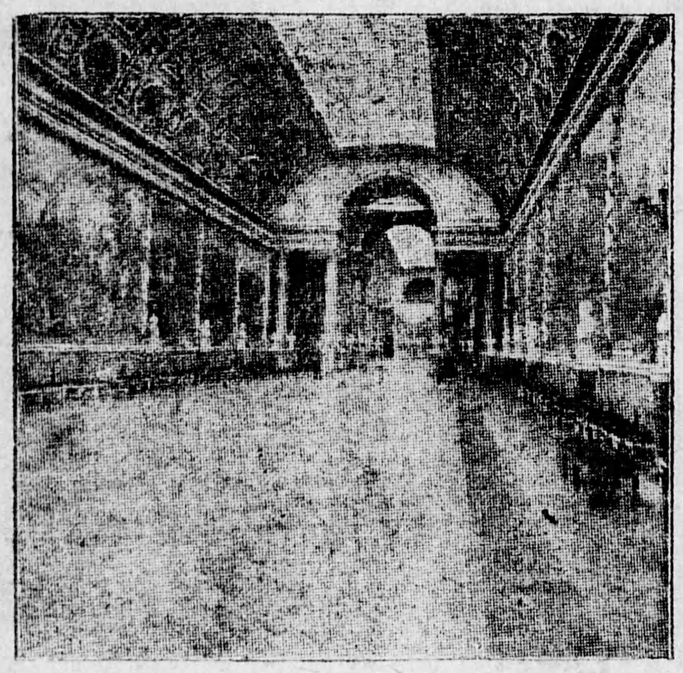
THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES CENTRE OF THE WORLD'S INTEREST

There William of Prussia Was Proclaimed Emperor of the German Federation on January 18, 1871—Scene of Many Other Historic Events.

Versailles, the meeting-place of the Peace Conference, is about the same size as London, Ontario. Twelve miles southwest of Paris, with which city it is connected by rail and tram, it is the Capital of the Department of Seine-et-Oise, and has a population of fifty or sixty thousand. The town is well laid out, and owes its existence to the wonderful Palace built by Louis XIV. (1643-1715). The ambition of Le Grande Monarque was to construct a palace larger than any contemporary building, big enough to be a residence for his Court and a seat for his Government. Thereupon, he erected this great residence, using the old hunting chateau of Louis XIII. as a central point. No fewer than thirty-six thousand horses were engaged upon the construction of the immense building, which is capable of accommodating over ten thousand persons, and cost over a hundred million dollars.

Apart from the Palace, there are no buildings of interest in Versailles; the Church of Notre Dame, built by his grandson; the Protestant Church and the English Chapel being in no way remarkable.

The celebrated tennis court (Jeu de Paume), where the Deputies of the National Assembly took the oath never to dissolve until they had given France a constitution, is now used as a museum.



Gallery of Battles, Palace of Ver-sailles, The Meeting Place of the Peace Conference.

Louis XV. (1715-1774), who lived and died in the Palace, contracted the three treaties of Versailles with Austria there. Louis XVI. and his wife, Marie Antoinette of Austria, also resided there.

With the passing of years and the French Revolution came Emperor Napoleon I. (1804-1815), who visited Versailles very infrequently. Then, under the guise of restoring it, Louis Philippe dismantled the Palace gracefully, but, paradoxically, he did restore it in general to something of its former splendor by converting it into a museum. He collected an immense number of paintings and sculptures, which, aside from the historical portraits in the Palace and certain pieces of sculpture in the gardens, have no great artistic merit. This work of restoration cost $5,000,000.

To British and American tourists Versailles is most interesting as the place where, on November 30, 1782, the preliminary articles of peace between Great Britain and the United States were signed by Benjamin Franklin. In the following year, on September 3, Britain, France and Spain signed the treaty which ended their war, while on the same day Britain recognized the independence of the United States by the treaty of Paris, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and John Jay being the signers.

Of especial interest at the present time, when the representatives of the victorious allies are remaking the map of Europe and considering the fate of former Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, is the striking historical incident of less than fifty years ago. It was at Versailles during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871 that Wilhelm I., King of Prussia, at the head of the German forces, had his headquarters, and it was there that he was proclaimed Emperor of Germany on January 18, 1871. There also, on February 26, 1871, the preliminaries of peace were signed between France and Germany after many poignant intrviews between Bismarck and Thiers. A little later, Marshal MacMahon directed from there the "Versailles army" of Government troops which suppressed the Commune in Paris. Until 1879 Versailles was the seat of the French Government.

Referring to the interior of the Palace of Versailles, Mr. Baldwin says:

"Unless we possibly except the Gallery of Battles, of all the apartments in the Palace the Galerie des Glaces is the most striking. Certainly it is the most historic. This magnificent room is lighted on one side by seventeen great windows in white marble arcades. On the other side seventeen corresponding arcades are filled with over three hundred bevelled mirrors. Strengthened by their white marble environment, they dazzlingly reflect the light, and give its name to the hall. Here it was that a cynic once said of the assemblages which used to gather within these walls: "Statesmen who sit in a glass house should not be surprised if nations throw stones." The great room is further decorated by trophies in gilded and chased copper, and on the ceiling are paintings tracing Louis XIV.'s military history, paintings which took Le Brun four years to execute. In the Grand Monarque's time this hall must have been specially worth seeing, for all the furniture—the tables and chairs and stools, the tubs for the orange trees (which were his delight), the candelabra and chandeliers—were of solid silver and enamel.

"It was in this room that the preliminary agreement of 1871 was signed, and here it was that William of Prussia was proclaimed German Emperor. Perhaps in this very place a new treaty of peace will be signed which, while bringing law and order to the whole world, will signalize the end of the German Empire. It thus will have found its official beginning and official end in this place.

"For a time the great palace of Versailles, and not Paris, was the real Capital of France. To-day, for the nonce, it may become the Capital of the world. Here and there workmen are invading apartments which hitherto have seemed to be inhabited but by the ghosts of kings. Precious tapestries and furniture, removed to places of safety during the late war, are now being put back. In the gardens the camouflage coverings on the statues are being removed, and the cruciform grand canal, three-quarters of a mile long and its arms together half a mile long, which had been camouflaged in order to prevent airplane raids, is being restored."

SUITABLE MEMORIALS FOR THE EMPIRE DEAD

A despatch from London says:—At a meeting of the Imperial Graves Commission over which Right Hon. Walter Long, Colonial Secretary, presided, and at which all British overseas representatives were present, the chairman states that all overseas Governments had unreservedly agreed to bear their share of whatever expense was involved in worthily honoring the memory of their dead. The commission, therefore, was free to discharge its task in no ungrudging or niggardly spirit. The commission adopted the recommendation that the most suitable method of honoring those whose graves could not be found or identified would be to place a tablet, appropriately inscribed, in a cemetery near the spot where it is believed the men were killed. It is estimated that there will be at least a thousand cemeteries. The commission decided to ask the Indian Government to formulate proposals for the establishment of an agency in India for the care of British graves there. The commission also warmly thanked the Union of South Africa Government for its most generous offer to meet the entire cost of cemeteries and for the provision of memorials to officers and men of the Imperial forces dying within the Union.

BRITISH PEACE DELEGATES NAMED

Dominions to Appear at Conference as Small Nations.

A despatch from London says:—Premier Lloyd George, Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer; A. J. Balfour, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and George Nicoll Barnes, Privy Councillor, have been appointed plenipotentiaries to the Peace Conference by the British Cabinet, acording to the Express and the Mail.

Sir Robert L. Borden, Premier of Canada; William Morris Hughes, Premier of Australia, and General Louis Botha, Premier of the Union of South Africa, will be colonial representatives, who will have seats when the congress takes up business of interest to the dominions they represent, it is said. According to the Express, an important decision was reached by the Cabinet in providing that the dominions will appear at the Peace Congress as small nations.

The delegates will go to Paris on Saturday for the purpose of attending sittings of the inter-allied conference.

SNOWSHOED 100 MILES TO ENLIST WITH CANADIANS

A despatch from London says:—Captain John MacGregor, of the Canadian Mounted Rifles, who was recently awarded the Victoria Cross, was a native of Cawdor, Nairnshire, Scotland, where his mother lives. At the outbreak of the war he snowshoed 100 miles to enlist. For leading the charge at Vimy Ridge in 1917 he received the D.C.M. and his commission, and in January of last year won the Military Cross and a captaincy for his determination and gallantry at Hill 70.

Marshal Foch Will Consent To Prolong The Armistice

A despatch from Basel says:—The North German Gazette of Berlin says that upon the request of Marshal Foch, allied and German plenipotentiaries will meet January 14 or 15, at Treves, to discuss a prolongation of the armistice. The Daily Chronicle urges the associated powers when renewing the armistice to stipulate for the right of occupation of any strategical position they may desire in order to preserve order and secure their own safety.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs

Toronto, Jan. 14.—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $2.24½; No. 2 Northern, $2.21½; No. 3 Northern, $2.17½; No. 4 wheat, $2.11½, in store Fort William, not including tax.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 78¼c; No. 3 C.W., 74c; extra No. 1, feed, 75¼c; No. 1 feed, 74¼c, in store Fort William.

American corn — No. 3 yellow, $1.75; No. 4 yellow, $1.70, January shipment.

Ontario oats, new crop—No. 2 white, 71 to 74c; No. 3 white, 70 to 73c, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 1 Winter, per car lot, $2.14 to $2.22; No. 2, do., $2.11 to $2.19; No. 3, do, $2.07 to $2.15; No. 1 Spring, $2.09 to $2.17; No. 2 Spring, $2.06 to $2.14; No. 3 Spring, $2.02 to $2.10 f.o.b., shipping points, according to freights.

Peas—No. 2, $2.00

Barley—Malting, new crop, 92 to 97c according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—No. 2, $1.30.

Rye—No. 2 ,$1.54, nominal.

Manitoba flour—Old crop, war quality, $11.35, Toronto.

Ontario flour—War quality, old crop, $10.25, in bags, Montreal and Toronto, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freights, bags included. Bran, $37.25 per ton; shorts, $42.25 per ton.

Hay—No. 1, $21 to $22 per ton; mixed $19 to $20 per ton, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, $9.50 to $10.50, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Eggs—No. 1 storage, 55 to 56c; selected, storage, 58 to 60c; cartons, new laid, 75 to 78c.

Butter—Creamery, solids, 51 to 53c; do. prints 53 to 55c; choice dairy prints, 45 to 47c; ordinary dairy prints, 38 to 40c; bakers', 30 to 33c; Oleomargarine (best grade), 32 to 34c.

Cheese—New, large, 27½ to 23c; twins 28 to 28½c; spring made, large, 28½ to 29c; twins, 29 to 29½c.

Comb Honey—Choice, 16 oz., $4.50 to $5.00 per dozen; 12 oz., $3.50 to $4.00 per dozen.

Maple Syrup—In 5-gallon tins, $3.25.

Provisions—Wholesale

Barrelled Meats — Pickled pork, $48; mess pork, $47.

Green Meats—Out of pickle, 1c less than smoked.

Smoked Meats—Rolls, 32c to 33c; hams, medium, 38 to 39c; heavy, 30 to 31c; cooked hams, 51 to 52c; backs, plain, 46 to 47c; backs, boneless, 50 to 52c. Breakfast bacon, 42 to 47c. Cottaga rolls, 35 to 36c.

Dry Salted Meats—Long clears, in tons, 30c; in cases, 30½c; clear bellies, 28 to 28½c; fat backs, 25c.

Lard—Pure, tierces, 29½ to 30c; tubs 30 to 30½c; pails, 30¼ to 30¾c prints, 31 to 31½c. Shortening, tierces, 25¼ to 25½c; tubs, 25¾ to 26c; pails, 26 to 26¼c; 1-lb. prints, 27 to 27½c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, Jan. 14.—Oats—Extra No. 1 feed 90c. Flour—New standard grade, $11.25 to $11.35. Rolle oats—bags, 90 lbs. $4.25 to $4.50. Bran, $37.25. Shorts, $42.25. Moullie, $68.00 to $70.00. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots $20.00 to $21.00.

Cheese—Finest easterns, 24 to 25c. Butter—Choicest creamery, 52½ to 53½c. Eggs—Selected, 56 to 57c; No. 1 stock, 50c. Potatoes—Per bag, car lots $1.70. Dressed hogs—Abattoir killed, $25.50 to $26.00. Lard—Pure, wood pails, 20 lbs. net, 31 to 32½c.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, Jan. 14.—Choice heavy steers, $13.00 to $13.50; butchers' cattle, choice, $11.75 to $12.50; do., good, $11.00 to $11.50; do, medium, $10.00 to $10.25; do, common, $8.25 to $8.50; bulls, choice, $10.25 to $11.00; do, medium bulls, $9.00 to $9.50; do, rough bulls, $7.50 to $8.00; butchers' cows, choice, $10.25 to $10.75; do. good, $9.50 to $10.00; do. medium, $8.50 to $8.75; do. common, $7.00 to $7.75; stockers, $8.00 to $10.00; feeders, $10.50 to $11.50; canners, $6.25 to $6.50; milkers, good to choice, $90.00 to $140.00; do. com. and med., $65.00 to $75.00; springers, $90.00 to $140.00; light ewes, $9.00 to $10.50; yearlings, $13.00 to $13.50; spring lambs, $15.50 to $16.50; calves, good to choice, $16.00 to $18.00; hogs, fed and watered, $18.50 to $18.75; do. weighed off cars, $18.75 to $19.00; do. f.o.b. country points, $18.25 to $18.50.

Montreal, Jan. 14.—Choice steers, $12 to $13; good, $10.50 to $11.50; medium, $9.50 to $10; choice butcher bulls, $9 to $10; good bulls, 8.50; medium, $7.50 to $8. Choice butcher cows, $9.50 to $10.50; good, $8 to $9; medium, $7 to $7.50. Canners, cattle, $5 to $6. Sheep, $9 to $11; lambs, $11 to $14; milk-fed calves, $12 to $15; grass-fed, $6 to $7. Choice select hogs, off cars, $18 to $18.50; others, according to quality, down to $14.

ALLIES MUST COMPLETELY DEFEAT THE RUSSIAN BOLSHEVIKI

Danger of a World Revolution, Says Former Danish Minister Just Arrived in London From Russia.

A despatch from London says:—Mr. Scavenius, former Danish Minister, who has just arrived in London from Russia, interviewed by Reuter's correspondent, said that the situation in Russia was hopeless as long as the Allies took no steps to end Bolshevism, which was a real international danger and growing stronger every day, for the Bolshevists were marvelous propagandists and were working in all countries with the object of causing a world revolution. He was sure the Bolshevists would win in Germany unless the Allies took immediate steps to stop them by supplying the Germans with more food and sending a sufficient force to expel the Bolshevists from Petrograd and Moscow. Such a force need not be big because the whole population was opposed to Boshevism. As soon as the Bolshevists were expelled from Petrograd and Moscow the whole movement would collapse. He was sure an arrangement could be made with Finland to send volunteers for this purpose. The great danger was that if Bolshevism won that Germany would join Russia and Europe would be without peace for a long time. That was why it was important to finish with Bolshevism immediately.

Three Canadian Delegates At Inter-Allied Conferences

A despatch from Paris says:—La Liberty says it understands that Great Britain will have three special delegates for each of its Dominions, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The newspaper asks why the French protectorates of Morocco, Tunis and possibly Algeria, has no special representation.

People of Luxemburg Duchy Want Republic Proclaimed

A despatch from Metz says:—A large crowd paraded before the Grand Ducal Palace in Luxemburg on Friday, requesting the abdication of the Grand Duchess and the proclamation of a republic. A committee on public safety has been appointed and quiet is being maintained everywhere in Luxemburg.

CANADIANS HOME BY END OF AUGUST

During Spring and Summer Will Come at Rate of 45,000 a Month.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—It is stated in militia circles here that the end of August next will see the return to Canada of the last units of the military forces of Canada now serving overseas in Europe.

For the present there will be no speeding up in the return of troops beyond the numbers already arranged for, 20,000 in January, increasing to 30,000 in Feburary, but in the spring and summer months the number returning to Canada will rise to 45,000 monthly.

Several factors enter into the considerations governing the return of these troops to Canada, such as transportation, afloat and ashore, and the difficulties of securing the smooth and expeditious return to civil occupations of these men without overtaxing the limits of the organizations arranged for that latter purpose.

During the winter it is possible to land troops only at two Canadian ports, Halifax and St. John, and at the latter port it is impossible to berth ships of the largest tonnage. From each port the railroad lines have a limited capacity and must provide for the regular services, passenger and freight, in addition to the additional tax on the services by the extra troop trains.

With the opening of navigation in the St. Lawrence there will at once be available additional ports at which transports can dock and considerably increased railroad facilities, both as to route and equipment. For instance, it will then be possible to secure day coaches for the shorter hauls. In arranging for the return of troops to Canada, each transport has carried men for every military district, so that the demands of each section may be dealt with fairly and proportionately.

Do not add salt to the soup in cooking until it is thoroughly skimmed. The salt will prevent the scum from rising.

BRITAIN STILL A CREDITOR NATION

Motherland Not Weakened by More Than Two Thousand Millions.

A despatch from London says:—The Observer, which is well informed on financial subjects, publishes to-day a significant article on post-war international finance, which has direct interest for Canadians. After referring to the "recoverable assets" Britain has at command, the writer goes on to say: "Behind lie the problems of the sum that will ultimately be produced in repayment of our loan to Allies and dominions, and of the amount we shall get out of Germany against our bill for damages. All these uncertainties affect not only the question of how much the Government will have to raise every year in taxation, but also the larger problem of our position in international finance and of our power to maintain our prestige and to control of the exchange."

Discussing the question of "How we stand now," the writer says:

"We are, on paper, still very much a creditor country. The Chancellor boasted, with very just pride, in his budget speech last April, that all we had borrowed abroad during the war we had borrowed in order to relend to Allies, so that with regard to our own war cost we had been self-sufficing. The figures officially published, in so far as they can be understood, more than bear out this statement."

The article suggests that Great Britain should entirely wipe out her loans to her Allies, Russia, France Italy, Belgium, Serbia, and others "making a present to our late brothers in arms, much harder hit than we are, of their promises to pay.

"We do not seem to have weakened our international position to the extent of much more than 2,000 millions, by borrowing abroad and sales of securities," says the article, "and 2,000 millions is only half the sum that was usually accepted before the war as the amount of our overseas investments. So that we are still nearly half as much a creditor country as before the war, even after wiping out our loans to Allies. Relatively, of course, the weakening is greater, because America and many neutrals have increased their wealth very rapidly during the war, while we have been losing; but there seems to be no reason for the view that we are no longer a creditor country, especially as we have another foreign account in our claim on Germany."

Germany Fails to Turn Over Huge Quantities of Guns

A despatch from London says:—Germany has fallen behind in the last month in turning over material required by the terms of the armistice. A checking to date shows a shortage of 685 heavy guns, 7,000 machine guns, 1,000 trench mortars, 600 airplanes, 4,736 engines, 5,000 motor lorries and 130,000 railroad cars.

With the death of Mr. John Henry McLachlan, who died at St. Joseph's Hospital after an attack of heart trouble, the coterie of retired Prairie farmers who reside in Victoria loses one of its best known members.

BRINGING UP FATHER