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RUSS-GERMAN EROTIATIONS

Conflicting Rumors Are Still the Main News.

London Cable says-Berlin advices received at amsterdam say that the commission provided for in the Russo-corman armistice agreement proceded to recrograd to-day. It is deaded by Louis von Miruach, former ermine minister to Greece, and Will undertake to fesch a settlement With the riusian authorities for the exchange of civilians and incapacitated war prisoners and also devise measures to restore relations between Germany and Hussia.

The commission includes a number of officials of the Foreign and War

A Petrograd despatch reads: "It is reported that the German delegation that was expected in Petrogr's Thursday is proceeding to sk instead, fearing that a visit to Dynamic instead, fearing that a visit to Perrograd would be misinterpreted."

"There is an unofficial report, which cannot be confirmed, that the Rusmans have given the Germans 48 hours in which to accept or reject the Russian peace proposals."

Other despatches differ from the

The peace negotiations have been suspended until January 24 pending consultation by the German delegates with their Government Russia's terms, according to a Petrograd despatch printed by the Times to-day. The Russian delegates, it was stated, are returning from Brest-Litovsk to Petrograd.

Two commissions to negotiate peace will be formed, the Times' correspondent asserted, one to meet at Petrograd, and the other at Odes-Both will consider purely military aspects of the situation. A third will shortly be appointed to prepare for a prospective European peace

The peasant delegation which went to Kiev to effect a compromise between the Bolsheviki authorities and the Waraine Rada report that they

had no success. The Central Executive Committee of the Workmen's and Soldiers' Deleentes yesterday approved the appointment of seven Social revolutionists as members of the Council of National Commissioners to replace Bolsheviki members. Four of the new appointees will have portfolios, among them those of Justice and Agriculture. Three of them will be without portfolios. The number of Bolsheviki members of the Council is ten, inciuding one woman, Alexandria Kol-

changes failed. Their request that the president of the Council explain the reason for the changes was voted fown by the Bolsheviki members.

(ATTITUDE OF AMERICA.

Washington Despatch—Great for-

bearance and parience will be exerted by the American Lovernment in dealing with the chaotic Russian situation because it is realized that German intrigue, working through thinly disguished agents within the ranks of the Bolsneviki, is doing its utmost to bring about a breach between the United States and Russia.

ft was authoritatively stated today that American representatives in Russia, diplomatic, economic and others, will carefully avoid any interrerence with the internal politics of the country and will be guided in their conduct by the strictest miles their conduct by the strictest rules of meutrality as between the Russian factions. It is the purpose to permit the Russian people themselves to work out their own salvation, free

from any American interferences. There still is a deep-seated conviction in administration circles that within a reasonable period of time a satisfactory and probably permanent Government of democratic form will he developed from the present tur-

Despatches to the State Department show that every opportunity is being seized upon by the German agencies to misrepresent the attitude of America towards the Bolsheviki movement, and particularly to inflame the excitable Russian public against the personnel of the American Embassy and its head, Ambassader Francis.

RATHER KAISER THAN REPUBLIC

G. Wells Charges High Groups in England

With Opposition to Allies' War Aims.

London Cable-H. G. Wells in a long and interesting article in the Daily Mail discusses in characteristic ish air raid on the German city of fashion the question of the Allies' war | Mannheim was the first instance of aims. He says: "We want Germany an exact replied England, according to to become a democratically controlled announcement to-day. state, such as is the United States toclenched fist. If we can bring that about we have achieved our aim; if we estisfaction at the actual carrying out for us only such a loss and failure as tooth for tooth," announced by Pre-

homanity never has known before. and classes of people, not numerous Rothermere, British Air Minister. and not representative, but who are them and capable of free and public feat so had if he only looks on the placed to 'ttgli and influential poetutiorause who are secretly and hit- bright side.

took hostile to this great war aim. It is munified now by a hundred signs that they diend the full of monarchy in Germany and Ametric. For rather would they make this most abject surrender to the Kaiser than deal with a The recent letter of Lord Lans-

downe urging peace with German imperialism was but a feeler from the sacifist side of this most un-English and, unhappily, most influencial section of our public life. Lord Lansdowne's letter was the letter

than national dishonor. "If we Allies are honest, then if a revolution started in Germany to-day we should, if anything, lower the price of seace to Germany, but these people who pretend to lead us will state nothing of the sort. For them a revolution in Germany would be the signal for putting up the arice of peace. At any risk they are resolved that a German revolution shall not

happen.
"A plain statement of our war aims ly and convincingly the terms the Affice would make with democratic, republican Germany—republican I say, because where a scrap of Hohenzolless is left to-day there will be fresh militarium to-morrow-would absolutely revolutionize the internal physchology of Germany. We should no longer thes a solid people. We should have replaced the false issue of Germany and Great Britain fighting for the hegemony of Europe—a lie upon which the German Government always traded, and in which our extreme Tory press always supported the German Government-by the true issue, which is freedom versus imperialism, a league of nations versus that net of diplomatic reguery, and of aristocratic. pinteeratic and autocratic greed and concett which dragged us all into this vast weiter of bloodshed and loss."

HUN PRISONERS WARN GERMANY

Captives in Russia Will Fight the Fatherland

If Russ Peace Peace Terms Not Accepted.

Pewegrad, Cable.-A committee of Austro-German war prisoners, representing all states except Prussta, passed a resolution at a meeting in Petrograd demanding the acceptance of Russian democratic peace terms by their countries. They threaten if the Central Powers roluse a democratic peace to take up arms against their own countries. The resolution is being sent to brest-Litoric addressed to the delegates of the Central Powers. Summarized, the

lantay, Minister of Public Welfare.

Efforts made by Social Democrats members of the Central Executive to point out the significance of the sia announce that they will declare war on Germany and Austria imperialists and

> FOURTH-It appeals to workmen to refuse to do work, saying that ammusi-tion delivered new will be used against their brother Austro-Germans in the

Russian acry.

The movement was spontaneous among prisoners affected by the revolution. The majority consists of Czechs, Bohemians, Slovaks and Serbians, who have been working with Russians on the railroads and in the fields, so they have been under the same revolutionary influence. der the same revolutionary influence. The movement is growing last, and it is estimated that the prisoners could form

CAUGHT IN RAID

Had Just Left Mannheim When British Came.

London Rejoices at a Real Reprisal.

Deneva Cable—The German Emperor, returning with his staff from the Verdun front, had a narrow escape during the reprised raid of a British air squadron on Manuheim Christmas kwe, according to a despatch from Baset. Only about an hour earlier the Emperor's special train taken over, and all systems will be le't the station, which was partly des- operated as one under the Directortroyed by several bombs.

A section of the tracks was torn up, cutting communication north. in proclamation the President announcefact, the Emperor's train was the est that as soon as Congress re-eslast to leave Mannheim, and no trains sembles he will recommend legislacity. Two bombs fell on the palace and maintenance of railroad proand one on the suspension bridge perties in good repair. across the Neckar River, both structures being badly damaged. An amburb was blown up. Few persons were killed here, however, as the employees were having a holiday. Numbers of persons were killed or were blown into the Rhine.

PIRST REAL REPRISAL. Lendon Cable says Monday's Brit-

It was the first air raid carried day, with open methods and pacific out by the British flyers which did intentions, instead of remaining the rot aim at purely military objectives. All London newspapers expressed The Great Existent there are groups on December 14 reiterated by Lord

The man who has one-sided views

NEWYSS IS FIRST SEA LORD

Jellicoe is Retired to the Upper House.

of a peer who fears revolution more Significant, Just When Criticism Strong.

> A London Cable says Vice Admiral fir Rosslyn Wemyss has been appointed First Sea Lord, in succession to Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe, according to an official announcement igsued this evening.

Admiral Jellicoe has been glevated very distinguished services. The hope is expressed that his experience may be utilized later in another post.

The translation of Sir John R. Jeilicoe to the honorable eclipse of a seat in the House of Lords and the promotion of the Second Sea Lord to his place, briefly announced in an official communication to-night, will convey but one interpretation to the mind of the general public in view of the strong criticisms for a long time passed upon the Admiralty, which culminated in deep disappointment and dissatisfaction at the impunity with which German raiders recently again sank a British convoy.

The official announcement says nothing of Admiral Jellicoe's having for any reason desired to resign his appointment, but merely announces his replacement by Vice-Admiral Wemves and the bestowal of a peer-"in recognition of his very distinguished service."

The announcement proceeds: "During the war Admiral Jellicoe was for two years and four months in command of the Grand Fleet before he came to the Admiralty to take up the position of First Sea Lord, which he has held with distinction for the past thirteen months. It is hoped that his services and experience may be made use of at a later date in another im- of money from Government funds, portant appointment."

Admiral Jellicoe was made supreme commander of the Home Fleet at the outbreak of the war. In the summer following the Jutland battle he was appointed First Sea Lord, turning over command of the Grand Fleet to Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, who had commanded the British warships in their fight against the Ger-

mans. Jellicoe is 58 years of age. Vice-Admiral Wemyss became second Sea Lord of the Admiralty in August of the present year. Although little known to the British public Wemyss has always borne the reputation of being a fighter of the first order. He won commendation for the part he took in the Jutland battle.

Wemyss entered the navy in 1877 and was made a rear admiral in 1912. He represents the old aristocratic element in the navy.

TAKEN OVER BY THE STATE

and Operation of Every Road in Country.

BRITISH SYSTEM

To Be Followed, With W. G. McAdoo. Director-General.

Washington, D.C., Despatch Government possession and operation of the nation's railroads for the war next Friday, Dec. 28. William G. Mc-Acco, retaining his place in the Cabinet as secretary of the Treasury, is peaced in charge as Director-General

of mailroads. kvery rauroad engaged in general transportation, with its appurtenances, including steamship lines, is

General. in a statement accompanying his arrived at Basei yesterday from that tion guaranteeing pre-war earnings

Government backing will be given to new issues of railroad securities munition factory in a northern so that a ready market may be found. The President's move, although forecasted for weeks, came at this time as a great surprise to nearly everybody in Washington, including injured within the town, and several railroad officials. It had been genersily believed he would await the reassembling of Congress before taking any steps. He acted through Secretary of War Baker under authority conferred in the Army Appropriation

Direct management of the roads an exact reprisal policy for Hun sir will remain in the hands of railroad officials, and the railroad war board, comprised of five railroad heads, will continue to direct actual operation under Secretary McAdoo's general supervision.

TO UNIFY ALL SYSTEMS. The chief practical effect of Goverament operation will be to permit a complete unification of all rail spetems, impossible under private operation by reason of statutes prohibit

President Wilson, who in his state-zent declared the roads had gone as for an they could and that already were endangering their earnings in attempting unification.

Although the proximation applies all electric lines engaged in general transportation, local interurban systems are specially exempted.

GUARANTEE EQUIVALENT EARN-

Congress will be asked to guarantee earnings equivalent to the average net operating income of each railroad in the three-year period ending June 30, 1917. Railroad experts estimate that this will cost the Government next year in the neighborhood of \$100,000,000, which can be raised in large part by increased freight, of the Interstate Commerce Commission grants the roads' applito the peerage in recognition of his cation of 15 per cent, rate increase very distinguished services. The hope now pending. Otherwise it will be paid largely out of the general Gov-

ernment funds. The Interstate Commerce Commission and other Government agencies, which have to do with the railroads will continue to perform their functions as heretofore, except that they will be subject to orders of the Director of Railroads.

The President makes it clear that his decision was not made because of any failure on the part of any railroads to perform their whole duty insofar as they could while hampered as they were by legal restrictions.

"The committee of railroad execuifves." said his statement, "have done the utmost that was possible for them to do, but there were difficulties they neither could escape nor neutralize. In mere fairness to them the full authority of the Government must be substituted.

TO FOLLOW BRITISH SYSTEM. The plan of control, as outlined in the proclamation and statement, leaves much unsaid as to details, but the general scheme appears to follow closely the British system. In England, however, Government freight is earried free, and the guaranteed earnings require an enormous amount while in the United States the Government will pay for its freight as in the past, and will stand for its part of increased freight tariffs if they are found to be necessary.

And from the President's statement, there was no comment in the copital to-night on the Government's move. Secretary McAdoo declined to be quoted, and members of the Railroads War Board said they would have no statement to make until to-

OUR SOLD ERS **GREET CANADA**

Christmas Messages From Overceas Forces.

Commander Also Greets His Troops.

(Dy W. A. Willison, correspondent of the Canadian Press.)

Canadian Army headquarters in President Assumes Control Flanders Cable - To our comrades and mends in support in Canada, this Christmas message is from the Canadian corps from every division, brigade, partation and man, it is our accepty sincere wish for a year of future nappiness and for our early reunion. we teel to-day that the race pennel us is of such strength and magnitude that it will inspire each of us to greater deeds, and will surely lead us to the goal of victory, peace

and home." such is the message to the Dominion from its fignting men in France. while to the fighting men themselves, the corps commander has sent the col-

lowing message: this opportunity of sending every of- which had been addressed to them, ficer, non-commissioned officer, and was proclaimed by President Wilson man in the Canadian corps all good to-night, to become effective at weeks. Appreciable results had been the coming year may bring with it the obtained by this voluntary rationing, attainment of our great objective- the added, and if a further effort were victorious peace and a happy return made it would be unnecessary to issue to our near and dear ones in Canada. bread cards. This is not a mere stereotyped wish. Behind it lies the deep appreciation of your splendid work, which has been carried to such successful conclusion by every unit in the corps, and also to a full recognition of the sacrifices that have been made; the difficulties overcome, the hardships endured, and the high standard of discipline main- Escaped for Two Weeks as tained. our actions have made the same of our homeland one to be revered, respected and honored now and throughout the years to come."

ABOUT VERDUN

London Cable - Increased canhaume Wood and the Caurieres Wood, which a year ago, were the theatres of some of the fiercest encounters of the war, indicates apparently the intention of the Germans to keen the French forces in this secwer well occupied or might even mean a renewed effort to break through at this vital point.

BLISS U. S. STAFF CHIEF. Washington, D.G., Despatch-Secretary Baker, announced formally tomight that Gen. Bliss would be reing pooling of rail traffic and corporated chief of staff. He also said Majorings. The roads themselves had gone the said the continued as far as they dared in this direction.

Buenos Aires Favorite Taken From Steamer.

Elena Theodorini Was On Way to Europe.

Buenos Ayres Despatch-The Argentine public has lost a popular idol in the arrest of Elena Theodorini as a spy in the employ of Count Luxburg, former German Minister and instigation of the "sunk without trace" order. La Theodorini, an opera singer, took passage on board a steamer bound for Europe together with a group of theatrical friends of Luxburg. She was arrested by efficers of a French cruiser.

The steamship was halted off Montevideo by British cruisers and some of the others of the theatrical group were placed under arrest, but Theodorini was not molested until the steamship was overhauled by a French cruiser off the Spanish coast. News that the cruiser had taken her from the passenger steamship on charges of espionage came as a surprise to Theodorini's admirers in this city, for the general public did not know, as did diplomatic circles, that she had been in recent years a great friend of Count Luxburg, and a member of a circle of theatrical women who were dined and wined at the residence of the German dip-

La Theodorini came to Buenos Avres in 1884. Singing leading parts in well known operas, she soon achieved a wide reputation and afterwards became so attached to Argentine audiences that she made her home in this city. Since then she has figured in the musical and theatrical life of Argentina, although eran stage driver, and his two Merishe had retired from the operatic can passengers, wounded Sam Meill.

One of her acts which endeared her to the Argentine public was her \$7,000. application for naturalization, inasmuch as she was the first woman of a foreign country to take such a New York, where a festival was given in her honor by the Metropolitan Opera stars. She returned to Buenos Ayres in February last.

HEROES ALL.

British Mercantile Marine is Indomitable.

Lendon, Cable.—Commanders of German submarines now usually require the captains of merchant ships to give their parole instead of making them prisoners. "We have several sinp captains in our employ who have sunk more than one German sulemarine, and a good many of our ships have had scraps with the enemy during the past year," says the report. "Some have come nome with notes in their funnels or sides, and others have failed to return. But when a ship has been torpedeed and gone down, the survivors hurry back to the offices of the firm, make a hasty report, and then ask cheerily 'When is the next ship to be ready?' That is the spirit of the mercantile marine."

NO BREAD CARDS.

Loyal French Citizens Made Them Useless.

Paris Cable says-The issuance of bread carus, which was to have been made on Jan. 1, will not be carried out. The Minister of Provisions, Victor Borat, made this announcement to-day. He said the inhabitants of Paris and the other chief cities seemed to have grasped the seriousness of "The corps commander has taken the appeal i r food conservation and that he was satisfied with the bread consumption of the last few

Restrictions in the consumption of pread have been limited since Dec. 20 to hotels and restaurants, resulting a saving of twenty per cent.

A TRICKY HUN.

a French Priest.

Paris, Dec. 15.—(By Mail).—A young German newspaper man, who made his escape from a prison camp in the south of France, has been captured after two weeks' liberity. He was wearing a long black beard and a long cloak, like that worn by some of the French religious orders.

In his hand he carried a French prayer book, on the fly leaf of which he had written in perfect French that he was a priest of a pilgrimage to monading in the region of Verdun, Lourdes, and that he had vowed to especially around Douaumont, the make the journey on foet, and without speaking a word. He then asked that he be given bread to eat and water to drink, and a lodging at night time. The German had shown this soiled praver book everywhere along his way, and the simple-minded peasants. believing him to be a priest, had fed and sheltered him without suspicion.

JAPS, CONFER ON RUSSIA.

Oska, Cable.—This morning the Emperor of Japan received Viscount Motone, the Foreign Minister, with three members of the Generes, Prince Yamagata, General Matsukaya and Viscount Salemont. The gravest significance is attached to the consultation, as the subject of attack of conclusing a separate of conclusing a separate preace.

W & RATE OF

Washington Despatch One of the first acts of the Government in he ning operation of railroads will have reduce large salaries now paid to the railway executives, and foresame in some measure the wages of the m way workers.

Securities to be insued while

Government is in control will be no interest rates not less than four per cent, and the issues will be made under joint authority of the Dire General and the Insterstate Con President Wilson, when he ou the Government's plans in his fauth-

coming address to Congress, will ask that the Government be empower buy any quantity of new railway curities. All earnings over and shove an amount to be agreed woon will go to the Government.

Congress will be asked also to appropriate a large fund—probably two hundred million dollars for the finmediate supply of rolling stock to handle the flood of traffic which has swamped the roads.

The Director-General will have an thority to decide whether the Games ment shall also assume operation that control of the express companies.

MEXICANS RAID U.S.

Killings Again Along the Texas Border.

Marfa, Texas, Despatch American troops to-day were guarding all outlets to Van Horne conyon, where 200 Mexican bandits on Christmas morning crossed the American border, make ed the postoffice and general stone on the Brite ranch, 27 miles south of here, killed Michael Welch, a petforeman of the Brite ranch, and car-ried away booty estimated to be worth

After the bandits had passed over the Rim Rock, which rises abruptly more than 1,000 feet above the Rio step. Last year she paid a visit to Grande, the seldiers, who were in close pursuit, fired many rounds at them, and are reported to have billed and wounded many Mexicans. The shooting compelled the bandle to abandon the horses on which thes earried away the loot.

LOYAL IRISH

Rally to U.S. Flag as to the Allies.

Dublin Cable says-T. P. O'Connor, report of the London America Traking cabling to John Redmond a statement Company, a large British shipping con-cern. When mer are paroled, they cannot re-enter the merchant marine dur-ing the war. The companies employ-ing them give them one-half pay until movement, and in its support of they obtain other employment.

"We have several ship captains in our the manner in which the

from us all." 14 KILLED AND MANY INJURED

When Pittsburg Car Rams Wild in Tunnel

And Emerges to Jump Rails and Crash.

Pittsburg, Pa., Despatch Formiten persons were killed and every offer one of the 114 massengers on a Knorville street car was more or less burt here late to-day, when the car ran away in a tunnel which connects the south side business district with the South Hills. After a wild dash of almost a mile through the tube, the car emerged at Carson street and turned over on its side. Hospital doctors said that a number of the injured

could not recover. The car, which was of the latest ow floor, steel type, was packed with city-bound shoppers when it left the station at the south end of the tunnel. 1 minute or two later the troller in said to have left the wire, and the lights went out. At almost the sume unstant, for some reason not yet determined, the motorman lost control and it dashed down the steep grade. gaining momentum with every instant as the wheels slipped along the

wet rails. The passengers were thrown into panie, and their shricks could be acard by persons in cars on the sireet as the ear shet out of the tube. A text teet from the mouth of the tunnel to a short curve, but so terrific was the speed the car had attained that the wheels at this point left the tracks

The ear instantly turned over on Its side, piling the passengers in struggling mass. It did not stop, but tearing along the sidewalk struck telegraph pole. The roof was ripped off, and men, women and children were scattered along the readway. Even then the wreck continued on its way, and finally brought up in a little confectionery store near

field street. An Atlanta man who is suffer in divorce alleges that his wife and married him before he know w he was doing. Isn't it mre it's always the man who is trapped, hypnotized and led to