

YEAR 85: NO. 301

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1918.

LAST EDITION

RETAIN BRITAIN'S POWER ON SEAS

President Wilson is Said to Have a Plan to Offer.

NO CENTRAL NAVAL FORCE

BLOCKADES WOULD REQUIRE INTERNATIONAL SANCTION.

The American President Wants to Expedite Matters in Connection With the Peace Conference.

Paris, Dec. 27.—There is a growing feeling of dissatisfaction over the delay faced by the peace conference in getting down to business. President Wilson shares this unrest, and he purposes making his visit to England the occasion of an effort to expedite matters. Because of the uncertainty of the conference programme, he has declined to make engagements binding him too far in advance, so that he can be free for action when the time for it comes.

The dilatory tactics in relation to the conference were made the subject for critical comments in several French papers yesterday, some ascribing the delay to natural causes, while others insist that it was due to the fact that there was no definite policy. Those holding the latter view are found among the reactionaries who are not supporting the league of nations principles.

Behind the President's visit to Britain lies another and deeper purpose. He will use it as an opportunity to make a special statement on his meaning of the freedom of the seas. Already he has indicated his acceptance of the belief that Britain has a world maritime position which requires peculiar treatment.

It is expected by those in the President's confidence that he will interpose his attitude in a manner which will assure British support, which in fact already seems to be his. It is understood that President Wilson has a plan to offer whereby Britain's individual naval supremacy will not be affected by the clause on the freedom of the seas. In other words, there is to be no central force to which all the navies must contribute their full strength. Britain's sea power remains British if the plan is carried through, but the operations in such matters of international consequence as blockades must be executed upon the sanction of the league of nations.

By this process, policies will be made by the league and their execution entrusted to the individual members. It is known that this system finds favor in both the American and British services, and the prospects are excellent for their final submission and approval, but there has been no definite official commitment and there will not be until the conversations have been held.

These conversations will be begun by President Wilson while he is in England.

TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.

Cresswell Man Hanged Himself From Orchard Tree. Ottawa, Dec. 27.—Hector McDonald, aged 52, a bachelor of Cresswell, Ontario, committed suicide Tuesday morning. Securing a ladder, he carried it from the village across two fields, placed it against an orchard tree, mounted, and securing himself firmly jumped into space. He lived with his sister. Inquest deemed unnecessary.

GERMANS GIVE UP LOOT.

Returned French Stocks Value at Six Billion Francs. Paris, Dec. 27.—The Germans have returned stocks taken from the banks in Northern France amounting approximately to six billion francs. Several safes, weighing from five to seven tons each, which the Germans did not open, and are now in Brussels, will be brought back shortly to Valenciennes.

British View of Conference.

Manchester, Dec. 27.—"When we speak of eliminating secrecy, we do not, of course, mean that reporters should attend the Peace Conference, but that, though the discussions are private, the results should be published, and that not at the close of the negotiations, but throughout them." This view was expressed yesterday by C. P. Scott, editor of the Manchester Guardian, in a talk with the Associated Press on the question of secrecy at the Peace Conference.

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EBERT MAY RETIRE FROM GERMAN CABINET

And Leave the Independents in Full Control of the Government.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Berlin, Dec. 27.—As the result of today's deliberations, it is believed in some quarters in Berlin that the majority Socialists will retire from the German cabinet and leave the independents in full control of the government.

The cabinet was in secret session the greater part of the day. Leading independents in the government also were in conference, and this gave rise to the rumor that Hugo Haase, leader of the independent Socialists, would be called on to organize a new government. The crisis is likely to continue for a day or two, and may meet with an unforeseen solution.

To-day passed quietly in Berlin. The majority Socialist members are Premier Ebert, Scheidemann and Landsberg. The independents are Haase, Dittman and Barth. The Spartacus group of Dr. Karl Liebknecht, formerly allied with the independents, Liebknecht's followers are opposed to both the majority and independent Socialists.

DECLARES THE EX-CZAR AND FAMILY ALIVE

Asserted That Former Russian Emperor is Living in a Neutral Country.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Warsaw, Dec. 27.—"There is no doubt that the Czar and his entire family are alive. I am positive of this," was the declaration made to a United Press correspondent today by Michael Tschatchey, a nephew of General Skoropadsky, who has just escaped from Ukraine after a recent trip to Petrograd, Dvinsk, Vilna and Rovno.

"I cannot reveal where the Czar is because he does not wish it," he added. "He does not care to be bothered and he wants to be left alone. His whereabouts is known to an allied government. It is in a neutral country. Accounts of his murder at Ekaterinburg were manufactured by Trotsky and Lenin for propaganda purposes."

COST OF EPIDEMIC

"Flu" Results in Insurance Claims for \$50,000,000.

Montreal, Dec. 27.—"With the enormous claims the life companies in every part of the United States are reporting, it begins to appear that early figures under-estimated the probable cost of the epidemic of influenza would be to insurance," says the Insurance Press. Vice-President Langer, of the Equitable, in a recent address, gave it as his opinion that \$50,000,000 in claims due to the disease had already been incurred, and that the losses of industrial companies alone would be nearly \$30,000,000. This estimate seems to be borne out by individual experiences.

THE CANADIAN SIBERIAN FORCE

Not to Stay Longer Than Men on the Western Front.

NO CHANGE YET KNOWN

IN THE ALLIED PLANS REGARDING STATUS.

Of the Force in Siberia—The Complications of the Russian Situation Are Emphasized.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—So far as official advice are concerned, the Dominion Government is without intimation of any change in allied plans which will affect the status of the Canadian forces in Siberia. It is expected, however that the stay of the force in Siberia will not exceed in time demobilization of the Canadian Corps now on the Rhine. Announcement has already been made that it is not intended to retain the Siberian force in the Far East longer than twelve months following the signing of the armistice. But any early return of the men will depend on allied policy, although there is every likelihood, should the situation warrant, that the men will be back in the course of the coming summer, and perhaps earlier.

The complexities of the Russian situation are such that it is impossible to determine whether any changes in Canadian plans are likely to be made in the immediate future, and while no official advice are to hand, considerable interest is taken in the news despatch from Paris that the allied Governments have decided against further intervention in Russia. Comment is withheld, however, for the time being as to the bearing of any such decision, if any, taken on the position of Canadians already in Siberia.

With the exception of half a dozen men, who are too ill to be moved, all the American war prisoners have been evacuated from Germany this week. They are now completely out of the country or are at ports awaiting transportation. In all probability a war bonus will be voted to the clerical staff at the Montreal City Hall, whose salaries do not exceed \$1,500 a year.



On the way out to meet the German fleet crews were all at action stations and arrangements were made for sections of these to remain on deck to witness the glorious occasion of the surrender. Photograph shows men of a lower deck gun crew in their flash masks.

TALKING OVER PEACE MATTERS

President Wilson, Lloyd George and Balfour Meet at Buckingham Palace.

GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS

IN MAKING CLEAR SOME OF WILSON'S POINTS.

Nothing Developed to Show Any Substantial Difference in Principle or in Fundamentals.

(Canadian Press Despatch) London, Dec. 27.—Premier Lloyd George, accompanied by Sir Maurice Hankey, secretary to the committee on imperial defence, arrived at Buckingham Palace at 10.30 o'clock this morning for a conference with President Wilson. The day was dark and rainy but a big crowd arrived before the Premier made his appearance. Mr. Wilson was sitting early this morning and was busy with his secretary. There were a number of American callers and the Duke of Connaught and Sir Richard Herschell visited the Palace before the arrival of the Premier. A. J. Balfour, Secretary of State for foreign affairs, walked over from the foreign office to attend the conference between Lloyd George and the President.

The company invited to meet President Wilson for luncheon arranged to be held today at Premier Lloyd George's residence comprised a small gathering of the elder statesmen personnel, including leaders in the last and present government and heads of three of the political parties, conservative, liberal and labor. The luncheon gave the occasion for the first visit by former Premier Asquith to the Premier's official residence since the liberal leader resigned his office. Viscount Morley, another of the party, retired from the Asquith cabinet at the beginning of the war on account of his opposition to Great Britain's participation in the struggle. Viscount Grey, still another of those invited, has been living almost in retirement since he left the cabinet. He is one of the strongest advocates of a league of nations. Arthur Henderson, labor leader, also a guest, is likewise a supporter of the idea of a league of nations.

Conferences Satisfactory. (Canadian Press Despatch) London, Dec. 27.—President Wilson's conferences to-day with British statesmen are described in American quarters as having been very satisfactory. The President spent more than three hours before Premier Lloyd George's luncheon in most intimate discussion with the Premier and Foreign Secretary Balfour at Buckingham Palace going over the general aspects of the fourteen points of his peace programme. No one particular phrase was taken up, but the whole discussion was a general one. No official announcements were made of the results of the conference, and afterwards the President continued the discussions with British statesmen at luncheon in Downing Street and later resumed them at Buckingham Palace.

It was learned that a great deal of progress was made in making clear some phases of the President's points which are uppermost in the minds of the British, principally as regards the question of British naval supremacy.

At Buckingham Palace before

BRITAIN'S HEALTH GRAVE PROBLEM

Establishment of Ministry of Health a Step in Right Direction.

TO PREVENT INFECTION

COMPULSION WOULD PREVENT COMMUNICATION

And Gain Information—The Housing Problem is in the Foreground of All Health Problems.

London, Dec. 27.—With the prospect of secure peace, England is beginning to set her house in order, and the establishment of a ministry of health is undoubtedly a movement in the right direction. Health is a far greater asset than mere wealth, and in the building-up days that are undoubtedly coming the full strength and vigor of the whole nation will be required.

The old question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" is true in an affirmative sense from many points of view. Our neighbor's health is a very real sense is our own health. A person suffering from some form of infectious disease is a danger to the whole community.

Recently Sir James Galloway, commissioner of medical service in the national service ministry, has given some appalling figures with reference to the health of the nation during the past few years. During the last twelve months, he states that the two and a half million men who have been subjected to medical examination revealed an appalling state of affairs, and an unsuspected menace to public health.

Spread of Infection. Sir James says that "at present there are vast numbers of sick persons, many of them infectious, who are carrying on their daily work, often in crowded rooms or factories. It is no uncommon thing to find tuberculous milk dealers, butchers, bakers, grocers, hairdressers, bus conductors and factory hands, all of whom are in a state to infect great numbers of the community, and the fact of whose illness is often unknown to any health authority."

Periodic medical examination is absolutely necessary if health is to be safeguarded and kept up to the mark. The captain, seeing it was hopeless to escape, ran toward the shore. His last words were: "We are in God's hands." Only a few seconds later I looked for him, and saw his body mangled by shell fire, roll into the water and go under. The last shell hit the starboard saddle tank, killing all. I believe."

The submarine soon afterwards ran into a sandbank close in shores and the Turks picked up the survivors.

R. D. McCulloch of Galt announced on behalf of his sister Miss Jessie Shearer, Toronto, and himself, their readiness to give a new Nurses' Home to the Galt Hospital Board, in memory of their father, the late Hugh McCulloch.

British Columbia's honey crop this year amounts to nearly 225 tons, the biggest yield yet.

President Pares of Portugal, who was recently

of it. Such a course obviously opens out an exceedingly difficult and delicate problem.

But if the power is not granted them as Sir James puts it, you are confronted with the fact that you have thousands of people not regarding themselves as sick, able to go about their work, yet at the same time a danger to themselves and the community, and developing ill-health which means eventually an enormous loss to the state. If these people do not realize that they are ill, and therefore neither sick nor accept medical advice, the ministry of health must have power to provide medical attendance for them, in order to preserve and maintain their health.

Who Will Pay Bill? This compulsory scheme opens up the big problem as to the payment of the bill. If the state compels medical treatment, would the onus fall on the state to meet the expense, which would be no small matter?

Doctors everywhere testify to the fact that the war has placed a strain on the whole of the community which will sooner or later show itself in a thousand ways, and ultimately develop into some form of specific disease. Never in the history of the world was medical guidance more needed than it is today. Undoubtedly the old saying, "a stitch in time saves nine," is never more true than when it is applied to matters of health. Disease grappled within its incipient stages is more than half cured.

One effect of the new law will be the immediate removal of the nation's health from poor law control, which will be something to be thankful for.

HOUSING PROBLEM IN FRONT.

The housing problem of London stands in the very foreground of all health problems. There is a great shortage of homes in London, and now that the war is over there will be a great danger of "speculative" builders rushing up houses with a tarty fitness, upon which the authorities will have to keep a stringent check. There is a great need for small tenements, and the need for these residences will best be met by the conversion of large homes into flats and maisonettes, a course which was being very widely adopted before the war. It is the opening of new sites which presents the greatest danger. The health of the community must be the first consideration, and it is essential that no land at present used for recreation purposes should be built over.

GERMANY'S STAPLE IS ROAST GOOSE

Can be Purchased Wholesale or Retail Without a Card.

Paris, Dec. 27.—Outward evidence of a revolution are few in Germany. The red, black and white flag, or the imperial standard is floating from almost every house in honor of the returning troops, but the red banner of the new republic is seldom seen. In Cassel I was informed that one reason was that the council had been obliged to tear the red strip from the old flags to make their official revolutionary banner.

In hotels everywhere the staple dish was roast goose. We ate goose at five meals in three days. The chief reason for this epidemic of geese is that it can be purchased wholesale or retail without a card. The charge per portion runs from \$2 restaurant.

Volunteer Army Holding Odessa. Odessa, Dec. 27.—The volunteer army which is holding Odessa, under French command, is to be increased by detachments from the Crimean. The main force of the Republican army, which is now ten miles from Odessa, is reported today to have received reinforcements from Kiev, who came in an armored train.

More than 200 persons were killed in the street battles here on Dec. 18, a revised count shows. One third of these were civilians. Several school children were wounded.

Bernstorff's View. Geneva, Dec. 27.—Count von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador to the United States, is reported to be opposed to the Berlin investigation of war responsibility being extended to occurrences which followed the actual commencement of hostilities. After the Fatherland was at war he claims it was the duty of all to serve its ends regardless of consequences.

Commutes Sentences. Washington, Dec. 27.—Death sentences imposed by court-martial for desertion upon Recruit F. C. Lamb and Private George O. Jacobs, 160th Infantry, were commuted by President Wilson to dishonorable discharge and twenty years' imprisonment at hard labor. Lamb was convicted at Camp Dodge, Iowa, and Jacobs at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Paderewski to Form Government. Copenhagen, Dec. 27.—Ignace Jan Paderewski the famous Polish pianist, and prominent in the work of Polish rehabilitation, has arrived here on board a British cruiser.

The Berlingske Tidende expresses belief that Paderewski's mission is to found a new Polish government under entente auspices.

Back From Germany. Paris, Dec. 27.—Two hundred and seventy-five thousand French prisoners have returned from Germany. These still remain in Germany, 200,000 Frenchmen, a large number of whom are already homeward bound.

For the first time in two winters the Toronto coal companies have antitrustic coal on hand to meet all reasonable demands.

PEACE PARLEYS YET AFAR OFF

The Tests For Participating Governments Are Not Yet Fixed.

THREE STAGES EXPECTED

THE CHIEF ALLIES ARE TO CONFER FIRST.

Neutrals and Central Powers Come Last—Wilson Has Discussed Representation With Clemenceau. Paris, Dec. 27.—More than three weeks probably will elapse before the general Peace Conference assembles. It is unlikely that any official statement will be issued in the meantime concerning the number of governments to be represented, or the tests to be applied to determine the right of applicants to participate.

Technical experts attached to the delegation of the principal Powers already have given much study to this subject. If negotiations to reach an agreement on this point have not been undertaken already, it is certain they will be immediately after President Wilson's return from London.

Notwithstanding the indisposition of the British Government to infect business into Mr. Wilson's visit, it is possible that in his conferences with Premier Lloyd George and Foreign Minister Balfour, the foundation may be laid for settlement of the question of representation, which Mr. Wilson has discussed with Premier Clemenceau.

Conditions which will confront the Peace Conference when it opens will not be unlike those marking the opening of a new Congress in the United States, or a national convention. In the first, the House clerk determines the tentative membership, and in the second the committee on credentials prepares a tentative list of delegates. At the Peace Conference, delegates must be prepared to present adequate credentials from their legislatures, kings, presidents or other executive authority.

It is considered probable that several countries on the tentative list will be closely restricted at the beginning, when broad questions of policy will be outlined. But additions to the list of delegates may be made later when the Conference gets down to details and general principles. Still later another class of nations may be admitted, including the Central Powers, to lay the foundations for the formal signing of peace treaties.

Theoretically these questions are subject to mutual examination and challenge in case of doubt, but actually, in the forthcoming Conference, the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and later, perhaps, Belgium, by reason of sentimental considerations, probably will reach an understanding as to the admission of delegates.

GERMANY PINS FAITH ON FOURTEEN POINTS

"We Wash Our Hands of Russia," Says Bernstorff in Interview.

Paris, Dec. 27.—"All the belligerents have accepted President Wilson's fourteen points, and the only question to be discussed is their interpretation," said Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, in giving his opinion of what Germany's attitude would be at the peace conference, according to the Geneva correspondent of The Matin.

"Germany," declared the count, "will keep to the president's program, which grants each people of an ethnical group the right to dispose of itself." Asked if he thought the president's program would furnish the basis for a lasting peace, Count von Bernstorff shrugged his shoulders. "This is the only one which can be proposed at present," he added, "and the attempt must be made to apply it. At any rate, we shall support it." When he was asked by the correspondent what attitude Germany would adopt toward the east, he replied: "All the questions concerning the new states which have sprung up on the Russian frontier are the affair of the allies. Let them disentangle things as best they can. We wash our hands of Russia. We are content to safeguard as far as possible the integrity of our territory, consulting at the same time the will of the populations."

I do not favor handing over the Kaiser to the allies. A sovereign is not responsible for the policy of his government."

To Abolish All Titles.

Munich, Dec. 27.—The new Wurttemberg government says a Stuttgart despatch proposes to abolish all nobility, titles and power.

RUMORED EX-KAISER WAS ASSASSINATED

(Canadian Press Despatch) Paris, Dec. 27.—Rumors that the former emperor of Germany had been assassinated became current in Paris, notably in the Chamber of Deputies last evening. There is not the slightest confirmation of report up to the present.