



Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, - - - Proprietor
C. T. JAMES, - - - Editor
TUESDAY, December 31, 1918.

The Dying Year.

1918 is dying. The bells are tolling its passing. Burdened with some of the most epochal events ever recorded in the history of man, 1918 may indeed be set down as the Wonderful Year, the year of years, and yet its hours are numbered and soon it will have become a memory only. As we look back over the past twelve months, and note the multitudinous happenings with which each and every one of these have been laden, there is much cause for rejoicing, but with that rejoicing, which is not confined alone to Newfoundland, sorrow is mingled. In common with other peoples we have had our tribulations by land and sea, and thoughts go back to those who in the early months of the year had bereavement brought to them swiftly and tragically. Who amongst us will ever forget the loss of the good ship Florizel on that fateful Sunday morning in February? That tragedy of the sea will always be a memory to cling, for though, as a maritime people, we are accustomed to marine accidents of all kinds, the appalling suddenness of the Florizel disaster benumbed our faculties for the time being, and for a period we did not reach a complete realization of the actual loss we had endured. The too there are the memories of those brave boys of ours who fell on the battle field, almost in the hour of victory, but whose spiritual eyes now behold the true vision of those things for which they fought and laid down their lives. They have seen the dawn of peace, and they rejoice and are glad because no more sacrifices of life are to be offered up to appease the fetish of war. Perhaps they see the advent of the day, not far distant, when there will be proclaimed a universal and perpetual peace, that peace which will presage the real unity of the nations, and make war an international crime. Therefore while the bells sound the knell of the dying year, let us forget the sorrows, the trials, the tribulations, the sadnesses of the past, in so far as memory will permit, and turn towards the new arrival, bringing, we hope, everything to make life happy. With the ringing out of the old year, let there go with the sound of the bells all bitterness, malice, envy and hatred, and with the pealing of the joy bells for the birth of 1919, may we all feel that we have thrown off the shackles which have too long bound us in our own insularity, and retarded our progress toward better things. The victory which has been won on the bloodstained fields of Europe will surely have the effect of binding us closer together in the desire to work for the common good, and the ultimate benefit and advancement of our own dominion, therefore we may face the future confidently knowing that Newfoundland will yet attain the position and prominence toward which her star of destiny directs. Nevertheless we all have a work to perform if we are desirous of reaching that goal, and that work means the devotion of our best efforts to the service of our country.

While the bells are ringing to-night, let each one ponder and then decide how best that service may be accomplished, and once decided, every nerve must be strung to the highest pitch, every heart determined.

The bells call us to bid farewell to the Old to welcome the New Year. May we hope that this midnight they will

"Ring out the shapes of fell disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand years of old,
Ring in the thousand years of Peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The eager heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be."

No nobler sentiments than these can be expressed in mere words, and with a hope that they will find a response in all hearts, we now ask all our patrons, readers and friends to accept our best wishes for

A BRIGHT, PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

G. W. V. A.

The Great War Veterans' Association held a meeting last night in the C. C. Hall and quite a large attendance was present, and it was cheering to the Association to note the many naval men among them.

Mr. K. M. Blair reported on the meeting between the representatives of the G. W. V. A. and the N. I. W. A., and stated that the latter body was fully in support of the G. W. V. A.'s aims.

Sergt. Boucher reported on a meeting between a G. W. V. A. Committee and the Minister of Militia re separation allowances for returned men, and said that the matter was under consideration.

Sergt. Robinson also read a letter he had sent to the Colonial Secretary and his reply on the matter, and it was still under consideration.

It was stated plainly that this consideration answer was not good enough.

Sergt. Mitchell spoke of his interview with Sir M. P. Cashin and told how a tidewater and a clerk for the Bond Store had been appointed recently. The appointments could have been filled by returned soldiers, and he thought it was time to demand that the soldiers get the preference.

Mr. L. E. Emerson said that it was very difficult for soldiers to get the Government positions unless the appointment of such positions was taken from the departmental heads and placed under the Vocational Committee.

He further stated that the business man could not be blamed for not taking the soldiers if the Government did not set a good example.

Different parties stated that all committees appointed should be armed with all possible information if they attend meetings for which they were formed.

Pte. B. Murphy said that the Association should appoint two men to assist the Vocational Officer.

Petty Officers Warren and Matthews were added to the Committee.

Sergt. Mitchell paid a tribute to Pte. Ricketts, V.C., and it was decided to send him a message of congratulation from the Association.

Sergt. Mitchell also spoke of the concert to be given by the Daughters of Empire on January 2nd and hoped as many as possible would be there.

Meeting closed by singing the National Anthem.

In Memoriam.

The sad news was recently received here that Ronald, youngest son of Mr. George Bradley, formerly a grocer of the West End, was killed in action with the Americans. Ronald, aged 19, although a youth felt that he was capable of doing his share in the great fight for freedom and volunteered with the Americans among the first and had seen quite a lot of service fighting. It was on Nov. 5th, just six days previous to the signing of the armistice that his noble young life was ushered into eternity. Much sympathy will be felt for his parents who are at present residing in Portland, particularly because of the fact that their boy was called upon to pay the supreme sacrifice when the dawn of peace was floating on the horizon. Another son, Ernest, is serving with the Canadians.

When you want Sausages, why get ELLIS' they're the best. Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

Meeting of the Medical Fraternity.

The medical practitioners of the city met yesterday afternoon, and in discussing the influenza danger, it was decided that all cases not treatable at home, should be sent to the Fever Hospital. The resignation of Dr. Macpherson and Paterson from the Military Board was deplored, as so many of our boys need medical treatment. However, it was noticeable that those practitioners unattached to the Board were disinclined to take up new duties under the present circumstances. It was decided that the Secretary of the meeting write the Executive Government for the facts of the case, and that at a later meeting action be taken accordingly.

The Beverley Enquiry.

(Continued.)

Jas. Foley, sworn and examined by Mr. Hunt.—The Portia went across in February 1917. The master's wages were \$300 per month, chief officer \$115. These were above the ordinary wages and paid in consideration of the danger from submarines, etc. The firemen had \$90 and engineers \$250 to \$150. No other ships of Bowring's went across. The Portia went to Naples. There was no other consideration besides the war risk. We pay the coastal captains in peace time \$150. The firemen got about \$80 and the sailors \$40 to \$50. We had a steamer to New York about that time.

The sailors and firemen got about \$75. Mr. S. Butler, re-examined.—The Beverley had two lifeboats, two rafts and another boat. The boats were in good condition. I consider she was fitted out ordinarily. There was no complaint from captain or crew. They all seemed satisfied. There was nothing wanting to my knowledge. The rafts belonged to the ship and also the boats. No new one were purchased. I think they were watertight all right. The boats were of steel. I made no change in the wheelhouse. I don't think it was changed. It was on the fore side of the captain's room. I didn't notice the distance from the compass to the forward bulkhead.

At 4.30 adjournment was taken till 5 p.m. Tuesday next.

Prohibition.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—On Friday last Dr. N. S. Fraser disputed some of the assertions in my last letter, and cited three medical writers, to wit, Parkes, Reid Hunt and E. L. Munson, in order to demolish me. It is not for a humble layman like myself to attempt to meet a practitioner of such recognized standing upon his own ground, but I may point out that (1) none of the authorities cited, absolutely denied that alcohol had any medicinal value and (2) none of them contradicted any definite assertion of mine. No doubt authorities could be found to deny everything that I said, and that alcohol has any medicinal value whatever; the difficulty is that the general public, which is our audience, and of which I think I am a fair representative, knows nothing whatever about the standing of these writers, or of the authority with which they speak.

The names of the medical authorities are to it absolutely unknown, though it may harbour a shrewd suspicion that just as many writers, with just as great authority, will be found to uphold the contrary opinion.

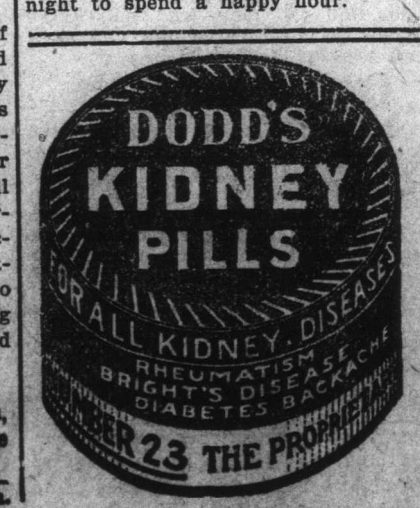
This is not a question upon which a layman can speak assuredly. What can be stated definitely, however, and what Dr. Fraser himself will not deny, is that the belief in alcohol's medicinal value, rightly or wrongly, is held by the great majority of the medical practitioners in this country. It is not for me or for the general public to say that Dr. Fraser is wrong, or that the majority is right. But I fancy that the general public, as well as myself, will be content to abide by the opinion of the majority.

Yours truly,

P. L. C.

Dec. 30th, 1918.

SUCCESSFUL PLAY.—"Santa Claus Junior" given yesterday afternoon in St. Andrew's schoolroom was very successful. The children performed their parts well, and the costumes were very pretty. Although the plot was not complicated the play contained some difficult roles but these were ably sustained. The cantata will be repeated to-night, and all who could not attend last night are invited to-night to spend a happy hour.



THE PASSING YEAR

By The Right Hon. Sir Robert Bond, P.C., K.C.M.G., LL.D.

"Nothing that was worthy in the past departs; no truth or goodness realized by man ever does or can die."—Carlyle.

The year now drawing to a close, will pass into history as the most momentous since the Angels of God proclaimed the dawn of the first Christmas Day.—the birth-day of the World's Redeemer, and, thirty-three years later, threw back the shadows of forty centuries and revealed the World's redemption, in the risen Christ. For four years past, those great periods of history were well lighted blots upon the World's memory, by the agony through which it was passing. The Christmas Chimes were muffled, by grief, and anxiety, and no streak of light appeared to silver the darkness of recurring Easter dawns. We have passed through an inferno of battle, the cruellest and most terrible war that has ever scourged mankind. A war, in which the air, and the earth, and the depths of ocean formed the vast battle areas, and in which the wit and art of man became exhausted, in his effort to render more perfect and effective all the apparatus which science had placed at the disposal of War. Poets had sung of "War's glorious Art and Chivalry," but the ruthless, devilish devices of modern warfare have destroyed that glamour, and left the earth resonant with horror. In the Titanic struggle of four mighty Empires have crashed to dissolution, twelve millions of the World's young manhood have been totally destroyed, and many billions of its wealth expended. Our Empire loss alone, we are told, approximates one million of the flower of its population in killed, and permanently incapacitated, and ten thousand million pounds of its treasure.

The waves of crime and bloodshed that have been sweeping over the World, have also left a wreckage upon the shores of our island home, and the terrible reality has been brought close to all of us. To-night, thank God, the War drum throbs no longer, the battle flags are furled, the World stands delivered from a peril such as it never faced before. Civilization has escaped a threatened destruction, and justice has been vindicated.

PROFOUND GRATITUDE.

After four long years of agony, there is no room in our hearts to thank for anything but a feeling of profound gratitude. May the bells then ring out the Old Year in unison with this feeling, and ring in the New, in harmony with our fervent hopes. How merrily they will ring, in those redeemed cities and hamlets of Belgium, and of Northern France, that have escaped the ravages of the modern barbarian. A few weeks ago, a cable despatch announced to the World, that the forces of Germany had passed out from the Belgian City of Bruges, leaving the city and its treasures unharmed. This news must have been hailed with delight, by all who have a fond recollection of the ancient Capital of West Flanders; and who that has visited it has not a fond recollection of its quaint, antique grandeur, its two hundred crooked streets, its ornamental gabled houses, its fifty odd bridges, its nine public squares and fountains, its Cathedral, and hospital of St. John with their wonderful works of art, its ancient palace of the Counts of Flanders, and last, but not least its square beflery tower, holding, three hundred feet aloft, a chime of bells, said to be the finest in Europe. Many, alas! how many of Belgium's glorious monuments, which for centuries had stood in staid the ravages of barbaric hordes, and of "time himself" have disappeared under the cruel blows of the "Kultur" of Germany. But, we rejoice to know that the poet Longfellow's lines are still applicable to Bruges,—

"In the market place of Bruges, stands the beflery old and brown,
Thrice consumed and thrice rebuilt,
Still it watches o'er the town!"

It seems peculiarly fitting, that amidst the awful reality of a Continent in ruins, and a whole World devastated by War, that the sweetest voices in Europe should have been preserved to give forth the glad tidings of Peace. To-night, from that old brown tower, those voices will ring out a forewell to the past, with all its sadness, and all its horrors, and a welcome and all hail to the future. The bell-voices of Christendom will roll along the unbroken song. And other voices will be heard this New Year's Eve, for the mystic chords of memory, which stretch from the hallowed graves in Flanders to thousands of loving hearts all over the World, shall swell the chorus of the bells when touched, as they will be, by the sweet Angel of Peace. While the chiming of the bells must soon cease, and their cadence fade upon our ears, the spirits of those who repose beneath the battle areas will speak to the World with voices whose last reverberation shall die away only, when the universe re-

turns to Cosmic dust. They will speak of peace, and justice, and the higher civilization for which our Soldiers fought, and died. It is certain that the brave boys are secure forever of the World's gratitude, and that it will faithfully wreath their memory in the emblems of grateful affection. But will the World keep faith with them? Will it fulfil their trust? They passed through a hell, such as Dante never dreamed of, to "make the World fit for democracy." Yes! and to make democracy fit for the New World whose foundation they have laid. The future of Civilization, the future of humanity depends largely upon whether democracy measures up to the standard that the heroism of our Soldiers has established. Their work is done; Ours lies stretched out before us. Out from the vast debris that the War has thrown about us, we have to build a New World. A task of great perplexity, but a Sacred duty to the Millions who have fought, and suffered, and died, during the past four years; and also, to those who shall take our places in the years to come. We have first of all to climb out of our narrow prejudices, and to rid ourselves of obsolete theories. The old Roman philosopher, Seneca, left us the assurance that "the Gods give a hand to men as they climb."

CHANGES FROM THE OLD WORLD ORDER.

The War has dislocated the orderly process of the evolution of the human race, and we have already witnessed startling, and dramatic changes from the Old World order. Long desired, but seemingly far off, events have materialized. For instance, the practical Imperial Federation of the British Empire—a theme at once the despair of parliamentarians and constitutional experts,—and long time regarded as a mere theoretical speculation, has been accomplished on the battle-field. Not what the Germans designate a *Kriegsverein*, or war union temporarily held together by legal bond, but, a Voluntary assumption of Imperial responsibilities and burdens by daughter States, conscious of the full obligations of unity, and 'one with Britain heart and soul' in the maintenance of her power, and its exercise in the beneficent works of civilization. The Union of the Anglo-Saxon race, for which the best men of both branches had worked during long years past, and which they could only wistfully hope might some day be brought about by the impulse of common ideals, aspirations, and interests, has become a glorious reality, cemented by the blood that has mingled in a great Cause, the Cause of humanity. Then we observe, that the driving force of Democracy, which began two centuries ago, is now making itself felt throughout Europe with astonishing results. When the War began, three of the six great Nations of Europe were governed on Autocratic lines, and maintained their position by force of arms, rather than by the consent of a free, and loyal people. All of the three are to-day in the vanguard of revolution; Autocracy at an end, and the heterogeneous masses of population, that the War has set free, are now seeking the lines of National self-determination. Victor Hugo said "Revolution is the larva of Civilization." In spite of the deplorable example set by Russia; history bids us believe the definition a correct one.

I have made reference to the immediate beneficent results of the War; wrapped up in the folds of an eventful futurity are still greater things, which, we can believe the International Council, now about to sit in France, will materially influence. That august body will have to deal with the reconstruction of Empire, a matter bristling with difficulties, and not entirely free from peril, because, it involves the distribution of power in the new Europe. National self-determination, Voluntary incorporation, and approximate equality may solve the difficulties, and smooth the way, to some extent, for the establishment of a League of Nations in the interest of a lasting peace. I say to some extent, for it shall be frankly recognised, that the greatest of all the problems that confront the International Council, is that of the formation of a League of Nations to police the World. In the early days of the present year, the Italian Foreign Minister said, when dealing with this subject in Parliament,—"A certain equilibrium of strength is an essential condition for the sincere constitution and the practical efficiency of the League of Nations. If one or two States should have a great preponderance everywhere, there would be no guarantee that they would not arbitrarily impose their will on the entire World."

There lies the crux of the position, and it will take not alone the combined wisdom of the Council, but the exercise of unlimited confidence on the part of a majority of its members to solve the puzzle. It is perfectly clear that an equilibrium of strength

is not possible, for Great Britain and the United States of America, tower above all the other States of the World, and neither is it likely to reduce its strength in any direction to meet Baron Sonnino's forcible, and I think, well taken position. I say his position was well taken because, if a League of Nations is to prove successful there must needs exist no cause for jealousy or suspicion.

THE ALTERNATIVE TO A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

If the establishment of a League of Nations should not prove feasible, what then? The great war was justified, in part, by the assurance that it was "a war to end war" forever, and a blood-stained and sorely stricken World looks for some guarantee that its immeasurable sacrifices have not been in vain. The millions who have died, and yet speak to us declare, "they will not rest" until the cause for which they died is entirely won.

What then are the alternatives to a League of Nations? Surely this great and salutary hope of safeguarding the peace of the world need not be abandoned. Kant, in his treatise on "Perpetual Peace" suggested that 'as each civilised nation has established the reign of law within its own borders, and so put a stop to civil strife, we only need a further extension of the same process to unite all nations into a single society in which quarrels will be settled in Court instead of by War.' Richard Acland Armstrong, in his book, "Our Ultimate Aim in the War," suggests a federated world 'governed by a World Parliament, which would express the common will of mankind.' Mr. Asquith, looks to 'a real European partnership, based on the recognition of equal rights, and established and enforced by a Common will.'

Other suggestions have been: an "International Police" to regulate the use of arms, to enforce the limitations of armaments, and to coerce any Nation which should manufacture them in certain forms, or beyond the limits assigned; the application of "Mutual Insurance" to international affairs; and "Christian Internationalism," which means an appeal to the religious instincts of the World.

It seems to me, that a solution of this difficult problem may be found in the destruction of Autocracy, the abolition of secret diplomacy, and of conscription, and in the overwhelming hatred of war that the millions of men returning from the battle fields will bring with them, and pass on to future generations. The extension of the franchise to every human being of mature age and intelligence, would then supply the necessary machinery to enforce peace, and maintain it.

The business of reconstructing the World, will not be confined to the International Council, for it will not be limited to matters of external policy. For the greater part, it will relate to internal social reform, the war having created a demand for it in every department of human thought and life. A whole literature of reconstruction, distinct in its general character, has already appeared, and we find Politics, Commercialism, Labour, Unionism, Domestic Life, Public Health, Education and Religion all under review, revealing the complete dissatisfaction of mankind with the civilisation of to-day and echoing a popular demand for reforms.

The suggestion of a "reconstruction of Religion," will no doubt appear startling to some, but to the many it will be a hope, long deferred. The World's anguish, the craving of human hearts for some anodyne that will heal their shattered fibres, the alleged "failure of the churches to make any moral strictures on the war, or to offer any moral guidance," the revolting crimes, the appalling cruelties practiced by so-called Christian Nations during the war, the mystery of it all, has destroyed the faith of some, and moved others to demand "a reconstruction of religion."

THE INTELLECTUAL ORDER IS CHANGING.

We learn from the British press, that "Syndicates of theologians have already issued their programmes for its reconstruction." It is quite evident that the war has stirred up thoughts in men's minds which may lead to the abandonment of old theories. But, there should be nothing alarming in that. It will not mean the denial of the truth but rather its reaffirmation in larger and worthier terms, for the intellectual order is changing, and larger thoughts are emerging. As the late Dean Farrar said, in his article on "The Literature of Religious Criticism,"—"Whatever may be the perils of free enquiry they are infinitely less to be dreaded than those of a stagnant mummery, or of a subservient ignorance which rests content with the most glaring falsities. . . . The education of the human race constantly advances." A few days ago, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, at a banquet given by Members of Parliament to welcome back from the United States that great

scholar and divine, Dr. Jowett, said,— "the country to-day requires its great preachers to deal with the conditions that have arisen out of the War." And about the same time, a writer of learning and genius, Arthur Mee, in a contribution to the London Daily Chronicle said,—"Men everywhere are asking solemn questions. They are asking for a God who will fit the facts. It is for the Church to face the facts or to fail to pieces. God and his Armies can stand the facts. Let the Church welcome them, and the pews will not be big enough to hold the men when they come home." Over in France, M. Loisy, philosopher and man of letters, has published a book "La Religion," in which he focuses history and philosophy and present reality on the problems of religion, and arrives at the conclusion that the new form of religion, the new faith, that is to be the outcome of the great war tragedy, will seek expression in "Self-sacrificing duty for the perfecting of humanity." No one can tell at this moment what form the "reconstruction" will take, but of one thing there can be no doubt, the World will not be satisfied with anything short of a positive and definite pronouncement. It is exactly one hundred and fifty years since Lessing, who dazzled Europe by the brilliancy of his intellect said,—"Christianity had been tried for eighteen hundred years, but the religion of Christ never." In a work written by F. B. Farrar, D.D., M.A., B.Sc. (London), entitled "Christianity after the War," the writer says,—"No nobler mission can be conceived than that of restoring the hope of humanity. . . . Christianity has not failed, for it has never yet been tried. . . . But when Christianity is tried, does not the ideal which Jesus Himself claimed to fulfil give this poor, sorrowing struggling world the very hope for which it so heavily sighs." Perhaps when theologians have completed the work of "reconstruction," we shall learn that it has required two thousand years of groping, to discover the meaning, and the simplicity, and the beauty of the religion of the Christ. During the past twenty or thirty years, the "rubbish heaps" of ancient Egypt have furnished to theologians, and other diligent investigators, hundreds of thousands of papyri (paper documents) some of which, we are told, have shed new light on New Testament pronouncements, and amongst which was one "tattered and torn half sheet" containing the very earliest extant declaration of what "Jesus saith." Now that the war has passed at the disposal of civilisation "the rubbish-heaps" of Palestine, and of Mesopotamia the cradle of the human race, who will venture to limit the possibilities that shall emerge from those treasure depots, to aid in the reconstruction of the religious thought of to-day?

TO-NIGHT, AND TO-MORROW.

The year closes, and the curtain rings down to-night on a human tragedy such as the World never witnessed before, and probably, will never witness again. A tragedy which, however, has brought into bold relief the best as well as the worst in human nature, and the best we rejoice to know has been the predominant feature. We turn the pages of history in vain, to find anything to compare with the spontaneous, free, and generous devotion to high ideals displayed by the millions of young men, in Great Britain, and the thousands in the Dominions and in this Colony, who rushed to the Colors at the commencement of the War. In the hey-day of life, with every natural desire keen to test its full measure, they gave proof of a readiness to die for a great cause, not hesitating to sever the ties that bound them to loved ones, and home, and business. Every religion had its representatives that galaxy, which, it seems to me, set forth the very central principle of Christianity.

"Some of us call it duty, and others call it God." High above the awful horrors, and crimes, and desolation of the War, stands this Altar of Sacrifice, upon which millions of the world's young manhood have laid their life, for what they obscurely perhaps, but very strongly felt to be the highest interests of humanity. This altar stands for righteousness, liberty, and truth, and it will surely sway the future of our race. To-night, we stand on "the summit of human history"; to-morrow, from this height we shall see the dawn of a New Year, and a New Age.

R. BOND.

The Grange, Whitbourne, December 31st, 1918.

His Excellency the Governor will be glad to receive callers at Government House, on New Year's Day, between the hours of 3.30 and 5.30 p.m. dec30/21

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AGREEMENT ON "GENERAL PRINCIPLES."

LONDON, Dec. 28.
Lloyd George, in receiving American newspaper correspondents at his residence at 7 o'clock to-night, said that the Conference with President Wilson had brought about an agreement on general principles. The Premier said he felt convinced that matters which had been agreed upon between Great Britain and the United States would prove of the greatest assistance in the work of the Peace Congress. Practically an understanding has already been reached between the Entente Powers regarding the admission of the various nations to the peace conference itself, said the Premier. In his conference in Paris with the Premiers of France and Italy, President Wilson had become fully acquainted with their views, and he had now also acquired a knowledge of the British standpoint. "And," continued the Premier, "I feel assured that all these Powers are in accord on the basic principles of the Peace which will come before the Conference. At any rate it will be certain that the United States and Great Britain will be found working in complete harmony at the Conference."

EXTREMELY CORDIAL.

LONDON, Dec. 30.
(Special Cable from John W. D. Fox).—There is to be no official statement of any kind given out with respect to the conversation between President Wilson and the representatives of the British Commonwealth, but it is known that they took place in a spirit of extreme cordiality and to the great satisfaction of all taking part in them. The outlines given by the Times of these terms is accepted as the most in the main correct. The British is strong in its assertion of the