



# Peace Talk Disposed of, British Call for War to End; Bulgarians Attacking in Heavy Force on Greek Border

## REFUSAL TO ASK PEACE JUST SUITS THE ALLIES

### German Chancellor's Speech Disposes of Peace Talk for Some Time to Come

### Britain Wants Only More Vigorous Prosecution of the War—Whole Campaign Enters New Phase With Attention Largely Directed to Balkans—Fighting in Mesopotamia.

London, Dec. 9.—The speech in the Reichstag of the imperial chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, reviewing the military, political and economic progress of events, and his reply to a Socialist-interpellation declining to initiate peace negotiations, were the feature of the day's news throughout Europe.

Following closely Premier Asquith's somewhat similar reply to a question in the house of commons by Philip Snowden, Socialist, the chancellor's speech has completely dashed any hope the peace advocates may have held of an early termination of the war. It caused no surprise, however, to the great bulk of the people here, who, like the government, believe in the ultimate victory of the Entente Allies, and express the determination to continue to fight until victory is attained.

### WANT ONLY MORE VIGOROUS FIGHTING.

As far as the Entente Allies countries are concerned, seemingly the only change desired is one which would insure a more vigorous prosecution of the war, but this, like peace, will have to await events, for the whole campaign is entering a new phase.

Having arrived too late to prevent the invasion of Serbia, the British and French forces in the southeastern part of Serbia are now retiring before the onslaughts of the Bulgarians, who, supported by German artillery and infantry, have been attacking both the British and the French, and compelling them to give up advanced positions.

According to reports from Saloniki the retirement is being carried out in an orderly manner, but how far it is to continue is a matter of much speculation. Opinion is divided as to whether it would not be better to abandon the entire expedition, or retain Saloniki as a base. The latter alternative would, it is believed, involve the operations of the Entente Allies with Greece, which now are far from satisfactory, and would be an indictment to the Central Powers to follow the Entente forces across Greece frontier.

### BRITISH ENGAGED WITH TURKS.

Besides battles in the Balkans, the British are watching with deep interest the operations in Mesopotamia, where a fight is now taking place for Kut-el-Amara, and in Arabia, the Turks in the latter region having commenced another advance on Aden. They made a similar attempt on Aden last July, but were driven back. As Aden and its vicinity, as well as the shores of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, leading from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, are well fortified, it is not believed an advance is seriously intended here. There is also considerable activity on the Gallipoli peninsula, but there have not been any important changes in the situation of the troops. This likewise applies to the western front, where the French are busy in an endeavor to recover a trench in the Champagne region which the Germans captured a few days ago. Despite the bad weather the Italians claim some minor successes along the Isonzo front.

### YPPES AGAIN SHELLED.

London, Dec. 9.—A British official communication, made public tonight, says: "Bad weather has limited activity in the air, but our airmen have been able to do useful work. Two machines which went on reconnaissance on the fifth have not returned.

As the result of a successful little enterprise in the region south of Arras, a small party of our men entered a German trench and bombed the occupants successfully, withdrawing after completing their mission.

"The destruction of the enemy's parapets and wire entanglements at various points on the front by our artillery continues. In reply to a successful bombardment of the enemy's position near Filzen, on the 6th the enemy shelled Ypres and the area north heavily but did little damage.

"West of Fricourt we exploded a large mine with success on the 5th. Yesterday, near Ghinchy, an enemy mine buried two of our men, who were safely rescued."

### ARTILLERY AND MINE FIGHTING.

Paris, Dec. 9.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"Important cannonading has occurred in the sectors of the front. In the north of Dixmude and prevented the progress of our operations, marked by us, near Dixmude.

"In Les Eparges, there was mine fighting. A group of enemy workers was buried by the explosion of one of our mines.

"The Belgian official communication reads: "Several artillery actions of slight importance have occurred on the Yser front. We silenced an enemy battery to the north of Dixmude and prevented the consolidation of the German trenches in the direction of Women."

"Army of the east: Since the last communication the Bulgarians have carried out, at different points along our front, violent attacks, all of which have been repulsed, with heavy losses to the enemy. The fighting continues in front of our bridge-head at Graden, on the Vardar river.

Italians Make Minor Gains.

Rome, via London, Dec. 9.—The following official statement was issued today by the Italian army headquarters:

"At several places along the front the enemy artillery endeavored to interrupt our consolidation works, but the exact fire of our batteries nullified their efforts.

In the Montenegro zone, favored by a thick fog, detachments of the enemy penetrated one of our entrenchments on

## BRITISH HOUSE GIVEN NEW LEASE OF LIFE

### NO ELECTION IN 1916 AND SUCCESSION OF SESSIONS MAINTAINED

Law Officers Have Salaries Reduced

Members Also Likely to Have Cut in Stipend as Example in Economy—Daily British Statements in Future—British Ill-Treated in German Camps.

London, Dec. 9.—A bill to continue the present parliament beyond the five year period and postpone a general election during the war was introduced in the house of commons today by Sir John Simon, secretary of state for home affairs. The bill makes the life of the present parliament six instead of five years, extending it to January 31, 1917, and treats the year 1916 for the purposes of the active parliament as if it followed immediately on 1915.

"This legal act providing that the sessions of 1914 and 1916 shall be regarded as successive sessions, keeps alive the plural voting bill, which would otherwise have been buried with other controversial matter on account of the war. The plural voting bill is one of the pet measures of the Liberals, introduced under the parliamentary act which declares that a bill which has three passages in the house of commons in successive sessions shall become a law despite the opposition of the house of lords. The bill already has passed the house of commons.

"British military authorities have arranged to issue a daily communication from the western front in France commencing next week. The British war department thus comes into line with the house of commons of the other countries at war.

Conferring With French Leaders.

Sir Edward Grey, the secretary of foreign affairs, and Field Marshal Earl Kitchener went to Paris yesterday to confer with the French government. It was officially announced this afternoon that the crown has been arranged. In the house of commons today Premier Asquith made this announcement which it is hoped, will give an impetus to the campaign for thrift on the part of the public.

The premier declined to disclose the extent of the sacrifice exacted from these members of the government. It is believed this reduction is only the preliminary to a renunciation of at least one-third of the salaries by other members of the government and of the house of commons, as an example to others in the measures of economy necessary to enable the country to meet the expenditures of the war.

### CHAMBER SUPPORTS BELAND.

Paris, Dec. 9.—Premier Briand today appeared to the chamber of deputies for support in the shape of a vote of confidence after Deputy Emile Constant had insisted upon maintaining an interpellation regarding military affairs to which the premier had refused to reply.

The premier's refusal was on the ground that to make reply would cause grave inconveniences, and that he had already fully explained the matter to the committee of the chamber. He therefore asked M. Constant to withdraw the interpellation. The deputy, however, insisted that the premier's attitude, which was, he said, as though the matter possessed no interest to parliament. The premier, in rejoinder, said that the day would come when all explanations would be fully given.

Finally he appealed to the chamber for a vote of confidence. The vote, however, was not put to the chamber, as further discussion of the interpellation was postponed by a vote of 448 to 78.

### GERMANS ILL-TREATED CIVILIANS.

London, Dec. 9.—"The proprietor of this sanatorium cares more for pecuniary gain than the humanitarian side of his work," says Dr. Ohnesorg and Graf von Minot, private secretary to James W. Gerard, the American ambassador to Germany, in a report sent to the British foreign office by Gerard, dealing with the conditions in Dr. Weller's sanatorium in Germany, where a number of interned British invalid civilians are being maintained at the expense of the British government.

### MARRIED BY PROXY TO SOLDIER WHO HAD BEEN KILLED

Paris, Dec. 9.—The custom of marriage by proxy, which has come into vogue during the war, has placed a young Parisian woman in a curious situation. She was married by proxy on Nov. 17 to Sergeant Joseph Conduche. On Dec. 1 she was informed officially that Sergeant Conduche had been killed at Souchez on Sept. 28, several weeks before the marriage.

### ONTARIO TORIERS MAY PROTEST AGAINST SEVIGNY AS SPEAKER

Ottawa, Dec. 9.—A report in government circles here tonight that Albert Sevigny, M. P. for Dorchester, and deputy speaker of the commons, is to succeed Hon. Dr. Sproule as speaker, is times to leave their trenches by attack, but were forced to return by our infantry fire. There has been no change on the rest of the front.

### MONTREAL MAN CONFESSES TO MURDER OF LITTLE GIRL

Montreal, Dec. 9.—Henri Menard, a millhand, aged 28, gave himself up to Chief Bilodeau, of Grand Mere (Que.), this morning, and is said to have confessed that he committed an assault upon a five-year-old girl on September 20 last, and then killed her. Three or four other young men were under suspicion of having committed the crime, and Menard, in his confession, is said to have stated he thought it safer to stay around than run away.

Menard boasted with a family on Maple avenue, Holyoke (Mass.), prior to going to Grand Mere.

## BRITISH AND BULGARS MEET IN STIFF BATTLE

### Allied Lines Withdrawn Close to Greek Border Before Determined Attacks

### Heavy Artillery Fire Heralds Advance of German-Bulgarian Armies—Greek Situation More Acute as Fighting Nears Frontier.

Paris, Dec. 9.—The Havas correspondent at Athens reports that Premier Skoufopoulos today received the Italian and Russian ministers. It is supposed these ministers visited the premier for the purpose of indicating to the Greek government that Italy and Russia adhere to the demands of Great Britain and France for guarantees of freedom of action for the expeditionary forces which landed at Saloniki.

### TWO SUCCESSFUL RETIREMENTS.

London, Dec. 9.—Two successful retirements by the British forces in the Balkans was officially announced tonight. On Dec. 7 the troops were withdrawn to a new line, and on Dec. 8 they retired to another line.

The official statement was as follows:

"On Dec. 6, the Bulgarians, after a heavy bombardment, attacked our troops west of Lake Dolinar. Our advanced trenches were entered by small parties of Bulgarians, who were immediately driven out with the bayonet.

"On the morning of Dec. 7 the Bulgarians attacked again and with weight of superior numbers drove our troops out of their position. Under cover of darkness the troops were withdrawn to a new line. Reports as to our losses have not yet been received.

"On Dec. 8 the British troops successfully repulsed all attacks, and in the evening they were withdrawn to a new position, in order to conform with the general alignment."

### WELL SUPPLIED WITH ARTILLERY.

London, Dec. 9.—A despatch to Reuters' Telegram Company from British headquarters in Macedonia, sent under date of Dec. 8, says:

"The Bulgarian attacks during the past two or three days have been more serious than were originally reported. The Bulgarians show constantly increasing strength, and seem to be well supplied with artillery, which keeps up a constant fire.

"Like the Germans, the Bulgarians de-luge their objective with shell fire before attacking with infantry.

"As the lines of the Entente Allies engaged the principal share of their attention, and before the superior strength of the enemy our outposts are gradually falling back to the main position. Some hand-to-hand fighting has occurred, making the enemy's retreat difficult."

### RUSSIANS CONFIRM REPORT.

Petrograd, Dec. 9, via London, Dec. 10.—The following official communication has been received here by the Russian press office:

"Kut-el-Amara is being stubbornly defended by the enemy. Our advanced divisions are marching to Sulimaniya, making the enemy's retreat difficult."

### WILL NOT FIGHT THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE WAR

Montenegro (Special Cable).

Paris, Dec. 9.—An official Montenegro communication, dated Dec. 9, was given out here today by the consul-general of Montenegro:

"On Dec. 6 nine vessels of an Austrian squadron, coming from Cattaro, bombarded Port Durazzo and the Italian radio telegraphic station. Several Montenegro and Albanian vessels and one Italian sailing vessel were sunk. On Dec. 7 the enemy vigorously attacked our army of the Sanjaks, but everywhere was repulsed.

"After a battle lasting several days against Serbian troops the Austrians succeeded in occupying Ipek.

"There was little change in the situation on the other fronts.

"On Dec. 8 an Austrian aeroplane threw three bombs on Scutari. One Serbian soldier was killed.

"The announcement was made by many newspapers that King Peter of Serbia has arrived at Scutari is untrue."

### SIR WILFRID SAVES LIBERALS DO NOT SEEK PARTY ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.

Montreal, Dec. 9.—Sir Wilfrid tonight addressed a gathering that closely packed every inch of space in the Monument National, and hundreds of people, unable to gain an entrance, were driven back from the doors of the building by a squad of police officers. It was the first public appearance of the veteran Liberal leader in Montreal since his recent illness, and he was long a great ovation. The meeting was held in the ballroom of the Young Liberal Club of Montreal, and it was chiefly patriotic in tone.

Sir Wilfrid expressed a strong belief in the righteousness of the British cause in the great war, and an equally strong optimism in the final outcome of it.

He took occasion to give the Nationalists a rap, and said: "The Nationalists want parliament to close its eyes and take no part in the war." Touching on politics, Sir Wilfrid said: "You have heard in Montreal the question asked, why have the Liberals not fought the government? Why? Because I am the chief of the Liberal party, and because as long as I have the honor of presiding over the destinies of the Liberal party it will not triumph by taking advantage of the situation at present existing."

Sir Wilfrid paid a tribute to Oliver Aulwin, who, though a Nationalist, is raising a battalion for overseas service.

Others who spoke were: Sir Lomer Gouin, premier of Quebec; Hon. Geo. P. Graham, Hon. Charles Marcil, Senators Dandurand, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux and Mr. Joseph Demers, M. P.

### DECLINES A CALL TO CITY TEMPLE, LONDON

New York, Dec. 9.—Rev. Hugh Black, professor of practical theology at Union Theological Seminary, announced tonight that he had declined a call to become pastor of the City Temple, London, as the successor of Rev. R. J. Campden, in what is regarded as one of the foremost parishes in the English-speaking world.

Dr. Black, a native of Scotland, came to the Union Theological Seminary from St. George's United Free church, Edinburgh, in 1908.

### ON OFFICIAL LIST.

Ottawa, Dec. 9.—The midnight casualty list contains the names of only two men of the 28th Battalion who have been wounded. These were reported yesterday from Ottawa. They are Lance Corporal James F. M. Gilbert, 94 Harrison street, St. John (N. B.), and Richard Lacey, Maces Bay (N. B.)

### GERMAN PATROL MEN ENCOUNTERS.

"A patrol of our 12th battalion, Royal Highlanders, passed through unprepared trenches in the enemy's wire to within thirty feet of the German parapets, and after completing the reconnaissance, retired unobserved. Enemy patrols have been more active and a few encounters with our patrols have occurred.

"On one occasion our patrol, under lieutenant H. Pym, of the 2nd battalion, changed positions with the enemy. At last one German was accounted for, and our patrol returned safely. On another occasion our patrol of three men discovered an enemy patrol of five near German wires. By the light of a flare sent up from the German trenches our patrol was enabled to disperse the enemy patrol with bombs.

"On the night of Dec. 1-2, a German party was discovered in cutting our wire in front of a trench which had been heavily shelled during the previous afternoon. The enemy was driven off.

"On the same night the enemy's wire was cut in several places by our 10th Canadian Scottish battalion, and a patrol under lieutenant W. H. L. Smith and A. E. Morley, which advanced towards the enemy's lines. Three Germans were encountered. Heavy machine guns and rifle fire was opened from the enemy trenches and our patrol withdrew after rounding two of the German sentries.

"The health of our troops continues good.

(Signed) "AITKEN,  
General Representative.

### REPAIRS WERE RAPIDLY EFFECTED.

Our heavy artillery responded with good effect against the enemy's batteries and trenches. The Germans were seen leaving the trenches during our bombardment.

Weather conditions have afforded an opportunity for increased activity by our troops, especially on the eastern front. The enemy's batteries and trenches have been visited and destroyed, and such useful information brought in by our artilleries.

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## GERMANS BACK AT RECAL OF HER ATTACKS

Washington, Dec. 6.—Germany notified the United States today that she desired to know upon what grounds the state department asks the withdrawal of Captain Boy-Ed, the naval attaché of the German embassy here, and of Captain Von Papen, the military attaché. Secretary of State Lansing received the request from two sources—from Count Bernstorff, the ambassador, and from the Berlin foreign office, through Ambassador Generali.

The United States will reply promptly, Mr. Lansing will not discuss the facts, nor will he give the sources of information concerning the activities of the attaches in connection with naval and military matters, to which the state department objected. Without reference to the reasons which prompted the state department to ask the withdrawal of the attaches, it is stated, the United States explained in the quarters, the understanding among nations that an information that a diplomatic officer has made himself disagreeable is sufficient to cause his removal.

It was broadly intimated in Germany's request for information that if the United States based its action on anything else than the developments of the Ham-burg-American line conspiracy trial in New York, or the case of James F. J. Archibald, the American war correspondent, who secretly carried papers to the German front, the ambassador of Austria, the Berlin foreign office might contest the withdrawal of the two officers.

The German position indicates, too, that the United States is expected to get safe conduct home for the two officers, if it wishes to be rid of them, although it is authoritatively stated that Germany will make no request for this service.

As explained in German quarters, the embassy takes the view that it and its attaches virtually have been placed before the bar of public opinion by the state department's action, and that consequently the request for information through unusual, is proper, under the circumstances. On the other hand, it is known that Secretary of State Lansing considers that Count Von Bernstorff might have drawn an inference as to what rendered the attaches objectionable from the conversation when the secretary informed him that the officers no longer were acceptable to the United States, and offered to obtain safe conducts for them if Germany so desired.

Mr. Lansing made his request for withdrawal with the full approval of President Wilson, and it was made very plain today that there would be no discussion of the facts which led to the action.

Secretary of State Lansing is of the opinion that the German personnel non grata is one which indicates a mental attitude.

Tom Hood, the punster, once described in doing of a man and a lion, and in the me of he said—"The man, with all with all his might, and the lion, with all