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Canada's Parliament Called For January 18

SEE IN GERMAN REPLY TO WILSON SCHEME TO ENTRAP THE ALLIES

Kaiser and Advisors Would Avert The Inevitable—Defeat of Central Powers

Hope to Draw Entente Into Conference at Time Inopportune For Britain and Friends—Drowning Man Catching at a Straw

London, Dec. 28.—The London morning papers generally regard Germany's reply to President Wilson's note as no reply at all, but a renewed effort to trap the Entente into a conference at an inopportune moment for the latter with a view to averting what is consistently maintained here as inevitable—the defeat of the Central Powers.

The Post, asserting that Germany regards President Wilson's note as an instrument fashioned to serve her interests, says that Germany has seized the occasion with the desperate eagerness of a drowning man catching at a straw. Rejecting all idea of a conference, the Post says: "It is perfectly evident that if a discussion were once begun, the war could not possibly be resumed. The long gathering momentum of the allies once checked could not be resumed."

The Daily Telegraph thinks the reply marks a new and significant step in the game of desperation forced upon the Central Powers by their well justified dread of what the immediate future holds for them.

The Daily News says: "The failure to meet President Wilson on a common ground cannot be ascribed to obtuseness. Germany's affection of misunderstanding, if not misled nobody. The original German note and the present reply to President Wilson have the common object of throwing upon the Entente the onus of rejecting ostensibly genuine advances. The allies must see that they do not promote the success of that transparent manoeuvre by the adoption of a purely negative or intransigent attitude. Our right course is not to repel advances, but to state our terms when the challenger to negotiations has started."

Replies to Switzerland
Berlin, Dec. 27.—The German reply to the Swiss note was handed to the Swiss minister today. It is on the same lines as the reply to President Wilson.

London, Dec. 28.—A despatch to Reuters from Amsterdam quotes a Sofia dispatch as saying that Bulgaria has replied to Switzerland's note in a tone identical with that of the other Entente allies. A despatch from Vienna is to the effect that Austria-Hungary has also replied to the Swiss note.

Italy's Views
Rome, Dec. 28.—The answer of the Central Powers to President Wilson's proposal is to be evasive, especially as regards the president's chief request that the belligerents state their terms of peace. Some of the newspapers express the opinion that the present opportunity should not be allowed to pass as it may lead to some satisfactory form of negotiations. All, however, are agreed that the Entente Allies can conclude peace only on terms which will preclude the possibility of future wars.

Berlin, Dec. 27.—Germany's answer to President Wilson and the promptness with which it was made have caused a good impression generally in the press. Only the anti-American newspapers show a tendency to dissent and express the view that interference of any kind by America is intolerable. The latter papers find a certain satisfaction in the

Want Daylight Saving Again in Motherland

London, Dec. 28.—The Times prints a forecast of a report by a committee which investigated the results of last year's daylight saving. It says the evidence taken shows that opinion overwhelmingly favors making the plan general in 1917. There is, among the interests which had the most difficulties because of the setting of the clocks ahead almost a consensus of statement that they vanished in practice and that those that remained were far outweighed by the advantages obtained.

The Times says it is virtually certain that the daylight saving plan will be renewed in 1917, but that it is likely to begin some time in April instead of May 21.

COUNCIL CANNOT HELP CONSUMERS

Replies From Milk and Coal Dealers Considered

NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Federal Inquiry Into Cost of Feed in Relation to Price of Milk, and Appointment of Local Weight Inspector—The City May Sell Milk

The answers from the milk and coal dealers, in reply to the council's questions, were given what is practically their final consideration at the adjourned meeting of the common council this morning. The council decided that the dealers had established a prima facie case and that there was nothing it could do in behalf of the consumers in connection with either the milk or the coal prices. The correspondence was laid on the table. The only suggestions arising from the inquiry were to the effect that the government should inquire into the reasons for the high cost of grain and feed in their relation to the cost of milk and that a weight inspector should be appointed to oversee the deliveries of coal and other commodities.

The council went into committee to deal with the milk and coal matters and the answers were presented by the common clerk.

In reply to question No. 29, none of the dealers admitted having seen any circular or letter sent to retailers dictating the price at which milk should be sold. All dealers denied knowledge of any selling agreement. None of them admitted the sale of milk through a wholesaler which had been run through a separator.

Commissioner Fisher said that the milk men seem to have established their case and he did not see what the city could do to help the consumers in this manner.

Commissioner McLellan said he could not figure the cost of delivery. Neither Commissioner Wigmore said that the generous ration allowed in the state-ments, the producers could not secure more milk than an average of six quarts a day per cow. The big question was whether the farmers fed so much material to their cows—and they say they did. The question then was about who was responsible for the increased cost of feed and this seemed to be a problem for the federal authorities.

Commissioner Wigmore said that one of the milk dealers was making fortunes. He considered the excessive cost of overlapping deliveries as one of the chief reasons for the high retail price. He did not see that there was anything the city could do at present but when the producers lowered their price in summer the dealers should do the same. He moved that the correspondence lie on the table.

In seconding the motion, Commissioner Fisher suggested the establishment of central city depots for the sale of milk throughout the city.

Commissioner McLellan supported the motion on the understanding that the question might be taken up again at any time.

The motion was adopted.

Coal Answers.
The replies from the coal dealers were presented in authorized form by the common clerk as follows:

Thomas Wisted.
Does not sell American anthracite in smaller quantities than 100 lb. bags; no soft coal in less than about 75 lbs.; no understanding between dealers with regard to American anthracite per ton, half ton or bag. Price per ton of coal delivered in bags is \$12.50; per single bag (40 lbs), eighty cents. Spring Hill Reserve Coal delivered in bags, \$7.50 per ton, forty-five cents per single bag; some reduction made for more than three bags.

City Fuel Company
Does not sell coal in bags excepting to persons who call at sheds for ten cents worth, and they get one half bushel of fuel full. Have no arrangement with any parties who are selling coal in paper bags, but sell to two or three stores where they sell that way, but at regular retail prices. Are not a party to any agreement among coal dealers.

J. Livingston.
Never sold in paper bags; price for soft coal is \$7. per ton and eighty-five cents for bar. Anthracite coal \$12.00 per ton in bulk or \$12.50 in yard.
J. S. Gibbon & Co.
Up to recently have been selling coal in paper bags (about 17 lbs) to grocers at \$1.00 per dozen, selling price to consumer ten cents was plainly marked on bags. Owing to impossibility of getting sufficient soft coal and with increased demand found it necessary to raise price to grocers to \$1.25 per dozen, and on bag to twelve cents, bags which were formerly one cent each, now two (Continued on page 2; second column.)



"WONDER IF THERE'S ANYBODY HOME?" — Rochester Herald

French Explosion Leaves Crater 120 Yards Long And 40 Yards in Width

Fighting on the Western Front—Conditions in Greece Grow Better For the Allies—Demobilization Goes on

Mackenzie, December 27, brought to the Ninth Army Infantry, under General Von Falkenhayn a complete victory in the battle near Rinnik Sarat over the Russians summoned to the defense of Roumania. The enemy suffered heavy losses, and even the strongest Royalist engagements near Rinnik Sarat forms a total of 10,220 Russian soldiers.

Libson, Dec. 28.—(New York Tribune)—News from Athens reaching London last night shows that conditions have improved greatly from the allied point of view. The Royalists are beginning to feel the effects of the allied blockade, and even the strongest Royalist newspapers are completely changing their tone.

In the meantime, the foreign office announces, the demobilization of Greek army is going on rapidly and satisfactorily, in accordance with Greece's promises. This will remove the threat from the allies' rear. The persecution of the Venizelists is also lessening.

CHILDREN'S FUND FOR BELGIANS IS \$33,387

Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 28.—The school children's fund for Belgian children now reaches \$33,387.75.

The funeral of Miss Estelle McPeake took place this morning with high mass in St. Dunstan's church, celebrated by Rev. F. L. Carney. Capt. J. A. McPeake, her brother, was unable to attend on account of illness. Four officers of the 288th battalion were pall-bearers. The mourners included Sheriff O'Brien and two sons, of Nelson; John T. Jennings and J. Fred Ryan.

The E. Burt Lumber Company have 100 men in Keswick woods getting out logs for next season. Conditions have been very favorable in that section.

The school board yesterday decided to build an annex to Charlotte street school at a cost of \$70,000. Plans have been prepared by G. Ernest Fairweather of St. John.

Stewart Donald King and Ethel M. Carson, of Dumfries, were married here this afternoon by Rev. J. S. Sutherland.

NURSE MEETS DEATH IN PLAYING SANTA CLAUS

Cranbrook, B. C., Dec. 28.—Miss Pearl Parker, a nurse, while impersonating Santa Claus at a Christmas tree event here, was so severely burned that she died soon afterwards.

SWEDEN CONSERVING HER FOOD SUPPLIES
Copenhagen, Dec. 28.—A Stockholm despatch says that bread and flour tickets will be issued in Sweden from January 15.

Another Neutral Sunk
London, Dec. 28.—Lloyd's announces that the Swedish steamer Friga is believed to have been sunk.

Opening Of Session At Ottawa Earlier Because Of Conference In London

Borden Intends to be at That in February—Hon. T. C. Casgrain, Postmaster-General Ill With Pneumonia

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 28.—The parliament of Canada will assemble three weeks from today, Thursday, January 18. An extra of the Canada Gazette summoning the senate and commons for this date is being published.

The session is to open earlier than was anticipated because of the impending war conference in London which Sir Robert Borden intends to attend. It will meet in the latter part of February.

HON. MR. CASGRAIN ILL.
Ottawa, Dec. 28.—Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, postmaster general, who is ill with pneumonia at his residence here, was only slightly improved today. He recently made a trip to New York and on his way home contracted a cold from which congestion of the lungs developed. While his condition is not critical, it is rather serious.

THINK GRADED SCALE IN ASSESSMENT FOR THE FUND IS UNFAIR

Common Council to Lay Objection Before Attorney-General and Mayor May Go to Fredericton

The principle of assessing a heavier proportion of the tax for the patriotic fund on the larger property owners was disapproved by the common council at its meeting this morning. A communication was received from the provincial government announcing that the city's share would be \$150,000, in addition to the county's allotment of \$21,000. This led to a discussion of the act under which the tax is to be levied and objections were made to the principle of increasing assessment values by five per cent for every \$10,000 in excess of the first \$10,000. It was held by some of the commissioners that this would be unfair to some of the larger property owners. The council agreed on this and asked the mayor to interview the attorney-general on the matter. If necessary, he will attend the meeting to be held in Fredericton next Tuesday evening to hear objections to the act or the allotment.

The mayor drew attention to the provisions of the new act providing for this assessment, pointing out that all persons having property worth less than \$5,000 will pay at a fixed rate, those between \$5,000 to \$10,000 will have five per cent added to their assessment values, with an extra five per cent added for each additional \$10,000 of actual values. Under this plan property worth \$10,000 would be valued at \$15,000, and property worth \$1,000,000 would be assessed at \$5,000,000. He questioned the fairness of this increasing scale as it placed the heaviest burden on many of the men who had been giving most generously to the fund.

There was general opposition to this feature and it was agreed that the mayor should lay their objections before the attorney-general and, if necessary, proceed to Fredericton to attend the meeting.

A communication regarding the condition of Rockland street was referred to the commissioner of public works.

HOPE A. THOMSON'S VERSE
The sonnet, "1917," in last evening's Times was from the pen of Hope A. Thomson, whose graceful verse has been so highly appreciated by readers of this paper. Mr. Thomson has published one book of verse, and extracts from his work are found in a collection of Scottish poetry issued in book form quite a number of years ago. Some of his songs have been set to music by a Scottish composer who was his personal friend in the old country. Mr. Thomson contemplates issuing another volume of poems in the not distant future.

DEATH OF JOHN O'REILLY
Many will learn with regret of the death of John O'Reilly of Fairville, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Reilly of Chipman. He was twenty-eight years old and is survived by six brothers and one sister. The brothers are George, Edward, Murtagh, Albert, Alexander and Herbert; the sister is Miss Teresa. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon from the residence of his brother, George, 91 Main street, Fairville.

The St. Louis Reported
New York, Dec. 28.—Signalled: Steamer St. Louis, Liverpool for New York, 1,250 miles east of Sandy Hook at 6 a.m. Dock about 8.30 Sunday.

Admiralty Commanders Cargo Space On British Liners Out Of New York

New York, Dec. 28.—Lieut. Connor Guthrie, representing the British Admiralty here, summoned freight managers of the British steamship companies to a conference yesterday and told them that beginning on January 1 the British government would require 85 per cent of the cargo space on their ships. Forty-seven and nine-tenths per cent is to be reserved for war munitions and the remaining thirty-seven and one-tenth per cent for wheat.

MORE TROUBLE IN DUAL EMPIRE

Report That Hungarian Premier is to Resign

A PRACTICAL ADMISSION

Berlin Gives News Out in Guarded Manner—Tizza at Outs With Coalition Cabinet—Privy Council Steps Down at Emperor's Order

Berlin, Dec. 28.—It is rumored in Budapest that Count Stephen Tizza, Hungarian premier, is likely to resign soon owing to alleged differences with Count Casimir von Chudenitz, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, and the Austrian coalition cabinet.

Berlin, Dec. 28.—The administration papers in Budapest deny that Count Stephen Tizza, Hungarian premier, is about to follow Baron Burian and Dr. von Koerber into retirement. The possibility of the withdrawal of Hungary's "strong man" from public life, has, however, been in the air since before the death of Emperor Francis Joseph.

Amsterdam, Dec. 28.—A Vienna despatch says that Privy Councillor Rudolph Ziegler, minister of the Austrian Land Credit Bank, has resigned at the request of Emperor Charles. He is succeeded by Ritter von Leth.

WOLVES CHASE SKATERS

Trappers on Skates Race Three Miles With Pack in Pursuit

Standish, Mich., Dec. 28.—Three trappers, Charles Leonard, George Weston and Bert Parker, have reached here after a hunting trip in the Lake Superior region and report a race for life with a wolf pack on returning from their traps last week.

The men were on skates three miles from the shore when the wolves appeared. One of the trappers tried his life when the pack approached them and the wolves quickly tore one of their wounded members to pieces, giving the hunters time for a start.

Several times when the wolves were nearly on them this was repeated, the men said, until they escaped.

OLD MEN A SUCCESS IN CHICAGO TEST

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A campaign to give work to elderly men is meeting with great success, and more business men are joining the movement daily. Letters have been received from several firms offering positions to men between forty-five and sixty-five. The list of unemployed old men contains 1,860 names. Ten "old" men, who were put to the test by the Chicago Mail Order House to see whether they could do the work required, have made a success after ten days' trial and taken on as permanent employees. They are between the ages of forty-five and sixty-five. Ten more have been placed in the packing department. Two hundred and fifty men have been placed in positions which are being opened at the rate of about fifty each day.