

GERMAN PEACE PROPOSALS AT VARIANCE WITH WAR METHODS

Spacious Proposals From Power That Proclaimed Treaty as "Scrap of Paper" Will Find No Approval Outside of Russia

Petrograd, Dec. 27.—The text of the Central Powers proposed peace terms contains the following clauses:

It is not the intention of the Teutonic allies to deprive of political independence those nations which lost it during the war. The question of subjecting to that or other country, of these nationalities who have not political independence cannot, in the opinion of the powers of the quadruple alliance, be solved internationally. In this case it must be solved by each government together with its allies in the manner established by the constitution.

Each belligerent would have to bear only the expenses of its subjects made war prisoners and also to pay damages caused on its own territory to civil subjects of an adversary or by deliberate violation of international law.

The creation of a special fund for this purpose, as suggested by the Russian Government, can be discussed only in case other belligerents join in peace negotiations before the expiration of a certain time.

The return of colonial territories forcibly seized during the war constitutes an essential part of the German demands, which Germany cannot renounce under any circumstances.

One Russian's Views.

The chairman of Russia's delegation notwithstanding difference of opinion, thought, that the German declaration that Germany has not aggressive plans offered the possibility of the immediate beginning of negotiations for a general peace among all belligerents. He proposed a ten days recess till January 4th, so that "Peoples whose governments have not yet joined" in negotiations for a general peace may have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the principles of such peace as now is being established.

"At expiration of indicated time," he declared, "negotiations must be resumed disregarding whether or not other belligerents have joined in the negotiations."

Petrograd, Dec. 27.—Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, told the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk yesterday, that the Central Powers solemnly declare their resolve to immediately sign terms which will terminate the war on conditions equally just to all belligerents. The Central Powers also favor general peace without annexations and indemnities. They could not bind themselves to such terms without a guarantee that Russia's allies would recognize them and carry them out honestly toward the Central Powers.

London, Dec. 27.—Ukrainian forces have occupied the headquarters of the Fourth, Eighth and Eleventh armies on the Roumanian and Southwestern fronts. Those who resisted were disarmed and a quantity of guns and rifles was seized. The Ukrainians have occupied the station at Brailov and disarmed the guards.

A telegram received in Petrograd from Tomsk reports fighting in Irkutsk, Siberia. Cossacks and military cadets have engaged the garrison there for two days with alternating successes.

Paris, Dec. 27.—The Germans made two attacks on the Verdun front today but were not able to break through the French lines, the War Office reports.

Paris, Dec. 27.—Three attacks were made by the Germans last night on the Verdun front east of the Meuse. It is announced officially. At their third attempt the Germans succeeded in reaching the French lines but were driven out immediately with heavy losses leaving prisoners.

Artillery Active
London, Dec. 27.—Except for some artillery activity North and East of Ypres, Field Marshall Haig states, there was nothing to report last night.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—The text of the message sent by General Allenby, commander of the British forces in Palestine, to General Pershing, commander of the United States army in France, has been received here. It reads: "British troops in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve send to their American comrades a message of greeting and of hope that through the achievement of their common purpose the law of force may yield to the force of law, and peace and good will reign at length on earth."

London, Dec. 27.—The Pullman works at Petrograd, employing 30,000 men, and the Petrograd Metal Works, employing 8,000, have begun to pay off their men.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—That all cold storage plans in Great Britain will likely be co-ordinated under government control is the statement made by Harrison Watson, Canadian Trade Commissioner in London, in a report made to the Dominion Government. This course has been recommended by the Empire Resources Development Committee, which also urges the necessity for the establishment without delay of additional cold storage facilities in Great Britain because the holding of a much greater supply of food than in the past is a recognized necessity for the safety of the nation.

FRENCH SHIPPING LOSSES
LAST WEEK SMALL

Paris, Dec. 27.—In the week ending Dec. 22nd one French steamer of more than 1,000 tons and one of less than that tonnage were sunk by submarines and mines. No fishing vessels were lost.

DESTRUCTION CALIFORNIA
CAPITAL THREATENED

Sacramento, Calif., Dec. 27.—A letter declaring his bombs had been placed in the executive office, capitol building, police station and residences of "two head officers of the state" has been received by Governor Stephens and turned over to the police. The letter demanded that \$50,000 be placed "in a rock pile" presumably near Oakland, California, December 31st at three o'clock.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES
FROM FIGHTING MEN
TO CANADIAN PEOPLE

Also Message From Troops to Premier Borden and From Commander to Men

The following message was sent to Sir Robert Borden by the overseas forces of the Dominion:

"To our comrades and friends in support in Canada: This Christmas message is from the Canadian Corps, from every Division, Brigade, Battalion and Man. It is our deepest wish for a year of future happiness and for our early reunion. We feel today that the force behind us is of such strength and magnitude that it will inspire each of us to greater deeds and will surely lead us to the goal of victory, peace and home."

Message to Men
Such is the message to the Dominion from its fighting men in France, while to the fighting men themselves the corps commander has sent the following message:

"The corps commander has taken this opportunity of sending every officer, non-commissioned officer and man in the Canadian Corps all good wishes for Christmas. He trusts that the coming year may bring with it the attainment of our great objective—victorious peace and a happy return to our dear and dear ones in Canada. This is not a mere stereotyped wish. Behind it lies the deep appreciation of your splendid work which has been carried to such successful conclusion by every unit in the corps and also to a full recognition of the sacrifices that have been made, the difficulties overcome, the hardships endured and the high standard of discipline maintained. Your actions have made the name of our home land one to be revered, respected and honored now and throughout the years to come."

Message to Premier
The following message was sent to Sir Robert Borden by the overseas forces of the Dominion:

"This message from the Canadian Corps, from every Division, Brigade, Battalion and Man is a deeply sincere wish for your future happiness and our early reunion, coupled with the warmest feelings of gratitude and appreciation for the strong and splendid verdict of support recently expressed throughout almost every part of Canada. We feel today that the force behind us is of such strength and magnitude that it will inspire each one of us to greater deeds and nobler actions and will surely lead us to the goal of victory, peace and home."

RAILWAY MAN KILLED
IN MIMICO YARDS

Toronto, Dec. 27.—Missing a moving light engine to the Mimico yards, as it passed the Sunnyside station, James Stewart, an employee in the Mimico railway yards, fell in front of an incoming passenger train and was instantly killed.

ALLIES PREPARE WEST
FRONT FOR OFFENSIVE:
GERMANS MAKE READY

Paris, Dec. 27.—A culminating Austro-German offensive on the Franco-British front is a matter of general expectation here now.

Warnings of it have been published in the press for the last few days. Premier Clemenceau has adopted the wise policy of trusting the people in regard to coming perils and prefers that they should face the future with their eyes open rather than have a great offensive upon them suddenly.

From a military viewpoint, signs are not wanting that the Germans are preparing a stroke which they hope to be decisive. Along the British front, in Champagne, and especially around Verdun and further East the German guns are thundering loudly, and German raids are of almost nightly occurrence. The question everyone is asking here, a question which even drowns out the discussion of Callaux's mysterious past, is, on what part of the Western front will the blow fall? That it will fall on one ventures to doubt, but where and when remain the points of interrogation.

When heavy snow falls in Northern Italy, Austro-German action on the front in France is all too clearly indicated as a direct result of the impossibility of operations in the Italian mountains.

Marcel Hutin, military critic of the Echo de Paris, who has proved himself throughout the war to have access to exceptionally good sources of information, discussing the subject of the German offensive, writes:

Apart from the active cannonade North of Verdun there is nothing to indicate the intentions of the enemy on our front. But one thing is certain, which I know from excellent channels of information, and that is that unrelenting labor has for the last six months been expended on our whole front from the Yser to the sea so as to meet an enemy offensive wherever it may occur.

The following is a translation of the Allied military situation:

Comparison with the way we looked at it a few months ago in full confidence of handling it victoriously, while waiting the decisive aid of America.

In my opinion, Germany and Austria will think before throwing the mass of their available forces into an offensive on the French and British fronts, while continuing to attack Italy. If the enemy, as is certain, should find our fronts inviolable and if his effort was thrust, he would thus meet his heaviest defeat in the whole war, for the world would understand that Germany had made her last great effort and had been beaten.

As for the locality where the German drive might be expected, geographical and above all, railway conditions, point to somewhere East of the Argonne, where the Germans can most easily draw men and supplies from Metz and Strasbourg.

Possibly Verdun itself may be once more the scene of a gigantic struggle.

NO SLACKENING OF
U. S. WAR PREPARATIONS

Boston, Dec. 27.—Secretary of War Baker is right in stating that the German peace manoeuvres should not for a moment induce the United States to slacken their preparations for war, in the opinion of H. Charles Woods, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and a recognized authority on military matters in England, who is now in this city.

PROVINCIAL LICENSE
FEES MUST BE PAID

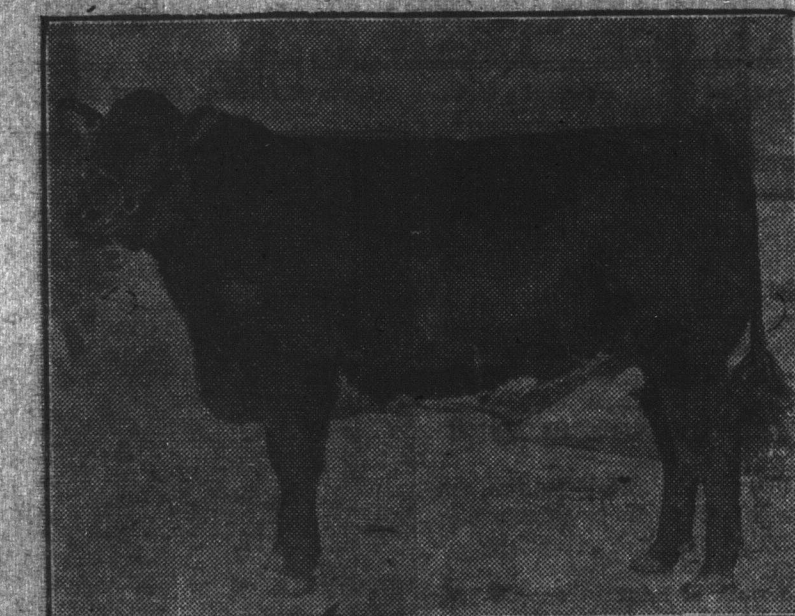
Toronto, Dec. 27.—That the Ontario extra Provincial Corporations Act, held by Mr. Justice Mastron, to be invalid, is the decision of the Appellate Division in a judgment given in the action brought by the Attorney-General of Ontario against the Harris Lithographing company.

The effect of the decision is that companies chartered by the Dominion must take out a provincial license and pay the provincial fees before operating in this province.

DEADLY LEVEL CROSSING

CHRISTMAS DAY FATALITY
Napawan, Ont., Dec. 27.—Mrs. Amos Hughes was fatally injured Christmas day while attempting to drive across the C.N.R. tracks at the Selby road crossing in front of a train. The rig was struck by the engine and Mrs. Hughes died five hours afterwards.

GRAND CHAMPION STEER GUELPH WINTER FAIR.



"Black George," grand champion steer at Guelph Winter Fair. He is of the "Black Angus" strain. Owned by Jas. Leask & Sons, Guelph, Ont.

GERMAN ADMITS LEAN
LIVING FOR GERMANS
WHEN WAR IS OVER

Hard War-Time Regime Will Have to be Continued Declares Paul Kock

The Hague, Dec. 27.—Professor Paul Kock publishes a warning in the Dusseldorf General Anzeiger in reply to Sir Edward Carson's statement regarding Germany's urgent need of raw material after the war, and also warns against the idea that Germany's repaving of raw materials should be included in the peace terms, arguing that such an agreement would simply give Germany's enemies "an additional opportunity of cheating us."

"We must adopt the attitude," he says, "that our interior economic life is so strong that we can begin the work of reconstruction without artificial help. We must assume that extensive foreign trade, in spite of everything, is only the means to an end, and not necessarily a sign of flourishing economic conditions."

This statement published by an industrial organ is an amazing contradiction of the arguments hitherto made. Undoubtedly the Germans are beginning to feel that the price the Allies will exact for the raw materials will be too exorbitant.

Kock argues that the cotton and weaving trades will of necessity be restricted, and he admits that the business of importing raw cotton from overseas and sending it back spun may have to be abolished owing to the fact that other countries will have introduced spindles during the war.

The paper argues that if the British colonies refuse to supply Germany with wool it can be obtained from Argentina; that jute can be replaced by nettle fibres, and that Brazil will not refuse to sell coffee and rubber.

Professor Kock also says that before the war nearly one-fifth of Germany's export consisted of foodstuffs, and that it will be necessary to retain the meat, fat and bread cards even after the war, and adhere to the hard war-time regime. He says further that Spain will supply the ores necessary to Germany's industries.

The paper points out that Germany may be obliged to pay in gold for her imports for a short time, but that the mark-rate will soon recover. It concludes that the Germans must submit to still further privations so that Germany may recover without having to make too many concessions in return for raw materials.

POST ELECTION RIOTS AT
STURGEON FALLS SERIOUS

Toronto, Dec. 27.—Provincial police officials who were last week sent to investigate reported post-election riots at Sturgeon Falls, found the situation more serious than advised had indicated.

The trouble apparently originated through the omission of certain names from the voters' list, particularly those of some thirty-two French-Canadians of Cache Bay and Sturgeon Falls. After wordy warfare over these omissions as soon as the polls closed at Verrier the situation became acute. Wires were stretched across the street over which election officials fell, being menaced by attacks with bottles and budgeons. Numerous arrests are expected.

CADET AND LIEUTENANT
BURNED TO DEATH
ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 27.—Second-Lieut. Reinbooth, of Berry St. Edmunds, England, who has been here two months, to finish training at Camp Talferro, and Cadet Manson, a Canadian who has been here about the same length of time training, were the two men who were incinerated in an airplane accident on Christmas Eve at Hicksfield.

PARK BEARS DID NOT
WAIT UP FOR SANTA

Commenced Winter-long Nap a Few Days Before Christmas After Drowsy Spell

The bears have gone to sleep. They tried their best to remain awake until Santa Claus came, but their eyelids kept drooping, and the day before Christmas they tumbled off for the Winter's nap. If one walks out to Exhibition Park they will see nothing of the bears, for they have gone in and covered themselves up until Spring.

The animals and birds at the park are now in their Winter quarters with the exception of the elk and buffalo, for whom a little shelter from the wind is all that is necessary.

ADMIRAL JELICOE ELEVATED.

London, Dec. 27.—Vice-Admiral Sir Roslyn Wemyss has been appointed First Sea Lord in succession to Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe, according to an official announcement.

Admiral Jellicoe has been elevated to the peerage in recognition of his very distinguished services. The hope is expressed that his experience may be utilized later in another post.

CANADIAN RAILWAY
RATES TO BE RAISED:
FREIGHT AND PASSENGER

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—An important judgment handed down by the Board of Railway Commissioners provides for a fifteen per cent. increase in passenger rates in all parts of Canada, with the exception of British Columbia, where the maximum rate is now three cents per mile. The judgment also permits, subject to the limitations of the Crow's Nest agreement and certain specific limitations, an increase in freight rates, of approximately ten per cent. in the West and fifteen per cent. in the East. The Crow's Nest agreement was made by the Canadian Pacific Railway with the Government, and by its provisions rates on a large number of commodities are reduced.

No mention is made in the judgment of the date on which the increased rates will come into effect.

Must Have Greater Revenue
The judgment points out that "there can be no question, in view of actual results, that the railways require greater revenue and must have it if proper efficiency is to be maintained and the demands of the country for transportation at all adequately met." Cost of labor, coal and materials have been increasing, with the result that the expenses of the Canadian roads are mounting at a much swifter rate than earnings. The increased rates allowed, states the judgment, will certainly not equal the increase in costs to which the railways are subject and which are not in any way attributable to the railway management.

With regard to the increase in passenger rates, the judgment states that "it is in the public interest, with a view of conserving coal, railway facilities and man power, that passenger travel should be as light as possible, so as to facilitate efficient freight movement."

TWO RUSSIANS LIBERATED

London, Dec. 27.—The British Embassy at Petrograd has announced the liberation of Tchitcherine and Petroff, the two Russians who have been under arrest in England, and they will be permitted to return to Russia.

300 GERMAN SOCIALISTS
ARRESTED CHRISTMAS EVE

London, Dec. 27.—More than 300 members of the German Minority Socialist party were arrested on Christmas Eve by German military authorities.

HOSPITAL PATIENTS
HAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

The patients at the Brandon General Hospital and the Hospital For the Insane enjoyed themselves thoroughly on Christmas. Every effort was made to lighten the sufferings of the physically and mentally sick and the results were very gratifying. At the Provincial jail presumably all was as gloomy as usual. At least such would be inferred from the blank refusal to give any information for publication. General Hospital.

A very happy Christmas was spent by the patients and staff at the Brandon General Hospital. Nearly all the patients were able to enjoy the good fare provided for them to the full extent. Music was provided during the afternoon and evening and was much appreciated. The thanks of all at the hospital are due to the following donors of Christmas gifts, viz: Mrs. T. J. Somerville, box of oranges; Jos. Donaldson & Sons, turkeys and chickens; William Currie, turkey; Bertrand & Co., chocolates; Mrs. Wootton treat for nurses; Rev. H. T. Wright, goose for nurses, candles, nuts oranges and books for children; Dr. and Mrs. Carter, two boxes oranges; Dr. and Mrs. Connell, chocolates; Dr. and Mrs. Sharpe, fruit cake and short bread; Dr. and Mrs. Bolton, box of apples; Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Beer, box of nuts; Mr. F. Massin, box of apples and nuts; Mr. C. Whitehead, picture; Brandon Hardware Co., Ltd., tea trays and three sets of carvers; Campbell & Campbell, picture for nurses' home; Dr. and Mrs. Bigelow, box of apples, table raisins and nuts; Mrs. Rymph, box of oranges; Mrs. Chas W. Morrow, four quart sealers of fruit; Joseph Quinn, fruit cake.

Hospital For Insane

The usual Christmas dinner with all its frills and fancy dishes was provided Christmas day for the patients at the Hospital For the Insane, and was thoroughly enjoyed by them. The hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion in gay Christmas colorings. There were gifts for everyone and fun galore for those who wished to join in the various festivities. Tuesday afternoon a delightful time was spent skating and curling on the rink. The ice was in splendid shape and some good curling games took place.

MORE SOFT COAL BEING
BURNED IN BRANDON THIS
YEAR THAN EVER BEFORE

There is a scarcity of American anthracite coal being experienced in Brandon at the present time. Those who find it necessary to buy coal just now are being advised to purchase the various kinds of soft coal. Many people are using Souris coal, and although it gives a good heat, far more difficulty is found in attending to a fire made of it than is the case with the more expensive qualities. Ashes accumulate more quickly from the use of Souris coal than from other brands. This makes it inconvenient for the man who is away from home any considerable length of time. Coal from Lethbridge and the Drumheller mines is being brought in as rapidly as transportation facilities will allow. More coal is being mined at the Drumheller fields this year than at any time in the past. However, none of these grades equal the hard coal for heating homes or small buildings.

NEW POST OFFICE BOON
FOR PUBLIC AND WORKERS

There are workers in Brandon who are thankful that the Christmas season is over. These are the tired postal clerks, who for nearly a month, and particularly the past week, have been much overworked, toiling day and night to make all deliveries on time. According to Postmaster Percival they have largely succeeded in doing this. Practically all letters and packages intended for Christmas delivery, and which passed through the post office soon enough, were delivered on time. The extra mail carriers, who were taken on for the rush season, have already been laid off, and in a few days only the regular force will remain to handle the normal amount of business.

Although the public suffered great inconvenience when attempting to purchase stamps register and dispatch mail at the post office, the conditions under which the clerks worked are very trying. Those who went to get their Christmas mail off were inconvenienced but a short time, while the clerks have had to work in cramped quarters not only during the time when mail is heaviest, but throughout the entire year. Nobody will more eagerly welcome the new post office for Brandon than the men who have to work in it.

BUY WINTER CLOTHING
FOR AMERICAN TROOPS

Washington, Dec. 27.—Aroused by reports of shortage of Winter clothing in national army camps, the Senate Military Affairs Committee in resuming its investigations into army conditions, adopted a resolution requesting the Secretary of War to ascertain conditions by wire, supply deficient troops and suspend departmental routine, if necessary, by direct purchases from sources near the camps.

BUSINESS OUTLOOK IS
SURPRISINGLY GOOD IN
BRANDON AND DISTRICT

A spirit of optimism is generally prevalent among the merchants of Brandon with regard to the outlook for business in the coming year. Observations of what is likely to be the situation next year are based upon the results of business during the Christmas season just passed in comparison with former years. Although actual figures are not available, the majority of business men say that this Christmas season was one of the best they ever experienced. Others merely state that the month has been productive of a fair average business. The entire tone is one that reflects an air of stability in lines that are classed among the staples.

There was no marked rush on the part of the public to make purchases for Christmas at the last minute. Saturday and Monday were naturally heavier than any preceding days, but the entire week after the elections showed a strong demand in most lines. The tendency has been to give articles of useful character, and aside from the usual purchases of toys for the children there has been but little call for novelties.

At many of the stores inventories are not taken until January or February. This precludes the possibility of giving an accurate statement of business conditions for the entire year as compared with those in other years since the beginning of the war. The increasing overhead cost since 1914 has militated against every one, and consequently pre-war conditions were vastly different from those at present. However, most business men who base their estimates upon the monthly balance sheet are confident that the year will compare favorably with the past three years.

People Have Money

The outlook for next year is fairly reassuring. Many factors portend at least a continuance of existing conditions. Evidences are plentiful that dwellers in the rural communities are as prosperous now, if not more so, than they have been for several years. This is already due to the good crops this year and the high prices that are being paid for all kinds of grain, livestock and dairy products. The increased wages that are being paid workers in all branches of manufacturing that furnish their output to the war effort will enable many people to make purchases beyond their means in other days.

Hard to Get Goods

A serious hindrance to normal buying and selling is the increased difficulty experienced by many merchants in obtaining certain lines of merchandise. Practically all imported materials have been either curtailed or cut off, due to the difficulty of transportation. Then, too, the Allied armies are making demands for many products that formerly went to the average consumer. Britain alone needs of flannel more than eighty miles daily, while the consumption of cotton drill for uniforms has risen from 630,000 yards per annum to about 2,120,000 yards a month. The supply of blankets has increased from 139,000 per annum to 20,000,000. About 2,410 miles of cloth are required to make a service uniform and greatcoat each for 1,000,000 men, and the British army today numbers nearer five-million than one million. Single contracts have been awarded for as much as fourteen million yards (about eight thousand miles) of woolen khaki cloth. It is easy to understand why the necessity of keeping up supplies for the government has made it difficult to maintain stocks to meet commercial demands, although greater success in this line has been achieved than was thought possible in the early days of the war.

Viewing the situation as a whole, there is every reason for encouragement in the outlook as it now presents itself, and indications are that the fourth year of war will find all concerned holding their own as well as can be expected under the circumstances—circumstances that before the war any financier or business man would have told you would send a community into bankruptcy.

SALVATION ARMY HAMPERS
SUBSTANTIAL AFFAIRS

About twenty hampers were sent out by the Salvation Army during the Christmas season. These hampers enabled a number of families to enjoy a Christmas dinner, whereas the day might have been a rather cheerless one if the plentiful supplies of food had not been sent out. Each hamper contained a roast of beef, a peck of potatoes, a seven-pound bag of flour, eight pounds of rolled oats, one pound of butter, one pound of tea, half a pound of sugar, one loaf of bread, and apples, oranges and candies for the kiddies. In all about \$200 worth of goods and cash was used to make Christmas day a time of joy for many people. The Salvation Army is now sending coal to the families who are unable to purchase sufficient fuel to keep their homes warm during the