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RAIN

THREE CENTS

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

### BRITISH HOUSE COMMONS WAS PROLOGUED TUES

King, in His Speech, Referred to Ratification of the Peace Treaty and Hoped Others Would Join.

### REDUCTION IN NATIONAL DEBT

The Speech Expressed Grave Concern Over the Economic Condition of a Large Part of Europe.

London, Dec. 23.—The House of Commons was prorogued today until February 10. The session was formally closed by the King's speech of prorogation.

The King, in his speech, referred to the ratification of the peace treaties that have passed the final stages and expressed the hope that others would shortly be concluded. He voiced regret over the conditions in Russia and alluded to the friendliness of the relations among the Allies and associated powers.

The speech recorded the conclusion of that agreement with Persia, mentioned the satisfaction in Great Britain over the cordiality of the reception accorded the Prince of Wales in Canada, and the United States, and announced the measures taken to give India responsible government.

The speech foreshadowed a reduction in the national debt. It reviewed the gravity of the economic situation in Europe and dealt with the question of domestic legislation, including that affecting labor and finance.

In addressing the Lords, as well as the members of the Commons, the speech expressed concern over the grave economic position of a large part of Europe. The task of restoring credit and giving industry a new start, there was one of the first conditions, he pointed out, of a settled peace. The task, however, was too large for any nation to undertake unaided.

"It was enabled by the liberality of Parliament," the speech continued, "to place a large sum at the disposal of the supreme economic council for the relief of immediate necessities, but that sum is nearly exhausted and further measures will be required to place the government in a position to meet the needs of the restoration of international commerce. My government would gladly co-operate with the governments of other countries to this end if a suitable plan can be devised."

"Great progress was made last year with the gigantic task of demobilizing the army, the army and the air force, impeded as it has been by the uncertainties of the situation in large parts of Europe."

"The continued high cost of living, with all its evil consequences, has caused distress throughout the world, although it is lower in the British Isles than elsewhere. The problem of reducing it requires constant consideration and measures were taken, which it is hoped may prevent further charges of unreasonable prices for necessary articles."

"The session was marked by the passage of an unprecedented number of domestic bills, dealing with reconstruction in all its aspects. An important measure was passed affecting the conditions of labor."

"The speech, instead of commencing 'my lords and gentlemen of the House of Commons,' was opened by the presence of Lady Astor in the commons, 'my lords and members of the House of Commons.'"

In beginning the address, it was noted that the deliberations of the plenipotentiaries in Paris had been crowned with success and that treaties of peace with Germany, Austria and Bulgaria had been concluded.

"I signified my approval of the treaty of peace with Germany," the speech continued, "and ratified it. Peace still remains to be ratified with the Ottoman Empire and the republic of Hungary. I earnestly trust that the necessary negotiations to this purpose will shortly be brought to a satisfactory conclusion."

The King referred to the visit of

### UNITED STATES NAVY UP IN ARMS AGAINST SEC'T

His Arrangement of the Awards of Decorations for War Service Causing Great Dissatisfaction.

### ADMIRAL SIMS LEADS DISCONTENTS

Refuses to Accept His Award Because of the Arbitrary Action of the Criticised Josephus Daniels.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Rumblings of dissatisfaction within the navy, at the way Secretary Daniels has arranged the awards of decorations for war service, came to the surface today when it became known that Admiral Sims, former Commander of American Navy Forces in European waters, had declined to accept the distinguished service medal, while the awards remain as at present.

Coming as the climax to published charges that Secretary Daniels had rearranged the whole list of awards, raising some officers to higher distinction than recommended, and "blue pencilling" others, publication of Admiral Sims' action created a sensation in the navy department, and added a new chapter to the long contest in which some naval officers have complained of the Secretary's administration of affairs, and others have defended him with equal vigor.

The whole thing has been brought to a head by the action of Admiral Sims who, writing an official communication to Secretary Daniels from the navy college at Newport, R. I., has set out that officers for whom he recommended the distinguished service medal, highest of all naval decorations, except the Congressional Medal of Honor, received by the secretary's revision a decoration of lesser value, and that other officers, whose duties and services Admiral Sims considered as of lesser value, received, by the revision, the more valued decoration.

Admiral Sims, in his letter, does not appear to refuse his decoration unconditionally. He refused it under the conditions he outlined and he asked for an opportunity to explain his reasons for his original recommendations. Besides that, the Admiral does not ask that the highest award be taken from any officer upon whom it already has been conferred, but he does ask for a revision upward of some of the lesser decorations.

Sims, long known as the stormy petrel of the navy, since his sensational "last drop of blood" speech in St. Guild Hall at London, when he drew attention to the Foreign Offices of Berlin, London and Washington, has figured in many sensations before and has many more supporters among the officers.

### INVESTIGATING WRECK AT ONAWA

Onawa, Maine, Dec. 23.—Inspectors representing the Interstate Commerce Commission began an investigation today of the collision of the Canadian Pacific Railway near here on Saturday last which resulted in 25 deaths and the injury of 50 persons. Among those questioned were Earl Austin, head brakeman of the freight train which crashed head-on into the immigrant special, Isaac Mammel, conductor of the freight, the last to be lost, was recovered today.

The Prince of Wales to Canada and Newfoundland, which, he said, "filled my heart with feelings of pride and satisfaction." He subsequently, continued the King, "visited the United States of America, where he was greeted with a warmth and kindness which will I am confident, have the happiest effect upon the relations of the British Empire and that great republic."

### Liquor Question May Cause Small Rebellion In Province of Ontario

Toronto, Dec. 23.—A small rebellion is possible if the Ontario government makes it illegal for people to have liquor in their houses, according to Lieut.-Col. A. C. Pratt, ex-M.P.P. for South Norfolk, in an interview here today. Col. Pratt said that any attempt to search a man's cellar would be keenly resented by liberty-loving citizens. He said he was not worrying about the matter personally, because he did not care for the stuff. Col. Pratt said: "I hold rather strong opinions on the idea that we have had too much interference with the personal liberty of the subject."



### THE LORD OF CHRISTMAS WEEK

MEN have long dreamed of the perfect ruler, some happy prince who shall love his people well, whose leadership shall be wise, gentle, and just. History is wistful with man's effort to find him—the hero, the strong man, the righteous ruler—and then to establish him in dominion over their broken lives and warring wills. Long ago they found Him. But all who find Him lose Him, though all have found Him fair. The eager dream came true, when there issued out of Bethlehem the man of good-will, the lover of the race. Each year, for a handful of days, so brief, so swift to go, Lord Christ assumes the leadership. Each year we give Him Christmas Week, permitting His will to prevail, His brooding spirit to rest upon the nations.

Towards that gentle interlude—the days of the Truce of God—men longingly look through the tale of the weary months. And when the brief term is ended, yearningly our thoughts turn back to that time when we were good together. His spirit is breathed through the pensive season, like faint music in the night. Strife, anger, tumult, and the hurry of the little days are banished. For our sad mood and lonely heart He brings a comfort. In His authority we find our peace. A while we dwell in that felicity. Touched with mortality, as is all earthly beauty, the rapid days glance by, and we have lost them while the welcome is still on our lips. He comes and He passes, because our hospitality is short of duration and we are troubled about many things. We crowd Him out for other guests less radiant. If His dominion over the hearts of men were more than a lovely episode—if He might but abide, it would be well with us.

### IRISHMEN SEE IN LLOYD GEORGE'S PROPOSAL NOT PEACE, BUT THE SWORD

Dublin, Dec. 23.—The Irish Times (Unionist) says that for many reasons "some good, some bad, some wise and some mad," three-quarters of the Irish people will reject the bill. "It is a principle is hateful alike to the Unionists and 'Nationalists,' the newspaper says. 'They know national ideas and the ancestral spirit of a common patriotism cannot persist in a divided country. They know the fantastic home rule measure which the government proposes for Ulster Unionists would be an excrescence on the map of Ireland and would be ruinous to the trade and industry of the northern provinces. We yearn for peace, but in the Lloyd George offer we see not peace, but the sword.'"

The Freeman's Journal (Nationalist) says Lloyd George, in the absence of every representative of the majority of the Irish people, explained to the House his panacea for the ills of Ireland. "Even the few Irish Nationalist members who have survived the Prime Minister's past treacheries and betrayals absented themselves," the newspaper continues. "They probably had a forecast that their gesture of contempt would be warmly approved by the whole Irish nation and race. As a matter of fact, they were merely obeying the command of their dead leader, given when he and they drew from the House upon the first declaration of the Premier's intention to permanently partition their country."

### CONFESSES TO SHOOTING FARMER

Montreal, Dec. 23.—What is alleged to be a full confession by Ovide Lefebvre, a farm-hand, threw light on an unsolved crime dating back to last April, when Oscar Lafond, a farmer, was shot while pitching hay from a wagon into his hayloft.

According to the police Lefebvre is stated to have made a confession that he shot the farmer because he wanted to get \$200 from him. He hid in the hayloft and shot Lafond who subsequently recovered after several months in hospital. Lefebvre, who is 18 years of age, is now awaiting trial, for attempted murder, in the Joliette jail.

### ITALIANS RETURN TO UNITED STATES

Had Gone to Their Native Land After Signing of Armistice, But Glad to Get Back to America.

New York, Dec. 23.—Several hundred disillusioned Italians who returned to their native land after the signing of the armistice with the idea of living on their savings, arrived here today on the liner Patria. They report that the high cost of living was a worse problem in Italy than in the United States and that they had come back to stay.

### LONDON READY FOR PLEASURE ON THE HOLIDAYS

The Past Few Days Have Shown a More Lavish Expenditure for Xmas Gifts Than Ever Before.

### EVIDENCES OF NEW MADE WEALTH

General Indication to Run to the More Expensive Luxuries Such as Furs, Jewelry and Costly Articles.

London, Dec. 23.—Without the immediate cause for rejoicing which characterized last Christmas, when the armistice had just been declared, the present Christmas bids fair to surpass it in a display of the popular holiday spirit. Christmas Day, the day following it, known as "Boxing Day," and Saturday have been declared public holidays, and hence there will be an entire cessation of business from Christmas Eve until Monday, during which time virtually the whole population will give itself over to pleasure.

Throughout the past week there has been an unprecedented crush in the shops and stores and a more lavish expenditure for Christmas gifts than ever before experienced. Contrasted with last Christmas, when the streets were full of khaki-clad men on leave from the front, today is rather a lively. There is greater evidence than ever of the newly-made wealth, and the more expensive of luxuries, in the shape of furs, jewelry and costly articles of every kind, find ready purchasers.

Every person on the streets tonight is carrying a load of parcels. The railways are ready for a record run of people to the country, and the hotels are preparing to provide their customary dances and other festivities. Two threatened strikes of the waiters and chefs and of stage hands threatened to throw a damper on the holiday spirit.

The waiters, however, decided to postpone their strike until after the holidays, and strong efforts are being made to reach a settlement of the theatre trouble. If the stage hands strike it would result seriously for the pantomimes and Christmas plays. The Ministry of Labor, therefore, has intervened in an attempt to settle the matter before "Boxing Day."

King George, Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales and the other members of the royal family will spend Christmas, as is customary, at Sandringham.

### GRAVE DIGGERS GO ON STRIKE IN HALIFAX

Commission Had to Hustle to Find Men to Care for Emergencies at the Cemetery.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 23.—What is akin to a strike by the men who dig the graves in Camp Hill Cemetery in this city is now on. The superintendent of the cemetery and two of his assistants notified the Chairman of the Commission that has the cemetery in charge for the city corporation which controls the place that they had resigned, their dropping out to be come immediately effective. This left the Commission in the position of having to look around hurriedly for men who would open graves for funerals. The trouble is that the men employed at the cemetery, who were paid by the city for their work, also take fees from lot owners who require them to be looked after. The charge is that this is done in time for which the city also pays them. Alderman Bisset, the chairman of the committee, took the matter up and notified the men of a new arrangement to be made at an early date. Hence their sudden resignation and the leaving of the cemetery undermanned in the

### REAR-ADMIRAL SIMS REFUSED TO ACCEPT DECORATIONS

Washington, Dec. 23.—Copies of a letter written by Rear-Admiral Sims to Secretary of the Navy Daniels, declining to accept the decoration awarded him for his services as commander in Chief of the American Naval Forces in European waters during the war, have been received by a number of naval officials in Washington.

### LOOKING FOR AGRARIAN CONTROL IN DOM. HOUSE

London, Dec. 23.—(C. A. P.)—The Westminster Gazette, discussing the Canadian tariff revision programme, sees a probability of Agrarian control in the next House of Commons in which case "The rule of the protected manufacturers as a statutory privileged class will assuredly come to an end and the fiscal policy of the dominion will be framed in the interest of a class long dominant at Ottawa."

### Tomorrow, Christmas Day, The Standard will not be published.

### DEPUTIES VOTE CONFIDENCE IN FRENCH GOV'T

Clemenceau Makes Declaration on Determination of Allies to Crush Bolshevism and Confidence in Pact.

### HAS FAITH IN U. S. GOVERNMENT

Tells Chamber That British, French and Americans Will Be Allies of All Peoples Attacked by Bolshevism.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The Chamber of Deputies today voted confidence in the government 458 to 71. The vote, which carried approval, of Premier Clemenceau's programme, was taken after the chamber had listened to the Premier's declaration on the determination of the Allies to crush Bolshevism, his confidence in the Anglo-Franco-American pact, his prediction of a solution of the Fiume problem and his understanding with Premier Lloyd George of Great Britain.

M. Clemenceau told the Chamber that Great Britain and President Wilson had offered military guarantees. Certain points in the Peace Treaty had been questioned, but there were no serious objections to the military agreement.

The Premier added that the latest indications were that the Fiume situation would be solved, "and then only can we breathe freely."

M. Clemenceau appealed to the Chamber to work hard and talk little. He said the cabinet at the end of remaining weeks of its tenure of office would give its resignation to the President. "It will not be an exit by one door, to enter by another."

Asked by the Socialist Deputy, M. Cochet, if he ought not to give an explanation of the Treaty and the Anglo-American military pact, M. Clemenceau said: "I did not ask for these military guarantees. They were offered by Great Britain and President Wilson. I do not believe they will be questioned. Although certain points of the Treaty have been discussed there is no serious objection to the guarantees."

During the discussion on the London conferences, ex-Premier Barthou questioned M. Clemenceau on Russia, and the Premier said Russia had been discussed previously but added: "I will tell you the two principle discussions we have taken. Not only will we not make peace, but we won't compromise with the government of the Soviets. We have decided that we will be the Allies of all peoples attacked by Bolshevism."

Regarding the situation in the Adriatic, the Premier said: "The Fiume question has been agonizing. Italy promised Fiume to the Jugos Slavs, but went back on her promise. France, England the United States have sought a solution, and the latest indications are that it will be finally reached. Only when this is solved can we commence to breathe freely."

### Drastic Action Needed To Check Spread of Bolshevism In Bulgaria

Geneva, Dec. 23.—Bolshevism is spreading alarmingly in Bulgaria, according to a Sofia despatch. The newspapers have warned the government that serious consequences will ensue unless pillaging, robberies and political intimidation now prevalent in Sofia are drastically dealt with. Numerous shops and factories have been closed owing to the workmen's refusal to labor more than six hours a day. It is alleged that the discontent is being fostered by Russian soviet funds, and is threatening the constitution.