

The Toronto World

FOUNDED 1880

Morning newspaper published every day in the year by The World Newspaper Company of Toronto, Limited, H. J. Maclean, Managing Director.
 WORLD BUILDING, TORONTO.
 NO. 40 WEST RICHMOND STREET
 Telephone Calls:
 Main 3808—Private Exchange connecting all departments.
 Branch Office—40 South McNab Street, Hamilton. Telephone 184.
 Daily World—2c per copy, \$5.00 per year, \$2.50 for 6 months, \$1.50 for 3 months.
 50c per month, delivered, or \$4.00 per year, 40c per month, by mail, in Canada (except Toronto), United Kingdom, United States and Mexico.
 Sunday World—5c per copy, \$2.50 per year, by mail.
 To other Foreign Countries, postage extra.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JAN. 9.

A Democratic War.

President Wilson followed up Premier Lloyd George's frontal attack with a barrage fire which will leave the German diplomatic forces without shelter. The German papers have attempted to insinuate that Lloyd George's terms were for nothing else than to add to British territory, and that the program of the entente allies was merely one of annexation. It was a tu quoque reply, in fact, to the British premier. The German press is unwilling to admit that Britain represents the world view, the desire of the nations, and not merely any separate national aspiration. They would assume that the British proposals to leave to native races the self-determination of their destiny is as false as their own German plan of requiring a plebiscite under military auspices. The fact is that the German military party never had any other idea than annexation of a territory that they have invaded, and they cannot understand that Britain is not consumed with the same desire for plunder. General von Liebig has made the Prussian aim quite clear in his speech at Halle. "We will incorporate Couland, bringing in sixty million Russians," he said, "and the Slav nightmare will then ride us no longer." This takes no thought of the revolution in Russia, and is as innocent of any trust in democracy as we might expect of the kaiser himself. The whole Prussian junkerdom have but one idea. They want the earth.

President Wilson's speech follows that of Lloyd George in all essentials. The fourteen propositions should be studied along with past utterances of the entente leaders. It will be found to be in harmony with British views because it is based upon the same equitable principles. The thorny question of the freedom of the seas is the second proposition, but it appears that if Lloyd George's proposal of reduction of armaments is to be effective under an international guard the freedom of the seas would be automatic, and would only be interfered with by international action. If there is ever to be unity among the nations, as the working out of the aims of the great war seems to imply, then there is nothing in this that any nation can object to, for the same principles will always guide their counsels and rule their decisions.

There is possible ambiguity in the eighth proposition—"All French territory to be freed and restored, and reparation for the taking of Alsace-Lorraine." If this accepts the French view that Alsace-Lorraine is French territory, then President Wilson commits himself to reparation in addition to restoration. The applause and enthusiasm of the audience seem to indicate that this was understood to be the case. If, however, the French territory referred to is the invaded portion of the last three years, then Alsace-Lorraine would remain with Germany, and France would be compensated. This, however, is not what France wants, nor what the people of Alsace-Lorraine want.

The assertion that for these proposals the United States is "willing to fight and continue to fight until they are achieved" is notice to the world at large that the war is a democratic war, and will attain "a just and stable peace."

Coal Still Needed.

Already the coal excitement is dying down simply because the mercury has risen a few degrees. The situation is no better than ten days ago. The coldest weather is still to come, and the people are no more prepared to meet it than they were before.

Mr. Harrington, one of the fuel controllers, has taken up quarters in the city hall with the object, it is said, of co-operating with or controlling another controller of fuel, Commissioner Harris. We have not heard that any steps have yet been taken to ascertain the actual needs of the citizens, with a view to obtaining an adequate supply of fuel and having it on hand when the demand arises.

There is absolutely no excuse for the slackway in which the whole question is handled. We ought to know what fuel we actually require. We ought to know to what extent this can be supplied. If there is a definite shortage, then there should be a proportionate allowance made to the citizens according to their needs. We are "fudging" on the fuel situation. We are taking chances in the hope that the worst is past, when in all probability much worse is to come.

The financiers are planning ahead for their money needs. The food providers are figuring out what they must do to avoid a famine. We are cutting out unnecessary electric lighting to help the pressure somewhat. But what are we doing to save the coal situation? There should be a coal census; and those who have coal should be listed, and those who have none put on coal rations until they have a sufficient supply. There need be no great expense involved. The people who have no coal, or not sufficient, can send in on a postcard to the city hall their address and how much they need to carry on until April. Those who neglect to do so could be estimated and allowed for. In a civilized community it is the business of the coal guild and of those in authority over them to see that they perform the task they have undertaken for the people.

Hydro of "No National Importance"

Mr. A. R. Snow, military representative on an exemption board, felt called upon, when passing upon the eligibility of a draughtsman in the service of the Hydro-Electric Commission, to say that "hydro business can stop. It is of no national importance."

We do not think the remark fairly illustrates the average intelligence of the exemption officials. It would be unfortunate if the impression went abroad that it did. Hydro is of such national importance at present that the munition factories of Ontario would not be in existence but for the energy distributed by the Hydro Commission. Pro-corporation men have fallen into the habit of speaking slightly of the hydro-electric policy because it has so notably reduced the price of power. But their personal feelings should not be allowed to influence their judgment on national questions.

But for the low rates of hydro power and the plentiful supply of current it would have been impossible for Ontario contractors to undertake the work that has added to British military efficiency and to the general prosperity of Ontario. These things should not be forgotten when careless speakers declare that hydro is of no national importance. It has been equivalent to 10,000,000 tons of coal to Ontario, and those who have struggled to get fuel in the last two weeks best understand what this means.

The order passed last night cutting out all unnecessary lights and advertising signs is in line with what has been done elsewhere. "The Great White Way" of New York dwells in gloom except on Saturday nights, and Yonge street, classic highway that it is, must follow suit.

There is a lesson in this for the householder. If every family using electric light would do with one or two less lights each evening the saving would amount, it is estimated, to 15,000 horsepower. When power and fuel are so scarce this is a valuable consideration, and it is profitable for the householder as well as for others.

The Symphony Orchestra.

Before the war the Toronto Symphony Orchestra gave promise of a perennial career, and every year's performances showed steady improvement under its painstaking and cultured conductor, Mr. Frank Welsman. It was a considerable blow to musical taste when those who had been supporting the organization withdrew their backing. The years of work spent in harmonizing and according the members of the orchestra were practically thrown away. Mr. Welsman has faced the task of reorganization with his wonted courage, and so well has he been able to inspire his new forces with his own spirit that it is hoped that no lapse from former standards will be perceptible. We may even expect that some-

thing will have been added out of the stern times thru which we have passed to evoke a maturer and richer note in the works performed.

The program offers considerable scope for orchestral interpretation. Profound interest must always attach to Tschakovsky's great "Fathetique" symphony. The Anacreon overture of Cherubini has the appeal of classic charm. There are shorter numbers, too, including a setting of Edward McDowell's "Sea Song" by the local composer, Mr. Leo Smith. Of all the arts, music should have been the last to have been interfered with by the war, and the revival of the orchestra work done by Mr. Welsman should elicit an earnest response from the musical public of the city.

STREET LIGHTING ORDERED CUT DOWN

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during hours when the latter are not open for business. The city council has ordered that every lamp and switch off every heater or motor, the use of which is not absolutely needed.

Electricity is vitally needed for the manufacture of many war essentials, and these can only be manufactured if every user of electrical energy helps in reducing the present general consumption. Coal is being used to relieve the waterpower shortage, and the costliness and scarcity of coal are well known.

(Signed) H. L. Drayton.
 Power Controller.
 Hydro-Commission's Appeal.

From the Hydro-Electric Power Commission comes this appeal which, when put into effect, will augment the available supply of power very considerably.

A notable feature of the address was the sympathetic attitude of the president toward the Russian representatives who deal with the Germans at the peace conference—the Bolsheviks, often execrated for their defection from the entente and for permitting themselves to be drawn into the Teutonic peace trap. The Russians, he said, presenting a perfectly clear statement of the principles upon which they would be willing to conclude peace, were sincere and in earnest, and when they found that the actual German military leaders, who had no thought but to keep what they had taken, the negotiations were broken off. Upon the question of whether Russians and the world are to listen to the military and imperialistic minority, which so far has dominated the Teutonic policy, or to the Liberal leaders and parties who speak the spirit and intentions of the resolutions adopted by the German Reichstag last July, the president declared that the peace of the world would not be taken for anything but the peace of the world. This was in line with his previous declaration that the world of the present rulers of Germany could not be taken for anything but the peace of the world. He disclaimed any intention to suggest a change in German institutions.

Washington's Views.

Everywhere in Washington it was agreed that the president had made a great address and had given expression to the views of the American people as a whole. The difference of opinion was as to whether it was a peace or a war address. Some members of both houses of congress professed to believe that the German proposal to find the terms laid down acceptable as a basis of negotiation and that that bonafide offer might result.

In most quarters, however, there was no such optimism and the speech was looked upon as a great war document. The atmosphere for the governments and peoples fighting the war, heartening the disorganized Russians and furnishing a stimulus to the German people themselves when they want to sue for peace.

Reasons for Speech.

In response to the universal query as to the reasons which impelled the chief executive to make his appearance so unexpectedly before congress, it was stated authoritatively that in the opinion of President Wilson, the psychological moment had arrived when it was absolutely necessary to make a strong effort to counteract the light and German duplicity and double dealing which have been charged to meet the trained German negotiators. It is felt that no efforts should be spared to prevent a resumption of the Brest-Litovsk negotiations by the Russians, without earnest but kindly admonition by the allies and America of the terrible dangers to which she is exposed.

The president assumed in his message to congress that these negotiations have been broken off. Yet it is felt in official circles here that, warned at the effect upon their people of the sudden withdrawal of the alleged-for peace with their eastern neighbor from whom they had confidently expected to draw vast supplies of food and raw material with which to relieve their sufferings, the Germans will make a supreme effort to entice the Russians to resume peace conferences by abating their first extreme demands or by presenting them in fresh and specious language calculated to cover their real meaning.

Reply to Bolsheviks.

Another reason for today's address is found in the necessity of making some reply to the request of Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, that America and the entente allies join in the peace conference, Germany having made it a condition of any peace agreement that Russia should bring her co-belligerents into the negotiations. Not having recognized the Bolshevik regime as the Russian Government, the only feasible way of communication with it is by a public declaration of the American war aims, following the example of Lloyd George. It will be necessary to the success of this purpose that circulation of President Wilson's address shall be effected in Russia, to which end the full text of the speech was sent by cable and wireless to all the principal capitals of the world for telegraphic distribution.

Probably, despite the drastic German censorship rules, designed to keep the German people in ignorance of the truth, the substance of the address also will leak across the German frontiers from neutral neighboring states and thus strengthen the hands of the German socialist party in its struggle with the pro-Germans and the military party.

Previous Understanding.

There are intimations, too, no official admission, that President Wilson and the British premier spoke with a full understanding as to what was to be said and that the president, who said today "there is no confusion of

RIGHTING WRONGS, ALLIES' WAR AIM

(Continued from Page One.)

with the governments; evacuation of all Russian territory and opportunity for Russia's political development; evacuation of Belgium, evacuation of French territory and righting of the Alsace-Lorraine wrong; readjustment of Italy's frontiers along recognizable lines of nationality; free opportunity for autonomous development of the peoples of Austria-Hungary; evacuation of Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro, and guarantees for all the Balkan states; sovereignty for Turkey's portion of the Ottoman empire and autonomy for other nationalities; an independent Poland with access to the sea; and general association of nations for mutual guarantees of independence and territorial integrity to large and small states alike.

Sympathy for Russia.

A notable feature of the address was the sympathetic attitude of the president toward the Russian representatives who deal with the Germans at the peace conference—the Bolsheviks, often execrated for their defection from the entente and for permitting themselves to be drawn into the Teutonic peace trap. The Russians, he said, presenting a perfectly clear statement of the principles upon which they would be willing to conclude peace, were sincere and in earnest, and when they found that the actual German military leaders, who had no thought but to keep what they had taken, the negotiations were broken off. Upon the question of whether Russians and the world are to listen to the military and imperialistic minority, which so far has dominated the Teutonic policy, or to the Liberal leaders and parties who speak the spirit and intentions of the resolutions adopted by the German Reichstag last July, the president declared that the peace of the world would not be taken for anything but the peace of the world. This was in line with his previous declaration that the world of the present rulers of Germany could not be taken for anything but the peace of the world. He disclaimed any intention to suggest a change in German institutions.

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WILL IVAN PICK UP HIS GUN AGAIN?



counsel among the adversaries of the central powers," made his address supplementary to that of the British premier.

Lloyd George's speech was prepared before the abrupt termination of the Brest-Litovsk negotiations, and he took a rather hopeless view of Russia's future, declaring that "if Russia acts independently we cannot help the catastrophe."

President Wilson is much more optimistic to the full awakening of the Russians to the dangers to the pitfall which Germany has dug for them.

Some slight differences in the statements of aims as compared with the recent declarations of Lloyd George are noticed, but it is stated that these are unimportant and not designed in any way to affect or weaken the principles laid down as the basis for any peace that might be considered. One instance is the use of the term "evacuation and restoration" by the president in regard to Belgium, instead of restoration and reparation. This "restoration," the president is said to hold, must be at the expense of Germany, and not of the warring states as proposed by the Russians, so the difference in phrasing is not regarded as substantial.

Recognition of Italy.

The demand for the readjustment of Italy's frontiers along national lines is expected to be welcomed by the Italians as full recognition of their "Italia Irredenta" aspirations, seemingly heretofore not forthcoming from America.

In his article providing for an independent Polish state, the president is said to mean that freedom shall be given not only to Russian Poland, but to the Poles in Austria and Germany. It also is stated that the demand for "free and secure access to the sea for the Polish state does not mean that Poland should extend her sovereignty over eastern Prussia to the Baltic Sea, but simply that she should be given the right to free communication with Baltic Sea ports, a privilege similar to that enjoyed by Germany in traversing Holland's territorial waters at the mouth of the Scheldt.

The president spoke as follows:

"Gentlemen of the congress: Once more, as repeatedly before, the spokesmen of the central empires have indicated their desire to discuss the objects of the war and the possible basis of a general peace. Parleys have been in progress at Brest-Litovsk between Russian representatives and representatives of the central powers, to which the attention of all the belligerents has been invited for the purpose of ascertaining whether it may be possible to extend these parleys into a general conference with regard to terms of peace and settlement. The Russian representatives presented not only a perfectly definite statement of the principles upon which they would be willing to conclude peace, but also an equally definite program of the concrete application of these principles. The representatives of the central powers, on their part, presented an outline of settlement which, if much less definite, seemed susceptible of liberal interpretation until their specific program of practical terms was added. That program proposed no concessions at all, either to sovereignty of Russia or to the preferences of the population with whose fortunes it dealt, but meant, in a word, that the central empires were to keep every foot of territory their armed forces had occupied—every province, every city, every point of vantage—as a permanent addition to their territories and their power.

Enemy's Spokesmen.

"The whole incident is full of significance. It is also full of perplexity. With whom are the Russian representatives dealing? For whom are they speaking? Are they speaking for the representatives of the central empires, or for the minority parties, that military and imperialistic minority which has so far dominated the affairs of Turkey and of the Balkan States, which have felt obliged to become their associates in this war? The Russian representatives have insisted, very justly, very wisely and in the true spirit of modern democracy, that the conferences they have been holding with the Teutonic and Turkish statesmen should be held within open, not closed, doors, and all the world has been audience, as was desired. To those who speak the spirit and intention of the resolutions of the German Reichstag of the 9th of July last, the spirit and intention of the liberal leaders and parties of Germany; or to those who resist and defy that spirit and intention and insist upon conquest and subjugation? Or are we

listening, in fact, to both, unreconciled and in open and hopeless contradiction? These are very serious and pregnant questions. Upon the answer to them depends the peace of the world.

Laid Before World.

"There is no confusion of counsel among the adversaries of the central powers, no uncertainty of principle, no vagueness of detail. The only lack of candor is the only failure to make definite statement of the objects of the war, lies with Germany and her allies.

Compelling Call.

"There is, moreover, a voice calling for these definitions of principle and of purpose which is it seems to me, more thrilling and more compelling than any of the many moving voices with which the troubled air of the world is filled. It is the voice of the Russian people. They are protesting and all but helpless, it would seem, before the grim power of Germany, which has hitherto known no relenting and no pity. Their power, apparently, is shattered. And yet their soul is not subservient. They will not yield either in principle or in action. Their conception of what is right, of what is humane and honorable for them to accept, has been stated with a frankness, a largeness of view, a generosity of spirit and a universal human sympathy which must challenge the admiration of every friend of mankind; and they have refused to compound their ideals or desert others that they themselves may be safe. They call to us to say what it is that we desire, in what, if in anything, our purpose and our spirit differ from theirs; and I believe that the people of the United States would wish me to respond with utter simplicity and frankness. Whether their present leaders believe it or not, it is our heartfelt desire and hope that some way may be opened whereby we may be privileged to assist the people of Russia to attain their utmost hope of liberty and ordered peace.

Day of Conquest Gone.

"It will be our wish and purpose that the processes of peace, when they are begun, shall be absolutely open, and that they shall involve and permit henceforth no secret understandings of any kind. The day of conquest and aggrandizement is gone by; so also is the day of secret covenants entered into in the interest of particular governments and likely at some unlooked-for moment to upset the peace of the world.



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