A Happy Christmas to All

H. H. WILLIAMS & CO.

PROBS- Fresh northwesterly winds; fair and

The Toronto World

A Happy Christmas to All

H. H WILLIAMS & CO.

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SWITZERLAND SENDS NOTE IN SUPPORT OF PEACE PLANS French Senate Declines Peace Discussion While Country is

French Senate Passes Unani- says: mous Vote Rejecting Discussion of Terms.

SWISS SEND NOTE, TOO

Washington Took Action After Conference With Berne, Paris Says.

Paris. I/cc. 24.—The unanimous vote of the senate affirming that France cannot conclude peace with an tremy who occupies French territory, coming at the same time as peace note of the Swiss Government, has stirred snew the French press and public. The action of the senate gave further inaction of the senate gave further in-dication of the attitude of the allies towards President Wilson's proposals, while confidence voted in the Briand ministry was regarded most favorably.

The foreign affairs committee of the

thamber devoted a large part of the session yestorday to an examination of President Wilson's note.

The Petit Journal suggests that

French in particular, if it believed them disposed to negotiate with Germany. Germany has attempted the same effort in Switzerland as in the other European neutral countries to procure benevolent intervention. Switzerland needs the victory of the allies to prevent her own absorption by Germany."
The Matin says: "It must be remarked that the federal council supports the efforts of America without associating itself with regard to the Instead of asking the governments to make known the objects of the war, it limits itself to the very hororable wish that peace be concluded now and homage is to be rendered to the sentiments dictating the note."

No Interference by Wilson Can Be Tolerated by Allies

London, Dec. 23.—Speaking at Horn-thurch on the American note, Premier Massey of New Zealand suggested that they tell President Wilson quietly and graciously, but firmly, "as we have carried on the war without his assistance, of the war without his assistance, and had been unable to do has been undertaken by the United States" so we intend to carry it on to the end. We will not tolerate interference."

Dutch to Supply Germany With Eggs, Milk and Fruit

London, Dec. 24.-Holland and Germany have signed a treaty, providing for a supply to the latter of eggs, milk and fruit, says a Central News despatch from Amsterdam today.

BRITISH AIRCRAFT ATTACK POSITIONS IN PALESTINE

Make Raids on Beersheba, Auja, and Important Railway Bridge, Doing Great Damage.

London, Dec. 23, 11.23 p.m.-A Bri- on the enemy concentrations, causing tish official statement issued today many casualties to the personnel.

"Attacks were made on Beersheba "Yesterday our aircraft carried out Auja, and an important railway bridge several successful raids in the El Arish over a deep ravine at Tal El Sharia region (Egypt). At Maghdaba, about a ton of high explosives were dropped turned safely."

WILSON'S ATTITUDE **PUZZLES GERMANY**

Some Newspapers Charge He Day of Sunshine Causes Temis Favoring the Entente Powers.

HARD TO INTERPRET

lution will demonstrate once more that the federal council would be mistaken reconcilable with Germany's attitude. It says the note is a complicated docuwhich is open to various inter-

pretations, and adds: son; and believe he was insincere when he suggested to our adversaries that they make known their peace condi-German Press Divided.

"The German press is divided into two groups as to the interpretation of the president's note. The Deutsche Tages Zeitung declares that President Vilson's intention is to rescue the entente from an impending catastrophe The newspaper points out that Secre tary Lansing's remarks were published the same time as the note and that they were hardly a veiled threat against

The Magdeburgische Zeitung considers the note "a snare, which is laid in favor of the entente."

aid had been unable to do has been undertaken by the United States."

AGED TRAVELER DIES.

Guelph, Dec. 24.—James Shields, aged 75, an old resident of this city, died on Saturday afternoon following a short illness. He was one of the best known commercial travelers in Ontario, being employed by W. R. Johnston & Co. of Toronto for over 25 years. He leaves a family of five children. The funeral will be held on Tuesday afternoon.

* WAR SUMMARY *

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

coming advance. The news of yesterday shows that the Royal Fly

ing Corps has just carried out terrific bombardments of the Turkish

shipping near Baghela the targets, and also bombardments of Beer-

sheba and a railway bridge over a deep ravine at Tel El Sharia, 15

that to make that waterway at all secure against attack from a for-

midable enemy the possession of Palestine by Great Britain is neces-

sary. British interests in Palestine are greater than the interests

of the Jews, so if the British occupy Palestine they will probably hold it as a protectorate and the Jews, of course, will be given every

region of El Arish, near the Egyptian border.

ESOPOTAMIA and Egypt appear to be now connected with

each other as a single theatre of the war, possibly in con-

BRITISH AIRMEN IN

SPECTACULAR FIGHT porary Revival of Aerial

Activity. FOE HOTLY RECEIVED

President Wilson, in sending the note, knew he would have the support of Switzerland and says:

"France pities its neighbor, menaced like Belgium problem of the Associated terday's comment was based on the last of the Associated terday's comment was based on the last of the Associated terday's comment was based on the last of th

still over their own lines, the British aircraft cannon, known as "Archies," began to speak. There was a sharp, angry crack. A moment later a shrap-"There is no reason for Cermany to harbor distrust against President Wil-harbor distrust against President Wilnel shell burst into a white puff ball front continues mainly to be affairs of planes. At first the white fleck of pc wder smoke seemed no larger than a pin head, but it soon spread until it appeared as an exaggerated toy barlcon and floated as lazily against the sky. Then there was another puff and then another, until it seemed that half 2 hundred "Archies" must be

> (Continued on Page 6, Column 6). **DENY RUSSIA'S RIGHT TO** SECURE CONSTANTINOPLE

Cologne Gazette Says Germany is Willing to Return Baltic Provinces.

Amsterdam, Dec. 24.—Prefacing an evidently inspired leading editorial with the statement that Germany does not desire to create a feeling of revenge in Russia, which would provoke another war, The Cologne Gazette declares that Germany intends to restore the Fussian Baltic provinces, but that Russia must recognize that the new situation created in Poland camput new situation created in Poland cannot

The paper argues that in taking Poservice to Russia, and, that, deprived of Poland. Russia will form a united and homogeneous empire. Germany will never allow Russia to possess Constantinople, according to the paper, but is ready to negotiate with Turkey and Russia an arrangement permitting Russian warships and me chant men to navigate the straits.

PROPOSES TO UNIFY FINANCING OF WAR

River and on the Palestine frontier is any evidence that points to a Present System of Taxation.

anadian Associated Press Cable.

London, Dec. 23.—In January last communications west of Kut-el-Amara, making the enemy base and representatives interviewed Premier Massey of New Zealand and Sir J. Ward, finance minister, to protest against the double income tax miles north of Beersheba, in Palestine. A ton of high explosives was also dropped on Turkish concentrations at Maghdaba, in the

13 shillings in the pound as an impost, thereby jeopardizing empire trade.
Premier Massey said the matter for the safety of the British Empire to protect the Suez Canal and the vile system of charging the people

DESTROYED BY FIRE. sary. British interests in Palestine are greater than the interests of any other power and Great Britain has been a consistent friend tory Burnt. One Life Lost.

Wiarton, Dec. 23.-The Canada Furnifacility to proceed with the settlement of the country as well as the blessing of ordered government. If Palestine and Mesopotamia fall (Continued on Page 2, Columns 1 and 2.)

Walton, Dec. 23.—The Canada Furniture Company's table factory was totally destroyed by fire today and one life was lost. Peter Alderson, one of the workmen, went back to where he had worked for his tools and has not been seen since.

Teutons Bring Northern Bank of Stream Under Artillery Fire.

WIN IN CARPATHIANS

Russians Carry Some Importandt Peaks North of Uzul Valley.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. London, Dec. 24.-The warfare continues active on the Runumian front, with the Teutons displaying great aggressiveness in attacking the Russians Note is Stated to Be Open to

Number of Interpretations.

Note is Stated to Be Open to Challenge.

Number of Interpretations.

Anti-Aircraft Guns Quick to Respond to German

Challenge.

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In an official communication issued today, Berlin claims that the north bank of the Danube on both sides of Tultehal is under the fire of the German guns, This news indicates that an attempt is to be made by Von Mackensen to cross the Danube again from the Dobrudia. and with them making further ad-

The Russians admit that their detachments in the Dobrudja were still being attacked by the enemy and that they withdrew towards Isakishe.

The Russians, however, scored an-

The Russians took 105 prisoners in the action north of the Cussa River and three machine guns. The fighting on the eastern Galician

NUMBER OF CANADIAN

Officers of High Rank Are Gazetted for Various Posts.

Conadian Associated Press Cable. London, Dec. 23.—The following appointments are gazetted: Genera staff, third grade, Capt. R. D. Suther land, from A.D.C. Attached to headquarters units: Brigade-commanders, Lieut-Col. S. D. Garôner, M.C.; Lieut.-Col. M. A. Colquhoun, D.S.O.; Lieut.-Col. J. F. Embury, C.M.S. Brigade-major: Capt. G. I. Gwynn,

Staff captain: R. C. Cowan. Lieut. C. C. S. Montgomery, Pion-ers, is gazetted flight commander. For his services in Mesopotamia, Major W. A. Hamilton. Connaught's, has been appointed brevet lieutenant-colonel. He belongs to Guelph and was mentioned in despatches in February last year.

UNITED STATES' OFFER RESEMBLES ULTIMATUM

Premier of Australia Says Wilson's Rome Newspaper Says Vatican Demand is Thinly Veiled.

London, Dec. 24.-A Reuter despatch junction with the Arabs, if continued activity on the Tigris New Zealand is Not Satisfied With from Melhourne today quotes Premier Hughes of the Australian commonwealth as follows in reference to Sec-retary Lansing's explanation of President Wilson's note to the belligerents:
"Under the disguise of an addenda
to the peace note deploring the war, the explanation abruptly discloses that the situation is critical enough to bring the mediator to the verge of war. within the empire. It was argued that commercial men with interests here and in the colonies paid during the war pose of mediation, but in America's interest. Seen in this light the note is more of an ultimatum than an ef-

Peace Coming Before August

London, Dec. 24.-A Frankfort debetting on the Berlin exchange yesterday that peace would be signed before August. The same despatch says that the German Emperor will return

TURKS' SHIPPING IN TIGRIS SUFFERS FROM AIR RAIDS

British Machines Drop Great Quantity of Explosives on Base Near Kut-el-Amara.

London, Dec. 23, 9.55 p.m.—A report on the Mcsopotamian campaign, sent out officially today, reads:

"On the morning of Dec. 21, Pritish aeroplanes dropped nearly a ton of explosives on the Turkish advanced base and on shipping near Baghela, 25 miles west of Kut-el-Amara.

"On the same day hostile trenches"

on the south bank of the Tigris, near Kut-el-Amara, and on the north bank, near Sannaiyat, where subjected to a beavy artillery bombardment. Aeroplane observers reported that ooth bombardments were very effective. At dawn Dec. 22, a second aeroplane raid on the Turkish base near Baghela was carried out."

to Husbands and Brothers

in Khaki.

ARRIVE AT LIVERPOOL

Passengers on the

Missinabie.

CANADIAN WOMEN WHAT FOE WANTS

mail and parcels.

SPANISH SARCASM AT

Newspaper Comments on

Sudden Impulse Toward

Philanthropy.

Paris, Dec. 24.-A Madrid despatch

o The Temps says: The official and political circles con-

tinue impenetrable respecting President Wilson's note. The Germanophile

newspapers speak of "the generosity

of triumphant Germany in offering

has it come about that President Wilson is so philanthropic after having

manifestation of pacifism which was comprehensible before the elections, is

not so now. As for Spain she must

remain outside a certain propaganda

Information of Exploit of Bandit

Chief Arrives at El Paso.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 24.—An Amer-

ican here known to be a close friend of Francisco Villa, claimed today to

have received information that Villa's

forces now occupied Torreon, having

captured the city at 1 o'clock Friday

afternoon. Villa gave orders to com-

manders there not to harm the lives

or property of foreigners.

Gen. Francisco Gonzales will leave

GREAT COATS AND COALS

Christmas "Colder" Says the

Weatherman-Four Hours'

Snowfall.

Toronto was promised pleasant weather for Christmas Eve, but the weatherman's prophecy only held good up

MUCH IN USE TODAY

BIG FIGHT IS PENDING

replete with danger.

VILLA TAKES TORREON

Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin Half Hundreds Pay Christmas Visit Praises Wilson for Note.

URGES RUTHLESSNESS

If All Efforts Fail, German Few Men Included Among Organ Advises More Frightfulness.

Berlin, Dec. 24,via London.—The Lokal Anzeiger, after studying the full text of President Wilson's peace note, declares that the document does France pities its neighbor, menacoid like Belgium perhaps, but France withold dot not want war knows that the continue of the distance of the desired of the strength of the s consider very carefully whether his way is passable for us."

The Lokal Anzeiger reiterates that Germany differs from its opponents in that it has proved by its peace overin that it has proved by its peace over-tures that it wants to bring about the mail despatched from Montreal in-"Should all efforts fail," concludes nadian

"Should all efforts fail," concludes nadian Pacific steamers recently for us but to make sure, ruthlessly, mail and parcels. Two Ca-APPOINTMENTS MADE that the consciousness which our ene mies declare is an absolute pre-condition of their willingness to make peace, namely, the consciousness that peace is necessary to us, shall seize quickly and thoroly their statesmen

Two More Danish Steamers Are Victims of Submarines

London, Dec. 24.-The Danish steamers Dansborg and Hroptatyr have been sunk. The Dansborg, of 2138 gross tons. was last reported arriving at Aalbork on Nov. 24 from Galveston. The Hroptatyr was of 1789 net tons and was owned in Copenhagen

BRITISH AND FOREIGN MAILS. The next British and foreign med, for letters and registered matter only, will close at the general postoffice at 6 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, with supplementary mail closing at 6 p.m., same date.

WILSON'S PEACE NOTE INSPIRED BY GERMAN

Refused to Be a Party.

Rome, Dec. 23 .- Via Paris, Dec. 24 .-"President Wilson's note was suggested by Germany," says the Idea Nazionale. "Germany desired that her peace proposal should be followed by a great pacifist manifestation and tried to ob- mand to oppose Villa south of Chihposal should be followed by a great tain it thru the Vatican, which refused, uahua City, But when Germany declared to Washington that she was ready to examine any peace project of any neutral government, she induced President Wilson to present his note."

This British aerial activity may be undertaken to prepare the way for an advance and not as a defence against the Turks, for the other day they confessed their inferiority by evacuating El Arish. Tor the war to preserve unity of figure and the imperial conference early next the imperial conferen The Giornal de Italia asks: "Is it a "Three mistakes are observable in to 6 p.m., for at that time a snow-ic case of the American note: First, storm arrived and stayed for four

the case of the American note: First, Is Expectation in Berlin it was sent when the allies were about to reject Germany's peace proposal; second, it makes no distinction between patch to the Exchange Telegraph Co., savages and civilized people; third via Rotterdam, says there was heavy savages and civilized people; third, it

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON The W. & D. Dineen Co., Ltd., wish to Berlin for conferences with the their friends and patrons the compliments of the season.

Notes From Other Neutral Countries Are Expected

During Week. WILSON GIVEN PRAISE

Swiss Federal Council in Close Touch With His

Views. Amsterdam, Dec. 24.—Announcing that the Swiss minister at Berlin is about to present Switzerland's peace note to the im-

perial German chancellor, The Vossische Zeitung says that peace notes from other neutral countries are expected in the course of the week. Washington, Dec. 24.-Switzerland, in a note to all of the warring powers, has announced its support of President Wilson's appeal for a discussion of peace terms, saying: "It would con-London, Dec. 23.—Animated scenes sider itself happy if it could act in any, were witnessed at Liverpool when the no matter how modest a way, for the

to the governments of the central and ments of Christmas parcels for the boys in training, in Britain and at the entente powers. In this note President Wilson discusses the great desir-ability of international agreements for front. An official stated the Canadian mail and parcels received this year the purpose of avoiding more effectively and permanently the occurrence of cluded over 800,000 parcels. Two Cacatastrophes, such as that under which the peoples are suffering today. In this connection he lays particular stress on the necessity for bringing about the end of the present war. Without making peace proposals himself or offering mediation, he con-EXPENSE OF WILSON fines himself to sounding as to whether mankind may hope to have approach-

mankind may hope to have approached the haven of peace.

A Mighty Echo.

"The most meritorious personal initiative of President Wilson will find a mighty echo in Switzerland. True to the obligations arising from observing the strictest neutrality, united by the same friendship with the states of both warring groups of powers, altuated like warring groups of powers, situated like an island amidst the seething waves of the terrible world-war, with its ideal and material interests most sensibly jeopardized and violated, our country is filled with a deep longing for peace, The Liberal asks ironically: "How has it come about that President Wilson is so philanthropic after having preserved his long impassability in the presence of the crimes perpetrated in Belgium by the Teuton hordes. This manifestation of pacifism which was beneficial co-operation of the peoples.
"The Swiss federal council is therefore glad to seize the opportunity to support the efforts of the president of the United States. It would consider itself happy if it could act in any, no matter how modest a way for the rapprochement of the peoples now engaged in the struggle, and for reaching a lasting peace.

CANADIAN EXHIBITION OPENS CHRISTMAS DAY

Canadian Associated Fress Cable.
Loridon, Dec. 24.—Because of the great interest aroused, the Canadian war trophies exhibition is remaining open until December 30. The committee has been unable to grant the request to open the exhibition on Sunday, but it is opening on Christmas

Premier Hearst Sends Message to Fighters

Premier Hearst, thru Commissioner General Richard Reid, sent the following Christmas message to the officers com-manding Canadian troops in England and

Toronto was promised pleasant weather for Christmas Eve, but the weatherman's prophecy only held good up to 6 p.m., for at that time a snow-storm arrived and stayed for four hours. The snow was driven by a gale from the east. It threatened to tie up the street car traffic, but steady employment of the company's snow-plows kept practically all lines running on schedule. The railroads reported no delays on account of the storm.

For Christmas Day, the weather expert up in Queen's Park states Toronto will have it "fair and colder, with fresh northwesterly winds."

manding Canadian troops in England and France:

"The government and people of Ontario join with one heart and voice in wishing you a Happy Christmas and a Bright and Glorious New Year, and a speedy, triumphant return home. We unite with you in renewing our pledge of devotion to the deave who have fallen, and to you who stand to you hope of orthoose who have fallen, and to you who stand to your loyalty and achievements. Tho separated at this time, one sentiment binds us in common fraternity, looking forward to the day of your home-coming with joy and gratitude for work well done and a reward justly earned.

"W. H. Hearst, "Time Minister,"