

## WILL CONTINUE WAR UNTIL VICTORY WON, SAYS RUSS MINISTER

No Change in Allies' Relations, He Tells Press.

### GREAT AFTER-WAR UNION

Entente Powers Will Be Allied In An Economic Alliance.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The Russian foreign minister, M. Pokrovski, invited the representatives of the press at Petrograd yesterday to an interview, at which he outlined his program and his ideas in regard to the present political situation. Reuter's Petrograd correspondent says that in general the ministerial declaration, which seems to have been made to take the place of the usual speech before parliament, consisted of a few clear propositions.

First, there has been no change in the relations between Russia and her allies.

Second, the minister declared with assurance that after the war the military alliance of France, England and Russia would be consolidated in a close economic union.

Third, the war will be continued, according to this declaration, till a decisive victory has been won.

Wilson's Motives Good.

M. Pokrovski then discussed the three great questions of the day—the German peace proposals, President Wilson's note and the attitude of Greece. After recalling the recent Dutch declarations in regard to the German peace note, M. Pokrovski passed to the action of President Wilson, saying that he was highly appreciative of the good-will and the lofty humanitarian motives of the president's note, but he declared it could alter in no way the political situation created.

Speaking of Greece, M. Pokrovski asserted that the Entente powers would not tolerate for a moment any attitude on the part of that country that would affect their military interests seriously. He said measures already had been taken and that others of a military nature shortly would be carried out, which would put an end once for all to Greek vacillation.

To further secure Greece, the declaration of the foreign minister, the Novor Vremya of Petrograd says it is very opportune to give a faithful idea of the reply the Allies to Germany and the Allies to Greece.

### QUEBEC DELEGATION WILL RETURN ONTARIO VISIT

Three Days' Tour to Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Falls.

QUEBEC, Dec. 26.—The "Bonne Entente" delegation from the province of Quebec, which is to repay the visit to Ontario delegation to this province, will leave this city Sunday night, January 7, for a three-day tour in Ontario, including Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Falls, and will return to Quebec, 10 from Sherbrooke and 5 from three rivers.

Mr. Hebert, vice-president of the Montreal Board of Trade, has charge of the arrangements at this end of the line. A number of prominent people are mentioned as being probable members of the party.

### DINNER IN TORONTO

QUEBEC, Dec. 26.—At the "Bonne Entente" banquet to be held in Toronto January 8, both Premier Hebert and Premier Gault will be present. Arthur Meighen was dinner tonight at the Carlton Club by Sir George Gurnea, the chief motive force in the movement to establish better relations between the two provinces. Sir Homer Gault, Hon. P. Pelletier and Hon. Adair Turner will attend.

### ALFONSO'S PLEAS FOR BELGIANS BEAR FRUIT

LONDON, Dec. 27.—King Alfonso of Spain has persuaded the German Government to repatriate a large number of Belgian workmen who were deported to Germany, according to a Madrid dispatch to the radio agency. The dispatch says that the Spanish ambassador at Berlin has telegraphed his home government that this effect, and has been instructed to continue his efforts so as to obtain the liberation of the greatest number possible of Germans.

### LAMBETH

LAMBETH, Dec. 26.—Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Williams of Berke and Miss Grace Williams of Hamilton spent the holiday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams.

Chester Mann of Pontiac attended a family reunion at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mann, at the home of Mrs. A. Kelly, who is sister with Mrs. J. Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and Sandy Gordon are visiting with their parents at Amesville.

Mr. Ralph Wilson was home for the holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Keenleyside visited recently with Mrs. D. Mann.

Mr. J. C. Mead of the O. A. C. is holidaying with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Milne.

Mr. Alex. Bannantine is visiting friends in Woodstock and Guilford.

Mr. A. Carley is spending the holiday season with Dr. J. A. Hughton, East Aurora, N.Y.

## Premiers of Dominions Called to Conference for Either War or Peace

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The secretary of state for the colonies has sent a telegram to the Dominion explaining the purposes of the forthcoming imperial conference announced by Premier Lloyd George. The telegram explains that what the Government contemplates is not an ordinary imperial conference, but a special war conference of the empire.

The prime minister of each of the Dominions is invited to attend a series of special meetings of the war cabinet in order to consider urgent questions affecting the prosecution of the war, possible conditions on which in agreement with our allies, we could assent to its termination, and problems which would then immediately arise. The premiers are urged to attend at an early date—not later than the end of February.

## COUNTER CHARGES TO BE DEFENCE OF GERMAN PLOTTERS

Alleged Breaches of Neutrality To Aid Britain Rejected.

### INSTANCES SUBMARINES

Shipment of Parts and Workmen to Canada Figuring in 'Frisco Conspiracy.'

San Francisco, Dec. 27.—Counter accusations of violation of neutrality are expected to continue today at the trial of Franz Bopp, German consul general, and his assistants, who are charged with conspiracy to violate American neutrality by hampering shipment of munitions to the Entente Allies. Consul Bopp, whose cross-examination was completed yesterday, said that American manufacturers were not over-observant in their regard for strict observance of neutrality, and that in various ways they sought to aid enemies of the United States.

Theodore Roche, chief of counsel for the defence, introduced correspondence yesterday from the department of state to Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, on the subject of American-built submarines of the British Government. Indications of the Union from Charles M. Schwab, to the effect that the Bethlehem Steel Company was not building any submarines for the Entente Allies. Schwab explained that the company had undertaken to build ten submarines, but that none would be delivered to any of the belligerents during the war.

Secretary of State Lansing quoted Schwab in another communication to Count von Bernstorff in connection with the protests which had been made by the German ambassador on the question of parts of submarines made in this country. Schwab said in his statement that submarine forgings and castings made by the Union Iron Works in this city were sent to Montreal, Canada, but that the company's interest in them ceased when they were delivered to the owners. Bopp maintained that this act was unethical and unfriendly.

John A. McKeon, president of the Union Iron Works, is to be called today by the defence and questioned as to the delivery of submarine parts to Canada and also as to the truth of reports that the company sent workmen to Canada to assemble the submarines. The defence contends it will prove that Consul Bopp was justified in sending agents to Canada to find out the facts and deliver to the basis for protests by the German embassy.

### LINKING OF NOTES BY GERMANY OBJECTIONABLE

Washington Endeavored to Avoid It But In Vain.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Germany's reference to the American note in connection with the original German proposal of December 12, is one which the greatest pains to avoid. The connection has been declared officially to have been a source of the greatest embarrassment to the administration, and is known to have occasioned a real, if not a virtual, crisis in the German government.

It is felt that Germany is in an embarrassing position in replying to the president's note, as the Allies have not yet put themselves on record either to ward them, nor as to the original German proposal. This is the explanation advanced for the shortness of the reply and of its lack of detail.

Whether Germany's immediate publication of the reply was due to internal consideration or to a desire to disclose it before the Allies had made public either of their two expected answers, is not known here.

### JAPANESE ALLIANCE WITH ALLIES CLOSE

Emperor Expresses Gratification With Conditions at Diet Opening.

Tokio, Dec. 27.—The Diet was opened today by the emperor, who in his address from the throne expressed his gratification that the relations between the empire and the treaty powers were growing closer. He declared that the alliance with Great Britain and the convention with France were becoming the new convention with Russia, which he termed a matter for congratulation. The emperor explained that he had ordered the ministers to draft bills necessary for the development of the country, "keeping in mind the world situation," and asked the Diet to co-operate in passing these measures. The House was then adjourned to January 21.

### GERMAN SHIPPING SHARES PROHIBITED FROM SALE

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 26.—Via London. The Frankfurter Zeitung reports that the Bundesrat has prohibited the sale abroad of German shipping shares, the object being to prevent an undesirable foreign influence in German shipping.

## ENEMY IS BOASTING THAT SOMME BATTLE HAS ENDED IN VAIN

Newspapers Instructed To Declare It Was Finished.

### FRENCH OPINION DIFFERS

Soldiers in Front Line Know Ascendancy Over Enemy Has Been Won.

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—Via Sayville wireless.—The almost complete cessation of the fighting on the Somme front during the past four weeks has enabled the Germans to complete a new system of trenches. The front line, says the military critic of the semi-official Overseas News Agency, in an article today. He declares the great battle that began there on July 1 may now be considered to have been terminated, and declares that the fact of the Germans being enabled to reconstruct their line means that the efforts and losses of the five months of fighting of the Entente forces was in vain.

As to the new defences, the writer says they have been perfected to such a degree that even the foremost trenchers are now protected by barbed wire, and that the troops there occupy dugouts. Moreover, he asserts the new defensive line are stronger than those of July 1, "as behind the first line trenches, which were constructed under hostile artillery fire, are more than a dozen of the strongest sort of defensive lines which have been built, absolutely without interference and with great ease."

Says Offensive Is Exhausted.

As a further sign of the exhaustion of the offensive the writer notes a let up in the air activity by the Entente, although German squadrons had been carrying out raids towards the coast.

Regarding the Rumanian campaign, the military critic points out that navigation on the Danube for the Russians has been stopped since the occupation of Tulchita by the Bulgarians, leaving the Russians only the railroad lines to Rendi and Jassy, while the Russian troops in Dobruja have been driven into the extreme northwestern corner of the province.

### SOMME AND VERDUN BRING PEACE NEARER.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—A news agency dispatch is published here today as follows: With the French Armies in Alsace Lorraine, via Belfort and Paris, Dec. 25.—France's soldiers celebrated Christmas with the conviction that they were nearer peace than at any time in the war. They were all certain the victories along the Somme and at Verdun have gained such an ascendancy over the enemy that France and her allies would be able to bring peace nearer.

Especially was the conviction of peace within a year, through France's victory, strong in trench number four at Belfort. There the soldiers spent their Christmas defending first-line positions.

"It's the men who are closest in the fighting contact with the enemy who feel most strongly that they have won a moral and military superiority over the enemy that makes a victory certain," explained the officer commanding this trench. "All my men during the day have been writing home expressing the firmest assurance that they will pass next Christmas at their own firesides."

It was this conviction, felt by every soldier, that made every soldier rise to exceptional efforts to render today's celebration memorable.

### DIDN'T SINK FREIGHTER BECAUSE OF HER FLAG!

Have, Dec. 27.—Capt. Plater of the American steamer Sacramento, who arrived here from Buenos Ayres with a cargo of wheat, reports that he was stopped in the English Channel by a German submarine. The commander of the submarine ordered him on board with his papers, and after examining them, said: "You are carrying wheat, which we consider contraband of war, to France. It is lucky for you that your ship is American, otherwise we should have torpedoed you with great pleasure. You can proceed. Good luck to you."

The only steamer of the name of Sacramento listed in available maritime registers is reported by New York Maritime Register to have been recently transferred from American to British ownership. She was blacklisted by the British admiralty in April, 1916, on charges of aiding German ships in the Pacific, but was removed from the blacklist last October.

### SEED WAREHOUSE BURNED.

STOUFFVILLE, Ont., Dec. 26.—Fire which broke out in the warehouse of Todd & Co., grain and seed merchants, at this place, between 6 and 7 o'clock this evening, completely destroyed the structure. The loss is estimated at \$10,000, partly covered by insurance.

## FRANCE EXALTS ITS FAMOUS COMMANDER; JOFFRE IS MARSHAL

Hero of Marne Victory Adds to His Laurels.

### OTHER DECREES REVOKED

Appointments as Commander-in-Chief and Technical Adviser Cancelled.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—The Government today decided to raise Gen. Joffre to the dignity of marshal of France in recognition of his eminent services to the country. A decree nominating him will be submitted for the ratification of parliament as soon as possible.

The title of marshal of France has fallen into disuse since the establishment of the third republic. A bill in regulating the army grades retained the title, but it was not until the decree under which it could be conferred by a supplementary bill. That bill, however, has never been proceeded with.

### OTHER DECREES REVOKED.

Paris, Dec. 27.—In addition to a decree creating Gen. Joffre a marshal of France, the Government today revoked other decrees of December 2, 1915, and December 12, 1916. The first of these appointed Marshal Joffre commander-in-chief of the French forces in the Orient, in the Balkans and Morocco, the second said: "Gen. Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French forces, will act as technical adviser to the Government in all concerning the direction of the war."

The high command as now settled finally consists of the war committee composed of Premier Briand, Gen. H. Lyautey, minister of war, Rear Admiral Lacaze, minister of marine, and Gen. Thomas, minister of national manufactures; Alexander Ribot, minister of finance, and President Poincare.

The duty of the minister of war is to coordinate the military and administrative general command and to take measures to insure their concerted execution. In addition he is responsible for the military and administrative of the nation's military forces and resources. There are two general commands, Gen. Nivelle of the forces of the northeast, who also assures a liaison with the allied staffs, and Gen. Sarrail of the army of the Orient, who as already announced, is no longer available to grand headquarters, but directly to the minister of war.

### R. N. W. M. P. WILL RECRUIT FULL STRENGTH FOR WAR

Action Will Be Delayed for While of Necessity.

EDMONTON, Dec. 26.—A. Bowen Perry, C. M., commissioner of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, stated today that "so soon as the Alberta provincial authorities can take over the recruitment in the province now held by the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, this famous unit will be recruited to full strength and will come under the direct control of the military department."

An order-in-council to that effect states that the provincial authorities will take over all the police duties heretofore undertaken by the Royal Northwest Mounted Police on January 1, 1917.

Commissioner Perry states, however, that owing to the difficulty there would be in the province now held by the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, this famous unit will be recruited to full strength and will come under the direct control of the military department.

### GERMAN PRESS "INSTRUCTED."

LONDON, Dec. 26.—A Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam today says: "German newspapers are being instructed to declare that the Somme battle has now been really finished. They say that the German position is now stronger than on July 1, and that behind the foremost German lines are more than a dozen very strong defensive lines."

### STOLEN MEMORANDA IS "HIGH OFFICIAL SOURCE"

REDCINA, Dec. 26.—The McGuire Royal Commission appointed recently to investigate the "high official source" from which the Regina Daily Post newspaper has obtained information in an article which states that the "high official source" mentioned in the McGuire report is being discussed in executive council has made a report, which was made public this evening. After going into the evidence in detail the report finds that the "high official source" mentioned was not Hon. W. M. Martin, or any other member of the Government of Saskatchewan, and that the source of the allegations was a type-written memorandum, and attached to the McGuire report, and which was being discussed in executive council.

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### NORWAY SEES HOPE IN LLOYD GEORGE'S SPEECH.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Copenhagen today says Dr. Mowinkel, president of the Norwegian Storthing, in a speech made at an interview on his country's attitude concerning peace discussions, declared that Norway, in common with the rest of the neutral world, had greeted the idea of peace as one of the dawn of day after a stormy night.

Dr. Mowinkel-Holweg's latest utterances, so far as they referred to the future relations between nations, Dr. Mowinkel added, "were similar to the statements in that respect made by President Wilson and by the late British foreign minister, and I therefore feel that the possibility of finding a common basis for negotiations is not far distant."

From the recent speech of David Lloyd George, the British premier, Dr. Mowinkel said he gained the impression that the reply of the Entente Allies did not exclude further peace discussions.

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## FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL

### THE LOCAL MARKET

There was little or no produce offered on the local market today. The key grain and the poor condition of the roads evidently prevented the farmers from starting out with their loads. The large quantity of wheat is sold Christmas week also usually leaves things rather quiet during the following week.

Only one load of hay was offered, and it sold for \$13 a ton. This is about the same price as was paid yesterday. No vegetables are also offered, and were hard to obtain this morning. From \$2.10 to \$2.50 per bushel. Creamery butter brought from 47c to 48c per pound, and dairy butter, in rolls, brought 46c and 47c for 40c to 45c.

No poultry was brought in, but the price of a little easier, the wholesale price of dressed chickens being 18c to 21c per pound. Ducks are selling for 18c to 20c, geese for 15c to 18c. Wool and butchers' meats remained stationary in price.

Grain, Per Cwt. Oats, per cwt., \$2.00 to \$2.00. Barley, per cwt., \$2.00 to \$2.00. Wheat, per cwt., \$2.00 to \$2.00. Corn, per bushel, 68c to 68c. Potatoes, per bushel, 45c to 45c. Apples, per bushel, 90c to 1.25. Crabbles, per bushel, 1.00 to 1.00. Peas, per bushel, 1.00 to 1.25. Chickens, each, 1.00 to 1.25.

Hay and Straw. Hay, new, per ton, \$12.00 to \$14.00. Straw, new, per ton, \$10.00 to \$12.00. Dairy Produce, Retail. Butter, creamery, lb., 47c to 49c. Butter, milk, lb., 45c to 47c. Eggs, per dozen, 22c to 24c. Honey, sections, 40c to 42c. Dairy Produce, Wholesale. Butter, creamery, lb., 45c to 47c. Butter, milk, lb., 43c to 45c. Eggs, per dozen, 20c to 22c. Honey, sections, 38c to 40c.

Butter, dairy, lb., 43c to 45c. Eggs, basket, doz., 44c to 46c. Chickens, per lb., 13c to 15c. Old fowl, per lb., 12c to 14c. Young chickens, lb., 13c to 15c. Old fowl, per lb., 12c to 14c. Young chickens, lb., 13c to 15c. Old fowl, per lb., 12c to 14c. Young chickens, lb., 13c to 15c.

Poultry, Dressed, Retail. Ducks, per lb., 13c to 15c. Geese, per lb., 12c to 14c. Chickens, per lb., 13c to 15c. Turkeys, per lb., 15c to 17c. Beef, per lb., 12c to 14c. Pork, per lb., 10c to 12c. Mutton, per lb., 11c to 13c. Lamb, per lb., 10c to 12c.

Live Stock. Hogs, per cwt., 12c to 14c. Fat pigs, per cwt., 12c to 14c. Dressed hogs, cwt., 12c to 14c. Veal, per cwt., 12c to 14c. Beef, cwt., 12c to 14c. Pork, cwt., 12c to 14c. Mutton, cwt., 12c to 14c. Lamb, cwt., 12c to 14c.

Wool, per lb., 20c to 22c. Cow hides, No. 1, 20c to 22c. Cow hides, No. 2, 18c to 20c. Lambskins, each, 1.00 to 1.25. Cat skins, per lb., 30c to 32c.

### GRAIN.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—Wheat closed higher today, 2 1/2c for December and 1 1/2c for May. Oats were 5c up for December, 1 1/2c down for May. Barley was unchanged for December and 1c lower for May. December wheat fluctuated 6c, and May 4 1/2c.

A grain trade caused the market in a healthy condition, and swung it into fluctuations today. Wire trouble retarded the market, which was almost entirely speculative, with few local interests in the market. Buying on a small scale was done in the morning, but wheat up 5c before any considerable amount appeared on offer. Then the market was quiet, and the price of wheat was steady.

The cash market was quiet. Contract wheat grades were unsatisfactory, though the order of the market was quiet. Barley and flax were dull. Deliveries were heavy and offers light.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—Assertions that a large amount of export business had been done at the school and a strengthening effect today on the wheat market here. It was said that sales to Europe had been made for 1,000,000 bushels, and that the foreign demand for wheat was increasing.

Opening prices, which ranged from 1 1/2c decline to 3 1/2c advance, with May at 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c, and July at 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c, were followed by a moderate advance, and then a substantial advance.

Liverpool, Dec. 27.—Wheat—Spot was steady, 1 1/2c. Manitoba, No. 1, 1 1/2c. No. 2, 1 1/2c. No. 3, 1 1/2c. No. 4, 1 1/2c. No. 5, 1 1/2c. No. 6, 1 1/2c. No. 7, 1 1/2c. No. 8, 1 1/2c. No. 9, 1 1/2c. No. 10, 1 1/2c.

FLOUR. Liverpool, Dec. 27.—Flour—Winter patents, 47s. Liverpool, Dec. 27.—Flour—Winter patents, 47s.

HOPS. Liverpool, Dec. 27.—Hops (in London)—Pacific coast, 14 1/2c to 15s.

PROVISIONS. Liverpool, Dec. 27.—Hams—Short cut, 94s. Bacon—Cumberland, cut, 89s; clear, 102s; do, heavy, 100s; short cut, 102s; do, shoulders, square, 82s. Lard—Prime, western, in barrels, new, 24s; do, old, 22s; American refined, in barrels, 24s.

CHEESE. Liverpool, Dec. 27.—Cheese—Canadian new, 13s.

OILS. Liverpool, Dec. 27.—Tallow—Australia (in London), 54s 8d. Turpentine—Spirits—55s 6d. Rosin—Comp., 25s 6d. Linseed Oil—23s. Cottonseed Oil (Hull refined)—Spot, 42s 6d.

WALL STREET. New York, Dec. 27.—Wall Street, 10:30 a.m.—Special notices were again reported in some of the high-grade securities and of today's initial dealings with further irregularity in the market. The market was made by American and Canadian securities, and the market was made by American and Canadian securities.

Non-Lack of public interest or outside participation was the striking feature of the extremely dull forenoon. Although a moderate investment inquiry was reported in some of the high-grade securities, the market continued to hold. Numerous advances over opening quotations. Market threw off their heaviness, the preferred gaining 2 1/2c, leading industrials, including United States Steel and Bethlehem

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### GEN. JOFFRE EXALTED: MARSHAL OF FRANCE BY SPECIAL DECREE

London, Dec. 26.—The official communication issued from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "Some 30 Germans approached our lines Monday night in the neighborhood of Les Boeufs. Eighteen of them were taken prisoners; the remainder suffered heavy casualties from our machine gun fire."

"Monday night we entered trenches northeast of Arrmentieres and drove off an enemy working party. The enemy's positions east of Ploeghefort were also raided; casualties were inflicted upon the enemy and prisoners were secured."

"In the neighborhood of Les Boeufs and Guedecourt we bombarded the trenches during the day with satisfactory results."

"At other places along the front artillery activity has continued. On the night of December 25 our airplanes carried out successful bombing operations on places of military importance behind the enemy's lines."

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The Fidelity Trust Company of Ontario DIVIDEND NO. 13 Notice is hereby given that a dividend of two and one-half per cent (being at the rate of five per cent per annum) has been declared upon the paid-up capital stock of this company for the current half year, and that the same will be payable at the office of the company, Dominion Savings Building, Richmond Street, London, on and after the second day of January, 1917.

The transfer books will be closed from the 15th to the 31st of December, inst., both days inclusive. By order of the board, W. J. HARVEY, MANAGER. London, December 8, 1916.

POLICE INVESTIGATING WALKERVILLE, Dec. 26.—Fire which caused about \$2,000 damage in the