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The Daily Mail

The Weather.
Maritime: Fresh northwest winds. Fair and decidedly cold today and on Sunday.

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PUBLIC OPINION IS NOW FAVORABLE TO A LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Important Statement in the British House by Sir Robert Cecil---Thinks War Can be Banished From the Earth--Disarmament Will Come of Itself.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 15.—Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, who announced in the House of Commons recently that he himself had prepared a plan for a league of nations, discussed the whole problem today. While declining to give a decided outline of his plan, which, with others, is now engaging the attention of the British government, he indicated a number of conclusions to which his study of the problem had led him.

"The first and most important matter to be insured by any adequate league of nations," said Lord Robert, "is that no nation shall go to war until matters in dispute have been submitted to international consideration. If at first the league of nations gets no further than this, it will be worth while, and a beginning would be made from which wider developments are possible in due time."

A second point he emphasized was that while for an ideal league it would be necessary to have all nations of the world as members, "it may be found necessary to begin with a more restricted membership."

THE ENTENTE GROUP, WITH A FEW ADDITIONS, WOULD FORM AN ADEQUATE NUCLEUS FOR LEAGUE

In reply to a question, he declared that even the members of the present Entente group, with a few additions, would form an adequate nucleus, although he hoped a wider membership would be obtained. He declared that Great Britain could be counted on as the firm supporter of any adequate scheme for a league of nations and the wider its scope the better it would please him. Lord Cecil declared himself that the economic weapon would prove a most useful arm for the enforcement of the league's decrees. In a statement regarding disarmament, he said that disarmament is a subject to envisage at present, but he was certain it would follow as a natural sequence of the successful formation of a league of nations.

NATIONS WOULD GET THE HABIT OF SETTLING THEIR DIFFERENCES BY OTHER MEANS THAN WAR

"One thing that greatly promises success for the league of nations idea," said Lord Robert, "is that the world for the first time in history, is prepared to give it favorable consideration. Until the outbreak of this war international opinion was never favorable. Now there is a desire on all sides at the close of this war to consider seriously every proposal that promises to prevent any such struggle occurring again."

"The most desirable step, in my opinion, is to get nations into the habit of settling their differences by other means than war; to accustom the mind to discussions, debates and conferences, and to lay down such regulations as will enforce this habit."

Disarmament Will Come.

"Disarmament will come of itself, in time," Lord Robert continued. "A hundred years ago no man in England went out into the streets at night without arms. Today not one man in a thousand carries any weapon. The disarmament of nations will come similarly as soon as they are able to regard themselves safe in the world's highways."

UKRAINE'S PEACE IS VALUELESS

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
Geneva, Feb. 15.—M. Polzmann, Maximalist envoy to Switzerland, who has just arrived here, says in an interview with the socialist newspapers *Sentinel* that the Ukraine peace is valueless because the rada does not represent the Ukrainian people. He believes that if the Russians refuse to accept Germany's conditions the German soldiers on the Russian front will refuse to resume fighting, as they desire peace as much as the Russians do.

HOSPITAL SHIP AT HALIFAX

Halifax, Feb. 16.—A hospital ship with 772 officers and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force arrived here today and is landing her passengers, the majority of whom, including a number of cot cases, go forward today by rail to their homes or military districts. One of the returned officers is Major Norman C. McKay, of Campbellton.

POST OFFERED TO ROBERTSON

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
London, Feb. 16.—The *Daily Telegraph's* parliamentary correspondent writes: Sir William Robertson has been offered by the Prime Minister the position of British representative on the Supreme War Council at Versailles with all the powers of a generalissimo, but Sir William has so far not accepted the offer. In the event of his accepting, General Wilson, now on the Supreme War Council board, would be the new chief of the general staff at Whitehall.

WOUNDED MEN TAKEN TO DOVER

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
Dover, Eng., Feb. 15.—Wounded men injured in the German naval raid on British drifters and trawlers in the Channel today were brought here and are housed in the market place, which has been converted into a temporary hospital. The firing lasted for forty-five minutes, and was plainly heard on shore.

HALIFAX STABLES MAY TRAIN ON LOCAL TRACK

The Recent Disaster Destroyed Stables at Halifax—Nova Scotia Horses May Race in Maine.

It is rumored that racing stables owned in Halifax which ordinarily train in that city, will come to Fredericton in the spring to get in condition for the season of 1918. This probably will mean that stables of Acker, Boutillier and Carroll of Halifax and Pat Doherty of Sydney will be seen at the Fredericton track when the snow goes. Doherty trained his horses here last spring with good results and it is understood will be here again. The terrible disaster at Halifax early in the winter destroyed the stables there and also put a stop to horse racing, probably for some years, as it will take the city some time to recover. That fact makes it necessary for the Halifax horsemen to look for new training ground and also for tracks which will have racing. Northern Maine will have some good racing during the late summer and autumn with big purses. It is probable that the Nova Scotia horses will race up there.

SOCIALISTS IN CONFERENCE

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
Paris, Feb. 15.—James Ramsay MacDonald, representing English socialists, and Camille Huysmans and A. De Brouckere representing Belgians conferred here today with French socialist deputies regarding the proposed socialist conference intended to establish the general principles of a democratic peace. Mr. MacDonald said: "A lame peace cannot be accepted and it is necessary that the socialists of the allied nations should come to an agreement regarding the principles of a just, democratic peace before calling a full international conference."

Mr. H. O. Peters of St. John, arrived in the city last night.

A BOGUS MARQUIS IN TROUBLE IN NEW YORK

Was Willing to Put Spain Into the War For \$50,000,000--How a \$15 a Week Phone Operator Played the Game.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—A false step of "His Excellency the Marquis Edmond Rousselot De Costillot, confidential representative of King Alfonso of Spain," caused his arrest and the exposure of his attempt to secure \$50,000,000 which he told Morgan & Company would bring Spain into the war. Rousselot is really a \$15 a week telephone operator.

The negotiations were under way, and W. P. Hamilton, of the Morgan firm, had the matter under consideration, when Rousselot, about three weeks ago, was arrested on the charge of falsely representing himself as "Count Rousselot," a French diplomat here on a secret mission, and being unable to obtain identification, was sent to jail. This led to enquiry and the whole matter was tried before the grand jury. Mr. Hamilton was foreman of the jury which returned the indictment, and thus discovered the real identity of the "Spanish nobleman." It developed that Rousselot had not confined his operations to taking houses, but numbered among his confidential friends one woman from whom he had borrowed \$10,000 on oil stocks of doubtful value, but for the redemption of which he had pledged his "ancestral estates."

Another of his friends was a prominent actress, who told the authorities she had been introduced to "Count Rousselot" and believing him to be in the French diplomatic service, had visited a British warship in the harbor with him. As his credentials were well covered with seals, which seemed to be all right, they were taken over the ship and shown every courtesy, she said.

The first indictment charges Rousselot with forging a government license permitting him to visit all warships, and the other alleges the theft of official notepaper.

THE RUSSIANS CONGRATULATED

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
New York, Feb. 15.—Resolutions congratulating the Russians for refusing to accept the peace terms offered by the Germans at Brest-Litovsk and calling upon the labor throughout the land to send President Wilson an expression of full support, were adopted by the Central Federated Union at a meeting here tonight in connection with the observance of labor loyalty week.

City of Dover Bombarded By an Enemy Submarine

FUNERAL OF LATE BRITISH AMBASSADOR

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—At the funeral of Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, which takes place Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock in St. Bartholomew's Anglican church, the government of France will be represented by Commander de Biantre, naval attaché of the French embassy at Washington, who has been especially instructed by Ambassador Jusserand to attend. J. Pierpont Morgan, the American banker, who was a personal friend of the dead diplomat, will arrive here at noon Saturday with members of the staff of the British Embassy at Washington, and Frank Polk, counselor of the United States State Department, who is coming to represent President Wilson.

BIG CREDITS ASKED FOR

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
Paris, Feb. 15.—Credits amounting to 9,500,000,000 francs for war expenditures during the second quarter of 1918 and 736,000,000 francs for the civil budget, was asked of parliament today by Minister of Finance Klotz. The cost of the war during the second quarter of the year will exceed that during the first quarter, of \$900,000,000 francs. This is chiefly owing to the increased pay of the soldiers at the front.

STEAMER WAS SAWED OUT

An Atlantic Port, Feb. 16.—After being ice bound for 41 days in the mouth of a river emptying into this port, the steamer *Vindal*, which was in the Entente service during the attempt to force the Dardanelles, was released today by a gang of ice harvesters, who saved the ship free.

Less Than a Dozen Casualties and Damage Was Slight---Eight British Patrol Vessels Sunk by German Destroyers--Rumors of a Naval Engagement.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, Feb. 16.—An enemy submarine bombarded Dover early this morning, it is officially announced. The submarine was fired on from the shore and ceased the bombardment after some thirty rounds had been fired. There were less than a dozen casualties and only slight damage.

The official statement is as follows: "Fire was opened on Dover by an enemy submarine about 12.10 o'clock this morning, the firing continuing three or four minutes. The shore batteries replied and the enemy ceased firing after discharging about thirty rounds. The casualties were: Killed, one child; injured, three men, one woman and three children. Slight damage was caused to house property."

GERMAN DESTROYERS POUNCE ON A FLEET OF BRITISH PATROL VESSELS AND SINK EIGHT

DOVER, Feb. 16.—The weather was thick and the night was very dark when the German destroyers dashed upon British patrol vessels in the Straits of Dover early Friday morning and sank eight of them. The patrol vessels, being equipped only with light armament for anti-submarine work, did not have a chance once the Germans got among them.

The risk thus taken is shared by great numbers of trawlers and drifters operating in all weathers and at all hours. Yet the proportion of losses has been remarkably small. On the latest occasion the crews bore themselves with the same coolness and courage that drifter men have shown in innumerable circumstances of danger and difficulty. In one noteworthy incident a drifter was shelled at close quarters by two German destroyers, whose thirty pound shells killed all of the crew except two and set the drifter afire. The two survivors, seeing their craft ablaze and believing it would sink, launched a boat. They had not rowed far when they saw the vessel was still afloat and the enemy retiring. They returned, put out the fire and brought the drifter to port.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN HAS LATELY BEEN SWEEPED CLEAN OF GERMAN COMMERCIAL RAIDERS

A Pacific Port, Feb. 16.—The South Pacific Ocean has been swept clean of German raiders, according to an announcement today by the commander of a British warship which has been on patrol duty along the west coast of South America.

"I am positive that the *Seeadler* was the last German raider in the Pacific, said the captain. "Ample warning will be given to shipping if there is any possibility of another raider entering the Pacific. The various rumors of German raiders generally emanate from pro-German sources and are sent out in the hope of relaying the movements of Allied vessels and worrying ship owners and operators."

According to officers of the vessel, there are thirty-nine German steamers and fifty-one sailing vessels, with a total tonnage of 230,000, interned in ports along the west coast of South America. Peru, Ecuador and Colombia all have opened their ports to Allied shipping.

Rumor of a Naval Engagement.

London, Feb. 16.—Belief that a naval engagement has occurred is expressed in a despatch received in Stockholm from Gothenburg and forwarded by the correspondent of the *Morning Post*. The despatch reports the receipt of a large number of German sailors' boxes, which apparently belonged to a warship. Gothenburg is on the western coast of Sweden and is near the Skagerrack, one of the bodies of water connecting the North and Baltic Seas, and the one nearest the North Sea.

HOW THE FUEL PROBLEM MAY BE SOLVED

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

New York, Feb. 16.—Electrification of railroads would solve the fuel problem and save 100,000,000 tons of coal every year, E. W. Rice, jr., president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, told the midwinter convention of that organization in an address here last night.

Mr. Rice also said that ten per cent. of the ton mileage of the roads now given over to coal would be saved and 40,000,000 barrels of fuel oil which are now used for locomotives could then be used for other purposes. Twenty-five million horse power through water-power was available for the generation of electricity, Mr. Rice continued, and every horse power of water would save at least six pounds of coal for each horse power hour of traffic.

THE CANADIAN CAMP DINNER BIG SUCCESS

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

New York, Feb. 15.—Whale soup, Eskimo hare soup, whale tenderloin and aurora borealis salmon were among the dishes enjoyed by the guests of the Canadian camp at the sixteenth annual dinner of the organization at the hotel Astor tonight. The unusual array of dishes which were pronounced delicious by the distinguished guests were provided by Mr. L. O. Armstrong, who exhibited moving pictures of his fishing exploits in New Brunswick, to prove that the fish stories he told were authentic.

Among the distinguished guests of the evening were Donald B. MacMillan of Crocker land fame, who described his arctic exploitations, and Major A. W. Greeley, who headed the Greeley expedition in the north.