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**EDITORIALS**

It is perfectly futile for Germany to take roundabout ways of bringing the war to an end; if she really wants peace she must ask for it. The United States' offer of intervention early in the war was not accepted by the Allies, and no other offer of the same sort, or for the same purpose would have any better result, no matter from what power it might emanate. This war was of Germany's seeking, and when she becomes thoroughly tired of it she can let the allied governments know without indirection.

Before she does this, however, she had better, with a view to expedite matters, decide what her irreducible minimum is to be. Talking at large would be of no use, except to give Germany a chance to recuperate, and that will certainly not be allowed to her on any plea whatever. In this war the fighting will go on concurrently with the pourparlers, until the Russian army is in Berlin, and perhaps also the allied armies of the west. The only way to prevent what would be a catastrophe from the German point of view is to be frank in admitting collapse and in discussing conditions of peace.

Mr. Asquith, who certainly spoke with authority, stated publicly a few days ago some of the terms on which the Allies will insist: Militarism must be abolished in Europe; "small nations" must be allowed to develop in their own

way without foreign molestation, and there must be some way found of preventing any one nation from trying to dominate the others. There must be a general and customary "propriety" of behavior among the powers which shall be binding on all, so that if one feels at liberty to behave in an overbearing way the others will have a recognized right to call it to account. There must be no more reliance on the "balance of power," or the "European concert," or any other traditional device to keep the peace among the nations; an international tribunal of some sort must be found.

There seems no reason to doubt that in the pending remodeling of the states-system of Europe and Asia the German element in the foreign control of Egypt will be eliminated by expulsion and the French element by voluntary withdrawal. As the Khedive has of his own choice cast in his lot with the Sultan of Turkey he must meet with what stoicism he may the "fate Allah has in store" for both. If Egypt becomes entirely a British province in name as well as in fact it will be interesting to watch the future of Palestine, which is the adjoining Turkish province.

There seems to be already manifesting itself a stirring among the Jews of the dispersion in different countries, and stranger things have happened than a partial Jewish restoration to the ancient Canaan under international guarantees would be. That Russia, France and Great Britain will dominate the coming rearrangement of the map of Europe and Asia is absolutely certain. Russia will probably be glad to get rid of her chronic Jewish trouble; France will be kindly disposed to people of whom she has long been tolerant; Great Britain will be enthusiastically desirous of helping a race the British people have delighted to honor.

What will happen in this direction depends on the Jews themselves. As a people they are wealthy enough to set themselves up under a new institutional organization. Their estimated number is eleven and a half millions. It might be both practicable and politic to let them have a large section of Syria, to the east of Palestine, so as to give them a chance to develop. Their literature and traditions would

form a strong bond of union, to say nothing of their esoteric tribal organization. They are supremely intelligent as a race, and the whole civilized world should be willing to see one more "small nation" experiment tried under such exceptional conditions.—Toronto Globe.

**PLATOON SYSTEM UNWIELDY**

Many Officers Who Had Been Left Without Places Will Get Them

Salisbury Plain, Dec. 2.—The platoon system has been discarded, and the Canadians have returned to the old double company formation, which was worked in Canada, on the advice of the war office. This means that many hours spent in training troops have been practically wasted. The reversion is the result of experience in this line. The platoon system in use by the French and Germans was adopted by the Imperial army, but it is now found that huge companies of 250 men are unwieldy.

Scores of officers who were left without a place under the platoon system will be reinstated.

Colonel Victor Williams has gone to France, following other officers who visit the front for a few day's experience of real warfare.

**GERMAN MISSIONARY ATTEMPTS TO WRECK BRITISH SHIP DWARF**

London, Dec. 2.—A German tried to blow up the British gunboat Dwarf with an infernal machine in a West African harbor recently, according to a report to the colonial office. It was discovered that he was a missionary.

"When questioned how he found such an act compatible with his work," the report said, "he replied that he was a soldier first and a missionary afterwards."

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**ANOTHER GALLANT DEED BY BRITISH SOLDIER.**—West Yorkshire infantryman carrying a wounded comrade out of action.

**SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS DON'T LIKE SOUND OF BATTLE**

WANT UNITED STATES TO JOIN WITH THEM IN DEMAND THAT FIGHTING BE DONE IN OTHER SEAS.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The United States government has been asked by the principal nations of South America to co-operate with them in negotiations with the belligerent powers of Europe to bring about the exclusion of all belligerent warships from the waters of the two Americas and safeguard the trade of Pan-American countries with each other. Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay have laid their suggestions before the Washington government, while the Brazilian government is considering the advisability of taking a similar step. Practically all the Central and South American countries have been circularized by some of the principal nations, resulting in a series of diplomatic conferences in Washington and the capitals of South America, which are now in progress.

**Trade Is Interrupted.**

While the proposals are different in character and scope, they all seek the same end—the restoration of the trade of South America, paralyzed by the European war. The movement also has for its object the removal of possible causes of serious friction between the countries of this hemisphere and the European belligerents on questions of neutrality.

Already Chile, Ecuador and Colombia have had serious difficulties with the belligerents over the use of the wireless and the coaling of foreign warships, whose presence in the Atlantic and Pacific is growing obnoxious

to South American countries. None of the nations which have made suggestions is committed to any particular plan, but all seek the co-operation of the United States.

**Colombia's Explanation.**

Don Julio Betancourt, Colombian minister to the United States, issued the following official statement:

"Mr. Betancourt, the Colombian minister, says that the government of Colombia has maintained every effort to compel all foreigners in Colombia to maintain the strictest neutrality ever since the European war broke out. He said that if either the English or the French governments have proofs of violations of Colombia's neutrality by any persons or corporations in Colombia and would present them at Bogota he could guarantee that most severe punishment would be meted out to the offenders.

"Mr. Betancourt pointed out that the wireless station complained of was now under government censorship in the same manner as wireless stations in the United States, but despite the most active efforts of the Colombian government to make its neutrality at all costs, one of the belligerents may have succeeded in erecting temporary wireless stations hidden somewhere along Colombia's long coastline on the Atlantic or on the Pacific.

Chautauquas are exempted from payment of the peace war-tax. There is nothing like having a friend at court. St. Louis Globe Democrat.

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