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Notice to Advertisers.  
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In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements, copy must reach this office not later than 9 a.m. on the day of publication.  
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# The Daily Mail

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The Weather.  
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Maritime: Fair and decidedly colder at first. Strong winds or moderate gales from east and southeast with local snowfalls by night.  
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## GERMAN PROPOSALS ARE LOOKED UPON AS A TRAP FOR THE ALLIES

**This is the View Taken by the London Times and Daily Mail---Other Papers Think That the Peace Offer is Sincere.**

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Opinion here on the reply of the Central Powers to the Bolshevik peace terms, as far as can be judged from the editorials in the morning newspapers, follows two main lines. On the one hand it seems to be felt that the Central Powers have made a perfectly sincere offer to end the war immediately, while on the other hand it is declared that they have set a cunning trap in which they hope, although vainly, to catch the Allies. The former view is not confined to papers generally regarded as having pacifist leanings. It is supported strongly, for instance, by the Conservative Daily Express, which stands strongly for victory over the Central Powers, and is an ardent apostle of anti-Prussianism.

In all the papers taking this view, the statement of the Central Powers is regarded as being addressed less to Russia than to the Allies collectively, and the offer made through Count Czernin is assumed to be an initial proposal which the Central Powers probably are prepared to modify in the course of bargaining, for nowhere are the views of the Central Powers regarded as entirely acceptable in their present form.

### THINKS DENUNCIATION OF THE PEACE OFFER IS WHAT GERMAN DIPLOMACY IS PRAYING FOR

The Daily News, which warmly endorsed the recent letter of the Marquis of Lansdowne, and is regarded as being tinged with pacifism, contends that Germany had to choose between extremists and her moderates, as no peace formula could possibly satisfy both sides and Philip Scheidmann. "Nothing could be more ill-advised," the News continues, "than a general denunciation of the German offer by the press or politicians of the Entente Allies, as such a reception is precisely what German diplomacy is playing for. That does not mean that the German proposals can be grasped at as a basis of immediate negotiations, their defects are self-evident."

After denouncing the terms as they would affect Belgium, the Daily News adds: "These deficiencies might seem for a moment to furnish sufficient ground for ignoring or summarily dismissing the German proposals."

### WILSON'S STATEMENT THAT PURPOSE OF PEACE INTRIGUE IS DECEIT OF NATIONS IS BORNE OUT

The Daily Chronicle says it is a striking fact that the Central Powers have accepted the formula of "no annexations and no indemnities."

The Times and the Daily Mail are exponents of the view that the proposals constitute a trap for the Allies and if accepted would leave the Central Powers very strong. The Times says that Count Czernin's statement fully bears out President Wilson's explanation of last summer that the purpose of the German peace intrigue is the deceit of nations.

## 18 BANDITS WERE KILLED

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Marfa, Texas, Dec. 28.—After a careful check of the number of Mexican bandits killed by American troops and ranchers following the Britte ranch raid, it was officially announced tonight that 18 bandits had been killed by actual count. How many more crawled off in the desert undergrowth to die of their wounds cannot be ascertained. The number of wounded is impossible to estimate, as they were carried away or hidden in the country.

## THE AUSTRIAN VIEW POINT

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Amsterdam, Dec. 28.—The tenor of the Austrian comment on the Brest-Litovsk negotiations is that the entente powers have no longer any excuse for the continued flourishing of the sword, and that nobody can deny the idea of the Central Powers' desire for peace.

## OLEO IS TOO HIGH IN PRICE

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Montreal, Dec. 27.—Alleging that the price of Oleomargarine, 37 cents a pound, is so high that the desired end of reducing the cost of living by sub-price of oleomargarine, 37 cents a pound, is as far off as ever, the city council of Montreal this morning passed a resolution requesting food controller Hanna to fix a price for oleomargarine with the least possible delay.

## CAMOUFLAGE FOR GERMANS

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
New York, Dec. 28.—The consensus of editorial opinion of New York morning newspapers on the peace proposals of the Central Powers, is that they are merely a camouflage for Germany, are not in good faith, and that they would not have been made were there any chance of them being accepted.

## UNIQUE CASE UNDER MILITARY SERVICE ACT

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Toronto, Dec. 28.—Because four of his brothers are serving in the Imperial forces, and not in the Canadian Army, Harold Hannath was refused exemption today on appeal by Sir William Mulock.

Hannath then announced his intention of carrying his case to Mr. Justice Duff. He said that he had no objection to serving, but was only thinking of his mother, who lives in England.

Sir William Mulock thought Hannath's mother would receive as great financial assistance if the young man was in the army and so dismissed the case.

### Hearing Concluded

Hearing in the matter of the claim of A. R. Gould and others against the province and the St. John & Quebec Railway arising out of the Valley railway construction, was concluded at Saint John yesterday afternoon before His Honor Chief Justice McKeown, who is acting as arbitrator. The whole day, morning and afternoon, was spent in hearing arguments on behalf of the claimants and on behalf of the province and railway. The amount asked by the claimants as contractors is \$445,500 for construction work, or as an alternative \$334,240, which they fix as the value of their stock in the company. M. G. Teed, K. C., and A. J. Gregory, K. C., and Dr. A. P. Barnhill, K. C., appeared for the claimants; Hon. F. B. Carvell, K. C., represented the government, and Peter J. Hughes appeared on behalf of the railway. Premier W. E. Foster and Hon. W. P. Jones, of Woodstock, who is president of the railway, were present during the hearing.

### ACCIDENTALLY KILLED.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Toronto, Dec. 28.—John Bolahood, of Toronto, and Charles Resick, whose address is not known, died here this morning from injuries sustained when they were struck by a radial car at New Toronto shortly before midnight last night.

### MERCHANTS TO CO-OPERATE.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—Large retail merchants in Canada will, beginning Jan. 7th, co-operate with the food controller in educating their customers to ask for substitutes for white flour, wheat products, and beef and bacon.

Hon. E. A. Smith, Minister of Public Works, arrived in the city last night. He is at the Queen.

## FIVE CABINET MINISTERS ON VISIT TO HALIFAX

**Hon. Messrs Carvell, Mewburn, Reid, Ballentyne and MacLean Conducting an Investigation---Officials With Them.**

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

HALIFAX, Dec. 28.—Five Dominion cabinet members arrived here this morning by special train from Ottawa to investigate the extent of the damage caused by the explosion on Dec. 6th. The party includes Hon. S. C. Mewburn, Minister of Militia; Hon. C. C. Ballentyne, Minister of Marine and Fisheries; Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Railways; Hon. F. B. Carvell, Minister of Public Works; Hon. A. K. MacLean, minister without portfolio; Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners; General Logie, G. O. C. Ontario Military Division; General Ashcroft, C. A. M. C.; Col. Osborne, secretary to the Minister of Militia; Alex. Johnson, Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and J. G. Desbarats, deputy minister of naval affairs.

The party breakfasted on the train and later started on a tour by automobile of the city's devastated district. The forenoon was taken up with an inspection of this area, members of the party expressing surprise at the vast amount of damage done. General Mewburn spent part of the morning inspecting military properties and, Hon. Mr. Ballentyne visited the dockyards to ascertain the damage done there.

This afternoon the ministers will confer with the Board of Trade Council, civic representatives and members of the special commission appointed at a meeting called by Hon. G. H. Murray, Premier of the province. The party will return to Ottawa tomorrow afternoon.

### Mechanics Arriving.

A number of the towns near by are sending plumbers and electricians to Halifax for relief construction. In this connection Col. R. S. Low, in charge of the reconstruction work here, has issued a notice to the effect that at present carpenters only are required for the work here.

## Will Not Accept Peace Based On Ante-Bellum Conditions

### BIG SAVING IN COAL BY C. P. R.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Montreal, Dec. 27.—The Canadian railway war board calculates that in the measures it is taking for the elimination of passenger trains it will be able to save 100,000 tons of coal. Without incommencing the public there will be elimination wherever possible. The railway war board has gone carefully into the matter of passenger service, with the thought of conservation in mind—conservation of fuel and of man power. The crews liberated from passenger trains that are cut off may be used on freight trains.

### PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Washington, Dec. 28.—Coincident with the taking over of the American railroads for the duration of the war, President Wilson today is celebrating his sixty-first birthday. No special ceremony is planned at the White House, as the war-time rush of work makes impossible any deviation in the President's daily routine.

### SOLDIERS AT ST. JOHN.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
St. John, Dec. 28.—A steamship docked here late today with 600 invalided soldier, including fifty stretcher cases.

### A DEPOSIT LOST.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Regina, Dec. 28.—Official returns for Regina constituency give Dr. Cowan, Unionist, 7,764 votes out of a total of 10,152 polled. His opponent, Mr. MacBeth, Liberal, lost his deposit.

### WILL ELIST IN AMERICA.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
London, Dec. 28.—A number of young men in middle and western Ireland, according to a Dublin despatch to the Times, have applied for passports to enable them to go to the United States to join Irish regiments in the American army. The government authorities so far, it is added, have refused to grant such passports.

## Foreign Minister Pinchon Defines the Position of France---Teutons Have Undertaken the Impossible---Alsace- Lorraine a Moral Problem.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

PARIS, Dec. 27 (delayed).—France will not accept a peace based on the statu quo. By agreement with our Allies, we are declared in replying in the Chamber of Deputies today to the peace terms of the Central Powers outlined to Russia. He asserted that Germany was endeavoring to involve France in its negotiations with the Bolsheviks, but the war would go on whether or not Russia made a separate peace. Referring to the terms which the Central Powers offered to the Russians, as published today, he said:

"Germany is trying to involve us in her Maximalist negotiations. After suffering as we have, we cannot accept peace based on the statu quo. By agreement with our Allies, we are ready to discuss direct propositions regarding peace, but this is indirect."

### ANOTHER DEMOCRACY HAS ARISEN AGAINST GERMANY'S APPETITE FOR WORLD CONQUEST

"Russia can treat for a separate peace with our enemies or not. In either case the war for us will continue. An ally has failed us, an ally who in preceding years carried off great victories. It is a great success for our enemies. But another ally has come; from the other end of the world a democracy has arisen against Germany's appetite for conquest."

"Germany and her allies have undertaken the impossible task of conquering the world. The world will conquer them. In this war France will have played a great role, for, as Roosevelt has said, she will have saved humanity."

### THE CAPTURE OF JERUSALEM BY BRITISH A VICTORY FOR THE WHOLE CIVILIZED WORLD

M. Pichon declared that the secret treaties published by the Bolsheviks had not compromised France. He said the German diplomats who were pretending to show indignation were the very men who sought to negotiate a secret treaty with the old regime in Russia, who attempted to draw Mexico into war against the United States, and organized plots in Argentina.

The capture of Jerusalem, M. Pichon said, was a victory for the civilized world. He added that the city would be given an international status.

### PEACE NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY TO HAVE LARGE INFLUENCE ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The progress of the peace negotiations is expected to have a large influence on internal conditions in Russia and the fighting in the south, where the position of affairs is still obscure. According to the best available information reaching London, the Bolshevik commissioners are counting on two things to strengthen their position, first the chance of securing a peace acceptable to the country as a whole, which would induce the nation to overlook the evident lack of administrative ability shown by the Bolsheviks; second, the fact of the existence of considerable cleavages even among supporters of the Kaledines movement in the south.

### BOLSHEVIKI SPECULATING ON A FURTHER SPREAD OF REVOLUTIONARY FEELING AMONG COSSACKS

General Kaledines is reported to have recently resigned the leadership of the Cossack government, while the Cossacks themselves are divided, a large section of the moderates being undesirable of fighting the workmen's and soldiers' government so long as the latter continue to preserve order.

The Bolsheviks are said to be speculating on the still further spread of the revolutionary feeling among the Cossacks against their generals and among the Ukrainians against the Bolsheviks. It is reported that the Bolshevik administration is quite powerless to revictual Petrograd, which now possesses only the barest reserves of food.

## APPEALS ARE THROWN OUT

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—Fifty per cent of the appeals heard today by Judge McTavish were thrown out, and the decision of the tribunals to draft the men upheld. Twenty five cases were heard and a round dozen who had been drafted were refused exemption. Seven of these were young farmers, of all the farmers are being exempted, contrary to supposition. On many of the appeals it has been brought out that exemption has been given to two young men on a farm where one would suffice to run it with the father's assistance or with the aid of a younger brother. In such cases as these one man is taken.

## GREEK SAILORS SAFE IN PORT

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 28.—Seventy members of the crew of the Greek steamer Ioannina, which was sunk recently by a German submarine, arrived at this port today aboard a British vessel. Members of the Ioannina's crew, all of whom were saved, said the undersea boat halted their ship, stripped her of everything of value, including brass fittings, then sank her with bombs.

The crew took to the lifeboats and were picked up later by the British vessel. The Ioannina was a vessel of 8,000 tons.