

The Evening Times Star

VOL. XIII. No. 73

ST. JOHN N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1916

TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

SWISS JOIN WILSON AND THE OTHER BELLIGERENTS IN THE BID FOR PEACE

Note Sent To Belligerents and The Neutral Powers

London Papers Decry Efforts of Germans to Bring About Settlement—Paris Sees Signs of Organized Pressure For Peace Brought to Bear on Allies

Paris, Dec. 27.—The Tagblatt announces that the Swedish diplomatic representatives have handed to both belligerents and neutrals a note in support of those of President Wilson and the Swiss government.

The London Daily Telegraph stated this morning that it understood that the Swedish government had sent a note to the belligerent nations similar to that dispatched by Switzerland.

ORGANIZED RESSURE New York, Dec. 26.—The following dispatch was received from an official source in Paris today:

Paris, Dec. 26.—President Wilson's note has been followed by Switzerland's. In this document the federal government declares that it has been in contact with President Wilson.

On the other side, there are in Paris indications that a very strong pressure is exercised by the German government on neutrals to induce them to use their action in favor of peace.

In these conditions the understanding which Switzerland is said to have with the United States throws in the mind of the American intervention. Public opinion in Paris sees in all this the first act of a concerted manoeuvre between neutrals.

What has not shocked the French public opinion coming only from America will show that that opinion can suppose that there is an organized pressure.

GERMANY IS AGRY TO QUIT London, Dec. 27.—The promptness of the German government's reply to President Wilson's note is characterized by evening newspapers today as evidence of Germany's eagerness to bring the war to an end.

The Standard says: "It would be a mistake to neglect the German peace manœuvres but it would be even more fatal to waste time over them. We trust the government will give President Wilson a perfectly courteous but also a definite reply and then get on with the war as energetically as possible."

The Pall Mall Gazette says: "Germany has not been slow to seize the advantages given her by the submarine warfare. It would be a real triumph for Germany to have herself recognized as the wire puller of the power whose subjects her submarines drowned with impunity and which led

her in the name of all cardinal virtues. It would teach the world that by letting the Americans do the talking Germany understands how to get her own way eventually in the sphere of practical politics.

The studied impartiality of the American note supplies Germany with a coat of whitewash of which she was badly in need. Germany proposes an immediate conference of belligerents which appears to her to be the most promising way of promoting a fissure in the Entente. The allies have only one possible attitude to this; namely, they will hold no discussion with an unpunished criminal or with a power whose most solemn engagements are mere scraps of paper.

WASHINGTON STILL HOPEFUL Washington, Dec. 27.—Germany's reply to President Wilson's peace note had not been received here in official form early today and officials were reserving their comment until they had opportunity to study it.

Despite the disappointment because Germany has not laid down her terms, the general view prevails that this reply was another step forward in the peace movement, because it left room for subsequent negotiations.

The United States undoubtedly is expected by Germany to transmit the sense of her reply to the Entente belligerents and the immediate outcome depends upon whether the allies will modify their determination not to enter a conference before terms have been laid down.

It was pointed out that the way had not been closed for Germany to lay down terms as the allies demand. In a diplomatic negotiation of such magnitude and scope officials do not look for results to be immediately apparent, but expect the way to be paved carefully and slowly.

Paris, Dec. 27.—The night was calm except on the front between Valenciennes and Vaux (Verden sector), where the artillery was very active," says today's announcement from the war office.

"Lieut. Herteaux on December 24 brought down his fourteenth airplane from the parapet. He studied at Le Grand (south of the Somme)."

TRIAL OF GERMAN CONSUL ON CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE NEUTRALITY

He Presents Counter-Accusations and Denies Plot to Wreck Tunnels and Ships

San Francisco, Dec. 27.—Counter-accusations of violation of neutrality are expected to continue today at the trial of Franz Bopp, German consul-general, and six assistants, who are charged with conspiracy to violate American neutrality by hampering shipment of munitions to the Entente allies.

Cross-examination was completed yesterday, said that American manufacturers were not over-scrupulous in their regard for strict observance of neutrality and that in various ways they sought to aid enemies of the German government.

It was to trace these alleged violations that the local German consulate employed agents to visit various parts of the United States and Canada, Bopp said, but not for the purpose of dynamiting railroads, tunnels and munitions ships, as the government alleged.

Theodore Roche, chief counsel for the defense, introduced correspondence from the department of state to Count Bernstorff, German ambassador, on the subject of American built submarines for the British government.

Included was a statement from Charles M. Schwab to the effect that the Bethlehem Steel Company had undertaken to build ten submarines but that none would be delivered to any of the belligerents during the war.

Secretary of State Lansing, quoted Schwab in another communication to Count Von Bernstorff in connection with the protests which had been made by the German government against the sale of parts of submarine torpedoes and castings made by the Union Iron Works in this city and in Montreal, Canada, but that the company's interest in them ceased when they were delivered to the owners.

John A. McGregor, president of the United Iron Works, is to be called today by the defense and questioned as to the delivery of submarine parts to Canada and also as to the truth of reports that the company sent workmen to Canada to assemble the submarines.

SUBMARINE LET HER GO

What Laden Vessel Bound for Havre Passed Because of Being American

Havre, Dec. 27.—Captain Plater of the American steamer Sacramento which arrived here from Buenos Ayres with a cargo of wheat, reports that he was stopped in the English Channel by a German submarine. The commander of the submarine ordered him on board with his papers and, after examining them said: "You are carrying wheat, which we consider contraband of war, to France. It is lucky for you that your ship is American otherwise we should have torpedoed you with great pleasure. You can proceed. Good luck to you."

The only steamer of the name of Sacramento listed in available maritime records is reported by the New York maritime register to have been recently transferred from American to British ownership. She was blacklisted by the British admiralty in April, 1916, on charges of aiding German ships in the Pacific. She was removed from the blacklist last October.

Norwegian Sunk London, Dec. 27.—Lloyd's reports the sinking of the Norwegian steamship Sno, 1,223 tons gross.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE INTERNED BRITISHERS IN A GERMAN CAMP

Berlin, Dec. 26.—United States Ambassador Gerard attended the Christmas celebration of the interned British civilians at Ruhleben today. In spite of the hampering circumstances, the prisoners arranged an imposing Christmas programme, and, thanks to parcels from home, were able to enjoy a fairly merry Christmas so far as creature comforts were concerned.

MOTHER AND LITTLE SON BURNED TO DEATH

Regina, Sask., Dec. 27.—Sachitoc Cornish, aged six, is dead, his mother is not expected to live and a younger brother was seriously burned as the result of a pouring of coal oil on the kitchen fire.

THE COUNTY HOSPITAL In addition to those mentioned elsewhere in The Times as contributors to the Christmas cheer in the County Hospital at East St. John are Royal Stand and Chapter, I. O. O. E., Mayor Hayes, H. J. Mowatt, Mrs. Fielding Rankine, and Mr. and Mrs. J. King Kelly. Dr. Farris and staff extend hearty thanks



PAPA, DO YOU THINK WE CAN GET AWAY WITH IT? —New York Herald

REJOICE THAT "PAPA" JOFFRE IS NOW A MARSHAL

People Agree That He Broke German Power at the Marne

THE FRENCH HIGH COMMAND THEY'RE TAKING A CHANCE

It Has Now Been Settled Finally—Two Generals Commanding, Nivelle on Home Ground, Sarrail in the Orient

Paris, Dec. 27.—In addition to a decree creating General Joffre a marshal of France, President Poincare has signed another revoking the decrees of December 2, 1915, and December 18, 1916.

The first of these appointed Marshal Joffre commander-in-chief of all the French forces, except those in the colonies and Morocco, the second, said "General Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French forces will act as technical adviser to the government in all concerning the direction of the war."

The high command as now settled finally, consists of the war committee, composed of Premier Briand, General Joffre, minister of war; Rear-Admiral Lacaze, minister of marine; Albert Thomas, minister of national manufactures; Alexandre Ribot, minister of finance; and President Poincare. There are two generals commanding, General Nivelle of the armies of the north and north-east, who also assures a liaison with the allied staffs, and General Sarrail, of the army of the Orient, who, as already announced, is no longer answerable to grand headquarters, but directly to the minister of war.

The press and public are unanimous in welcoming the revival of the dignity of the marshal in favor of General Joffre. All agree that he broke the German power once for all by the victory of the Marne and saved the capital of France from humiliation and despair.

ANOTHER CANDIDATE

The name of R. H. Cotter is mentioned in connection with the office of provincial inspector under the prohibitory law. Mr. Cotter has been a life-long member of temperance organizations. Mr. Cotter has just returned from a three-weeks visit to Boston.

Weather Report section with a small illustration of a person and text: 'WE ARE ALREADY THINKING OF OUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS'

Synopsis—A fairly important disturbance centered near Lake Superior has caused snow in Manitoba and northern Ontario and sleet and rain in the lower Lake region. In Quebec and the maritime provinces and also in Alberta the weather has been fair and cold.

Ottawa Valley—Milder with snow or sleet. Thursday, mostly fair. Sleet or Rain.

Maritime—Moderate winds, fair; Thursday, milder with some sleet or rain. New England—In and warmer tonight. Thursday, cloudy, probably rain, southeast and south winds, increasing to fresh and moderately strong.

LIQUOR DEALERS SEND APPLICATIONS TO INSPECTOR

File Requests For Licenses For 1917

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Transfers of real estate have been recorded as follows: St. John County: G. P. Bettinson to Julia Bettinson, property in Lancaster.

Charlotte M. Lester to G. B. Jones, property in Springfield. H. M. Campbell to Beatrice M. Carson, property in Sussex.

Adrian Murray to Margaret Murray, property in Sussex. M. J. Thorne to G. B. Jones, property in Springfield.

ANOTHER WESTERN BATTALION COMING?

For the last few days a report has been circulated in military circles to the effect that another western battalion is to arrive in St. John soon. It is learned that no official information has been received at the office of the New Brunswick command, yet some of the officers have heard the report and think it quite possible that we may get another unit, if it comes our way, will make only a temporary stay.

INCREASE CARRYING CAPACITY OF VESSELS

London, Dec. 27.—It is understood that Sir Joseph MacLagan, shipping controller, has made a proposal to owners which should effect a considerable increase in the carrying capacity of the British mercantile marine. It is that the closing of what is known as tonnage openings in shelter deck portions and the strengthening of certain portions of the structures would allow the load line to be raised to some extent with safety.

JAIL SUPPLY CONTRACTS

Contracts for supplies for the county jail, tenders for which closed on Friday, have been awarded by Sheriff Wilson as follows: Groceries, St. John Mercantile Company, Limited; bread, J. & W. Shaw; meats, J. W. Parlee.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The New Brunswick Public Utilities Commission is meeting in monthly session in the provincial government rooms this afternoon.

Trappist Monastery At Oka Burned; Loss Quarter Million

Montreal, Dec. 27.—The famed monastery of the Trappist Monks, at Oka, Quebec, was burned to the ground this morning. The fire started about two o'clock, and at seven o'clock the immense building had been completely destroyed. The burned structure contained the chapel, library with valuable manuscripts, etc., and the loss is estimated at about a quarter of a million dollars. There was no loss of life.

Dual Empire Unable To Carry On War Long

Hungary Especially Likely to Collapse Unless Peace Movement Successful—People in Ecstasy at Thought of End of War

London, Dec. 27.—(New York Times cable)—A despatch to the Morning Post from Budapest says: "Since the peace offer was made, King Charles has been in constant consultation with his advisers. He saw Count Tisza twice. Count Berchtold is almost always in attendance, and, as is well-known, he has great influence with the emperor, who considers him the most able diplomatist of the monarchy."

"Among the many and most difficult problems confronting the emperor are grave internal conditions, the burning question of man power and the everlasting political crisis in Austria."

"In all these super tasks the question of peace seems to occupy first place in the best minds of the monarchy at present."

"Everybody feels that unless the peace movement is successful, the coming military efforts, as well as the sacrifices demanded of the people, will far outweigh their strength and resources and will place on the nation, especially as regards Hungary, a burden which it is unable to bear and that a collapse will be inevitable."

"The newspapers are not allowed, although they have tried to say how and why the people long so anxiously for peace. Today almost every one of the morning papers appeared with the first page blank, the leading articles having been censored entirely. But they were permitted to describe scenes and conversations, and these are quite adequate to reveal what the people feel and what they expect."

"It was a common thing a few days ago, when the newspapers announced that a peace offer was made to see people kiss each other in the cafes while elderly shopkeepers and merchants broke into tears, sang songs in streets and offered prayers of thanks. They behaved like children of pure happiness in the hope that their tortures were about coming to an end."

Germans A Bit Ahead Of Time Arranging, at the Hague, For Peace Conference Which They Propose

London, Dec. 27.—A despatch from the Hague to the Exchange Telegraph Company says: "In view of the preparatory meeting of delegates to a peace conference suggested in the German reply to President Wilson and the making of inquiries for hotel accommodations for German delegates."

TIES OF JAPAN WITH ALLIES ARE FIRMER

Diep by Emperor in Opening Speech—New Convention With Russia

Tokio, Dec. 27.—The Diet was opened today by the emperor. In his address from the throne he expressed his gratification that the relations between the empire and the treaty powers were growing closer. He declared that the alliance with Great Britain and the convention with France were becoming stronger, and called attention also to the new convention with Russia, which he termed a matter for congratulation.

The emperor explained that he had ordered the Diet to discuss bills necessary for the development of the country, "keeping in mind the world situation," and asked the Diet to cooperate in passing these measures. The house was then adjourned to January 21.

ALFONSO BRINGS ABOUT RETURN OF SOME OF BELGIANS

London, Dec. 27.—King Alfonso of Spain has persuaded the German government to repatriate a large number of Belgian workmen who were deported into Germany, says a Madrid dispatch to the Radio Agency.

NO SIGN OF MARYLAND

Nantucket, Mass., Dec. 27.—The steamer Maryland, reported by wireless on Christmas night as sinking, had not been found today. The coastguard cutters, Acushnet and Gresham sent word this morning that they had found no trace of the steamer.

RECORD BUILDING YEAR IN HALIFAX

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 27.—Halifax has had a record building year. The value of permits issued totalled a million and a quarter dollars, an increase of \$100,000 over last year; value of permits from 1912 to date totals more than three million dollars.

THROUGH THE ICE INTO LILY LAKE

A chilling incident took place at Lily Lake on Monday afternoon when a man of about 22 years plunged through thin ice into the water in the middle of the lake. He had been skating, and while skimming across the surface did not notice the indications of thin ice until it cracked beneath him and he plunged into the water. He is unable to swim and his predicament was a dangerous one. Fortunately, there was assistance at hand and the city road engineer, George N. Hatfield, promptly took charge of the task of rescuing the victim of the accident who was managing to keep afloat by holding on to the edges of the ice, though it continued to crack beneath his weight.

A human chain was formed over the dangerous surface until Mr. Hatfield was able to catch the young man and pull him out. After first aid treatment in the shelter on shore, the victim was little the worse for his ducking, but his escape was considered a narrow one.

CLERGYMAN SHOT BY POLICEMAN IN MISTAKE FOR THIEF

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 27.—Rev. Lot E. Doty, a Baptist minister, is in a serious condition today from a gunshot wound inflicted by a policeman who last night mistook the clergyman for a robber when he was making a purchase in a store.

The patrolman said Dr. Doty had been pointed out to him as a robber, and that he shot when the minister refused to comply with his command to hold up his hands. Dr. Doty was putting some change into his pocket and the patrolman said he believed he was drawing a revolver.

SEEKING SETTLEMENT OF IRISH QUESTION

New Proposals for Equal Representation of Unionists and Nationalists—Ulster Not Excluded

London, Dec. 27.—Informal discussions and consultations are proceeding for settlement of the Irish question, says the Manchester Guardian. New proposals which are being considered provide for something in the nature of equal representation for Unionist and Nationalist in an Irish parliament. Home rule for all of Ireland is the basis of the suggestions, which do not contemplate the exclusion of Ulster.

THE BOY WHO SMILED

About forty boys listened eagerly in the Boys' Club last evening to R. E. Armstrong's short and touching story of a boy who always smiled. When Mr. Armstrong went to St. Andrews to live, he soon learned about Sammy Williamson, the boy who smiled at his games of hockey, or basket ball, or baseball, or at his work, and whose good nature was infectious. Sammy grew up smiling, and enlisted, and went to the war; and there, too, he smiled, whether at the base or in the trenches or working a machine gun on the parapet. He smiled right in the face of Death, for Death found him at the post of duty. His comrades mourned their loss, for his constant cheerfulness had been an inspiration to them all.

ROADS NOT FAVORABLE

Countrymen coming to the city within the last few days report that the roads are very bad. Sleighing may be enjoyed in places, but it is followed by long stretches of bare ground. One countryman from the vicinity of Black River said this morning that there was neither sleighing nor wheeling in the country now. The farmers are encountering considerable difficulty in reaching the city with produce, especially those situated in remote places.