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Defeat On Somme Brought Peace Bid

Explanation Of The Proposals By Germans

GENERAL HAIG'S MESSAGE

London Morning Post Sees in it Reason for Kaiser's Desire to End the War—Austrians Eager to Quit and Admit They Are Beaten

London, Dec. 30.—The Morning Post commenting on General Haig's dispatch, says:

"What is the lesson on the Somme? There are many, but the moral, with which we are chiefly concerned today is that the battle was scarcely ended—indeed it is not ended yet—ere Germany asked for peace. Haig tells us that the enemy's power is not yet broken nor is it yet possible to form an estimate of the time the war may last before the objects for which the allies have been fighting have been attained, but he adds that the Somme battle has placed beyond a doubt the ability of the allies to attain those objectives.

"In those simple words, which must sound in German ears like thunder, lies the whole explanation of the German proposals. Therefore all that the allies need to consider is whether or not Germany will concede the objects for which the allies are fighting or will prefer to continue to resist until her resistance is broken. It follows also that any suggestion made on the part of neutrals that a compromise might be effected in fact between Germany and as such is a violation of neutrality."

Admission of Defeat.—A dispatch to the London Daily News says: "The Norwegian Socialist party today issued a statement in which it admitted its defeat in the election for the Peace League. The party, which was formed in 1915, had been active in the dissemination of its propaganda, and had won a number of seats in the various municipalities. The party's defeat is a significant indication of the public opinion in Norway regarding the war effort."

Copenhagen, Dec. 29.—The president of the Danish Social party, Minister Stauning, in the name of the party, cabled to President Wilson a message of thanks for his peaceful note and wishes for the happy result of his efforts. The Danish Peace League cabled a similar message. The Norwegian Socialist party today also sent to Mr. Wilson a message saying that the Norwegian Social Democracy, which includes a third of the electors of Norway, gives its support to the energetic effort of the president to put an end to the barbarism of war and to establish a durable peace.

The Kaiser must have started making his good resolutions both good and early, when he resolved to seek peace. The writers, who have been referring to the Kaiser so familiarly as Dumplings, Wickets, Wilkins and similarly descriptive titles, probably will find by this time that he is entitled to another alternative alias, that of Weary Willie.

That man will earn undying fame who can arrange that the price of coal will go down when the mercury does. The Poor Milk Dealers Having accepted the milkmen's statements as accurate—or at least accurate enough to decide that the price of milk is justified—it would seem that the logical step for the common council would be to vote a pension to the man who is supplying this necessity of life to the citizens at a loss of \$3.30 a day.

Even the school board seems to be worried by our old friend, the high cost of living. By the time the assessors provide for all the additional demands for funds for 1917, the tax-payers will have something more to worry about, also. An Inexpensive Pleasure "I'm thinking of buying a car next spring." "So am I." "Indeed I thought you said you were hard up." "So I am, but it does not cost anything to think about it." Perhaps It Was "I had a good laugh yesterday," said his friend to the man in the Street. "I was coming up Mill street with another chap when the wind was whistling along at about forty miles an hour. The gale caught the other chap's eye-glasses

LAISSEZ OUR ARTILLERY

C. G. D. Roberts Says High Honors Merited by Field Observation Officers and Their Men—Some Stirring Incidents

London, Dec. 30.—The following special article on the Canadian artillery is written by Charles G. D. Roberts, for the Canadian Review. "The Canadian artillery has won special distinction in the war, no small share of the credit is due to our field observation officers, with their technicians and line-men. It has been said with more truth than usually savours such surprising propositions, that every one of our F. O. O.'s ought to have the V. C. or Military Cross and the proposition might be well extended to include his telephone who crouches or lies beside him in his lonely post of peril and his line-men who wander ceaselessly up and down the naked expanse of the open under the storm of shells and bullets, and the wire by which he sends back his directions to the guns.



FOR SAFE KEEPING

When these duties have to be carried on across the rolling and undulating terrain between the Somme and the Anvers, where the once smiling green of the farm lands has been swept clear of every shrub and chimney and deep and shallow ditches by the burning shell, where the shell holes lie everywhere, so close together that it is like threading a maze to pick the depth of many of the holes or petty craters, is often sufficient to engulf a horse and his rider in the purifying rain which half fills them—where one stumbles at every other step over some horrid wreckage of the wide flung struggle—there is the work doubly nerve wracking, the accomplishment of it doubly magnificent.

A Young Hero. For just this work, on this world's tremendous battlefield, our Canadian lads, fresh from farm and mine, desk and shop, factory and college, which developed the most amazing, cheerful aptitude. Here is an instance, from one of our regulars, that he killed the Somme, of our quickly such raw soldiers, under the supreme test, may harden into the veteran and the hero. The wire to the observation post, over a peculiarly dangerous piece of open, was being cut by shell continuously. Linesmen, after the fashion of the Dufferin, were ordered to support the guns behind it.

At last the line had been cut but one line-man left to send out, and he, though he knew his job thoroughly, was a youngster, newly arrived at the front, without experience of doing his work under fire. There was no time to get an old hand from another battery, so he was sent out alone, from a screaming hell. No one could have followed his progress through the night but it was soon evident that he had succeeded in his broken communication was restored. It was maintained throughout the rest of the battle.

In the morning when our object had been gained and the lad could be relieved it was found that the task of keeping his wire service had not been beyond him. He had found the shattered remnant of one of his predecessors, buried him in a trench, and had then, with a few bits of stick welded together into a form of a cross. He had also found another of his mates, wounded; had bandaged his wounds and helped him to the partial shelter of another shell hole to await the coming of the stretcher bearers.

The point where the F. O. O. performs his perilous duties is known as "O'Pip," which stands for observation post. The O'Pip may be some distance behind the front trenches. It may be at some advantageous point in those trenches themselves. It may even be beyond them. Such a point may be a fragment of a battered chateau or a factory chimney, threatening to fall at any moment through concussion, even if it is a tree-top, though it is rare indeed to find a tree nowadays in the battle area, that has any top left or any remnant of branch to stand upon. Such trees as the shell storm has left standing are nothing more than stripped and splintered trunks.

Or it may be merely some bit of higher ground which affords the required outlook. But the spot which commands a view of the enemy naturally can be viewed in turn by the enemy. It proclaims itself as at least a potential O'Pip and is treated as such even though the observer who occupies it may be himself concealed. If near enough it will receive the sleepless attention of the sniper and will be raked from time to time by the implacable hail of the machine gun. If it is an snail, that snail will be dosed every now and then with high explosives till it looks like a miniature volcano and at such times the F. O. O. and his signaller, if there is anything left of them, will indignantly withdraw from the post, to return to the wreckage when the storm has lulled. If it is situated somewhere on a ridge the enemy's shells will feel along that ridge for it from end to end, and with the most resourceful prospect of finding it sooner or later. If it is farther back, in tower or windmill, or chimney, then it becomes a favorite target of the enemy's "heavies" to be potted at by those great shells which roar through the air like a train through a tunnel. In none of these cases is it a position to be recommended for the health. And yet I know an indefatigable C. O. in the Canadian transport service whose idea of relaxation seems to be (when he can get a few hours off) to go up to the most advanced O'Pip and take over the task of the F. O. O. In such conditions the observation officer is expected to remain cool, undisturbed, unflinchingly alert for twenty-

GENERAL MR. CASGRAIN WILL BE IN ON TUESDAY

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 30.—The funeral of Hon. T. W. Casgrain, postmaster-general, has been arranged to take place on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 10 o'clock in the morning. Without any religious services here, the body will be taken to Montreal, accompanied by Alexander Chase-Casgrain, son of the deceased. The premier and members of the cabinet are to attend the funeral of their departed colleague.

Below Zero For First Time. The thermometer this morning registered two points below zero, the coldest recorded in the city since the wind was strong from the northwest and reached a velocity of forty miles an hour, which made the cold very penetrating. Predictions are for continued cold weather and strong winds.

Imports for Year Likely to Exceed Exports by \$3,000,000. Paris, Dec. 30.—Official statistics now available place the value of imports in November at \$1,111,000,000 francs, and exports at \$782,000,000 francs. The Temps calls attention to the fact that imports for the first ten months of the year amounted to \$1,397,000,000 francs and exports to \$1,015,000,000 francs, so that France will have against her for the year a balance of trade of upward of \$382,000,000 francs (about \$5,000,000,000 at normal exchange).

The official statistics of exports for the first eleven months of 1916 show gains of 616,000,000 francs over 1915, and exports of 5,015,000,000 francs, while the imports of food were 115,000,000 francs less for that period.

four hours at a stretch, registering for his gains and correcting their fire by reference to the map locations with an exactitude which comes with every foot of what might be accomplished by a surveyor on the actual ground. Then, if he has luck, he is relieved. And if so that the O'Pip which he is occupying is an advanced one in a miry shell hole in No Man's Land or a corner of the front trench, the journey back to his dugout may well be even more perilous than the post which he is leaving.

PHILIP AND PHERNDAND WEATHER REPORT. Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stuart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis—Pressure is high over the greater portion of the United States and eastern Canada and fair, cold weather prevails in all sections from Manitoba to the maritime provinces. A milder condition has set in over Alberta, Ottawa Valley—Fair and decidedly cold today and on Sunday. Maritime—Strong northwest winds, fair and decidedly cold today and on Sunday. Montreal, Dec. 30.—For the first time this winter the thermometer registered below zero last night and today it was below zero. Weather probabilities say "decidedly cold."

Entente Answer To German Note Goes To U.S. Ambassador Tonight

Germany Has Given No Reason For Negotiations—Must Be Reparation and Restitution

Paris, Dec. 30.—The Allies' answer to the German note of December 12 will be handed to United States Ambassador Sharp tonight, says the Petit Parisien, and will be published tomorrow. It is long, and sets forth again the responsibility of the Central Empires for the European conflagration. It insists on legitimate reparations and restitutions demanded by the Entente as outlined by Premier Lloyd George and also says that Germany, because failing to formulate proposals for peace, removes in advance any basis for parley.

The note seeks to suggest that the Berlin cabinet, having proclaimed in 1914 its contempt for treaties, cannot pretend to obtain the same conditions as powers respectful of signatures and must offer guarantees. Other Replies. Madrid, Dec. 29, via Paris, Dec. 30.—Spain's reply to President Wilson's note will be handed to the American chargé d'affaires tonight and given to the public at noon tomorrow. Berlin, Dec. 29, via London, Dec. 30.—The Scandinavian peace notes were presented today to the foreign offices in Berlin and Vienna. Paris, Dec. 30.—The Swedish, Norwegian and Danish ministers delivered notes to the war office last night supporting the initiative taken by President Wilson. The notes are identical and are couched in terms even more platonic than the Swiss note.

MORE ZIEGLER WEALTH GOES TO ADOPTED SON. Heir of Baking Powder Manufacturer Will Soon Receive \$3,485,016.

New York, Dec. 30.—William Ziegler, Jr., adopted son of the baking powder manufacturer, who died in 1905, will soon receive \$3,485,016 from the Ziegler estate, according to an accounting filed in the Surrogate's court. The accounting of the trustees, Mrs. E. Matilda Ziegler, the widow, and William S. Champ, shows that the total estate was \$11,382,724, which was to be held in trust and the accrued income paid to the son when he became 21 years old. One-quarter of the principal was to be paid to him at 25 and the other quarter in five-year periods thereafter. The accrued income, less all deductions, which was paid to the son when he was 21 was \$4,802,282. The principal of the estate had increased to \$13,940,036 on July 21 last, on which date he reached 25 and became entitled to a quarter of this fund.

HERO WEDS IN ENGLAND. Guy R. Turner, M.C., eldest son of Mrs. Annie K. Turner of Arrostook Junction, Victoria county, was married on Thursday last week in Duxhill, England, to Miss Margaret B. Osborne, formerly of St. John. Captain Turner enlisted with the 12th Battalion under Major Guthrie as a private, and was transferred to the Canadian Engineers, and given the rank of sergeant and later became a sergeant-major and then won the Victoria Cross. He has been wounded twice and has won the Military Cross and the D. C. M.

O. C. THE 102ND WINS. D. S. O. AT THE SOMME. London, Dec. 29.—Lieut. Col. Warden, officer commanding the 102nd Battalion, has been awarded the distinguished service order in recognition of the part he played in fighting on the Somme front recently. He was formerly with the Seventh Battalion.

CONDENSED DESPATCHES. Edward Strauss, composer of dance music, is dead. Dr. Claude L. Wheeler, editor of the New York Medical Journal, is dead. Berlin reports that the Russians and Roumanians are being driven back along the whole front. He has been wounded twice and has won the Military Cross and the D. C. M.

LOCAL SHIPPERS. The schooner Margaret May Riley has arrived at Barbadoes with a cargo of shingles from this port, according to advice received yesterday by her local agent, A. W. Adams.

HAD CHRISTMAS TREAT. A Christmas tree treat and supper was tendered the children of the City Mission Sunday school, Brussels street, last evening. About 100 children were present and all were remembered by Santa Claus. Following supper a programme was carried out by the children and was thoroughly enjoyed. The officers and teachers thank all who assisted.

GIVEN FREEDOM. Magistrate Ritchie made his annual visit this morning to the jail picking out the most deserving prisoners and giving them their freedom for New Year's. This is in keeping with His Honor's yearly custom. Being absent at Christmas the judge took the opportunity today. Thirteen were allowed to go.

HATFIELD-TAIT. The wedding of Samuel F. Hatfield of this city and Mrs. Annie Truman took place on Thursday evening, December 28, at the residence of Mrs. Tait, 252 Princess street. The ceremony was performed by Rev. S. S. Poole in the presence of relatives.

RAISE TEACHERS' PAY. Brockton, Dec. 30.—The School Board announces several increases in salaries for High School teachers, following a request from the teachers that they be advanced \$200 a year. The maximum salary of women teachers is raised from \$1,000 to \$1,100 and of men teachers from \$1,500 to \$1,650.

ASSETS EQUAL LIABILITIES. At a meeting of the creditors of Joseph Williams, machinist, which was held in the office of Macrae, Sinclair & Macrae, his solicitors, yesterday, J. A. Sinclair was confirmed as assignee and E. P. Raymond and Horace Porter were appointed inspectors. It is believed that the assets will be sufficient to meet the liabilities.

THIRTEEN DEATHS. Thirteen deaths were reported to the Board of Health this week as follows:—Pneumonia two, cancer, scintilly, mania, convulsions, heart failure, arterio sclerosis, cerebral softening, marasmus, multiple abscesses, broncho pneumonia and congestion of brain each one.

GOLD RING FOR FOREMAN. A gold emblematic ring was presented to Walter Logan, foreman for R. P. & W. F. Starr, Ltd., this week by George Scott on behalf of the outside employees.

NO TIMES ON MONDAY. The Times will not be published on next Monday, New Year's Day.

The Man In The Street

Thanks! The same to you and many of 'em.

No, we're not making any new resolutions this year; we have enough left over from last year.

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Foolish question number 7,869,352: "Is it cold enough for you?"

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