



TO-DAY'S Messages.

11.45 A.M.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR CROWS OVER THE SMALL NATIONS.

BERLIN, To-day. After the second Balkan war in which the Bulgars had borne the brunt of the fighting they had then been abandoned by Russia, Serbia then had received her reward from Russia. Because in Serbia the vanguard had advanced against Austria-Hungary the Chancellor declared that the Bulgarian flag was floating over reconquered Bulgarian soil and Serbia had been crushed. This is one more small country which has been sacrificed for the interest of the Entente Allies. The Danube is now free the Chancellor said, and the Turkish position in the Dardanelles is now firmer than ever before, although Asquith last summer proclaimed their imminent fall. Thanks to the far-sighted policy of King Ferdinand, he continued, a strong bridge has been constructed, uniting firmly the Central Powers with the Balkans and the Near East. After peace has been concluded this bridge will not respond with the steps of marching battalions, but will serve for works of civilization, peace and friendship, now confirmed by fraternity in arms and will then be strengthened by the exchange of goods of the nations. The Chancellor referred to the attempts of the Entente Powers to improve their positions in the Balkans by threats against Greece. He said every nation which had raised a cry against Prussian militarism, now threatened the Greek Government with the powerful British navy. Having adopted this attitude, they could not consistently continue to pretend that Germany acted improperly in invading Belgium. Why did not the Westminster Gazette tell this in August 4th, 1914, the Chancellor asked. Then the whole world would have heard the truth at the beginning of the war. Continuing he said, Germany's task in the conquered portions of Russia had been particularly hard on account of the conditions, which had prevailed there under Russian administration. Cities were without sewerage. Their administration had been in the hands

of Russian bureaucracy. Germans had established self-government in Poland, where a new form of administration was being put into effect with the aid of the Germans. They had constructed more than 40,000 kilometres, about 2600 miles of roads, schools had been re-opened and were now being taught in Russian, but in the mother tongue. The Warsaw University and the technical high school had been re-opened. The Chancellor said that as late as February this year the Russian Government had declined to introduce the Polish language in the University. In Belgium, he continued, attendance at school had been made compulsory. The Flemish language, formerly suppressed, was now being used. Newspapers of the Entente nations, the Chancellor continued, were full of sensational untruths about Germany, announcing in headlines Germany defeated; Germany at her last end; Germany begs for peace; many other nonsensical reports have been published, such as the assertion Emperor William was preparing for solemn entry into Constantinople in order to dictate terms of peace. The assertions concerning Germany's depression, Germany's arrogance are all untrue. These reports, he continued, began the moment when the diplomatic efforts of the Entente in the Balkans broke down. After these failures, he said, the Entente Powers needed something in order to divert public attention from their own miserable conditions. The Chancellor urged the people of Germany to consider only the facts of the real situation in this country and the fighting front. Against the convincing power of these facts our enemies are helpless. He said, there is nothing in our situation which could shake our confidence. If our enemies now refuse to recognize facts, they will have to do so later. When the Chancellor ended his speech the whole Chamber joined in an outburst of applause.

LOOKING TO A SPRING CAMPAIGN IN THE BALKANS.

PARIS, To-day. An allied army of 500,000 or more will be available for operations in the Balkans in the spring, according to General de LaCroix, military critic of the Temps, in a review in that newspaper of the military situation in the Balkans. There are 150,000 troops of the Allies at Saloniki, 100,000 British at the Dardanelles could be transferred there, says General de LaCroix, who adds that unless the British army vacates the Gallipoli Peninsula, the chances are 99 out of 100 that within 2 or 3 months they would be thrown into the sea. Looking into the future the military writer says that to those 250,000 can be added a reorganized Serbian army of 200,000 possibly 500,000 Italian troops campaign, besides such other forces as may be sent from the west in the meantime.

RUSSIAN VICTORY AT HAMADAN.

LONDON, To-day. A Reuter despatch from Petrograd, according to a telegram from Téhéran, says the Russian legation is informed that Russian troops gained a victory in the direction of Hamadan, defeating a force consisting of 800 cavalry, infantry, insurgent Gendarmes, 1200 German-Turkish Mercenaries, of whom a large number were killed or wounded. The Russian troops occupied an important position near the town of Ovchi, about 60 miles north east of Hamadan, from which they are pursuing their offensive.

12.45 P.M.

CANCELLED REQUISITION OF AMERICAN VESSELS.

WASHINGTON, To-day. Britain advised the United States today in response to the State Department protest in the case of steamship Hocking and other vessels of the American Transatlantic Co. the orders requisitioning the Hocking and Genesee would be cancelled. The test cases would be tried promptly. Germans owned two of the steamers seized by the British cruiser. The Winnebago and Yankee will be released under bonds. The Hocking and Genesee cases will be made the basis of the text to accelerate the dispositions of the issue. These cases will be transferred from Halifax and St. Lucia to London, thus avoiding delay by appeals from subordinate courts. Notice of Britain's action came to Secretary of State Lansing through Sir Cecil Sprig, Rice, British Ambassador here and Ambassador Page at London.

LITTLE ACTIVITY ON WESTERN FRONT.

LONDON, To-day. The British official communication made public last night says bad weather has limited activity in air. Our men have been able to do useful work. Two machines which went on a reconnaissance on the fifth have not returned. The result of the raiding party, a little enterprise in a region south of Arras. A small party of our men entered a German trench, bombed the occupants, successfully withdrawing after completing their mission of destruction of the enemy's parapets and wire entanglements. At various points on the front our artillery continues the successful bombardment of the enemy's position. Near Pilken on the 8th the enemy shelled Arras and north heavily, but did little damage. West of Fricourt we exploded a large mine with success on the 8th. Yesterday near Givenchy an enemy mine buried two of our men who were safely rescued.

THE U. S. PROTEST ABOUT THE ANCONA MASSACRE.

WASHINGTON, To-day. The note the United States has sent to Austria-Hungary on the sinking of the Italian liner Ancona was based, it was learned last night, primarily upon the virtual admission of the Austro-Hungarian Admiralty in its official statement that a ship was torpedoed before all the passengers had been removed to a place of safety. It was stated also the position of the United States, as outlined in its communication, asked for reparation for the lives lost and an assurance that such acts will not be repeated and that no matter whether merchantmen stop upon firing warning shot by warships or after the pursuit of passengers must be removed before the vessel is sunk.

DECLINES TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS.

LONDON, To-day. In the speech in the Reichstag, the Imperial Chancellor Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, in reviewing the military and political economies and the progress of events in his reply to the Socialist interpellation, declined to initiate peace negotiations.

BIG BOOM DESTROYED.

PETERSBURG, To-day. The Hopewell Virginia boom, twenty-

Christmas Bells

Handsome Illustrated Christmas Annual now on sale at all the Book-stores and Office of Publication. Price: 10 cents.

Contents: "Some Personal Recollections of the Crimean Campaign," by James P. Howley, F. G. S.; "E. C." The Passing of the "Poetess of Pity," by Nadie; "Newfoundland" (Poetry), by Rev. F. J. Smith, L.L.D.; "Newfoundland Heroes," by H. F. Shortie; "A Voice from the Regiment," by Leo C. Murphy; "I Forgive" (a story) by J. W. Kinsella; "The Union Jack: What it is and what it means," by Rev. F. J. Smith, L.L.D.; Editorial Notes: "Christmas Somewhere in ——" by Lydia Chaney; "Some Humorous Stories and Incidents of the War," by W. H. Gifford; "New England Hospitality," "Bob Martin," by H. W. LeMessurier; "The Acadians in Newfoundland," by I. C. Morris; "Mrs. Cassidy's Old Red Cow," by Fayson J. Kinsella; "A Bit of Newfoundland Church History," by Rev. Canon Smith; "Poor Joe Benoit," by M. F. H., etc., etc.

Five full pages of Illustrations, principally pictures of our Lads and their doings at the Training Camps, in all 20 choice pictures forming a handsome Souvenir to send to friends abroad.

Gray & Goodland Publishers.

ty-five thousand feet long, founded by the Dupont Powder Co., was virtually destroyed by fire late yesterday. At 9 p.m. the flames were still uncontrolled, but it was said there was said there was little left to burn in the town. The Company's powder mill, some distance away, was not believed to be in danger.

1.15 P. M.

STUBBORN FIGHTING IN MESOPOTAMIA.

HOLLAND, To-day. Constantinople, official—Kutel Anara is being stubbornly defended by the enemy. Our advanced divisions marching to Suakissad, making the enemy's retreat difficult.

FIERCE ATTACKS BY BULGARS.

LONDON, To-day. Bulgarians offered by Germans, are fiercely attacking Allies in Macedonia, according to the Times' Salonika correspondent, who regards the situation as grave. The correspondent says a series of fierce assaults by day and night have been directed against the Allied right wing from Demir Kapu to Kest Turino. These assaults, the despatch adds, have so far been successfully beaten off, but the Bulgars are being constantly reinforced and apparently intend to renew the attacks with the object of gaining the Strumitza station, towards which the German cavalry have been making reconnaissance.

FRONTIER HOSPITALS EVACUATED.

LONDON, To-day. The Times this morning regards as an ominous sign the news received from its Athens correspondent that the Hospitals of the Entente Allies at Gheorgi, southeastern Serbia, have been evacuated.

1.50 P. M.

KAISER SENDS PEACE MESSAGE TO POPE.

ROME, To-day. Cardinal Von Hartmann, Archbishop of Cologne, left Rome last night after again seeing Pope Benedict. The Cardinal was bearer of a Papal message for Emperor William and also recommendation for peace. It is understood the Cardinal probably will see Prince Von Buelow, the ex-German Ambassador to Italy, in Switzerland.

WOUNDED GENERAL RETURNS.

PARIS, To-day. General Gouraud, who lost an arm as a result of wounds suffered while commanding the French Expeditionary Force at the Dardanelles, has been assigned a command of one of the armies at the front, although he has barely recovered.

PEACE RIOTS IN BERLIN.

PARIS, To-day. The Rome correspondent of the Journal sends the following: Zurich (Switzerland). A despatch states that violent demonstrations in favor of peace have taken place in Berlin. The police were obliged to charge the crowds, windows, stores and cafes were smashed, during rioting, and the soldiers in the crowd took an active part in the disturbances.

THE KAISER AND WATERLOO.

AMSTERDAM, To-day. Emperor William will visit Brussels from December 19 to 22, according to Belgian correspondents of Dutch newspaper, and will also visit the neighboring parts of Belgium including the field of Waterloo. It is said special police already have arrived in Brussels to act as a guard for the Emperor.

2.00 P. M.

NEEDS A REVOLUTION.

BERNE, To-day. Peace manifestations have occurred not only at Berlin, but at Dresden and Leipzig, according to the German correspondent of Tagwacht. The correspondent adds that the conviction prevails among the masses in Germany that only a revolutionary attack would force the Government to make peace.

REVOLT FOR PEACE GROWING.

NEW YORK, To-day. The London correspondent of the Herald cables this morning, a neutral

just returned from a trip to Germany and Austria-Hungary brings the news that despite the fact that business men and bread winners, including women of the Central Empires, who have engaged in peace riots have been ruthlessly bayoneted and some shot down by the troops, the revolt against the war is assuming alarming proportions. He declares that Herr Schoidman, the Socialist Deputy, in a speech demanding speedy peace voiced the heartfelt desire of nine-tenths of the people of the two Empires, while Dr. Von Bethmann Hollweg represents only the junkers who have waxed fat and powerful, fattening on the producers of Germany. The Chancellor's threat that if the Allies do not bend the knee before Germany's power now they will be forced to do so later, when peace terms will be much more severe is derided by every newspaper here this morning. The manhood of great Britain is rushing to recruiting stations in their thousands during a pelting rain storm yesterday and all last night sent the answer which is the voice of the whole British Empire, that the great volunteer arm of Britain is fighting shoulder to shoulder with her Allies that will never allow their arms to fall from the murderous machine of which Bethmann Hollweg is the mouthpiece is completely smashed.

BULGARIAN VICTORY DENIED.

PARIS, To-day. A despatch to Havas Agency from Saloniki dated Thursday, says: On the strength of the fact that the French and English troops retired from positions to north and east, the Bulgarians announced a brilliant victory over the Entente Allies. It is stated on good authority that no serious action took place. It is officially denied that there are any Germans among the Bulgarian troops in front of the Entente Allies.

Reids' Boats.

The Argyle arrived at Placentia at 5.30 p.m. yesterday; sails this afternoon for west.

The Clyde left Lewisporte early this morning for north.

The Dunce left Port Bandford at 4 a.m. to-day.

The Ethie left Clarendville at 4.10 a.m. to-day.

The Glenora left Bellefleur at 10.30 a.m. to-day, coming east.

The Home arrived at Humbermouth at 5 p.m. yesterday.

The Petrel left Change Islands at 12.45 p.m. yesterday, inward.

The Kyle arrived at Port aux Basques at 8.25 a.m. to-day.

The Meigle leaves North Sydney this afternoon for St. John's direct.

The Sagona left Port aux Basques at 7.45 p.m. yesterday.

Here and There.

Riverside Blankets are made from selected wools.—dec8,61

FOGOTA.—The Fogota left Gander Bay at 5.15 p.m. yesterday, coming south.

There never was an engine that could beat the FERRO.

THE STEPHANO.—The s.s. Stephano does not leave New York again for here via Halifax until Tuesday next.

SAILED FOR GIBRALTAR.—The s.s. N. Hansen sailed from Fogo yesterday for Gibraltar, with 2,900 qtls. codfish.

SURVEY OF DAMAGES.—A survey of the damages to the big steamer Queen Margaret is being made at the dry dock to-day.

ST. ANDREW'S CHOIR will not meet for practice to-night. dec10,11.

WEATHER.—A light southwest wind prevails along the line of railway to-day with the temperature ranging from 33 to 42 above.

Riverside Blankets and Yarns made up to a Standard, not down to a price.—dec8,61

BIG FREIGHT OFFERING.—Already there is an enormous freight, principally Christmas goods, offering to go north on the next trip of the S.S. Prospero.

MORE DIPHTHERIA.—A new case of diphtheria was reported this morning from Pennywell Road. The patient, a girl of 5 years old, was removed to the hospital.

Some firms handle engines only exclusive dealers in Engines and Supplies in Newfoundland. We specialize

KYLE'S PASSENGERS.—The Kyle arrived at Port aux Basques at 8.25 a.m. to-day with the following passengers in saloon: A. Purchase, A. L. Jardon, Rev. J. W. McConnell, E. W. McInnis, P. O. Lefrey, W. A. Parle.

L. M. TRASK & CO. received "by Florizel" one carload Eureka Motor Oil and one carload FERRO Oil Engines. Order now for prompt delivery.

FOR COT FUND.—Little May and Frank Rowe and Stanley Jeans held an afternoon tea at the residence of Mrs. W. E. Rowe, 56 Livingstone St., and realized the nice sum of \$5.50 towards the Cot Fund, which amount has been handed to the Treasurer.

REMOVAL NOTICE.—Mr. F. A. MEWS, Barrister, Solicitor & Notary. Address: City Chambers, Water Street (over Royal Bank of Canada—1st floor). dec8,61 s.t.u.t.

MORE SMUGGLING.—Joseph Collins, master of the boat G. J. N., of Flat Islands, was charged before Magistrate Avery yesterday for going to St. Pierre without a clearance and for smuggling tobacco and rum. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$50. The foregoing information was received to-day by Deputy Minister of Customs, LeMessurier.

BRITISH THEATRE!

On Friday and Saturday Presents:—

William E. Shay and Violet Mersereau, the two popular I.M.P. stars, in the two-act drama,

"When the Heart Calls."

A pretty story of true-love with its trials and triumphs.

"THE HEARTS OF THE BRADYS,"

A splendid story of true-manhood in a pair of Western Miners.

"ALL OVER THE BISCUITS"—A Nestor comedy with Eddie Lyons. "STRAYED FROM THE RANGE,"

An interesting drama of the West.

On Saturday Afternoon a number of Variety Bags will be given to the Children.

5c. The Crescent Picture Palace. 5c.

Presents Edgar Jones and Justina Huff in

"MEN OF THE MOUNTAINS."

A Lubin two reel feature.

"THE MAN IN MOTLEY"—An Essanay Melo-Drama.

"Andy of the Royal Mounted," a drama featuring G. M. Anderson—Broncho Billy.

"HAM AMONG THE REDSKINS"—a roaring comedy with Lloyd Hamilton and Bud Duncan.

Dan Delmar, the popular Crescent vocalist singing novelty songs and ballads. Good music and effects, a comfortable and well ventilated Theatre. Send the children to the big Saturday matinee; extra pictures and an extra song.

ROSSLEY'S EAST END THEATRE!

St. John's Leading Vaudeville, Dramatic and Picture Theatre.

TO-NIGHT'S BIG CONTEST.

All Fun and Lots of it.

GREATEST VAUDEVILLE SHOW EVER SEEN.

HEAR MR. BALLARD BROWN IN NEW SONGS.

SEE MADGE LOCKE AS A SUFFRAGETTE.

GREAT ORIENTAL AND OTHER DANCES.

Finest all round Show, and Good Pictures.

NOTE.—In active preparation, Mrs. Rossley's 4th annual Pantomime, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. The costumes will eclipse anything ever seen here.

A MONEY-SAVING SUGGESTION!

When sending Presents to your friends abroad have you not frequently curtailed the value of your gift on account of the heavy duty you know they will have to pay on receipt of it?

Of course you have; but you need do so no longer. We have altered all this by making arrangements with the leading wholesale Jewellery and Novelty firms in England, America and Canada, to deliver FREE OF DUTY, EXPRESS OR POSTAGE FEES in their respective countries any gift chosen from their catalogues, which can be seen at our store.

These catalogues are up-to-date and replete with dainty and fascinating suggestions for Christmas and New Year Gifts. Any special engraving will be done to order at the shortest notice by the firm from whom the Gift is selected.

Order at once to ensure early delivery.

JOSEPH ROPER, Water Street.

dec3,1m

TEXACO OIL

is in a class by itself, whilst Texaco packages are money-savers.

TEXACO OIL

lasts longer, burns without soot or smoke, and keeps bright right down to the last drop. No dearer than other kinds.

Everyday Etiquette.

"What is done with the engagement ring during the wedding ceremony, is it left on the hand and the wedding ring placed over it?" was Helen's query.

"The engagement ring is usually transferred to the right hand before the ceremony and used afterwards as a guard for the wedding ring," said her aunt.

MINARD'S LINIMENT RELIEVES NEURALGIA.

SHOP EARLY FOR SATISFACTION

We have been working overtime for the past few days opening New Shipments of Xmas Goods, and are now ready with something to suit everybody. See our display right now and save yourself endless worry and annoyance during Xmas Week.

STAMPED LINENS. Pillow Slips . . .35c. each Child's Linen Dresses, . . 40c. each Ladies' Nightgowns, . . 80c. each Readymade Kimono Gown with 3 Slips, emb. floss. \$1.50 to \$3.50. LADIES' KIMONOS, \$1.50 to \$3.50. Mauve, Pink, Sage and Helio. LADIES' HAND BAGS, \$1.30 to \$2.20. See the Automatic locking Bag, absolutely the newest and safest. PAPER & ENVELOPES, 15c. to 90c. box, in Holly boxes, suitable for odds and ends when empty. PERFUMED BEADS, only 45 and 60c. each.	MANICURE SETS, 40c. to \$2.40. BRUSH, COMB AND MIRROR SETS, \$1.60. Black Ebony, silver plate on back for initials. LEATHER COLLAR POUCHES, \$1.60. WORK BASKETS, \$1.55 to \$4.80. DOLLS' COLLAPSIBLE PRAMS, \$3.00 each. BOXES OF LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS, 12c. to 85c. Some embroidered on Irish Linen.	CHILD'S BATH ROBES, 75c. each. Shades of Pink and Sky; fit 1 to 3 years. HYGIENIC SLEEPING SUITS, 70c. and 75c. Fit 2 to 4 years. BOYS' SNOW SUITS, \$2.45. Sweater Coat, Overpants & Cap; all shades. TOYS! TOYS!! Impossible to mention here; must be seen to be appreciated. BRADLEY'S DRAWING SETS, \$1.50. With this the ingenious boy may develop his ability for draughting.
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