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PEACE PROPOSALS TO ALL; SO RUSSIA LEARNS FROM CENTRALS

Petrograd Press Reports Announcement; Bolsheviki Asked to Sound Allies; London Says Negotiations With Russia Assume Aspect of Importance

Petrograd, Dec. 19.—According to press reports, Russia has been informed by the Central Powers that they intend to make peace proposals to the Allies. This report is published in the Evening Post, which says the representatives of the Central Powers, at the first preliminary peace conference with the Russians, held yesterday, announced that their governments intended on principle to put the question of peace before all the powers, and that they had asked their allies to do likewise. Russia was requested to take similar steps. It is said the Russians are endeavoring by all means to sound the Allies.

London Opinion.

London, Dec. 20.—Peace negotiations between Russia and the Central Powers, an armistice having been reached, are assuming an aspect of importance. Dr. Von Kuhlmann, German foreign secretary, and Count Czernin, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, are both said to be on their way to Brest-Litovsk, accompanied by advisory suites. It is also indicated from Berlin that the main committee of the Reichstag will be summoned to meet in special session in connection with these negotiations, and some German newspapers interpret this as showing that the will of that body's representatives is about to assert itself.

Another result of the armistice is that Ensign Krylenko, the Bolsheviki commander-in-chief, has been able to move divisions from the northern front against General Kaledine, who is reported to be gaining new successes. There is no direct confirmation of a report that former Premier Kerensky is in the vicinity of Petrograd with an army.

A despatch from Tampere, Finland, says that the Russian troops are preparing to evacuate Finland and that their transportation already has been arranged.

Balk at 'Self Definition.'

The Evening Post says the Germans have officially invited the Bolsheviki headquarters that the Central Powers are ready to consider the terms of peace on the basis of no annexations and no indemnities, but pointed out that self-determination of nations was impracticable. The representatives of the Central Powers informed the Russians that they were ready to discuss peace preliminaries, but desired to know the result of Russia's efforts to induce the Allies to join in the negotiations before proceeding with them. They said that point of view might be changed, however, and that they might be willing to discuss peace with Russia alone. The Germans were of the opinion that the Russian armistice might influence the others to a discussion of who would participate in the negotiations.

The first conference was devoted merely to a discussion of who would participate in the negotiations. Opposition to Bolsheviki.

Petrograd, Dec. 19.—The Rada, the governing body of the Ukraine, has sent a negative answer to the ultimatum of the council of people's commissaries, the Bolsheviki government.

The Ukrainian Rada and the Bolsheviki government in Petrograd have been at odds since the successful revolution of the Maximilians early in November. The ultimatum referred to probably is the demand made by the Bolsheviki that the Rada permit the troops to go through the Ukraine to aid in putting down the Kaledine revolt.

Petrograd, Dec. 19.—Orenburg Cosacs opposing the Bolsheviki have occupied Tcheliabinsk, a junction on the trans-Siberian railway, according to a report received by the Don. The town is 860 miles northwest of Orenburg and 125 miles west of the Siberian border.

Petrograd, Dec. 19.—The Bolsheviki newspapers are complaining that the presence of the Allies' military missions in the Ukraine is encouraging General Kaledine, leader of the counter revolution against the Maximilianist government.

An Ultimatum.

London, Dec. 18.—The Bolsheviki government, according to Petrograd advices, has sent an ultimatum to the Ukrainian Rada. It demands that within forty-eight hours a decision be made whether the Ukraine will cease to assist General Kaledine by sending some troops while forbidding passage to the Bolsheviki government troops, and also whether it will stop disarming troops in the Ukraine.

Petrograd, Dec. 17.—The commissariat of justice is preparing a decree reinstating the death penalty for "enemies of the nation."

SENTENCED TO PRISON; NOW READY TO FIGHT.

Woodstock, Ont., Dec. 20.—James Curran of West Oxford was sentenced yesterday to two years in Kingston penitentiary on a charge of desertion, under the provisions of the military service act. He had made no attempt to report for duty, although eligible. After sentence he expressed a willingness to fight for his country.

Unionist Wins

Edmonton, Alta., Dec. 20.—In the Battle River constituency, Blue government was defeated by 600 over Warner, Liberal.

Wretched Children Give Picture Of Austrian Suffering

Geneva, Switzerland, Dec. 20.—Living proofs of the terrible economic conditions in Austria were furnished by the arrival at Bern, on the frontier, of 376 Vienna and other Austrian towns. The children had not tasted milk for months. They had received bad bread in the last few days, and there was no fuel in their homes. The children are being distributed among various places in Switzerland until their health is restored.

THE MARGIN OF LOSSES AT SEA IS LESSENING

Statement in Commons By Premier Lloyd George

SINKING MORE SUBMARINES

Also Building More Ships—Russian Collapse Has Deferred Realization of Hopes in the Military Situation—Close Co-operation in Use of Transport

London, Dec. 20.—Speaking in the House of Commons today Premier Lloyd George said that the margin of losses at sea was narrowing. The sinkings by submarines, he declared, was decreasing while shipbuilding was increasing.

The premier said the sinking of submarines was increasing. Although the merchant tonnage was down 20 per cent, he added, the loss should only be six per cent of imports over that of last year. Regarding the military situation, Lloyd George said it was still to be expected that the hopes formed had been realized. This disappointment, he attributed to the Russian collapse.

Paris, Dec. 20.—Close co-operation in utilizing means of maritime transport has been realized by the Allies, says an official note issued here today, supplementing a statement made at the time of the inter-allied conference concluded at London. It was announced at that time that the Allies had decided to create an organization for co-ordination of maritime activities, and today's statement says this council has been created, consisting of representatives of the United States, France, Great Britain and Italy.

The council will draw up schedules for the division of tonnage in accordance with the needs of each country for food supplies and war purposes. A board will be created in each country to decide on utilization of the tonnage placed at the disposal of that country. The French board will be composed of Etienne Clémentel, minister of communications; Victor Boret, minister of agriculture; and M. Jeanneney, under secretary for war; M. Lemeroy, under secretary for maritime affairs; M. Serret, under secretary for finance; and representatives of the army, navy, chiefs of staff and chambers of commerce.

London, Dec. 20.—Fourteen British merchantmen of more than 1,600 tons and three under that tonnage were sunk by mine or submarine during the week. One fishing vessel was also sunk.

Boston Led in Club Fielding.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—The Chicago Americans, the team which won the world's championship, was in the lead today with a total of 572, was five points to the good in this department.

P. E. I. Marine Inquiry.

Halifax, Dec. 20.—Captain Demers, wreck commissioner, who is sitting on the Mont Blanc-Imo inquiry here, has instructions to proceed to Prince Edward Island to make an inquiry into a marine mishap there.

Phelix and Phredford WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stewart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis.—The weather has been mild from the Great Lakes eastward with some light falls of rain in Ontario and snow in Quebec, while it has become somewhat colder in Manitoba.

Lakes and Georgian Bay, Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence Valleys—Fresh southwest winds, cloudy with occasional rain today and on Friday.

Lower St. Lawrence—Cloudy with occasional snow or rain today and on Friday.

Gulf and North Shore—Fresh southwest winds, cloudy and mild with some light local snow or rain today and on Friday.

Snow or Rain.

Maritime.—Moderate to fresh northeast and east winds, cloudy, some light snow or rain on Friday.

Lake Superior—Fresh winds, shifting to northeast and north, local falls of rain and snow, colder tonight and on Friday.

Manitoba—Fair and colder.

Saskatchewan and Alberta—Fair, not much change in temperature.

New England—Cloudy and unsettled tonight. Friday, rain or snow, not much change in temperature, light south winds.

SOME PERTINENT QUESTIONS BY HALIFAX PAPER

Why Were Mont Blanc and Imo Permitted to Meet in Narrows?

WHAT ABOUT NAVAL PATROL?

Chronicle Says Inquiry Should Cover These Points—Unclaimed Dead to Be Buried on Next Saturday—Investigation of Cases of Alien Residents

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 20.—"The public have the right to know," says the Morning Chronicle, "under what authority the Mont Blanc was allowed to approach the Narrows, proceeding inward towards Bedford Basin at the very moment when the Imo was outward bound. The naval authorities, as we understand, control all movements of all ships inward and outward. It is imperative that the public should know by whose authority the Imo was ordered to leave her anchorage in Bedford Basin at a time when it must have been plain to the competent naval authority that the two ships would meet in or near the narrow waterway which leads from the inner harbor to the basin."

"It is also imperative," says the Chronicle, "not only for the purpose of this investigation, but for the city security, that it should be ascertained why a proper patrol was not maintained by naval craft to keep the course clear for the numerous boats of various sorts at their command in this harbor, but so far as we have learned, none of them had been employed in escorting the Mont Blanc on her way to Bedford Basin. Why? The public have a right to know why there are other precautions which we might mention were not taken, and above all, why the risk of allowing these two steamers to meet in this narrow waterway was taken."

It may be that, technically, the jurisdiction of the court does not cover this line of inquiry, but this is not too grave a matter to be governed by technical rules. If the court is not clothed with power, the proper authorities should at once see to it that it is given plenary jurisdiction to deal with all these matters and everything else which is calculated to throw any light upon the disaster, so as to ensure that there shall be complete safeguards for the future."

To bury the Unclaimed.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 20.—Arthur S. Barnstead, chairman of the mortuary committee, gave public notice today that all the unclaimed bodies of the Mont Blanc and Imo are to be buried on December 22, unless sooner removed from the mortuary by relatives or friends.

There are now 117 bodies at the mortuary.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 20.—Lieut. Governor Grant has received from Governor Willocks of Bermuda a message, stating that the Bermuda legislature has voted \$200 for Halifax relief and that private subscriptions there today total \$1,800.

Governor Manning has also a message from Governor Manning of Jamaica, stating that the legislature there has voted \$1,000 for Halifax relief.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 20.—Residents of alien nationality in Halifax, who were taken into custody and interned immediately after the explosion, have had their cases investigated. An official of the department of justice has arrived here from Ottawa for this purpose.

INTERN EVERY ONE OF THEM, IF NECESSARY

United States Means Business If Enemy Aliens Do Not Act Right

New York, Dec. 20.—Warning that if it is deemed necessary to intern every enemy alien to win the war, the government will not hesitate to act, was given by Thomas D. McCarthy, United States marshal, in an address last night to an audience composed chiefly of German-Americans. He urged his hearers to carry the message to their friends, and tell them finally that America has never failed in anything she has undertaken.

J. F. Wischhausen, who was born near Bremen, and has been a resident of the United States only two years, described the efforts of the German and Austrian governments "to cripple freedom of thought of the common people. Just compare the life of the people here with our life in this land of freedom and opportunity," he said. "The interests of America are our interests, so let us consider our duty to our new country."

German-Americans! throw out your chests. You say you are loyal. Make your loyalty notorious. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Talk about the stars in your service flag and tell why they are there."

AMERICAN WIRELESS SERVICE HALF WAY ROUND GLOBE

Washington, Dec. 20.—A wireless message relayed yesterday, from Admiral Knight at Cavite, P. I., to Secretary Daniels here announced completion of the chain of government radio stations half way round the globe.

From the Philippines the message was flashed 7,000 miles to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, then to the Pacific coast and finally across the continent to Arlington.

GERMANS HAVE 154 DIVISIONS WEST

Nearly Equal to Mightiest Army They Have Ever Assembled; Portugese Win North of Arras; Enemy Loses More Air Machines

TEACHERS IN SESSION IN CITY

Washington, Dec. 20.—Germany's strength on the Franco-British front is placed in official despatches at 154 divisions or within one division of the great force amassed there last July when the German military effort against France was at its maximum.

Withdrawals from Russia and drafts upon the younger classes of reservists have enabled the Kaiser not only to make up the enormous losses suffered in bloody battles with the Allies, but to replace the men sent to aid the Austrians in their invasion of Italy. Winter, therefore, finds Germany with armies facing the Allies in France very nearly equal to the largest before mustered, with advertisement of a great offensive, which may presage another peace proposal.

The Allies, however, are understood to maintain a considerable superiority in numbers on the French front.

Portuguese Defeat Germans.

London, Dec. 20.—Portuguese troops near Lavelite, north of Arras, last night repulsed an attempted German raid, according to an official statement issued today from British headquarters in France. The German artillery was active in the Ypres sector.

French Report.

Paris, Dec. 20.—The official statement issued today by the war office says: "There was moderate artillery activity along the front last night. There were no infantry actions."

The Airman.

London, Dec. 20.—Aviation activities by the British army air service are reported in an official statement last night as follows: "On Tuesday a thick haze again limited flying to the northern part of the front where a great deal of artillery photographic work was done. During the day over 100 bombs were dropped on the enemy's railway stations, sidings and trenches and many rounds were fired from the air into trenches and billets."

"Fighting in the air on this part of the front was intense all day and resulted greatly in our favor. Seven hostile machines were brought down by our fighters and one was shot down in our lines by anti-aircraft gun fire and another by the fire of our infantry. Three others were driven down out of control, three of our machines are missing."

"After dark yesterday our airplanes bombed the St. Denis Western, Roulers and Lecherdele airbases and the Thourout, Ledeghem, Cambrai and Menin railways. All of our machines returned."

Our Casualties.

London, Dec. 18.—British casualties reported in the week ending today totalled 17,976, as follows: Officers killed or died of wounds, 381; men, 3,181; officers wounded or missing, 1,639; men, 13,429.

WUNDSY DAYS FOR THE FLOUR MILLS

Calgary, Dec. 20.—It is learned that the purchasing representatives of the Allied governments have arranged to take all the surplus flour and oatmeal manufactured in Canada, and that already every mill is working to capacity and will continue to do so until the war is over.

WAR NOTES

British airman on Monday accounted for four German machines. One Britisher is missing.

The Norwegian steamer Moidag has been torpedoed with the loss of three men. The Narvon was sunk by a mine and five of her crew killed.

Only three little Italian vessels were seen in the last week.

The French government is discontinuing the Bulletin Des Armes, a weekly paper published for the soldiers at the front. Economy is the reason.

Speaks Of Wild Stories Current In Halifax

Halifax, Dec. 20.—That a state of hysteria existed here as a result of the disaster of December 6, was stated this morning by C. J. Burchell, K. C., counsel for the owners of the steamship Imo. The story had gone abroad, he said, that there had been a German spy on the Imo and other rumors of similar nature had spread. Even today was named as the time for an expected second explosion. He suggested the desirability of steps being taken to allay the hysteria. Mr. Justice Drysdale replied that he felt such steps were not within the scope of the court.

Before the court adjourned for lunch, Mr. Burchell referred to possible adjournment for two weeks. Judge Drysdale said that the court proposed to sit until the evidence of all witnesses who were had been a German spy on the Imo and other rumors of similar nature had spread. Even today was named as the time for an expected second explosion. He suggested the desirability of steps being taken to allay the hysteria. Mr. Justice Drysdale replied that he felt such steps were not within the scope of the court.

Actual Work in Steel Cargo Ships Programme Is Begun

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 20.—Marking the actual beginning of production of standardized 5,000 ton steel cargo ships for the United States government, Charles R. Page of the United States shipping board, today drove the first rivet in the first of these vessels at a large shipyard near here which has been rushed to completion in seventy-six days.

The keels of two similar vessels are to be laid this month. The programme of the private corporation building the ships calls for the completion of 150 of the cargo boats in the next possible time.