

Mountains are completely covered with snow. Wolves driven desperate by the lack of food have descended to the plains and are seen almost at the gates of the capital.

London, Dec. 13th.—It is understood that there will be no new year list of honours issued on January 1st next. The probable reason for this departure from custom is that Mr. Bonar Law is unwilling to make recommendations to the King for the conferment of honours in view of the fact that a Royal Commission on the matter of honours is now sitting and its report is being awaited before any more honours are conferred.

New York, Dec. 13th.—Another unusual rise in sterling exchange occurred today, demand bills being quoted at \$1.68 1/2 an overnight rise of nearly six cents, and 21 cents above the rate of a month ago. Late selling brought the price down to \$1.63 1/2 this afternoon.

Washington, Dec. 13th.—A request that the President seek to broaden the scope of the Naval Limitation Agreement so as to include a limitation on construction of smaller types of war-vessels and on military and naval aircraft, is included in the annual states bill as reported by the House appropriations committee. Under the bill, as brought into the House, the President would be asked to open negotiations with Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan for an agreement which would limit future building of all surface and submersible types of war craft having a tonnage of 10,000 or less and on all classes of army and navy air craft.

Portsmouth, Dec. 13th.—Lt. Col. Leslie Orme Wilson, Chief Government whip defeated in the general elections as member Reading, has been elected for Portsmouth.

Houston, Tex., Dec. 13th.—Twenty persons were killed and fifty injured in a Houston East and West Texas train wreck at Humble, Texas, 17 miles north of here, according to reports telephoned to the Southern Pacific hospital at 10.30 tonight. Two ambulances and a score of physicians are on the way to the scene.

Washington, Dec. 13th.—An enlisted personnel during the fiscal year beginning next July 1st of 86,000, the same as at present, is provided for in the United States navy budget carrying a total of \$293,806,528, or approximately half a million dollars less than last year. For completion of 56 warships permissible under the arms conference treaty, the appropriation committee promised to make available during the coming fiscal year a total of \$55,000,000 or \$14,000,000 more than the amount recommended in the budget.

Lausanne, Dec. 13th.—A refusal by Turkey at this morning's session of the Near Eastern Conference to accede to the demand for a national home for the Armenians, or international regulations of the

rights of the minorities in Turkey, brought a short warning to the Angora delegation from Marquis Curzon. The Foreign Secretary told the Turkish delegation that the persistent imposition of barriers to a satisfactory settlement of the minorities problem was having effect on the conference and the entire world. When we leave Lausanne, and it may be we shall leave sooner than you think, when the world hears that the Allied powers have been fighting the battle of the minorities and getting nothing but platitudes in return, the general impression will be deplorable for Turkey, said Lord Curzon. "Do not let us darken this scene by charges and counter charges of horrors. We wish to obtain a solution for the future. I deeply regret this proposal for the exchange of populations, this bad and vicious solution for which the world will pay for a hundred years to come. I detest having any hand in it, but to say that the Greeks proposed it is monstrous, it has been forced by the Turks through their expulsion of Greeks. It is perfectly clear that the Turks wish to rid themselves of the Greeks, or to make their conditions of life in Turkey cruel and impossible". Reviewing Ismet Pasha address, Lord Curzon said, the Turks had rejected practically all the suggestions made to them. They had spurned the idea of an Armenian National Home on the plea that it would mean the dismemberment of Turkey, and had rejected control or administration of the affairs of the minorities by the League of Nations or any other international body. "I implore the Turks not to take refuge in words" he continued, "and urge upon them to cooperate with the powers in an effort to bring about a solution of this tangled problem. I venture to speak with great seriousness for the Turkish delegation seems hardly to realize the situation in which we are placed in this question of minorities and in some of the other problems under consideration. I repeat, we are here for one object only and that is to make peace, but the Turks are continually obstructing. This cannot go on indefinitely. Europe has other things to do. This question of minorities excites almost more attention than anything else we are discussing and we shall be judged especially by its own solution. If we break on this question, if we leave these miserable minorities unprotected, not a single voice will be raised in defence of Turkey's position. The Turkish delegation may be supported by the Angora Govt. but will not have support anywhere else in the world. I have spoken clearly, in a spirit of friendship and respect, but with all seriousness." Lord Curzon took issue with Ismet Pasha's attempt to lay all the blame on the Armenians for their troubles. Commenting on Ismet Pasha's statement that the propaganda of the old Russian Govt. had brought about the

difficulties in which the minorities in Turkey found themselves, he said. "I should like to enquire if all the propaganda and machinations have ceased under the Soviet Regime." It was difficult, he continued, to reconcile Ismet's statement, that Turkey had given fair treatment to the minorities with the fact that of the three million Armenians formerly resident in Anatolia only 130,000 remained. "Did they kill themselves". He asked, "or did they voluntarily leave Anatolia". Why was the French troops leaving Anatolia, followed by 80,000 Armenians, who deserted everything they had". He continued, "why are three hundreds of thousands of these Armenians scattered over the neighbouring countries? Why do they stay there if all they have to do is to return to Turkey and be embraced by the Turkish Govt.? Why is the Armenia question one of the greatest scandals of the world. It was easy, Lord Curzon went on, for the Turks to offer to live peacefully with a minority that had reduced to a miserable handful but he added: "The eyes of the world are upon the Armenians and Turkey and the world will not be content that the remnant of these wretched people be left without protection other than what Turkey may be pleased to accord."

London, Dec. 14th. The continued rise of sterling exchange yesterday, is displayed prominently by this morning's newspapers, some of which enthusiastically anticipate a reduction in the prices of food and cotton importations from the United States. This view the newspapers bolster by citing the opinion of Mr. Bonar Law, as expressed in the House of Commons last night, that unless some great disaster in foreign affairs occurs, Great Britain will very soon enjoy better trade. In more conservative quarters, however, although a tendency toward improvement is recognized with satisfaction, a warning is raised against building too confidently upon the immediate future and it is remarked that a superficial consideration of the rise in exchange may lead to exaggerated anticipation of improved conditions here.

Dublin, Dec. 14th.—Talk of peace between the factions in Ireland is increasingly heard, as Christmas time approaches. Action taken by the new Senate of the Free State on Tuesday, in appointing a Committee to work for the immediate cessation of hostilities, had developed some indications that a considerable section of the Republican Party is willing to treat for peace and that the rank and file is moving in that direction. The summoning of all the Sinn Fein clubs in Dublin City and country, to debate the question, is pointed to as significant, especially as, although the clubs are composed of both treaty supporters and Republicans, it is the Republicans who sent out the press notification for Sunday's meeting.