

The Toronto World

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 FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 21.

The German Peace Proposals.

In the peace terms floated out by Germany yesterday as a feeler we have in the first instance the evidence of Germany's plight; in the second place, a situation of considerable danger for the allies in the possibility of others besides the Russians being tempted from their allegiance to the common cause; and in the third place, the clearest evidence of the craft of Germany which has still to be countered by the democratic nations.

We may feel quite sure that however badly other countries have suffered, however weakened their forces may be, however weary of war and anxious to get back to peace conditions, Germany has suffered no less, has been no less robbed of her strength, is as less weary of the war. It is the one thing to remember in a fight that the efforts of one's opponent must have been as trying as one's own. It is above all things necessary to be remembered in this fight when any opportunity afforded the enemy to recuperate will certainly be followed in a few years by a greater war than the present. Germany is fully as exhausted as any of her opponents, and it is only the whip of the slave driver that urges on her bondsmen to face the armies of the free nations. The free men, unspurred, ungoaded, may halt the sooner, but they must not give up the struggle. The nation that holds out a few weeks the longer is the nation that wins. No ill-advised counsels of peace should be listened to now. The stone has been rolled almost to the top of the hill. Let us not be stupid enough to let it roll down again.

Our danger will arise from some weakening in other lines than our own. Italy might be tempted. The proposals to the Balkan kingdoms are obviously intended to detach them from the allied cause. United we stand. Should Germany succeed in dividing us, we might not fall, but we should find it a task to steady ourselves for the shock which Germany would attack. The withdrawal of Russia has been a heavy blow. Another similar one might be deadly. Fortunately our allies are all loyal, and not likely to listen to the voice of the tempter.

The craft of the proposals is plain enough to those who know Germany. On the face of it they may sound plausible, but even the Germans themselves are suspicious of these peace proposals—the Germans, that is, like the Independent Socialists, who are able to think for themselves. The Leipziger Volkszeitung has assailed the Russian separate peace movement as "the greatest danger yet menacing German and European democracy," and the Bolsheviks are denounced by this newspaper as "traitors to the Russian revolution." The Leaven is at work in Germany, and these thinkers will agree in a similar view regarding the new peace proposals.

A plebiscite for Alsace-Lorraine may sound well, but if the Germans are to compile the list of voters what could it mean? The prize the Germans hold, which they stole from France, is the mines of coal and iron, without which no war could have been waged by them. To suppose that the Germans would allow this prize to be plebiscited away may please some pacifists, but is not in accord with common sense. On the other hand, France has fought for Alsace-Lorraine as much as for anything. The people of these two provinces are essentially French and wish to return to their own flag. Germany's proposal therefore cannot be entertained.

The suggestion that Germany pay England for the colonies lost by her in the war to British arms, and that the money be applied to the restoration of Belgium, Serbia, Rumania and northern France, might suit Simple Simon, but it would never do for the pie-man. Valuable and all as the German colonies are their value would never begin to restore the ravages which German savagery has wreaked upon the desolated territories of Belgium, France, Serbia and Rumania. Their value would not cover the injury done to one of these countries alone. Nor can Britain be trapped into a deal for selling the people of any colony into the cruel hands of German imperialism again.

And why should Britain pay for the destruction wrought by Germany? Germany has done the evil, and would escape all payment under the subterfuge of paying for a cheap bargain and having the seller apply the proceeds to liquidate Germany's debts in full. It is the most preposterous proposal of the lot.

Nor is there a word in the peace suggestions about the freedom and independence of Belgium. We know that Von Tirpitz insists that Germany retain Belgium. The new idea is that Britain pay for its restoration and repair while Germany remains in possession. This also is preposterous.

The proposal that the Russian provinces on the Baltic and the Black Sea and bordering on Prussia be independent "under a German plan" is no better than the suggestion that Poland be an independent kingdom under Austrian suzerainty. Much independence there would be in either case! German military officers would attend to the independence.

Turkey is to remain intact, according to the German intentions. The corridor to the Persian Gulf is to be protected by German and Austrian suzerainties; and Turkey intact will continue to be the plague spot of Europe, massacring despot of her weaker neighbors at the behest of Germany, and perpetual menace to the Arabs, the Egyptians, Armenians and all the dwellers in Mesopotamia. There is nothing in this to satisfy the blood that cries to heaven for vengeance from every corner of these lands.

The disarmament of the nations and the freedom of the seas and the politics of commerce are to be left to a peace conference; where Germany would have all her agents busy setting the twenty-one nations, her foes, by the ears. That sounds clever, perhaps, for Germany, but it will not sound clever to President Wilson, who demands that the world be made safe for democracy, nor for Britain, whose sword will

never be sheathed until the cause in which it was drawn is victorious.
 The sign and token of that victory will be the bag and baggage banishment of the Hohenzollerns from Germany, and the Germans are beginning to appreciate that fact.

Cambrai Back-Fire.

Action has been taken over the failure of certain sections of the army after Byng's dash towards Cambrai to hold the territory gained. Chancellor Bonar Law could not tell how many generals had been recalled yesterday, but there was a tremendous clean-up to judge by the gossip and rumors that are abroad. The British mails must be awaited for more precise particulars, but promotions which will be gazetted in due course will give the most reliable clues.

The important thing is that the chief command is alive to the necessity of expunging any possible weakness in front of the enemy. That our troops, thru the fault of their immediate leaders, should have been unprepared for a come-back on the part of the Germans after such vital losses was a crime, and in any other army there would have been sterner measures than recalls to warn others.

It is highly probable that had Byng's gains been held to their original limit further movements would have followed, and the clearing of the Belgian coast developed. The Germans were able to draw on their Russian lines, and took advantage of British carelessness or weakness in very clever military fashion, with the result that the campaign rests awaiting American reinforcements.

British Power in the East.

Canon Gould's eloquent address at the Empire Club yesterday brought out once more the immense importance to the British Empire of the Arab and Moslem influence in the east. He laid great stress on the fact that the three holy places of three great religions were now under the control of Britain or her allies. Sinai, on the Sinai Peninsula, was sacred to the Jews. Mecca, the sacred city of the Mahometans, was in the hands of our Arab allies. Jerusalem, the sacred city of the Christians, second only to Mecca in the hearts of the Moslems and more sacred to them than Medina, was now also under the British flag.

The reason for the loyalty of the Arabs and the Moslems to Britain dates back to 1824, when the British navy suppressed piracy in the Red Sea and the eastern seas generally, and made a treaty with the Arabs of perpetual amity. That treaty has been religiously observed; and it accounts for the fact that King George has 80,000,000 Moslems under his sceptre, 60,000,000 of them in India, not one of whom, Canon Gould was assured, had been charged with disaffection or disloyalty.

This treaty was at the basis of the Pan-Arabian movement, as distinguished from the Pan-Turanian or Pan-Turkish. The latter was Teutonic and the former British in its sympathies. When General Townshend was surrounded at Kut-el-Amara and forced to surrender it was the Pan-Arabian movement that kept the whole Arab world from rising and sweeping the British into the sea, as the Germans expected they would.

It had become a proverb and finally an oath in the east to swear by the faith of a Briton. "By the word of a Britisher what I say is true," is the most binding affirmation an Arab can utter. Canon Gould said that the Arab was admirable in many ways, but in his unalloyed and untouched state he was the most unaffected, the most persistent, the most consistent, the most contumacious, and the most incurable liar in the whole world. When he gets his eye on a star of truth of the thousandth magnitude in the firmament of falsehood he makes his great declaration "by the word of a Britisher." This is the greatest asset of Britain in the vast east. Asiatics are accustomed to say the earth rocked and the heavens cracked, the word of an Englishman would endure.

It would be well if we could maintain this tradition at home as well as abroad, in business and politics, in every relation of life, as well as in dealing with the natives of the east. It is a God-like virtue, and only big men can practice it.

"Carry On" en Francais.

London Daily Express: The French army has its catchwords as ours has. One of the latest is "Taites comme le negre" ("Do like the negro"). They say it where we should say "Carry on." It appears that some time ago the president went thru a war hospital and spoke to every patient. At each bedside the dialog was this:
 M. Polncare: And how are you going on?
 Patient: Very well, sir, thank you.
 M. Polncare: Ah, well, continue!
 So "Continue" came to be the French army's catchword for "Carry on." Then the president went to another hospital. One of the patients was a colored soldier who had done a specially brave deed, and was pointed out to the president for it.

"So you are the negro?" said the genial chief of the republic.
 "Yes, monsieur" was the reply.
 "Ah, well, continue!" said the president.
 The army, hearing of it, at once altered their favorite "Continue" into "Do like the negro."

The grandfathers and grandmothers of this generation in the United States read Irving, Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Poe, Holmes, Longfellow, Whitier, Aldrich, the "Atlantic group" and the celebrities, or, as they might be called now, the "highbrows," generally, but their readers were not confined to these, or to Dickens, Thackeray, Collins, Reade, the Brontes, Eliot, Tennyson, Lytton, Trollope, or to the Victorians as a whole. American readers read widely and deeply in the fifties, sixties and seventies, and whatever else they read, they read one or more of the "home" weeklies or magazines. That is, they read Godey's, The Waverley, Arthur's, The Ledger, The Fireside Companion, and more than would care to confess it read The New York Weekly. They read Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, Mary, Kyle Dallas, Sylvanus Cobb, Jr.; Alice and Phoebe Cary, Theodore Tilton, Henry Ward Beecher, Amy T. Randolph, Ned Buntline and T. S. Arthur.—Boston Monitor.

Montreal Star: Across Belgium and Northern France, the Germans will be traced when war ends by a chain of frantic asylums filled with the young girls these human devils maltreated beyond endurance. Any returned soldier who has been in the destroyed area will confirm this statement. The Kaiser is directly responsible for the work his hell-hounds did in Belgium and Northern France, as in Serbia and Russia, where the story is the same. As surely as the system which blasted Belgium a tribute to her fairest women unless the allied forces at the front now receive general support.

Canada "Carries On."

From The New York Tribune.
 Last April on the shell-scarred slopes of Vimy Ridge Canada at the front gave proof of her courage, her devotion, her strength. The "maple leaf" planted on one of the great bulwarks of German tyranny in France was a final evidence of the attitude of one-half of North America to the Boche threat to civilization.

Before Vimy the Canadians had borne their part nobly. It was soldiers of the Dominion who broke the first weight of the German thrust after the gas attack in the second battle of Ypres. The British Empire will long remember gratefully the sacrifices of the "Little Black Devils" and the "Princess Pats" on that blood-soaked ground about Ypres, where the veteran army of Britain—the "old contingents"—found their glory and their graves in October and November, 1914.

Of the Canadians at the front there was no question. They had seen the German thing as it was. Their comrades had been "gassed" and crucified. Their fellow-Canadians had fought cleanly and bravely against a barbarism which expressed itself in methods and in tricks which were beneath the contempt of white men and below the level of savages. Canada at the front knew the German—but what of Canada behind the front, three thousand miles away—would that line hold, too?

"Well, the world has its answer now. The politicians doubted. The weak, the weary, the conquered and the dispirited spread their forecasts and proclaimed the outcome. They answered, so are doubting politicians and faint-hearted patriots the world over. As the American democracy found itself by re-electing Lincoln in 1864, the Canadian democracy has justified itself in 1917 by re-electing for the war, by accepting the man and the methods which alone promise victory.

It is a stirring thing, this victory of democracy in Canada over all the forces which make for surrender and for worse than surrender. The voice of the first allied electorate to be heard in many months is a sign for all allied statesmen to observe and heed. Canada has sent 400,000 men to Europe; Canada has borne more than 125,000 casualties; but to the call of duty Canada's response is immediate and unmistakable. It is a response which will be heard the world over. It is a response which will be noted in Berlin as well as in London. Is it too much to suggest that it may even be heard in Rome?

The United States will congratulate and pay just tribute to its neighbor for democracy for its decision. In a time of momentary pessimism Canada has cheered all of us. In an hour of depression and weakness Canada has shown the road of courage and victory illuminated by the spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion. She has been faithful to her dead; to those of her sons murdered as well as those slain in fair fight.

Germany proclaimed the doom of the British Empire. She forecast the dissolution of the great structure; she gambled on the selfishness of the democracies beyond the seas that owned British allegiance. Australia responded at Gallipoli. Canada in Flanders, South Africa, amidst the ruins of German empire in Africa, and after the army the people of Canada have by their voice indorsed the action of their sons.

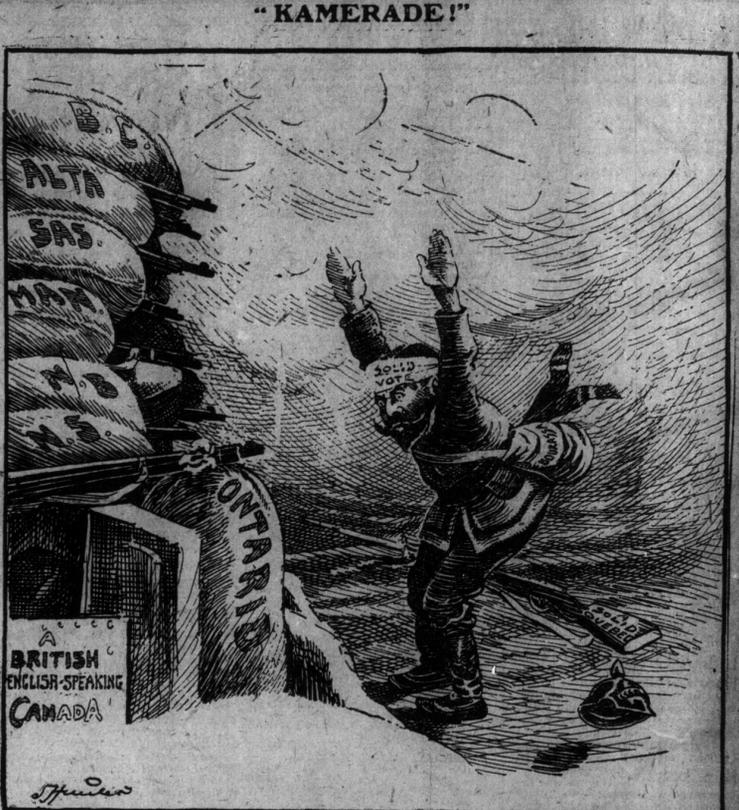
We in the United States look with admiration and gratitude to our northern neighbor. She has, blazed the trail for us in Europe. Her sons, with not a few of ours enlisted under her colors, have carried the spirit of America to the battlefields of Europe. Tardily, but not too late, our own armies are coming up. In time we shall bear a part in the great battle for human liberty. May it be as splendid as Canada's part—it cannot be more glorious!

Meantime for those at home Canada has also pointed a duty and furnished an example. The people of Canada have once more supplied the proof politicians might always expect if they had faith. But they never have faith, because they are invariably unworthy of the people who they represent. To have won Cambrai and lost Canada would have been an allied disaster. To have won Canada and lost Cambrai is a victory beyond question and beyond dispute. We did not capture Richmond in 1864, but in electing Lincoln the north won the Civil war. This war, like that of half a century ago, can be lost only by those back of the front, and Canada has demonstrated that behind the line the spirit is as unconquered and indomitable as in the first line trenches of France and Belgium.

RELIEF FUND AUGMENTED.

Euchre and Dance Adds Five Hundred Dollars to Halifax Relief.

About \$500 was added to the Halifax relief fund as the result of a euchre and dance held in the Oddfellows' Temple, 229 College street, last night. The affair was organized by the Song Social Club and the Hawalan Club, and proved a success in every way, over four hundred people joining in the dancing in addition to the forty tables of euchre. Mayor Church and several aldermen dropped in during the evening. Clero Caswell, the Toronto boy-xylophonist, gave a few selections. A feature of the entertainment was a raffle, with a gramophone as the prize.



FISH CATCH LESS; PRICES DOUBLED

Huge Increase Noted Compared With Those of Pre-War Days.

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—The total catch of sea fish in the whole of Canada during the month of November realized a value of \$2,145,240 at the point of landing, according to a statement issued by the department of the naval service today. In November last year the total catch was valued at \$1,074,398. The great increase in the value of the catch is largely accounted for by the fact that prices paid to fishermen this year are much higher than they were last year. A comparison of the price paid for two staple fishes, cod and haddock, now and in November of pre-war year, 1913, shows an increase of 85 per cent. for cod and 115 per cent. for haddock.

On the Atlantic coast fishing was carried on during November under rather unfavorable weather conditions, and as a consequence the quantity landed was barely equal to that of a year ago. The total catch of cod, haddock, halibut and pollock in eastern Canada during November amounted to 100,564 cwt., which is 5400 cwt. less than for November, 1915, but almost 18,000 cwt. greater than for November, 1913. The total value of all fish at the point of landing in Nova Scotia during November this year amounted to \$415,107, as compared with \$298,072 in November last year. Prices paid to fishermen were 30 per cent. higher for cod and 38 per cent. higher for haddock this year than last.

The sardine fishery in the Bay of Fundy realized a catch of 23,885 barrels, against 22,685 barrels for November last year. The lobster catch in Charlottetown and St. John Counties, N.S., amounted to 1080 cwt., as compared with 1728 cwt. in last year. The smelt fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence produced 2538 cwt. in November of this year, while last year in the same month 810 cwt. were taken.

On the Pacific coast weather conditions generally were not very favorable. Fall salmon fishing during November resulted in a catch of 168,404 cwt., against 96,079 cwt. for the same period last year, while the herring catches for the month amounted to 82,247 cwt., as compared with 71,574 cwt. The quantity of halibut landed was 43,020 cwt., more than 2000 cwt. less than a year ago.

The total value of fish landed in British Columbia during November was \$1,599,081, against \$588,569 during the same month last year.

DOMINION'S TRADE MAKES BIG GAINS

Tremendous Total Attained in Eight Months of Fiscal Year.

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—A big increase in the trade of the Dominion is shown in the trade statement for November issued today by the department of customs. For the eight months of the fiscal year, which closed Nov. 30, Canada's trade reached the tremendous total of \$1,855,157,821. During the eight months' period of 1916 the total aggregate trade of the Dominion was to the value of \$1,492,255,942. For the month of December alone the import and exports of the Dominion reached \$268,541,563. For November last year it was approximately \$22,000,000 less, being the value of \$186,556,581.

During the eight months' period this year dutiable goods were imported worth \$390,356,357. Last year the goods upon which duty was paid aggregated \$292,419,823. Free goods were brought into the country to the value of \$510,433,202, as compared with \$245,230,324. The total import trade amounted to \$700,010,188, as against \$538,852,388. These figures are exclusive of coin and bullion. The amount of duty collected for the eight months was \$114,986,024, an increase of approximately twenty million dollars over last year's figures.

Exports of domestic goods also show a remarkable increase for the eight months. They were to the value of \$1,109,510,649. Last year they only reached \$781,664,031. Manufactures, in point of value, headed the list, the products of Canadian factories sent out of the country being to the value of \$489,327,840, as compared with \$263,580,148. Agriculture, exclusive of animals and their products, came second, its value being placed at \$384,121,566, as against \$275,237,892 for the eight month period last year.

HARMONY SCHEME FOR KITCHENER

Plan to Elect Council Not Identified With Either of Two Factions.

Spectral to The Toronto World.
 Kitchener, Ont., Dec. 20.—Efforts are being made here to establish harmony between the two factions that have been at odds since the name-changing campaign, by the inauguration of a movement to do away with an election here in connection with the selecting of a municipal council for 1918. There is a general opinion prevailing that the present council is not sufficiently representative, and the hope is expressed that a plan can be hit upon which will give the city a council composed of men who have not been in any way identified with either of the factions that have disrupted the city since the spring of 1916.

The proposal of Henry Dumart of this city that Mayor Cross be elected by acclamation, and that a representative committee be chosen to select five men satisfactory to the local manufacturers, five men satisfactory to local merchants and business men, and five men satisfactory to the local labor elements, is meeting with popular approval.

Last night, at a meeting of the now famous Citizens' League, speeches were made favoring a get-together movement, and a committee was appointed to gather information regarding available candidates for the city council. One of the results of Monday's election in this city has been the clearing of the air, and both sides are now willing to agree that the money that would be spent in a municipal election might better be spent in behalf of patriotic work. It is generally believed that the election of an acclamation council along the lines suggested will mean the establishment of harmony and good-feeling in the city.

HENRY WILLIAM TURNER DEAD.

Was Prominent in Boating Circles and Member of Yacht Club.
 Henry Wm. Turner, prominent in boating circles, died yesterday morning at his late residence, 37 Euclid avenue. Mr. Turner, who was 82 years of age, had for years been a member of the Queen City Yacht Club and was of the board of management for some time. He was also a member of Toronto Lodge A.O.U.W. The funeral will be held from 37 Euclid avenue at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

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