

# BELGIUM MUST HAVE COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE

Says the Government in Reply to Papal Proposals for Peace.

## THE BRUTAL HUN

And His Course in the War, Castigated by Clear Message.

Brussels Cable — King Albert, in enclosing the Belgian Government's reply to the Pope's peace proposals, wrote a personal letter, as follows: "Very Holy Father: I have taken note, with lively sympathy and interest, of the message Your Holiness was good enough to send to the heads of the belligerent countries the first of August, and have hastened to submit it to my Government, which has studied it with most serious and deliberative attention. The result of that study has been recorded in a note which I am happy to communicate to Your Holiness."

"In associating myself with the wishes of the Holy See that a just and durable peace may promptly put an end to the evils from which humanity, and particularly the Belgian people, so rudely tried, are suffering, I beg Your Holiness to believe in my filial and respectful attachment.

(Signed) "Albert." This letter was dated Dec. 27, 1917. The note of the Belgian Government says:

"The Royal Government, as soon as it received the message of Your Holiness to the heads of the belligerents, hastened to reply that it would study with the greatest deference the propositions the document exposed in such elevating language.

"At the same time it desired particularly to express its lively and profound gratitude for the particular interest the Holy Father manifested in the Belgian nation, and of which the document was new and precious proof. "At the outset of his message the Holy Father took pains to declare he had forced himself to maintain perfect impartiality toward all the belligerents, which renders more significant the judgment of His Holiness when he concluded in favor of the total evacuation of Belgium and the re-establishment of its full independence, and also recognized the right of Belgium for reparation for damages and the cost of the war."

"Already, in his consistorial allocution of Jan. 22, 1915, the Holy Father had pronounced before the world that he approved justice, and he consented to give the Belgian Government the assurance that in formulating that reprobation it was the invasion of Belgium he had directly in view."

"The most people of all countries will rejoice with the Belgian Government that the injustices of which Belgium was the victim, and the necessity for reparation, have been proclaimed, and that the highest moral authority of Christendom remains watchful amidst the passion and conflicts of men."

"It was because of the gratitude felt on this account, which was augmented by the numerous charitable acts of the Holy Father in favor of so many Belgians, victims of the violence of the enemy, that the Royal Government has examined into the possibility of contributing in the measure depending upon it toward the realization of the Pontifical message: To hasten the end of the present war and render a return of similar catastrophe impossible by the adoption of guarantees destined to assure the supremacy of right over force."

"At the beginning of September the Royal Government informed His Holiness that it must reserve decision regarding its action on the propositions contained in the message until the powers at war with Belgium had clearly made known their war aims. It added that in any case Belgium would make no pronouncement on general peace conditions and the recognition of international relations, excepting in full accord with the powers guaranteeing its independence, that have done honor to their obligations toward her, and whose arms fight with hers for the cause of right."

"Nothing has modified the situation that existed at the moment the Royal Government made known that point of view to His Holiness. However, Belgium seizes eagerly the occasion furnished it by His Holiness to repeat before the civilized world what it wrote nearly a year ago to President Wilson:

"Before the German ultimatum Belgium aspired only to live on good terms with all its neighbors. She practiced with scrupulous loyalty toward each of them the duties imposed by this neutrality."

"How was she recompensed by Germany for the confidence she showed in her? If there is a country that has the right to say it took arms to defend its existence, it assuredly is Belgium. She desires passionately that an end be brought to the unheard sufferings of its population, but she would have kept only a peace that would assure her at the same time equitable reparation and security and guarantees for the future."

"The integrity of Belgium, the territory of the mother country and colonies, political, economic and military independence without condition or restriction, reparation for damage suffered, and the guarantees against a renewal of the aggression of 1914—such remain the indispensable conditions of

a just peace so far as concerns the Belgians. Any settlement that would not recognize them would shake the very foundations of justice, since it would for ever more be established that in international domains that violation of right creates a claim for its author and may become a source of profit.

"Since the Royal Government a year ago formulated its conditions, it permits itself to recall that the Reichstag voted resolutions called peace resolutions. The Chancellors and Ministers of Foreign Affairs have followed each other in the German Empire, and more recently in the Central Empires, and have published notes replying to the message of His Holiness, but never a word has been pronounced and never a line written clearly recognizing the indisputable rights of Belgium that His Holiness has not ceased to recognize and proclaim."

### STILL CARELESS.

#### Halifax Harbor Rules Are Being Ignored.

Halifax, Rep. — Despite the announcement by Captain Pasco, commander of the dockyard here, that regulations had been introduced that would prevent sailing vessels from carrying munitions navigating in the harbor, it was disclosed at a meeting of the Halifax Municipal Council yesterday in the witness box of an oil tanker was raising a munition in the Narrows, near where the collision occurred. This information was secured by Mr. E. J. K. C. for the owners of the Imo, which collided with the Mont Blanc, from Captain Pasco, of the Royal Navy. What had happened that before December 6, the day of the disaster, he was the one man responsible for traffic regulations in Halifax harbor. He considered the Narrows perfectly safe.

Asked upon whom he placed the responsibility for such a thing as occurred yesterday, he declined to say. "The only way in which he kept track of vessels coming in and going out of the harbor was through the pilot."

## START RANCHING IN OLD ONTARIO

### Government Will Launch Important Experiment.

#### Vast Territory in the North Available.

Toronto, Report — As a first step toward building up in the waste lands of the province a great sheep and cattle ranching industry the Ontario Government is to establish a five-thousand-acre ranch, probably in the Parry Sound district. The plans when approved will be put into operation during the coming summer, when the ranch will be located, buildings erected, etc., and arrangements made for putting stock on the land the following spring. For many months past R. H. Harding, of Thorndale, a well known cattle trader, has, under instructions from the Department of Agriculture, been conducting a general survey of the waste lands in the northern sections of the eastern counties and the districts of Muskoka, Parry Sound, Temiskaming, Algoma and Sudbury. That survey, recently completed, proved that vast areas of land in the province that were unsuitable for general farming owing to the "pecky" nature of the good soil, would make practically ideal ranching territory. There is a large acreage of good pasture land, particularly in districts which have been lumbered over, the numerous lakes and streams provide natural fencing, and there is plenty of good soil for raising hay and other fodder crops to carry stock through the winter. All the information secured is being tabulated, and in the future, when men interested in ranching go to the Department of Agriculture for definite data, it will be available. Hitherto, while it was realized that great areas of the waste lands were suitable for ranching, the department had no definite knowledge of the location of suitable ranching areas and very little idea of the prospects for winter shelter for stock.

It is to supplement the information already gained in respect to the land that the government is undertaking experimental ranching. A central site will be chosen with natural conditions as near average as they can be found. Experiments will then be carried on to determine the best type of shelter for the country, the fodder crops most suited to the soil and the northern climatic conditions, and through these experiments find the capacity of given areas to support stock. Breeding experiments will also be a part of the ranch activities. The survey recently completed found about 40 ranches established, running from 500 acres to 70,000. Most of these were cattle ranches, though a few were raising sheep. Almost without exception they were found to be doing fairly well.

Mr. Harding, in his report, states that the waste lands surveyed are capable of producing each year thousands of head of cattle, and voices his opinion that the man who takes hold of the proposition in a business way, with good stock, and watches the market, can depend upon substantial returns. Mr. Harding believes that the lands are better suited for raising cattle than for sheep, owing to the danger of wolves and bears making occasional forays.

### STRIKES IN ARGENTINA.

Buenos Aires, Jan. 28.—There are more or less serious labor disturbances throughout the country. The shipping in the port has nearly been paralyzed as a result of a strike among the dockers on the Central Cordoba Railway. It is threatened. Bands of the railwaymen, who already have gone out, have burned 45 cars full of freight.

# RUSSIANS REJECT THE DEMANDS OF GERMANY

Berlin Cable — The Imperial German Chancellor, Count von Hertling, in his address before the Reichstag today, said he still holds fast to the hope that the Brest-Litovsk peace negotiations will reach a satisfactory conclusion at an early date.

Petrograd Cable — The Russian delegates to the Brest-Litovsk peace conference have decided unanimously to reject the terms offered by the Germans.

The decision of the delegates was announced to the Associated Press last night by M. Kementoff, a member of the Russian delegation. The Germans declared the terms laid down by them were their last offer, and that if the Russians did not accept them hostilities would be resumed.

Final decision as to peace or war, M. Kementoff said further, rested with the Congress of Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates, which was convened here last night.

M. Kementoff, who returned from Brest-Litovsk with Foreign Minister Trotzky, said the remainder of the Russian delegation had stayed there in order to avoid the appearance of an immediate rupture.

"We were told," he added, "that the German terms were the last they would offer. We were unanimous that they should be respected. Final decision, however, must rest with the Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates."

The congress is expected to take up today the question of peace or war.

## SOCIALISTS WANT GERMANY.

London Cable — The Socialist newspaper, Vorwaerts, of Berlin, when on Monday was suspended for three days by the censorship, reappeared on Wednesday, an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen reports. This was brought about by the energetic action of the Socialist leaders in attacking the censorship during the debate on Tuesday in the Reichstag main committee.

The Vorwaerts reports that as soon as the debate opened Friedrich Albert, one of the Socialist leaders, asserted the whole world, except the Germans, knew of the general strike in Austria-Hungary, and that because the news was being kept back from the Germans sensational rumors were being circulated.

"We welcome the action of the proletariat of Austria-Hungary and express our warmest sympathy," Herr Albert continued. "German workmen when necessary, will use their full power to combat the efforts that are preventing an early peace, based on understanding and right."

Philipp Scheidemann warned the German authorities they were playing with fire, and that the situation in Germany did not differ greatly from that in Austria.

## ENDOWMENT FOR QUEEN'S

Kinross, Report — Chancellor Douglas will give his half million dollars to Queen's University in four instalments of \$125,000 each, as Queen's raises similar amount. G. V. Chown, registrar, is giving \$50,000 to start the fund. The Chancellor gives \$50,000 of that million towards the creation of a woman's residence. Women have already \$20,000 subscribed towards the building. This clears the way for the Queen's authorities to lend all their energies to raising an endowment fund.

# MEAT RATIONS FOR BRITAIN

## Whole Country Soon to Be Under Rules.

### "The Sooner the Better," Says Rhondda.

London Cable — Addressing the executive officers of the local Food Committee at the Mansion House today, Lord Rhondda, the Food Controller, said that those at home engaged in the task of finding a solution for the present food difficulties were engaged in a task hardly second to that of the troops at the front. The scheme of rationing it was proposed to adopt, he added, would affect about one-fourth of the whole population of the country.

On Feb. 25th, he wanted them to commence rationing, not only with butter and margarine, but with meat. If the next few months there would be a great scarcity of meat, but after that there would be an easing up. Explaining his scheme of rationing in meat, which will apply to London and the home counties, Lord Rhondda said it was proposed to start with a ration of meat for adults and half a ration for children below six years. In Birmingham the scheme of rationing had been in operation since Jan. 1. The other local schemes were being enforced. The Ministry was trying to inaugurate some scheme in South Wales and Scotland, and before long the whole country would be covered.

"The compulsory rationing of the whole country in fats and meats has to come," he said, "and the sooner it comes the better."

He believed that he was within measurable distance of achieving equal distribution.

A woman always wants the last word, but that doesn't necessarily indicate that she has reached a definite conclusion.

# LABOR BACKS THE CABINET

## Shelves Resolution Asking Its Members' Retirement.

### Government Declines to Delay Man-Power Bill.

Nottingham Cable — While condemning the votes cast in the House of Commons on some occasions by George N. Barnes and other members of the Labor party, the Labor conference to-day, by a vote of 1,385,000 to 722,000, shelved a resolution demanding the withdrawal of the Labor members from the Cabinet.

Arthur Henderson, former member of the War Cabinet, appealed to the conference not to pass the resolution. He said it would break up the Government and delay peace. Personally, he would never again belong to the Government, he asserted, unless the Labor party was predominant.

Arthur Henderson, former member of the British War Cabinet, announced at the Labor conference here to-day that he had received a letter from Premier Lloyd George saying that the views of the Labor Executive had been carefully considered, but that, in consequence of the urgency of the problem, and on the advice of the military experts, it was impossible to comply with the Executive's request and that the Government would proceed with the "man-power" bill.

The request of the Labor Executive was that the Government suspend considerations of the man-power bill by the House of Commons until after the Labor conference here, so that the members of the Labor party in the House of Commons would be able to participate in the discussion of the measure.

The attacks on the Labor members of the Cabinet came largely from the fringes of the party, and were in many cases so fiery and anarchistic as to earn hisses even from such an extremely tolerant audience as this. The main body of the delegates stood firmly behind Mr. Henderson in his plea.

"For," he said, "present peace is the supreme issue, and we must not allow its consummation to be interfered with or clouded by retracting the Labor party's vote of the past two years in favor of the continuation of the coalition."

The speeches against the Ministers included one from a Manchester delegate, who urged everybody in the country to lay down his tools as a protest against the failure of the British Government to recognize the Russian democracy.

A Scottish delegate called the Labor members of the Cabinet traitors and demanded that the British Government recognize the German democracy, as well as the Russian. "His delegate was 'booed' into his seat."

Secretary Bromley of the Locomotive Engineers followed with: "There is to-day a real and imminent danger of a great popular surrender in this country. It will burst out if we shuffle along with this unsatisfactory coalition Government any longer."

Mr. Henderson brought the meeting back to earth in a convincing speech, in which he said:

"If these were normal times there would be no differences of opinion as to the undesirability of associating with the capitalist parties, but they are not normal times, and the party has decided that on the whole the advantages therefrom have outweighed the disadvantages. Let the present Government go on, and let us push them as hard as we can toward peace."

A French delegate, Pierre Renaudel, leader of the majority Socialists, announced that it had been arranged for the Labor and Socialist parties of various countries to hold a conference on February 17 with the aim of promoting a general agreement on the lines of British Labor's war aims. An endeavor was being made to secure concurrence of the Labor movement in the United States. When a complete agreement was thus arranged, he added, the working class organizations of the belligerent countries would be invited to share in the united action to establish a durable peace, ratifying the defeat of imperialism throughout the world.

# THE YARDSTICK OF ALL TRADE

## Gold, the First and World-wide Medium,

### Largely Supplanted Now by Credit.

Gold has no intrinsic value except in arts and science. The amount thus consumed, together with what is converted into jewelry, is so insignificant in comparison with the world's hoard of gold that it can be neglected.

That what is the value of gold? None, except as the world-wide universal yardstick of mankind with which all things material are measured. Incidentally this yardstick is so antiquated that it has long since outlived its usefulness.

Gold has always been the stumbling block in the progress of financiers. It has been the hardest, cruellest ty-

rant and taskmaster brains have endured. It was truly been a golden milestone around the neck of man and a galling yoke harder to endure than militarism.

Let us turn backward up the river of history of people and follow its branches and tributaries of ancient customs to some origin as to why gold was ever given a value. Every material thing has its own value commensurate with its usefulness; or a fictitious value for some sentimental reason, such as, for instance, a painting by an ancient master or a snuff-box by Napoleon.

Gold was the first metal primitive man discovered. It was always the pure, yellow, beautiful metal, defying the ravages of time and nature. Always pure gold. Nothing else. Then it was found all over the world, so that every people had a little of it or knew what it was. It was too soft to be of any use to the primitive man as a weapon or tool and yet too fascinatingly beautiful to throw away. So the savage man converted it into trinkets and ornaments; what he had left he bartered to a more fortunate savage who had more wheat than gold.

He sold the gold for wheat. He did not buy the wheat with the gold. The classic Biblical reference to this transaction is Joseph and his brethren, who went to Egypt in time of famine.

When savage man exchanged wheat for gold that transaction for the first time established an intrinsic value to gold. The wheat was eaten, but the gold remained and was handed down from father to son and from mother to daughter. It accumulated, and the hoarding of gold commenced. India to-day is suffering from the obstinacy with which its people cling to the tradition of gold hoarding.

Vanity dates from the fig leaf. Modern women have no monopoly on self-decoration. Her ancestors, that braided one removed from the monkey, according to Darwin, Spencer and Huxley, made Solomon in all his glory look as though he were in mourning. Here is where the fictitious sentimental value comes in. The savage women demanded decorations for their bodies (women still do), and the male who could supply the most trinkets, preferably gold, won the job.

Some long headed financier of the Stone Age learned that it was easier to hoard the yellow metal than it was to hoard the winter's supply of food. That Stone Age man was our first great banker. That banker always depended upon the vanities of the women to make their husbands part with food as needed, providing enough gold was displayed.

But gold has not always been the yardstick of value. The Indians of Long Island made wampum beads of seashells gathered on Rockaway Beach. These served as standars of value. Salt had done duty with some savage tribes. In Kentucky in Daniel Boone's day, skins were the yardstick. In the south a gallon of molasses was once the pay for a day's labor.

After Adam Eve migrated from the garden of Eden gold grew more in favor as a universal medium of exchange. The primitive man knew by experience that when all else failed, he could still fall back as a last resort on his gold nose rings and bracelets to fill his empty belly with food. Tribes and nations through the experience of individuals earned the same experience in times of war. They could always find a purchaser for their gold. Get that. Purchaser of their gold—the payment being food.

And so the tyranny of gold spread down through the ages as man groped blindly in the dark for a solution of his problem to find a way to accumulate his surplus wheat or his labor by converting it into something which could always be reconverted into food. In gold he thought he had found a weapon which would always be his to command.

The first real rival of gold, when men learned to trust each other and a new thing was created called credit. Even to-day those who trade with a primitive people must place their bright beads and calicoes on the ground before the savage give up the measures which he has taken from nature. There is no trust—no credit, in contrast we have the dealings on New York Stock Exchange, where by the mere nod of a head brokers make trades every day running into millions of dollars and there is not a shadow of a shadow to show for it.

That was a big jump, but credit has done it every day of its life and has been battling to the death with gold, the antiquated yardstick of our primitive ancestors.—Lockwood Barr in "Commerce and Finance."

# GERMANY LOSES TWO DESTROYERS

Copenhagen Cable — Seventeen men from a German destroyer which was struck from a mine or torpedo, have been landed on the west coast of Jutland.

The sailors relate that five German destroyers on Sunday morning started for Heligoland. The destroyer A-73 struck a mine and sank. The A-73, hastening to the aid of the other, also struck a mine and sank. The three remaining destroyers, fearing the same fate, turned southward.

The whole crew of the A-73 perished, while only 17 of the A-79 survived. Nineteen of the men were saved, but two have since died.

### MAKE DESERTERS PRODUCE.

Berne, Cable.—Half of the thirty thousand men who have taken refuge in Switzerland as deserters in order to avoid military service in their own country are to be mobilized by the Swiss Government for civilian service. They have been formed into companies of 100 each under the supervision of Swiss officers, and have been set to work on the land to increase the agricultural production. They will receive food and clothing and 20 cents pay a day, the same amount paid to Swiss soldiers.

# HUNS' PLAN FOR BIG SURPRISE ON WEST FRONT

## Offensive There Expected to Follow British Methods at Cambrai.

### HAVE MANY TANKS

#### The Allied Forces, However, Fully Prepared, Are Confident.

(By Lincoln Eyre.)

Paris Cable — As every day brings nearer the launching of the German offensive — German Governmental newspapers at first put the date on Jan. 20th—against the Franco-British troops, many opinions are put forward here as to where the attack will be started, also how it will be prepared and carried out. Military circles believe the Germans will first try a surprise attack—similar to the British attack at Cambrai—instead of the usual preparatory artillery bombardment. It is known here the Germans have numerous tanks at their disposal, and that they intend to make full use of them. The point in the French line to which military circles seem to pay most attention is Grand Couronne of Nancy, where it is supposed the enemy will attempt to turn the flank of the forces bordering the Rhine to the Marne canal, and also of the French troops further east toward Alsace. It was at Grand Couronne the German Crown Prince suffered his first costly defeat in September, 1914, at the hands of Gen. Castelnau's army, when the Germans had to give up the attack, after leaving more than twenty thousand dead on the field. It is also opposite Nancy that huge concentrations of enemy troops and material have been reported.

The Argonne forest is also occupying the minds of the French military writers. ALL PREPARATIONS MADE. It is known, however, that the headquarters staff of the French armies have made all necessary preparations to meet the German onslaught wherever it may take place. French patrols of late have been extremely busy all along the line and aviators continually cross the German lines picking out troops, assemblies and gun emplacements. Most significant is the visit Premier Clemenceau has just made to two unnamed sectors, also that he returned with the capital full of hope and proud of the morale of the officers and men. Indications seem to point to the probability the Germans will attack the French and English simultaneously, for accumulation of troops is not only reported in Lorraine and Champagne, but also in Flanders and further south opposite the British line from La Bassée to St. Quentin. Numerous long trains coming from the front are signalled in Belgium, while Germans are still arriving from the Russian front.

The reason for the idea put forward here that the Germans will attack two pivots of the line stretching from the North Sea to the Swiss border seems to be that the German intention is to break through these points and come to the centre to fall in.

## FRENCH REGAIN GROUND.

On their extreme right in Northern Belgium the Germans carried out a raid, and gained a footing in French advanced trenches east of Nicourt, but were immediately driven out by the French in a counter-attack later, and all the lost ground regained.

BRITISH REPORT. London Cable — "There were encounters during the night southwest of St. Quentin between our troops and hostile raiding parties and patrols. Three of our men are missing. "A raid attempted by the enemy against our posts south of La Bassée was driven off."

## FRENCH REPORT.

Paris Cable — Wednesday night's War Office statement said: "In Belgium there was cannonading in the Nicourt sector. The enemy detachment which penetrated one of our lines to the east of Nicourt left morning was immediately driven out. "On the right bank of the Meuse the artillery was quite active in the sector of Hill 344, and the front of Chateau Wood. At the latter point an enemy attack, following upon a spirited bombardment, failed under our fire."

"In the period of Jan. 17-20 ten German aeroplanes were brought down. In addition, it is confirmed that four German machines, reported to having been seriously damaged in a preceding period were in reality brought down, thus increasing to nineteen the number of machines destroyed by our pilots from Jan. 1 to 10."

"As a result of an important raid which the Germans made in Belgium, they gained a footing in an advanced position of our first line east of the town of Nicourt."

"These were snatched artillery sections in the vicinity of Avrcourt. Elsewhere the night was calm."

## BELGIAN REPORT.

Brussels Cable — Wednesday's War Office report said: "Aside from the usual dispersal shells, the day of Jan. 22 was marked only by a bombardment, without great intensity. In the region of Schœvebeek and Caeskerke we brought down a German aeroplane. Our batteries shelled the enemy batteries in action, and carried out various fires regulated by the aviators."