

BRITAIN TO REPLY TO PEACE TERMS

When They Are Officially Presented By the Central Powers--The French Are on the Offensive on the Italian Front.

London, Dec. 31.—The Manchester Guardian says it is the intention of the British Government, when the Austro-German terms of peace are presented officially, to return a serious and reasonable reply.

The Austro-German peace terms referred to are those presented by representatives of the Central Powers at the negotiations with Russia at Brest Litovsk.

French Offensive in Northern Italy.

Rome, Dec. 31.—In the Monte Tomba region on the northern front, the French have captured enemy positions between Osteria Monferena and Maranzine, the War Office announces.

WEBB GETS \$5,000 DAMAGES IN ALIENATION CASE

Toronto, Dec. 31.—In a judgment given by Justice Clute to-day, George R. Webb, merchant of Gananoque, is awarded \$5,000 damages in his action against his wife, Dora's father and mother, William V. and Mrs. Bullock of the same town for alienation of his wife's affections.

NOMINATIONS IN THE WARDS

The Aldermen in Rideau and Victoria Are Elected by Acclamation.

MOST OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES ARE ALSO RETURNED WITHOUT OPPOSITION.

The Aldermen Who Intend to Offer Themselves Must File Their Qualification Papers by Noon Wednesday.

The nomination for aldermen and school trustees took place at noon in the wards.

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ITALIANS TRANSPORTING WOUNDED TO THE REAR FROM A MOUNTAIN TOP



The tremendous difficulties under which Italians are fighting the Germans and Austrians and the natural obstacles to overcome in the great mountains are shown by the methods employed to transport the wounded to the rear.

BEEN MADE KNIGHTS.

Prof. Andrew Macphail, of Montreal, is Among Number.



PROF. ANDREW MACPHAIL (Canadian Press despatch.) London, Dec. 31.—Knighthoods have been conferred on Prof. Andrew Macphail, Montreal, and Major-Gen. D. A. Macdonald, for some years quartermaster-general of the Canadian militia.

MRS. URIAH WILSON DEAD.

Wife of the Ex-Member For Lennox Passes Away.

Napanee, Dec. 31.—There passed away on Saturday morning one of Napanee's most respected residents in the person of Mrs. Uriah Wilson.

WAR BULLETINS.

The British advance in Palestine. The Turks are unable to counter-attack.

German air fleets bomb Italian cities, causing heavy losses.

The Russian fort of Kronstadt was blown up, says report from Petrograd.

Germans entered British trenches at two points near Cambrai, but were driven out, and left prisoners.

Bombardment by enemy aviators Friday killed thirteen persons and injured sixty others in the city of Padua.

The Cunard line confirms the previously reported sinking of their five-thousand Vinovia off the British Isles by a submarine.

The latest report on the Russian situation is to the effect that the greater portion of the German fleet in Russian waters has returned to German waters.

British counter-attacks have regained more important territory on Welsh ridge taken by Germans on Sunday.

British put five German aeroplanes out of commission Sunday on Cambrai front.

THE TARTAR WOMEN DROP VEIL AND VOTE Freed From Sex Tyranny as Result of Russian Revolution.

London, Dec. 29.—Tartar women in the far Russian provinces have dropped the veil and are freed from sex tyranny as a result of the Russian Revolution.

A letter from Kazan says: "The women's movement here started in the revolution in 1905 as a result of which the women began to go about unveiled.

The revolution in which the Emperor was deposed the Moslem women formed a society and sent delegates to the first All-Russia Conference.

Here they presented demands for the abolition of polygamy and the Moslem inheritance law, according to which female heirs receive smaller portions than male.

A separate day is set apart for the Tartar women to vote, to satisfy the mullahs and old-fashioned women.

About forty per cent of the women went to the polls on the last election.

M. Klotz said that the returns for the loan were still incomplete, but that the subscriptions, not including those from abroad, aggregated 10,275,000,000 francs.

VICTOR OF THE MARNE.

Joffre to be an Immortal of the French Academy.

Dr. Gandler of California, spent a couple of days recently with his sister, Mrs. E. M. Thompson on his way to Kingston to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hetherington.

Miss Hypatia Fox leaves to-day for Midland, Ont., after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Max Fox.

General prosperity from one end of Canada to the other, with cheerful optimism for the future, is the epitome of annual New Year's day articles in Monetary Times by the premises of the Canadian provinces.

The Whig has been up against a combination of elements in its publication to-day. The intense cold taxed the steam capacity, and it was 10 a.m. before the heat was sufficient to permit work.

Then at noon a power difficulty occurred in the building and held up work for a considerable time. We are fortunate in publishing with even a semblance of local and telegraphic news.

MAYOR HUGHES IS RE-ELECTED

No Opposition is Offered to Him For the Coming Year.

KINGSTON HAS A SURPLUS OF \$2,074.30 IN THE PAST YEAR'S OPERATIONS.

Mayor Hughes Gives a Statement of the City's Finances Which Are in Very Satisfactory Condition.

John M. Hughes was on Monday morning re-elected mayor of Kingston by acclamation.

The retiring Utilities Commissioners, George Y. Chow and Robert F. Elliott were also re-elected by acclamation.

There was a very small attendance of electors in the Hall, but Mayor Hughes addressed them and expressed appreciation of his unanimous re-election.

He said he would endeavor to serve the people faithfully in the year about to open.

"In rising this morning to give an account of my stewardship as Chief Magistrate of the City I wish first to extend my sincere thanks to the citizens for the honor you did me in electing me to the high office of Chief Magistrate of the old Historic City.

I fully appreciate the honor. I have endeavored to uphold the dignity of the office and hope my efforts have been the means of accomplishing some good towards the betterment of civic life in general.

"I wish also to thank my colleagues in Council for their co-operation. The year has been one of pleasantness. Every member of Council has worked with one aim in view that is for the benefit of the City.

"Of the civic employees I cannot say too much. There is no city, be it large or small, where you will find their equal. They are courteous, efficient and obliging.

The city is indeed fortunate in the personnel of its Civic staff and to them I owe much for their assistance and wish now to express my warmest thanks.

"The approximate statement of float liabilities as on the 31st December, 1917 and assets applicable against such liabilities for the City of Kingston are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Fines and Fees 1,800.00, Taxes 1,300.00, Rent Paving Plant 760.00.

Expenditure: Lighting Streets \$ 7,360.00

A Surplus of \$2,074.30.

"The above statement shows a surplus of \$2,074.30, which I consider a splendid showing considering the year we have just lived.

The several Committees of Council have lived within the appropriation that was allotted to them in the budget, which goes to show that the members of the Council this year were very careful with the expenditures of the amount of money that was allotted to them.

The records show that this year is the first in ten years that has been closed without an overdraft.

"The City's financial standing is good. It is most encouraging to those interested in the financial standing of the City to note the high position in the world of finance which we enjoy.

We sold during the past year \$184,000 worth of bonds, which were sold at an average of 5 1/2%.

This is a splendid showing when we consider the rates obtained by other municipalities, namely: Windsor 8.08%; Winnipeg 7%; Alberta 6 1/2%; London 6 1/2%; Hamilton, Toronto and the Province of Ontario over 6%.

"Aside from the financial saving it reflects greatly to the credit of the treasurer and the finance committee for the manner in which they watched the markets and took advantage of their opportunity.

"The total bonded debt of the City as on December 31st, 1917, is \$1,735,823.00 and is made up as follows: Civic bonded debt outside the Civic Utilities is \$1,088,971; Civic Utilities \$644,852; total \$1,733,823.

The indebtedness of the Civic Utilities takes care of itself out of earnings. They do not concern us as to the tax rate and all we have to deal with is the sum of \$1,088,971.

"We are living in a trying time, but if a period of economy is maintained, and this I advise, the city will still maintain her high standing financially and commercially.

"Business conditions in the City are good. All our industries are busy and there is work for all who are willing and able to work.

This is indeed encouraging and gratifying and we should all as citizens be thankful.

"Allow me to again thank you for the honor extended to me in electing me to the mayor's chair for 1918, and I sincerely trust that ere another year comes around peace will again rest upon us; that our brave sons, who nobly answered the Empire's call, bringing not only honor and glory themselves but to the Empire as a whole, will be safe at home once more, and that the coming year will be filled with blessings and prosperities."

PUT ABSENTEES IN FIVE GROUPS

Drastic Measures to be Taken Against Men Who Evade the Draft.

PENALTIES FOR DESERTERS

FROM TWO TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON.

Men in the Five Groups Are Alike As They Are All Soldiers Absent Without Leave.

With the calling up of the first draft next week, strong measures will be taken against men who have failed to register under the Military Service Act.

Announcement of a reward "to any civil police or peace officer for the apprehension and delivery into military custody of a deserter or absentee without leave," is the forerunner of further steps to ensure that all members of Class I comply with the law.

Instructions for dealing with deserters and absentees without leave have been issued and the general policy determined.

Generally speaking, there are five different groups of men who, from a military point of view, may be dealt with as absentees without leave. The groups and the penalties to which the men in each are liable are as follows:

Penalties For Deserters. (1) Men who have failed to comply with the proclamation calling out Class I—liable for any term of imprisonment not exceeding five years, with hard labor.

(2) Men who, having reported or claimed exemption under the Military Service Act, have failed to attend for medical examination when ordered to do so—punishable by civil magistrates by a fine not exceeding \$2000, and not less than \$25, and to not more than three months' imprisonment. If not fined, punishable by military law as absentees without leave or deserters.

(3) Men who, having been reported to report for duty for duty, are punishable in the same way as absentees of the following group: Group 4, if they were required to report for duty, they were taken on the strength of the E.F.F. Otherwise, punishable by military law.

Other Punishments. (4) Men who, having been taken on the strength of a unit of the C.E.F. or of the active militia, either as volunteers or as drafted men, and either before or after the issue of the proclamation under the Military Service Act, or the passing of that act, are now, or hereafter become, absentees without leave—punishable by civil magistrates by two years' imprisonment with the consent of the General Officer Commanding the district in which the prosecution is brought, or by military law.

(5) Men who, having been granted leave of absence without pay, cease or fail to comply with the conditions upon which their leave was granted—punishable in the same way as men in group 4.

Men in all the five groups mentioned, it is pointed out, are alike in that they are all soldiers absent without leave and subject to military or civil arrest for their absence.

GERMAN PLAN TO FORCE PEACE

Proposal That Russia Hand Over Strategic Points to Them

London, Dec. 31.—An American diplomatic courier on his way to Petrograd has refused admission to Russia on the ground that his pass has not been issued by M. Borovskiy, the Bolshevik Minister at Stockholm. This is the first time that a regular courier's pass has not been honored.

It is said in this way to exert pressure on the indirect recognition of their foreign representatives.

Strograd correspondent of the Tshetviki authorities of the Russian proposal of the German and Austrian delegates to the Brest-Litovsk conference that in a contingency various strategic points in Russian territory should be occupied by the Central Powers.

According to the rumors, it had been proposed by the representatives of Germany and Austria that pending the resumption of the negotiations Russia should mediate between the Central Powers and the Entente Allies with a view to bringing about a general peace. Should the attempt fail, the occupation of the several strategic points by the Central Powers was proposed so that pressure might be brought upon the Entente.

The proposal, says the correspondent, caused consternation at the Smolny Institute, the Bolshevik headquarters.

CANNOT GET PASSPORTS. Many Irish Want to Join American Regiments.

London, Dec. 31.—The Dublin correspondent of the Times is informed that a number of young men from the midlands and west of Ireland have applied for passports to enable them to travel to the United States to join Irish regiments of the American army.

So far they have been unable to induce the authorities to grant them permits to travel.