

The St. John Standard

VOL. VIII. NO. 228

TWELVE PAGES

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1916.

WEATHER—SNOW

PRICE TWO CENTS

ENTENTE ALLIES REJECT THE OFFER OF CENTRAL POWERS

WITHOUT GUARANTEE PEACE IMPOSSIBLE

Premier David Lloyd-George Delivers Epoch Making Speech In Commons—"We Must Insist That There Must Be Most Complete Guarantee Against Prussian Military Caste Ever Again Disturbing Peace of Europe."—"Prussia Bad Neighbor."

"Now that War Has Really Been Undertaken it Would be Folly Not to See to it that this 'Swash-Buckling' Through the Streets of Europe and this Disturbance of Peaceful Citizens Should Not be Dealt with Here and Now."

London, Dec. 19.—England and the Allies do not propose to enter into peace negotiations without knowledge of Germany's proposals. This was the decision announced in the House of Commons this afternoon by Premier Lloyd George.

"Britain has endorsed every word of Russia's and France's answer," the Premier declared, amid cheers.

Not since the tense days when England was preparing to wage war back in 1914, has there been such a crowd in parliament as there was today. The Premier's announcement was awaited with intense interest.

Epoch-making Address.

"Opening his epoch-making address the British Prime Minister alluded to the terrible responsibility which he felt as the chief adviser to the Crown in the most gigantic war in the history of the world. He spoke carefully in measured terms and was accorded the most intense interest by his vast audience.

"Without reparation, peace is impossible," Lloyd George declared. All the outrages on land and sea cannot be liquidated by a few pious phrases about 'humanity,' he continued.

Proposals As a Noose.

The Premier compared Germany's peace proposals to a noose, wherein England and the Allies were asked to put their heads, while Germany held the loose end of the rope.

The British Premier announced that a formal note responding in this way to the German peace proposals would in a few days be completed and given to the American embassy for transmission to Berlin.

Will Recognize Venizelos.

Premier Lloyd George announced it had been decided to give recognition to the agents of former Premier Venizelos of Greece.

Speaking of the western front, Mr. Lloyd George referred to the growth of the British armies there, and continued:

"I am convinced ultimate victory is sure if the nation shows the same spirit of endurance and readiness to learn as the mud-stained armies at the front."

Turning to the more purely political side of the domestic problems before the new ministry, Mr. Lloyd George said:

"We are anxious to avoid all controversial questions. The functions of the Premier and leader of the House of Commons have been separated because it was believed the double tasks were too much for one man."

Suffered Disaster.

"The organization of the new cabinet is best adapted for the purpose of war. In war you want prompt decision, and the Allies have suffered disaster after disaster from tardiness of decision.

"Premier Lloyd George said the time had come when the Dominions should be consulted more formally as to the war. An imperial conference would be summoned at an early date to discuss vital questions.

"The speech of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg before the German Reichstag was characterized by Mr. Lloyd George as constituting in substance a denial of the only terms upon which peace was possible.

The premier analyzed the German chancellor's speech and then declared emphatically:

Lacks Guarantees.

"Without reparation peace is impossible. Moreover, what guarantee is there that subterfuge will not be used in future to overthrow any treaties of peace whereto we might now enter?"

"We must keep a steadfast eye on the purpose for which we entered the war. We entered it to defend Europe from aggressions of the Prussian military caste. We must insist that there be the most complete guarantees against this caste ever disturbing again the peace of Europe.

Opposes "Swash-buckling."

"Prussia has been a bad neighbor. Now that the war has really been undertaken it would be folly not to see to it that this swash-buckling through the streets of Europe, and this disturbance of peaceful citizens was dealt with here and now as the most serious offense against the law of nations.

Excessive Profits.

Announcement was made by Mr. Lloyd George that more drastic steps would be taken regarding excess profits.

SOME PUNGENT REMARKS BY PREMIER LLOYD-GEORGE

London, Dec. 19.—The following are a few of the most striking sentences from the latter part of Mr. Lloyd George's speech:

"An absolutely new army. The old had done its duty and spent itself in the achievement of that great task. This is a new army. A year ago it was ore in the earth of Britain—yes, and of Ireland. It became iron. It has passed through the fiery furnace, and the enemy knows that it is now fine steel. An absolutely new army. New men, new officers taken from schools, boys from schools, from colleges, from counting houses, never trained to war, never thought of war; many perhaps, never handled a weapon of war; generals never given an opportunity of handling great masses of men.

Great German Army.

"They have faced the greatest army in the world, the greatest army the world has ever seen, the best equipped, the best trained, and they have beaten them, beaten them, beaten them.

"Battle after battle, day after day, week after week, in the strongest entrenchments ever devised by human skill, they have driven them out by valor, valor which is incredible when you realize the story of it. . . . I have no doubt that the old cabinets were better adapted to navigate the parliamentary river, with its shoals and shifting sands, and perhaps for a cruise in home waters. But a cabinet of twenty-three was rather too heavy for a gale. I do not say that this new craft is best adapted for parliamentary navigation, but I am convinced that it is best for war.

Meaning of Cabinet of Five.

"It is true that in a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom. That was written for Oriental countries in peace time. You can't run a war with a Sanhedrin. That is the meaning of our cabinet of five, and of its members doing sentry duty outside, manning the ways and defending the council chamber against attack, while we are trying to do our work inside.

"You can't have absolute equality in sacrifice. In war that is impossible. But you can have equal readiness to sacrifice from all. There are hundreds of thousands who have given their lives; there are millions who have given their blood.

great. I simply stand here to give clear and definite support to the statements they have made."

Fighting for Life.

"The nation is fighting for life," said Mr. Lloyd George, and is entitled to the best services of all citizens. The government has been fortunate in inducing Neville Chamberlain, lord mayor of Birmingham, to accept the post of director-general under this scheme. He will immediately proceed to organize a system of enrollment for industrial purposes.

"In reference to the mobilization of labor Mr. Lloyd George said it had been decided to adopt the principle of universal national service, and that a new department of two sections, military and civil, would be created. It was proposed to have a scheduling of industries, certain trades being regarded as indispensable and labor being provided for them.

"Volunteers would be asked to come forward for this work, but if they did not do so the government would not shrink from asking for compulsory powers.

"In the course of his speech Mr. Lloyd George referred briefly to his break with Mr. Asquith, saying:

No Quarrel with Asquith.

"It is one of the deepest regrets of my life that I parted from Mr. Asquith, and some of my friends have known how I strove to avert the parting. I am proud to say we never had a personal quarrel. It was with the deepest regret that I found it necessary to send my resignation."

"After making his announcement in regard to the nationalization of shipping, Mr. Lloyd George said the shipping controller was now conferring with the admiralty, and that he hoped it would be possible shortly to announce not merely the plan for more effective use of ships on the register, but for the construction of ships to make good the wastage of war.

The Food Problem.

"Turning to the food problem, the premier said: 'The main facts are plain. The harvests of the United States and

en comfortable homes and exchanged them for daily communion with death. Multitudes have given up those whom they loved best. Let the nation, as a whole place its comforts, its luxuries, its indulgences, its elegances on the national altar consecrated by such sacrifices as these men have made. Let us proclaim, during the war, a national Lent. The nation will be better and stronger for it, mentally and morally, as well as physically. It will strengthen its fibre and ennoble its spirit. Without it we shall not get the full benefit of this struggle.

"Our armies have driven the enemy out of the battered villages of France and across the devastated plains of Belgium. They might hurt him across the Rhine in battered disarray, but unless the nation, as a whole, shoulders part of the burden of victory it won't profit by the triumph, for it is not what a nation gains, but what it gives that makes it great.

Premier's Peroration.

"The premier's peroration was as follows:

"If, in this war, I have paid scant heed to the call of party, it is because I realized from the moment the Prussian cannon hurled death at a peaceable and inoffensive little country that a challenge had been sent to civilization to decide an issue higher than party, deeper than party, wider than all parties, an issue upon the settlement of which will depend the fate of the men in this world for generations, when existing parties will have fallen, like dead leaves on the highway.

"These issues are the issues I want to keep in front of the nation, so that we shall not falter or faint in our resolutions."

"There is a time in every prolonged and fierce war, when, in the passion and rage of conflict, men forget the high purpose with which they entered it. This is a struggle for international right, international honor, international good faith—the chase along which peace, honor and good will must flow among men.

"The embankments laboriously built up by generations of men against barbarism have been broken, and had not the might of Britain passed into the breach Europe would have been inundated with a flood of savagery and unbridled lust of power."

Canada are failures, and the Argentine promises badly. Russia is unavailable, and our own harvest is poor, while only three-eighths of the normal winter sowing has taken place, owing to bad weather. Under these circumstances the late government decided to appoint a food controller.

"We appeal to the nation to assist the government in distributing our resources, so that no man shall suffer hunger because somebody else has too much," said Mr. Lloyd George in referring to the food problem. That means sacrifice. But the men on the Somme are enduring far greater sacrifices.

"We cannot have equality of sacrifices, but we can have equal readiness for sacrifices from all. Let the nation place its comforts, luxuries and indulgences on an altar consecrated to the fighting men. Let us proclaim a national Lent during the war. It will strengthen our fibre, our spirit.

Schooner Lost With All on Board

Digby, N. S., Dec. 19.—The American schooner William Mason from Perth Amboy, N. J., Dec. 6 for Yarmouth, with a cargo of hard coal, is believed to have been lost with all on board in the terrific gale that swept over the Nova Scotia coast on Friday night. The vessel registered 388 tons and was commanded by Captain Patterson.

The top of the cabin with the bodies of Benjamin Mathews and James Apt was washed ashore at Meteghan Bay, St. Mary's Bay.

WAR WILL GO ON UNTIL HUNS MAKE REPARATION

"There Must Be Ample Returns For All Sacrifices," Says Earl Curzon In Announcing Government's Policy In House of Lords.

Government's Aim is That Peace of Europe Shall Be Re-Established on Basis of Free and Independent Existence of Nations—Germany Apparently In Desperate Str. Its.

London, Dec. 19.—In presenting the policy of the government in the House of Lords, Earl Curzon, who is a member of the new war council, said:

"The policy of the new government is that the war must be conducted with the utmost prosecution; that there must be an ample return for all sacrifices; that full reparation must be made by the enemy for his countless crimes, and security given that these crimes will not be repeated and that the sacrifices made shall not have been in vain.

"The government's aim is that the peace of Europe shall be re-established on the basis of the free and independent existence of nations, great and small, and as regards this country it shall be free from the menace which the triumph of Germany and the German spirit would entail.

Answer to Germany. "Our answer to Germany's latest move must be swift and sure. It is not too much to ask the people to take upon themselves, for a few months, the obligations which Germany has imposed on herself. The nation is fighting for its life, and is entitled to the best and fullest service of its sons.

Alluding to the position of Roumania, Lord Curzon said that Germany's success was by no means as important as she was trying to make out.

"Evidence is forthcoming of the desperate straits of Germany at home and in the field," he said.

"The position of the Central Powers is not so good as they would have the world believe. Our attitude should not be one of despondency or alarm."

Lord Curzon spoke for an hour and twenty minutes, and was followed by the Marquis of Crewe, lord president of the council in the last government, who approved in general terms, the policy outlined by his successor, Lord Curzon, touching peace. He said: "We have not much hope that Germany's peace offer will lead to anything. The offer, however, seems an indication of the strength of the pressure of our blockade. If peace were made on German terms, while the present age may not see war again, nobody can say that our children will not witness another war, with greater horrors. We must carry it on to the last man and the last shilling."

BOSTON REJECTS SUNDAY'S ADVICE AND VOTES FOR LICENSE BY 23,462 MAJORITY

Special to The Standard.

Boston, Dec. 19.—The impassioned appeals of Billy Sunday, the spectacular fire-eating evangelist, to make Boston "dry" fell on deaf ears, apparently. Boston, at the annual city election today voted for licensing the sale of intoxicating liquor, \$3,459, against 23,997.

The vote last year stood; yes, 46,115; no, 31,877.

Sunday's Methods.

Last night Sunday delivered a series of diatribes against the saloon. One of his drives was: "Every barroom is a recruiting station for a hell, a rat hole into which the working man shoves his wages. But the saloon will be put out of business and by the men who have patronized it."

Billy was a disappointed man to-night when he heard the returns. The campaign for no license in this city of 750,000 persons has been pushed with an energy never previously approached.

Evangelistic services conducted by Sunday have been devoted largely to lectures on temperance and his "trial bitter" at many meetings have been pledged to vote "No." The Massachusetts Anti-Saloon League, which has charge of the no-license activities, kept a big force of orators, moving picture exhibitors and pamphlet distributors at work for weeks.

License For 41 Years.

Those favoring continued license have pointed out through the press and at public meetings, that Boston has been a license city for forty-one consecutive years, that the annual revenue from licenses amounts to approximately \$2,000,000 and that 15,000 persons are employed in the business by dealers who pay annual rentals amounting to \$10,000,000.

The narrowest margin ever recorded on the liquor question here was in 1892 when the yes majority was 11,400.

Paris, Dec. 19.—Premier Briand announced in the senate today that the Entente Allies would send, tomorrow, a concerted reply making known to the "Central Powers" that it is impossible to take their request for peace seriously.

M. Briand deprecated reproaches against the government at this grave period, "because the men in power must be able to work with the necessary freedom of mind, have uninterrupted confidence at home and for their actions abroad, and our allies must not be allowed to think that our government is under suspicion and the menace of interpellation.

"I am ready," Mr. Briand continued, "to make way at any time for he who may be judged more worthy than I."