

THE ONTARIO ARGUS

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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

All copy for display advertising should be at this office by Wednesday noon. To insure position copy should be in this office on Tuesday.

GERMANY PROPOSES PEACE

Over the rumblings of battle comes the proposals for peace from Germany. Following closely in the wake of the Teutonic pronouncement that with her allies the Germany is ready to deal with their adversaries there was a collapse in the stocks of American munition shares and in wheat. So far these have been the only effects of the startling development of the past week.

The fact that Germany has signified the willingness of the Central Powers to end the war, while at the same time declaring itself to be the victorious force is perhaps without parallel in history, ancient or modern. The manner in which the proposal was made, the tone used, the tentative terms indicated, which would be an admission on the part of the allies that they have been decisively beaten, apparently stamp the offer as one without substance.

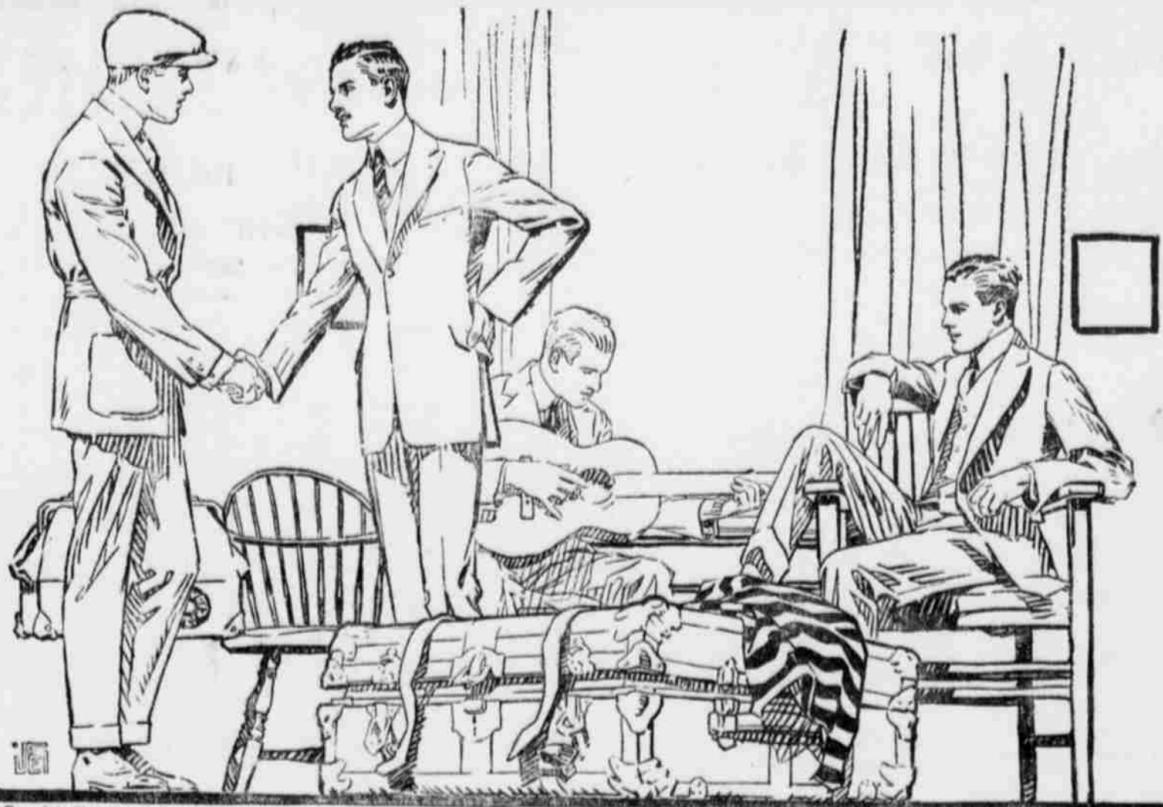
On the basis indicated there could be no lasting peace, and a peace that would not be lasting would be a world calamity instead of a blessing.

It cannot be believed, unless there are conditions of which the outside world know nothing, that Germany expects her enemies to entertain the offer. The fact that the people of Germany are aware that Bethmann-Hollweg was to make an important address on Tuesday and that seats were reserved for the occasion indicates that the peace proposals have more of a political bearing than anything else. Coming at a time

when the present German government is fighting with its back to the wall for continuance in power, the peace proposals may be the means of putting the radical socialists who have been clamoring for peace in a hole. They will have no leg to stand upon in their fight against the Bethmann-Hollweg government.

Under the conditions which have surrounded the diplomatic exchanges in this war intelligent and accurate comment is impossible on such a subject. After the smoke of battle has ended and all of the facts relating to many situations have become known, the gross errors of snap judgment are revealed. However, the fact that as in many cases during the past few years the belligerent nations have sought to appeal directly to the peoples of the world thru the newspapers rather than to their governments leads one to the conclusion that some ulterior motive has actuated the present strategy. For example the outlined proposals leave England unscathed, what effect will this have on the new ministry headed by Lloyd-George?

Judging from the few comments contained in the press dispatches from leading men in the allied countries, Germany's proposals will be met with derision and scorn. Any other attitude on the part of England and France would require a complete reversal of the policies they have been maintaining since the war began, and in view of the recent reorganization of both of their governments such a reversal is hardly to be considered. At the present writing it appears



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May you be filled with the joy of living at Christmas-tide, and may the New Year and the days that follow, bring to you added happiness and prosperity

THE LAST CALL

SANTA

has only a week more to stock up for Christmas and our place is his headquarters,



- Toys, Books, Games, Soldiers, Trains, Balls, Blocks, Guns, Velocepedes, Boats, Children's Chairs, Wagons, Wheelbarrows, Carts, etc.

Dolls in variety, including a good line of kidbody Dolls, Doll Buggies, Cradles, Beds, Metal and China Dishes for the girls, and innumerable other things suitable to the occasion.

If in doubt what to select for the older relatives and friends, we suggest a nice piece of China or Glass ware, as something always pleasing and

never amiss. We have a very large stock and variety in these lines. Come in is what we want you to do. You will surely find something to please you. Open every evening.



THE VARIETY STORE
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Good Clothes For Men

The Toggery

Ontario, Oregon

that the Peace proposals will be added to the list of spectacular moves made by Wilhelm, the war lord of Wilhelmstrasse.

NEW PRIME MINISTER

Conservative England has never exhibited to greater advantage the possibilities of its democracy, than in the raising of David Lloyd-George. The Welsh Liberalist to the Prime Ministry. Strange, too, is it that in his raising the paradox is presented of giving his, who has fought the centralized authority almost dictatorial powers. And continuing the paradox further, this little Welshman who so bitterly assailed the conduct of Boer war has not hesitated but has proceeded to take full advantage of all the powers of his mighty office.

The rise of the Welsh orphan boy to the pinnacle of power in a country like England is unprecedented. Such an advance would be remarkable even here in America, but in England it is wonderful. Yet there are none who do not now admit that it is merited. The little Welshman is no longer looked upon merely as a radical reformer with pronounced socialist views, but as the strong man of the nation behind whom the mass of people will unite to carry the war to a successful fruition.

When it is remembered that Lloyd-George rose to fame thru his violent opposition to the policy of the nation in fighting the Boers, that he was hooted and mobbed for his outspoken criticisms then, that he was feared and hated for his reform bills, his income laws, his old age pensions, his laws for the return of the unearned increment from land values; his effort to reduce the big estates and return waste lands to fruition; the conclusion is compelled that England has made a vast change while in the

erebral of war.

Americans have long prided themselves with the belief that this was the only nation under the sun which held for such possibilities for the men and women not born to wealth and social advantages. The ambitions of millions of American boys has been spurred on by the rise of the Abraham Lincoln, the untutored rail-splitter, to the Presidency. The career of James Garfield from the tow-path to the White House has also been held before the youth of the land. And all this has been well for it has fired the heart of many a boy and enabled him to rise above obstacles which might have held him down.

The rise of Lloyd-George, however, indicates that we cannot longer claim that this is the only land where abilities of war have evidently consumed by is the sole passport to power. The fires of war have evidently consumed the dress of aristocracy in Old England and made possible the use of the refined mental of ability for the saving of the entire nation.

AMERICA AND THE MERCHANT MARINE.

When the war started pseudo economists talked gibbly of the opportunity the United States would have to regain its prestige as a leading maritime nation lost during the Civil war. It now appears that our theorists were premature in their surmises. A recent investigation shows that while the United States is the scene of more ship building than any nation, save Great Britain, not half of these ships will fly the stars and stripes. Nearly half of them are being built for Norwegian interests. Beside this the Norsemen have purchased all the shipping possible from the

American owners during the past year so that after all, while America has gained in total tonnage of sea-faring vessels, proportionately the increase is hardly appreciable.

Now, while the war continues, a lack of shipping is seriously handicapping every American interest. Due to it, in a large degree, we are suffering from a transportation blockade. There are not enough ships to carry the goods waiting bottoms in all our sea ports, while insurance rates on ships carrying belligerent flags takes a heavy toll from shippers. But so long as England controls the seas, and is in dire need of all the supplies we can furnish she will send the ships needed to carry

the goods she and the allies require but no more. Thus we can still continue to pile up increasing balances of trade in our favor. Yet had we shipping facilities that could be used the balances with neutral nations, especially those of South America and the Orient would be vastly greater. Bad as is our handicap now it is nothing to that which will exist after the war. Then the thousands of ships requisitioned by the warring nations for transports and other belligerent duty will be free for commercial trade. Owned by our business competitors they will be the chief instruments in "the war after the war," in other words the fight for the world's business.

No Gift Nicer Than JEWELRY

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GOODS OF QUALITY

And we have never shown a finer line than we have at present.

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W. W. LETSON