

TEUTONIC ALLIES ASK FOR A PEACE CONFERENCE

THIS IS THE MOST DANGEROUS AND DIFFICULT PERIOD OF THE WAR

Arthur Henderson Addresses National Congress of French Socialist Party and Declares that if France and England were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions we should be nations in bondage—Love of Peace May Lead Us to Mortgage the Future—Germany Must be Repentant

Paris, Dec. 26.—In addresses to the National Congress of the French Socialist party, Arthur Henderson, British cabinet minister and G. H. Roberts, member of the British Parliament, both affirmed, amidst enthusiastic cheers, that the war must be fought until full guarantees have been obtained for a lasting peace.

"In my opinion," Mr. Henderson said, "if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than that is the price our enemies would exact for peace today."

In his speech Mr. Henderson said: "In my opinion we have now reached the most dangerous and difficult period of the war. During the next few months the democracies of England and France are going to be tested as never before. Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean that the stress and strain of fighting in the field will be more severe, although I do not ignore such a possibility. But the danger is of an entirely different character.

"Our stupendous losses, our unprecedented sacrifices, our horror of war, our love of peace, may lead us to mortgage the future. With such awful experiences we are apt to forget the great moral, eternal principles and ideals for which we entered the struggle. We are not only fighting a negative action against material forces which are highly organized, but we are engaged in the great spiritual conflict upon the result of which depends all our great ideals. If we enter into negotiations now, we do so when Germany is not repentant for her wrong doing and is glorifying in the success of her military efforts, in fact, in the victory of German imperialism. In my opinion, if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions with such a spirit we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than that is the price which our enemy would exact for peace today.

"I cannot tell you how many months and what sacrifices stand between us and victory. But I can tell you what will be the rewards of victory if we are true to ourselves. We shall have asserted the rights of nations, large or small, to live their own lives and undisturbed by the ambitions of powerful neighbors. We shall have exacted such reparation for wrongs done them by this war as should be a warning to aggressors for all time to come. We shall have laid the foundations of that league of nations, beginning with those who have fought and suffered at our side, which will deliver Europe and the world from the terror of war.

"The choice today is between an untimely peace, with years of fear, and a few months of suffering and lasting peace."

MAJOR WILLIAMS BACK FROM FRONT ON SICK LEAVE

Could Not Wear Mask When Instructing Men So Suffered from Gas

Major H. H. Williams returned to his home, 1304 Tenth street, of this city on Saturday evening last. He left with the First Canadian Pioneers for England in November, 1915, and was on active service in France by the following month. He returned home on sick leave on Saturday.

"Though I was under fire and in the thick of it all the time, I never got scratched," said the Major, but he admitted that he had been gassed several times, though not seriously.

It appears that the Major was in charge of men on the firing line, often in front of the first line trenches during "wiring," and where "gas shells" were lying thick all around, but he could not give instructions while encumbered with the gas mask, and he was compelled to inhale more of the gas than was desirable for his own well-being.

The Major's battalion suffered terribly during the operations on the Somme front. Five hundred and fifty of the unit were either killed or wounded. Four of the officers were killed and eleven of them appeared on the casualty list as wounded. There was also much wastage through sickness.

"The gallant officer is brimful of optimism as to the prospects of the Allies on the western front. He considers that the Germans are now suing for peace simply because they are in a stronger position at the present time than they are ever likely to be again."

"We are in the secondary position," said Major Williams, "there is no doubt about that. We are opposed to the enemy in an inferior position, but our inferiority is only apparent and not real."

about our ascendancy in the war, but though we have a long and hard task in front of us, the enemy is very strongly entrenched, and it will take a time to move them. "It is impossible to do much in the winter, as the roads are quite impassable, and it is impossible to get our artillery and ammunition up quick enough, but you can expect a big advance next Spring."

GERMANY EAGERLY SEIZES WILSON'S PROPOSALS TO ADVANCE OBJECTS

Suggests a Conference of Delegates of All Belligerents to be Held in a Neutral City—Declares Prevention of Future Wars Can be Begun Only After the End of the Present Struggle of the Nations and Further Declares Willingness to Collaborate Entirely with the United States in this Task

Berlin, Dec. 26.—Germany and her allies, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey today replied to the note of President Wilson in which he asked that the belligerent nations state the aims for which they were fighting. The proposal is made by the Central Powers that a conference of delegates of all belligerents be held immediately in a neutral city.

The task of preventing further wars, the official statement says, can be begun only after the end of the present struggle.

Berlin, Dec. 26.—The text of Germany's answer to President Wilson's note transmitted today to the American ambassador, is in part as follows: "The President has pointed out that which he has at heart and leaves the open choice of the road."

"An immediate exchange of views seems to be the most appropriate road in order to reach the desired results.

"It begs, therefore, in the sense of the declaration made on December 12th which offered a hand for peace negotiations, to propose an immediate meeting of delegates of the belligerent states at a neutral place.

"The imperial government also is of the opinion that the great work of preventing further wars can be begun only after the end of the present struggle of the nations.

"It will, when the moment shall come, be ready with pleasure to collaborate entirely with the United States in this exalted task."

BRANDON CITIZENS ENJOY A QUIET CHRISTMAS DAY

There Was No Need to Appeal to Their Poles

Peace and goodwill did prevail in Brandon this Christmas Eve. The rumblings of distant war failed to disturb the postman delivered his message of good wishes from overseas by the early morning post on Christmas Day. The Anglican Church bells rang out their call to Holy Communion, and other messages went forth in all directions calling upon men to rejoice and be glad. "For unto us is born this day, etc."

The familiar cry of other years, keep the pot boiling, by members of the Salvation Army was unnecessary this Christmas Eve. This was a ground for satisfaction to man homes, but it did not prevent the earnest workers of the Salvation Army from seeing that every ladder was full. "Some people had had a little hard luck, and we saw that they were not forgotten," said an earnest worker of the Salvation Army, whose main object in life, in season and out of season, appears to be concerned with the welfare of the poor and outcast.

The usual midweek races on the ice was the only event in the nature of outdoor sport enjoyed. A blazing bonfire on the ice helped many lovers of the royal pastime to watch the progress of events with comfort. A few of the church organizations had provided a Christmas tree for the youngsters, but for the most part families remained at home to enjoy the reunion which Christmas invariably brings. The majority of Christmas entertainments have yet to come and will be held during the course of the next few days.

The inmates of every public institution in the city were made as glad as they possibly could be despite the limitations of their surroundings.

These incarcerated in the provincial jail were allowed to forget as far as possible that they were behind bolts and bars. Christmas cheer was provided, and musical harmony was allowed to lighten what was wont to be gloomy surroundings. The same would apply to the Hospital for the Insane and the Brandon General Hospital. Everywhere where it was possible to take a little of the season's gladness, there was plenty of the spirit of Christmas abroad to inspire kind hearts and willing hands to dispense it.

TWO MEN ON HAND-CAR Third May be Fatally Injured—Accident at Tofoeld, Alta.—Names Unknown

Tofoeld, Alta., Dec. 26.—Two men were killed and a third so badly injured that his chances of recovery are poor, about seven o'clock this morning in the local G.T.P. yards when a hand-car being propelled by the trio was struck by a light switch engine which was returning from Edmonton. The men were all section hands but as yet their names are not known.

OCEAN GREYHOUNDS TO SAIL FROM HALIFAX

New York, Dec. 26.—The New York Times says: "It is understood that under the new Lloyd George plan for controlling British shipping the White Star and Cunard liners will operate between Liverpool and Halifax, instead of coming on to New York, and will be armed with six-inch guns fore and aft. In addition to the protection afforded by the guns, there will be fast cruisers in certain positions, which will be known to the commanders of the liners, who will be provided with special signals to enable them to call for assistance if they are attacked. The cargoes will be taken from New York and Boston in small steamers to Halifax, where the freight will be transhipped on board the big steamships waiting to convey it to Liverpool or London. Travelers will travel by train. The expense of transshipping the freight and conveying it to Halifax will be very heavy, but it will have to be done in order to make certain that the government will get sufficient provisions for the people of Great Britain and for the British forces in France and Flanders."

GRAN GROWERS CONVENTION

The annual meetings of the Manitoba Grain Growers Association will be held in Brandon on January 8th, 9th and 10th. The various live stock associations of Manitoba will be held here on the same dates. The meetings are literally the "farmers' parliament" of the province and much importance is attached to the result of their deliberations. About 500 delegates may attend these gatherings.

BRANDON MARKETS (Wholesale Prices)

Table with market prices for various goods like Potatoes, Beef, Pork, etc.

OUT SHOOTING

Accidentally Received Charge of Shot in Thigh and Died En Route to Hospital

While out with the others of his own nationality shooting rabbits on the Macpherson farm, just west of the experimental farm on Saturday last, a Galician was accidentally shot. He died on the way to the Brandon General Hospital. It seems that the man, who was carrying a gun at the time, slipped and fell, the gun went off discharging its load of shell in the man's thigh. He was being conveyed to the hospital, as stated when death intervened. Deceased was a married man and leaves a wife and three children. He resided on Twentieth street.

ROMANIANS LOOKS TO FUTURE WITH FULL CONFIDENCE

London, Dec. 26.—A Reuters' dispatch from Jassy, dated Dec. 22nd, says that the Romanian parliament was opened there on that day by King Ferdinand. The dispatch says that the king, in a speech from the throne, said that the war had shown that Austria-Hungary in her present condition could no longer exist as a factor in the equilibrium of Europe. The king said that the Romanian army had struggled against the forces of four combined enemies in a manner justifying Roumanians looking to the future with absolute confidence. According to the dispatch the king was given an enthusiastic reception by the senators and deputies.

BRITISH EGYPTIAN FORCES DRIVE TURKS OUT OF MAGHDALAH

London, Dec. 26.—Following up their victory against the Turks in the capture of El Arish, ninety miles east of the Suez Canal, the British forces in Egypt have captured a strong Turkish position at Maghdalah, twenty miles to the southeast of El Arish, taking some 1,100 prisoners, two guns and quantities of war material. The official statement reads: "On Friday afternoon British mounted troops carried a strong enemy position at Maghdalah, twenty miles south-southeast of El Arish, after an engagement beginning at nine o'clock in the morning. Five hundred prisoners were taken. Aircraft co-operated, attacking with bombs and machine-guns from a low altitude. A local official statement says: "A full report from Maghdalah is not yet at hand. The total captures are now 1,130 prisoners, at least two guns and a large quantity of arms and war material. The enemy's casualties were considerable. Our aeroplanes continue to harass the enemy."

CHRISTMAS DAY FIGHTING WAS BY ARTILLERY

Infantry on West Front Feasted and Had as Good a Time as Possible

Christmas of the European front without much fighting on the Western Front, where the artillery was active, and the infantry was content with their positions. The fighting was by artillery.

BRANDON BOY WINS HIGH HONOR

Another Brandon boy to obtain distinction for valor on the field of battle is Pte. Philip S. McKenzie, son of Mr. Philip McKenzie, 232 Victoria avenue. He was awarded the Military Medal for distinguished services. The young hero was born and bred in Brandon. He was twenty-seven years of age, and some time ago figured on the casualty list as wounded.

NAVAL BATTLE IN OTRANTO CHANNEL

Rome, Dec. 26.—(Official)—Several enemy ships attacked our patrol vessels in the Otranto channel on the night of December 23rd. French and Italian warships came to the rescue and the enemy fled under cover of darkness after a sharp engagement. What damage was suffered is unknown. Two French destroyers and one patrol boat were hit and slightly damaged.

ALL-STAR BASKET BALL PLAYERS WORK OUT WELL

Preparatory to New Year's Game They Take on Brandon College Players. The officials kept their promise to the public and with the co-operation of the horsemen were able to run the program off in an expeditious manner. This was much appreciated and added to the enjoyment. The following are the complete results:

GERMANS CLAIM MORE PRISONERS IN ROMANIA

Berlin, Dec. 26.—Five thousand five hundred more prisoners have been taken by the Teutonic Allies in Rumania, the War Office announced.

KHAKI LADDIES ENJOY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas comes but once a year but when it comes it brings good cheer. This old saying was evidenced in the case of the boys of the 181st Battalion Monday when they sat down to their Christmas dinner. Lt. Col. D. W. Beaubler, the officer commanding, and Capt. J. Giddings, the Quartermaster, left nothing undone to ensure a real good Christmas dinner being served out to the boys of the 181st Battalion.

HAPPY JACK WON FREE-FOR-ALL CHRISTMAS DAY

Captured Title in Straight Heat—Three Good Events on the River Ice. That the horse still has a strong hold on the affection of the Brandon people was evidenced yesterday when a large crowd turned out to view the racing set on by the Gentleman's Club. Happy Jack won the race in a straight heat.

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