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* Maritime: Westerly winds, *
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ALL THE NEWS FOR ONE CENT

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1916

ONE CENT PER COPY

IS WILSON PLAYING THE GAME FOR COUNT VON BERNSTORFF?

Wilson's Peace Note Causes Astonishment in England

Much Speculation Indulged in as to Motives Which Inspired The President's Action---Was the Note the Outcome of Von Bernstorff's Propaganda?

LONDON, Dec. 22.—President Wilson's note is prominently displayed in the morning papers. Headlines such as "President Wilson's Strange Peace Essay," "President Wilson's Peace Feeler," "Amazing Note," indicate in slight measure the astonishment caused by the communication.

Much speculation is indulged in as to the motives or causes which inspired the President to send such a note after his assumption of the attitude that he would not mediate unless invited by both groups of belligerents.

One section of the press, utterly rejecting any idea of the possibility of peace negotiations as the outcome of the recent German note, flatly attributes the President's action to the success of the propaganda conducted by Count Bernstorff in America, and what they describe as the inactivity of the late government of Great Britain.

The more general impression is that the agitation in America for an embargo on food exports had much to do with Mr. Wilson's action. It is also suggested that the President may have received special information from the German government and is aware of the extent to which Germany is prepared to go toward "reparation, restitution and guarantees."

This is the view expressed by the Daily Chronicle. Some discussion is also devoted to the chances of Congress passing food export measures, and possibly an embargo on cotton and war material.

What Position Would United States Have Been in Had the Germans Conquered Europe?

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The Morning Post, in an editorial, regards President Wilson's detachment as passing belief, and reminiscent of the attitude of the antique gods.

Going through the President's statements in a highly ironic vein, the Post says: "We have supposed by this time even the Americans realized what the nations were fighting about, but as they profess ignorance we shall attempt to explain the matter to them."

"Germany set out to conquer Europe. If the United Kingdom, like the United States, had stood aside, Germany might have succeeded, and then, with Europe conquered, there would have remained the United States."

"Does President Wilson suppose that the Monroe Doctrine and the American navy together would have been sufficient to defend the vast, rich and almost unprotected territory of North and South America?" asks the Morning Post.

Liberties and Possessions of Britain and Allies Only Secured by Germany's Defeat

"We are fighting for the lives, possessions and liberties of ourselves and our Allies, and lastly, we are fighting for the lives, possessions and liberties of the rest of the world, including the two Americans, and we reply frankly to the President that these can only be secured by the defeat of Germany."

"The President may object that the defeat may take a long time, but the Allies are determined to carry it through, just as the Northern States in the American civil war resolved that, cost what it might, they would carry it through. If the President desires the war to end now, we suggest to him there is one way open, let him range himself on the side of Germany and help defeat the Allies. But if he is unprepared to fight on one side or the other, we confess we are unable to see in what way he can assist in a settlement of the matter."

FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORT.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—There was lively cannonading in the region of Louvemont, north of Verdun, during last night, says the War Office bulletin today on the progress of military operations on the French front.

HEAVY ARTILLERY DUEL.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—An artillery duel of great intensity occurred north of Monastir on Thursday, the War Office announces in today's statement regarding operations on the Macedonian front. Along the easterly end of the line, on the Struma front, encounters between patrols occurred.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT PROROGUES

London, Dec. 22.—Parliament was prorogued this afternoon without the members being given any further information regarding President Wilson's note or what action the government contemplated with respect to it. Neither the note nor the German peace proposal was mentioned in the speech read in both Houses.

GERMAN U. BOAT HAS BEEN SUNK

Paris, Dec. 22.—The German submarine U-45 has been sunk by destroyers, according to a Nantes despatch. The U-45 recently sank steamers off Saint Nazaire.

Mayor of Toronto Is Re-elected

Toronto, Dec. 22.—No opposition to Mayor Church developed up to twelve o'clock, and he accordingly entered on a third term.

PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. Ford Smith are to spend Christmas with Mrs. Smith's parents, Judge and Mrs. Folkins, at Sussex.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSED TODAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Examinations This Morning Attracted Many Visitors And Were Highly Successful--Lieut. Governor's Medal Presented to Darrell Phillips--Gold Piece For Walter Lawlor.

The public schools of the city closed today for the Christmas vacation. The weather was favorable and there was the usual large attendance of parents and others interested in the schools. In all departments time was devoted to the ordinary work of the schools, being followed by Christmas entertainments. The presentation of certificates was the chief feature of the proceedings in the primary schools. Major W. J. Osborne, who is here on sick leave from France presented the certificates at the Model School. At the Charlotte Street School certificates were presented by Inspector R. D. Hanson. Mrs. Philip Cox made the presentation at the Regent Street School, Mr. J. W. Spurden at the Smythe Street School, and Secretary C. A. Sampson at the York Street School.

At the Fredericton High School.

At the Fredericton High School, after the regular session of the school, the four departments gathered in the Assembly Hall for the presentation of the Lieutenant Governor's medal, given for highest standing in High School entrance examinations. The presentation was made by Rev. Thomas Marshall to Darrell Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. B. Phillips. A gold piece was presented by Dr. G. C. VanWart, chairman of the School Trustees, to Walter Lawlor, who was almost tied with the winner.

MODEL SCHOOL.

At the Model School there were united exercises by the departments of Miss Mills and Miss Harvey and also by the departments of Miss Gallagher and Principal Burns.

In the departments of Miss Mills and Miss Harvey the following programme was carried out:
Play—The Night Before Christmas—Santa Claus, Cyril Barnes; Reindeer, Dorothy Cole, Frances Black, Althea Niles, Norma Upton, Marion Coulthard, Charity Delong, Doris Griffiths; Little

Workers, Harold Murray, Ralph Gibbs, Margaret Irvine, Doris Saunders, Milton Maxwell, Myrtle Stinson, Sandford Smith, Elwin Stinson, Alice Weddall, Margaret Smith.

The other departments carried out the following programme:
Chorus—Christmas Bells.
Recitation—Helen Cole.
Dialogue—Grade V.
Chorus—Come and Worship.
Recitation—Jean Thompson.
Dialogue—Three boys.

(Continued on page 5.)

FURTHER COMMENT OF AMERICAN PRESS ON NOTE OF PRES. WILSON

New York Times Says Germany Would Never Have Proposed Peace if She Did Not Want It---Lansing's Statement a Bad Break.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Further comment of American newspapers on President Wilson's note and on Secretary of State Lansing's explanation, follows:

The Tribune says: "We are on the verge of war—Mr. Lansing has announced. Very well, who threatens us? We should know, and we must know. Did the President, feeling that the United States was on the verge of being drawn into the war, ask the belligerents to state their purposes, that this nation might decide which alliance to join?"

The Times says: "Germany would never have suggested peace if she did not want peace, and want it very much. So far as she is concerned, the war has been sheer waste, enormous, immeasurable waste. Whether or not it was anything for that purpose, the President's note will serve to draw from her a statement of the terms upon which she would be willing to end the war."

New York Staats Zeitung Thinks President Wilson Has Shown Commendable Courage

The Staats Zeitung says: "It required an extraordinary and unparalleled exhibition of moral courage to indite at the present time a message such as President Wilson has cabled to the world. Issued at a moment when the thoughts of all civilized peoples are turning to 'peace on earth,' it cannot fail to have a deterrent effect on those passions still displaying primeval savagery in the trenches on the continent."

The Philadelphia Public Ledger says: "The most extraordinary feature of the note after all is the interpretation which Secretary Lansing, obviously with the President's sanction, puts upon it. His are amazing and alarming words. They cannot have been uttered without a full understanding of all that they imply. The only conclusion is that the war cannot continue much longer without our being drawn into it."

The Boston Post Thinks Lansing's Statement Was Not Warranted by the Facts

The Boston Post says: "Secretary Lansing's statement was a bad break and totally unwarranted by any of the facts in regard to our relations with any of the fighting nations. Mr. Lansing now says that he did not mean to intimate that the government was considering any change in its policy of neutrality. That is well. But it would have been far better had he not attempted any after-elucidation of the President's note, which spoke clearly enough for itself."

BONAR LAW REFERS TO WILSON'S NOTE IN THE HOUSE

Says the Question Can Only be Dealt With in Communication With Other Members of the Entente ---Impossible to Make a Statement Now.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The British government will make no statement at the present time in regard to President Wilson's peace note, considering it a question that can be dealt with only in communication with the other members of the Entente. Announcement to this effect was made in the House of Commons today by Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and government leader in the House.

Mr. Law was asked whether a statement could be made regarding the American note. He replied: "It must be obvious to the House that this is a question that can only be dealt with in communication with our Allies, and that it is absolutely impossible to make a statement now."