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PROBS—Southwest winds: cloudy and mild, with local rains; change to colder by Tuesday.

MONDAY MORNING DECEMBER 24 1917—SIXTEEN PAGES.

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,557 TWO CENTS

BRITISH MAKE NEW ADVANCE ON PALESTINE FRONT

RUSS PEACE EMISSARIES HAVE BEEN RECALLED

METROPOLITAN MAKES AN OFFER TO THE CITY

Mayor Announces That Price Asked For Franchise Rights Is About Two Million Dollars.

That Sir William Mackenzie and his associates submitted no later than Saturday afternoon an offer for the acquisition by the city of the franchise rights of the Metropolitan Railway between Farnham avenue and the northern city limits, and that the price was in the neighborhood of $2,000,000, was the somewhat startling statement made by Mayor Church at a meeting of the North Toronto Ratepayers' Association held in the Eglinton town hall on Saturday night.

The mayor further stated that a special meeting of the board of control had been called for this morning, and that no time would be lost in referring the whole matter to the Ontario Railway Board, and failing satisfactory decision there, to the appellate court at Osgoode Hall for final settlement. This latter statement was received with every demonstration of approval.

Another statement made by Mayor Church was to the effect that an agreement had practically been arrived at between the company and the city relative to the value of the physical assets, which are placed at $120,000.

Dealing with the matter in general Mayor Church said there ought to be a final decision in the whole matter before Easter.

Dealing with the charge that he was not a business man he claimed that the appointment of Mr. Bradshaw was owing to his efforts, and that the departments generally at the city hall had been overhauled and reorganized during his regime; and reverting again to the Metropolitan deal he said that the gauge would be as at present, as the Metropolitan was guaranteed running rights under the terms of the agreement, and in the interval between the taking over of the city system a condition of affairs similar to the present civic car service would be evolved. Yonge street would be double-tracked and paved, and in some cases new sidewalks laid. He made a strong plea for re-election, claiming that his pay-as-you-go policy had

(Concluded on Page 11, Column 5).

CANADIAN DECORATIONS TOTAL SEVEN THOUSAND

London, Dec. 23.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Seven thousand decorations have been conferred to date on members of the Canadian expeditionary forces for valor in the field and for outstanding war services. Seven officers and twelve men have gained the coveted Victoria Cross, 306 officers have received the Distinguished Service Order, six have gained the bar to the Distinguished Service Order, and 105 Canadian nurses have received the Royal Cross. There have been one K.C.B., 16 C.B.'s and three K.C.M.G.'s bestowed on Canadians. One thousand and ten officers and 26 of other ranks have been decorated with the Military Cross. One hundred and eighty-eight foreign medals have been awarded to Canadians, 64 to officers and 124 to men. Men in the ranks have been rewarded with 676 Distinguished Conduct Medals, and six received bars to the D.C.M. Four thousand three hundred and twenty-four have received the Military Medal, 125 received bars to the Military Medal, and three received the second bar. Sixty-three have earned the Meritorious Service Medal.

THINK ENDORSEMENT MIGHT BE HANDICAP

Greater Toronto Labor Party, However, Decides That Its Representatives Running for Municipal Office Shall Do So as Labor Candidates.

The stormiest session ever held on the floor of the Labor Temple by the Greater Toronto Labor Party resulted in the passage of Delegate Muldoon's resolution yesterday afternoon to the effect that the Labor candidates for seats in the city council and the township councils receive the official endorsement of the Greater Toronto Labor Party.

This motion was subjected to heated debate for more than an hour and a half, Ald. Gibbons, Wm. Amos, John O'Donnell and others pointing out the inadvisability of putting the seal of the G.T.L.P. upon the candidates running for municipal honors, and Jas. T. Gunn, Jas. Ballantyne, John Doggett, R. Pauline, R. Allpress and others replying to the effect that it would be better to lose a clear, straight cut fight under the auspices of the G.T.L.P. than to win on an absolutely independent platform.

Ald. Gibbons did not believe in introducing politics into any municipal campaign. Politics were always left to the houses of parliament, and the newspapers generally eschewed party politics in municipal issues. A number of those present strongly disagreed with the alderman, who advised less talk and more work in behalf of the men aspiring to represent Labor in the council chambers. Wm. Amos also advised caution until the Labor party was more firmly organized.

Jas. T. Gunn was of the opinion that if he was in Labor politics he was in politics whether for parliamentary or municipal honors. "If Labor is to have

(Concluded on Page 6, Column 5).

LITTLE BABY RESCUED BY BRITISH IN CAMBRAI DRIVE.

In safe hands. A good little baby rescued by the British Tommies when they took Masnieres, during the Cambrai drive.

RUSSIA RECALLS HER DELEGATES

Bolsheviki Peace Negotiators Summoned to Petrograd---Ukrainians Hold Up Russ Food Supplies.

London, Dec. 23.—"Russian peace delegates are returning to Petrograd according to reports at the Smolny Institute," said a despatch from the Associated Press correspondent in the Russian capital, dated Friday and received here today. The message suggested no reason for their return and said nothing about the reported German rejection of Russia's terms. It added, however, that no definite news regarding the negotiations was being given out at the Smolny Institute, headquarters of the Bolsheviki.

The story of the recall of the delegates and the rejection of Russian terms has not attracted much attention here, apparently from the fact that the heads of some of the enemy delegations had not arrived at Brest-Litovsk when the report became current, Count Czernin, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, and his suite, including Gen. Ritzinger, and some German staff officers, are now in that city, but the arrival of Dr. von Kuehlmann, the German foreign minister, has not yet been reported.

Conflict Continues.

Meantime the conflict between the Ukrainian Rada and the Bolsheviki commissaries continues unabated. The

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 5).

Dr. William Brady, the noted physician and author, who today joins the staff of The Toronto World, as a special writer. Dr. Brady will contribute every day a series of "Health Talks," which will appear in the women's section.

GOVERNMENT THANKED.

St. John, N.B., Dec. 23.—In the Methodist churches of this city today resolutions were adopted thanking the government for its order stopping the importation of liquor into Canada. The order-in-council was referred to by the various pastors.

ALLENBY'S ARMY IN NEW ADVANCE

TURK FORCES RESORT TO GUERILLA TACTICS

Tho Much Harassed by Enemy, British Are Extending Gains on Palestine Front.

London, Dec. 23.—Since the Turks were driven out of Jerusalem they have been conducting guerilla warfare to the north and east of the city, splitting up into numerous small bodies to attack British outposts, to snipe patrols and generally to make themselves unpleasant, says Reuter's correspondent at Jerusalem, telegraphing under date of December 15.

"Such tactics," the correspondent continues, "are greatly facilitated by the fact that the country is so hilly and intersected by so many ravines and small rivers. To improve the British position the taking of certain ridges has been ordered so that there may be a wider range of defense. All these moves have been successfully carried out.

"A remarkable opportunity to view this fighting is afforded by the Mount of Olives, which makes what is probably the most wonderful observation post in the world. In the clear atmosphere of Palestine objects 5000 to 6000 yards away look as if they were within pistol shot. The winding course of the Jordan is clearly visible and motor boats may be seen skimming the surface of the Dead Sea.

"One of the most brilliant pieces of work during the recent operations was the capture of Bethlehem. The Turks had strong fortifications here with numerous field guns on the outskirts of the hamlet. The troops which had been ordered to take the town deployed by night far to the left, threatening the Turkish line of retreat and compelling the Turks to withdraw.

"Welsh troops then entered Bethlehem at daybreak."

CANADIAN AVIATOR KILLED.

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 23. — Cadet A. Ross Harrison, of the Royal Flying Corps, was killed today at Everman, when his machine crashed 400 feet to the ground. Harrison, who was born in Kingston, Ont., had enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps in Canada and had come to Fort Worth two months ago to finish his training.

British Take Turk Position North of Jaffa ---Over Three Hundred Enemy Soldiers Are Captured.

London, Dec. 23.—Further progress by the forces of Gen. Allenby at two points in Palestine was reported in a statement issued last night by the war office. The statement follows:

Gen. Allenby reports that at midnight of December 20-21 our troops, crossing the Nahr El Auja (four miles north of Jaffa on the Mediterranean) on rafts and light bridges, seized Khurget, Hadrah, Sheik Muannis, Teer Reekket and El Nakhras. These localities are near the mouth of the river, and include commanding ground three miles north of it. They captured 305 prisoners, eleven of whom were officers, and ten machine guns.

Other forces captured Ras Ez Zandy, two miles northeast of Bethany, taking thirty prisoners, two machine guns and beating off three counter-attacks.

Gen. Allenby also reported the following captures since the commencement of operations:

Ninety-nine guns and howitzers with carriages; about 400 limbers, wagons and other vehicles; 110 machine guns; more than 7000 rifles; 18,500,000 rounds of small-arm ammunition and more than 58,000 rounds of gun and howitzer ammunition, besides various other stores.

BERLIN CONTRADICTION

Germans Deny Five U-boats Were Sunk in One Day.

Amsterdam, Dec. 23.—According to a Berlin despatch, official denial is given to the statement made by Premier Lloyd George in the British Parliament on November 15, that five German submarines had been sunk on the previous Saturday. The statement gives no particulars, however, of the actual sinkings on that day.

In the speech in question, the British prime minister, referring to the submarine menace, said: "But now of the submarine I have no fear. We are on its track, and I am glad to tell the house that on Saturday we destroyed five of them—five of these pests of the sea."

HALIFAX DEATH TOTAL DECLARED TO BE 1500

Eleven Hundred Bodies Have Been Recovered From Ruins---Remains of Captain of Imo Identified at Mortuary.

Halifax, Dec. 23.—The latest estimate of the loss of life in the disaster of December 6 is placed at fifteen hundred. Chairman Barnstead of the mortuary committee stated today that over eleven hundred bodies have been recovered, and that there are about three hundred missing. During the past week one hundred and thirty-nine bodies were removed from the ruins. In addition to the above figures, many of the persons removed to hospitals outside of the city died of their injuries, but the officials here have not yet been able to get the total number.

The remains of Captain From, master of the Belgian relief ship Imo, which have been at the mortuary for two or three days, have been identified by Capt. Rudderham of Halifax, and an officer of the Imo, and by the people who were acquainted with him. The remains will be shipped to the deceased's home in Norway, an order to that effect having been given.

At the time of the explosion the poultry show was in its third and last day of the exhibition of some two thousand birds, and notwithstanding that the market building where the exhibition was held was badly damaged, yet not one bird was killed or died from the effects of the explosion.

BIG FOOD STOCK LOST IN ITALIAN RETREAT

Four Million Bushels of Wheat Taken by Teutons—Italy's Food Supply Short.

Rome, Friday, Dec. 21.—The food minister, reporting to the chamber today, said that Italy's wheat supply amounted to 29,000,000 quintals. Thirty-seven million quintals were needed. He pointed out that, despite precautions, the war and other causes, such as increased consumption due to lack of other foods, had increased the annual consumption of wheat from 62,000,000 to 69,000,000. Four million quintals of wheat had been lost during the evacuation of the invaded territory.

The minister emphasized the need of economy, declaring that while the Germans were carrying on the war on 2100 calories of food per person the English required 3200, the French 2900 and the Italians 2700.

MAJORITY NOW 175,000 FOR ANTI-CONSCRIPTION

Vote in Australian States Overwhelmingly Against Selective Draft---Soldiers' Vote Has Not Yet Been Announced.

Melbourne, Dec. 23.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa agency).—The latest returns in the voting on the referendum place the result as follows: For conscription, 792,000; against, 967,000; majority against, 175,000. This does not include the soldiers' vote, now being counted in London.

Differ About Procedure.

London, Dec. 22.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency).—An Australian correspondent, writing in The Times, says it is important that the issue of the referendum should not be misunderstood. It is, he says, a clash of opinion regarding procedure. The anti-conscriptionists consider that voluntary enlistment will provide sufficient reinforcements, and they fear that conscription would interfere with agriculture and mining, which are essential to the prosecution of the war. All recognized political parties in Australia agree that the war must be continued until victory is achieved.

GERMAN SUBMARINES CAUSE INCONVENIENCES

Berlin Replies to Lloyd George — Asserts Enforced Convoy System Cuts Down Shipments.

London, Dec. 23.—An official statement has been issued in Berlin, according to a Reuter despatch from Amsterdam, regarding references by Premier Lloyd George on December 20 to the submarine warfare. It says his assertion that British mercantile tonnage losses have declined undoubtedly is correct, but that it is due to the extraordinary decrease in world shipping in consequence of the barred zone warfare and "particularly of cargo space available for British traffic as a result of which sinkings by our U-boats must necessarily gradually decline." The statement adds:

"Even the convoy system, with its progressive extension, works in increasing measure in our favor, for it means, especially in consequence of inevitable heaping up of shipping in ports and consequent delays, such big losses in the utilizable cargo space that it requires a very considerable total of sinkings to equal such loss of available shipping by the direct method of ship destruction."

GERMANS SHIFT MEN FOR FRESH ATTACK

Enemy Prepares for Attempted Coup Against Highest Points in Italian Mountain Wall --- Many Austrians Concentrate for Assaults.

With the Italian Armies in Northern Italy, Saturday, Dec. 22.—Unexpectedly balked in their march toward the plains by the loss of Monte Asolone positions within 24 hours after they had captured them, the Austro-German forces are concentrating heavily, according to all available reports, north and northeast of this important approach to dominating Monte Grappa. A new and unprecedentedly vigorous onslaught on the barriers to the plains is expected soon, not only at Grappa itself, but on the Asiago plateau and possibly the lower Piave, where enemy troop concentrations also are recorded.

Altho expert opinion appears to be

(Concluded on Page 9, Column 6).

GERMANS DRIVE BACK BRITISH FRONT POSTS

Enemy Launches Local Attack Astride Ypres-Staden Railway in Belgium.

London, Dec. 23.—"Under cover of a heavy artillery barrage," says today's report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters, "the enemy yesterday afternoon made a local attack against our positions in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Stadin railway and succeeded in driving in our advanced posts for a short distance on a front of 700 yards.

"During the night the hostile artillery was greatly active in the neighborhood of Gheluvelt and Poelcapelle."

SMITH WAS "HIPPED."

Hamilton, Monday, Dec. 24.—On a charge of violating the O.T.A., Charles Smith, 140 Bellview avenue, was arrested yesterday afternoon. He was "hipped."

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOSEN TO OFFER PEACE TERMS

Kaiser Will Publish Most Conciliatory Conditions Yet, Tho Vague and Elastic.

Geneva, Switzerland, Friday, Dec. 21.—According to a report in diplomatic circles in Berne, the German representatives in neutral countries already have received the German emperor's Christmas proposals for peace, which will be divulged to the world Christmas eve. The conditions reported in the proposals are reported to be far more conciliatory than have been former documents on the subject, but vague and elastic, and with no explicit declarations of Germany's terms.

DINEEN'S CHRISTMAS FURS.

Furs make a particularly suitable Christmas purchase—they are necessary to comfort in cold weather, and are comparatively cheap when the greatly increased cost of woollen fabrics is taken into consideration. Furs for gentlemen, ladies, misses and children. Dineen's, open until 10 o'clock tonight, 140 Yonge street.

PEACE CONFERENCE SESSIONS ARE BEGUN

EVERYBODY IS ANXIOUS FOR PEACE, KAISER SAYS

German Emperor May Endeavor to Bring About General Conference of European Rulers.

London, Dec. 23.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Copenhagen says:

"The Berliner Zeitung says Emperor William has informed his government that he contemplates going to Brest-Litovsk if the diplomats arrive at an agreement, in which case he will endeavor to assemble all the sovereigns and regents of Europe in a peace conference, as was done after the Napoleonic wars.

"The emperor is credited with having declared that everybody wants peace, and that the future offers so many great tasks that all states must co-operate in them."

Germany, Austria, Russia, Bulgaria and Turkey Represented---Delegates Are Addressed by Von Kuehlmann, German Foreign Minister.

Amsterdam, Dec. 23.—A despatch received here from Brest-Litovsk, Russia, dated Saturday, says:

Today at four o'clock in the afternoon, the peace negotiations were begun at a solemn sitting. The meeting was attended by the following delegates:

Germany— Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, foreign minister; Herr von Rosenberg, Baron von Hoch, Gen. Hoffmann, and Major Brinckmann.

Austria-Hungary—Count Czernin, foreign minister; Herr von Merey, Freiherr von Wisser, Count Collerd, Count Osaky, Field Marshal von Chis-

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 2).

LONE GERMAN RAIDER SHOT DOWN BY BRITISH

German Bomb-Dropping Expedition to Great Britain Ends in Complete Failure.

London, Dec. 22.—Another air raid has been attempted by the Germans against English coast towns. One hostile airplane was forced to descend.

The following official announcement has been issued:

"An air raid was attempted on the English coast about 6 o'clock tonight. One raider was forced to descend close to the coast, the crew of three being captured alive. No other machines have come over land at this time.

"A second attack developed at 9.30, when a few bombs were dropped in Thanet. The raiders did not penetrate further inland. No casualties or damage is reported."

No Casualties, No Damage.

London, Dec. 23.—The German air raid on English coast towns last night resulted in no casualties nor damage, according to the official announcement today. One airplane was brought to earth.

GRIESBACH STILL LEADING.

Edmonton, Dec. 23.—With 36 polls to be heard from, the vote today in West Edmonton is: Griesbach, Unionist, 6445; Oliver, Laurierite, 6227. Majority for Griesbach 218.