

# One Hundred and Twenty Billions!

## THE ALLIED BILL AGAINST GERMANY.

Must Be Paid to the Limit—Endeavouring to Shift Responsibility—Foch Refuses Unusual Request of Teutonic Delegates.

THE ALLIES' BILL AGAINST GERMANY IS £24,000,000,000.

BRISTOL, Dec. 11. The war bill of the Allies against Germany is £24,000,000,000, according to the British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, who presented this and other interesting facts before a large gathering here to-day. The cost of the war to Great Britain was estimated at £8,000,000,000. Before the war the estimated wealth of Germany, said the Premier, was between £15,000,000,000 and £20,000,000,000 sterling so if the whole wealth of Germany were taken there would not be enough to pay the account, therefore he had used the words, Germany should pay to the utmost limit of her capacity. When the Prime Minister was addressing an overflow meeting he said Great Britain would be guilty of a great folly if she gave up her navy, a voice interrupted, "then watch Wilson." The Premier replied, "Well I hope to meet him in a fortnight; I will tell him what you say. Wherever the request comes from we are not going to give up the protection of the navy, so far as Great Britain is concerned."

LLOYD GEORGE TALKS.

LONDON, Dec. 11. Premier Lloyd George, speaking to the House of Commons, said that the service act was passed in order to meet a great emergency. When that emergency was passed the need was passed and the act would lapse. He added, there was no intention to renew it. Whether Great Britain would require conscription in the future in any shape or form, Mr. Lloyd George said, depended not upon the opinion which he now expressed but upon the peace terms which were made. Continuing the Prime Minister said, "What drove us to conscription was the existence of conscript armies on the continent that inevitably rushed to the front to war. They could not have great military machines there without tempting the men at the head of them to try their luck with those machines. The Germans always felt there was nothing to resist their perfect military machine. If you want a permanent peace, if you want to prevent the horrors of this war being repeated, you must put an end to conscription armies of the continent of Europe. The first thing to do is to prevent the repetition of blunders of the past by making it impossible to have those great conscript armies in the future. We did not have the machinery for an offensive war, our navy is a defensive weapon and not an offensive one, and that is why we do not mean to give it up. We have kept these islands free from invasion for centuries and we mean to take no risk in the future." Mr. Lloyd George declared that the decision which would be taken in the next few months in the Peace Conference was going to leave a mark upon the world. The ages to come, he said, would be able to reap the fruits of it. The Premier next dealt with the question of indemnity. He declared the war had cost Germany less than it had cost Great Britain. It cost Great Britain, he declared, £8,

000,000,000, a gigantic sum. The German bill he believed was £6,000,000,000 or £7,000,000,000. He contended it was indefensible that the person who was in the wrong and had lost should pay less than the person who was declared to be in the right and had won. The Premier said a British Imperial Commission had been appointed to investigate the capacity of Germany to pay and that he had received its report. He summarised his remarks on this point as follows: First, as far as justice is concerned, we have an absolute right to demand the whole cost of the war from Germany; second, we propose to demand the whole cost of the war from Germany; third, when you come to the exacting of it we must exact it in such a way that it does not do more harm to the country that receives it than the country that is paying it; fourth, the committee appointed by the British cabinet believes that that can be done; fifth, the Allies are in exactly the same boat, we shall put in our demands all together and whatever they are they must come in consideration in the minds of the Allies will be the interests of the people upon whom the Germans have made war and not in the interests of the German people who have made war and have been guilty of that crime. With regard to the former German Emperor, the Premier said, committed a crime against international right, and there is absolutely no doubt that he ought to be held responsible for it, so far as the European Allies are concerned. The Premier said he hoped that America would take the same view. When President Wilson arrived the demand would be put forward on the part of the European Allies to make the Kaiser and his accomplices responsible for this terrible crime. Referring to a letter said to have been written by a British General to a French General in which the British officer was quoted as saying it was proposed to establish a British National Army of twenty divisions based on conscription, but that the Cabinet would not touch this until after the elections and then not until this League of nations nonsense has been discussed at the peace conference. Premier Lloyd George declared the Cabinet never heard of the scheme so far as the cabinet is concerned. It is purely an expression of the opinion of some General.

CEERNIN ON PEACE EFFORTS.

VIENNA, Dec. 9. (By the A.P.)—Count Czernin, former Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, to-day discussed the struggles of Austria to end the war and problems which must be settled before peace is made secure. He painted General Ludendorff, the Quartermaster General of the German Army and virtually dictator of the empire's military policy in the last days of the conflict, as the man who stood between the central empires and peace on numerous occasions. Efforts to induce the German Government to make concessions of an important nature seemed at times to be near success, but Ludendorff was adamant. Recounting the des-

perate efforts on the part of Austria to reach some sort of peace before the final and absolute collapse of both Austrian and German Empires, Count Czernin said the German people wanted peace long ago, and even Emperor William wanted to see the end of the war, but the attitude of England prevented steps being taken. Emperor William said to me on one occasion, how can we get peace with England declaring that we must be destroyed. Nothing is more dangerous in politics than to see things as you wish to see them not as they are. We understood that the only way to arrange matters was to get England and Germany to agree. With the knowledge of Emperor Charles I proposed to Emperor William that Austria would give Germany the province of Galicia and permit her to have her way in Russian Poland, provided Alsace and Lorraine were ceded back to France. I went to Kreiznach and presented the plan to Dr. Bechmann-Hollweg, then German Imperial Chancellor. Later he informed me that he was forced to decline to enter into the scheme. I do not know whether or not Ludendorff had a hand in the matter, but I was informed that it was impossible to give up Alsace and Lorraine, because the German people never would understand the giving up of land which had cost so much blood. The situation of Germany was dangerous but nothing could be done. Our conversations were pleasant and friendly and our sacrifices were appreciated by officials. I saw, however, that I could not arrange the matter because Germany was obliged to obey the military party. Then there came another way. Unknown to the Germans, I sent Herr Vissal, a Socialist member of Parliament, to Berlin to talk with Matthias Erzberger, the clerical leader, and Dr. Albert Suederlum, a Socialist member of the Reichstag. He was to tell them why the war must end and give them both to understand that another peace resolution should be introduced in the Reichstag directed against both the military party and the pan-Germans. At this juncture, however, the German armies began to win victories once more and the Reichstag did nothing. Thus we were badly situated. When our chances were bad and the Entente nations were elated they would not talk peace; when we were winning, Ludendorff would not consent to permit peace negotiations. I always wanted to use victory as an opportunity to bring about peace and several times had an impression that I might succeed. I sent Count Mandorff to Switzerland to see General J. C. Smuts (who was in Switzerland last March in the interests of the British Government). He succeeded, but I was unable to tell just what terms Germany would make. England appeared to intend to crush Germany, and France showed a similar attitude. President Wilson was the only head of an Allied power who did not appear to have this in mind. Emperor William could not bring himself to yield Alsace and Lorraine. Regarding Emperor William I feel that there was too much diplomatic bluff, with every one looking for the other fellow to exceed from his position. Every way to get out of the war was tried by us. I signed the peace treaty of Brest-Litovsk, but we got nothing out of it. This fact is worthy of mention. It was Ludendorff who forced Dr. Richard Von Kuehlmann, the German Foreign Secretary, to make that peace. We occupied the southern end of the line, whereas Germany had her troops against the line in the north. General Hoffmann then declared he would move on Petrograd if Leon Trotsky the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, did not sign the treaty. Dr. Von Kuehlmann and I had hoped to make peace with Russia on the basis of President Wilson's principles, but Ludendorff always telegraphed no to our proposals.

ente powers are wrong, for they probably believe he caused the struggle. I was Minister to Roumania when the war broke out, and I honestly believe no one wanted hostilities to begin. I have the impression that neither Emperor Francis Joseph, Emperor William, or their ministers wanted war. I might explain the fact that the war started by saying that there was too much diplomatic bluff, with every one looking for the other fellow to exceed from his position. Every way to get out of the war was tried by us. I signed the peace treaty of Brest-Litovsk, but we got nothing out of it. This fact is worthy of mention. It was Ludendorff who forced Dr. Richard Von Kuehlmann, the German Foreign Secretary, to make that peace. We occupied the southern end of the line, whereas Germany had her troops against the line in the north. General Hoffmann then declared he would move on Petrograd if Leon Trotsky the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, did not sign the treaty. Dr. Von Kuehlmann and I had hoped to make peace with Russia on the basis of President Wilson's principles, but Ludendorff always telegraphed no to our proposals.

A GENUINE PROTEST. WASHINGTON, Dec. 11. All South American countries have been asked by the United States to join in its suggestion to Chill and Peru that the interests of pan-American unity demands an amicable settlement of their controversy over the provinces of Tacna and Arica. Acting Secretary Polk of the State Department announced this to-day, explaining that it had been erroneously

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reported that Argentina alone had been approached on the subject. SEAMEN REPATRIATED. LONDON, Dec. 10. Five hundred Englishmen, Americans, and others, a majority of the party being members of crews from the ships captured by the German commerce raiders Moewe and Wolf, have arrived at Aarhus, a seaport of Denmark from Germany, according to a Copenhagen despatch to the Telegraph Co.

### FRIDAY,

SPECIAL for XMAS

A SALE OF BOYS' COAT SWEATERS \$3.30 Values for \$2.30

A sale that should be of more than ordinary interest to every father and mother of boys, and just at the season they're most likely to get choice of Greys, Browns and pinks. Sizes 28, 30 and 32. Reg. value \$3.30 each. Friday, Saturday and Monday.

**HANDKERCHIEFS**  
Prettily Boxed First on the Case

We have some of the best Boxed Handkerchiefs in the city. Half dozen in each box, artistically arranged. These, you have a place on your Christmas list. Prices, 65c, 85c, 95c, \$1.10, \$1.25.

PIN CUSHIONS—Where a small gift is needed. Some very dainty little pin cushions combined will be found here; the quality look these over. Easy graded prices, 17c, 25c, and 35c.

**BOXED STATIONERY**  
AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT IS VERY APPROPRIATE. Our assortment offers an immense variety and containing in most cases 2 dozen of each of Envelopes. Just lot down to our Stationery at BAIRD'S. Prices range from 35c, 45c, 50c, 60c.

**LITTLE BOYS' JERSEY SUITS**—We have a special lot of these with a warm fleece backing and would make a special gift for the little fellow about the house. Shades of Saxe, Navy and Brown, mostly to fit boys from 2 to 5 years. Reg. \$2.50 suit, Friday, Saturday and Monday, \$1.95.

**CUPID PICTURES** (Framed)—You probably have some one on your gift list to whom a pair of these would make a very desirable gift. They come in a brown tone, nicely framed, size 10 1/2 x 13 1/2. Reg. \$1.40 value. Friday, Saturday and Monday, \$1.25.

Here is the best VALUE in the city in Lace Curtains

**WHITE LACE CURTAINS**—These are an unusually fine lot of pure White Nottingham Lace Curtains, 3 1/2 yards long, 54 inch looking patterns, such as you would desire for brightening up Xmas time. Limited stock. Reg. \$4.50. Friday, Saturday and Monday, \$3.95.

**WOMEN'S FELT SLIPPERS**—Looking for something special for Mother, suggest a pair of warm Felt House Slippers like these, nice warm shades, with tone effects, padded insole and soft sole underneath. Reg. \$2.50. Friday, Saturday and Monday, \$2.30.

**CHILDREN'S FELT SLIPPERS**—Distinguish a house-slipper in warm grey felt, 80% wool, decorated front; sizes 6 to 8; gift looking. Reg. 90c. pair. Friday, Saturday and Monday, 79c.

**DIGNIFIED STYLES IN CREPE-DE-CHENE BLOUSES.**  
You'll look your prettiest in one of these handsome Blouses. Several styles to decide from. Shades of Saxe, Flesh, Maize, Saxe, Black and White. Large sailor collars and embroidered fronts. Others lace trimmed and others again in flesh shade with Saxe facings and embroiderings. They are the very latest. Reg. \$5.50. Friday, Saturday and Monday, \$4.98.

**RIBBONS for CHRISTMAS**  
RIBBONS FOR CHRISTMAS—A Ribbon offering you Brilliant Silk Taffeta Ribbons, 4 inches wide, in shades of Navy, Sky, Pink, Green, Brown, Black and White. Ribbons for many purposes. Reg. \$2.50. yard. Friday, Saturday and Monday, 2.30.

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