

The Herald

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20, 1916

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR.

TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

AT 81 QUEEN STREET

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.

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More Peace Offers

It is characteristic of the German desire to bluff the world that just after the Teutonic armies have gained a temporary success in Roumania Berlin offers to make peace and announces that the other nations comprising the Teutonic Alliance will join in the offer.

It must be admitted that the move is a shrewd one undertaken to gain for Germany the sympathy of neutral nations as well as to secure a larger measure of public support at home, for if the other is refused—and that it should be accepted is unthinkable—Germany will have an opportunity to pose at home and abroad as a martyr nation forced to fight on and on, and to slay and maim, after its offer of a way out of bloodshed and slaughter had been refused by an enemy bent on the "destruction and dismemberment of Germany," as the German statement puts it. Undoubtedly this is the card Germany will try to play now, but the offer will not be successful.

The story of Hun brutality and blood lust is written too deeply on the history of the world to be offset by any such grandstand play, made when Berlin realized that she had passed her maximum of effort and for the future must face certain defeat.

Nothing is yet known of the German terms, but no knowledge is required at this time for the day when Germany could have honorably proposed "pour parlers" in the direction of peace has passed. It is not now a question of terms but of punishment and the war can only cease when and as the Allies desire.

The sheer brassy impertinence of the proposal will amaze the world. It could only come from a nation who permitted the spoliation and enslavement of Belgium, indiscriminate murder of helpless non-combatants on land and sea, and the investiture of modern warfare with all the product of a devilish and perverted ingenuity. It is particularly interesting, too, that the proposal should come just when Britain, France and Russia have made arrangements to speed up the task of punishing the Central Powers. In Britain the entire nation is consecrated to the war. With a reconstructed ministry composed of men who will be expected to subordinate all else to the triumph of British arms, with a navy greater than ever with land forces more powerful than at any time since the outbreak of hostilities, with an ever increasing supply of munitions and war materials, and with a united Empire willing to make any sacrifice, endure any hardship rather than suffer the humiliation of a drawn battle with the forces of Prussianism, Great Britain has only commenced to fight. France, too, is ready to take hold with renewed vigor while mighty Russia's millions are gradually coming to her colors and already the effect of the Bear's claws is being felt in the East.

The Roumanians may be beaten although even that is not yet established, but the fact remains that for Germany the most serious period in the whole war is commencing, and at this juncture Berlin impudently announces that she is willing to consider proposals for peace. The time is

not yet at hand. When peace proposals come it will be on such terms as will place upon the erring Hun the burden of the struggle they have forced upon humanity, terms that will reduce Prussianism to a position where it will never again inflict its baneful influence upon the world. And those terms will be dictated by London, and Paris, and Petrograd, and Rome, and the smaller nations in defence of whose rights the greater powers of the Entente drew the sword. Berlin and Vienna, and Constantinople, and Sofia, will have a say in the negotiations, it is true, but it is likely to be confined to an undignified acceptance of whatever terms the victors choose to offer. The Entente Allies will fight on until their task is completed. And in that decision they will have the support and endorsement of the civilized world.

Britain's New Premier

We give below a lengthy extract from an editorial in the "Christian Science Monitor," on "The New Prime Minister."

The Liberals had been in power for upwards of ten years, and during most of that time Mr. Asquith had led them from victory to victory. Mr. Asquith indeed seemed to have succeeded to Elijah's mantle, as represented by that of Mr. Gladstone, with an ability which made him indispensable to the party. Moreover, the Liberals were, actually speaking, in a minority to the Unionists in the House, and were dependent for their supremacy on the votes of the Labor and the Irish parties. Mr. Lloyd George had deeply offended a large section of the Labor Party. To these men he was indeed the "Lost Leader." Only quite recently, indeed, a member of the House of Commons, belonging to the advanced section insisted to a representative of this paper that the word "Ichabod" might be written across the then Secretary of State for War's career. Yet when the crisis came, and when the future of the country, as he saw it, demanded action, there was no hesitation on his part. He handed his resignation to the Prime Minister, and appealed for support not only to the Liberals, not only to the Labor Party, not only to moderate conservative opinion, but even to the most reactionary conservative elements in the Kingdom. A section of organized labor, as represented by the Independent Labor Party, remained irreconcilable, but labor, as represented by the great Labor Party, consented to enter into his Cabinet, as did Liberalism, Unionism, and even, if the word can be regarded as descriptive today, Toryism. What, in short, on Wednesday, has been regarded as a forlorn hope, passed, by Thursday, into a concrete reality, when the new Prime Minister accepted the seals from the King, at Buckingham Palace.

The Cabinet formed in this way is essentially a war Cabinet. It contains elements which it would, in times of peace, have been an impossibility to combine. Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lloyd George have, it is true, always maintained a warm political friendship, and in the very midst of the smoke of a party battle, and a party battle of extreme violence, have succeeded in retaining not merely a superficial, but an actual respect for and kindly criticism of one another. But Mr. Balfour, the metaphysician of politics, has never been a comprehensible figure to the Labor Party, the members of which, as the war goes on, are gradually learning better to understand him. What all this may mean, by the day that peace comes, it is impossible to say. The asperities of political life can never be so bitter between men who have worked together, and learned much of one another's worth, as they were, in the old days, when prejudice disguised this best which

was in every party from all other parties. It seems, indeed, an impossible thing that the party ditch can ever yawn so wide between all these men again.

This is one of the benefits which are accruing from the war. It is only necessary to study very superficially the mere outline of the policy which the new Prime Minister has put forward, in order to understand that great changes are foreshadowed, the results of which it will not be possible to terminate with the war. For better or for worse, as the party politician may see it, the United Kingdom has emerged from the era that has lain between today and the day of the great Reform Bill, Parliaments which meet at Westminster after the signing of peace will vary as much from the Parliaments which were held there, before the war as the Reform Parliament itself varied from the old Parliaments of the days of the "Rotten Boroughs." It is the war that has done this thing, or rather which has forced this condition of things to the front. For what parties would have wrangled over for decades, in times of peace, parties are united in accomplishing, today, in an era of war.

The Cabinet makers have no luck. Week by week, for many months, they accepted Lord Kitchener's resignation with unwearied pertinacity, and it never came. And now when Lord Grey does resign, they with cheerful alacrity choose his successor, and again no luck. Lord Milner, Lord Curzon, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Lloyd George himself, even Lord Northcliffe, everyone almost but the right man—Mr. Balfour. None of the prophets thought of him. Surely it is time that they hid their faces.

The order, just issued by the British Board of Trade, limiting evening dinners in places of public entertainment to three courses, and other meals to two courses, represents by no means a new departure in the business of government in England. As far back as the reign of Edward III an act was passed which declared that no one, of whatever rank or estate should be allowed more than two courses at dinner, or more than two kinds of food at each course. An exception could be made on the principal yearly feast days, but even on those occasions the banquet was restricted to three courses.

I would be interesting to know what the term "public park" will mean ten years from now. That the expression at present means something quite different from what it meant a decade ago, is brought out in the announcement that a model park, being planned by a New Hampshire town, is to include a football field, three baseball diamonds, two tennis courts, race tracks, jumping pits, and three playgrounds for boys and two for girls. Just what the sedate adult will be expected to do in such a place is not mentioned. He will, however, at all times have the opportunity of playing the role of the interested spectator.

"Something has happened on which I think it necessary that I should say a word. Naturally the papers are full of the peace proposals from Berlin. Until now no proposals have reached His Majesty's government. It is obvious that under these circumstances no member of the government can make any statement on the subject. Considering the nature of the country and how entirely its energies had been devoted to peace it is marvelous to consider how she had been organized for war. These words were the only ones which directly referred to the peace proposals from Berlin which Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, uttered when he spoke in the House of Commons in moving a

credit of £400,000,000, on the 14th. The vote of credit was passed unanimously. Yesterday Premier Lloyd George, roughly defined the Entente Allies peace terms. These leave Germany under no doubt concerning the determination of the Allies to prosecute the war with the utmost vigor until a victory which will make these terms possible has been secured.

Progress of the War

New York, Dec. 12.—An Association Press despatch from Washington says: Despatches to the German embassy, telling of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg's action in calling in the neutral diplomats and transmitting the peace proposals of the Central Powers, arrived after the news despatches. The terms for the restoration of Belgium and portions of France gave no indication, so far as is known, of stipulations such as generally have been expected by the Allies, although they did not absolutely dispose of their possibility. It was indicated that while the German allies might not entirely expect that the proposals would actually cause a peace conference, they were not without hope that they would and they were hopeful at least that they would be the means of getting the belligerents together in some manner to discuss the situation, and this it was expected would lead to a basis for peace.

In German quarters the crisis in the British cabinet, the coming of winter and the lull in the fighting, are given as reasons for making the peace proposals at this time. Should the offer be declined, it is said here, it will be made again next fall, and if necessary the fall after that. Another of the objects, it is explained by German diplomats, is to force a "show-down," and establish whether the Entente Allies are willing to make peace, or whether it is their intention to crush Germany and dismember her. Germany, they say, is convinced of the ability and strength of the enemies to continue the war on its present or even greater scale for ten years, if necessary, and is no less confident of her own ability to do so.

London, Dec. 14.—The announcement of the Teutonic Allies of their readiness to discuss peace with the Entente Allies continues the absorbing feature in the war news. As yet, however, no announcement has been vouchsafed as to the basis on which they desire to attempt to bring an end to the war. Neither has there come from any of the Entente countries any official announcement as to the attitude they purpose to take with regard to the proposal. Meantime the conquest of Roumania by the Teutonic Allies continues. All along the front the Roumanians are in retreat northeastward, and the Ninth German army is nearing the important railroad junction town of Buzau.

In the Carpathians and along the Moldavian frontier the Russians and Germans are still at grips, with the Russians the aggressors at most points. There is little, if any, change in the situation in those regions, however. Heavy artillery fighting is in progress north of Mostar, Serbia. Otherwise calm prevails. A new feature in the Balkan situation is a report from Sofia that 6,000 Albanians have defeated a force of Italians near Pansesina, Epirus, the Italians fleeing. On the front in France and Belgium and in the Russian and Austro-Italian theatres there is little activity aside from artillery duels.

London, Dec. 14.—The war office communication issued tonight says: "Hostile patrols endeavored to enter our trenches last night east of Armentieres, but were driven off. There was the usual artillery activity throughout the day at different points along our front. We parried off bombardments of the enemy's trenches in the neighborhood of Festubert, Neuve Chapelle and Ypres."

London, Dec. 14.—The war office tonight issued the following

communication: "Last night enemy trenches were entered by us in the neighborhood of Monchy-Au-Bois, south of Arras. A number of casualties were inflicted. Dugouts filled with German troops were bombarded. A raid was attempted against our trenches in the neighborhood of Hulluch, but the enemy failed to enter them. Prisoners were left in our hands. The usual artillery activity continued today on both sides. Our bombardment of an enemy dump in the neighborhood of Pys (northeast of Albert) set fire to the material collected there, causing large clouds of smoke."

Paris, Dec. 15, via London.—The French troops, in an advance today north of Douaumont, and between the Meuse and Woivre rivers, captured more than 7,500 prisoners and several heavy guns, according to the French official communication issued this evening. The advance was over a front of ten kilometres and a depth of three kilometres. The statement says: "After several days of artillery preparation we attacked the enemy to the north of Douaumont, between the Meuse and the Woivre, on a front of more than ten kilometres. The attack started at ten o'clock. The enemy's front broke down everywhere to a depth of about three kilometres. Besides numerous trenches we captured the villages of Vacherauville and Louvemont, the farms of Chambrettes and the fortified works of Hardaumont and Bezonvaux. We have taken a great many prisoners, whose exact number has not yet been determined. Seven thousand five hundred of them, including two hundred officers, already have been passed through our commandant's posts. We have taken or destroyed numerous pieces of heavy and field artillery and also a considerable quantity of material.

Notwithstanding unfavorable weather conditions our aviators took a brilliant part in the fighting. Our success is complete. The troops have given vent to great enthusiasm. Our losses are slight." Belgian communication: "An artillery battle which started the night of December 14-15 has continued with violence in the region of Steenstraete and further to the north. Belgian guns of all calibres and heavy artillery have spiritedly taken to task the enemy's batteries."

Berlin, Dec. 15, via wireless to Bayville.—French attacks delivered today on the eastern bank of the Meuse in the Verdun region resulted in a gain of ground for them towards Louvemont and Hardaumont, the war office announced in tonight's supplementary statement. The engagement has not been concluded.

Paris, Dec. 15.—A despatch to the Havas News Agency from its correspondent at Piraeus, Greece, dated yesterday, says: "The note of the Allied powers to the Greek government was handed this afternoon to Foreign Minister Zalamas. The document said the recent events in Athens prove that neither King Constantine nor the Greek government has sufficient authority over the Greek army to prevent its becoming a menace to the peace and security of the Allied armies in Macedonia."

London, Dec. 15.—British troops have taken the offensive in the region of Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia, and have occupied Turkish positions on the Hai river, south of Kut-el-Amara, says an official statement issued tonight. In the offensive movement the British crossed to the right bank of Hai river and took Turkish trenches near Kala Haii Fahan, two and a half miles from Kut-el-Amara.

Paris, Dec. 16.—The bulletin on the campaign issued by the war office tonight reads: "On the right bank of the Meuse our troops continued their success. They progressed toward the Cantieres Wood and captured the village of Bezonvaux yesterday. At the close of the day a violent German attack directed against our positions on Cote Du Poivre (Pepper Hill), was brought up Oct. 25th, 1916

short by our fire. "We have maintained, in its entirety our new front. Prisoners continue to be brought back, the number exceeding 9,000 of which 250 are officers. The enumeration of the material which has fallen into our hands has not yet been completed, but the computation shows that up to the present 81 guns have been taken or destroyed."

London, Dec. 17.—The official report from British headquarters in France issued tonight reads:

The French are continuing their great offensive in the Meuse sector of the Verdun front and have made further gains. The British also have made progress, and succeeded in Saturday night's engagements, in raiding enemy trenches near Ransart and southwest of Wyttschaete, gaining a foothold in both cases. The German war office admits the loss to the French of the village of Bezonvaux and a wood to the west of that place, but asserts that the French thrust, further to the northward broke down before the German fire on a height north of Bezonvaux.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DANDRUFF.

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Local And Other

Those of our friends who have not yet remitted their subscriptions have a small margin of time at the end of the year would even be in a position to send the money by a Christmas Box. A number of these Christmas Boxes are very pleasing to us.

Hon. A. E. Kemp, M. P., was elected by a large majority in East Toronto on last night.

A Conservative has been elected in the Provincial by-election in Moose Jaw County. The former Speaker of the Legislature, Hon. J. A. Sheppard, named in the findings of the Commission investigating the connection between the Government and the interests, Sheppard resigned as a candidate for re-election in 1912 he won by 351 votes, but has been defeated by 59 votes.

Halifax was swept by a mile an hour gale and snow on Friday night and Saturday morning from the south. Considerable damage was done to the new ocean terminal, the great granite seawall carried away. Damage to the terminal was extensive, vessels tied up at the wharves very badly. The tug Lovers, belonging to the contractors was sunk, as was one of the water boats. Three scows are missing, and thought they also were sunk. Have been broken up as the ice is filled with spars and wreckage. A freight steamer anchored off the terminal drifted and went ashore, landing damaged. She was completely damaged but later was refloated by tugs, two other steamers having plates bent in, etc. Steamers at almost every wharf damaged to some extent and trees and fences were blown down. Telegraph and telephone wires were carried away and all were behind time.

As briefly intimated in last issue, Summerside was hit by a very destructive fire on Wednesday last. The fire started about six o'clock in the evening in the basement of the buildings in which Stewart and Co. carried on their mercantile business. These two brick buildings, one owned by Mr. Neil Sinclair and adjoining one owned by Otto Crabbe of this city, buildings with their stock of goods were reduced to ashes; nothing was saved. Fire swept along, fanned by high wind and destroyed other buildings on that side of Water Street and wiped out number of buildings on opposite side. Some of the buildings in all were destroyed. Most of them with their contents. The property loss is probably \$300,000, with insurance of about \$180,000. Some sufferers are: Sinclair & Co., O. E. Crabbe, Colin Mill, Joseph L. McCullough, J. Strong & Co., Hon. J. A. McCrabbe Tobacco Co., and others. Two special fire apparatus went to Charlottetown and did good in assisting to get the fire control. The town had a fire scare early Sunday morning when the large Godkin building containing the drugstore of P. N. Enman and the jewelry store of the Messrs G. Brothers was practically destroyed, the only part escaping complete destruction being the stores mentioned which are situated at the front of the building. The building extended from Water Street to First Street of the rear portion being used as warehouse and the other portion as store. The fire was discovered shortly after midnight and was then completely in the grasp of the firemen. The firemen responded quickly and in a creditable short time several streams of water poured into the flames. Gradually the warehouse and the icehouse cumbered but the firemen succeeded in confining the flame to the building.