Weather Forecast: Fair and Colder

The London Advertiser

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HOME EDITION

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Germany Ready Now For Universal Disarmament

GREECE ACCEPTS FIRST DEMANDS OF THE ENTENTE POWERS

DISARMAMENT IS SAID TO BE ONE OF PEACE MOVES

Even Germans Coming To It, Says Enemy's Legation In U. S. A.

HAD ENOUGH OF WAR

Little by Little True Sentiments of Kaiser's People Coming Out.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The German embassy last night authorized the statement that it was certain should representatives of the belligerents meet to discuss peace terms, that one of the most important subjects for discussion would be that of limited universal disarmament. The German view is said to be that any peace would be worthless, which did not make unnecessary armament on a scale approaching that which existed before the war.

It was suggested that actual formation, as has been proposed in some league of nations to enforce peace, necessarily would have the effect to bring about a limited disarmament. The German chancellor has said Germany would be glad to enter a league to prevent war.

The German view further is indicated as being generally opposed to international coalitions, as they have existed in the past, on the ground that such coalitions are opposed to the maintenance of peace rather than conducive of it.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN PREMIER'S HEALTH

Lloyd George Expects To Attend House Before Next Tuesday.

London, Dec. 15.—Premier Lloyd George was much better this morning. He has every expectation of being able to go before the House of Commons on Tuesday. In the meantime he will remain indoors.

FEARS HOLLAND MAY BE DRAGGED INTO WAR YET

Dutch Premier Pessimistic in Address to Parliament.

London, Dec. 15.—Premier Cort Van der Linden, addressing the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament yesterday, said that the Dutch Government still believed that there is danger of Holland being dragged into the war, according to a dispatch to Reuter's from The Hague. The premier was speaking on the budget, and said that the country's munitions supply had considerably increased, and was daily increasing, and that, in view of the international situation, it was unavoidable that sufficient military forces be kept at the immediate disposal of the Government.

$1,250,000 CONTRACT

Western Shipbuilders Close With Norwegian Syndicate.

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—Members of a Norwegian syndicate, headed by Otto Dohl and Capt. Dederick, yesterday completed final arrangements with the Coughlan Company for building three [illegible] of 8,800 tons, valued roughly at $1,250,000 each. The Wallace Shipyards at North Vancouver are negotiating with the syndicate for the construction of four similar vessels.

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, 20 above; lowest, 5 below zero.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 8 above; lowest, 4 below zero.

TOMORROW—FAIR AND COLD.

Toronto, Dec. 15—8 a.m.

Forecasts.

Today—Fresh to strong winds, with light snowfalls.

Saturday—Fresh to strong westerly winds; fair and cold.

Temperatures.

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

[illegible]	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	40	32	Cloudy
Calgary	30	24	Fair
Winnipeg	10	—20	Clear
Port Arthur	0	— 8	Cloudy
Parry Sound	30	12	Cloudy
Port Stanley	20	2	Cloudy
Buffalo	20	12	Cloudy
Toronto	23	9	Cloudy
Kingston	24	9	Snow
[illegible]	12	— 2	Fair
Montreal	18	10	Cloudy
Quebec	10	6	Snow
Father Point	10	0	Fair

[illegible]inus (—) means below zero.

Weather Notes.

[illegible]e low area which was over North-[illegible] Manitoba yesterday is now centred [illegible] Lake Superior, and another of [illegible]e importance appears to be developing on the middle Atlantic coast.

The weather has been cold from Manitoba eastward, with snow in many places, while in Saskatchewan and Alberta it has turned milder.

TRIMMING THE TREE

Advertiser Illustrations. —New York Evening Telegram.

"GOD HELP US IF AUTOCRACY WINS," AMERICANS PLEA

New York, Dec. 15.—A Herald dispatch from Washington says: Representative A. P. Gardner, of Massachusetts, yesterday introduced in the House a concurrent resolution through which he seeks to put Congress on record against any move on the part of the United States "to participate in promoting an unjust peace" in Europe as a result of Germany's peace proposal. He declared that Germany is suing for peace with the hope that the United States will offer mediation, and adds:

"God help us if autocracy wins! The timid sentimentalist wants to give Germany a truce in which to catch her breath, for choking she surely is, or she would not be suing for peace! Whoever heard of the winner in a fight crying 'enough'! It is only when he feels that his strength is spent that the brave man asks for a truce, and who is there who can deny the bravery of Germany? Would Germany, think you, forego the execution of her threat to destroy England's power if German leaders saw victory within their grasp?"

WAR BRINGING IRISH FACTIONS TOGETHER IN REMARKABLE WAY

Nationalist Soldier-Member Testifies To Good Feeling of the Ulstermen and Home Rulers in Trenches of Flanders —Bonar Law Voices Sentiments For a Change in Ireland.

London, Dec. 15.—During the debate in the House of Commons in the report stage today on the vote of credit the Nationalist members brought up the Irish question. Major William Redmond, East Claire, said that he in the past had been in bitter opposition to most of the new ministers, but that he had come to the conclusion on the question of a government for Ireland that an understanding for a settlement between Irishmen of the north and south was quite possible.

Troops from Ulster and the south provinces, the speaker said, were in pretty close contact, and it had been remarkable that there had not been under any circumstances anything but the very best and kindliest feeling between the men from the north and south.

Redmond, who is a major in the Irish Division, is spending a short leave in England. He paid a glowing tribute to the valor of the Irish troops, and said there was only one thing to do and that was to back up the men at the front.

Andrew Bonar Law, the Government leader in the House of Commons, in replying to Major Redmond, said the desire for a new state of things in Ireland, if it could be attained, was not confined to Irishmen. It was a great thing, he added, that for the first time an official of the Nationalist party stood on the side of the Empire. It was his heartiest wish, as deeply seated as that of Major Redmond, that some change between Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom and between one part of Ireland and the other should take place. One thing that would influence the people of the United Kingdom more than anything else, Mr. Bonar Law said, was that Irishmen were willing to run the same risks as they were running.

Peace Note Coming From Pope Benedict

Will Issue Christmas Proclamation to All Belligerents.

London, Dec. 15.—A Zurich dispatch to the Tageblatt of Berlin, as forwarded from Copenhagen by the Exchange Telegraph Company, says that in response to the peace note of the Central Powers to the Vatican the Pope in a few days will issue a Christmas proclamation to all the belligerents.

PEACE TALK CAUSES BIG DROP IN WHEAT

Decrease of More Than Eight Cents on Chicago Market.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 15.—Wheat crashed down in value today on account of peace reports. First sales showed a fall in some cases of 8⅝ a bushel. May wheat touched $1.58, as against $1.66¼ to $1.66⅝ at yesterday's finish.

Prices varied as much as 5c at the same instant in different parts of the pit. Waves of selling accompanied the exciting break in values.

What chiefly sent prices whirling downward was the statement authorized by the German embassy in Washington, that one of the most important subjects for discussion at a peace parley would be universal disarmament.

MAKE MERCHANT MASTERS LIEUTENANTS OF NAVY

French Have Plan To Defeat Slaying of Ships' Captains.

Paris, Dec. 15.—A technical conference of the Allied governments opened here yesterday. Etienne Clementel, French minister of agriculture, presided. The sittings will last three or four days.

The French Naval League petitioned Admiral Lacaze, the minister of marine, to give the masters of all armed French merchantmen commissions as lieutenants in the navy. The petition is based on the fact that commanders of German submarines have intimated to captains of French liners that the commanders of armed merchantmen would be made prisoners and court-martialed.

RUMANIAN PREMIER QUITS

Resigns, According to One Hungarian Paper.

London, Dec. 15.—The resignation of Premier Bratiano of Rumania is reported by the Budapest newspaper Avilag, as quoted in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen.

A recent dispatch from Jassy, the provisional capital of Rumania, said all the members of the Rumanian cabinet had resigned with the exception of the premier.

TEUTONIC FORCE REPORTS BUZEU AS NEW PRIZE

Berlin Statement Says the Rumanian City Has Been Captured.

CLAIM 4,000 PRISONERS

These Are Credited To Ninth Army Pursuing Retreating Allies.

TRUE VERSION.

London, Dec. 15. — The British admiralty has intercepted and makes public the following telegram, collected by the Wireless Press:

"Petrograd, Dec. 15—Russian official statement—Rumanian front: The Russian and Rumanian troops in the region of Buzeu, under pressure from the enemy, are falling back, protected by rearguards. In consequence of this retirement, the troops which occupied positions on the river Jalomitza also are retiring."

Berlin, Dec. 15—Via Sayville.—The German official statement today says:

"Roumanian front: Front of Archduke Joseph: Russian attacks yesterday on Transylvania front for the most part failed as on the preceding days. The enemy succeeded in gaining a footing on one height.

Burn Villages in Retreat.

"Army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen: Burning villages mark the way through Great Wallachia, along which the Russians retreated. The allied (Teutonic) troops, under the most unfavorable weather conditions are rivalling each other on the plain to prevent the enemy from getting any further rest on this march. In the mountains, the enemy offered resistance in advanced positions. These were pierced.

"Buzeu has been captured.

"The ninth army reported as a result of the operations of yesterday and the day before the capture of 4,000 prisoners.

"Near Futesti, stronger Bulgarian forces crossed the Danube.

"Russian front: Front of Prince Leopold: North of the railway from Zolchoff to Tarnopol, German troops entered Russian trenches and brought back 90 prisoners.

Admit Allied Advances.

"Macedonian front: Partial advances near Paralovo and at Gradechnitza and on both sides of the eastern Cerna resulted only in enemy losses. There have been patrol skirmishes on the lowlands of the Struma."

LORD SHAUGHNESSY HEADS COMMISSION TO RULE MONTREAL

Absolute Divorce From Present Form of Government Announced by Reformer.

Montreal, Dec. 15.—The administration of the affairs of the city of Montreal will pass from the hands of the mayor, controllers and aldermen and be handled by a commission of which Lord Shaughnessy, Sir Alexander Lacoste and Senator Beaubien are the more important members, it was announced by a prominent member of the reform element today. The aldermen and controllers will be paid the balance of their salaries for their terms and be released. Mayor Martin is to be retained as ex-officio chairman of the commission, as he cannot be deposed. No appropriations will be made for five years in an attempt to straighten out the city's financial tangle.

A special sub-commission, consisting of Senators Beaubien and Casgrain and F. J. Cockburn, the last-named an official of the Bank of Montreal, will arrange the question of a new franchise for the Montreal Tramways Company.

Huge British Credit Passes Lower House

$3,000,000,000 Vote, Introduced Yesterday, Adopted in All Stages.

London, Dec. 15.—The new war credit for £400,000,000 introduced in the House of Commons yesterday by Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, passed through all its stages in the lower house this afternoon.

ELECTIONS UNNECESSARY

New Legislation Relieves British Ministers of Necessity.

London, Dec. 15.—The House of Commons today passed the third reading of the bill making it unnecessary for the new ministers already members of the House to seek re-election.

CONSTANTINE ACCEPTS ENTENTE ULTIMATUM; NEW DEMANDS COMING

CANADA MUST CONTINUE TO GIVE HER SHARE OF RECRUITS

Introduction to a Series of Articles on Enlistment, Written for The Advertiser by Corporal McFarlane, A.M.C.

Corp. McFarlane, A. M. C.

Frederick Palmer, he noted war correspondent, has given it out as his opinion that the war will last for two, perhaps three, years yet, and that the British are prepared to lose one million more men next summer if necessary. Were the war to last through the summer of 1918, or even on into 1919, as he suggests, the British would likely be prepared to lose another million in order to fight the war to a finish and secure a decisive victory for the Allied cause. No matter how terrible to contemplate, this would seem to be the plan of the Allied leaders. Thousands upon thousands of soldiers at the front are still to be killed or permanently disabled. These must be replaced by as many more, and these latter, in all probability, by as many more. Canada must continue to bear her share until the affair is over. Already about fifteen thousand of our men have been either killed or put out of action. This winter and next summer will likely take as many more, and, if Palmer's prediction is correct, we may count on an additional ten or fifteen thousand. That simply means that Canada must have at least twenty-five thousand more men who are willing to make the supreme sacrifice, if she is to maintain her present strength in the field. If we take our population at eight millions, we should provide eight hundred thousand men for the front, according to continental standards. Only five hundred thousand have been called for, and one hundred and fifty thousand have not been secured. Plainly, in the near future, there must be a more vigorous enlistment than the last few months have shown.

Our leaders have not, as yet, deemed it expedient to adopt any form of military compulsion. We must face the issue under the system of voluntary enlistment. Everything we possess is at stake: our property, our liberty, our religion. The matter concerns us as a people. There is not one of us who has not a responsibility, and a heavy one at that. We cannot shift it on the so-called shirker. In doing so we may deceive ourselves as to our duty; but it will not win the war, and in case of defeat, a possibility, if not a probability, the shirker will not be the only one to suffer.

In view of the gravity of the present situation and the falling off in recruiting, a discussion of the whole matter of enlistment may not be amiss. The writer has endeavored to do this in a spirit of fairness and moderation, as well as in a spirit of absolute frankness, in a short series of articles under the following heads:

1. Enlistment and the boys under age.
2. Enlistment and the men who won't go.
3. Enlistment and the women.
4. Enlistment and the men who cannot go.
5. Enlistment and the followers of Christ.

These articles will appear as a series in The Advertiser.

ANSWER TO PROTEST SHOWS DISHONESTY OF GERMANY'S ACTS

British Undersecretary Scores Deportation Note.

DECLINED TO ASSIST

Authorities Did Nothing To Relieve Belgium's Industrial Depression.

London, Dec. 15.—"The German answer to the American Government's protest against forced deportations from Belgium requires very little elucidation to show its dishonesty," said Sir Maurice de Bunsen, assistant parliamentary under-secretary of foreign affairs, today.

"The main contention appears to be that, owing to the Allied blockade, Belgian workmen have been rendered idle and reduced to starvation, and, out of kindness, the German authorities have offered these workmen employment in Germany. This answer seems to overlook several essential facts."

Sir Maurice reviewed the futile appeals of the American relief commission to induce the German authorities to co-operate in relieving the industrial depression in Belgium, and went on:

Illustrates Contrast.

"Furthermore, local relief committees of Luxemburg Province, for instance, have, ever since the initiation of the relief measures, found employment for all the idle on the public roads and in other public works. But three months ago the German authorities of the province entirely suppressed these relief works and forced the people thus thrown out of work to go to Germany."

Other actions of similar import could be instanced in proof of the hollowness of the German contention. The professed kindness of the German Government towards the unemployed in Belgium, in offering them employment in Germany, is shown up in its true colors by the multiplicity of authentic details coming out of Belgium of the cruel severity of the Germans in seizing Belgian workers from their homes and families and forcing them into cattle trucks for deportation to Germany, where they are employed in the German interests.

Release German Soldiers.

"It makes no difference what character of employment is given to these men in Germany; they release just so many Germans for military service in the attempt to abolish the independence of Belgium."

HUGE ACREAGE JUMP

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—Census of grain acreage in the three prairie provinces indicates a great increase in productive areas. The total for wheat, barley, oats, rye and flax grew from 8,040,981 acres in 1906 to 22,314,891 in 1916.

TWO MORE SUNK.

London, Dec. 15.—Lloyds' Shipping Agency announces the following:

The Norwegian steamer Kaupanger has been sunk.

The Portuguese steamer Leoa, formerly the German steamer Enos, and the British steamer Glencoe are reported sunk.

BORDEN SILENT ON CONSCRIPTION AND QUEBEC RECRUITING

Expresses Hope, However, For No War Election.

REACHES PACIFIC COAST

Enters British Columbia For First Time Since 1907.

Blue River, B. C., Dec. 15.—On his first visit to British Columbia since 1907, Sir Robert Borden entered the province yesterday afternoon.

"I am coming in order to request all the people to join with us in making the information covered by the national service proposals available, in order that we may decide what may be done to further the war," the premier said. "It is not distinctively in the interests of recruiting, as such, but of national service.

"People in the east are very appreciative of the splendid response of British Columbia."

Asked as to the possibility of the Government introducing conscription and whether it was considered that the required number of men could be raised without resorting to conscription, Sir Robert said:

"I do not care to express any opinion on that at present."

Meetings of the national service board in the west, the premier said, had been satisfactory.

As to the prospects of a general election in the near future, or if one was probable during the war, Sir Robert said:

"You are as well able to answer that as I am. I certainly hope there will not be an election during the war."

Sir Robert would not discuss the recruiting situation in Quebec.

DANISH PEOPLE READY TO SELL WEST INDIES

Indorse Sale to United States by Big Majority Yesterday.

Copenhagen, Dec. 15.—Via London.—The plebiscite held yesterday on the question of the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States resulted in 283,000 votes being cast in favor of the sale and 157,000 against such action.

The indorsement by popular vote in Denmark of the proposal to sell the Danish West Indies to the United States means that the matter will now be taken up by the Riksdag, the Danish parliament. A treaty for the sale of the islands was concluded between the United States and Denmark in New York on August 5 of this year, the purchase price being fixed at $25,000,000. The treaty was ratified by the United States senate on September 7.

Considerable opposition to the project developed in Denmark, the question being used by the opposition as the basis for a determined fight on the administration.

Greek Monarch Backs Down and Agrees To Provisions of the Demands Already Made—Movement of Treacherous King's Troops Grounds For Still Further Drastic Action by Powers.

London, Dec. 15.—The Greek Government has accepted the ultimatum presented by Entente Allies, says a dispatch from Athens to the Central News Agency.

The ultimatum of the Entente Allies to Greece was presented yesterday and expired at 3 o'clock today. There are indications that the terms were agreed to, but so far the British foreign office has received no news of their acceptance.

AN EARLIER REPORT.

London, Dec. 15.—An Athens dispatch to Reuter's says that the indications are that the Allied ultimatum will be accepted in principle by King Constantine. The dispatch says that this decision is the outcome of a cabinet council held under the presidency of the king.

NEW ALLIED DEMANDS.

Paris, Dec. 15.—The Allies are about to hand new categorical demands to the Athens cabinet, according to the Petit Parisien. The principal object of these demands is the putting a stop to the movement of troops ordered by King Constantine with a view to the sending of important forces into Thessaly.

Encounters are reported between Royalist troops and a French detachment near Ekaterine, but no confirmation has been received.

SECOND ULTIMATUM.

Athens, Dec. 14—Via London, Dec. 15.—The demands of the Entente Allies presented to the Greek Government today were in the nature of an ultimatum. All Greek troops are to be withdrawn from Thessaly, according to the demands, and only a certain number of soldiers are to be concentrated in Peloponnesus.

The demands for reparation for the events of December 1 and 3, when fighting took place between Entente landing forces and Greek troops, are to be formulated.

Repeating Belgium Blood Money Levies On Vilna District

Germans To Force 1,000,000 Rubles From Conquered Lithuanians.

Amsterdam, Dec. 15—Via London.—The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung says the German authorities have announced a single levy of 1,000,000 rubles on the district of Vilna in Lithuania to defray the cost of supplies provided for the population of Vilna in the past and to cover the expenditures on supplies which may be provided in the future.

JAPAN, TOO, LINES UP IN REFUSING GERMANY'S OFFER

Will Never Consent to Ante-Bellum Status.

WANTS MENACE REMOVED

Entered War To Drive Teutons From Asia, and Will Not Restore Colonies.

New York, Dec. 15.—The Herald this morning publishes the following dispatch from Tokio under Thursday's date:

I have it on highest authority that Japan will not entertain thoughts of peace as long as restoration of the ante-bellum status is insisted on by the Berlin Government as a basis of settlement. Japan will stand staunchly by her allies in their determination to continue the war until the main purpose of overthrowing Prussian militarism is accomplished.

Japanese statesmen smile when Germany's demand for the restoration of her colonies is mentioned. The restoration of Kiao-Chou is not considered a possibility in this country, and Kiao-Chou was the colony of which Germans boasted most. Public sentiment in this country may approve the return to China of that portion of Shantung now in Japanese hands, provided arrangements favorable to Japanese trade and enterprise can be made, but never would approve its again becoming a German colony.

Japan's purpose in joining in the war was to drive the German menace from Asia. This represents retribution for the part the kaiser played in robbing Japan of the fruits of the war with China. Japan'se are willing enough to call the account squared, but this implies the present status in the Orient, not the before war status.

For the same reasons, Japan will not consent to the restoration of other German holdings in the Pacific in the taking of which she was largely instrumental.

WILSON WAITING FOR BRITISH TO ANSWER PLEAS

American President Will Not Make Peace Move Till Premier Speaks.

HOPES FOR MEDIATION

After Arrival of Austria's Notes, Feels Allies Will Agree To Conference.

Washington, Dec. 15.—President Wilson probably will not finally determine on any formal steps in connection with the peace proposals of the Central Powers until after David Lloyd George, the British premier, has spoken in the House of Commons Tuesday.

No Formal Comment.

No formal comment was forthcoming today either from the White House or from the state department. It is known to be the view of most of the cabinet members that the United States Government should move cautiously and do nothing to imperil its influence for peace. President Wilson is known to attach great importance to the possibility of establishing an association of nations to maintain peace.

Secretary Lansing today held his first personal conference with President Wilson since the peace proposals of the central powers were made public. It was said the formal notes from Germany and Austria-Hungary might go forward before night, and necessarily in view of the probability that the president would take no independent action until after Lloyd George has spoken in the House of Commons, they probably will be accompanied only by formal notes of transmittal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Arrival of both the German and Austrian peace notes and broad intimation at the allied embassies that the proposals of the central powers would not be flatly rejected without examination, were the outstanding developments here today in the peace movement. Germany's note, substantially the same as the published texts, arrived by cable this morning, and was followed later by Austria's note. Secretary of State Lansing said it was identical with Germany's and that neither contained any

Continued on Page 11, Col. 2.