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## To-Day's Cables

### Food Controller Speaks Must be Economy

#### First Duty to Ascertain Food Stocks Available And The Stocks Visible.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Baron Devonport speaking for the first time as food controller in the House of Lords today, said: "Solution of food question resolved itself into one of rationing. It was not enough to maintain food supplies, but it was overwhelmingly essential that they be distributed fairly." Food Controller said his first duty would be to ascertain quantity food stocks available and stocks visible. There were many unpatriotic people, he said, trying to get hold of supplies in excess of their wants. "My remedy," said Baron Devonport, "will be to adjust supplies coming into the country so that everybody will have equal chance of getting a fair share, no more, no less. On account of many people buying quantities of sugar, it cannot be got for all, and remedy must be found for that. Possibly only way will be by system of rationing. It was obvious, Baron Devonport added, that general diminution of the consumption of staple food was necessary and present diminution could only be brought about by voluntary abstinence, but if voluntary abstinence was not successful it would be necessary to make abstinence compulsory.

### DUE TO A DISAGREEMENT

BERLIN, Dec. 15.—The Tagblatt discussing change in Austrian Government comes to conclusion that fall of the Ministry of Koerber will be due to a disagreement over the Ausgleich agreement between Austrian and Hungary signed in 1907 concerning commercial and customs relationship. Newspaper says that Spitz Mueller, who had been asked to form new Ministry as Minister of Commerce in Stuerghk Cabinet worked out details of a new policy which Dr. Von Koerber regarded as too favourable to Hungary and hence excluded him from Cabinet.

### SWISS DOUBTFUL

GENEVA, Dec. 15.—South German Press attaches great importance to the flying visit of the Emperor to Munich yesterday where he held a Council with the King and Bavarian Ministers. Both peace and military matters were discussed. The Emperor remarked on the absence of young soldiers in the streets. The Emperor carefully read long telegrams concerning the opinion of the Allies on peace proposals.

The Journal de Geneve says: "Germany will make the Germans believe that the Entente Allies will morally responsible for a continuation of the war. Perhaps the Germans will believe this, but neutrals will not be duped, anyhow not the Swiss."

### HOLLAND NEXT

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Premier Cortland 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 despatch from the Hague, the Premier was speaking on the Budget and said that country's supply had considerably increased and was daily increasing and that in view of international situation it was unavoidable that sufficient military forces be kept at immediate disposal of Government.

### HINDENBURG AND CHANCELLOR

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 15.—Field Marshal von Hindenburg has sent a message to the Imperial Chancellor congratulating him on his speech in the Reichstag, and adding: "I read your speech with deep emotion and great satisfaction. By the Kaiser's command you made this speech a great moral demonstration of the strength of the Fatherland at home and at the front. We soldiers know that at this moment there is no higher or holier duty than to prosecute victory with the utmost energy and live or die for the Kaiser and Fatherland."

The Chancellor replied by saying, that he regarded von Hindenburg's words as the voice of the German people's army and adding: "It is the increased Tuesday afternoon, and the way for the high spirited decision of the Kaiser and our Allies took yesterday. The death-defying loyalty of our men fighting for Germany is a guarantee to us that if it does not please the enemy to-day to terminate the war they will fight the more to secure for the Fatherland a strong and lasting peace."

### SAFE CONDUCT

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Entente Powers have decided to grant safe conduct to Count Taunowken, recently appointed Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to the United States.

### SWISS STILL NEUTRAL

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Edmund Schulthess, new President of Switzerland, affirms his intention of strict neutrality, in an interview with a Berne correspondent of the Petit Journal. The policy of Switzerland, President Schulthess asserts, dictated by our traditions of desire, even by our vital interests, is and will remain that of loyalty and strict neutrality toward all the belligerents. Neutrality is sustained by an immovable resolution to defend our integrity and independence against all comers and the assertion to the contrary is quite without foundation.

### GREEK ACCEPTS

LONDON, Dec. 15.—An Athens despatch says that indications are to the effect that Allies ultimatum will be accepted on principle by King Constantine, and the despatch says that this decision is outcome of Cabinet Council held under the Presidency of the King.

### NEW DEMANDS ON GREECE

PARIS, Dec. 15.—The Allies are about to hand new categorical demands to Athens' cabinet, according to the "Petit Parisien." The principal object of these demands is putting a stop to the movement of troops, ordered by King Constantine with a view to the pending of important forces into Thessaly. Encounters are reported between Royalist troops and French attachment near Katerine, but no confirmation is received.

### SET FIRE TO DUMP

LONDON, Dec. 15.—War Office tonight issued following communication: "Last night enemy trenches were entered by us in the neighborhood of Monchy au Zais, South Arras, a number casualties inflicted, enemy dugouts filled with troops. Raid attempted against our trenches in neighborhood of Hulluch, but enemy failed to enter them. Prisoners were left in our hands. Usual artillery activity continues today on both sides, our bombardment of enemy dump in neighbourhood Pys Northeast Albert, set fire to material collected there, causing large clouds of smoke."

### BOILERMAKERS ON STRIKE

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Official Press Bureau issued the following statement to-night. Since Saturday the majority of boilermakers in port at Liverpool have been on strike. Strike followed refusal on part of same men for period of five weeks to work overtime. Their action has been taken in defiance of urgent requests from the leaders of Union of the Provisional Munitions Act. Grievance of men arises from award given by Committee of production November 3rd. They applied for advance of ten shillings on the ground of increased cost of living and the award given was three shillings.

### NO CONDITIONS ARMING SHIPS

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Peace proposals of Central Powers have been delivered to Italian Government. No definite indications are given as to conditions upon which peace negotiations might be attempted.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—In the Commons today, Thomas McNamara, Financial Under-Secretary of Admiralty, announced Admiralty had under earnest consideration the matter of merchant ships.

### STEAMERS SUNK

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Lloyd's Shipping Agency announces British steamer Stursula sunk. Steamer Harlington previously reported having struck mine Dec. 9th and sunk, crew picked up by steamer Harlyn, which was sunk later. Nine lives lost. Harlington and Harlyn were both British steamers, former 11,000 gross tons, latter 3,495 tons gross. Lloyd's announced December 10th both been damaged.

### HOPES TO BE WELL

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Premier expresses hope that he will be able to appear in Commons next Tuesday as planned.

## Last Night's Cables

### TO-DAY'S CABLES ARMED MERCHANTMEN

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, in reply to question in Commons concerning armed merchantmen, said only neutral maritime Governments at present refuse to admit defensively armed ships into ports but even that does not impugn the legality of arming merchant ships for defence.

### GERMAN SUBS SANK COAL VESSELS

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 15.—Berlin despatch says German submarines between November 28th and December 28th sank off French Atlantic Coast among other vessels steamships carrying coal cargoes which were on way to France; also English steamship with 6000 tons war material which was proceeding from New York to France.

### LLOYD-GEORGE WORSE

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The condition of Premier Lloyd-George has taken a slight turn for the worse. He suffered considerably from a severe chill contracted early in the week. His physicians ordered him to remain in bed for few days.

### NOT WITHOUT EXAMINATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Embassies of Entente Allies here today reflected view that Germany's peace proposals will not be rejected without examination, but that Allies in reply will probably call for statement.

### TOTAL PROHIBITION

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Total prohibition through France of consumption of such alcoholic beverages as whiskey, brandy and liquors has been decided on by government.

### DANISH WEST INDIES FOR U.S.A.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 15.—Plebiscite held yesterday on question of sale of Danish West Indies to United States resulted in 283,000 votes being cast in favor of sale to 157,000 against such action.

### Stronger Greece Policy Expected

LONDON, Dec. 14.—There is neither an official explanation nor a trustworthy indication here as to the reason for the replacing of Admiral Du Fournet, the Commander-in-Chief of the Entente Allies' sea forces in the Mediterranean, by Admiral Gauchet, and the announcement is printed here with scarcely any comment. One or two papers, however, interpret the change in the command as a first step in a stronger policy by the Entente Allies towards Greece. The Daily Mail, quoting a statement of Premier Briand in the French Chamber of Deputies, that to-morrow a new front will be formed, says it is difficult to see how this can point anywhere but to Greece, but remarks that it is not clear whether Premier Briand used the word tomorrow rhetorically or literally. The Times' Syria correspondent, telegraphing under date of Dec. 12th, says: "Venizelist troops have just disembarked at Hermopolis, the port of Syria, and the island passes under the rule of the National Government. Crowds cheered the troops as they landed. Royalist officers and men of the local forces are detained for the present under a British safeguard, but several of them have declared their wish to join the National Army, and have been accepted. The remainder of the Cyclades will shortly be taken over by the National Government. The new Governor is about to land."

### England's Enormous War Expenditure

#### £3,952,000,000 Spent Since Outbreak of War. A Full Day for Peace Talk.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The total amount of votes of credit since the outbreak of the war was £3,952,000,000, including £2,000,000 for extra administration expenses. Referring to the peace proposals of the Central Powers, Mr. Bonar Law said: "In moving the last vote of credit, Mr. Asquith used the words, 'the Allies require there shall be adequate security for the future. That is still the policy, still the determination of His Majesty's Government.' The statement was received with prolonged cheering. In moving the vote of credit, Bonar Law said, 'Assuming the rate of expenditure was the same as at present, the vote would carry them until Feb. 24th.' The total for the financial year would be about £1,950,000,000. 'The biggest estimate for the financial year,' he said, 'was exceeded by £250,000,000. The loans to Allied Governments amounted to £400,000,000 daily. An additional £200,000,000 would be required from Feb. 24th to which time to-day's vote is expected to suffice until the financial year which would bring up the total vote for the year £1,950,000,000 or £350,000,000 in excess of the estimate made some months ago by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Reginald McKenna. The enormous increase in the output of munitions was emphasized by the Chancellor who said if he could give the figures for June 1915 and those of to-day the difference would be almost incredible. 'Something has happened which I think necessary that I should say a word about.' Bonar Law continued. 'Naturally the papers are full of peace proposals from Berlin. Until now no proposals have reached His Majesty's Government. It is obvious, under these circumstances, no member of the government can make any statement on the subject, considering its nature. Referring to the country and how entirely its energies had been devoted to peace, Law went on to say 'it was marvellous to consider how she had been organized for war. No more striking proof of the vitality of the country from an industrial point of view was found than the enormous extent by which the output of munitions had increased during last year.'

### FRANZ JOSEF'S GIFT TO WOUNDED AND DEPENDENTS

MUNICH, Dec. 14.—The Neueste Nachrichten says that sixty millions of crowns were willed by Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary from his private fortune, for a fund for the benefit of the wounded soldiers, invalids and relatives of the men who were killed in the war. Two daughters and one grand daughter receive twenty million crowns each. The remaining ten million crowns of the late Emperor's private fortune are divided among various legatees.

### "THE KAISER OUR RECRUITER"

CARDIFF, Dec. 14.—Field Marshal Viscount French speaking here to-day said "Germany's so called peace proposal will only serve like the Zeppelin raids to draw the nation closer together. The Kaiser will thus prove our best recruiting agent. His latest piece of arrogant insolence will only prompt us to additional efforts."

### NOT OPPOSED

TORONTO, Dec. 14.—Hon. A. E. Kemp, Minister of Militia, was elected by acclamation in East Toronto to-day.

### QUITE SO

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The House of Lords refused the appeal in the Singsby legitimacy case without calling upon the respondents.

### MEN! MEN! MEN

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The supplementary estimate issued to-day provides for an additional 1,000,000 men of all ranks for the army service during the present fiscal year. The original estimate was for 4,000,000 men. In moving the vote of credit of £400,000,000 to-day Bonar Law has decided to confine his speech entirely to the financial side of the war, and in the absence of Premier Lloyd George and former Premier Asquith, owing to illness, it was expected the debate would be merely along this line. However, this will not prevent members of a small group of peace advocates from asking questions in an effort to draw out the Government in regard to Germany's peace proposals, although it was regarded as unlikely that they would succeed. The proposal of the Central Empire had not been received at the Foreign Office this morning, and as it is understood simply to offer negotiations containing no terms, the consultations of the Entente Allies regarding it are expected to be purely normal, preliminary to the transmission of a joint reply. In any event Great Britain will make no official comment until Russia, France and her other Allies express their views.

### CAPT. BLAIKIE'S CASE

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The Times says it understands an important statement will be made in the House of Commons to-day with regard to the making prisoner by the Germans of Captain Blaikie, of the steamer Caledonia, after the steamer had been sunk by a German submarine.