

# PLAY TO THE GALLERIES SAYS "THE NEW STATESMAN"

## "No One Will Close the Door to Peace Until He is Satisfied that Parade of Enemy's Terms Does Not Conceal Possibility of Obtaining Peace of His Own."

London, Dec. 15.—The New Statesman, which generally has pacifist leanings, discusses Germany's peace proposal as "unlikely to prove anything but an attempt to play on our feelings of war weariness and to open out of us a mad peace now, in place of the good peace we might dictate, six, nine or twelve months later."

"No statesman," continues the newspaper, "will, in such a situation close the door to peace until he is satisfied that the parade of the enemy's terms does not conceal the possibility of obtaining a peace of his own. The shortening of the war is supremely desired, and we should naturally be glad to shorten it by diplomatic means instead of by war, provided the terms of its ending are the right ones. However no statesman who knows his business, on our side, will keep the peace door standing idly ajar."

Germany's course is not motivated chiefly by any hope of our taking terms. Her hope is rather that we may go on discussing them and discussing a substitute for them until we fall out over the discussion."

The Statesman says that, for example, if any powerful body of English opinion echoed the "refrain" of Philip Snowden, Socialist member of parliament, "why should England fight on that Russia may get Constantinople, or any corresponding force in Russia took up the cry, why should Russia fight on that England may get rid of the menace of the German navy?" the whole alliance might collapse like a pack of cards each trying to fix its own bargain with Germany. The newspaper argues that the Entente Allies should state their terms in general formulas, without attempting to specify what each is to get, which might lead to discussions on essential points. If the complete evacuation of all Allied territory and all claims over it were conceded the Allies might descend in details. Few appreciate how near the war has brought Germany to an attainment of her dreams of dominion over middle Europe, the newspaper says, and adds:

"Peace can be had at any moment in any war on the enemy's terms. An unselfish statement of them has no value whatever apart from its contents. If it contains a sincere approximation towards the things for which we dead have shed their blood, well and good. If it does not, it would be the height of folly to appraise it at the enemy's valuation. There is nothing to be apologized for if, in such a situation, we decided to stick to our guns."

The Saturday Review warns against the idea that Germany is suing for a beaten peace. It says the German armies are not yet beaten, although they were shaking tremendously on the Somme, and are no longer able to make headway against first-class troops, properly equipped. The food shortage, loss of trade and the increase of debt are some of the reasons for the peace move, says the Review, which continues:

"Germany always has paid greater attention to neutral opinion than we have. She is now trying to whitewash her blackened reputation. "Especially in the United States, where commercial friendship after the war is a vital necessity, the Germans realize they need to recover much lost ground. They hope their attitude of sanctity will win favor among the more simple and more sentimental Americans. Possibly they hope they will so spread the belief that only English obstinacy prevents peace that the United States may be induced to prevent the export of munitions."

The Saturday Review says also that the German emperor appeals also to a noisy, but not numerous, faction in England, while the chief motive has been to placate his "distressed and war-weary subjects."

The weekly contends that entering into negotiations would merely be offering Germany a much needed armistice, but that the Entente Allies should take the opportunity of stating to the world the scheme of the peace for which they are fighting.

"If the Allied governments," it continues, "can draw up a reply to Germany worthy of the ideals on which they are all bent, they may not only produce an historic state document, which may clear the air by a closer definition of their aims. If they can make the German people see that the destruction of German militarism does not involve, for Germany, the kind of thing that is happening in Belgium, they may hold the German machete with his own petard."

French troops again have made an effective thrust in the Verdun region. Striking at the German positions between the Meuse and Woivre rivers, north of Douaumont and northeast of the fortress, along a front of about six miles, the French forced back the soldiers of the German Crown Prince, for a distance of almost two miles. More than 7,500 prisoners and numerous guns were taken from the Germans, Paris announces. In its latest official communication the German war office admitted that "advantages" had been obtained in this region by the attackers.

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Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, Dec. 15.—The St. Croix mills of the Canadian Cottons Co. Ltd. at Milltown announce an advance of 7 1/2 per cent. The mills employ 600 hands.

# RUSSIAN DUMA STRONGLY OPPOSES PEACE SUGGESTIONS

London, Dec. 15.—A despatch to Reuters' Telegraph Company from Petrograd, says: "The Duma has unanimously passed a resolution against the acceptance of the German peace proposals after a spirited speech by the minister of foreign affairs."

The text of the resolution, as received here, follows: "The Duma, having heard the statement by the minister of foreign affairs, unanimously favors a categorical refusal by the Allied governments to enter, under present conditions, into any peace negotiations whatever."

"It considers that the German proposals are nothing more than fresh proof of the weakness of the enemy and a hypocritical act from which the enemy expects no real success, but by which it seeks to throw upon others the responsibility for the war and for what happened during it, and to exclude itself before public opinion in Germany."

"The Duma considers that a premature peace would not only be a brief period of calmer breathing after the danger of another bloody war and a renewal of this deplorable sacrifice by the people. It considers that lasting peace will be possible only after a decisive victory over the military power of the enemy, and after definite renunciation by Germany of the aspirations which render her responsible for the world war and for the horrors by which it has been accompanied."

M. Pokrovsky, in his speech to the Duma, said: "In addressing you immediately upon having been appointed minister of foreign affairs, I am not in a position to give you a detailed statement on the political situation, but I feel constrained to inform you, without delay, and with the supreme authorization of His Imperial Majesty, of the attitude of the Russian government regarding the application of our enemies, of which you have heard through news telegrams. Words of peace coming from the side which bears the whole burden of responsibility for the world conflagration, which it started, and which is unparalleled in the annals of history, however far back one goes, were no surprise to the Allies."

"In the course of the two and one-half years of war, Germany has more than once mentioned peace. She spoke of it to her armies and her people each time she entered upon a military operation which was to be decisive. After each military success she put out feelers for a separate peace on one side and another, and conducted a propaganda in the neutral press. All these efforts have met with calm and determined resistance by the Allied powers."

"Seeing now that she is powerless to make a breach in our unshakable alliance, Germany makes an official proposal to open peace negotiations. In substance the German proposal contains no tangible indications regarding the nature of the peace which is desired by the enemy armies which devastated and occupied Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro and part of France, Russia and Rumania."

"The Austro-Germans have just proclaimed an illusory independence for Poland, and by this are trying to lay hands on the entire Polish nation. The motives of the German steps will be shown more clearly if one takes into consideration the deplorable conditions of our enemies. Without speaking of their domestic attempts to force the population of Russian Poland to take arms against its own country, it will suffice to mention the introduction of general forced labor into Germany to understand how hard is the situation of our enemies."

"An attempt, at the last moment, to profit by their fleeting territorial conquest before their domestic weakness was revealed, that was the real meaning of the German proposal. In the event of failure they will exploit at home the refusal of the Allies to accept peace, in order to rehabilitate the tottering morale of their populations."

"But there is another senseless motion in that they fail to understand the true spirit which animates Russia. Our enemies deceive themselves with the vain hope that they will find among us men cowardly enough to allow themselves to be deceived, if only for a moment, by the lying proposals. That will not be. No Russian heart will yield. All Russia will rally more closely around its august sovereign, who declared, at the very beginning of the war, that he would not make peace until the last enemy soldier had left our country, and for the general collaboration which constitutes the only sure means of arriving at the end we all have at heart, namely, the crushing of the enemy."

"The Russian government repudiates, with indignation, the mere idea of suspending the struggle, thereby permitting Germany to take advantage of the last chance she will have of subjecting Europe to her hegemony. The innumerable sacrifices already made would be in vain if premature peace were concluded with an enemy whose forces have been shaken but not broken, and an enemy who is seeking a breathing space by making deceitful offers of a permanent peace."

"In this inflexible decision Russia is in complete agreement with all her valiant allies. We are all equally convinced of the vital necessity of carrying on the war to a victorious end, and no subterfuge by our enemies will prevent us from following this path to the end."

# WOMEN'S CANADIAN CLUB TO CLOSE FUND FOR SA'LORS' RELIEF

## Upwards of \$1,500 Received—Lady Guinness Speaker—Tonight—Lady Aberdeen Coming January 3rd.

Mrs. L. P. D. Tilley, who has been largely instrumental in the conduct of the British Sailors' Relief Fund by the Women's Canadian Club, in reply to an inquiry from The Standard last evening, said that upwards of \$1,500 had been collected. The fund will close this evening at the meeting of the club in the German street institute. There are a number of members who have yet to make returns, and it is expected that the fund will be considerably supplemented.

The chief number on the programme for tonight's meeting will be the address of Lady Gwendolyn Guinness on "The Grand Fleet." Lady Guinness is a charming lecturer and indications point to a large attendance of members to hear her remarks. This afternoon Mrs. H. A. Powell will entertain in honor of Lady Guinness.

It was announced yesterday that January 3rd had been definitely decided upon as the date for the address of Lady Aberdeen. It is learned that Lady Aberdeen will speak on the question of reconstruction after the war. During her visit to St. John she will be the guest of Lady Tilley.

Macedonian Front. Paris, Dec. 15, 10 p. m.—The official communication on the progress of hostilities on the Macedonian front given out by the French war office this afternoon reads: "There was intermittent artillery firing December 14 along the entire front, but particularly in the vicinity of Lake Doiran."

"In the region to the north of Monastir an enemy column was dispersed by our fire."

"There has been much activity on the part of the Allied aviators. An enemy airplane has been brought down south of Petrik."

Petrograd, Dec. 15.—The official statement says: "In the region of Mynovze the enemy almost succeeded in breaking into the trenches occupied by one of our companies. They were beaten back by our reinforcements."

"Under the cover of darkness and fog the enemy attacked two of our ambulances in the region of Konluk, and compelled one of them to retire on our first line trenches. In the neighborhood of the other ambulance the enemy took to cover in front of our wire entanglements."

"Caucasus front: The situation is unchanged."

# SPECIAL RATE COUPON

Enclosed herewith find Two Dollars for which please send The St. John Standard daily to the following address:  
Name .....  
P. O. Box ..... City or Town .....  
County .....  
Sender's Signature .....

## Christmas Perfumes

We have now on display our various lines of Perfumes, including Roger & Gallet, Mary Garden, Djer Kiss, Pears', Colgate's, etc.

We are agents for Paul Rieger & Co.'s Flower Drops and have in stock the celebrated perfumes:  
Fleur d'Armour.....@ \$3.00 an oz.  
Fleur de Cherie.....@ \$4.00 an oz.

Also a complete line in Ebony and Ivory Combination Sets, Manicure Sets, Hair Brushes, Mirrors and Combs.

### Modern Pharmacy

GEORGE A. CAMERON.

# GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF MERCANTILE MARINE

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 15.—That there should be governmental control and operation of the mercantile marine of the whole British Empire is the suggestion made by Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the railway commission in a memorandum which he has addressed to the Imperial Trade Commission upon request for his views upon the question of the ocean carrying trade.

He also suggests that "the British Admiralty, who are probably the largest transporters of men and materials in the world today, will continue in the transportation business after the war."

British Victory. London, Dec. 15.—The British official communication issued shortly before midnight says: "Last night (Thursday) an attack was attempted by the enemy upon our positions in the neighborhood of Lesbous, but it was crushed by our artillery before he could reach our trenches."

"The enemy's trenches were successfully entered by us south of Armentieres, and also east of Vierstraat. "Early in the night a powerful enemy raiding party endeavored to break into our lines south of St. Etol. Only a few of the raiders succeeded in reaching our trenches, and these were immediately detected. The enemy's losses were severe."

"Our artillery bombarded Achiet Le Petit and an enemy railway siding south of that village during the night. "During the day (Friday) our position on the Observatory Ridge and at Mont Heriel were heavily shelled. Our artillery effectively repelled. "Elsewhere on our front intermittent artillery activity continued."

Bloomfield. Bloomfield Station, Dec. 12.—Mrs. Charlotte Bettle spent Monday the guest of friends in Hampton. Mrs. M. P. Titus has returned home after a very pleasant visit of several weeks, with friends in St. John. Gunner John Bussey, who left here with the 4th Siege Battery, is quite ill in the hospital at Lincoln, England; Gunner Bussey was taken sick while in France at the front, and was ordered to England, he is suffering from a severe attack of asthma. The last word received from him he was doing as well as could be expected. All will wish him a speedy recovery.

Alva E. Williams left Wednesday for Barnesville, where he has accepted a position as engineer in the mill owned by A. J. Bentley of St. Martin's.

John E. Kinney, who is conducting a large lumber operation on the Miramichi river for J. K. Flemming was recently home; he reports business good in his line.

# SUMMARY OF "PEACE AND WAR"

French troops again have made an effective thrust in the Verdun region. Striking at the German positions between the Meuse and Woivre rivers, north of Douaumont and northeast of the fortress, along a front of about six miles, the French forced back the soldiers of the German Crown Prince, for a distance of almost two miles. More than 7,500 prisoners and numerous guns were taken from the Germans, Paris announces. In its latest official communication the German war office admitted that "advantages" had been obtained in this region by the attackers.

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## Gifts for the Little Folks In Our Furniture Store

**THE ONLY**



The KIDDIE KAR, one of the season's most entertaining novelties for the children.

Dolls Carriages in English Perambulator Style at \$4.50.

Dolls Carriages in Rattan, \$6.00, \$7.00, \$7.25 and \$10.75. Brown, Grey, Natural and Old Ivory Finish.

Dolls Sulkies at \$2.15, \$2.75 and \$3.75, some with Hoods.

Dolly's Sleigh at \$1.40 and \$2.15.

Girls' Framers in numerous patterns and sizes, at \$1.30, \$1.50, \$1.75 to \$3.00.

Children's Rattan Rockers in Brown and Green Finish, \$3.25.

## A Piece of Furniture Makes a Most Desirable Gift

It becomes a part of the home and is associated with all family gatherings and happenings of interest. Our stock is large and contains everything in Furniture that is desirable.

# Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited

## NEW MEMBERS WANTED

### A Contest for Kiddies Only CASH PRIZES VALUED AT \$20.00

The following interesting contest is open to members of the Children's Corner, in the St. John Standard, excluding those who live in St. John only.

What You Have To Do.

There are now nearly five thousand names and addresses of boys and girls on that membership roll of the Corner, but Uncle Dick is anxious to commence the New Year with thousands of other kiddies' names added to the list, as he has several surprises for 1917. He is therefore going to divide TWENTY DOLLARS among ten members of the Children's Corner, who succeed in getting the most number of other children to join this entertaining club on or before December 31, 1916, the prizes being as follows:

1st Prize	.....\$5.00	3rd Prize	.....\$3.00
2nd Prize	.....4.00	4th Prize	.....2.00

and Six Prizes of \$1.00 each.

All entries must reach this office not later than January 2nd, 1917, together with the coupon filled in as given below.

How To Get New Members:

- Show your school mates, cousins, and friends the Children's Page.
- Tell them about the splendid prizes awarded each week, the nice stories, Uncle Dick's regular chat, the answers to letters, and host of other attractions.
- There are only two rules:—"Do kindly deeds whenever possible," and "Agree to get The Standard and read the Children's Corner."
- The drawing and painting contests help them to make nice sketches, and use the colors better.
- Among the prizes awarded each week, are watches, skates, framers, gold necklaces and pendants, mecano sets, dollar bills, beautiful illustrated story books, and games.
- The Children's Page is just the very thing to turn to for recreation and amusement after school is closed, and lesson books are laid aside.
- The Red Cross Helpers' League, and Allies' Aid Society (Children's Corner Branches), are open to all members of the Corner.
- All intending members must write a note to Uncle Dick expressing their desire to have their names added to the membership roll, promising to keep the two rules given above, and mention the name of the member who showed them the Corner and asked them to join.

UNCLE DICK,  
THE STANDARD,  
ST. JOHN, N. B.

whose decision must be considered as final.

### CONTEST COUPON

Name .....  
Address .....  
School .....  
Age..... Birthday..... Grade.....  
Name of Teacher.....

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BRITISH TREND MODEL

Some new points sented in the course an authoritative Brit has been placed at the New York Times. It will see and what he he visits the Allied the Somme at the British army has just many steps forward named. After descri character of the cou his progress throug trench trenches. He si "Walking with yo under cover along a earth with a sharp this perfect line of fence; its shapely fir cut vertical walls and ed transverses. Her V-shaped ditch to co trench mortars and ing whizbangs in and You walk along the just pride as well their faces.

It is now noon, a are blowing on hot eating out of their meat, potatoes and only been thus in t French. The Englis in each of their war now they have learn fine and other men ing like cats in a st little sunny shelve ntingly sculptured on firm clay walls.

One little knot of bending over a com ner. The wary old ways likes a corner jump around it at t and put a solid an tween him and any drops in. On the t group cheerfully reo theme of debate an