

# 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, throats have roared and fallen, monarchs who once ruled hundreds of millions of people with iron hand have died for 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 dissensions that at the close of the year find the 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 is full of 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 anocratic 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 anocracy has been swept away before the rising tide of democracy, giving assistance to the millions who die 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 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 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 in preparation for the great offensive.

Interest during these days centered in events that were transpiring in Russia in which long-peace discussions in which President Wilson and Chancellor von Herting 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 Lenin and Foreign Minister Trotsky intrenched themselves in power by dissolving the constituent assembly which met at Petrograd January 15. On January 21 an all-Russian congress of soviets 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, two wounded and one missing. On February 5 the steamer Tuscania, carrying 2,170 American soldiers, was torpedoed and sunk, with a loss of 100 lives. On February 9 the Americans 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 Irevn, Russian naval base, and advancing on Petrograd. Lenin 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.

On March 21 the long-battered 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 Meuse river, near Fero, to the Rhine river, about Cremona. Wave after wave of the best 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 feared disaster. The Germans continued to push southward, and at the end of 15 days

was announced that Americans overtook 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 to the Siberia. On the same day Count von Mirbach, German ambassador to Russia, was slain at Moscow. On July 8 it was announced that the British coast of Russia had been shelled by a submarine, the first of the series. 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 Verdun and taking 7,000 prisoners. The following day Haig'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 Hammered Home. That followed a series of avalanche 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 Lassing fell and the former German chief of staff was taken prisoner. The British 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 1,760,000 men in the field.

The first decisive break in the ranks of the central empire came on September 27 when General Malinof, commander of the Bulgarians, announced that he was routing the Bulgarians 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.

Turkey Moved 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 been the German ambassador to the United States, addressed a note to President Wilson, asking that steps be taken immediately to conclude an armistice and to open peace negotiations. President Wilson answered that he would do nothing 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 western 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 took the Spys and the Meuse 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 Dunes and to retreat on a long line from Loos to the east end of Argonne.

Germany sent another note to President Wilson on October 12, accepting the latter's 14 peace principles and asking that the United States accept his proposal for an armistice of the allies. Prince Max assured the president that by reason of constitutional changes the existing German government would resign and that President Wilson would be asked to accept the proposal. The president replied two days later, rejecting the German proposals, declaring that an armistice must be arranged by the military commanders of the allies, guaranteed by the allied plenipotentiary of the allies.

The answer of the allied armies to the German peace proposals was to deliver a series of blows at the retreating enemy. In the north, the Belgians, army, led by King Albert, co-operating with the British, began to sweep the Germans from the Belgium coast. On October 22 the Germans were driven from Ostend and Bruges and the British occupied Lille. The whole 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 German government had broken its word and that it was again giving assurance that the new government represented the people of Germany. President Wilson replied two days later, asking that he be treated as a food-conservation measure.

The government, early in the year, began to tighten its control over industry as a means for the purpose of furthering war efforts and protecting the public. On January 10, to relieve a serious coal shortage which threatened to delay the shipment of war supplies to France, the administration issued a general shutdown of industry and business in all states east of the Mississippi river for a period of five days and on succeeding Mondays. On February 18 the order for heating Mondays was rescinded.

Practically every phase of American life felt the dominating influence of war throughout the year 1918. In the field of national legislation the most sweeping and far-reaching prohibition were urged war measures. The woman's suffrage amendment was defeated in the senate October 4, after having passed the house. A national prohibition amendment was passed effective June 30, 1919, was enacted by congress and approved by the president November 22. On September 6 President Wilson laid orders for the manufacture of munitions 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 28, reached an agreement providing that all labor disputes arising during the war should be submitted to a board of mediation. This board was to be composed of both employers and employees, and congress

increased the safeguards thrown about war industries by passing the "anti-age" bill, carrying penalties of \$10,000 in case 30 years' inactivity 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 mailpost 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 sixty-three day influenza epidemic. 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 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. Morgan, convicted in connection with the theft of two tons of dynamite from a San Francisco jewelry store in a preparatory parade July 22, 1918.

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Plan for Making the United States a second-class nation by the other countries for 1925 was 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 Czech-Slovak republic was already in existence before the close of the war, having been recognized as an independent state by the government of the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy, but the coming of peace was the formal establishment of this new government at Prague. The end of the year also witnessed the signing 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 republic of China throughout the year. Han Shih Chang was elected president of the republic on September 6 and during the next few months reports indicated a possibility of an armistice 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 Titian and Africa.

Dr. Silveira Paez, president of Portugal, was shot and killed at Lisbon. United States aviator William Hughes was killed by the crowd that witnessed the crime. Two days later Admiral Canto Y. Castro was elected president of Portugal. On December 10 the Finnish diet elected General Mannerheim regent of Finland.

## LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Labor unrest, resulting in many strikes, continued to prey upon 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 a disaffection appeared among the workmen in the shipyards and by February 12 the situation had assumed a serious aspect with strikes in effect in five yards. By February 18 the strike spread still further in spite of an advance in wages announced by the labor adjustment board.

On February 27 President Wilson, in a letter in which 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 cooperate 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 Woodrow Wilson announced the formation 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 28, reached an agreement providing that all labor disputes arising during the war should be submitted to a board of mediation. This board was to be composed of both employers and employees, and congress

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## DISASTERS

Fires, railroad accidents and explosions took a heavy toll of human life and 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 Florizad, 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 13 the Savannah River City of Athens was sunk in a collision with a French cruiser off the coast of France and 68 lives were lost. On May 18 nearly a hundred persons were killed by explosions in the Actua Chemical plant near Pittsburgh, Pa.

Eighty-five merry-go-round performers, 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 8.

A tornado swept a part of Minnesota August 21, killing 50 persons at Taylor and Cooners. On October 6 the United States transport Oranito was sunk in collision off the Irish coast and 450 persons lost their lives. Four hundred were lost when the British mail boat Lesterna was torpedoed and sunk October 10.

A series of terrific explosions in a shipbuilding 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 Florida on October 13. A great forest fire 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 845 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 to have died in the 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 vessel Cristy which disappeared at sea while bound from the West Indies to an American Atlantic port. Announcement was made April 14 that the boat, with 253 persons on board, was months 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: James H. Brady of Idaho; January 14. James A. P. Gardner, former congressman from Massachusetts; he 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 H. H. former Sultan of Turkey; February 27, 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 of Boston.

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

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

June 8, Ramon M. Valdes, president of Panama; June 4, Charles Warren Fairbank, former vice president at Indianapolis.

July 3, Mohammed V, Sultan of Turkey; Viscount Rhinoceros, British food controller, and the United States Secretary of War, Woodrow Wilson, died on September 27; Gustav Kobb, 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. Johnston of Kentucky; September 18, Cardinal John M. Farley, Archbishop of New York; September 25, John Ireland, Catholic archbishop of St. Paul.

October 25, Charles Leconte, French composer.

November 4, Mrs. Russell Sage, widow of famous financier, at New York; Dr. Andrew White, noted educator and diplomat; November 5, Robert J. Collier, noted publisher; November 15, Gen. H. C. King, soldier and author, in New York; November 19, Dr. C. R. Van Elie, president of University of Wisconsin; Joseph P. Smith, president of Mormon church.

December 2, Edmund Rostand, famous French playwright and poet (Copyright, 1919, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)