

# REVIEW OF YEAR THAT BROUGHT PEACE TO WORLD AFTER FOUR YEARS OF WAR

**Germany and Her Allies Are Crushed and Forced to Accept Such Terms as Winners Dictate—United States Supplies Power That Turns Tide—President Wilson Joins Other Democratic Rulers of World in Great Peace Congress at Versailles—Old Nations Crumble and New Ones Are Formed—Russia Torn by Disorders.**

By DONALD F. BIGGS.

More history has been made in the year 1918 than in any year that has passed since time began. This momentous twelve months' period comes to a close with the world at peace after more than four years of the most sanguinary fighting of this or any other age.

During the year great nations have crumbled, new nations have sprung into being, thrones have tottered and fallen, monarchs who once ruled hundreds of millions of people with an iron hand have fled for their lives or have fallen victim to the wrath of peoples intoxicated by their new-won freedom.

The coming of peace finds America and her allies strong and fully able to meet the responsibilities that come with victory. On the other hand it finds the nations responsible for the world cataclysm exhausted and torn by civil disorders that are born of defeat. It finds the once great empire of Austria-Hungary in ruins from which there are already rising new free nations. It finds the German empire disrupted and threatened with dissolution.

The end of the war finds Russia in the throes of civil war. The world gets only fragments of news regarding the real situation in the land of the former czar, but these fragments have told a terrible story of anarchy and class strife in which thousands of persons have perished, slain in bloody riots or ruthlessly executed by the bolshevik leaders who control a large part of the once great empire. Peace finds the menace of autocratic militarism supplanted by the menace of bolshevism, which is attempting to extend its anarchistic propaganda throughout the world.

But, amid all the uncertainties that peace has brought, the world rejoices that the last citadel of autocracy has been swept away before the rising tide of democracy, giving assurance that the millions who died upon the field of battle did not die in vain. Brighter days for all mankind have dawned with the passing of the year 1918.

## HOW THE WAR WAS WON

The year opened with the opinion generally prevailing that the world war could not be brought to a conclusion in less than eighteen months. It was an open secret that the German high command was planning to make a supreme effort on the western front, and during the early days of 1918 it was known that many divisions of German troops, released from the Russian front, were being transferred to the west front in preparation for the grand offensive.

Interest during these days centered in events that were transpiring in Russia and in long-range peace discussions in which President Wilson and Chancellor von Hertling figured. On January 8 President Wilson, in an address to congress, promulgated the famous "14 points" which he declared should form the basis of world peace.

In Russia Premier Lenine and Foreign Minister Trotsky entrenched themselves in power by dissolving the constituent assembly which met at Petrograd January 18. On January 21 an all-Russian congress of soviets was convened to replace the constituent assembly. There was little activity on any front during the month, but on January 30 it was announced officially that American troops were holding front-line trenches in France, occupying a sector northwest of Toul.

The Americans holding this sector received their baptism of fire when they repulsed a vigorous German raid. The Americans lost two killed, four wounded and one missing. On February 5 the steamer Tuscania, carrying 2,179 American soldiers, was torpedoed and sunk, with a loss of 159 lives. On February 9 the Ukraine signed a separate treaty of peace with the central powers.

Conditions in Russia continued to be chaotic. The bolsheviks declared the war with Germany over but refused to sign the peace treaty demanded by Germany. The Germans thereupon renewed hostilities against Russia, capturing Reval, Russian naval base, and advancing on Petrograd. Lenine and Trotsky then announced that Russia was forced to accept the German peace terms. On March 3 the Russian delegates at Brest-Litovsk signed the peace treaty with Germany.

**Germans Begin Great Drive.**  
On March 21 the long-heralded offensive of the Germans was launched. A terrific blow was delivered against the British lines on a front of more than 50 miles, extending from the River Oise, near La Fere, to the Senece river, about Croiselles. Wave after wave of the finest German troops were hurled at the British lines, and in a few days had advanced 15 miles. The British Fifth army at the point where it touched the French lines was routed, and for a time the allies faced disaster. The Germans continued to push southward, and at the end of 15 days

had advanced 47 miles from La Fere and were within six miles of Amiens. Here the advance was halted. In the meantime, on March 29, the allies, facing a catastrophe, at last agreed upon a unification of command, and General Foch, the brilliant French leader, was placed in supreme command of all the allied armies.

A few days after the launching of this drive, Paris was bombarded by a "mystery" gun which it was known was at least 62 miles away. On March 29, Good Friday, this long-range gun made a direct hit on a Paris church and 75 worshippers were killed.

On April 10, the Germans shifted their attack and began the second phase of their offensive—a drive against the British in Flanders with the channel ports as the objective. Here again the British were forced to give ground, but there was no break such as occurred earlier on the Somme front. The British and Portuguese were swept back along the River Lys. The Germans took the Messines ridge and threw 125,000 men against the British below Ypres. But the Ypres defenses held firm, and in the west the Germans failed in their efforts to reach Hazebrouck. The terrific drive spent itself and the Germans had failed to threaten the channel ports seriously.

On April 22 the British navy executed one of the spectacular feats of the war, blocking the channel of Zeebrugge, a German submarine base.

**Germans Renew Offensive.**  
On May 27 the Germans renewed the offensive with a powerful attack between the Aisne and the Marne. In a day they swept over the Chemin-des-Dames on the heights north of the Aisne and crossed the river in a rush. Next they took Soissons and reached the Vesle. On they went to the Marne, extending their front on the river from Chateau-Thierry to Verneuil, and threatening Reims in their advance. The drive was halted with the Germans occupying a front 16 miles wide on the Marne.

In the meantime the Americans had won attention on May 28 by taking Cantigny on the Picardy front in a brilliant attack.

On May 25, German U-boats began operations off the coast of the United States, sinking 11 ships.

The German drive for Paris was resumed but the turning point was reached when on June 6 and 7 American marines were thrown across the path of the advancing army at Chateau-Thierry. The Americans not only stopped the Germans but drove them back two miles, capturing several hundred prisoners.

In an effort to unite the Somme salient with that of the Marne to provide a base for another move toward Paris, the Germans launched another heavy attack west of Noyon on June 10. They made considerable gains on a 20-mile front but the drive was halted within two days.

**Austrian Offensive Is Fiasco.**

Attention was transferred from France to Italy when on June 15 the Austrians opened an offensive on the Italian front from Asiago plateau to the sea. The attack proved a complete fiasco. It was repulsed at all points and the Italians pursued the fleeing Austrians across the Piave, taking 45,000 prisoners.

The German commanders made one last effort to break through to Paris when the crown prince's army group on July 15, the morning after the French national holiday, launched an offensive along a front from Chateau-Thierry to Massiges, 30 miles east of Reims.

This fifth and last phase of the great offensive failed most signally, being stopped on the third day. The American forces played a big part in this second decisive battle of the Marne. East of Chateau-Thierry the Germans forced a passage across the Marne and the Americans who opposed them were forced to fall back temporarily. Then, in a brilliant counter-attack, the Americans drove the Germans back across the Marne, taking 1,500 prisoners, including a complete brigade staff.

**Allied Offensive Opens.**

On July 18 General Foch assumed the offensive. He struck the crown prince's right flank a vital blow and on the first day the French and Americans fought their way for six miles along the Aisne, reaching the outskirts of Soissons. For two weeks the great counter-offensive continued. On July 29 the Americans met the crack divisions of German guards and defeated them in a stubborn battle at Serzy. Soissons fell to the French on August 2 and by the following day the entire Soissons-Reims salient had been wiped out.

The indignation of the British people, aroused by the U-boat outrages perpetrated by the Germans, was intensified early in July when news was received of the sinking by a submarine of the hospital ship Llandovery Castle, carrying wounded men and nurses between Canada and England causing a loss of 258 persons, including 12 nurses. The United States continued to speed up its war activities during July, and early in the month it

was announced that Americans overseas or on the way numbered 1,019,115. The United States on July 7 agreed to allied action in Russia and preparations were begun for an allied military expedition into Siberia. On the same day Count von Mirbach, German ambassador to Russia, was slain at Moscow. On July 8 it was announced that the Murman coast of Russia had thrown off bolshevik rule and invited aid from the allies. During July the first reports came from Russia of the execution of the former czar by a local soviet and these reports later were confirmed.

General Foch opened the second phase of his counter-offensive on August 8 when a surprise attack was launched on a 20-mile front in Picardy, the allies gaining seven miles at some points and taking 7,000 prisoners. The following day Halg's men gained 13 miles in Picardy and the next day the French, attacking on a 20-mile front, wiped out the Montdidier salient.

**Foch Hammers Foe.**

Then followed a series of sledgehammer blows on all portions of the front, all fitting into the general scheme of attack worked out by the master mind of Foch. On August 20 Lassigny fell and the former Somme front was restored. British and French armies, aided by American units, continued the smash on the Somme front and on August 30 the Germans were hurled across the Somme. The British took Bapaume and were close to Peronne. Roye fell to the French and dozens of small towns were wrested from the invaders. Further north the British smashed the Hindenburg line and forced the Germans to begin a retreat from the Lys salient.

On September 12, the First American army, under the direct command of General Pershing, began a brilliant action which wiped out the difficult St. Mihiel salient in three days. The Americans took 20,000 prisoners in this action.

Serbian, French and Italian forces, on September 18, launched a big drive against the Bulgars in Macedonia. Almost simultaneously the British broke the Turk lines in the Holy Land. The Turkish army was shattered, and by September 27 had lost 45,000 men in prisoners. In the meantime the allies smashed the Hindenburg line along a 22-mile front in the St. Quentin sector, and it was announced at Washington that the United States now had 1,750,000 men across the sea to aid in crushing the crumbling armies of the enemy.

The first decisive break in the ranks of the central empires came on September 27, when General Malinoff, commander of the Bulgar armies which were routed before the advancing Serbs and French, asked for an armistice. On September 30 Bulgaria accepted the armistice terms proposed by the allies and surrendered unconditionally.

**Teutons Move for Peace.**

Turkey moved for peace on October 4 and the German people were thrown into a panic as they saw their allies crumbling. Prince Max, who had now become German chancellor, addressed a note to President Wilson, asking that steps be taken immediately to conclude an armistice and to open peace negotiations. President Wilson answered by asking whether he spoke for the people or the then rulers of the empire and whether the proposal was based on an acceptance of the president's 14 peace points. Meanwhile the drive on the west front continued, and the Germans were driven from much ground that they had held since 1914. The Hindenburg line was smashed at many points. Pershing's men broke the foe's main line of defense west of the Meuse and after days of bitter fighting cleared the Germans out of Argonne forest. The Germans were forced to abandon the Chemin des Dames and to retreat on a long line from Laon as far east as Argonne.

Germany sent another note to President Wilson on October 12, accepting the latter's 14 peace principles and urging the president to transmit its proposal for an armistice to the allies. Prince Max assured the president that by reason of constitutional changes the existing German government spoke for the people. President Wilson replied two days later, rejecting the German proposals, declaring that any armistice must be granted by the military commanders and must guarantee the continued supremacy of the allied arms.

The answer of the allied armies to the German peace proposals was to deliver still harder blows at the retreating enemy. In the north the Belgian army, led by King Albert, co-operating with the British, began to sweep the Germans from the Belgian coast. On October 17 the Germans were driven from Ostend and Bruges and the British occupied Lille. The whole west front was in motion. The allies swept eastward through Belgium and through the industrial regions of France.

Chancellor Max, on October 21, sent another peace note to President Wilson, denying the charges that the Germans had been guilty of atrocities on land and sea, and again giving assurances that the new government represented the people of Germany. President Wilson replied two days later, agreeing to transmit the request for an armistice to the allies.

**Italians Rout Austrians.**

As this note was delivered the allies were smashing the Germans at all points on the western front and on October 24 the Italians launched a great offensive against the Austrians on the Piave front, who within a few days were in headlong flight with the Italians in pursuit. The Americans continued to smash the Germans in vicious attacks west of the Meuse.

The month of November opened with the German armies facing utter rout, the armies of her allies completely

shattered and the end in sight. Turkey surrendered unconditionally to the British and the Austrians begged for an armistice, while their armies were in full flight. The allied war council at Versailles began to prepare the terms to be submitted to the Germans.

The American First army smashed the German lines at Grand Pre and advanced seven miles west of the Meuse as the enemy line cracked.

Austria-Hungary, on November 3, accepted the armistice terms which provided for unconditional surrender, hostilities ceasing at three o'clock November 4.

On November 5, President Wilson notified Germany to apply to Marshal Foch for terms, he having been informed that they had been prepared by the allied war council.

German envoys were appointed and approached the allied lines but in the meantime the allied armies did not lessen the pressure they were exerting on the enemy. The Americans, having inflicted a severe defeat on the enemy, clearing the whole front between the Meuse and the Aisne, rapidly advanced toward Sedan, cutting the vital communications between Metz and the long German line extending to the north. The Germans, as a result of the American advance, faced the necessity of undertaking a general retreat to save their armies from being cut off.

On November 9 the kaiser abdicated and the crown prince renounced his claims to the throne. The government of Germany passed into the control of the social democrats and Herr Ebert was made chancellor. The kaiser fled to Holland and was permitted to remain there by the Dutch authorities. At the same time various other German princes abdicated and soldiers and workmen's councils sprang into existence at many points.

**Germans Sign Armistice.**

On November 11 the German envoys signed the armistice which amounted practically to unconditional surrender. Under the terms of the armistice Germany agreed to evacuate all invaded territory and retire behind the Rhine, the allies to follow and hold all important crossings of the Rhine. The Germans agreed to surrender the greater part of their navy and thousands of heavy guns and airplanes, rendering them unable to renew hostilities.

The armistice became effective at 11 a. m., Paris time, November 11. Thus the great world war virtually came to an end, although technically it will end only with the signing of the peace treaty.

With the cessation of hostilities revolution spread through Germany and Austria. Emperor Charles of Austria abdicated and a people's government was set up.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg remained in supreme command of the German armies and began to direct the retirement of the Germans in accordance with the terms of the armistice.

Carrying out the terms of the armistice the Germans surrendered 71 warships to the allies on November 21.

Conditions were very unsettled in Germany during the closing weeks of the year, the socialist government apparently sharing power with the soldiers and workmen's councils. Plans were under discussion for the summoning of a constituent assembly to determine the future character of the government but activities of the radical socialist element under the leadership of Herr Liebknecht threatened to disrupt the entire former empire.

On November 29 President Wilson announced that he would head the American delegation to the peace conference and that the other delegates would be Secretary of State Lansing, Col. E. M. House, Henry White, former ambassador to France, and Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, United States military representative on the supreme war council. The president, accompanied by the other peace delegates and a large party of assistants, sailed for France December 4.

President Wilson arrived at Brest December 13 and proceeded to Paris, where he was given an enthusiastic reception. He at once entered into conference with the allied leaders, in preparation for the opening of the peace conference in January.

British, French, American and Belgian armies of occupation advanced into Germany as the Germans retired in accordance with the armistice, the allied armies reaching the Rhine during the early days of December.

## DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Practically every phase of American life felt the dominating influence of war throughout the year 1918.

In the field of national legislation woman's suffrage and nation-wide prohibition were urged as war measures. The woman's suffrage amendment was defeated in the senate October 1, after having passed the house. A nation-wide prohibition measure, to become effective June 30, 1919, was enacted by congress and approved by the president November 22. On September 6 President Wilson had ordered the manufacture of malt liquor stopped on December 1, as a food-conservation measure.

The government, early in the year, began to tighten its control over industry and business for the purpose of furthering war efforts and protecting the public. On January 16, to relieve a serious coal shortage which threatened to delay the shipment of war supplies to France, Fuel Administrator Garfield ordered a general shutdown of industry and business in all states east of the Mississippi river for a period of five days and ten succeeding Mondays. On February 13 the order for heatless Mondays was rescinded.

Congress increased the safeguards thrown about war industries by passing the "sabotage" bill, carrying penalties of \$10,000 fine and 30 years' imprisonment for destruction of war materials or interference with war industries. President Wilson signed this measure on April 20. The government also prosecuted vigorously many persons accused of violation of the espionage act. On August 17, 100 members of the I. W. W. were convicted of disloyalty in the federal court at Chicago, after a trial lasting several months.

Government control of the railroads was followed during this year by government control of all telegraph and telephone lines. Congress on July 13 authorized the president to take control of the wires and the government assumed control on July 31. On November 17, the government also took control of all Atlantic cable lines.

The first general election since the United States entered the war was held on November 5. The Republicans won both houses of congress, the senate by a majority of two and the house by a margin of more than forty.

During September, October and November the entire country was swept by a serious epidemic of Spanish influenza. Thousands of soldiers in the army camps and other thousands of civilians succumbed thereto and to pneumonia.

The country was surprised on November 22 by the resignation of William G. McAdoo as secretary of the treasury and director general of the railroads. Representative Carter Glass of Virginia was named to succeed Mr. McAdoo as secretary of the treasury December 5.

On November 28 Governor Stephens of California commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence of Thomas J. Mooney, convicted in connection with the death of ten persons from a bomb explosion in San Francisco during a preparedness parade July 22, 1916.

Plan for making the United States navy second to that of no other country for 1925 were disclosed to congress by Rear Admiral Badger, chairman of the executive committee of the general board of the navy December 12.

## FOREIGN

The map of Europe was being remade as the year 1918 came to a close. The Czechoslovak republic was already in existence before the close of the war, having been recognized as an independent belligerent government by the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy, but the coming of peace saw the formal establishment of this new government at Prague. The end of the war also practically assured the rising of a great new Poland, made up of most, if not all, of the territory divided up years ago among Germany, Austria and Russia. Finland threw off the shackles placed upon her by Russia and out of the turmoil of civil war emerged as a free and independent nation. The peoples of other smaller subject states asserted their independence.

Civil war continued to threaten the new republic of China throughout the year. Hsu Shih Chang was elected president of the republic on September 6 and during the next few months reports indicated a possibility of an agreement being reached between the northern and southern sections of the country.

Peru and Chile were reported on the brink of war during the closing weeks of the year. The trouble between these countries was an outgrowth of the nitrate war of years ago in which Chile won Taonn and Arica.

Dr. Sidonia Paes, president of Portugal, was shot and killed at Lisbon, December 15. The assassin was killed by the crowd that witnessed the crime. Two days later Admiral Canto Y. Castro was elected president of Portugal.

On December 16 the Finnish diet elected General Mannerheim regent of Finland.

## LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Labor unrest, resulting in many strikes, threatened to seriously hamper the government's war preparations early in the year but through a spirit of co-operation shown by both labor and capital the danger was averted and there was little labor trouble during the greater part of the year.

During the early days of the year disaffection appeared among the workers in the shipyards and by February 12 the situation had assumed a serious aspect with strikes in effect in five yards. By February 16 the strike had spread still further in spite of an advance in wages announced by the labor adjustment board.

On February 17, President Wilson, in a letter to William L. Hutcheson, head of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, concerning the ship carpenters' strike, denied the right of labor to strike at that critical juncture. "Will you co-operate or will you obstruct?" the president asked. The workmen responded to the president's appeal and the strike was declared off. At the same time Secretary of Labor Wilson announced the personnel of a national board of labor, to be composed of representatives of both labor and capital. On February 24 this board opened a conference for the purpose of establishing a basis for the settlement of disputes during the war. Former President William H. Taft, chosen by the employers, and Frank P. Walsh, selected by the labor organizations, alternated as chairman. This conference, on March 29, reached an agreement providing that all labor disputes arising during the war should be submitted to a board of mediation. This agreement was adhered to by both employers and employees and compar-

tively few strikes occurred during the remainder of the year.

## DISASTERS

Fires, railroad accidents and explosions took a heavy toll of human life on land during the year 1918 while the elements combined with the torpedoes of the German U-boats to send thousands of innocent persons, including women and children, to their death at sea.

Fifty-two children met death in a fire which destroyed a convent at Montreal, Canada, February 14. February 24 the liner Florizel, bound from St. Johns, N. F., to New York, was wrecked by a blizzard near Cape Race and 92 lives were lost.

Seventy inmates of an insane asylum at Norman, Okla., were killed in a fire which destroyed that institution April 13.

On May 1 the Savannah liner City of Athens was sunk in a collision with a French cruiser off the Delaware coast and 66 lives were lost. On May 18 nearly a hundred persons were killed by explosions in the Aetna Chemical plant near Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sixty-three persons, including well-known circus performers, perished when a circus train was wrecked at Gary, Ind., June 22. Fifty persons were killed by the collapse of a building at Sioux City, Ia., June 29.

A small factory explosion in England killed 50 persons July 1 and on the following day an explosion in a munitions plant near Syracuse, N. Y., killed 16. Eighty-five merrymakers perished when an excursion boat sank in the Illinois river July 5. A hundred persons were killed in a collision between two trains near Nashville, Tenn., July 9.

A tornado swept a part of Minnesota August 21, killing 50 persons at Tyler and Connors.

On October 6 the United States transport Otranto was sunk in collision off the Irish coast and 450 persons lost their lives. Four hundred were lost when the British mail boat Leinster was torpedoed and sunk October 19.

A series of terrific explosions in a shell-loading plant at Morgan, N. J., on October 3 killed 94 persons and destroyed a vast amount of property. A severe earthquake which caused the death of 150 persons was reported in Porto Rico October 11. Great forest fires raged in northeastern Minnesota during October. Many towns were destroyed and about 1,000 lives were lost. On October 25 the steamship Princess Sophia was wrecked on the Alaskan coast and 343 were lost.

Ninety-eight persons were killed November 1 in a wreck on the Brooklyn Rapid Transit lines. On November 21, about 1,500 persons were reported killed by the explosion of German munition trains en route from Belgium to Germany.

One of the most unusual cases in maritime history was that of the United States navy collier Cyclops, which disappeared at sea while bound from the West Indies to an American Atlantic port. Announcement was made April 14 that the boat, with 293 persons on board, was a month overdue. Not a single trace of the boat or its passengers and crew was ever found, and the fate of the vessel is a complete mystery.

## NECROLOGY

Death took a heavy toll among men and women prominent in public life during the year 1918. The list includes the following:

January 13, United States Senator James H. Brady of Idaho; January 14, Maj. A. P. Gardner, former congressman from Massachusetts, who resigned to enter the army; January 30, United States Senator William Hughes of New Jersey.

February 2, John L. Sullivan, former heavyweight champion, at West Abington, Mass.; February 10, Abdul Hamid, former sultan of Turkey; February 14, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, former British ambassador to America.

March 6, John Redmond, Irish Nationalist leader, at London; March 9, George von L. Meyer, former cabinet member and diplomat, at Boston.

April 12, United States Senator R. F. Broussard of Louisiana; April 14, United States Senator William Joel Stone of Missouri.

May 14, James Gordon Bennett, proprietor of the New York Herald, at Paris.

June 3, Ramon M. Valdez, president of Panama; June 4, Charles Warren Fairbanks, former vice president, at Indianapolis.

July 3, Mohammed V, sultan of Turkey; Viscount Rhondia, British food controller, and United States Senator Benjamin R. Tillman of South Carolina; July 27, Gustav Kobbe, American author and critic.

August 8, Max Rosenthal, famous artist, at Philadelphia; August 12, Anna Held, famous actress, at New York; August 17, United States Senator Jacob H. Gallinger of New Hampshire; August 28, United States Senator Ollie M. James of Kentucky.

September 17, Cardinal John M. Farley, archbishop of New York; September 25, John Ireland, Catholic archbishop of St. Paul.

October 25, Charles Leocq, French composer.

November 4, Mrs. Russell Sage, widow of famous financier, at New York; Dr. Andrew White, noted educator and diplomat; November 8, Robert J. Collier, editor and publisher; November 15, Gen. H. C. King, soldier and author, in New York; November 19, Dr. C. R. Van Hise, president of University of Wisconsin; Joseph F. Smith, president of Mormon church.

December 2, Edmond Rostand, famous French playwright and poet (Copyright, 1918, by McClure-Syndicate.)