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DAILY EDITION

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EDITORIALS

The allied governments are not waiting till Germany surrenders to make up the bills of costs they are going to present to her for payment. They doubtless know now what they will demand in the way of territorial rearrangements, for that is easily determined. With regard to money payments for losses inflicted by the invasion and devastation of their respective territories they might have demanded lump sums, as Germany did from France in 1870. That is not their plan of procedure, however, and their method will prove more satisfactory as a basis for an appeal to public opinion in the open court of the civilized world down through the whole range of history and the "corridors of time."

There are two Commissions of investigation already at work, if not more; one French and one Belgian. Their instructions from their respective governments are to estimate the total amount of the losses caused by the war, in the various localities in which it has been carried on in both France and Belgium, to take expert evidence and opinion as to whether in any particular case the loss was due to military necessity or legitimate military expediency, and to

omit from the total amount all such losses so incurred; the remainder will be the amount of the indemnity demanded. This is treating Germany more than fairly; it is treating her very generously. Though there may have been exaggerations in the descriptions given to the world from time to time of the awful unnecessary, and unprovoked cruelties inflicted on the Belgian people in the way of slaughter of noncombatants, mutilations of men and boys, with a view to prevent them from becoming soldiers, and inhuman treatment of women and girls, there is abundance of trustworthy evidence that these charges are in many cases indisputably true, and all such cases will be found as items in the final bill of costs. So with the needless destruction of property, amounting in many cases to the systematic and purely savage destruction of whole cities, towns, and villages, to say nothing of isolated dwellings from ducal palaces to peasants' cottages, so also with the unjustifiable destruction of public property that only a long time and the expenditure of public money can reproduce, such as the laying waste of forests and the blowing-up of public works. It is assumed by the allies

that there can be no peace granted to Germany until Germany is occupied by their armies, so that German territory may be held indefinitely as security for the payment of the indemnities. It need not be doubted that this program will not be carried out. Germany and Austria-Hungary are undergoing a double process of stifling and blood-letting, either of which alone would in time prove fatal. The lack of food is already felt; the want of raw materials is starving industry; the blockade, which is becoming daily more effective, has already paralyzed commerce. There is nothing left for these two great empires but a fearful looking for of judgment, and the final as-size is not far away. The world at large, including both belligerents, may just as well accustom themselves to this view of an outcome which is as inevitable as a fiat of doom.—The Globe.

PEACE CELEBRATIONS ARE DEFERRED UNTIL THE END OF CONFLICT

British Committee in Manifesto Expresses Regret and Points to U. S.-Canadian Boundary Line.

London, Dec. 29.—The British committee concerned with the celebration of the centenary of peace between the United States and Great Britain has made public a manifesto expressing regret that since the city of Ghent, where the treaty of peace was signed, is occupied by the Germans, it will be necessary to postpone the celebration until the European war has ended. The manifesto expresses the hope that the unarmed frontier between the United States and Canada may long continue as an example to the world of the safe defence of mutual respect and trust in the affairs of nations.

In an editorial commenting regretfully on the necessity of postponing the celebration of the peace centenary, marking one hundred years of peace between the English-speaking nations, The Times expresses the nation's gratitude to America for material proofs of sympathy and affection for the work done for victims of the war. The article details a long list of American war charities and adds:

"In all history there has been no work like it. Never before have we received from another people proof so moving of interest and regard. We are not an effusive nation, but the American self-sacrifice and warm kindness have sunk deep into our hearts.

"If we cannot unite today with our American friends in a great peace celebration we can at least bear testimony to the unparalleled munificence of their charity and the good will they are showing to all, not least to ourselves and our allies."

Most men who say they do the best they can don't.

Did you ever know a rich young woman to marry a poor old man?

Sometimes half a truth is worse than none.

NEW C. P. R. BOATS ARE TAKEN OVER

Admiralty Commanders Princess Margaret and Princess Irene.

The Admiralty has commandeered the two new C. P. R. flyers, Princess Margaret and Princess Irene, so the vessels will not be seen in Vancouver for some time. News to this effect has just been received by the C. P. R. steamship officials.

On Thursday the C. P. R. trans-Pacific liner Montague, which was taken over for transport purposes, had been released, and company officials were beginning to wonder if the other vessels would get their discharges, when news came that the two new flyers would be requisitioned.

The Princess Margaret and Princess Irene were both laid down at Denny's Yard, Dumbarton, Scotland, and the Princess Margaret is fully completed. For a month she has ridden to an anchor in the Clyde and she was to have left for Vancouver via Panama next month. The Irene will be ready shortly. The vessels have a speed of over twenty-three knots and will be used for scout purposes.

Chief Engineer Heritage, formerly of the Princess Charlotte, and Chief Engineer Wallace, formerly of the Princess Victoria, are in Scotland standing by the ships and will probably go to sea with them under the white ensign.

There is an unconfirmed rumor that the Empress of Japan will soon be released by the Germans and return to the Vancouver-Oriental run with the Montague.

PITIFUL CASE DISCOVERED BY SOCIAL WORKERS

Woman Was So Discouraged by Poverty That Life Was Valueless.

Calgary, Dec. 24.—Arrived at the stage when life was considered not worth living, a poor woman with several children was located by the Associated Charities the other day, and has been given help. The case is one of the worst discovered this winter. The woman was living alone with her children, her husband being out of the city looking for work. Tired and weary with the struggle for existence, the woman had come to expect the worst. The children were barely clothed, and the distracted mother had covered their arms with old stockings and clothed them in other old garments which were most unsuitable for the cold weather. The investigator from the Associated Charities found the woman, saw that she had lost heart and the case was immediately investigated.

She and her children, too, were provided with clothes and food, which they were badly in need of. Coal and fuel was also supplied, warmth for the house only having been secured by the kiddies, who picked up odd lumber here and there.

After all, it is a better plan to swallow your wrath than to be forced to eat your words.

WAR IS PLAYING HAVOC WITH LIFE INSURANCE

Many British Companies Now Refusing Business on the Original Basis.

London, Dec. 29.—The heavy casualties among the British land and sea forces have caused a deadlock in the life insurance business, many companies now refusing to insure combatants' lives on the original arrangement, which was an additional seven guineas on such policies. This rose to ten or twelve guineas. War risks now threaten to become uninsurable. The rates were originally based on the experience of the South African war, but the present war has been far most costly in life. It is suggested that the government come to the rescue with a system of re-insurance as has been done in the case of shipping war risks.

ENGLISHMAN WILL WATCH GERMAN BANK

Cairo, Dec. 29.—The government has appointed an English comptroller over the Deutsche Orient Bank.

This institution, founded in 1906, was notoriously created for the furtherance of German political ends. These it served only too well. Its staff was recruited from the highest German circles and it undoubtedly acted as an information bureau for the Wilhelmstrasse and as an organ for a secret pan-German propaganda. Moreover, its unprofessional and unbusinesslike methods attracted an extensive native clientele, and served usefully to cover political intrigues with a veneer of commerciality. Its native depots were very large.

As some doubt had been expressed with regard to the manner in which the assets were being liquidated and utilized the government made the above appointment, which safeguards the interests of the native depositors.

THREE BOYS DROWNED.

Went Through Thin Ice While Sledding at Yarmouth, N. S.

Yarmouth, N. S., Dec. 29.—Three young boys were drowned at Acadia yesterday afternoon. Two, who were sons of Frank Burrell, were aged 12 and 7, and George, the son of Judson Crocker, was 5 years old.

The oldest boy was drawing the two younger boys on a sled when he came to a thin sheet of ice. He stopped himself but the sled went through. He bravely went to the rescue of the others and lost his life in the attempt. The bodies were recovered.

JAPAN NOT ASKED TO SEND AN ARMY STATES MINISTER

Tokio, Dec. 29.—During an interpellation today the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ta-kaaki Kato, declared that no country had asked Japan to send an army to Europe.

The War Minister, Lieutenant General Oka, said the Japanese had sent arms to Europe to the value of \$5,000,000.

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