

NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

Statement From Lloyd George on Entente War Aims France Declines Peace Status Quo Ante Basis

BUGLES OF EMPIRE BLOW ACROSS FLANDERS FIELDS

Britain, After Three Years of War Still Pours Her Men 300 MILE BATTLE LINE Americans Now Lend Their Strength to Entente Forces FIGHT FOR JUSTICE Vivid Pen Picture of the West Front From W. A. Willison

Dec. 9.—(By Walter Willison, Canadian Press Correspondent)—The bugles of an empire are blowing across the fields of France, and Flanders. In the north towards Pasmchendele, the thunder of guns disturbs the night. To the south the British and Germans are locked in desperate struggle about Cambrai. On three hundred miles of battle front, the grim fight continues. The heart of France beats strong despite the long agony of conflict. Despite the torn fields and the wreckage of the Somme, the Meuse, Verdun and the Somme and the new records of battle. Britain, after three and a quarter years, still pours her men into the field, still stands as the bulwark of the free nations of the Seven Seas. And round her are marshaled, as they marched from the first, the men of New Zealand, of Australia, of South Africa, of Canada. For the Maple Leaf and the Wattle Bloom, for the Kiwi and the Shamrock and the Rose, brave men struggle on over the graves of yesterday. I have seen them together in the salient—a great moving drama of an empire personified marching men. When Canada moved its horses and its men and its guns towards Pasmchendele, it passed British artillery coming out from the mud after five continuous months' service. It passed New Zealand with its losses after the bitter fighting for Bellevue. It passed Australia moving in and coming out and holding the line to the right and the left. On the cemeteries of Canada and Anzac lie close together, and the graves of Britain lie between.

Armies do not talk greatly of their ideals. But there is an hour at night when the few still sitting in the mess room open their hearts for the moment and tell of the things they which they fight, even as they speak of the vision that was in them. They spoke of the vision that was in them, the Anglo-Saxon race battling on for the freedom of the world. So, they, they looked to the west and vis-

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ARTILLERY ACTIVE ON FRENCH FRONT Enemy Concentration Dispersed with Heavy Losses Last Night

By Courier Leased Wire Paris, Dec. 28.—The French war office issued the following official statement last night: "In the Argonne we repulsed an enemy surprise attack. "On the right bank of the Meuse, the activity of the artillery on both sides continued very lively in the region of Caurieres wood and Besonvaux. North-east of Besonvaux, our batteries caught under their fire an enemy troops concentration, which was dispersed with losses. "Belgian communication: "During the last 48 hours, there has been little activity on the front. During the nights of December 26, 27, the artillery fighting was rather intense in the Dixmude sector. "Army of the East, December 28: Nothing of importance occurred. The bad weather continues."

STATUS QUO NOT ENOUGH FOR FRANCE

By Courier Leased Wire Paris, Thursday, Dec. 27.—(Delayed)—France will not accept a peace based on conditions before the war. Foreign Minister Pichon declared in replying to the Chamber of Deputies today to the peace terms of the Central Powers outlined to Russia. He asserted that Germany was endeavouring to involve France in its negotiations with the Bolsheviks, but that the war would go on whether or not Russia made a separate peace. FIRST ESSENTIAL London, Dec. 28.—"Achievement of the purposes for which the Allies are fighting is essential to the future freedom and peace of mankind," said Premier Lloyd George in a letter which he sent today to the Labor Congress. The Premier's statement is regarded as the British reply to the German peace proposals.

ENEMY FAILED TO PENETRATE LINES Hun Efforts on West Front Cease—Allied Air Victory in Italy

By Courier Leased Wire Repeated in their attempt to break up the French line northeast of Verdun the Germans have ceased their efforts while the artillery on both sides keeps up a lively fire. In the Argonne yesterday the French checked a German surprise attack, and French artillery broke up an enemy troop concentration northeast of Verdun. On the British front, the artillery engagement continues at various points. Poe Impetus Failing On the Italian northern front, the Austro-Germans have not followed up their success of early in the week west of the Brenta, and which they had a hard fight to maintain. Enemy artillery fire on the Asiago plateau is intense, perhaps in preparation for other attempts. In aerial battles over Treviso, British and Italian airmen attacked for eleven days thirty-three attacking enemy machines, while emerging unscathed.

ENTENTE AWAIT DIRECT MESSAGE FROM LITOVSK

FRENCH OFFICIAL By Courier Leased Wire Paris, Dec. 28.—Artillery fighting continued during the night on the Verdun front near Caurieres wood, where the Germans made an unsuccessful attack on Wednesday, the war office reports. There also was heavy shelling in Lorraine. The communication follows: "During the night there were artillery actions in the region of Caurieres wood and in Lorraine, in the sector of Veho, where the bombardment became very severe late in the night. In Uppr Alsace, a French patrol brought back prisoners. There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front."

Peace Terms Insufficient For Great Britain; Enemy Must Prove Sincerity

Germany Wants General Peace Rather Than Peace With Disorganized Russia Alone, According to Belief in Old Land; Stiff Upper Lip Maintained Until Central Powers Give Proof of Their Earnestness

By Courier Leased Wire London, Dec. 28.—A statement purporting to give the British view taken in high British political circles of the German peace terms is printed by The Daily Express. It says that two things are known here, first, that Germany does not want a separate peace with Russia, but a general peace, and second, that Germany has to choose between her extremists and her moderates as no peace formula could possibly satisfy Count Reventlow and Philipp Scheidemann. "Nothing could be more ill-advised," it says, "than a general declaration of the German offer by the press or politicians of the Entente Alliance as such a reception is precisely what German diplomacy is playing for. That does not mean that the German proposals can be grasped at as a basis of immediate negotiations—their defects are self-evident."

After denouncing the terms as they would affect Belgium and the Netherlands, The Daily News adds: "These deficiencies might seem for a moment to form sufficient ground for ignoring or summarily dismissing the German proposals. Reasons regarding that conclusion are short-

sighted and impolitic as already has been suggested. "It is Germany's manifest policy, according to The Times to secure which there is yet time a peace which will preserve under her control her vassals in central and southeastern Europe, enabling her to boast triumphantly of her military successes. "The whole pretense of negotiation is characteristically disingenuous. "Even the blindest mole, declares The Mail, "could see through the smoke screen of verbal evasions with which the Germans try to conceal their real intentions. Seemingly compliance with the Russian suggestion coupled with reservations that take all the meaning from the tentative agreement is clearly the German game."

"The Allies are not thinking of peace. They are thinking only of their victory is what they mean to have."

New York, Dec. 28.—The following editorial comment appears in the New York newspapers this morning on the Teuton-Russian peace negotiations and proposals: "The Herald: "Nobody but these callow Russians will take the proceedings at Brest-Litovsk seriously. Germany and Austria-Hungary cannot be blamed, however, for putting a serious face upon them, since they so clearly play in three ways. They add to the confusion of Russia, they serve the anxiety of Kaiserism to find something to do, even if only camouflage, to appease the peace hunger of the peoples of the kaiser-ridden countries and at the same time they provide Kaiserism with the desired opportunity to transfer fighting troops from the Russian to the French and Italian fronts. The only peace that can come out of Brest-Litovsk is the separate peace between Teutonism and Bolshevism, which would place the Russian neck under the Prussian yoke for ever."

By Courier Leased Wire London, Dec. 28.—Opinion here on the reply of the Central powers to the Bolshevik peace terms, so far as can be judged from the editorials in the morning newspapers, is divided into two main lines. On one hand it seems to be felt that the Central powers have made a perfectly sincere offer to end the war immediately, while on the other hand it is declared they have set a cunning trap in which they hope, although vainly, to catch the Allies. The former view is not confined to papers generally regarded as having pacifist leanings. It is supported strongly, for instance, by the Conservative Daily Express, which stands uncompromisingly for victory over the Central powers and is an ardent apostle of anti-Prussianism. In all the papers taking this view the statement of the Central powers is regarded as being addressed less to Russia than to the allies collectively and the offer made through Count Czernin is assumed to be an initial proposal, which the Central powers probably are prepared to modify in the course of bargaining. For nowhere are the terms of the Central powers regarded as entirely acceptable in their present form. The Express says: "A First Bid. "The terms may be taken as Germany's first bid. The proposals are, of course, wholly inadequate, but it is significant that the idea of complete restoration has been abandoned completely. This is the first indication that Germany has begun to realize the true position with which she is confronted. "Germany is pledged definitely to the principle of restitution, thereby blindingly repudiating von Tirpitz and the other pan-Germans, but while restitution is accepted, reparations are not. Reparations will be accepted as the price of the restoration of these economic relations without which Germany cannot live. "An authoritative allied reply to Count Czernin might be a demonstration to the German people that the Allies have no wish to bring about their destruction, hinder their de-

velopment or threaten their independence. When they once understand what the Allies stand for and what really are their intentions, the German people themselves will contemplate the destruction of that militarism which has set out to conquer the world."

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WEATHER BULLETIN Toronto, Dec. 28.—The disturbance which was over the Lake region yesterday morning has moved eastward to the lower Lawrence valley by accompanied by strong winds and snow and the severe cold which prevailed in the western provinces is now spreading into Ontario. Forecasts Strong northwest winds, local snow flurries, but generally fair and extremely cold to-night and on Saturday.

THE MERCHANTS CORNER WHEN HIER RABBIT ADVERTISED. The Rabbit heard the Hon tell the leopard that he was known as the king of beasts because his roar had made his strength and bravery known to the jungle, a story in Judge relates. The rabbit pondered over the thought two or three days, then one evening he rushed from his hiding place into the middle of a cleared space and did his best to imitate a coyote, hearing the squeal, pronounced upon him. The rabbit, terrified, asked for an opportunity to speak before he was slain. He told the leopard about the conversation he had heard, and asked the leopard if he was not afraid when he "roared."

TOOK TOLL OF BANDITS. Marfa, Texas, Dec. 28.—After a careful check of the number of Mexican bandits killed by American troops and ranchers following the Britte Ranch raid, it was officially announced last night that eighteen bandits had been killed by actual counts. How many more crawled off in the desert undergrowth to die of their wounds cannot be ascertained. The number of wounded is impossible to estimate as they were carried away or hidden in the Rim Rock country.

Manager Higgins is firmly convinced that Frank Baker will be a shining star in the 1918 campaign. Despite the fact that his work in the season recently ended was the subject of criticism. Official batting and fielding averages have proved that Baker did not deserve much of the criticism heaped upon him, as he led the Yankees with the stick, drove in the greatest number of runs and led all American league third basemen in defence. Even before these figures were made public, Higgins was one of those inexplicable things that come into the careers of many ball players. Higgins contends that the Trappe slugger belongs to the Sam Crawford and a few others who are always in the best of condition, and therefore should be good for several more seasons in the major leagues. He has no thought of trying anybody out to take the place of the one-time home run king.

Continued on page five.

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