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THE WEEKLY ONTARIO AND BAY OF QUINTE CHRONICLE

BELLEVEILLE, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1916.

MORTON & HERRICK, Proprietors.

GERMANY'S REPLY EVASIVE; GOV. DISCUSS IRISH PROBLEM

Hungarian Premier Urged to Work for Peace—Britain and Allies Will Not Accede to Tentative Proposal for Peace Conference—German Ambassadors Already Seeking Hotel Accommodation for Peace Conference at The Hague—Heavy Artillery Engagements at Verdun Front—Gen. Joffre's New Position as Adviser to Government—The Irish Settlement.

BRITAIN CONSIDERS GERMANY'S REPLY EVASIVE.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—The British press today is unanimous in condemning Germany's reply to President Wilson as evasive and lacking sincerity. The Entente Allies it is believed will not accede to the Teutonic proposal for a conference of delegates of the belligerent nations.

GERMAN DELEGATES ON WAY TO HAGUE FOR CONFERENCE.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—A despatch from The Hague reports that German agents have arrived there in search of hotel accommodation for the German delegates to that peace conference proposed in Germany's reply to the Wilson note.

AUSTRIAN EMPEROR IN DAILY CONSULTATION WITH HUNGARIAN PREMIER.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—A despatch from Budapest states that Emperor Charles since the peace offer made has been in daily consultation with the Hungarian premier, who is being urged by the Hungarian people to work for peace.

HEAVY ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENTS ON VERDUN FRONT.
PARIS, Dec. 27.—The French War Office reports heavy artillery fighting on the Verdun front last night from Vacherauxville to Vaux.

SWEDEN HAND NOTE TO NATIONS IN SUPPORT OF WILSON'S ATTITUDE.
BERNE, Dec. 27.—The Tageblatt announces that the Swedish diplomatic representatives have handed to both belligerents and neutral states a note in support of those of President Wilson and the Swiss government.

GERMANY'S ANSWER TO WILSON'S NOTE.
BERLIN, Dec. 27.—The answer to President Wilson's note was taken to the United States embassy today by foreign minister Zimmermann personally. No indication of its tenor appeared in the German papers today. Its text will be published tomorrow.

JOFFRE APPOINTED TECHNICAL ADVISOR.
PARIS, Dec. 27.—In addition to being created a marshal of France, Gen. Joffre, it is announced, will act as technical adviser to the government in all matters concerning the direction of the war. The high command as now settled finally consists of the war committee, composed of Premier Briand, Gen. H. Lyautey, Minister of War, Rear-Admiral Lachze, Minister of Marine, Albert Thomas, Minister of National Manufactures, Alexander Ribot, Minister of Finance and President Poincare.

DISCUSSION OF IRISH QUESTION.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—Informal discussions and consultations are proceeding for the settlement of the Irish question, according to the Manchester Guardian.

NORWAY TO JOIN IN URGING PEACE.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Copenhagen today, says:
"Dr. Mowinkel, president of the Norwegian Storting, in the course of an interview on his country's attitude concerning peace discussions, declaring that Norway, in common with the whole neutral world, had greeted the idea of peace 'as one greets the dawn of day after a stormy night.'"
"Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg's latest utterances, so far as they referred to the future relations between nations" Dr. Mowinkel added, "were similar to the statements in that respect made by President Wilson and Viscount Grey, the former British foreign minister, and I, therefore, hope that the possibility of finding a common oasis for negotiations is not far distant."
From the recent speech of David Lloyd George, the British Premier, M. Mowinkel said he gained the impression that the reply of the entente allies did not exclude further peace discussions.

BRITISH MAKE ADVANCE BELOW KUT-EL-AMARA.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—An official statement on the Mesopotamia campaign was issued last night reading:
"On the 22nd British detachments advanced to the right bank of the Tigris. Their position subsequently had been consolidated and extended south and southeast of Kut-el-Amara. The enemy's trenches on the right bank of the Tigris, southwest of Kut, have been systematically bombarded. Our cavalry by a night march reached and destroyed Grassabs fort,

20 miles southeast of Kut which had long been a base of operations of the hostile Arabs. Sixty tons of grain were destroyed, cattle were captured and a number of hostile Arab encampments were burned."

PAPERS WERE TAKEN FROM MARTIN'S DESK.
REGINA, Dec. 27.—The McGuire royal commission appointed recently to investigate the "high official source" from which The Regina Daily Post newspaper has obtained information in an article which stated that the question of a rural credits bill for Saskatchewan was being discussed in executive council, has made a report, which was made public last evening. After going into the evidence in detail the report finds the "high official source" mentioned was not Hon. W. M. Martin or any other member of the government of Saskatchewan, and that the source of the allegations was a typewritten memorandum, and the pencilled memorandum thereon and attached were abstracted from a drawer of the desk of Mr. Martin's private office. The report is signed by both commissioners—T. H. McGuire, ex-chief justice of the North West Territories, and J. H. Parkes, master in chambers.

Chief Justice of the Post, in testifying, said that "his high official source" was Premier Martin.
Premier Martin, under oath, denied giving the information to Wright and told of a theft from his private office of certain notes dealing with the rural credits question, and also that the article in question bore a striking resemblance to these private notes.

CONFERENCE OF ALL DOMINIONS IN FEW WEEKS.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—The secretary of state for the colonies has sent a telegram to the Dominions explaining the purposes of the forthcoming imperial conference announced by Premier Lloyd George. The telegram explains that what the government contemplates is not an ordinary imperial conference, but a special war conference of the empire.

The Prime Minister of each of the Dominions is "invited to attend a series of special meetings of the war cabinet, in order to consider urgent questions affecting the prosecution of the war, possible conditions on which, in agreement with our allies, we could assent to its termination and problems which would then immediately arise."
The premiers are urged to attend at an early date—not later than the end of February.

For the purpose of these meetings the various premiers will be members of the war cabinet.
BERLIN CRAFTY IN ANSWER TO WILSON'S NOTE.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Germany's reply to President Wilson's note regarded here as having advanced the peace movement another step, despite the fact that it disappoints in not yielding a suggestion for an armistice.

The reception Germany's reply receives among the Entente Allies whose spokesmen publicly declared against such a program now becomes the point upon which a further move is hinged. The German note probably is the prelude to a series of carefully considered delicate moves in the great game of world diplomacy, all possibly leading to an approach for a real discussion of peace terms on grounds which all the belligerents may feel can place them at no disadvantage.

This is the official view of Germany's reply, so far as it has been formulated on the basis of the unofficial text. The official copy had not been received last night and President Wilson was keeping his mind open.

Neutral diplomatic quarters, too, regarded the note as a step toward peace, and rather leaned to the view that Germany might follow it with a confidential communication of some sort outlining her terms.

The view of the Entente ally embassies, frankly expressed, was that the note was not an answer to President Wilson's communication, but rather a document for circulation in Germany and in neutral countries with the object of molding opinion to place the responsibility of continuing the war on the Entente.

Among the Germanic diplomats the only view expressed was one of surprise that the reply had preceded receipt of the Entente's response to Germany's original peace proposal of Dec. 12. It was everywhere agreed that the principal sticking point was the lack of a definite statement of terms such as President Wilson asked, and such as Lloyd George declared the Allies would require if they were not to put their "heads in a noose with the rope end in the hands of the Germans." It is not beyond the realm of diplomacy, however, to find a way to bridge that difficulty, and Germany's failure is not regarded as a block to the negotiations, although it makes them exceedingly difficult.

FOE ONSETS IN EAST ROUMANIA GAIN SLIGHTLY.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—According to the German official communication issued at Berlin last night, the Russians have been ejected from several positions in Great Wallachia.
As the Germans do not specify these positions, and do not claim that they have pierced any Russian lines, it is presumed that the operations have merely consisted in the driving of Russian detachments towards their main positions. It is also considered probable that the Russians are fighting a delaying action in order to give time for the completion of prepared positions in their rear and for adequate reinforcements of men and guns to arrive. At any rate the German advance has been steadily slowing down until it is nearly stopped.

The Russian description of the fighting on the Roumanian front shows that fierce attacks are being made by the enemy at the source of the River Srisitha, in the Dragosatzoff region, Roumanian troops holding the lines repelled the foe and captured three machine guns.

The Russian advanced posts at the source of the Rinnik River were pressed back by the enemy on their main position, Petrograd announces. All the German attacks, the Russians say, were repulsed by their fire in the Kilnau valley, west of Rinnik Sarat.

ECONOMIC UNION TO FOLLOW WAR.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The Russian foreign minister, M. Pokrovskt, invited the representatives of the press at Petrograd to an interview at which he outlined his program and his ideas in regard to the present political situation. Reuter's Petrograd correspondent says that in general the ministerial declaration, which seems to have been meant to take the place of the usual speech before parliament, consisted of a few statements:
First, there has been no change in the relation between Russia and her allies.
Second, the minister declared with firm assurance that after the war the military alliance of France, England and Russia would be consolidated in a close economic union.
Third, the war will be continued until a decisive victory has been won.

LARGE GREEK STEAMER IS HELD AT GIBRALTAR.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The Greek line steamer Patris with 600 passengers aboard bound from Piraeus to New York, is detained by the British at Gibraltar. It was learned today from N. A. Galanos, local agent of the line, The British government having declared a blockade against Greek shipping. The Patris, we presume, will be detained until the blockade is lifted.

TRITCHIE'S LADIES' TWEED COATS

About Thirty Up-to-the-Minute
Coats Chosen From Regular
Stock Clearing at
Half Price

These Garments are mostly All this Season's, thus showing the latest Style Ideas. They are in light and dark Tweeds, some with Plush Collars and Cuffs, also a few Black Beaver Cloth Coats. There are about 30 in all and every one a distinct Bargain. Regular prices \$13.50 to \$25.00, on sale this week at just

Half Price
A STRICTLY
NEW
Showing of
LADIES'
PLUSH
COATS

If it's a Plush Coat you have in mind, you're sure to be highly pleased with our latest Showing. They are in both loose and Belted Back Styles, some trimmed with Sable and imitation Beaver fur. Yours, early inspection invited. Priced

\$25 to \$45
Let us Reupholster
Your Furniture
And Make it
Like New

Store
Hours
For the Balance of
Dec, January
and February
Commencing today we will close our Store at Half past Five o'clock, and open at Eight-Thirty, thus giving our Employees one hour extra leisure everyday and we ask our Customers to assist us, thereby completing their trading before Five-Thirty.
Saturday
Evenings
The Store Will
Remain Open
As Usual Till
Nine O'Clock

The Ritchie Company
Limited