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TO-DAY'S Messages.

11.15 A.M.

WANTS PLAIN ANSWER.

PARIS, To-day. The newspapers of Paris yesterday afternoon published a report that the Entente Powers in view of the contradictory statements concerning the attitude of the Greek Government are likely to request Greece to give a precise answer to the notes presented by the Entente Ministers.

RETIRING TO SALONIKI.

PARIS, To-day. It is probable that all the Allied forces will retire into Grecian territory, says Lieut. Col. Rousset, military critic of La Liberté. The principal reason for the Balkan expedition which was to aid the Serbians no longer exists. The aim is now to guard Saloniki. The withdrawal of French and British troops should not be regarded as of great importance. Forced by circumstances, the only error is that it began too late. It is hoped the withdrawal will continue with sufficient rapidity, in order that the initial error may be repaired. Once entrenched at Saloniki, the Allies can await in virtually complete security reinforcements which must be sent, as well as a better opportunity to resume operations which present weakness, due to the unfortunate and irreparable hesitation does not permit of continuing to-day.

SWISS SOCIALISTS TALK PEACE.

PARIS, To-day. The Socialist group of the Swiss National Council, says a Havas despatch from Berne, introduced the following interpretation: Is the Federal Council, thinking of offering alone or conjointly with the governments of other countries its good offices to belligerents, in order to bring about a conclusion of armistice to prepare for negotiations for peace. The interpretation will be developed by M. G. Reulein, dean of the groups.

BANK HOLIDAY ON JANUARY 1st.

LONDON, To-day. (Official).—At the request of bankers, Asquith has decided that January 1st, 1916, shall be a bank holiday in England and Wales, in order that banks with their greatly depleted staffs may attend without interruption to work that day which is always one of the busiest days of banking in the year. It is not intended that the day should be kept as a general holiday as in Scotland.

KAISER RECALLS OBNOXIOUS ATTACKS.

WASHINGTON, To-day. Emperor William has personally recalled the naval and military attaches of the German Embassy here, who by their activity rendered themselves persons non grata to the United States Government. The Emperor requested the United States to use its good offices in securing a safe conduct for them.

J.J. ST. JOHN.

WE TALK

Tobacco

this week right from Virginia.

500 Lbs. Our Tommie, Large Plugs, 9cts. plug.

800 Lbs. Tipperary, Large Plugs, 11cts. plug.

500 Lbs. Richmond Navy Dark and Bright, 17cts. plug.

100 Lbs. Edgeworth, Sliced and ready rubbed, 15cts. & 17cts. tin.

J.J. ST. JOHN,

Duckworth St. & LeMarchant Road.

for the departing attaches and for their successors who will be named later.

A DUKE'S BANKRUPTCY.

LONDON, To-day. The Duke of Manchester was to have appeared for examination before the Bankruptcy Court to-day, but on a doctor's certificate, the hearing was adjourned until January 28th. The Official Receiver announced that a plan for arrangement of the Duke's affairs would be submitted. Meanwhile the Duke's liabilities have been returned as 195,985 pounds with assets valued at 200 pounds. It was stated officially that the Duke's position was attributed to a very great reduction in income from his mother's American estate, estimated at more than one half, due partly to failures in New York, and to the fact that his expenditures had exceeded his income, compelling him to borrow from money lenders.

LONDON BUDGET.

LONDON, To-day. The Anglo-French forces have commenced a general retirement from Southern Serbia. It is suggested their destination is the region of Saloniki. This retirement was necessitated not only by the superior forces which the Bulgarians and Germans opposed to the Allies, but to the threat of an outflanking movement from Petrovo. Both British and French forces who are well supplied with artillery and machine guns engaged in a four days battle in which they inflicted very heavy losses on the Bulgarians who fought with desperation and greatest courage. Attack after attack was repulsed but the Bulgarians still came forward. Each evening the Allies fell back to new positions, where the events of the day before were repeated. The question now arises whether the Bulgarians and Germans will follow the Allies across the Greek frontier and what action the Greek Government will adopt. King Constantine promised to use his army to protect retiring forces, if they undertake to reembarc. The Bulgarians are now pushing forward the Bulgarians raiding bands from destroying the Allies communications. But it is doubtful whether the Allies will agree to evacuate Saloniki which is under the guns of their ships and would provide a good defensive position and base from which other operations could be undertaken. It is on this point that negotiations between Greece and the Entente Allies are now proceeding, and the feeling here and in Paris, and in Rome is given briefly in the following paragraph printed in large type by the Evening Star: The moment is approaching when the Government must decide about the Allies, who now more than ever before require the freedom of the Government at Saloniki. Hitherto their demands have been met by procrastination. Refusal now will mean withdrawal of the Allies from Southern Serbia. The Allies forces have been given effective assistance by the Montenegrins and Serbs who fled into Albania. This is shown in the resistance which both Serbs and Montenegrins are offering to the invaders. The latter have been fighting a series of rearguard actions, delivering counter attacks, which the Austrians admit have seriously delayed their advance. The Austrians are now attempting a new advance from the region of Berani, west of Ipek. The Serbs who are now receiving supplies from the Adriatic coast are still showing the activity. The Italians also have reinforced their garrison at Avlona from which place they are sending relief to Serbs coming from Ochrida Lake district. There is no further news from Mesopotamia, where, according to the last accounts, the Turks were attacking Kutelamara and had actually reached a point on the river below that town, but the success of the Russians in dispersing a band of Persian rebels and Turkish officers at Sultan Bulak Pass on the road to Hamadan, it is believed will ease the situation in that part of the world. Much activity is reported on Gallipoli Peninsula where it is reported fresh German artillery is arriving, and on the Isonzo from where the Italians have gained more ground in the direction of Gorizia. Along other fronts no important changes have occurred.

EPIDEMIC OF SUICIDES.

PETROGRAD, To-day. Another epidemic of suicides is reported among the German forces in the vicinity of Dvinsk, by prisoners captured in that region. According to Birzheva Vedomosty, an afternoon daily paper, nine officers including the commander of a battalion are said to have ended their lives within the period of twelve days. Cold and hunger are alleged to be the cause. The Polish and Serb Germans reported on line of communication.

LONDON, To-day. A despatch to Reuter's Telegraph Co. from Saloniki, says it is reliably quoted here that the German forces under General Von Gallwitz occupied the Giveli railway line a short distance north of the Greek frontier in Serbia on Friday morning. The force includes two divisions. Landstrums captured from Austro-German forces along the southern

front, report a new alignment of Austro-Germans who had been detached to forage food and stores from captured territory. Points near the frontier of Viadrina and Volinsk are being hurriedly fortified with trenches for a radius of seven miles, apparently in anticipation of a Russian offensive.

RUSH OF RECRUITS CONTINUE.

LONDON, To-day. The last day of the trial period for Earl Derby's recruiting plan opened with reports from all parts of London to the effect that there was no diminution but rather an increase in recruiting. All officers in charge reported excellent progress. The feature of the situation is that although single men are coming forward in better proportion, married applicants seem to predominate in many centres. Nearly all recruiting stations were kept open all night until early hours to-day. Similar reports from many provincial towns.

1.00 P.M.

RETIRING IN GOOD ORDER.

LONDON, To-day. A despatch from Saloniki dated Friday, says: "Complete calm prevailed yesterday and throughout the night on the front of the Entente forces. The retirement of the Entente Allies is proceeding in good order. Political situation engrosses the public."

BOMB OUTRAGES.

ANCONA, Italy, To-day. An Austrian aeroplane flew over this city yesterday and dropped bombs which killed two people and injured several others. No material damage.

GIEVEGLI NOT OCCUPIED.

LONDON, To-day. The reported German occupation of Gievegli (Serbia) is premature, says a Saloniki correspondent of Reuter's Telegraph Co. Up to four o'clock on Friday afternoon there was no enemy in immediate neighborhood of Gievegli.

ELECTIONS IN GREECE.

PARIS, To-day. Athens correspondent of Havas Agency sends the following despatch under date of Friday: "The electoral campaign has opened in the whole of Greece. In the province of Athens the Government supporters are divided and there are likely to be two lists, one supported by followers of M. Goumris, Minister of the Interior, and the other by adherents of M. Phallus, Minister of Justice. The French Minister, M. Guillemin, had an audience with the King to-day."

FIGHTING EVERY STEP.

BERLIN, To-day. The retreat of the British and French expedition in Serbia is being conducted with great difficulty. Their main forces have been unable to disengage itself and retire, leaving only weak guards behind to delay their pursuers. Instead of permitting them to do this the Bulgarians and Teuton troops are maintaining closest touch with the who is therefore forced to retire fighting at every step. This, it is reported here explains the loss of six British guns south of Strumitza.

PROPOSED NEUTRAL ZONE.

ROTTERDAM, To-day. The Bulgarian Government has proposed to Greece the creation of a neutral zone on Grecian, Serbian and Macedonian frontiers whereby both countries will be compelled to hold their troops at rifle shot distance from the frontier, says the Sofia correspondent of the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger. It is expected that Greece will accept the proposal.

GRAVE POSITION IN BALKANS.

LONDON, To-day. The position of the Allied forces in Greece furnishes the chief subject for discussion in the London morning newspapers. Optimistic official statements failed to persuade the press and the situation is not serious. It is generally admitted that no alternative to the withdrawal of the Allied forces to Saloniki exists. Some papers, notably the Weekly Nation goes so far as to advocate the re-embarkation of troops while the freedom of movement is still possible rather than risk the possibility of a hostile attitude of the Greek Government. Despatches which are said to have evaded Greek censorship have been received in London during the week, indicating suspicion of Greek intentions. It was alleged in the despatches that Greek officers openly talked of the time when they would attack the Allies, and continued with the assertion that a fortnight ago the Greek military movements in the neighbourhood of Saloniki were suspicious. Whether or not reliance can be placed on these reports, it is certain the Greek attitude causes great disquietude. The Spectator in

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an article less alarming than that employed by the Nation, favors either the Allied troops re-embarking or taking up a position on the plain around Saloniki where they could remain snug under the protection of the guns of the fleet.

CANADIAN SOLDIER MURDERED.

LONDON, To-day. The most sensational tragedy that marked the history of Canadian troops in England occurred last night in the quiet Hampshire village of Grayscott, where Jacques Marcas Ozanne, of the forty-first French-Canadian Battalion, was brutally murdered.

CRYING FOR PEACE.

LONDON, To-day. A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. from Copenhagen says: It is reported a peace demonstration in large proportions took place outside the Reichstag, Berlin, yesterday evening. Several thousand persons, says the despatch, endeavored to force their way into the Reichstag. Crowds blocked the street, stopped street cars and busses. The police were three hours restoring order. All the time crowds kept up cries of peace, peace, and even went so far as to use insulting language toward the Royal Household.

STEAMER SUNK.

LONDON, To-day. The Norwegian steamer Ingstad sunk. Except for one man who was drowned, all crew saved. The Ingstad was a vessel of 750 tons gross, built in 1910.

STORM IN CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, To-day. The long expected storm in Congress over the administration's conduct of the defence of American rights on the seas broke in Congress yesterday when Senator Hoke Smith, Democrat, demanded investigations of Britain's interference with neutral trade. Senator Lodge, Republican, replied with the demand that any investigation should include loss of American lives. The body of an innocent child floating dead on the water, the victim of destruction of an unarmed vessel is more poignant and a more tragic spectacle than an unsold bale of cotton, declared the Massachusetts Senator to the Congress on Tuesday. Senator Smith's resolution for an investigation of trade interferences, Senator Lodge who ranking as a minority member of the foreign relations committee, offered an amendment for investigation of law and facts of submarine attacks on the Lusitania, Falma, Hesperian, Arabic, Gulfstream and Algonquin and of plots and conspiracies against the neutrality of United States to which President Wilson referred in unmeasurable terms in his address to Congress on Tuesday. Both resolutions were referred to the Foreign Relations Committee on which further action will depend. Introduction, however, had to wait until the first debate of the session on a subject on which all minds had been turned. Senators on both sides of the Chamber were in a fever of anticipation which was precipitated by the vigorous speech of Senator Smith in support of his resolution.

2.00 P.M.

LONDON, To-day. General Von Kessel, Commander at Berlin, has prohibited the further publication of the Post a leading Conservative newspaper, says the Amsterdam correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Co. Its office was an article hostile to any form of peace, unless Germany retains all occupied territory.

LONDON, To-day. The Bulgarian Premier, M. Radoslavoff, stated in an interview that the Central Powers have over a million men at their disposal in the Balkans, says a despatch from Amsterdam.

ATHENS, To-day. The Greek Government has made all arrangements for the demobilization of the army. It is expected a decree to this effect will be issued shortly.

ATHENS, To-day. The French Minister had his second conference of this week with King Constantine this morning. Several ministers of the Entente Powers called on Premier Skouloudis. It is learned on good authority that energetic representations were made for the purpose of inducing Greece to hasten action in regard to facilities demanded for Allied troops at Saloniki. A decisive move on the part of the Greek Government is expected momentarily.

Silver Anniversary.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Vett will join in congratulating them to-day on the attainment of the Silver Anniversary of their wedding. Mr. Vett is an old Newfoundland boy who worked formerly at J. B. & G. Ayre's Bakery. He was also an active member of the Newfoundland British Society. He left here about 18 or 20 years ago, and has resided at Roxbury, Mass., ever since. Mr. Vett paid a visit to his native home about four years ago and was delighted with the changes and improvements which had taken place. Some invitations to a reception to be held to-night at 43 West Cottage, Roxbury, Mass., the above happy event have been received by friends in the city. The Telegram joins in extending hearty congratulations to the happy pair.

XMAS BELLS.—This annual keeps up its high standard in the present issue now before us.

HOLLY, just received in good condition, well berried. Also English Xmas Cakes, iced and uniced. BISHOP, SONS & CO., Grocery Dept. Phone 679. dec-1

S.S. BONAVENTURE.—The S.S. Bonaventure arrived at Alicante on Thursday last and left again for Naples on Thursday night.

Coal Steamer Lost Near Langley.

All Saved Except Cabin Boy.

We are indebted to Mr. H. A. Saunders, Superintendent of the Anglo-American Telegraph Co., Ltd., for a copy of the following message received to-day from St. Pierre.

"Reported a seven thousand ton steamer ashore West Point of Langley, laden with coal. Crew just reached here in boats; will let you know if hear further particulars."

F. H. WHITE.

"The British steamer St. Kilda, bound for Lewisport, Newfoundland, coal laden. Crew of 30 men all saved, except cabin boy. Several landed at Savoyard in lifeboat. Cabin lost in one of coves of Cap Blue, west coast Langley."

WHITE, S.P.

The St. Kilda is a steel screw steamer of 3515 tons register. She was built by A. McMillan and Sons, Ltd., Durbarton, Scotland, in 1899. She left North Sydney on Tuesday night last for Lewisport with a cargo of coal for the Reid Nid. Co., from whom we learn that the ship was capable of carrying about 6,000 tons.

Pouch Cove and Flatrock Storm-swept.

Frequently the settlements of Pouch Cove and Flatrock have been storm-swept but never were they so badly smitten as last evening while a strong easterly wind raged at its utmost fury. So far as Flatrock is concerned, the fishing property is now a heap of ruins. The sea, the like of which were never witnessed before by the oldest inhabitants of the place, swept away all stages, boats and other fishing gear and not a single stick is left standing there now. Unfortunately the damage was not confined to the fishing section as some of the residential property also suffered much. One house was washed away completely and several houses were badly flooded and families have suffered great loss by having some of their things destroyed. A portion of the big fish store there, owned by Bowring Bros., was swept away. Pouch Cove which is scarcely ever exempted from any storm, again suffered severe loss last night. All the fishing property was totally destroyed, though the houses there were more fortunate than at Flatrock.

REIDS' BOATS.

The Argyle sailed from Placentia for the Westward early this morning. The Clyde left Fortune Harbor at 11 a.m. yesterday, going north. The Dundee is due at Wesleyville to-day.

The Ethie left Heart's Content at 12 p.m. yesterday for St. John's. The Glencoe arrived at Placentia at 11.15 a.m. to-day.

The Home leaves Humbermouth this evening.

The Petrel left Twillingate at 3.20 p.m. yesterday inward.

The Kyle left Port aux Basques at 11 p.m. yesterday.

The Meigle is on her way here from North Sydney.

The Sagana is due at Port aux Basques.

SHOP EARLY FOR SATISFACTION

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

STAMPED LINENS.

Pillow Slips . . . 35c. each

Child's Linen Dresses, 40c. each

Ladies' Nightgowns, 80c. each

Readymade Kimono Gown with 3 Slips, emb. floss.

LADIES' KIMONOS, \$1.50 to \$3.50.

Mauve, Pink, Sage and Helio.

LADIES' HAND BAGS, \$1.30 to \$2.20.

See the Automatic locking Bag, absolutely the newest and safest.

PAPER & ENVELOPES, 15c. to 90c. box.

in Holly boxes, suitable for odds and ends when empty.

PERFUMED BEADS, only 45 and 60c. each.

MANICURE SETS,

40c. to \$2.40.

BRUSH, COMB AND MIRROR SETS,

\$1.60.

Black Ebony, silver plate on back for initials.

LEATHER COLLAR POUCHES,

\$1.60.

WORK BASKETS,

\$1.55 to \$4.80.

DOLLS' COLLAPSIBLE FRAMS,

\$3.00 each.

BOXES OF LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS,

12c. to 85c.

Some embroidered on Irish Linen.

CHILD'S BATH ROBES,

75c. each.

Shades of Pink and Sky; fit 1 to 3 years.

HYGIENIC SLEEPING SUITS,

70c. and 75c.

Fit 2 to 4 years.

BOYS' SNOW SUITS,

\$2.45.

Sweater Coat, Overpants & Cap; all shades.

TOYS! TOYS!!

Impossible to mention here; must be seen to be appreciated.

BRADLEY'S DRAWING SETS,

\$1.50.

With this the ingenious boy may develop his ability for draughting.

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