



HUNS PROPOSE PEACE OFFER TO THE ALLIES

Russia Informed by Central Powers That New Move Is Planned by Teutons; Basis, No Annexations and No Indemnities; Germans Anxious to Learn Result of Russ Negotiations With Her Former Allies

Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—According to press reports, Russia has been informed by the central powers that they intend to make peace proposals to the allies.

This report is published in the Evening Post, which says the representatives of the central powers at the first preliminary peace conference with the Russians, held yesterday announced their governments intended on principle to put the question of peace before all the powers, and that they had asked their allies to do likewise.

The Evening Post says the Germans have officially informed the Bolsheviki headquarters that the central powers are ready to consider the arrangement of peace on the basis of no annexations and no indemnities but pointed out that redefinition of nations was impracticable.

The representatives of the central powers informed the Russians they were ready to discuss peace preliminaries but desired to know the result of Russia's efforts to induce the allies to join in the negotiations before proceeding with them.

The first conference was devoted merely to a discussion of who would participate in the negotiations.

Bolsheviki Proclaims State of Siege in Petrograd; Ukrainians Given Ultimatum

London, Dec. 18.—The Bolsheviki government according to Petrograd advices, has sent an ultimatum to the Ukrainian Rada. It demands that within 48 hours a decision be made whether the Ukraine will cease to assist General Kaledines by sending his troops while forbidding passage to Bolsheviki government troops and also whether it will stop disarming troops in the Ukraine.

A state of siege has been proclaimed in Petrograd and the Ukrainian Rada has refused to obey an ultimatum presented by the Bolsheviki government.

Relations between the Ukraine and the Bolsheviki government have not been cordial. The Ukraine has refused to permit Maximist troops to cross its territory to attack General Kaledines and several days ago Bolsheviki troops attacked the Rada as it was sitting in Odessa and were defeated by Ukrainian troops.

The Bolsheviki government has accused the Ukrainian Rada of being friendly to the Constitutional Democrats and the Cossacks, the main factors behind the counter-revolution.

Rostov-on-the-Don recently reported captured by the Bolsheviki and now said to have been occupied Monday by the Cossacks of General Kaledines who, according to another recent rumor, had been arrested by his own officers. The Cos-

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THE WEATHER
For Harrisburg and vicinity: Generally cloudy to-night and Friday, probably rain or snow; Friday, not much change in temperature; lowest to-night about 30 degrees.
For Eastern Pennsylvania: Cloudy to-night; Friday probably rain, turning to snow; not much change in temperature; moderate southwest winds becoming northwest.

INQUIRY INTO SUPPLY OF FOOD TO COME NEXT

Investigation Into Delays of Gun Supply Now Virtually Completed

PUBLIC WANTS FACTS Relation of Garment Shortage to Disease Prevalence Will Receive Attention

Washington, Dec. 20.—With its inquiry into alleged delays in supplying the war Army with guns and ammunition virtually concluded, the Senate Military Committee to-day prepared to investigate the shortage and production delays in clothing and food for soldiers.

Chairman Chamberlain promised a thorough investigation of the work of the Quartermaster's Department, of which Major General Goethals, recently recalled to active service, soon will take charge. The relation of the clothing shortage to prevalence of disease in various cantonments also will be developed.

One private munitions maker remaining on the stand when the hearing was resumed to-day to supplement the testimony already given by other manufacturers as to delays in supplying machine guns and rifles during the early days of the war.

Ship Board's Affairs to Be Aired Tomorrow

Washington, Dec. 20.—Investigation of the government's shipping board and emergency fleet corporation's operations, under the resolution of Senator Harding, which the Senate adopted, the Senate Commerce Committee decided to-day will begin to-morrow afternoon with

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American Santa Claus Must Provide Toys For Blind Children in Halifax

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 20.—An American Santa Claus must provide toys for hundreds of blind and crippled children in hospitals here. The limited stock carried by the local dealers has been exhausted.

The bulk of holiday trade before the disaster was in the purchase of gifts for Xmas or New Year's. These had been mailed for delivery on the battle front next week and had been planned for a quiet observance at home.

The number of persons blinded by the explosion may exceed 1,000, including those who lost the sight of one or both eyes. Many of these are children.

600 Applications on File For Unfilled Coal Orders

Mayor Keister announced to-day that he has taken an accurate list of the coal needed in the city in order to form an idea of the seriousness of the coal situation here. The dealer has been asked to tabulate his orders during the first days of this week, and a report has been submitted to the Mayor showing that Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, nine out of seventeen of the dealers of the city had 600 applications for coal shipments which they could not fill. Mayor Keister began the canvass of the coal situation last week when there was practically no coal in the city in order that he could place before the state administration the actual condition of the city.

Stuart Gives \$1,000 to Knights of Columbus Fund

Philadelphia, Dec. 20.—The Knights of Columbus fund to maintain butts for soldiers at the various cantonments has reached a total of \$110,000 according to John V. Loughney, treasurer of the fund. Among the contributors of the fund yesterday was ex-Governor Edwin S. Stuart, who sent a check for \$1,000.

Scranton Abolishes Jobs to Cut Down Expenses

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 20.—As expenses of cutting down the expenses of the city for 1918, council yesterday voted to abolish three battalion chiefs in the fire department. The position of director of department of supplies, paying a salary of \$3,600 a year, will also be eliminated.

BOY SCOUT COUNCIL POSTPONES ITS SESSION
The annual meeting of the Boy Scout Council scheduled for to-night has been indefinitely postponed owing to the inability of the majority of members to attend, due to the holiday activities and pressure of business. A date for a future meeting will be announced later.

BOOTHS GET MANY MEMBERS



MISS ELEANOR CLARK AT HEADQUARTERS
The booths placed in a dozen or more stores and business places in Harrisburg are securing many members for the Red Cross. Miss Eleanor Clark, of Front and Rely streets, is at the headquarters booth, Market and Court streets.

HEARS PARENTS SAVED LIVES BY 1,000-MILE WALK

Harrisburger Gets First Letter From Home Since June 28, 1914

After giving up his parents and six brothers as being numbered among the countless dead in the great Hun drive into Poland Max Gordon, proprietor of a shoe repair shop at Verbeke and Penn streets, to-day was electrified by receiving a letter from his father and mother.

It was the first word that he had received from his home since June 28, 1914. His parents are well and fairly happy although driven back into the country for more than a thousand miles.

Two brothers were drafted into the Russian army, the letter said, and word has come that one is a prisoner in Austria, having been taken captive in one of the campaigns into his native country. Gordon to-day said that he had given up hope of ever hearing from his parents. He had read carefully of the accounts of the terrible disaster, the murders, the looting, the starving millions that had followed in the wake of the barbarians entry into Poland, that he believed the chances of his family's escaping were extremely small.

The Gordon family, the letter tells, had walked more than a thousand miles into the interior with what household effects they could save. They are now living many miles back of Petrograd. There is enough food where the family is living, the letter states, but shoes are impossible to buy.

Gordon to-day was planning to send shoes to his home. "I also have good news for my parents," remarked Gordon to-day at his shop. "Since I heard from home I have married and have a child."

RED CROSS TO LOOK AFTER FAMILY NEEDS OF HARRISBURG MEN SERVING WITH COLORS

To see that no family suffers in any way because any of its members are serving the colors is the very definite purpose of the Home Service section of the Harrisburg chapter of the Red Cross, recently organized, and which has taken on increased activity during the past two weeks. The chairman of the committee is Mrs. William Jennings as vice-chairman and John H. McCandless as secretary. Among the specific things which the committee is doing is to advise with the wives, mothers and

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN FAILED TO CHECK ALLIED SUPPLIES

Germany's Intensified Campaign Not a Success, Says Lloyd-George

IMPORTS ALMOST NORMAL More Submarines Are Being Sunk, and U-Boats Are Sinking Less Ships

London, Dec. 20.—Speaking in the House of Commons to-day, David Lloyd George, British prime minister, said that the margin of losses at sea was narrowing. The sinking by submarines, he declared, was decreasing while shipbuilding was increasing.

The premier said the sinking of the merchant tonnage was down by 20 per cent, he added, the loss had been only six per cent of imports over that of last year.

Regarding the military situation, Mr. Lloyd George said it was idle to pretend that the hopes formed had been realized. This disappointment he attributed to the Russian collapse.

The Germans, the premier said, had had only one success which was due to surprise, and this was now engaging inquiry. The Germans, he stated, had lost 100,000 prisoners, valuable positions and hundreds of guns.

The premier said that if the Russian army had fulfilled the expectations of its generals, by this time the pride of the German military power would have been completely humbled.

On the whole, Premier Lloyd George said, the British campaign had not achieved the expectations formed but he declared there had been military successes in Palestine which would have a permanent effect on the history of the world.

Complete restoration of the territories taken by the enemy, together with compensation, was demanded by the British cabinet in connection with the war aim of the Government.

After referring to the Italian reverses, the premier said it would be necessary to get only two avowedly west armies in the coming year. The need would arise to increase the nation's manpower by taking some men now emancipated.

Former President's Daughter to Wed

London, Dec. 20.—The engagement is announced of Esther, daughter of the late Grover Cleveland to Captain Bosanquet, of the Coldstream Guards. Captain Bosanquet, a son of Sir Albert Bosanquet, has been decorated with the Distinguished Service Order.

Miss Cleveland came to London in June of last year, after having qualified as a nurse and instructor of the blind, and took up work as volunteer at St. Dun's Home for blind soldiers.

Cardinal Approves Work on Holy Days

Washington, Dec. 20.—Cardinal Gibbons gave his sanction to-day to the Roman Catholic miners working on the holy days falling within the Christmas and New Year's holiday season.

In a letter to Fuel Administrator Garfield he approved of a suggestion that miners take only Christmas Day and New Year's Day off and further proposed that saloons might co-operate by closing from 9 o'clock in the evening until 8 o'clock the following morning.

Expensive Proposition to Love Kaiser Too Well

Mankato, Minn., Dec. 20.—A statement that the United States might as well be under the Kaiser's government as under its own was among those charges to-day made by a wholesale grocer, arrested on complaints that he had made seditious remarks. He told Municipal Judge Censtok he was sorry and at the judge's suggestion bought \$1,000 worth of Liberty Bonds, subscribed \$100 to the Red Cross and gave \$50 each to the Knights of Columbus and the Y. M. C. A. Then, to-day, Judge Censtok fined him \$500.

LIFTING OF EMBARGO CAUSES SHARP UPTURN
Chicago, Dec. 20.—Rumors that the eastbound embargo on corn and oats was to be lifted and that the maximum price of corn was to be removed led to a sharp upturn in the corn and oats market on the Board of Trade to-day. May corn advanced 1 1/2 cents to \$1.26 1/2. Oats rose three cents.

CITY LAGS FOR FIRST TIME IN PATRIOTIC WORK

Red Cross Committees Keep Up Canvass to Catch More Members

19,000 BACK UNCLE SAM Hundreds of Homes Have No Flags For Christmas Day

Passing along Harrisburg streets in the cars to-day and to-morrow and the next day, look for Red Cross service flags in the windows.

At noon to-day somewhere in the neighborhood of 19,000 Harrisburg men, women and children had joined the local Red Cross chapter. That is 11,000 less than the 30,000 quota assigned to Harrisburg; and the campaign has gone twenty-four hours past the time originally intended.

Either the people of Harrisburg have no interest in the 4,000 men from Dauphin county in the United States Army.

Or they are not interested in the successful prosecution of the war.

Or they have just overlooked the fact that the dollar they give the Red Cross may mean the life of an American.

Or it may be that they are German sympathizers—some of them. Last evening Mrs. James Steiner

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SHIPMERS AND CARRIERS MEET

Harrisburg—Shippers and railroad men met to-day in the offices of J. K. Johnston, superintendent of the Philadelphia division of the Pennsylvania, in an effort to solve congestion problems. The idea is to accelerate the loading and unloading of freight cars. Edward Hilleary presided.

Harrisburg—Garfield McAllister, 804 North Sixteenth street, has gone to Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Georgia, where he will be assistant secretary of the Y. M. C. A.

PARIS REPORTS FRONT QUIET
Paris, Dec. 20.—The official statement issued to-day by the French war office says: "There was moderate artillery activity along the front last night. There were no infantry actions."

ITALIAN SHIPPING LOSSES SMALL
Rome, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—The weekly report of shipping losses shows that two sailing vessels of more than 100 tons and one of less than that size were sunk. One steamship was damaged by a mine but reached port.

RUSSIAN EMBASSY WITHOUT ADVICES
Washington, Dec. 20.—The Russian embassy to-day was entirely without advices on the progress of peace negotiations between the Bolsheviki and the central powers and whatever advices the government was receiving through American ambassador Francis or other sources was not made public.

NAVY INQUIRY MAY BE DEFERRED
Washington, Dec. 20.—The next step of the House sub-committee investigating the war activities of the Navy had not been revealed to-day and it appeared probable that further sessions would be deferred until after the Christmas recess. The committee adjourned last night without fixing any time for resuming the hearing.

11 KILLED IN MINE EXPLOSION
Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 20.—Eleven miners were killed in an explosion at mine No. 3 of the Dar Dour Coal and Coke Company, Catoots, near Nemo, Tenn., late Wednesday afternoon according to work reaching here to-day. Seventy-five were in the mine at the time.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Alois Pahl and Mary Otzel, Steelton; Clarence A. Benz and Amy S. Mamma, Mechanicsburg; Earl W. Hoffman, Lisburn, and Sarah E. Strominger, New Cumberland; William A. Jolly and Mary Price, Middletown; James O. Wible, Camp Hill, and Wava E. Klare, Harrisburg.