

**PEACE THIS YEAR
NOW IMPOSSIBLE**

German Delegation Takes Allied Reply to Note to Berlin for Consideration

SCAPA FLOW UNSETTLED

By the Associated Press
Paris, Dec. 23.—Exchange of ratifications of the German peace treaty before the end of the year is considered in French official circles, as impossible. This opinion was formed today when the head of the German delegation here announced that he would be obliged to return to Berlin to consult with the government on the latest allied communication.

Paul Dutasta, secretary of the Peace Conference, handed Kurt von Lersner, head of the German delegation, the allied reply to the last German note. Von Lersner said that owing to difficulties of communication and the importance of the document, he felt obliged to consult Berlin, and that he would leave, with all his experts, for the German capital tonight. He emphasized that his departure was in no wise a rupture of negotiations.

Secretary Dutasta, in accordance with instructions from the Supreme Council, accompanied the allied note with a verbal communication in which it is understood the council assured Von Lersner that the Allies recognized the serious difficulties which might exist in Germany and wished to take them into account.

BRITISH TO GET THEIR BACON

Mission in New York Looking After It, House of Commons Hears

London, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—The British mission in New York has made arrangements by which England is assured of securing a regular supply of bacon of good quality at prices based on the actual cost of hogs.

This arrangement was made in the House of Commons by George H. Roberts, food controller, in reply to a question as to the activities of the department in protecting the British meat consumers from the high prices fixed by American packers. Mr. Roberts said the business of buying had been concentrated in the hands of the British mission.

**BRITISH CURB TURKS;
OCCUPY TWO CITIES**

Russian Bolsheviki Approach Poland With Olive Branch and Sword

London, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—British forces have occupied Batum and Baku to prevent the Turks from penetrating the Caucasus region, according to a Moscow wireless dispatch.

[Batum and Baku, on the Caspian sea, were occupied by the British during the war. They are in the center of a great oil region.]
M. Tchitcherin, Russian Bolsheviki minister of foreign affairs, has offered to begin immediate peace negotiations with Poland, according to a wireless dispatch from Moscow. The Polish Government was requested to indicate the time and place it would like the negotiations to open.

Geneva, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—Preparations for a great Bolsheviki offensive against Poland next spring is planned by Leon Trotsky, soviet minister of war and marine of Russia, according to a Warsaw dispatch received by the Ukrainian news bureau here.

Recent statements by Trotsky are quoted to the effect that he believes bolshevism to be "nearly rooted and sprouting in China," where a Bolsheviki revolution is expected shortly. It is said Trotsky intends to use Chinese in carrying out his invasion of western Europe.

FRENCH PLAN RAIL INCREASE

Big Jump in Rates for 1920 Approved by Cabinet

Paris, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—The cabinet today approved a bill for introduction in the Chamber of Deputies providing for temporary increases in open negotiations with the soviet government of Russia for an armistice, according to a dispatch received here from Riga.

Irkutsk, Dec. 21 (delayed).—(By A. P.)—The city of Tomsk, western Siberia, has been evacuated by the Siberian troops of the all-Russian Government. General evacuation of Tomsk began December 16.

**AGREEMENT NEAR
ON TREATY, BELIEF**

Many Conferences Held With View to Compromise Bring Approval in Sight

PLAN SHORT "WET" SPELL

By the Associated Press
Washington, Dec. 23.—With both sides apparently willing to give and take, the effort to reach a compromise agreement for ratification of the peace treaty was reported progressing satisfactorily at conferences here between Senate leaders of both parties.

Early ratification of the treaty was predicted by some senators, with prospects of such action before January 16, which would give President Wilson an opportunity to lift wartime prohibition and grant the country a wet period before the constitutional amendment becomes effective on that date.

All senators remaining in Washington during the holiday probably will be called upon to participate in the treaty conference. From present indications the senators are going ahead with the compromise program without awaiting further word from the White House. It was pointed out, however, that President Wilson might again intervene in the treaty fight if he did not approve reservations accepted by members of his party.

Notable in the day's long series of reconciliation conferences was a meeting between Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, the Republican leader, and Senator Underwood, of Alabama, a prominent Democratic advocate of a speedy compromise. They are said to have discussed the whole range of possibilities for bringing together on a com-

mon ground enough senators to insure ratification.
Meantime the Democratic leader, Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, canvassed sentiment on both sides of the controversy and arranged during the coming week to see every Republican senator who remains in Washington over the holidays. As soon as Congress reassembles he plans to have a general conference of those who favor ratification with or without reservations.
Modifications in the language of the reservations as agreed on by the Senate majority are understood to have been suggested by the mild reservationists, although it was said the question of the language to be adopted would be left open for the present.

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