

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1916.

BRITAIN SILENT

It is significant that the King's speech, on the prorogation of parliament, contained no mention whatever of President Wilson's note nor of the German peace proposals, and that the only statement regarding the present situation in Europe was in the form of a reiteration of the fixed determination of the British people to prosecute the war to the end, that is, until an honorable and lasting peace is assured.

Washington seems to be worked up into a state of great excitement over the prospect of a peace conference and the part supposed to be played by the United States by way of mediation. In marked contrast, London remains perfectly calm and unperturbed. There is much discussion of the Wilson note, but it is a mere ripple on the sea of public opinion; the great tide flows steadily on just as it did before the intimation of the German and Washington request for a peace discussion.

Britain is not in the position of a frenzied man so engrossed in a fight that he does not pay attention to the man who is trying to persuade him to stop fighting, but is simply in the position of a strong man who has set himself to right a great wrong and there is no use in trying to divert him from his course until he has accomplished his end. If the wrong-doer is willing to help him complete his task by admitting that the wrong has been done and guarantees that reparation shall be made, and fully, and that nothing of the kind will ever happen again, so far as he is concerned, an end to the combat will come, but he must be assured of the sincerity of his enemy's promises before he takes any notice of them. Britain must be assured, as her Allies must be assured, that the great end has been ac-

complished; that Prussian militarism is a thing of the past; that there will be no further oppression of small nations, and that a lasting peace will follow the present bloody conflict. The United States cannot give such assurances; Germany has not given such assurances, and the method of presenting the proposals for a peace conference still savors of the kind of diplomacy which forced the war upon Europe. Meantime, Britain pursues her way as if she had not heard the appeal and she will continue to do so until the appeal is made in the proper spirit and with proper guarantees.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The telegram of congratulations from the Mission City Liberals to Hon. M. A. Macdonald, on his being elected for a third time in one year, read: "Dhainaeoin co theairidh e." This is the historic war cry of the Clan Macdonald. It means: "In spite of all opposition."

There is general satisfaction throughout the Dominion at the prospect of an Imperial Conference at an early date. It will be something of a relief to several of the Canadian and Australian ministers to get over to London for a while, where they will be able for the moment to shed some of the worries attaching to home affairs.

President Wilson's peace efforts seem to have received a vastly different reception in Britain from that accorded in Berlin. The attitude of the two peoples towards the proposals is eloquent testimony as to how the war is going.

The Labor men want Premier Borden and R. B. Bennett to make

NO ALUM



a definite pronouncement regarding the relationship between the National Service cards and a prospective scheme of conscription. To date, the replies of these two ministers have not been very clear on the point. They are either very undecided as to what they intend to do or they are too shy to make their plans known just yet.

TIMELY SUGGESTIONS ON NATIONAL SERVICE

(Continued From Page One.)

does Chairman Bennett do then? Why, the same old thing—he works on the men with argument and exhortation. How does that help? Not at all.

The fact of the matter is that the census will give no great flip to recruiting in Canada. What is needed is an inspiration, an example. Somebody has called it moral compulsion—a good name for it. Where men can be sure that they go to the front in a good cause and not as the dupes of conscienceless profiteers who remain behind and fleece the people, then recruiting will take a great jump. Premier Borden, no doubt, imagined that recruiting would liven up when he got rid of Sir Sam, that hero having got in wrong with Tommy Atkins generally. But the remedy did not work, possibly because the public came to the conclusion that Sir Sam was only a symptom and that the real disease lay deeper. At all events recruiting lags.

The new arrangements by which battalions in the field are kept reinforced by fresh drafts and care is taken to hold Canadian regiments together when they arrive overseas, thus preserving their esprit de corps—these arrangements are highly commendable, and would be very fine indeed if they would only bring in the recruits. This, however, they fail to do. Somehow or other the spirit is lacking. The chances are that prospective recruits would like to feel first that they

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