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LAST EDITION

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON BATTLEFIELD

Not Far-Reaching Enough to Muffle Roar of Guns.

GRIM AND DETERMINED WAR

WENT FORWARD ON CHRISTMAS LIKE OTHER DAYS.

However It Was a Christmas of Bounteous Plenty - Along the British Front in the West.

With the British Armies in France, Dec. 25.—Christmas has sent a throb of good cheer to all the British armies in the battle lines of France, and wherever a British soldier ate his Christmas dinner to-day, whether in the front-line trenches or in the secluded security of the reserve camps, enthusiastic toasts were offered to King and Empire and to the coming year, which Britons confidently believe will bring victory to the Allied cause.

The soldiers from overseas, the Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and South Africans, drank somewhat wistfully to the folks at home, but soon shook away any tendency to homesickness in the sturdy work of war for grim and determined, went forward to-day as relentlessly as yesterday, and as it will to-morrow.

Did Not Muffle Roar of Guns.

Christmas carols which rose up from all parts of the world were not far-reaching enough this year to muffle the roar of angry guns or shut out the unceasing song of flying shells.

It was a Christmas of bounteous plenty along the British front, and the soldiers in the field were joyously immune from the three-course dinner prescribed for the British Isles. Each individual company of the vast army organization had a jubilant Christmas spread, and there was much rivalry in the elaborateness of the camp menus.

The members of the various companies pooled their assets, both edible and monetary, and the canteens and small French shops which persist and prosper in the war zone were called on for all their wares and delicacies. Mess halls were splendidly decorated, in many instances with holly and mistletoe and paper flowers made by the soldiers themselves, many of the flowers being worked into Christmas mottoes.

Bands Gave Concerts.

At various places along the lines bands visited the mess halls, giving concerts for the soldiers. The Young Men's Christian Association and other organizations arranged countless entertainments, and special programmes provided in the mess halls and soldier theatres, most of the latter being battered French barns, with the shell-holes barricaded against the wintry blasts and the noises of battle waging not far away.

Every British soldier had his individual plan provided in the particularly indispensable item of the Christmas bill-of-fare having been looked after by the London newspapers, which raised in the neighborhood of £100,000 for their purchase.

Where conditions permitted, as many of the men as possible were relieved from front-line duty for dinner, but in the mid-ditches of the

Somme and in other sectors Christmas dinner, steaming hot, was carried up through the communication trenches, sometimes under the pelting of shells.

AN OLIVE BRANCH TO THE RUSSIANS

Offers Return of Baltic Provinces and Use of Constantinople Straits.

London, Dec. 26.—An Amsterdam despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says:

"Prefacing an evidently inspired leading editorial with the statement that Germany does not desire to create a feeling of revenge in Russia, which would provoke another war, the Cologne Gazette declares that Germany intends to restore the Russian Baltic provinces, but that Russia must recognize that the new situation created in Poland cannot be changed.

"The paper argues that in taking Poland Germany was really rendering a service to Russia and that deprived of Poland, Russia will form a united and homogenous empire.

"Germany will never allow Russia to possess Constantinople, according to the paper, but is ready to negotiate with Turkey and Russia an agreement permitting Russian warships and merchantmen to navigate the Straits."

SIR SAM HUGHES TO SPEAK

In Preparedness to the New York Canadian Club.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—Lieut.-General Sir Sam Hughes will speak to the Canadian Club in New York city on "Preparedness and Mobilization" on January 8th, and at an open meeting under the auspices of Toronto Masons, in Toronto January 9th, on the same subject.

DESTROYERS FIGHT

Berlin, via Sayville, Dec. 26.—Four Austro-Hungarian destroyers in a raid on the night of Dec. 2 and sank two armed patrol boats in the Oronto straits and on their way back were fought by six enemy destroyers, according to the Vienna official report received here to-day.

ARTILLERY ACTIONS ALONE REPORTED

In Lihons Region of Somme and in the Cerna Region.

Paris, Dec. 26.—An active artillery action on Christmas night on the Somme front, in the Lihons region, was reported in to-day's official statement.

Artillery Duel Beyond Monastir.

Paris, Dec. 26.—An artillery duel, unaccompanied by infantry operations in the Cerna region at Monastir, was reported in to-day's official statement.

MUNICIPAL NOMINATIONS.

Township of Sheffield. Reeve—J. Edward Harrison, Bernard O'Neill. Councilors—James Leo Flynn, Edward McGuire, Thomas McKeown, John J. Neville, John B. Formateer, Herbert York.

GERMAN ANSWER TO PEACE NOTE

Of President Wilson Handed to American Diplomatic Representatives.

PEACE TERMS NOT STATED

IN NOTE WHICH WENT OVER SAYVILLE WIRELESS

Says Great Work of Prevention of Future Wars Can Be Begun Only After End of Present Struggle.

Berlin, via Sayville, Dec. 26.—Germany to-day proposed getting from the delegates of the belligerents an answer to President Wilson's peace note. Her formal reply to the American peace suggestion was made in a note handed to United States Ambassador Gerard at Berlin and at the same time to American diplomatic representatives at the capitals of other Central Powers, Vienna, Sofia and Constantinople.

The note also hints that the "great work of the prevention of future wars can be begun only after the end of the present struggle of nations," and declares "when this moment shall have come Germany will be ready with pleasure to collaborate entirely with the United States at this exalted task."

The German note holds that the "most appropriate road to reach the desired result is an immediate meeting of delegates of belligerent states at a neutral place."

The text, as transmitted over the Sayville wireless by the Official Press Bureau in Berlin, does not contain any peace terms. Whether this is the entire text of the note was not made clear in the wireless despatch.

STOCKS STRONGER AT NEW YORK

The Stocks That Were Depressed Are Again Climbing Upwards.

New York, Dec. 26.—Stocks are stronger to-day. United Steel mounted to 107 during the morning.

Table of New York Stocks: Airbrake 146, Atchison 104, Baltimore & Ohio 84, C. P. R. 167, N. Y. C. 104, Reading 104, Union Pacific 148, U. S. Steel 107, Anaconda 82, Inter. Nickel 42, Amer. Loco. 76, Rep. Steel 77, Erie, pfd. 35, Beth. Steel 50.

Table of Canadian Stocks: Steamers 35, Steel of Canada 63, N. S. Steel 113, Smelters 33, Cement 63, General Electric 111, Canada Locomotive 53 Bid.

MANY DROWNED; HIT A MINE

New York, Dec. 26.—The crew and sixty passengers of the Swedish steamer Skiffel were drowned when that vessel was mined off Liland, says Lloyds to-day. The same message told of the burning and submerging of Norwegian and British ships with a total tonnage of 12,328.



According to several of the British newspapers who substantiate their statements by quoting German writers, the successful conduct of the British blockade is impelling Ger-

Germany is calling up for service every available man, and steps are being taken to send all the men whose places can possibly be filled from the munition factories. Boys born in 1899 have been ordered to report for duty in January so that 300,000 troops be added to the total for the spring operations.

While, as a matter of course, the Central Powers could scarcely be expected to cease planning war in view of the "peace propaganda" movement of the present, nevertheless the British press seems to see in the news filtering across the borders of further war plans a justification of the common belief that the peace note was a war "trick," and that Germany has no idea except to gain time in which to prepare for a fresh military onslaught.

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"PRIEZ POUR NOUS"—VIRGIN'S STATUE MIRACULOUSLY SPARED.



The photograph shows a Calvary in the reconquered Somme district, which miraculously escaped injury, notwithstanding the heavy bombardment of the district by both sides. Pious French soldiers have raised the uninjured Madonna and Child upon this slight eminence and placed a sign behind it bearing the legend in French, "Pray for us."

FOE PREPARES BIG CAMPAIGN

The Scarcity of Food Necessitates a Desperate Effort.

THE PEACE TALK A TRICK

THE BRITISH BLOCKADE WORKING HARDSHIPS ON GERMANY

Boys Are Called to Arms to Increase Army for Spring Campaign—Control of Austrian Forces by the Germans.

London, Dec. 26.—That Germany is making preparations for a stupendous military effort as soon as winter ends and that every scrap of news from the empire goes to belie the suggestions of peace, is the statement that is going the rounds of the press.

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FIGHT IN CONGRESS OVER PEACE NOTE

Representative Gardner Bitterly Assails Mann for Endorsing Wilson.

New York, Dec. 26.—That President Wilson's peace note may precipitate a fight in Congress and influence the organization of the new House is evidenced by despatches received by the Associated Press from various sources last night.

Up to a few days ago it was generally conceded that Speaker Champ Clark, backed by House Leader James R. Mann, of Illinois, would surely succeed himself in the new House.

This, however, was all changed when Representative Augustus P. Gardner, of Massachusetts, a powerful figure in legislative and party affairs, repudiated the leadership of Mr. Mann, and declared himself and his influential followers in support of Representative Lenwood, of Wisconsin. Mr. Mann's endorsement of the President's action in sending his peace note at this time is bitterly resented by Mr. Gardner, who said: "I have read the endorsement which the leader of my party in Congress has given to President Wilson's offer of interference in European affairs. This is the fourth or fifth time that Leader Mann has given encouragement to Germany's wicked causes. So far as I am concerned, I shall tolerate such leadership no longer.

"I believe that the happiness of the world requires the destruction of the dynasties of the Hapsburgs and Hohenzollerns. For that reason with every sincere regret I repudiate Congressman Mann's leadership. I shall support the leadership of the man who supports Lenwood, of Wisconsin, for Speaker when Congress convenes."

GERMAN EFFORTS WERE DISCOURAGED

The British Would Not Fraternize and the War Went On.

London, Dec. 26.—As far as fighting is concerned, Christmas, 1916, was just December 25th to Britain's warriors. The fighting continued in precisely the same way. German efforts to fraternize were discouraged by grenades and trench mortars.

On one occasion the Germans lifted up over their parapet a Christmas tree, and, as Tommies facing it, remarked "we hung oranges, apples and bob-tailed hens." Of "bob-tailed" words, they delighted in with grenades. Troops resting in billets had special celebrations. There were amateur theatricals, music and Christmas trees at the field Y.M.C.A. huts.

A NEW DISCOVERY

Discovery of Another Mineral in Renfrew County.

Renfrew, Dec. 26.—When Town Engineer Stewart entered the meeting of power users on Saturday evening he bore in his hands a piece of white mineral—which to the uninitiated looked something like talcum—but which he declared to be stromonium, a mineral used in the making of fireworks and flashlights and which is said to be rare. G. P. Stewart had procured it in Renfrew county, and said there seemed to be plenty of it. The particular bit he held in his hand had come from a vein eighteen feet thick. G. P. Grant, manager of the Molybdenite Co., said that with a graphite mill, a molybdenite concentrator and stromonium all in its confines he thought Renfrew county was unique.

Holland Supplies Food to Germany.

London, Dec. 26.—Holland and Germany have signed a treaty providing for a supply to the latter of eggs, milk and fruit, says a Central News despatch from Amsterdam.

A Vessel in Distress.

New York, Dec. 26.—The United States steamer Maryland is reported sinking about 150 miles off Sandy Hook. Several vessels are rushing to her assistance.

Sir Sam For Conscripton.

London, Dec. 26.—Sir Sam Hughes advocates conscription in Canada and says he thinks Quebec would respond.

Unconfirmed reports that Torreon had been captured by Francisco Villa's forces were forwarded to Washington.

War Tidings.

A satisfactory report has been received from the British military mission in Rumania of the destruction under orders of the Rumanian Government of the oil wells and refineries in and near the principal oil fields.

Lloyds reports the sinking of the British steamship Itonus, 5,240 tons gross. She was owned in Melbourne and was in the service of the British Government.

The Greek government denies that Venizelos has been shot in prison. Some 268 were arrested but ninety-one were later released.

The Entente reply to the German peace proposals will not be delivered for at least ten days.

The Russian forces pressed back German invaders in North-western Rumania but are withdrawing in the Dobruja region.

May Assume Control.

London, Dec. 26.—All the liquor traffic may be taken over by the government on January 1st.

THE LATEST NEWS BRIEFLY GIVEN

Despatches That Come From Near And Distant Places.

TIDINGS FOR OUR READERS

PRESENTED IN THE BRIEFEST POSSIBLE FORM.

The Whig's Daily Condensation of the News of the World From Telegraph Service and Newspaper Exchange.

Switzerland has passed up a peace note to Germany, and other neutrals will follow suit.

William F. Davis, stock broker, son of M. F. Davis, the well-known contractor, Ottawa, died suddenly.

The German Emperor will return to Berlin for conferences with the American and Spanish Ambassadors.

In France the minister of commerce has introduced a bill empowering the agricultural department to put into cultivation all unoccupied land.

An exposition in Boston of world's fair magnitude is urged by Governor Samuel W. McCall as Massachusetts' part in the 1920 Pilgrim tercentenary celebration.

W. F. O'Connor, K.C., of the justice department Ottawa, has been appointed to represent the labor department in all investigations into the high cost of living in Canada.

At Ottawa the printing plant of Rolla L. Crain, Limited, was almost totally destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$150,000, covered by insurance. The cause is unknown.

T. P. O'Connor, popularly known in America as "Tay Pay," has been appointed chairman of the Board of Film Censors, an organization created by the movie trade in England.

The Calgary Trades and Labor Council advises members to refuse to sign national service cards as a protest: Premier Borden and R. R. Bennett to answer questions asked them.

The late Mrs. Clara L. Ricciardi, formerly Princess de Chupuary left over \$1,000,000 mostly going to her third husband. She was the daughter of Eber B. Ward, a millionaire ship builder of Detroit, Mich.

French Minister Is Detourer. Paris, Dec. 26.—Gen. Lyautey, the new minister of war, for the first time participated in the war council headed by President Poincaré. It was decided that all questions concerning the preparation and carrying on of the war be under the direction of the war minister, who is to notify the interested ministers and general-in-chief of the decisions taken and assure the co-ordination necessary to their execution.

DAILY MENTION. Band at the Palace Hotel tonight. Band at the Covered Walk tonight. See top of page 2, right hand corner for probable deaths.

BOHN. CHADWICK—On Monday, Dec. 25th, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Chadwick a son.

SMITH—At Annsa Wood Hospital St. Thomas, Ont., on Wednesday, Dec. 26th, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smith, B.A., Inspector of Public Schools, Elgin East, of a son.

DIED. BONE—In Kingston, on Sunday, Dec. 24th, 1916, David Bone, aged 75 years.

FUNERAL (private) from his late residence, Montreal Street, on Wednesday afternoon, to Cataract cemetery.

LAWSON—In Kingston, on Tuesday, December 26th, 1916, Serena Staggs, wife of Henry M. Lawson.

FUNERAL on Thursday 28th inst. from Synagogue Street Methodist church, to Cataract cemetery.

McKIM—Suddenly in Kingston, on Dec. 25th, 1916, William John McKim.

FUNERAL will take place from his late residence, 8 John St., Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock, at St. Mary's Cathedral, where a solemn requiem mass will be sung for the repose of his soul.

Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

MILLS—In Chicago, on Christmas morning, Ann Mills, widow of the late John Mills of Kingston, aged 84 years.

FUNERAL notice later.

VERALE—Suddenly in Edmonton, Alta., Elijah V. Vale, in his 62nd year.

FUNERAL Wednesday, Dec. 27th, at 10 o'clock, from his daughter's residence, Mrs. H. F. Pickering, Nelson street.

Friends and acquaintances respectfully invited to attend.

JAMES REID The Old Firm of Undertakers 254 and 256 PRINCE STREET Phone 147 for Ambulance. ROBERT J. REID The Leading Undertaker Phone 577. 250 Princess Street. Familiar Quotations Victory in this strife is not going to be made complete simply by the silencing of hostile fleets and armies, the issue for which we hope and pray; but by the emergence of a new civilization, by the enthronement amongst us of all that is purest and best. The battle, the great, unending, incessant battle of life continues after the war is over, of truth against falsehood, and right against wrong, and self-indulgence against self-sacrifice, and the issue will determine our future as a nation and as a land. —REV. DR. W. T. HERRIDGE.

OFFICIAL WAR STATEMENTS

British.

London, Dec. 25.—Sunday's report from headquarters in France said: "We entered enemy trenches Saturday night in the neighborhood of Hebuterne. Dugouts occupied by the enemy were bombed and prisoners were taken.

"Gas was successfully discharged by us on Saturday evening against the enemy's trenches west of Messines.

"Saturday night the enemy fired a camouflet at Mount Sorrell. No damage is reported.

"Intermittent artillery activity continued, particularly on the right of our line between the Somme and Hebuterne. Northeast of Moral an enemy working party was caught by our fire. Our heavy artillery shelled enemy battery positions opposite Neuve Chapelle and Festubert."

French. Paris, Dec. 25.—The bulletin issued by the War Office Monday night reads: "The day was relatively calm along the whole front.

"On the Somme front three German planes were brought down by our pilots on Dec. 24th. The first machine fell in flames south of Epancourt; the second crashed to the earth near Omeicourt; the third fell in the direction of Liencourt.

"On the night of Dec. 24th-25th one of our air squadrons bombarded the enemy aviation ground at Vragines as well as ammunition depots at Athies, Ennemain and Mousenchaussee."

An earlier report read: "On the Aves, a surprise attack on one of our small ports northeast of Canny was repulsed by hand grenades.

"In the region of Roye one of our detachments penetrated near the Amiens road, a trench of the enemy, the occupants of which fled after suffering some losses.

"On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) the activity of the artillery was maintained at a rather lively rate in the region of Louvemont and Les Chambrettes.

The night was calm on the remainder of the front."

German.

Berlin, Dec. 25.—The official statement from general headquarters, issued this evening, reads: "No large actions are reported from the west or east front. In Rumania progress continues. On the Macedonian there have been no incidents of importance."

Last night was generally calm on the Franco-Belgian front.

WHIG CONTENTS 1—Christmas Carols on Battle Front; German Answer to Peace Note; Foe Prepares Campaign; The World's News. 2—399 Soldiers Entertained; Late Mother Superior; Red Cross Funds To Be Back Next Winter. 4—Editorial Notes; Random News. 5—More Civic Matters; The Municipal Contents. 6—Eastern Ontario News. 7—Amusements; Announcements; The Forum. 8—John Starr's Letter; Military Matters; Theatrical. 9—Jobe Cause Crisis; National Service; Sermons; Joy on Christmas Day. 10—Confessions of St. Roxane; Menus; Germans Try Slavery; News from Countyside; Municipal Nominations.

SAMUEL A. ARMSTRONG Who has been appointed Director of the Military Hospitals Commission of Canada. He was formerly Assistant Provincial Secretary for the Province of Ontario and has been loaned by that government to the Hospital Commission.