government Said to Believe It Best to Test Public Sentiment

London, Dec. 12.—According to the Telegraph, the government has abandoned the proposed bill abrogating the rule under which it would be necessary for the new ministers to seek re-election. The Telegraph accounts for the abandonment on the ground that it is felt that peace agitation is likely to arise in certain parts of the country in consequence of the offer of the Central Powers and that therefore the government has decided that an election should be held as a test of public sentiment. The ministers affected are Sir Edward Carson, Dr. Christopher Addison, Sir Frederick Cavley, R. E. Prothero, Sir A. M. Mond, Albert Illingworth, John Hodge and Gordon Hewart.

MORE PRIZE WINNERS AT PATRIOTIC FETE

Additional prize winners at the patriotic fete in the Union Club yesterday were as follows: Mahogany fender, presented by Emery & Nordy, ticket No. 75. Doll, presented by F. W. Danini & Co., ticket No. 28. Towels, presented by Mrs. James Simpson, Queen street, ticket No. 48. The substantial sum of \$108 was realized from "Mrs. Jazley's Wax Works," in charge of Miss F. Travers, assisted by Miss Anderson. The characters were as follows: Mrs. Jazley, Mrs. G. Sancton; dancer, Miss Kathleen Coster; Mrs. W. Soothin; Syrup, Miss F. McInerney; Wool, Miss Catherine; Linoleum, Miss M. M. Muffett; Miss Beryl Mullins; Jack Spratt and wife, Miss Blenda Thompson and Thos. Gray; Gold Dust, Twina; Miss Catherine; Mrs. Jazley's Wax Works; Napoleon, Heber Vroom; Alexander the Great, Capt. Alex. McDonald; Mr. Jazley, Mr. Mercer; Casablanca, Master Robert; Mrs. Jazley's Wax Works; F. T. Short.

Until the returns are complete it will be impossible to estimate the success of the officers in the city were among the patrons. The committee in charge is deeply gratified at the success of the affair and especially appreciates the kindness of the executive and members of the club in placing the building at their disposal and also the assistance given by the staff, the 16th orchestra and all others who assisted.

FREDERICTON NEWS.

Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 12.—At a congregational social in the Methodist church last night in connection with the sixty-fifth anniversary, Major W. J. Osburn was a guest of honor. An address was presented to him by John J. Weddall on behalf of the committee. Rev. Thomas Marshall has gone on a trip to Montreal and Ottawa. Sufficient snow has fallen in this vicinity to make excellent sleighing. Joseph S. Holyoke, a prominent farmer of Kingsclear, died yesterday at the advanced age of ninety-seven. He was a half brother of George L. Holyoke, formerly editor of the Woodstock Press. Members of the Women's Volunteer Reserve are arranging to meet in Rupert and Lady Gwendolen Guinness during their visit here on Friday. Three recruits were taken on here today for the Army Medical Corps in St. John.

BIBLES FOR SOLDIERS

Officers and men of the 211th battalion each received a copy of the latest edition of the Bible and Foreign Bible Society. The presentation was made by Rev. F. S. Dowling. Among those present were Rev. Neil MacLaughlin, Rev. S. S. Poole and Rev. W. H. Sampson.

Canadian representative institutions, of a place of which Canada had been so proud and for which her people had labored so strenuously. Britons were fighting for the right of self-determination; for their methods of social life; for order and development. All these things would perish if the world were to be divided into a number of petty states in Europe were defeated Canada would be a German prize and the Monroe doctrine would not be worth three mills on the dollar. "Rubbish."

London, Dec. 12.—General Sir O'Moore Creagh, who succeeded Lord Kitchener as commander-in-chief in India in 1909, ridiculed Germany's offer of peace in a statement made today. He said: "My opinion can be expressed in a few words. It can only characterize this offer as pure rubbish."



The German Chancellor has proposed the statement that the Allies should be satisfied with the status quo in the East. The German effort seems to have been successful in quelling the disturbance and it was necessary to send troops to Hamburg on special trains from Berlin. There is no confirmation of this story.

Most Serious Riots in Hamburg Reported

London, Dec. 12.—The Express claims to have reliable information that most serious riots took place in Hamburg on December 7, 8 and 9. It says that it is estimated that more than 30,000 people participated, and that 1,000 were wounded or killed. According to this story, the local military was unable to quell the disturbance and it was necessary to send troops to Hamburg on special trains from Berlin. There is no confirmation of this story.

PLAN TO DEPOSE KING LETTERS COME FROM REPORTED KILLED

Brother Fighting With Germans Declares Himself Rightful-Hier. Galata, Roumania, via Russia, Dec. 11.—The main Roumanian army, after more than one hundred days' unceasing fighting, has been compelled to retire to a new defensive line north of Bucharest. The German effort seems to have been successful in quelling the disturbance and it was necessary to send troops to Hamburg on special trains from Berlin. There is no confirmation of this story.

LETTERS COME FROM REPORTED KILLED

J. M. Smith Said to Have Met Death on Nov. 8 But There is Correspondence From Him Under Later Date. The announcement that Private Jacob Meehan Smith had been killed in action on November 8 must be incorrect, as his many friends here will be glad to learn, as he was alive and writing letters after that date. Inquiries are now being made regarding the original report in an effort to make sure whether the report is entirely incorrect or if only the date was wrong. It is stated that word was received in a letter from his mother, who resides in England, that he had been reported killed and the report was accepted and his loss mourned. Today Miss Susie Parker received two letters from Private Smith, one dated November 10 and the other November 11. Recalling it now going ahead at the rate of between 6,000 and 7,000 a month. It is believed that this figure during the winter will be materially increased, so that, while the minimum number of troops in the country will be maintained, the needs of overseas organization will be fully met.

CHANGE AT HEADQUARTERS.

Quartermaster Sergeant Scott, of the New Brunswick command, who has been connected with headquarters since the outbreak of the war has resigned his position as quartermaster and has joined the 3rd C. G. A. on Partridge Island as a gunner. Sergeant Retcher of headquarters has succeeded Sergeant Scott as quartermaster.

Bulgars Attack But Italians Repulse Them

Roumanians in Retreat Cleverly Prevented Flanking Movement of Enemy Which Would Have Meant Loss of Large Part of Army

Paris, Dec. 12.—A counter-attack delivered by Bulgarian troops against the Italians on the Macedonian front north of Monastir resulted in spirited fighting yesterday. The war office announced today that the attack failed. Little from West. Paris, Dec. 12.—The official report of today from the front in France says that the night was comparatively calm. Berlin, Dec. 12, via Saville wireless.—Today's statement by army headquarters regarding the Franco-Belgian front says: "Aside from artillery fire in the Somme and Meuse sectors, which was temporarily livelier, and the nightly clashes of patrols, there have been no important activities by any of the armies. There is nothing important to report from the Russian front. The Roumanians. Petrograd, Dec. 12.—The evacuation of Bucharest, although delayed until the

last moment, was made in perfect order, after the removal or destruction—according to reports from Jassy—of the war supplies and most of the other properties of possible military advantage to the invaders. The enormous oil reservoirs at Ploesti were drained as soon as it became evident the Roumanians would have to abandon this important centre. Despatches from the Roumanian front say that, in executing their difficult retreat, the Roumanians manoeuvred skillfully. By spirited rear-guard actions along the road from Ploesti to Buzau, they succeeded in delaying General Von Falkenhayn's advance long enough to defeat a flanking movement which, if successful, would have closed the way to Moldavia and resulted in the capture of a large part of the army. At present the way to Moldavia is still open, and the Roumanians, presenting an unbroken front, have the opportunity of retreating in good order, without danger of encirclement.

SUMMERSIDE HAS A SERIOUS FIRE

A serious fire occurred in Summerside, P. E. I., today but it has been impossible to learn the extent of the fire as telegraph communication was lost soon after the fire started. The only news received so far is the announcement, through the Western Union, that the fire started in Sinclair & Stewart's establishment and was spreading along Water street. The wire was cut off about eight o'clock. Further news, about noon, was to the effect that the fire was still spreading. As the cable connection with the island is through Summerside, all the rest of the island was cut off from communication with the mainland. At two o'clock this afternoon word was received that the wire connection had been restored.

water front including the stores of Sinclair & Stewart and Holman & Co. is threatened. Wires are all down and at present it is impossible to get definite information. A special train with the Charlottetown fire brigade and apparatus left for the scene this morning. The fire broke out at 7.30 a.m. in Sinclair and Stewart's. The wind was blowing a gale from the westward. It is thought the damage may be greater than that sustained in 1906 when a large portion of the town was destroyed. The buildings in the path of the flames include the stores of Colia, Mulligan, Gallen's drug store, Jardine's book store, Bank of Nova Scotia, Noonan's, Dominion Hotel, the railway station, and some small buildings. Holman's department store is one of the largest in the maritime provinces. It is equipped with the sprinker system and this may prove effective, but so far its fate is unknown.

C. P. R. ENGINEER DEAD

Samuel H. Clark Passes Away at Home in West End. Samuel H. Clark, the oldest engineer in the employ of the C. P. R., passed away at his home in Lancaster avenue early this morning. Mr. Clark was in the 69th year of his age and had been in ill health for about a year. He took the first overseas mail train from here to Montreal on the arrival of the first mail boat at this port twenty-one years ago and on his trip made the fastest time ever made on the C. P. R. from St. John to Montreal.

THE NEW FRENCH CABINET

Paris, Dec. 12.—The official announcement of the constitution of the new cabinet was made last night when Premier Briand submitted to President Poincaré decrees naming the new members. Soon after, the premier presented his new colleagues to the president. The number of members in the reformed ministry is ten beside whom there are three under-secretaries of state. The cabinet is thus considerably restricted compared with the old formation, while certain branches of the government, formerly separate, have now been fused. Premier Briand will appear before parliament on Thursday to present the list of members. The so-called war committee is composed of five members. It will have wide powers, will sit practically permanently and will make all decisions regarding the war. General Joffre, as technical military adviser of the cabinet has been authorized to participate in the meetings of this committee. The members are Briand, Riboty, Lycaze, Lacaze and Thomas.

NORTH SHORE COVERED WITH TO INCHES OF SNOW

Chatham, N. B., Dec. 12.—A heavy northerly snowstorm swept over this section of the province yesterday afternoon and last night. The wind is westerly and the snow is still falling. About ten inches of snow has fallen up to the present.

Weather Report. Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stuart, director of meteorological service.

NEW BRUNSWICK WOUNDED

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—Casualties: INFANTRY. Missing: J. S. Richards, Le Have Islands, N. S.; Lance-Corporal A. W. Dempster, St. John. Wounded: Harry Fowler, Conception Bay, Nfld.; Lance-Corporal D. W. Robinson, Jeffrey's Corner, N. B. ENGINEERS. Dangerously Ill: Sergt. Samuel Wilson, Glace Bay, N. S.

CANADA'S WAR POLICY FOR PRESENT WINTER

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—A minimum of 45,000 or 50,000 soldiers will be kept in Canada this winter, though the policy of sending reinforcements by drafts of complete regiments will tend to expedite the movements overseas. Recruiting is now going ahead at the rate of between 6,000 and 7,000 a month. It is believed that this figure during the winter will be materially increased, so that, while the minimum number of troops in the country will be maintained, the needs of overseas organization will be fully met.

HELP! Would all the advertising friends of The Times do their utmost to have their advertising copy in this office at the earliest possible period for insertion in each day's issue—the night before if at all possible?

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Advertising Manager