

## CANADIAN TROOPS ACHIEVE BRILLIANT FEAT ON SOMME

### Make Daring Charge and Take Trenches and Many Prisoners Near Arras

#### SWISS PEACE NOTE RENEWS INTEREST IN WILSON'S APPEAL

#### Inopportune and Ill Advised Intervention by Neutrals, Say Some, Others Call For Courteous Treatment

London, Dec. 24.—Interest in the receipt of President Wilson's note remains unabated. Newspaper discussion was renewed to-day with a new impetus administered by the issue of the Swiss note with its disclosure of a Swiss-American consultation weeks ago, and by long cable despatches recording the discussions and criticisms in America. On the main question as to how President Wilson's note and similar communications should be treated by the Allies, opinion remains as already recorded. There is on the one hand a reiteration of the "rooted objection of the Allies to inopportune and ill-advised intervention by neutrals," and on the other an appeal for courteous treatment of neutral representations, it being urged that the Allies are bound to take them into account, for to do otherwise would be to reduce themselves "to the level of the aggressors who began the war."

"It would not be easy to discover in the recent history of diplomacy a state paper which has proved so exceedingly difficult of plain interpretation," President Wilson's first duty to his fellow citizens, to the combatants and to other neutrals would seem to be to make his meaning less obscure. Unless and until he does so, the Allies must put upon it what seems to them the natural interpretation and the character of that interpretation may be inferred from Mr. Bonar Law's remarks the other night.

Switzerland's action, while declared in quarters where President Wilson's note was met by an emphatic "no," as offering no greater prospect of bringing peace than that of the President, is treated more leniently.

"It will not suffer," says the *Chicle*, "from the misfortune of the circumstances under which the American note was published, making it seem an appendix to the Swiss proposal because the Swiss statement make it clear their overt agreement is the outcome of an exchange of views which has been proceeding confidentially for weeks."

The *Telegraph*, taking the same attitude, says:

"The Swiss note prudently avoids a line of argument which earned little no, as offering no greater prospect of bringing peace than that of the President, is treated more leniently."

"Our army is indispensable as a medium for schooling the manhood of our land. We cannot give it up, but we can change its character, its terms of service, its purpose in accordance with the experience of yesterday and the demands of tomorrow. We do not propose to accept anything even remotely resembling a humiliating obligation, but in a Europe freed from the spiderweb of dark and treacherous treaties, in a Europe inwardly cleansed, we are ready to confer with the strong ones of the hemisphere and to agree with them as to the scope of armament. In honest conjunction with all States we will submit to arbitration. Were Germany to speak thus, then the world would jubilantly cheer her genius so profoundly conscious of its future, then the world would frankly applaud Germany's courage of soul."

#### Their Accomplishment Marks New Phase in Trench Warfare—Entire Battalion of German Infantry Captured, and Many More are Killed

With the British Armies in France, Dec. 26.—North of Arras certain Canadian troops have just accomplished what the British officers delighted at this and entered the fight with great cheer. When they came into the line they were singing and as happy as schoolboys on a holiday. The neatness and despatch with which the raid was carried out were unique. The artillery co-operation of the British guns was perfect. Beautifully placed curtains of fire prepared our advance, and creeping forward, protected us as they proceeded to absolutely demolish the enemy trenches and dugouts. The program had given the men an hour and a half for their work, but the clean-up was accomplished in an hour and ten minutes, and the raiders signalled they were ready to return to their own trenches.

No attempt was made at a counter-attack until the following night, when the Germans bombarded and raided their own first line, or what was left of it, thinking that the raiders were still there. As a matter of fact, the Canadians who carried out the operation were two miles away. They were not part of the fighting line, but on rest, and had gone forward for this particular piece of work, which was planned weeks ago.

Official Report

London, Dec. 26.—Sir Douglas Haig's official report of the engagement in which the Canadians won a signal success reads:

"Further particulars regarding the raid by us north of Arras and reported in the communiques of the 20th and 21st show the operation was more successful than at first reported. The raid took place in the afternoon, in broad daylight, after careful preparation. Two lines of enemy trenches were penetrated on a 400-yard front, and all the objectives aimed at were reached. Our troops remained in the enemy trenches, which were badly damaged, for a period of 1 1/2 hours. All his dugouts, were methodically searched and blown in before returning. One German officer and 57 men of other ranks were made prisoner."

BUT H. C. OF L. SPEEDS UP JUST THE SAME.



#### Armistice Urged by Max Harden, Socialist

#### Germany, However, Says Noted Berlin Writer, Will Not Submit to "Obligations"

London, Dec. 26.—An armistice should be declared, says Maximilian Harden, who writes as follows in *Die Zukunft*:

"Whence, I ask, shall the money come to wipe out the war loans, to pay for the reconstruction of the land, for the rebuilding of destroyed cities and villages, for supplies, for the decent maintenance of the crippled, the helpless, the widows, the orphans?"

"A cash indemnity, which, by the way, would look quite tiny alongside these tremendous figures, cannot be hoped for even by the most of a triumphant victor. As for the levy on the land, for the rebuilding of destroyed cities and villages, for supplies, for the decent maintenance of the crippled, the helpless, the widows, the orphans, such a thing was possible in the days of Rome. To-day it is just as impossible as the levying of the dream of the extinction of whole races and peoples."

"None of the nations caught in this holocaust can expect any recompense other than such as is produced by their own savings. Only new thoughts, not the old embittered, can open the gates that lead out of this hell."

Long-standing Debts

"Let Europe's war debts become a treasure of atonement, let the credits of all belligerents, that is, those ready to accept arbitration, become good money guaranteed by all debtors until the countries weakened by war can redeem this international instrument by payment with nation money, metal or paper. It will take forty years at least, sixty at most."

"At the conclusion of peace let a court of nations administer the treasure of atonement. Give this court authority to impose fines upon those who disobey its verdict. Invalidate, call in and destroy the securities of the nation that breaks peace, unless its very life is menaced. Such is the basis upon which you may build a true European community bond which will hold the members together, yet will not strangle or throttle them."

Arbitration

"Suppose Germany said: 'In the midst of an unready Europe, crippled by the Congress of Vienna, and not yet aware of the danger of spreading war, threatened by the envy of our neighbors, oppressed by the weight of a hostile coalition, we have never, in poverty or in prosperity, let slip any chance to strengthen our armament, but now the world is cleansed and clarified, our one aim is organized peace.'"

"Our army is indispensable as a medium for schooling the manhood of our land. We cannot give it up, but we can change its character, its terms of service, its purpose in accordance with the experience of yesterday and the demands of tomorrow. We do not propose to accept anything even remotely resembling a humiliating obligation, but in a Europe freed from the spiderweb of dark and treacherous treaties, in a Europe inwardly cleansed, we are ready to confer with the strong ones of the hemisphere and to agree with them as to the scope of armament. In honest conjunction with all States we will submit to arbitration. Were Germany to speak thus, then the world would jubilantly cheer her genius so profoundly conscious of its future, then the world would frankly applaud Germany's courage of soul."

#### AUSTRIA CANNOT ENDURE LONG

Roumanian King Points Out Weakness of the Dual Monarchy

PARLIAMENT

Of Roumania Opens at Jassy and is Addressed by King

London, Dec. 25.—A Reuter's despatch from Jassy, dated December 22, says that the Roumanian Parliament was opened there on that day by King Ferdinand. The despatch 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 Roumanian army had struggled against the forces of four combined enemies in a manner justifying Roumanian looking to the future with absolute confidence. According to the despatch the King was given an enthusiastic reception by the Senators and Deputies.

#### CAESARISM MUST BE LAID LOW

Before Lasting and Satisfactory Peace May Safely be Concluded

NATIONAL CONGRESS

Of French Socialist Party the Occasion of Stirring Addresses

By Courier Leased Wire.

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

Emile Vandervelde, the Belgian Socialist leader, said:

"Our comrades who have remained in invaded Belgium endure German domination with admirable firmness. Nothing but encouragement reaches us from them. So that it would seem the persons most hostile to war are those farthest from it."

M. Vandervelde also declared that the struggle must be carried on until Belgium and Serbia are delivered and "Caesarism is laid low."

#### NAVAL BATTLE IN OTRANTO

French and Italian Warships Take Part in Fight Against Austrians

SLIGHT DAMAGE

Done to Entente Ships, Foe Escapes in Darkness

By Courier Leased Wire.

Rome, via Paris, Dec. 26.—A naval engagement between French, Italian and Austrian warships in the strait of Otranto is announced in an official statement issued by the Admiralty. The statement says:

"Several enemy ships attacked our patrol vessel in Otranto channel on the night of December 23. French and Italian warships came to the rescue and the enemy fled under cover of darkness after a sharp engagement. What damage he suffered is unknown. Two French destroyers and one patrol boat were hit and slightly damaged."

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#### Weather Bulletin

Toronto, Dec. 26.—A pronounced area of high pressure is centered over the Ottawa valley, while a fairly important disturbance covers the Lake Ontario region. Cold weather prevails in local parts of the Dominion. Local snow falls have occurred in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Forecast

Strong easterly winds, occasional snow and sleet to-night and on Wednesday; milder on Wednesday.

#### ALLIED WARSHIPS NEAR U. S. COAST

By Courier Leased Wire.

New York, Dec. 26.—An Associated Press despatch from Boston, published here to-day says:

The presence on this side of the Atlantic of a formidable fleet of allied warships was indicated definitely to-day, the vessels are known officially as commerce protectors. They are heavily armed and disguised. For obvious reasons their exact disposition is not revealed, but the arrival recently in American waters of this new unit of the British and French admiralties was made known from a source that hardly can be mistaken.

#### LIST OF THE MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES QUALIFIED

#### Fight in Every Case With the Exception of Hydro Commissioner—Two Acclamations in Brantford Township

FOR MAYOR  
G. A. Ward, J. W. Bowley.

FOR WATER COMMISSIONERS.  
A. G. Montgomery, Peter Noble, Chas. A. Waterous.

FOR RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS  
W. R. Turnbull, A. Ballantyne.

HYDRO COMMISSION  
George Wedlake (Acc.)

FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION  
J. B. Gamble, J. A. Marquis, W. H. Hammond, A. Conbeck, I. S. Armstrong, M. W. McEwen, L. L. Miller.

FOR ALDERMEN  
Ward 1.—Allen Valey, S. A. Jones, F. C. Harp, P. H. Secord, Thos. Quinlan.  
Ward 2.—Joseph Minshall, J. J. Kelly, S. Cayless, James Hess, J. W. English, J. H. Hall.  
Ward 3.—J. M. Tulloch, W. A. Hollinrake, J. S. Dowling, J. J. Hurley.  
Ward 4.—M. M. MacBride, J. T. Sloan, W. H. Freeborn, W. J. Bragg, W. J. Mellen.  
Ward 5.—Geo. Jennings, W. D. Wiley, H. J. Symons, Chas. Jarvis.

At 9 o'clock on Saturday night the above list constituted the candidates for the various municipal offices, who had made the necessary declarations before City Clerk Leonard.

There were some surprises with regard to those who did not qualify, notably Ald. S. Fletcher, who has done good work on the Council for many years, but with one son overseas, and another in a separate business of his own, he felt that he could not afford the time from his office for any civic work this year. In retiring, he wishes to heartily thank the electors of Ward 2 for having manifested their confidence in him during the last four years.

The Aldermen of last year who are not again offered, consist of R. J. Welsh, A. Ballantyne (who is running for Street Railway Commissioner), S. P. Pitcher, G. A. Ward (who is running for Mayor) and A. O. Secord.

BRANTFORD TOWNSHIP  
FOR REEVE  
Morgan Harris, A. McCann.  
FIRST DEPUTY REEVE  
Rupert Greenwood, by acclamation.

SECOND DEPUTY REEVE  
James Scauce, by acclamation.

COUNCILLORS  
Robert Henry, John Summerhaves, U. O. Kendrick, Warren Turnbull.

#### CONFERENCE FOR PEACE WANTED BY GERMANY

#### Note in Reply to Wilson's Peace Overtures is Handed to German Ambassador—Meeting of Belligerents is Suggested

Berlin, Dec. 26.—Germany proposes an immediate meeting of belligerent delegates to discuss peace.

Berlin, Dec. 26.—via Sayville.—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 the delegates of all the belligerents be held immediately in a neutral city. The task of preventing future wars, the official statement says, can be begun only after the end of the present struggle.

Berlin, Dec. 26.—via Sayville.—The text of Germany's answer to President Wilson's note was transmitted today to James W. Gerard, the American Ambassador.

The answer, which also contains the reply of Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, says:

"The high-minded suggestion made by the President of the United States of America, in order to create a basis for the establishment of a lasting peace, has been received and considered by the Imperial government in the friendly spirit which was expressed in the present president's communication."

"The President points out that which he has at heart, and leaves open the choice of road."

"To the Imperial government an immediate exchange of views seems to be the most appropriate road to reach the desired result."

"It has therefore in the sense of the declaration made on Dec. 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 is also of the opinion that the great work of preventing future wars can be begun only after the end of the present struggle of the nations."

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

"The answer of the Central powers concludes with the usual diplomatic terms of politeness."

#### FERVOR AND HOPE REIGN IN ALSACE

#### Christmas Celebrated With Feeling of Growing Security

Alsace, via Chantilly, Dec. 25.—(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press)—Never in the history of Alsace, reconquered by the French, has Christmas been celebrated with such fervor and hopefulness as this year. Every village church and chapel was filled to overflowing for midnight masses—services at which the clergy in some instances offered public prayers that the national councillors might be guided aright in considering the situation. The religious exercises were preceded and followed by Sabbath school and family gatherings around Christmas trees which local custom this year carried out apparently with a feeling of growing security in the changed form of government. The correspondent attended many of these public and private functions during the day and night

#### Height Retaken by Roumanians

By Courier Leased Wire.

Petrograd, Dec. 26.—British Admiralty, per wireless press, via London)—Recapture by Roumanian forces of one of the heights they recently lost in the fighting along the Moldavian front is announced to-day by the war office.

THE 30th

The Courier was this morning in receipt of a handsome Christmas card from the warrant officers and sergeants of the 38th battalion at West Sandling Camp, including a group photo of the non-commissioned officers of that unit.

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Thurs., Frid. and Sat.  
Extra Extra!  
**Geo. Beban**  
America's Foremost Character Actor in  
**"An Alien"**  
A wonderful and emotional eight act drama adapted from "The Sign of the Cross"  
The play that took New York by Storm  
What the critics say: "A Masterpiece."—Moving Picture World. "A super-feature"—New York Telegraph. "Created a sensation"—New York American. "If there was a dry eye in the theatre it must have been a glass one."—New York Herald.  
**"The Shielding Shadow"**  
Opening episode of Pathé's Greatest Serial—sequel to and more thrilling than "The Iron Claw"  
**The Novelty Trio**  
In varieties of vaudeville  
GET YOUR SEATS EARLY. NO ADVANCE IN PRICE.

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Presenting—  
**The Great Dramatic Actor**  
**Julius Steger**  
In His Recent and greatest Stage Triumph  
**"THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE"**  
Pictured in 5 acts of sustained interest that goes right to the heart.  
**"POULTRY A LA MODE"**  
with Bert Curpin and Rube Miller, a comedy of fun and pretty girls.  
**"MATCHLESS JIM"**  
with Anna Little and Frank Borsage, a fascinating drama of the plains.

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