

Dutch Socialists Advance Plan to End the War

To Insist That Several Governments Hold Themselves In Readiness for Intervention At the Earliest Moment.

Amsterdam, Dec. 26. (Central News Cable)—Troelstra, the leader of the Dutch Socialists, has announced that at a conference of Norwegian, Danish, Swedish and Dutch Socialists, which is to be held at Copenhagen on January 17, a proposal will be discussed to insist that the governments of these countries hold themselves ready to intervene in the European war at the earliest possible moment in the interest of peace. Troelstra does not mention the participation of America in the plan, although this was an important feature of the conference scheme as originally mooted. Troelstra suggests the formalization of a European parliament conference to discuss peace which would exclude the possibility of a fresh war. He thinks that the plan of such a conference should include the following provisions: (a) No annexation of territory. (b) International compulsory disarmament. (c) The throwing open of colonies to all countries.

AEROPLANE RAIDS

Paris, Dec. 26—Two persons were killed and several injured in a raid on Nancy by two Zeppelins yesterday. Fourteen bombs containing high explosives were dropped on the town. The invaders escaped without any injury.

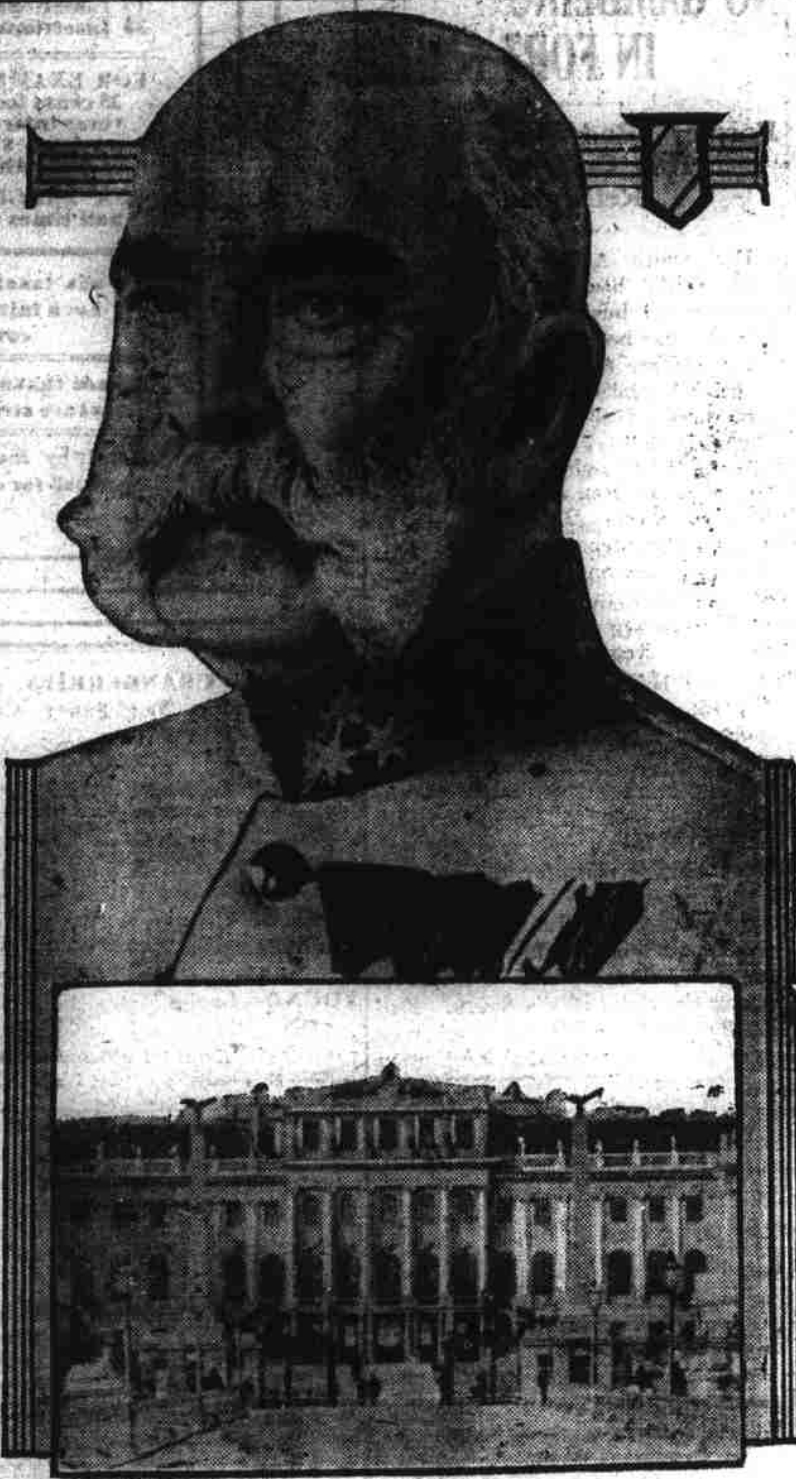
GREAT SLAUGHTER

Berlin, Dec. 26 (Wireless to London)—An official statement says that three thousand Allies were found slain after the battle of St. Hubert. The Germans captured eight hundred and nineteen men, nineteen officers and fourteen machine guns and twelve mine throwers. The English have been defeated in their assault on the western front.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT

Paris, Dec. 26—German attacks on Chivy, northeast of Supir and in the region of Perthes, have been repulsed. There was little cessation of the fighting yesterday, except in Belgium, where operations were hindered by fog between Lys and Oise. A heavy German attack was directed against several points and most desperate fighting resulted. At Libons the French captured a German trench but were driven out by the Germans who returned and retook the position. German attacks were repulsed at Noultes, Boisselle, east of Albert, and Libons. A night

Austro-Hungarian Ruler And Palace In Which He Lives



Emperor Franz Joseph is on the verge of a nervous breakdown and grave fears are entertained for his health. Court physicians have prescribed absolute rest and quiet for him. The above is a good likeness of the Emperor and the imperial palace.

"HARD TIMES" ARE NOT HERE

Merchants Report Best Business In Years

There are no "hard times" in New Bern. This is a fact that is indisputable and as much as the pessimist may rave, there is ample evidence at hand to prove that there has been more money in circulation in New Bern and Craven county during the past four weeks than there was during the same period last year. The farmers who had cotton have in many cases disposed of this and have put the money in circulation. Others have stored their cotton and secured warehouse receipts for it and used these as collateral. In addition to this, thousands of dollars have been paid out for tobacco and this money has not been hoarded. The leading merchants of New Bern claim to have had the largest holiday business in many years and there is a general feeling of optimism prevailing over our county.

Dr. John Gilman, of Jacksonville, N. C., arrived in the city last night.

Seymour Hancock left yesterday morning for a visit to Pollocksville. attack in the region of Perthes was repulsed by the French artillery, which silenced the enemy's guns. The Allies have made further progress in upper Alsace.

FATAL SHOOTING ON XMAS DAY

Levi Chapman Fires Bullet Into Al. Kenyon's Heart

Al. Kenyon, twelve years of age and colored, was shot and almost instantly killed Friday afternoon at Newport, Carteret county, by Levi Chapman, also colored and sixteen years of age. The killing was done with a thirty-two calibre revolver and the slayer claims that he did it in self defense. However, this is a matter of speculation. Both boys were at Chapman's home and according to the latter's version of the affair, the revolver was accidentally discharged and the bullet entered Kenyon's heart. Shortly after the affair, Chapman was placed under arrest and carried to Beaufort where he was placed in the county jail for safe keeping until the next term of Superior Court.

COLD WAVE GRIPS COUNTRY

Washington, Dec. 26—A severe cold wave is gripping the entire east and north. The temperature is below zero in West Virginia and Missouri and the north generally. Unusual cold prevails east of the Mississippi.

CENTRAL NEWS CORRESPONDENT AT THE FRONT

Tells In Interesting Manner of Conditions In Europe

QUEER INCIDENTS

Remarkable Tales About the Russians and Germans

(By Alfred H. Fletcher, Central News Correspondent.)

Petrograd, Dec. 26. (Central News Correspondence)—Authoritative denial has been given out by the deputy governor of Warsaw to the false rumors spread by the enemies of Russia that the views of the Russian commander-in-chief in regard to the future of Poland have changed. In Warsaw many Polish organizations have held meetings and passed resolutions of protest against the destruction of sacred monuments, interesting from the point of view of culture, by the Germans.

Germans Wander.

In the neighborhood of Przemysl, according to the "Russky Viedmosti" two German corps which are subjected to severe pressure by the Russian forces are wandering about in all directions, trying to effect communication with the main army, "looting" and looting on their way. The corps are split into detachments which are being actively pursued by the Russians and their numbers are being reduced constantly as many have been made prisoners.

Much Enthusiasm.

One of the most prominent features of the present war is associated with the enthusiasm of the youth of Russia. Hardly a day passes without a search being instituted by the police for boys who have left their homes surreptitiously and made their way to the fighting line. In Petrograd ten or twelve of such instances are now attracting the attention of the authorities. In Southern Russia the boys are restrained with difficulty from joining the army. In Kiev yesterday fifty boys were arrested and brought back after they had wandered many miles in the direction of Galicia.

Brilliant Exploit.

One of the most brilliant exploits (Continued on Page 8)

ANOTHER RUMOR ABOUT BRYAN

Once Again It Is Said That He May Resign Cabinet Job

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 26.—It is reported but not confirmed, that Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, may soon retire from President Wilson's cabinet.

The statement is attributed to Judge Edgar Howard, of Columbus, Neb., a close friend of the great commoner.

This report is believed to be erroneous as similar reports have been started during the past few months and in each case they have been emphatically denied by Bryan.

THE TEUTONS ARE TAXING BRUSSELS

Also Asked for \$100,000,000 Indemnity

Paris, Dec. 26.—"German proclamations announcing a levy of 500,000,000 francs (\$100,000,000) indemnity at Brussels have been passed over," says the Journal, "and the report current that the measure was withdrawn by the German government as the result of representations by the American Secretary of State, William J. Bryan, through Minister Brand Whitlock, pointing out that the tax was in violation of The Hague convention."

"It is announced that the Germans have imposed a tax of 25 francs on all unmarried persons over 27 years of age in Brussels."

GERMAN FORCES NEARING WARSAW SAYS A REPORT

Dispatch From London Says They Have Crossed Bzura River

LONDON EXCITED

Has Great Fear for A Raid By Hostile Airships

London, Dec. 26.—(Central News Cable)—It is reported here that the Germans have fought their way across the Bzura river at one point in front of Warsaw.

Russians Repulsed.

Vienna, Dec. 26.—The Austrians today repulsed Russian attacks near Magyaw, in the Lautoza region, with heavy losses. Between Wislok and Biala the enemy attacked throughout the whole Christmas eve, and yesterday with great intensity repeated the onslaughts. The Austrians' front in Galicia remains unchanged. The enemy's repeated attacks in Poland were repulsed.

Fears Airships

London, Dec. 26.—Every precaution is being taken to prevent a successful aeroplane attack by the Germans. Orders have been issued for absolutely every light unnecessary to be extinguished tonight. A constant aeroplane guard is being maintained along the coast and the coast guard is vigilant against the approach of hostile aviators.

Won't Interfere.

London, Dec. 26.—The landing of Italian marines at Avlona, Albania, is not expected to be followed by representations from Austria to Rome. Italy has declared her intentions to be governed solely by a desire to prevent anarchy from spreading along the Adriatic shore. It is believed Austria-Hungary will accept this explanation.

Assume Offensive.

Petrograd, Dec. 26.—The Russians have resumed the offensive at a number of points in Poland and have captured 11,000 prisoners.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Morton, of Morehead City, spent last night in New Bern on their way home from a visit to relatives and friends at Hubert.

DISASTROUS FIRE VISITS CHELSEA

Flames Cause Ruin In Massachusetts Town

Boston, Mass., Dec. 26.—In bitter zero cold, a fire in the yards of the Pope-Cottle Lumber Company at Chelsea today was fanned by a high wind which spread it to such proportions that it was necessary to send for help from surrounding towns.

Firemen fighting the flames were benumbed by the intense cold. Water was frozen as soon as it hit a burning building, forming cakes of ice and making the fire-fighters' footing treacherous.

The flames are under control. The damage is estimated at \$125,000.

"WILD" ENGINE KILLS THREE MEN

Crashed Into Passenger Train On Main Line—Others Injured

Atchinson, Kan., Dec. 26.—Three men were killed near Shannon, Kan., today when a stray passenger engine collided with a passenger train on the Missouri Pacific road.

The engine had in some way started off and was running wild on the main line when the accident occurred.

COSTLY FIRE.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 26.—The large department store of Marcus and Company was destroyed by fire today and another store was also damaged. The loss is estimated at one hundred thousand dollars.

GRIM REAPER CLAIMS CAPTAIN W. S. SIMMONS

Prominent Man Succumbs to An Attack of Apoplexy

WAS WELL KNOWN

For Years He Was In the United States Revenue Service

Shortly after noon on Christmas Day Captain W. S. Simmons suffered a stroke of apoplexy at his home on Pollock street from which he never rallied and at 11:45 o'clock that night he answered the call of the Reaper.

This attack was the third suffered by the deceased during the past two years and since the first he has been practically an invalid, his condition improving at times and then again growing worse.

Captain Simmons was one of those men whom to know was to his friend and his death has caused much sorrow, not only among a large number of relatives but also among a large circle of acquaintances.

Born in Boston, Mass., seventy-four years ago. Early in life he went into the government service. During the Civil War he saw service as a soldier and later went into the U. S. Revenue Cutter Service. It was while engaged in his duties in this that he first came to New Bern and was in fact for a long time stationed here on one of the cutters.

Concluding his term in the government service Captain Simmons was retired and has made his home here ever since. He was an active member of Christ Episcopal church, and was also a Mason of a high degree.

He is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Lalla Roberts of this city; two daughters, Mrs. Fred Quackenbush and Miss Virginia Simmons of Philadelphia, Pa., two sons, Harry Simmons of East St. Louis, Ill., and George Simmons of Penn Yan, N. Y. A brother also resides in Illinois.

The funeral service will be conducted from Christ Episcopal church tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock and the interment will be made in Cedar Grove cemetery. Rev. B. F. Huske, rector of the church will conduct the service.

2 U. S. PRISONERS HASTILY DEPART

Left Federal Tuberculosis Camp Without Even Saying Farewell

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 26.—Hiram Lepper, a counterfeiter and Thomas Dalley, a postoffice robber, escaped from the Federal prison's tuberculosis camp today.

The men made a ladder out of ropes and sealed the walls surrounding the building. A search is being made for them and there is a probability of their capture.

Miss Rose Simpson will pass through New Bern this morning enroute to Morehead City to spend a week visiting Mrs. Clyde Morton.

FULFORD'S BODY LAID AT REST

Remains of Murdered Man Now Lie In Cedar Grove Cemetery

The funeral over the remains of Gannon Fulford, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Fulford and who was killed on New South Front street on Christmas eve by Jesse Creel, sixty years of age, was conducted yesterday morning and the body interred in Cedar Grove cemetery, Creel, who was placed in the county jail a short time after the killing, still sticks to the story first told by him to the effect that he committed the act in self defense. A newspaper man went to Creel's cell early yesterday morning and talked with him for a short time. The old man has had ample time to think over the crime (Continued on Page 3)