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— AT —

A. & S. RODGER'S

War News.

Messages Received
Previous to 9 A. M.

TURKS MASSACRE JEWS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. That thirty Jewish men and women were executed by the Turkish army that surrendered, Jerusalem to General Allenby, on Dec. 10th, was the announcement made here to-day by the Provincial Executive Committee for general Zionist affairs. Many of the prominent residents are included in the number massacred. A father and sister of Aaron Aaronson, head of the Palestine Agricultural Experiment Station, were among the victims. Mr. Aaronson is now in Washington. In the retreat through Galilee the Turks drove 12,000 Jewish survivors northward, where they are in dire need. The committee has undertaken to furnish a minimum of thirty dollars monthly for their relief it was stated.

MORE PEACE TALK.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 27. The Central Powers are ready to make an immediate general peace without compulsory annexations and without contributions. This is their answer through Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister made on Christmas Day at Brest-Litovsk to the Russian proposal, which they are ready to accept more particularly as a basis of negotiations. They insist, however, that the Central Powers can't blind themselves one-sidedly to such conditions without a guarantee that the Allies of Russia will recommend and fulfill these conditions. The Russian delegates asked for a ten day recess in the negotiations in order to put the proposals before Russia's allies.

JELICOE'S RETIREMENT—PRESS COMMENT.

LONDON, Dec. 27. The prominence given to the retirement of Admiral Jellicoe as First Sea Lord in favor of Vice-Admiral Wemyss in the morning newspapers, is commensurate with his great reputation and the place he has long held in public estimation. Notwithstanding the recent severe advertisements concerning the Admiralty from some quarters, several newspapers treat the announcement as a sensational surprise, and two or three accompany their remarks with warm expressions of regret. The Daily Telegraph calls for a fuller official statement and the reasons for Jellicoe's retirement. The Daily Chronicle also regretfully recalls the "well founded public confidence" in Admiral Jellicoe and hopes that those responsible for the change have been guided clearly in their decision. On the other hand, the Daily Mail, which long has campaigned against Jellicoe, says openly that it cannot pretend regret. It adds that Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty, deserves the thanks of the country for not shrinking from a painful duty. The Times, though less frankly outspoken, does not conceal its satisfaction and sees in the change the determination of the Government to give younger men a chance. Although nothing has been stated officially it is implied by the newspapers that Jellicoe did not retire voluntarily, and according to the Telegraph the Government's decision was conveyed to him before Christmas in the form of a bare intimation that it had been determined to appoint a new First Sea Lord. Of his successor the

public knows comparatively little, owing to the fact that he never held a conspicuous command afloat and in the Admiralty until appointed Second Sea Lord last summer. In the Navy, however, Wemyss has a well-established reputation; he has also a large and varied experience in the war, and his services under Admiral de Roebuck at Gallipoli received the unqualified praise of the naval and military authorities.

CANADIAN FLYER KILLED.

FORTWORTH, Texas, Dec. 27. Gordon Mott, Royal Flying Corps of Canada, was killed in Brookfield in a fall to-day.

BANDITS PUNISHED.

MARFA, Texas, Dec. 27. Ten Mexicans who raided Candelaria on Christmas morning were killed and a number wounded, when American cavalry overtook the bandits on the American side of the Rio Grande early to-day. One American soldier was wounded but will recover. Many of the horses stolen were recovered.

POOLING RAILROAD FACILITIES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. Order number one to be issued shortly by the Director General of Railroads will provide for the pooling of all traffic and facilities, the common use of terminals, tracks and equipment, the hauling of freight by short route regardless of the railroad, and all the present officials and employees of the railroads. One effect of this order will be to give a number of railroads terminal facilities which they don't now have in big cities. The Baltimore and Ohio probably will enter New York City at the Pennsylvania Station.

EARTHQUAKE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. An earthquake generally throughout Guatemala yesterday caused the loss of from ten to forty lives and extensive property damage in Guatemala City, the State Department was advised late to-day in a cable despatch from the American Charge there. No mention was made as to damage in the interior.

CHINESE ACTIVE.

TOKIO, Dec. 27. In a fight between Chinese and Russian Maximilian troops at Harbin, Manchuria, Wednesday, the Russians surrendered, were disarmed and made prisoners, according to a report which is considered reliable received here from Harbin. Advances say the Chinese now occupy the garrison at Harbin.

THE MONEY MARKET.

LONDON, Dec. 27. The money market was considerably surprised to-day at the announcement that the rate of interest on Treasury bills had been reduced to four per cent. This indicates that the authorities wish to force the banks to reduce their deposit rates so as to divert deposit funds which are very large and forthcoming dividends into war bonds. It is believed in certain quarters that after deposit rates have been lowered the bank rate will come down early in the New Year. Discounts were lowered in sympathy with the Treasury issue. The stock market was very quiet.

GERMAN DESIGNS IN AFRICA.

LONDON, Dec. 27. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—In an article entitled "The Political Importance of German East Africa," the Cologne Gazette frankly confesses that Germany has for years aimed at the creation of a German wedge divid-

ing Africa from sea to sea. Although Germany in 1911 by treaty with France, apparently made final renunciation of the idea of a great colonial Empire, she really aimed at the creation of a German-Belgian economic area in the Congo basin from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic. Thus when the war commenced, Germany was deliberately exploiting her incomparable geographical position in East Africa. The Cologne Gazette proceeds to say this position constituted a wedge between the English claims to sole domination in East Africa and South Africa, an immovable wedge as long as England did not let it come to a trial of strength. The newspaper confesses great difficulties obstruct Germany's colonial war aims, "but all our wishes will be realized only if by our battles in Europe we can compel England to recognize us as an equal Colonial power and to draw the necessary consequence in the future re-arrangement of Africa."

VENEZUELA'S POSITION.

LONDON, (By Mail.) In reply to several recent allusions in English papers to Venezuela as pro-German, the Venezuelan Charge d'Affaires, Senor Pedro Dominici has issued a statement declaring that the whole policy of the Venezuelan government is pro-American and pro-Entente. A great number of Venezuelans are fighting in France by the side of the Allies, says Senor Dominici, among them being poet Ismael Urdaneta who enlisted as a private, and two officers of the Venezuelan army, Sanchez Garrava and Luis Rawires, both of whom have been wounded many times, and have been decorated with the Legion of Honor and Cross of War by the French. I can furthermore affirm that not one Venezuelan is fighting on the German side. Our commerce with Britain, notwithstanding prohibitions entailed by the war, amounts to many millions and occupies a second place in our country after that of the United States.

NOTHING TO REPORT.

LONDON, Dec. 27. Except for some hostile artillery activity north and east of Ypres, General Haig reports to-day to the British War Office, there was nothing to report last night. On the Macedonian Front—There was no event of importance. Snow and fog is hindering military operations in the mountains.

GERMAN SOCIALISTS ARRESTED.

LONDON, Dec. 27. More than three hundred members of the German minority Socialist Party were arrested on Christmas Eve by the German military authorities, according to a Zurich despatch given out to-day by the wireless press.

FIGHTING IN VERDUN SECTOR.

PARIS, Dec. 27. The Germans made two attacks on the Verdun front to-day, but were not able to break through the French lines, the war office reports. The statement follows: "On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun) the enemy after a very violent bombardment made two attacks on our positions at Caurties Wood. He was not able to break through our lines and left many dead on the ground. There was heavy artillery fighting in the region north of St. Quentin and in the sector of Saignes."

GIVE TUDER A TRIAL.

LONDON, Dec. 27. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Premier Tolan, of New South Wales, who supported Premier Hughes's pro-conscription policy, expresses the

hope the Federal Parliament of Australia will afford Mr. Tudor, leader of the Federal Opposition every reasonable opportunity to test his doctrines regarding voluntarism. Mr. Tudor opposed the government's conscription policy in the recent election.

WILL PAY HER DEBTS.

LONDON, Dec. 15. (Correspondence Associated Press.)—Britain will not repudiate her war debt, declares A. Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in an open letter which he has caused to be published and in which he denounces the rumors that the country would fail to meet some of the liabilities incurred in the war. In his letter the Chancellor states, "I am glad to have an opportunity of dealing with the rumors that are, I find, current throughout the country with regard to the possibility of the Government repudiating its liabilities. I should like to state, and to state as strongly as I can, that in my opinion no British Government present or future will seek to break faith with those who have placed their financial resources at the disposal of the State in this crisis of its history. Repudiation of State liabilities would in my judgment be as disastrous as it would be dishonorable. Nothing after the war will be more important than to preserve and buttress the fabric of national credit, and nothing would so easily undermine it as the refusal of the Government to honor its debts. It would indeed be impossible for a Government, which had destroyed its credit by repudiating its liabilities, ever to borrow again should it be necessary to do so. I will only add this, whatever may be the financial policy of the British Government after the war, I am certain that any discrimination there may be will not be in favor of those who have withheld their money from the State at a time when its needs were greatest."

PLOTTERS ARRESTED.

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 27. A despatch received here from Florianopolis, Brazil, says that a large number of German conspirators have been arrested following the discovery of a plot to overthrow the local authorities. All the Germans were armed. They had been meeting at various times under pretext that they were members of a German society.

CONDEMNNS SCHEME FOR WOODEN SHIPS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. The Shipping Board's wooden ship programme was flatly called a failure to-day by F. A. Bowles, former naval constructor and now assistant to General Manager of the Board's Emergency Fleet Corporation. Summoned before the Senate Committee to shed light on the cause of the delays in building ships, Bowles said the wooden construction venture was a mistake and never should have been attempted. The programme can't be completed on time, he said, because the country can't furnish enough ship timber, the 450 awarded contracts calling for more lumber than is represented in the entire output of southern pine producers for the year. Most of them were placed in the east and south and specify pine timbers. The wooden programme, said Admiral Bowles, was launched on a scale entirely beyond the country's production. The mills in the south have not delivered lumber one half as fast as was necessary and the western mills have been almost as slow. Even if the timber supply had been plentiful the wooden ships couldn't have been built as fast as steel.