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WEATHER—FAIR

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NOTABLE VICTORY WON BY THE FRENCH; MEMBER OF THE BRITISH WAR CABINET TELLS HOW GERMANY CAN OBTAIN PEACE

GERMANS SWEEP OFF THEIR FEET

Valiant Armies of France in Swift Advance North of Douaumont Capture Villages, Trenches, 7500 Prisoners and Large Quantity of Artillery Pieces and Other War Material.

BRITISH REPEL ENEMY ATTACK NEAR LESBOEUF AND ENTER GERMAN TRENCHES SOUTH OF ARMENTIERES—BRITISH ROUT TURKS NEAR KUT-EL-AMARA IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Paris, Dec. 15, via London.—The French troops, in an advance today north of Douaumont, and between the Meuse and Woivre rivers, captured more than 7,500 prisoners and several heavy guns, according to the French official communication issued this evening. The advance was over a front of ten kilometres and a depth of three kilometres.

The statement says: "After several days of artillery preparation we attacked the enemy to the north of Douaumont, between the Meuse and the Woivre, on a front of more than ten kilometres. The attack started at ten o'clock. "The enemy's front broke down everywhere to a depth of about three kilometres.

Villages Captured. "Besides numerous trenches we captured the villages of Vacherauville and Louvemont, the farms of Chambrettes and the fortified works of Hardaumont and Bezon-Vaux.

"We have taken a great many prisoners, whose exact number has not yet been determined. Seven thousand five hundred of them, including two hundred officers, already have been passed through our commandant's posts.

"We have taken or destroyed numerous pieces of heavy and field artillery and also a considerable quantity of material.

Aviators Active. "Notwithstanding unfavorable weather conditions our aviators took a brilliant part in the fighting. Our success is complete. The troops have given vent to great enthusiasm.

"Our losses are slight." Belgian communication: "An artillery battle which started the night of December 14-15 has continued with violence in the region of Steenstraete and further to the north. Belgian guns of all calibres and heavy artillery have spiritedly taken to task the enemy's batteries.

Berlin Admits Defeat. Berlin, Dec. 15, via wire to Sayville.—French attacks delivered today on the eastern bank of the Meuse in the Verdun region resulted in a gain of ground for them towards Louvemont and Hardaumont, the war office announced in tonight's supplementary statement. The engagement has not been concluded.

Switzerland's Action. Switzerland's action in handing the German note to Italy without comment, as announced in the Italian parliament by Foreign Minister Sonnino, was noted here with interest.

Definite indication of the attitude of the Entente Allies is expected in the speech of David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, next Tuesday. Meanwhile the authorized statement of the German embassy here, that partial disarmament will be one of the subjects taken up at any peace conference, is being discussed generally in official and diplomatic circles.

at men, rather than at the map, and he concludes: "Because we earnestly long and pray for peace we intend to press this blood-red path of war for months or years until the Germans are ready to accept a just and honorable peace offered by the Allies."

Christmas Leave for Canadians in England. London, Dec. 15.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—Regulations for Christmas leave for the Canadians in England, as at present proposed, provide for five per cent. of the men in the training camps, with no leave to any battalion Dec. 22 and 25, but it is now understood that this proposal will be modified so as to allow the same privileges as last year.

Official Statement. The statement follows: "Our forces on the Tigris assumed the offensive Wednesday and Thursday. The Turkish positions about San-

WAR LORD OF EUROPE IS WRATHY

Kaiser William Declares Judgment of God Fell Upon Roumania.—Willing to Continue War if—

London, Dec. 15.—"Confident that we are completely the victors, I yesterday made a proposal to the enemy to discuss the question of further war or peace," said the German Emperor, in addressing the troops in Alsace, according to a despatch published in the Cologne Gazette, says a Reuter despatch from Amsterdam.

"What will come of it, I don't yet know," the Emperor is reported to have continued. "It is a matter for the enemy now to decide if the fighting is still to go on. If the enemy still thinks he has not had enough, then I know you will—." Here the Emperor, says the correspondent, made a "warlike gesture" which "produced a fierce smile on the face of all his men."

In Wrathful Contempt. He spoke, the correspondent relates, "in words of most wrathful contempt of that people in the east (the Roumanians) who had thought to stick a dagger in the back of our ally." The judgment of God had fallen on them, the Emperor declared, in the campaign which had been largely occupied today in discussing the brief expression made yesterday by Andrew Bonar Law, the government leader in the House of Commons, that the British government's policy still was based on "adequate reparation for the past, and security for the future."

It is noticeable that a number of influential newspapers take the view that this leaves the way open for not summarily refusing to consider the proposal, and for an enunciation of the essential aims and objects for which the Entente Allies are contending.

Manchester Guardian. The Manchester Guardian, reflecting provincial sentiment and the Westminster Gazette are among the newspapers taking this view.

The German proposal takes an offensive form and appears as though demanded by conquerors on the vanquished; the only reply to the insult would be a contemptuous silence, and con-

nay, on the left bank of the river, were subjected to an effective bombardment.

"During Wednesday night British forces secured the left bank of the Hal river between Atab and Basriyeh; crossed to the right bank and secured the ground to a depth of from one to one and a half miles, the cavalry subsequently clearing the Turkish troops from their trenches on the right bank about Kala-Haji-Fahan. The positions occupied are being consolidated by our infantry.

"Kala-Haji-Fahan is on the right bank of the Hal river, two and one-half miles from Kut-El-Amara. Atab is on the left bank, five and one-half miles from Kut-El-Amara."

Mrs. Charles H. Wilson. The death is announced in South Boston of Mrs. Charles H. Wilson, formerly Miss Hannah T. Donahue, formerly of St. John. Mrs. Wilson was 63 years of age.

Forces of Ottoman Empire Routed Two and a Half Miles from Kut-El-Amara.

London, Dec. 15.—British troops have taken the offensive in the region of Kut-El-Amara, in Mesopotamia, and have occupied Turkish positions on the Hal river, south of Kut-El-Amara, says an official statement issued tonight. In the offensive movement the British crossed to the right bank of Hal river and took Turkish trenches near Kala-Haji-Fahan, two and a half miles from Kut-El-Amara.

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"GERMANY MAY HAVE PEACE," IF SHE GIVES GUARANTEES

Arthur Henderson, Member of British War Council, Says There Must be Reparation as Well for all Belgium, France, Serbia and Poland Have Suffered.

London, Dec. 15.—In discussing the German peace proposals at a dinner of the Steel Smelters' Association, tonight, Arthur Henderson, member of the British War Council, without portfolio, said that the government knew nothing concerning the text of the proposals, and that Germany's motives must remain a matter of speculation for the moment.

"From past and recent events," said Mr. Henderson, "we may anticipate, without over assumption, that any proposals Germany may put forward will not err on the side of their magnanimity. They must be examined with the greatest possible care."

Recalls Aug. 1914. "We, of all people, must not forget that Germany was prepared for peace with this country as late as August, 1914, but on what conditions? That we were prepared to betray France and acquiesce in the violation of the neutrality of Belgium, which Germany, like ourselves, had on oath sworn to maintain.

"The people of this country are prepared to accept peace today, as in Aug. 1914, provided that peace is both just and permanent. Adequately for the past is not enough unless we have guarantees for the future and guarantees for reparation for all Belgium, France, Serbia and Poland have suffered.

Peace Conditions. "The peace into which we enter must contain guarantees for its own duration. Germany may have such a peace if she furnishes us with proofs of her good intention. But if her present overtures are only pretence, and if it is shown she is merely arranging an armistice to obtain a breathing spell that will furnish her the opportunity to lay fresh plans of aggression, then I say, whatever may be the temptation to the people of these islands, we must set our faces like the flint, you work upon against her proposals."

WAY LEFT OPEN TO DISCUSS PEACE TERMS, OPINION OF SOME

Manchester Guardian and Westminster Gazette Take View that Bonar Law's Address Indicates Possible Discussion of Peace Terms.

London, Dec. 15.—Public opinion, as represented by the British press, was largely occupied today in discussing the brief expression made yesterday by Andrew Bonar Law, the government leader in the House of Commons, that the British government's policy still was based on "adequate reparation for the past, and security for the future."

It is noticeable that a number of influential newspapers take the view that this leaves the way open for not summarily refusing to consider the proposal, and for an enunciation of the essential aims and objects for which the Entente Allies are contending.

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ALLIES BRING GREECE TO TERMS AT LAST

All Greeks are to be Withdrawn from Thessaly, According to Demands of Ultimatum Delivered Yesterday Afternoon.

DEMANDS FOR REPARATION FOR EVENTS OF DEC. 1 AND 2, WHEN FIGHTING TOOK PLACE BETWEEN ENTENTE LANDING FORCES AND THE GREEK TROOPS ARE TO BE FORMULATED LATER.

Paris, Dec. 15.—A despatch to the Havas News Agency from its correspondent at Piraeus, Greece, dated yesterday, says: "The note of the Allied powers to the Greek government was handed this afternoon to Foreign Minister Zaiacostas.

"The document said the recent events in Athens prove that neither King Constantine nor the Greek government has sufficient authority over the Greek army to prevent its becoming a menace to the peace and security of the Allied armies in Macedonia.

Removal of Troops. "The Allies are therefore obliged, it continues, in order to protect themselves against attack, to demand immediate removal of the troops and war material indicated in an annexed list. These removals must begin within twenty-four hours, and all movements of troops and war materials towards the north must be stopped, it declares.

"If the government disregards the note, it was informed, its attitude will be considered an hostile act. The signatories of the note, it says, have received orders to quit Greece in twenty-four hours with the personnel of the legations, if the terms of the note are not formally accepted. The blockade will be maintained, it is de-

clared, until adequate guarantees for the future have been given."

Athens, Dec. 15, via London.—The demands of the Entente Allies presented to the Greek government today were in the nature of an ultimatum. All Greeks 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 2, when fighting took place between Entente landing forces and Greek troops, are to be formulated later.

The ultimatum expired at three o'clock today. There are indications that the terms were agreed to, but as far the British foreign office has received no news of their acceptance.

"MOST DAMNABLE INFAMY OF MODERN TIMES," SAYS BECK

Former Assistant Attorney General of United States, Archbishop Ireland and Others Denounce Belgian Slavery.

New York, Dec. 15.—Vigorous expressions of indignation were voiced at a great mass meeting held here tonight to protest against the "enslavement of Belgians" by the German government. The deportation of the Belgian populace was condemned in letters read from Theodore Roosevelt, Archbishop Ireland, Joseph H. Choate and other prominent men. Equally forceful were addresses delivered by Elihu Root, James M. Beck, former assistant attorney-general of the United States; Alton B. Parker and Rev. Wm. T. Manning, rector of Trinity church, who presided.

Urges Strong Protest. Resolutions were adopted urging the "government of the United States to protest, will all its force and earnestness, against these outrages; to emphasize the detestation with which the American people regard these abuses, and to request the German government, in the name of all neutrals, to cease its policy of expatriation and slavery." And pledging "our utmost support to the administration in whatever way it may conclude to act."

Archbishop Ireland. "Cardinal Mercier tells the details of Belgian deportations," Archbishop Ireland wrote. "The truth of his statements may not be doubted. The facts, as told by him, challenge contradiction. They afflict the hearer. No explanation, no excuse, diminishes the awful cruelty implied in them. For its own sake, for the sake of the honorable record it covets in the history of nations, Germany will, let us hope, quickly reverse its present position and leave Belgians to live and suffer on their own Belgian soil."

Rector of Trinity. "We have not come here to speak the language of hate," Mr. Manning said. "We do not condemn indiscriminately, the whole German people. We know that they have been misled, misled and cruelly betrayed by those in whom they have trusted. We believe that there are many Germans who condemn these infamous deeds as strongly as any of us do. We hope yet to see them free themselves from the power of autocratic and unscrupulous leaders, who have robbed Germany of her high place among the nations and carried her into crimes which have shocked and amazed the world.

"Let our people all, up and down this land, call upon our government to speak now, not in words mild and respectful, for such deeds deserve no respect, but with a stern indignation and a voice of moral condemnation which shall be heard through all the world."

James M. Beck. "We are met tonight to protest, in the sacred cause of justice and humanity, against the most damnable infamy of modern times," Mr. Beck said. "We represent citizens of all parties, creeds and classes. Whatever our differences of opinion may be or may have been in other matters, we are a unit tonight in pledging to our government our support in any attempt which it may take to end the slow murder of a great and noble and innocent people."

Joseph H. Choate, the eminent lawyer and statesman, in a lengthy letter, ridiculed Germany's claim that the deportations were justified by a provision of The Hague convention, while former President Theodore Roosevelt characterized the German action as a "damnable crime, equalled only by the slaughter of Belgium at the outbreak of the war."

Aeroplanes Active. London, Dec. 15.—A war office announcement tonight says: "Naval aeroplanes yesterday threw bombs on Kule Burgas bridge (over the Maritza river), south of Adrianople. A great weight of bombs was dropped, and extensive damage is believed to have been done."

WILSON WILL PASS ALONG PEACE OFFER WITHOUT COMMENT

President Has Not Determined Whether Any Action in Behalf of Peace Will be Taken by United States on Its Own Account.

Washington, Dec. 15.—President Wilson has decided that the notes of the Central Powers proposing a discussion of peace to the Entente Allies, will be sent forward by the American government, acting as intermediary, without any accompanying mediation offer of its own. He has not determined whether any action in behalf of peace will be taken later by the United States on its own account, but is holding himself in readiness to serve, in any way possible, toward bringing the warring quarters together.

In other quarters than the White House it was learned that some word indicating the official attitude of the Entente Allies towards the peace proposal is being awaited with the deepest interest by the American govern-

ment. The president will not consider injecting the United States into the situation until he is thoroughly familiar with all its phases.

Switzerland's Action. Switzerland's action in handing the German note to Italy without comment, as announced in the Italian parliament by Foreign Minister Sonnino, was noted here with interest.

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