QUEBEC MUST NOT RULE ALL CANADA

The Toronto World

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PROBS—Fair and becoming milder; some light local snow at night.

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Senate Reading Room
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SENATE P O OTTAWA

ARMISTICE SIGNED ON EAST FRONT

BOLSHEVIKI ANNOUNCE DECISION TO NEGOTIATE AT ONCE FOR PEACE

BRITISH FORCES ADVANCE OVER A MILE ON FIVE-MILE FRONT IN PALESTINE

FIVE-DAY BATTLE ENDS IN SLIGHT ENEMY GAIN

After Prolonged Struggle, Involving Frightful Loss of Life, Teutons Push Back Italians Less Than Mile East of Brenta River.

Headquarters of the Italian Army in Northern Italy, Saturday, Dec. 15.—After a heavy sacrifice of men and five days of continuous fighting, the enemy has succeeded in making another slight advance, bringing his position up to Caprille Hill, just east of the Brenta River. This represents an advance of a about three-quarters of a mile, its chief importance being that Caprille is one of the dominating heights at the head of San Lorenzo Valley, leading southward to the plains toward which the enemy is persistently exerting all his pressure.

As his chief effort the previous week was to gain command of the passes west of the Brenta River, so all his attention in the past week has been given to the passes on the east bank. The fighting during the past five days has been heavy and at times desperate for control of strategic positions.

The struggle yesterday and today took on a double aspect, with the Italians attacking on the right of Mount Fetica, occupied by the enemy, while the Austrians concentrated their attacks on the left around Mount Beretta and its neighboring

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 1).

HAVE STRONG DEFENSES FOR QUEEN OF ADRIATIC

Monitors and Land Batteries Impose Great Barrier Against Teuton Advance on Venice.

On the Lower Piave River, Northern Italy, Saturday, Dec. 15.—Countless square miles of desolate marsh land, intercepted and cut into numberless islands by sluggish lagoons and land inundated to the depth of several feet, line after line of stationary batteries of guns of from three to fifteen inches in calibre, and deep muddy trenches filled with men determined that the enemy shall not advance any further—such are the impressive and apparently well-nigh unassailable defences of Venice.

The character of the warfare all along the Lower Piave line, and particularly the methods employed to defend the "queen of the seas" from the Austro-German invasion undoubtedly are unique even in this war of novelties. Nature has placed a barrier in the path of the invader apparently more insurmountable even than the mountains which the enemy has fought his way across, and these natural obstacles have been fortified as probably no other place in Europe.

Human ingenuity has outdone itself to provide fortresses armed with huge guns which, camouflaged and concealed cunningly from spying aeroplanes, can slip from point to point, never of-

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 5).

BRITAIN VICTORIOUS SO FAR, TIRPITZ SAYS

German Admiral Concedes Advantages in War to Allies Up to Present Juncture.

IS AFTER ANNEXATIONS

Says Germany Cannot Safely Consider Peace Based on Return to Pre-War Status.

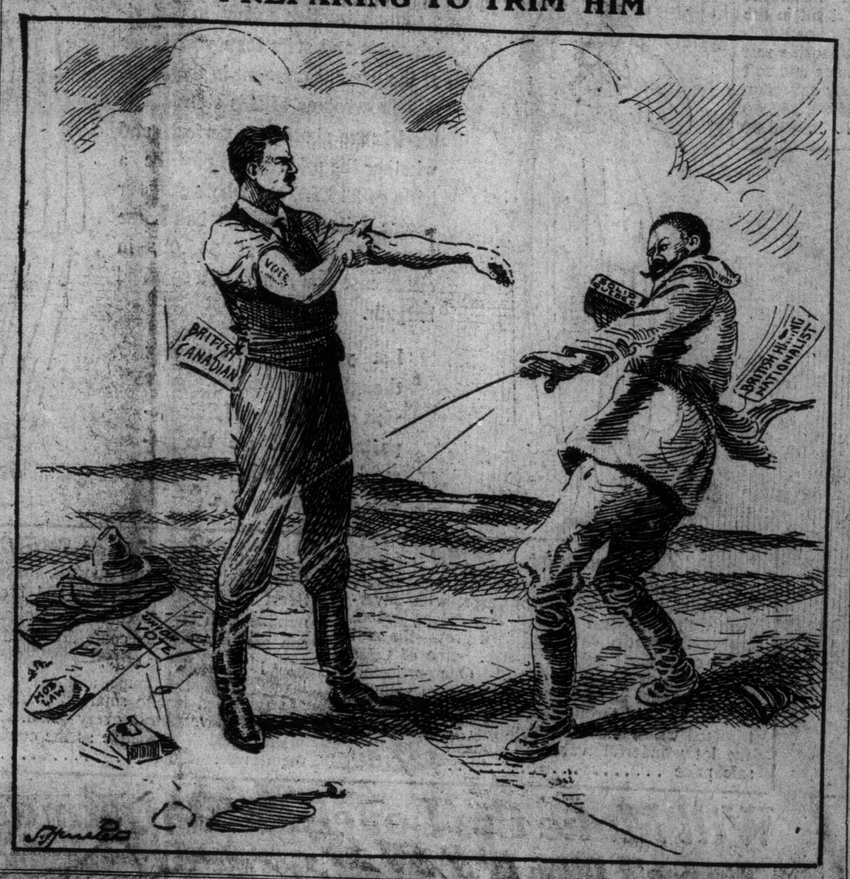
Amsterdam, Dec. 16.—The German papers contain lengthy accounts of the speech of Grand Admiral von Tirpitz before the Hamburg branch of the Fatherland Party in which the admiral said:

"Up to the present in this war Great Britain has won, rather than lost. Peace based on the status quo ante or on renunciation, therefore, is out of the question for Germany."

With reference to the rumor that Germany would give up Zeebrugge and Ostend if the British evacuated Calais, Von Tirpitz said: "The evacuation of Calais would never be equivalent to the loss of such first-class security. Moreover, the channel tunnel will become a fact after the war. For real security, we should have, besides Flanders and Antwerp, Calais and Boulogne. The rumor in question is a screen behind which the question of Flanders might be permitted to disappear.

"The pretext that we cannot coerce Great Britain and America falls to the ground when we consider the growing scarcity of the cargo space of our ruthless arch-enemy. The time for final decision will come when real distress begins to take the place of merely threatening distress. That time will come. It is only a question of keeping cool."

PREPARING TO TRIM HIM



BELIEVES ALL WASN'T RIGHT ON BOARD IMO

Pilot of Mont Blanc Tells Halifax Board of Observations.

SIGNALS WERE WRONG

Mont Blanc Left Sufficient Room for Imo to Pass By.

Halifax, Dec. 16.—In the opinion of Pilot Frank MacKay, who was on duty on the bridge of the Mont Blanc when the collision occurred in Halifax Harbor on Thursday, December 6, between that steamer and the Belgian relief steamer Imo, resulting in the destruction of a part of the city and the loss of well over twelve hundred lives, there was something erratic going on on board the Imo just before the collision. This was the statement he made to the court of inquiry here on Saturday when he was cross-examined by Mr. Burchell, K.C., counsel for the Imo. Counsel was questioning him as to the blasts from the Imo's whistle before the ship struck. The pilot said that he understood from the Imo's two blasts signal that she intended to go down the eastern side to pass the Mont Blanc on her starboard side. The signal, the witness said, was not followed out.

Pilot MacKay differed from some previous witnesses in his testimony as to the Imo's signaling. He said that he was paying close attention at the time, and he was sure that her second signal was two blasts. Instead of the Imo following out that signal, said the pilot, she twisted down a little in the channel to starboard, but he heard no three blasts signal from her at the time.

Gave Imo Lots of Room.

In the course of his examination by the court, Pilot MacKay said that sufficient room was left by the Mont Blanc for the Imo to pass, had she kept on her course. Witness said that he knew the late Pilot Hayes, who lost his life on the Imo, well, and that he did not think he had suggested the order changing the Imo's course.

Testifying concerning the speed of the Imo Pilot MacKay said that she was traveling at, he judged, seven

(Concluded on Page 11, Column 5).

TROOPS REACH ENGLAND

First Line, Forestry and Artillery Details Across From Canada.

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—It is officially announced, thru the chief press censor's office, that the following troops have arrived safely in England:

Drafts—Forestry and railway construction from Windsor, London (Ont.), Brockville, Winnipeg; forestry, from Vancouver, Regina, Brockville, Quebec and Sussex, N.B.; Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery from Victoria, Quebec and Halifax; heavy and sieze artillery from Charlottetown; infantry from British Columbia and Nova Scotia; army medical corps from Halifax; recruits, imperial and United States; details.

BRITISH ARE VICTORS IN LOCAL STRUGGLES

Repulse Attack East of Bullecourt and Maintain Positions in Ypres Region.

London, Dec. 15.—The report from Field Marshal Haig tonight says:

"Yesterday evening the enemy made another local attack east of Bullecourt, but was completely repulsed. This afternoon we carried out a successful raid north of the village in which we captured prisoners and destroyed enemy dugouts. On another portion of the front a few prisoners also were taken during the night by Portuguese troops in patrol encounters.

"On the Ypres front there has been further local fighting during the day in the neighborhood of Polderhoek chateau, without material change in the situation. The hostile artillery has shown considerable activity today in the neighborhood of Hargicourt and Flesquieres, between Gavrelle and Lens, and in the Passchendaele sector."

TO TALK PEACE AGAIN

Kaiser Will Give Allies Another Chance to Accept the Kind He Favors.

London, Dec. 15.—Emperor William, in his Christmas message, proposes to make a final peace offer to his enemies "on whom, in case of rejection, will fall the responsibility for bloodshed in 1918," according to an unofficial Berlin telegram, forwarded from Geneva by the Exchange Telegraph Company today.

GERMANS ARE ALARMED OVER ARTILLERY LOSSES

Report Signed By Ludendorff Says Single German Army Lost 870 Field Guns and 585 Pieces of Heavy Artillery in Month.

London, Dec. 16.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency). — The Daily Chronicle's correspondent with the French armies, telegraphing under yesterday's date, states that a secret report issued on Oct. 4 by the chief of the German general staff, and signed by Ludendorff himself, shows alarming losses in the German artillery.

The report states that during the grand operations the average number of guns lost by a single German army in a single month, either by wear or tear or enemy fire is: Field guns, 870; heavy pieces, 585. In other words, the arsenals and workshops are obliged to make or repair pieces to the extent of three-quarters of the whole artillery establishment merely in order to maintain existing strength. The report further testifies to the efficiency of allied battery work, and says that an average of 1455 guns were put out of action.

MILE AND A HALF ADVANCE BY BRITISH IN PALESTINE

Allenby's Men Make Gains Along Front of Five Miles, Occupying Five Positions---Aeroplanes Busy Over River Jordan.

London, Dec. 10.—An official statement bearing on the campaign in Palestine says:

"General Allenby reports that on Dec. 15 his left centre, northeast of Ludd, advanced on a five-mile front to a maximum depth of about one and one-half miles, without meeting much opposition. Kibbiah, Khibanneh, Khel, Bornat and the ridge overlooking El Tireh were occupied.

"Our airplanes dropped fifty-six bombs on motor boats and sheds and on troops at the mouth of the Jordan with good effect, obtaining twenty-four hits."

An earlier war office report from London states the British have made another advance in Palestine northeast of Jerusalem.

"General Allenby reports that he further extended his line northeast of Jerusalem Thursday, capturing 140 prisoners. Otherwise the situation is unchanged. Since Wednesday three enemy airplanes have been destroyed and another has been brought down."

MISLEADING LETTER CIRCULATED WIDELY

Investigation Proved the Patriotic Fund Justified in Decreasing Amount of Allowance.

The following circular was delivered broadcast thruout the northwest district late on Saturday evening with the evident intention of injuring the Union government.

It is at present unknown who are the guilty parties.

The circular is worded as follows:

"NO EXTRA ALLOWANCE TO SOLDIERS' DEPENDENTS."

"The following letter from the Toronto and York Patriotic Association to Mrs. Keene, who was in receipt of $10.00 per month, from the association, and is now reduced to $5.00 per month, clearly shows what can be expected by the soldiers' dependents.

"The so-called increase of $5.00 a month by the Unionist government means nothing. The Patriotic Association see that the dependent does not get an increase.

Toronto and York County Patriotic Association.
(Affiliated with the Can. Pat. Fund).
48 Yonge street,
Toronto, Ont., Dec. 12, 1917.

Ref. 3976.

Mrs. Katherine Keene,
4 Classic Avenue,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Madam:

At a meeting of the committee of this association yesterday your case was reconsidered in view of your present circumstances and of the increase in government allowance and it was then decided that the grant

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 6).

BOLSHEVIKI AND GERMANS AGREE ON TERMS OF TRUCE

No Troop Transfers Are to Be Begun During Armistice, Which Continues Until Middle of January, 1918.

Petrograd, Dec. 16.—Announcement was made today by the Bolsheviki official news agency that Russia and Germany had agreed upon the terms of an armistice.

The Russian delegates constituting the armistice committee at Brest-Litovsk have advised the Bolsheviki authorities at the Smolny Institute that an agreement was reached with the Germans on Friday concerning the transfer of troops. It was to this effect:

"Both sides signing this agreement bind themselves until Dec. 30, 1917 (Jan. 12, 1918) not to carry on operative military transfers on the front from the Baltic to the Black Sea, except such transfers as were already begun up to the moment of signing this agreement."

Five Signatories.

Berlin, via London, Dec. 16.—An armistice agreement between the Bolsheviki Government in Russia and the Teutonic allies was signed at Brest-Litovsk, Saturday, according to an official communication issued today. Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey are signatories of the agreement.

The communication says the armistice begins at noon, Dec. 17, and remains in force until January 14, 1918. Unless seven days' notice is given it continues in force automatically. It extends to all the land, air and naval forces of the common fronts. According to clause 9 of the treaty, peace negotiations are to begin immediately after the signing of an armistice.

Peace Negotiations Next.

Petrograd, Dec. 16.—Leon Trotzky, the Bolsheviki foreign minister, declared at a meeting of the Petrograd council of soldiers' and workmen's delegates last night that peace negotiations would be begun immediately after the armistice had been signed. The foreign minister announced that for a time a break in the negotiations seemed imminent because Gen. Hoffman, the German negotiator, insisted on the right to transfer troops in small units. The German commander finally accepted the Russian formula.

"We can't and won't aid militarism in any way," M. Trotzky said. "This question of transferring troops was most fundamental. I think our formula is considered by our allies to be satisfactory."

LIBERALS APPEAL FOR UNION GOVERNMENT

The Election Today will be the most momentous in the history of Canada, and, realizing the tremendous gravity to the Dominion, to the Empire, and to the world of the issue, we, the undersigned Liberals, urge the electors as they value the honor of their country, the security and independence of the Empire, and the cause of freedom, to use their influence, as we are doing, and cast their ballots, as we will do, in behalf of the Union Government.

A. E. Dyment, President Toronto Reform Association.	(Rev.) W. A. Cameron	Harry L. Stark	Thomas Reid
James Ryrie	Mark Bredin	Charles Marriott	J. S. McKinnon
J. E. Atkinson	John B. Holden	J. D. Allan	Leighton McCarthy, K.C.
D. E. Thomson, K.C.	(Lieut.-Col.) F. H. Deacon	F. L. Ratcliff	(Dr.) W. P. Cavan
J. H. Gundy	W. D. Matthews	Frank Sanderson	R. A. Reeve, M.D.
C. J. Holman, K.C.	(Prof.) J. H. Farmer	C. W. Livingstone	D. A. Dunlap
(Prof.) A. C. McKay	Alfred Bicknell	E. T. Malone	Wellington A. Cameron
J. S. McLean	J. F. McKay	S. Casey Wood	J. M. Millar
John Firstbrook	(Rev. Dr.) W. J. McKay	C. E. Edmonds	T. F. Little
E. R. Wood	W. E. Rundle	G. A. Morrow	Chester D. Massey
Alexander Keith	A. T. Reid	J. M. Clark, K.C.	Hugh Blain
(Prof.) W. S. W. McLay	D. A. Dunlap	G. T. Somers	S. J. Moore
James Rogerson	(Prof.) Frederick Tracy	Thomas Findley	John A. Tory
Bert H. McCreath	W. E. Robertson	David Fasken	Joseph Oliver
	Joseph T. Clark	T. A. Russell	(Rev.) B. W. Merrill
		H. Douglas Eby	Hugh Munro
		Alfred Rogers	
		A. F. Rutter	
		George F. Parks	

OTTAWA GUARANTEES FARMERS' EXEMPTIONS

Militia Department Will Leave Sons and Necessary Hired Help in Agriculture---Laurier Report to Contrary Denied.

Special to The Toronto World.

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—The Laurier party have caused to be published in The Canadian Farm of December 14 a statement that the military authorities have appealed from the decisions of local tribunals in farmers' sons' cases. There is absolutely no truth in this. It is a pure canard got out at the last moment in the hope and expectation that it will not be contradicted. Mr. Justice Duff's decision exempting farmers' sons is the law, and must be observed by all local or appeal tribunals.

General Mewburn's positive declarations that farmers' sons and help will not be taken also stands good. Moreover, on November 29 the militia department issued the following positive instructions to all military representatives and local tribunals:

"Owing to the necessity of maintaining production of foods uffs, bonafide farmers and necessary hired help should be left on farms. Any claims of such men allowed by tribunals are not to be appealed. Any appeals already made re such men must be cancelled forthwith by notifying the registrar that the appeal is dropped. Care is to be taken, however, that the cases are bonafide and that the men exempted are actually engaged in farm labor."

SOLDIERS TO RETURN BY WAY OF NEW YORK

Plan Will Do Away With Delays at Quebec and Men Will Be Boarded Here

It is understood that for at least some time all soldiers returning from overseas service to Toronto military district will come via New York City and Buffalo instead of via Canadian Atlantic ports.

Word has been received that a party of 900 Canadian returned soldiers have already arrived in New York harbor, but the Military Hospitals Commission has not yet been notified as to when the contingent will reach Canada.

The plan of bringing the Canadian war veterans back home via New York City calls for the establishment of a military clearing station on Staten Island. Under the new plan, the returned soldiers instead of being delayed at Atlantic coast ports to be "boarded" by medical officers will be sent right thru to their destinations in Canada, thus eliminating the delays of several days, sometimes weeks, which the returning soldiers had to suffer before seeing their relatives again. It is expected the new arrangements will call for the war veterans being at once placed on leave on reaching their home cities, with instructions to report at a later date to be boarded.

TWO ATTACKS BY GERMANS ON FRENCH LINES BEATEN

Foe is Repulsed Near Chemin des Dames and in Champagne--Eight Enemy Planes Downed in Engagements.

Paris, Dec. 16.—German forces last night attacked the French positions north of the Chemin-des-Dames, on the Aisne front, and east of Cornillet, in the Champagne. The French War Office, in its statement issued today, reports that both attacks were repulsed. On the right bank of the Meuse, in the Verdun region, there was an increase in the artillery fire.

The text of the statement reads:

"Between the Aisne and the Oise Rivers there was great activity by the artillery on both sides. We repulsed an enemy attack north of the Chemin-des-Dames.

"In the Champagne the Germans last night attempted to attack our positions east of Cornillet, but were repulsed by our fire.

"There was lively artillery activity on the right bank of the Meuse, notably in the sector of Chambrette's.

"There was nothing to report on the rest of the front.

"Aviation: Our airplanes displayed great activity on December 15, bringing down five enemy machines. It has been confirmed that three other German airplanes were smashed on the ground as the result of engagements which took place on December 12 and December 14."

SIR GEORGE IMPROVING.

The condition of Sir George E. Foster, minister of trade and commerce, who was seriously injured when he was knocked down by an engine at the Union Station on Friday evening, was stated last night to be all that could be desired. Dr. Gordon Rice, who is attending him, stated that he expects Sir George will be out of the hospital within two weeks' time. An X-ray has been taken of his left shoulder, which shows a fracture, which it is anticipated will cause no serious trouble. The his other injuries, consisting of bruises and abrasions, are healing very well.

DINEEN'S MEN'S FURS.

The most choice selection in Toronto of fur-lined and fur coats for men. Choicely matched coonskin coats, with wide lapels, high storm collars and heavy quilted lining. Chauffeurs' coats from $32 upwards. The standard of value in muskrat lined coats, otter collars, on imported beavercloth shells. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.