

Japan and Rumania, offering them peace with the Soviet Government of Russia, according to a wireless despatch from Moscow received here today.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 26th.—Word has been received here that the Canadian Wheat Board has removed the export duty on flour to Bermuda, the West Indies and British Guiana. This action has been welcomed by a number of local merchants who found the export duty a considerable hindrance in doing business with the West Indies.

Washington, Feb. 27th.—A resolution proposing diplomatic negotiation with Great Britain for the purchase of the Bermuda Islands was introduced today by Kenyon, Republican of Iowa.

Washington, Feb. 27th.—The Soviet Government of Russia's proposal to the United States for peace will receive no consideration from the American Government, it was said today at the State Department.

Paris, Feb. 28th.—At his trial yesterday on the charge of having had treasonable dealings with the enemy, former Premier Caillaux forsook the defensive and assumed the offensive. While explaining his activities in Italy and lengthily going over his economic policy, he said he had prophesied the economic chaos which would be obtained at the conclusion of the war, and prescribed the remedies to be applied. He saw in 1913 what several of the peace delegates failed to grasp in 1919, the witness declared. Regarding a peace of compromise, he said, "I swear to the members of the High Court that I had not the slightest political aim when I went to Italy and I never had any political aim throughout the war, but several times I had the belief that we must prepare for peace". To the charge that he approached the Vatican with the request that the Central Empires be sounded, M. Caillaux replied, "Never have I set foot inside the Vatican in my life. I was in favour of the great offensive in the Spring of 1917, but I always held it must be conducted with the utmost energy, or otherwise, it would fail, and I am still convinced that had the offensive been pushed with all possible means at our command we would have been successful and achieved a victorious peace".

London, Feb. 28th.—Continuing his evidence before the War Wealth Commission today, Sir John Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, said that he included to his proposed tax any person whose war wealth (net amount whereby his wealth had increased since 1917) exceeded five thousand pounds, but that allowances should include one thousand pounds for a wife, and five hundred pounds for each child, though the same concession should be made to a man who had continuously invested his wealth in war loans. A very large amount of money, he said, had been

spent on jewelry, furs and motor-cars as an investment and to escape the excess profits tax, and it was the view of his department that these should be taxed, and that heavy penalties should be imposed for failure to disclose such valuable possessions.

Ottawa, Feb. 26th.—In the Senate this afternoon, a message was read from King George congratulating the Parliament of Canada on holding its first meeting in the magnificent new parliament buildings. The Senate then adjourned until tomorrow.

THE GERMAN LAMENT.

In a proclamation the German Government has shed a few lymphatic tears over her lost provinces and the German inhabitants thereof are implored never to forget the fatherland. This "forcible separation" is denominated a hard injustice.

The German mind is stubborn, and in pride of opinion a magnificent example to shun. The justice that is being meted out to them is the well earned penalty of a war of aggression, but in it they profess to see only injustice. After years of diabolic preparation the German Government, with the full support of the German people, assailed liberty and justice and humanity everywhere, became responsible for seven million deaths and twenty million cripples, spread desolation over the fairest portions of the earth's surface, and practised wickedness that appalled mankind. Now, conquered and overcome, they weep because the victors have retaken provinces wrenched from France when that country was overcome. It doesn't even sound sportsmanlike. The Saar Valley is taken as part reparation for the wanton destruction inflicted upon the northern departments of France by retreating and vengeful spoilers of the earth. The Saar basin is the only purely German section that falls into alien hands. It is to be held under the League as a kind of trust for France. This is only justice. Germany brought on the war. Germany ruined the French mines. Germany should pay. The real injustice is that she cannot be made to pay enough. —*Montreal Herald*.

Recent activities of Radical propagandists led Secretary Lansing to display for the first time in eighteen years the original parchments of the Declaration of Independence and the constitution of the United States. In the presence of a group of officials, the parchments were removed from the protecting walls of a steel safe inclosing them, and placed on view in the state department for an hour while motion picture cameras recorded their appearance for the benefit of the 110,000,000 persons living under the

principles enunciated by them.—*Signs of the Times Feb. 17th.*

From July, 1917, to June 30, 1918, 90,000, or over twenty-three per cent, of all persons eligible, by examinations, to government employ were women. In the United States, more than 800,000 women are engaged in scientific or professional pursuits; more than 2,000,000 in private manufacturing and mechanical establishments; and over 600,000 in clerical occupations under private enterprise.—*Ibid.*

On October 1, 1917, the Prohibition Act came into force in British Columbia. After two years' trial of prohibition, the people of the province are almost unanimously of the conviction that the regime of the open bar is gone forever. The business and moral advantages of the law have been abundantly demonstrated.—*Ibid.*

Upon inquiry, it is learned that at the present moment, there are but twenty-five persons in the [San Clara] county jail, against from one hundred twenty-five to one hundred fifty before the advent of prohibition.—*San Jose Mercury Herald, January 23, 1920.*

Cairo and Cape Town, representing the extremes of the African continent, have at last been linked up by air service which is ready for traffic. This means that the time heretofore required to traverse the continent, from ten to twelve weeks, has now been cut down to about one week, and that heretofore secluded sections of Africa will be opened up to the world.—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

Eighty per cent of all the screen plays photographed in this country are made in Los Angeles, California. Fifty millions of dollars is the estimate placed on the value of the films from that one city in a year. That is approximately equal to the entire value of the orange crop of southern California. The forty plants in which the pictures are made are valued at \$12,265,000, and the pay rolls show an employment of more than 10,000 persons, who earn more than \$20,000,000 annually.—*Washington Times*.

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