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## GERMANY LIKELY TO RESUME CAMPAIGN OF FRIGHTFULNESS

### Sharp Naval Engagement In the Strait of Otranto.

**French, Italian and Austrian Warships in Conflict--Austrians Were Driven off in the Darkness---Three French Craft Were Hit---Italians Are Active.**

ROME, via Paris, Dec. 26.—A naval engagement between French, Italian and Austrian warships in the Strait of Otranto, is announced in an official statement issued by the Admiralty. The statement says: "Several enemy ships attacked our patrol vessels in Otranto Channel on the night of December 23. French and Italian warships came to the rescue and the enemy fled under cover of darkness after a sharp engagement. What damage he suffered is unknown. Two French destroyers and one patrol boat were hit and damaged, but the injury was slight."

ROME, via Paris, Dec. 26.—The feeling of peace in the air has not affected in the slightest measure Italy's military activity. The new class of military reserves, those born in 1898, has been called to report to the colors in January, which will considerably increase the contingent available for the front, with 2,500 factories, running day and night turning out arms and munitions. While from the peaks of Trentino to the shores of the Adriatic Christmas passed in vigilant watching, it was varied in some spots by sudden attacks, notwithstanding fearful weather conditions.

Snow in the mountains is now fifteen feet deep.

PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 26.—M. Shingareff, chairman of the defence committee of the Russian Duma, commenting on President Wilson's note to the European belligerents, said: "The commercial interests of America will predominate every move by the military. America's adherence to one or the other of the belligerents is very improbable, especially to Germany, which would result in complication with Japan."

#### The Paris Temps, in Discussing Wilson's

##### Note, Calls Attention to Armenian Massacres

PARIS, Dec. 24 (delayed).—The Temps, referring to the principle of the integrity of small states as expressed in the American note, recalls Serbia, Belgium and Luxemburg and asks about the Armenian massacres. It quotes Dr. Martin Ne-pape, head of the German school at Aleppo, the central point of the Armenian deportations, as saying: "If the German government is unable to prevent the massacres of men, women and children, the work of my school can have no moral strength with the inhabitants."

The Temps summarizes his report, in which he says that batches of deported persons numbering thousands, on their departure from Armenia, were reduced to two or three hundred on their arrival in the south.

The Temp then quotes the Turkish president of the committee on deportations as saying: "We want to destroy the name Armenia, the same as the Germans desire to allow the survival of none but Germans. We Turks want none but Turks."

"Such are the facts and texts," the Temps adds, "which we respectfully dedicate to the impartial examination of President Wilson."

#### Says a Blunder Has Been Committed in

##### Interpretation of President Wilson's Note

LONDON, Dec. 26.—Prof. A. F. Pollard, who holds the chair of English history in London University, writes to the Times, saying that, while it is clear that somebody blundered regarding the phraseology and presentation of President Wilson's note, it is clear that the people here are also blundering in interpreting it. "We have to remember," writes Prof. Pollard, "that it is addressed to our enemies as well as to ourselves, and has therefore to observe the diplomatic conventions and to assume the sincerity of enemy professions. Secondly, we should remember our own procedure before the war. We addressed an identical inquiry respecting German neutrality to France and Germany. France gave prompt and satisfactory assurances. Germany evaded the question and invaded Belgium."

"Immediate war between the United States and ourselves is out of the question, because we are bound by a recent treaty to a cooling off period of not less than a year. Germany refused that restraint, and the immediate issue therefore turned on Germany's reply to the President's note."

### HUNS WANT MEETING OF DELEGATES

BERLIN, Dec. 26 (via Sayville).—Germany and her allies, Austro-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, have today replied to the notes of President Wilson, in which he asked that the belligerent nations state the aims for which they were fighting.

The proposal is made by the Central Powers that a conference of the delegates of all the belligerents be held immediately in a neutral country. The task of preventing future wars, the official statement says, can be begun only after the end of the present.

#### Late Mrs. Mary Bryson.

Mrs. Mary E. Bryson passed away on Saturday at her home in St. Marys after a brief illness, aged 66 years. She is survived by her husband, William Bryson, one son, William Bryson, on service in France, and by one son by a previous marriage, Alfred Poore, of Oromocto. The funeral took place at one o'clock this afternoon at Oromocto, Rev. Mr. Belyea conducting the service. Interment was made at Oromocto.

#### Has Made Assignment.

Mr. Joseph Williams, of St. John, has made a nassignment for the benefit of his creditors. The assignee is Mr. George W. Waring, of St. John West. Mr. Williams was owner of the steamer Hampstead and operated her between St. John and Fredericton during the summer of 1916. The Hampstead recently was damaged by fire at St. John.

#### Truck Running Better.

The new motor truck acquired by the Fire Department is giving satisfaction now that the roads have become packed and frozen hard. Since Sunday the truck has been able to make good time. Both Drivers Ross and Bearisto have taken instructions and are able to drive the truck.

### BONDAGE THE PRICE HUNS WOULD EXACT FOR PEACE TODAY

**Mr. Arthur Henderson Delivers Outspoken Address Before French Socialistic Congress---The Most Dangerous Period of War Has Been Reached He Says.**

PARIS, Dec. 26.—In addresses at the National Congress of the French Socialist party, Arthur Henderson, the British cabinet minister, and C. H. Roberts, member of the British parliament, both affirmed amidst enthusiastic cheers, that the war must be fought out until full guarantees have been obtained for a lasting peace.

"In my opinion," said Mr. Henderson, "if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than that is the price our enemies would exact for peace today."

Emile Vandervelde, the Belgian Socialist leader, said: "Our comrades who have remained in invaded Belgium endure German dominion with admirable firmness. Nothing but encouragement reaches us from them. So it would seem that the persons most hostile towards war are those farthest from it." Mr. Vandervelde also declared that the struggle must be carried on until Belgium and Serbia are delivered and "Caesarism is laid low."

#### Democracies of Britain and France to Have

##### Supreme Test During the Next Few Months

In his speech Mr. Henderson said: "In my opinion we have now reached the most dangerous and difficult period of the war. During the next few months the democracies of England and France are going to be tested as never before. Do not misunderstand. I do not mean that the stress and strain of the fighting in the field will be more severe, though I don't ignore such a possibility; but the danger is of entirely a different character."

"Our stupendous losses, our unprecedented sacrifices, our horror of war, our love of peace, may lead us to mortgage the future. With such awful experiences we are apt to forget the great moral, eternal principles and ideals for which we entered the struggle. If we enter into peace negotiations now, we do so when Germany is not repentant for her wrong-doing, and is glorying in the success of her military efforts—in fact in the victory of German imperialism."

#### Bondage Would be the Price the Huns

##### Would Exact for Peace at the Present Time

In my opinion, if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions, with such a spirit, we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than that is the price which our enemy would exact for peace today.

"I cannot tell you how many months and what sacrifices stand between us and victory, but I can tell you what will be the reward of victory if we are true to ourselves. We shall have asserted the rights of nations, large and small, to live their lives undisturbed by the ambitions of powerful neighbors. We shall have exacted such reparation for wrongs done by this war as will be a warning to aggressors for all time to come."

#### Public Interest in the American and Swiss

##### Notes in London Continues Unabated

LONDON, Dec. 26.—Interest in the receipt of President Wilson's note remains unabated. Newspaper discussion was renewed today with a new impetus administered by the issue of the Swiss note, with its disclosures of a Swiss American consultation weeks ago, and by long cable despatches recording the discussion, speculation and criticism in America. On the main question a sto how President Wilson's note and similar communications should be treated by the Allies, opinion remains as already recorded. There is on the one hand a reiteration of "the rooted objection of the Allies to inopportune and ill-advised intervention by neutrals," and on the other hand an appeal for courteous treatment of neutral representations, it being urged that the Allies are bound to take them into account, for to do otherwise would be to reduce themselves to "the level of the aggressors who began the war."

## GERMANS MAY FORCE WAR UPON THE UNITED STATES

**Campaign of Frightfulness Likely to be Resumed---New York Herald Gives Currency to a Sensational Story--The Reason for President Wilson's Peace Note to the Belligerents.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The Herald this morning publishes the following: "The Herald is enabled to announce authoritatively that the German people are demanding of their government the resumption of the campaign of frightfulness even at the cost of war with the United States."

James W. Gerard, American ambassador to Berlin, and other diplomatists in Germany, who were recently in America, came for the purpose of discussing the situation in Germany and of effecting some sort of arrangement so that peace between the countries could still be maintained, according to a high government official. Only the personal insistence of the German Emperor himself, aided by the influence of Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, has kept an order from German submarine commanders to sink every ship approaching a British port, whether armed or unarmed, whether enemy or neutral.

#### President Wilson otified.

President Wilson was informed that unless some radical step was taken the German people would force war with the United States if he did not declare war on Germany.

The President received this information slightly more than a month ago. Those intimate with affairs in Washington and in New York city expressed the opinion last night that it was this situation which caused him to send the note to the belligerents asking them to outline what they were fighting for. A government official expressed the emphatic opinion that the United States and Germany will be in a state of war by spring. "For I was told on the highest authority that Germany will start her campaign of frightfulness before the spring drive of the Allies begins, and if the campaign of marine terror is renewed, there is only one thing America can do, and that is declare war."