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WAR SUMMARY
THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

GENERAL ALLENBY, while occupying the Turks with his local advances southeast of Jerusalem, towards the Dead Sea and the Jordan, suddenly swung forward with his left and forced the passage of the Nahr el Aziz near its mouth, four miles north of Jaffa. Under cover of dark night the British passed over the river on light bridges and rafts and set the fortified localities of Khirbat, Hadrah, Sheik Muranah, Teer Reekiet and El Nakhras. These positions, situated near the mouth of the river, command the ground for a distance of three miles to the north. The British also captured Raz el Zandy, two miles northeast of Bethany, and held it against two Turkish counter-attacks. These operations, which were carried out by the British at night, apparently turn the present Turkish line of defence and will compel a further retirement, perhaps, to Syria. General Allenby seems to outclass Von Falkenhayn intellectually and to fool him badly whenever he chooses. Since the operations began the British have captured 38 guns and howitzers, with over 54,000 rounds, and 7000 rifles, with 18,500,000 rounds of small arm ammunition. Since the Turks have lost Jerusalem they are resisting the British by a sort of guerilla warfare. This is for the purpose of gaining time and because they cannot meet the British soldiers in the open field.

PEACE CONFERENCE SESSIONS OPENED

(Continued from Page One)

series, Lieut. Polary and Major von Gliese.

Bulgaria—Minister Popoff, Former Secretary Hoessef, Postmaster-general Stoyanovich, Col. Gantjiff and Dr. Ananassoff.

Turkey—Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Nessimy Bey, Ambassador Hakkı, Under Foreign Secretary Rehim Bey, and Gen. Zeiki Pasha.

Russia—Joffe, Kammerer, Bisenko, Pokrosky, Maraghan Lubinski, Wellman Pawlowich, Admiral Allavator, Gen. Tumour, Col. Rooki, Col. Zepiet and Capt. Lipsky.

Welcomed Delegates.

"Prince Leopold of Bavaria, as commander-in-chief of the German forces in the east, welcomed the delegates and invited Hakkı Pasha, as the senior delegate, to open the conference. Hakkı Pasha, after an expression of a desire for a satisfactory result, declared the negotiations formally open, and proposed Dr. von Kuehlmann as the presiding officer. The German foreign minister was unanimously elected chairman."

The most important speech before the delegates was made by Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, the German foreign minister. He said:

"The purpose of this memorable endeavor is to terminate the war between the central powers and Russia and re-establish a state of peace and friendship. In view of the situation it will be impossible in the course of these deliberations to prepare an instrument of peace elaborated in its smallest details. What I have in mind is to fix the most important principles and conditions upon which peaceful and neighborly intercourse, especially in the cultural and economic sense, can be speedily resumed, and also to decide upon the best means of healing the wounds caused by the war."

Spirit of Negotiations.

"Our negotiations will be guided by the spirit of peaceable humanity and mutual esteem. They must take into account, on the one hand, what has become historical, in order that we may not lose our footing on the firm ground of facts, but on the other hand, they must be inspired by the great and new leading motive which has brought us here together."

"It is an auspicious circumstance that the negotiations open within sight of the festival which for centuries past has promised and brought earth, good-will to men. I enter upon the negotiations with the desire that our work may make speedy and prosperous progress."

The German foreign minister proposed the following rules, which were adopted:

"Questions of precedence will be decided according to the alphabetical list of the represented powers."

"Plenary sittings will be presided over by the chief representative of each of the five powers in rotation."

"In Four Languages."

"The following languages may be

used in the debate—German, Bulgarian, Russian and Turkish.

"Questions interesting only part of the represented powers may be discussed separately."

"Official reports of the proceedings will be drafted jointly."

"At Von Kuehlmann's suggestion the Russian delegates stated the principles of the Russian peace program in a long speech, which coincided on the whole with the well-known resolutions of the workmen's and soldiers' deputies."

Russian Demands:

First—No compulsory annexation of territory taken during the war and speedy evacuation of such territory.

Second—The political independence shall be restored to all nations deprived of independence by the fortunes of war.

Third—That national groups not independent before the war shall decide by a referendum whether they shall become independent or give their allegiance to some sovereign.

Fourth—Where mixed nationalities occupy any territory the rights of the minority shall be defended by a separate law.

Fifth—No belligerent country shall be required to pay contributions and private persons shall be compensated for losses incurred thru the war from a special fund contributed by all the belligerents on a proportionate basis. The same principles shall be applicable to colonies as to the parent countries.

The final clause of the terms prohibits the boycotting of one country by another and provides for separate customs agreements and for several blockades not pursuing direct military objects.

The delegates of the central powers declared their readiness to begin the examination of the Russian program. The result of their labors will be discussed at the next sitting.

NEW YORK JEWS CELEBRATE

Church Meeting to Acclaim Britain's Declaration Regarding Palestine.

New York, Dec. 23.—In celebration of Great Britain's declaration in favor of establishing a Jewish homeland in Palestine, the Jews of this city held a mass meeting at Carnegie Hall tonight. The building was packed long before the ceremony began, and at eight o'clock with thousands of persons clamoring for admission, police reserves were called out to guard the entrance.

Wise, chairman of the provisional executive of the Zionist Organization of America, presided over the meeting.

CONGREGATIONS AMALGAMATE

Montreal, Dec. 22.—Arrangements have been practically completed for the amalgamation of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland, the "Auld Kirk," Beaver Hill Hill, and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Dorchester street, the new united congregation to worship in St. Paul's Church, which will be known as the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul. Rev. Geo. Duncan, past of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland, will be minister of the new congregation.

MURDER IN QUEEN'S CO., N.B.

Norton, N.B., Dec. 23.—News of a shocking tragedy at Salmon Creek, in the parish of Johnston, Queen's Co., closed the Christmas holidays. A man received here today, Robert Kerstead, a farmer of Salmon Creek, was arrested at Anningdale, near the Kings County border, this morning on a charge of murdering his wife at their home last night. The woman was struck on the head with a stick of wood.

"DUG" DREW RETURNS HOME.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—"Dug" Drew, one of the best known skaters to wear the colors of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, who went overseas as a member of the 24th Battalion, has returned home. He was badly wounded about a year ago and since then had been convalescing in an English hospital until his departure for Canada.

ALL BUT ONE LOST DEPOSIT.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Hon. Arthur Meighen, who came here yesterday from the west, stated that in Manitoba every Laurierite except Dr. Molloy lost his deposit in Monday's election. Mr. Meighen believes that when the soldiers' vote is counted the west will be sold for the government.

FIRE IN SHIPYARD.

Port Arthur, Dec. 22.—Fire in the dry dock at the Port Arthur shipyard, a plant early this morning destroyed several thousand dollars worth of work prepared for boats under construction. It was with difficulty prevented from spreading to other parts of the plant.

JUMPED TO DODGE ARREST.

Montreal, Dec. 22.—Andre Cresti jumped from a second story window at 518 St. Lawrence street early this morning to escape arrest, along with eleven other men who were taken into custody, on a charge of keeping a gaming house. Cresti was picked up uninjured out of a pile of garbage barrels in the yard at the rear of the building.

PETROGRAD CASUALTIES.

Petrograd, Saturday, Dec. 22.—Returns received from the hospitals which are still far from being complete show that 26 persons were killed or wounded in the fighting that resulted. Four of the victims were soldiers and private soldiers.

HAMILTON NEWS
ALL SIGNS POINT TO ACCLAMATIONS

Hamilton Labor Party Will, However, Nominate Candidates as Precaution.

Special to The Toronto World.

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 23.—Eleventh-hour advices have it that Santa Claus will deposit acclamation tickets for the general election of Hamilton's city councillors. With the nominations to be held at noon tomorrow, all signs point to a general return of incumbents without opposition. The Independent Labor party, reviving its decision of Thursday night, will nominate more than a half dozen standard bearers in the various wards, but only as a matter of precaution. In the event of there being no additional nominations, the laborites are pledged to retire, the party feeling that there should be no contest on New Year's Day.

There are no other nominations, the labor men will automatically retire. But in the event of others aspiring to seats in the council chamber, on the school board, a meeting of all nominees will be held in the mayor's office tonight, with a view to dispensing with an election.

The city council, which will wind up the year's business on Wednesday evening, will meet in special session this afternoon to endorse the recommendation of the special railway committee, the five-year lease on Mountain Park property be granted the T. H. & B. Railway for yard extension purposes.

Immediately after the meeting, Controller Tyrrell, and Aldermen Hodgson and Peedies will wait upon the company officials and open negotiations.

Forty officers and 2200 men of the C.O.R. Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Belson, O.C., are quarantined in the east end barracks because of the discovery of a severe case of smallpox on Friday night.

As soon as the quarantine would be lifted, Captain Wallace, medical officer of the unit, told The World last night that Lieut. McCollough, provincial health officer, would be in the city this afternoon to inspect the barracks, and that upon his report would depend whether or not the men would be permitted to spend Christmas at their homes.

In accord with the acclamation spirit that has been adopted in the city, the municipal nominees in Hamilton are not likely to change the present personnel to any great extent. They take place tomorrow, as Hamilton is the only township having power to hold elections on New Year's Day.

THE IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE CO. OF CANADA

WE have come to Christmas after a year of trial, of sacrifice and of delayed realization of our hopes. More than ever before is it a time for a setting behind us of past difficulties and a turning towards the future with renewed confidence and hope for the dawning of brighter days.

This is the thought that must dominate this Holiday Season. Having it constantly in mind, each of us will best do his share towards making for all a Happy Christmas and a Brighter New Year.

That happiness may be your lot with the dawn of an early and victorious peace is our heartfelt and confident wish.

J. F. Watson
Managing Director.

Toronto, December, 1917.

ENEMY RAIDERS REPELLED

Artillery Breaks Up Foe Parties—British Post Raided at Epehy.

London, Dec. 23.—The British official communication issued this evening says:

"Early this morning the enemy raided a British post east of Epehy. A few men are missing."

"Our fire drove off another enemy attempt to raid our positions in the neighborhood of the Merin road. There was considerable artillery activity on both sides this morning north of Poicappelle."

KRUPPS ENLARGE PLANT FOR BUILDING U-BOATS

Geneva, Saturday, Dec. 22.—The Krupps have recently quadrupled their naval plant near Kiel, according to a despatch from Berlin by way of Berne to La Suisse. This was done at the request of the German government for the purpose of making up losses in submarines which the despatch asserts, have been heavier than the German admiralty admits.

AUSTRIAN PRISONERS OPPOSE SEPARATE PEACE

Socialist Captives in Ukraïn Fear Germany Will Dominate Native Land.

Petrograd, Dec. 22.—The Socialist Austrian prisoners in the Ukraïn have petitioned Leon Trotzky, Bolshevik foreign minister, not to make a separate peace with Germany. They assert that Germany, unwilling to recognize the self-definition of nations, would keep Austria-Hungary under the imperialistic yoke.

FOE BOMBS DUNKIRK; CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

One Civilian Killed and a Woman and a Child Are Injured.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The war office communication issued this evening says:

"On the right bank of the Meuse and in the region of Le Mort Homme there was some artillery activity. The enemy unsuccessfully attempted a surprise attack in the Bois de Carrières."

"On the evening of the 22nd instant German airplanes dropped two score of bombs on Dunkirk and its vicinity, killing one civilian and wounding three others, among them a woman and a child."

"Belgian communication: The enemy has maintained a weak artillery fire. Our artillery carried out neutralizing and retaliatory operations. Enemy airplanes and enemy light artillery have bombarded Adin."

"Army of the east, December 22: The day was quiet. There has been a heavy snowfall in the hill region."

MORE NURSES NEEDED.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—More trained nurses are needed in France, so a party of four V.A.D. nurses say, who returned to Montreal Saturday after having spent 16 months at No. 5 hospital, Rouen, one of the British military hospitals. They stated that there was a great scarcity of nurses at the military hospitals. V.A.D. nurses are being used.

POLES WOULD NEGOTIATE

Poland Wants Representation at Peace Conference.

Amsterdam, Dec. 23.—A Polish delegation, headed by Professor Jan Kucharski, the newly appointed premier, arrived in Berlin to demand that the Polish Government be permitted to participate in the peace negotiations with Russia. Chancellor von Hertling received the delegation in audience.

The Vossische Zeitung prints prominently an article protesting against the claims that peace must be negotiated only by "responsible" governments.

TO PREVENT RE-ELECTION OF FRENCH DEPUTIES

Member Presents Bill to Parliament to Secure Attention to Duties.

Paris, Dec. 23.—Emmanuel Brousse has introduced in the chamber of deputies a bill which would make all members of the present chamber ineligible to re-election. In the preamble he sets forth the responsibility of elections while the war continues and the economic problem of the present chamber until the peace conference and the settlement of the conflict and the economic problem arising from the war. It points out work of such vast importance without pre-occupation as to re-election.

COMMEFORD RETIRES

J. W. Commeford has decided not to accept the nomination for alderman, and takes this opportunity of thanking the several deputations that have offered him the nomination. He wishes the electorate a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Mr. Commeford is opening other branches of his business and is unable to devote his whole time to it himself.

HALIFAX CASUALTIES

Halifax, Dec. 23.—The following is the latest list of dead: Clara Hinch, Lena Hinch, Thomas Hinch, Mabel Hinch, Jos. Hinch, Annie Hinch, Margaret Hinch, Ralph Hinch, Jean Hinch, Frederick Hinch, Gordon Hinch, Ralph Gough, Edward Gough, Mrs. Elizabeth Gough, Jas. Gough, Gerald Gough, Matfield Mercer, Lillian Heffer, Irene Cave, Nora Cave, Carol Cave, Peter Carol, Gerald Carr, Jos. Carroll, F. McCann, Maurice Hurley, Ray A. Aulburn, R. Morgan, Andies Jensen, J. Boyle, D. McLachlan, D. McKinnon, W. Fairbrother, John Macdock, Nellie Buckley, Latham, Richard B. Moxon, Benjamin Underwood, Mrs. Lottie M. Aarestrup, Foster Aarestrup, Wm. H. Gress, Jas. Blackburn, Harvie G. Bont-Hier, Baby Suttie (three months), Miss Venney, Helen Bont-Hier, M. as Sarah L. Norton, Mrs. Charlotte Gascon, Bert Goddard, Eva Cronan, Annie Bourne, Gilbert L. M'Kinnon.

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