

BELGIUM MUST HAVE REPARATION, SAYS REPLY TO POPE

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GERMAN DEMANDS RUSSIAN TERRITORY

TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, FULL INDEPENDENCE, REPARATION FOR DAMAGE, BELGIAN TERMS

Government's Reply to Pope's Peace Proposals Couched in Firm Language, and Accompanied by Personal Note from King Albert—Guarantees for Future Are Required.

Have, Jan. 23.—King Albert, in his reply to the Pope's peace proposals, wrote a personal letter as follows:

"Very truly, I have taken note of the message of your holiness, which I have received with the greatest interest and have hastened to submit it to my government, which has studied it with most serious and deferential attention. The result of that study has been recorded in a note which I am happy to communicate to your holiness."

"In associating myself with the wishes of your holiness, that a just and durable peace may promptly put an end to the evils from which humanity, particularly the Belgian people, so ruefully tried, is suffering, I beg your holiness to believe in my filial and respectful attachment."

(Signed) ALBERT.

This letter was dated December 27, 1917.

The note of the Belgian Government, says:

"The royal Government, as soon as it received the message of your holiness to the heads of the belligerents, hastened to reply that it would study with the greatest attention the proposals of the agreement exposed in such elevating language."

"At the same time it desired particularly to express its lively and profound gratitude for the particular interest the holy father manifested in the Belgian nation and of which the document was now and precious proof."

"At the outset of his message the holy father took pains to declare he had forced himself to maintain perfect impartiality toward all the belligerents, which renders more significant the judgment of his holiness in the conclusion in favor of the total evacuation of Belgium and the re-establishment of its full independence, and also recognized the right of Belgium for reparation for damages and the cost of the war."

Had Condemned Invasion.

"Already in his consistorial allocution of January 22, 1915, the holy father had proclaimed before the world that he re-proved injustice and he condescended to give the Belgian Government the assurance that in formulating that reprobation it was the invasion of Belgium he had in mind."

"The honest people of all countries will rejoice with the Belgian Government that the justice of their cause, the justice of the Belgian Government, the justice of the Belgian people, so ruefully tried, is suffering, I beg your holiness to believe in my filial and respectful attachment."

(Signed) ALBERT.

REVOLUTION IN AUSTRIA; NEW CABINET, WORD IN NEW YORK

Announcement Made by the Smolny Institute in Petrograd.

NO CONFIRMATION GIVEN But Social Unrest in the Dual Monarchy Gives Color to Story.

New York, Jan. 24.—According to news agency dispatches the Smolny Institute, headquarters of the Bolsheviks in Petrograd, has announced a revolution in Austria, indicating that revolutionists have named a new cabinet and are making progress. There has been no confirmation, but it is known that there has been serious social and economic unrest in the dual empire for some time.

LITTLE HOPE FOR 85 MEN BURIED BY EXPLOSION IN SHAFT OF MINE

Reserve Gangs Work Heroically, But Without Much Optimism.

15 BODIES RECOVERED Nova Scotia Disaster One of Worst in Province's History.

Stellarton, N. S., Jan. 24.—No sign of life was heard today in the Allan shaft of the Acadia Coal Company's mine, where an explosion occurred last evening. The rescue workers managed to reach the upper levels, and there found the bodies of 15 men, of whose safety little hope is entertained.

Stellarton, N. S., Jan. 24.—Rescue gangs worked heroically all night in the Allan shaft of the Acadia Coal Company's mine to liberate the 85 men entombed by debris after the explosion last evening. This morning hope that any of them could be alive was practically abandoned.

CHINESE GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES ITS REGRET Will Make Reparation for Attack on American Gunboat.

Peking, Jan. 24.—The foreign office has expressed regret for the attack on the American gunboat Monocacy in the Yangtze River last week, in which one sailor was killed and two others were wounded. The foreign office has promised to make an investigation and to give reparation.

BOARD OF CONCILIATION APPOINTED BY CROTHERS Ottawa, Jan. 24.—The minister of labor has appointed a board of conciliation to deal with the dispute between the Grand Trunk Railway Company and its conductors (trainmen). The board is made up of His Honor Judge Wallace of Oxford County and Robert Patterson of Stratford for the company and Fred Baneroff of Toronto, representing the men. A new schedule as to wage rates and working conditions is being sought by the men.

THREE FIREMEN KILLED Philadelphia, Jan. 24.—Three firemen were killed and fifteen injured under a falling wall, when fire swept a large public school in the outskirts of the city early today. The blaze, which was of mysterious origin, caused a loss of \$150,000.



THE KAISER'S GLAD HAND

ENEMY EVACUATES TERRITORY ON MONTE TOMBA MOUNTAIN FRONT

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy, Wednesday, Jan. 23.—(By the Associated Press).—The enemy has evacuated territory on the northern mountain front behind Monte Tomba, extending from the Piave River westward. Their defence lines have now been moved back to Monte Spinozza.

Italian patrols making reconnaissances in the last few days found that the enemy patrols and sentinels had been withdrawn, and later discovered that the enemy had abandoned the entire region.

This retreat is a sequel to the brilliant victory French troops recently obtained on Monte Tomba, inasmuch as the enemy's position thereafter became untenable.

The retirement of the enemy is important as showing that he has given up his effort to force a passage of the Venetian Plains by way of Monte Tomba and the west bank of the Piave, at least for the present. He is now constructing defensive works in the rear.

British Expenditure Daily £7,517,000

London, Jan. 23.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced today in the Commons that the daily average of net expenditure during the seven weeks ending January 19 was £7,517,000.

GERMAN OFFICIALS BADLY WORRIED BY RUSSIAN SITUATION Wondering If Bolsheviks Will Lose Power.

Amsterdam, Jan. 24.—German parliamentary circles regard the Russian situation as being very critical, according to the Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin, a copy of which has been received here. The paper says that the latest news from Petrograd shows that Bolshevik supremacy is seriously threatened, and that the situation now arises as to whether it would be wise to negotiate further with them or to attempt to overthrow them.

COAL SHORTAGE ACUTE IN PITTSBURGH DISTRICT Mines Unable to Resume Operations After Shut-Down.

Pittsburgh, Jan. 24.—The Pittsburgh industrial district, located in the centre of the nation's largest bituminous coal fields, today experienced the worst coal shortage of the winter. Less than 10 per cent of the mines, closed down last Friday by the five-day suspension order of Fuel Administrator Garfield, have been able to resume operations. It was estimated that a large portion of the 200,000 men made idle by the suspension are said still to be out of work.

COAL IS KING Passenger Trains Out to Give Engines for Freight.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 24.—All passenger traffic on the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad will be discontinued Friday and the fifteen engines that were being used to haul coal, according to announcement today.

BOLSHIEVIKI TAKE RED CROSS. Petrograd, Jan. 23.—The Bolsheviks have taken over the Russian Red Cross, which has been in the hands of non-partisans. The heads of the organization, including N. Pokrobsky, former minister for foreign affairs, have been arrested as counter-revolutionaries.

RUSSIA MUST CEE COURLAND AND BALTIC PROVINCES, STATES GERMANY, OR WAR TO GO ON

NO CHANCE OF FOE BREAKING BRITISH FRONT

Only Possibility Is It Might Be Pushed Back.

London, Jan. 24.—Via Reuters' Agency.—Reuters' headquarters' correspondent, discussing the threatened impending German offensive says:

"It is taken for granted that at the utmost the most violent on-attack against any part of our front can hope to attain would be to push us back a little. Any prospect of breaking through is practically negligible and scarcely worth discussing. In the meanwhile we are preparing ghastly hospitality for the enemy if he attempts an attack."

THE WAR SITUATION

On the western front in France and Belgium and on the Italian front, where the contending armies of the chief belligerents in the world have displayed little activity for some time, reports announce a resumption of hostilities of unusual activity for winter months. While the operations mentioned in the statements from the various army headquarters are of little consequence from a military view, yet the general extent of the activity indicates that developments of considerable magnitude are in immediate prospect.

U.S. TAKING STEPS TO PROVIDE WHEAT NEEDED BY BRITAIN Considers Forcing Reduction in Consumption.

COMMANDEERING FLOUR Will Take Over 30 Per Cent of Production and Select Supplies.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 24.—To create a large export surplus of flour for the Allies, the food administration is considering a plan of forced reduction in flour sales all the way from the miller to the consumer. Millers, wholesalers, retailers and bakers probably will be required to hold their sales of flour down to 75 per cent of the amount now handled.

SNOWFALL IS GENERAL ALL OVER WEST ONTARIO; MILD WEATHER PROMISED Over Three Inches of Snow Fell Before 8 O'Clock.

Times and a half inches of snow fell in London before 8 o'clock this morning, and by noon this total had at least been doubled. The slight storm is general all over Western Ontario. While the fall is of the kind that packs, and with a little wind might seriously affect the railways, the weatherman says the fall will only last out the day, and tomorrow it will be milder. There may be southerly winds. The area of low pressure that exists in Western Ontario is traced to Manitoba, where the weather is much milder. Eastern Canada continues cold, however.

ALLEGED ABSENTEE FROM QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTED SUICIDE Gordon Hepner Ends His Life at Port Elgin.

Pte. Gordon Hepner, a soldier formerly stationed at Queen's Park, has committed suicide at his home in Port Elgin, Ont., according to information received here today. The military authorities at district headquarters.

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN An Atlantic Port, Jan. 24.—The American steamship Oswego, formerly the German steamer Allemania, seized here when the United States entered the war, was sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean waters, near the Spanish coast, according to reports today. The ship, which was carrying a large cargo of mail, was last seen today on the coast of Spain.

BRITISH STEAMER IS ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE An Atlantic Port, Jan. 24.—A call for help from the British steamer Baykerran, badly damaged as the result of a storm, was received by radio here today. The message said the steamer had lost all of her boiler and was in need of assistance. The Baykerran's position was not revealed.

WAUGH CANNOT TAKE HALIFAX CHAIRMANSHIP Winnipeg, Jan. 23.—On returning from Chicago today, R. D. Waugh stated he could not accept the chairmanship of the Halifax rebuilding commission since by him, to cost \$3,000. The permits to date for 1918 amount to \$12,000.

Representatives of Kaiser at Brest-Litovsk Grow Threatening and Grant Delay For Last Time—Designate the Boundaries of Russia For Future.

Petrograd, Jan. 23.—Russia must give up Courland and all the Baltic provinces, the German representatives declared today. The German representatives at the Brest-Litovsk negotiations informed the Russian representatives at the last session of the conference. An announcement was taken today, January 23, to permit the Russians to consider the German terms.

Report of the session indicate that the Germans took a definite stand and most frankly outlined demands upon which they are insisting. The secretary of the Ukrainian delegation gave out an account of the meeting. It says the Russians put a question to the delegates of the central powers as to what were their final peace terms. Gen. Hoffman, one of the German delegates, replied by opening a map and pointing out the following line which they insisted should constitute the future frontier of Russia.

Boundaries Designated. From the shores of the Gulf of Finland to the east of the Moon Sound, islands in Valt, to the west of Minsk, to Brest-Litovsk.

This would eliminate Courland and all the Baltic provinces. The Russians asked the terms of the central powers in regard to the territory south of Brest-Litovsk. General Hoffman replied that was a question which they would not discuss.

Supposing we do not agree to such conditions. What are you going to do? General Hoffman's answer is reported to have been: "Within a week then we would occupy Riga."

The Russians asked for a recess which was granted reluctantly.

Last Adjustment. The Germans declared it was the last adjustment which they would consent. The request was made by Leon Trotsky, head of the Russian delegation, who said he desired an opportunity to make a statement.

Report in Ottawa Says Hanna Will Quit Food Board [Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Jan. 24.—It is stated here on excellent authority that Hon. W. J. Hanna will shortly resign his position of food controller, which he has occupied since the inception of the board. No reasons are attributed for the contemplated retirement.

KING ALBERT PAYS GREAT TRIBUTE TO TROOPS OF CANADA Decorates General Currie and Major Williamson.

BY W. A. WILLISON, Canadian Press Correspondent at the Front.

Canadian Army headquarters, Jan. 24.—Belgium has honored Canada. The brave little nation has paid a pleasing tribute to the valor of the Canadian forces in France. At the corps headquarters today, Lieut. Gen. Currie, commander of the Canadian Corps, was decorated by the King of Belgium.

Major H. B. Wilkinson, D.S.O., was decorated with the Croix de Guerre. The first 15,000 Christmas parcels from Ontario for soldiers in France have arrived and are being distributed.

With two theatres playing nightly to crowded houses, a third house has been opened up with the comedy "The Private Secretary."

The front line in the neighborhood of the Canadians continues quiet.

FRENCH AND ITALIAN VESSEL LOSSES SLIGHT Paris, Jan. 24.—The sinking of two French vessels of more than 1,500 tons and one of lesser size, is about all that has reached the military authorities. Four vessels were attacked unsuccessfully.

Rome, Jan. 24.—The wrecking of Italian shipping losses gives the statistics of one small sailing vessel, one steamship was attacked unsuccessfully.

WAR MATERIAL PLANTS DESTROYED BY BLAZE Camden, N. J., Jan. 24.—Two manufacturing establishments engaged in the manufacture of war materials were destroyed in a fire which swept a two-story building, covering a half block today. The entire loss will reach \$500,000, it is believed.

POISONED CANDIES. Washington, Jan. 24.—Discovery of "impurities" in candy supplied to the navy ships today caused the issue of an order suspending the sale of candy to the men and also the purchase of additional supplies pending investigation. Navy department officials were careful not to say that the "impurities" were.

Reinforcements Were There. The secretary said there was a reinforcement of the Canadian troops at the front line, but there was no salient there. Inequality of forces existed at the front line, but the Canadian troops were there, and if they had not been there, there was not sure what the result would have been.

There was no intention to publish the result of the inquiry, said Mr. MacPherson. There had been no withdrawal from the front of any personnel from the higher command. He thought the war cabinet had been assured that the high command was blameless, he made bold to say that it would have changed the higher command.

FRENCH TROOPS MAKE BRILLIANT RAID ON GERMAN LINES IN WEST

Destroy All the Foe's Works, Shelters and Mine Galleries.

CAPTURE 15 PRISONERS Work of Artillery Magnificent, German Guns Completely Silenced.

With the French Army in France, Wednesday, Jan. 23.—(By the Associated Press).—The French on Monday executed a brilliant raid on the German lines eastward from Valenciennes, near Four-de-Pains, along a 2,000-yard front, reaching a depth of 200 yards. An intense artillery preparation made the progress of the troops easy, and they were able to destroy all enemy works, shelters and mine galleries before returning to their own line. Fifteen prisoners were captured by the French, as well as three machine guns. The French suffered few casualties and none killed.

All of the participants in the raid declared that the gunners' work was magnificent, not only as regards destruction, but in the manner in which it completely silenced the enemy artillery.

CHICAGO BREAD TO BE 75 PER CENT FLOUR

Chicago, Jan. 24.—Bread here after February 1 will contain only 75 per cent of flour, the flourmen's club of Chicago last night, the action being in response to a request from the food administration during the day. Similar action, it is said, is being taken throughout the state.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 17; lowest, zero.

The official temperature for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 12; lowest, 8.

TOMORROW—MILDER. Toronto, Jan. 24.—8 a.m. Forecasts.

Today—Moderately cold, with light snow.

Friday—Southerly winds and a little milder.

Temperatures. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures for the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations. High. Low. Weather. Victoria . . . 46. 44. Cloudy. Calgary . . . 44. 42. Clear. Winnipeg . . . 8. 2. Cloudy. Port Arthur . . . 8. 2. Fair. Barry Sound . . . 12. 10. Cloudy. Port Stanley . . . 16. 8. Snow. Buffalo . . . 14. 10. Snow. Toronto . . . 14. 9. Snow. Kingston . . . 14. 8. Cloudy. Ottawa . . . 16. 10. Fair. Montreal . . . 14. 8. Fair. Quebec . . . 16. 8. Clear. Father Point . . . 18. 4. Fair.

The sign (—) means "Below Zero."

Weather Notes. An area of low pressure which covered Manitoba and the Northwest states yesterday has moved southward to the Great Lakes, and is there causing a light snowfall. Weather has become milder in the West, but continues cold from Ontario eastward.