

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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Germany's Peace Proposal--A Stroke at the Strategic Moment

Germany has called for peace at the moment when her fortunes of war have reached the highest relative point since that day on the Marne which rolled her armies back from before Paris.

That day and its long succession of events, military and political are fresh in mind. Never since von Kluck's men were repulsed at the very gates of the French capital have the Central Powers held such an advantageous position to talk peace terms as today. That is, from the standpoint of military victories won.

After losing their great chance to take Paris and end the war before Great Britain and Russia could really get into action, the Germans dug themselves in on the west and held on. With minor changes, the line on the west is the same today as it was then. On the east, there began the long and terrible tides of bloody warfare ebbing and flowing over Poland, over Galicia and over Bukovina.

When Britain and Russia struck at Turkey, the Central Powers responded with the political bargain which won over Bulgaria, and the military coup which destroyed Serbia as a nation and opened an unbroken line of communication, trade and influence from Berlin to Constantinople. Meanwhile, the battle-lines were taut on east and west. While the Balkans were witnessing the formidable thrusts of Germany and Austria, and while Italy was slowly gnawing into Austrian territory on the southwest, the lines in Flanders and France, and from Riga to the Carpathians, stretched ever tighter.

The war on land was almost at a stalemate when the Entente Allies made their move with Rumania. True, the Russians with renewed strength were forcing back the Teuton lines on the southeast sectors, and on the west the Allies were making their gallant thrust on the Somme, but every foot of advance was paid for in enormous cost of life and war material, and it had become a question which side could sacrifice the most men.

Aside from the purely military successes or failures, the Allies were waging a relentless economic fight against the Central Powers, having forged the famous "iron ring" and cut off the enemy from every ounce of food, every pound of metal, every yard of cloth which could be by any interpretation of international law be declared contraband. The Allies had wiped out Germany's overseas possessions, and all the sea-borne traffic of the Central Powers was gone. As the war developed into a contest of sacrificing men, it developed also into a merciless effort on the part of the Entente Powers to bring the enemy powers to their knees from economic want.

To meet this, the Central Powers organized and reorganized every industry; farmed every yard of earth available in the empires; with every power of science they possessed drew from hitherto-unused resources; cut their consumption to an unexpectedly low point. In their economic struggle they were helped out this year, moreover, by a very good harvest. Coming on top of the short crops of last year, the new yields gave to the Teutons a renewed confidence that they could hold on until the cruel cost of the war convinced the Ententes the conflict could not be continued.

The war might be likened to the struggle of two giants. At first they fought with tremendous speed and fury, circling, darting in and out, striking rapidly. Finally their swords became broken, their shields battered, they lost much blood. As their swords failed to win victory, they dropped the weapons and wrestled thigh to thigh and shoulder to shoulder. As their gigantic strength ebbed, they came slowly to the ground, locked in holds like vices. At length they lay prostrate, glaring hate at each other, each striving to throttle the other into submission.

The figure of speech is not entirely applicable, it is true, and supporters of each side will probably take issue with the statement that both are lying prostrate, yet the world knows that the soldiers in the trenches are weary of vigil and slaughter; the peoples at home are weary of sorrow, suffering, privation; the governments are weary of the terrific financial drain, the darkness of the future; the neu-

tral nations are weary of a conflict wherein neutral rights and human rights have been thrown to the winds.

Before Rumania's entry into the war, the Allies were making a slow, costly, bloody progress. Germany was so far into Entente territory that the problem of getting her out became a problem of throwing men against guns, bayonets, mines, poison gas, hand-grenades, liquid fire and aerial bombs, for month after month and possibly year after year.

At this moment Rumania entered the war. For the Allies it struck the bell of fresh, revivifying hope. Rumania had an army in excess of 500,000, and military critics said this army could carry a winning fight to the enemy. Rumania had presumably a large store of munitions, and was known to have a large store of food supplies. Rumania was a rich, productive country, and with this country, after two years of military preparation, striking at the back of Bulgaria and at the flank of Austria-Hungary, the Allies were justified in expecting an early change of the tide in their favor.

Rumania not only proved unable to strike a real offensive blow at the enemy, but unable to defend her own borders.

Thrusting first into Transylvania, she alarmed Austria-Hungary. Berlin recognized the need for action, organized a new army under von Falkenhayn, and the Austro-Germans in some two weeks had stopped and turned the Transylvanian campaign, thrown back the Rumanians from the Danube, entered the Dobrudja with a splendid army under von Mackensen, and put the Rumanians on the defensive. A month thereafter Bucharest was doomed and a week thereafter Bucharest had fallen.

The causes for the total collapse of Rumania's famed military organization will some day be known. It has been variously laid to lack of big guns, to lack of support by the soldiers of their officers, and to an overconfidence which turned into terror when the actual grip of battle seized the untried armies.

Whatever the cause, Rumania was quickly changed from an asset to a liability for the Entente Powers. The high hopes which were entertained at the beginning of the Rumanian move soon became fears.

Germany's move thus comes at a moment of discouragement for the Entente Allies. It also comes at a moment when the Central Powers are keyed high with confidence that they can continue the war successfully.

It does not mean that the Entente Powers are any less determined to win the war, or any less confident that ultimately they can win it. But it means that Germany has seized a strategic time for her peace proposals.

Twice previously the German chancellor in public speeches has cautiously spoken of peace. Each time he has approached the subject by way of stating in general terms what the Central Powers must guarantee and be guaranteed before peace can come. And later on, after each speech, German statesmen have said that the Central Powers have shown themselves willing to negotiate for peace, but that the Entente Allies declined to heed the opportunity.

To each such statement, representatives of the Entente Powers have declared that there can be no talk of peace until Germany has withdrawn from or is ready to yield back Belgium; until Serbia is restored, until other demands of the Allies have been fulfilled. France stands out for the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine, Russia for the restoration of Poland, Italy for the restoration of that portion of Austria-Hungary claimed by the Italians and termed the "irredenta" (unredeemed).

The present move of the German chancellor is, however, by far the most important word of peace that has come from any statesman, any capital, any nation.

It is the first direct proposal for peace since the war began.

It is the first time any proposal for peace has been made openly to the neutrals.

It is the first appeal to the public opinion of the world to stop the slaughter.

JAPANESE SEND CASH TO NIPPON

Japanese of the islands are sending \$75,000 worth of money orders back to Dai Nippon for Christmas, according to officials of the local postoffice. Acting Postmaster William C. Petersen said this morning indications are the amount of foreign money orders which will leave here for Japan Thursday afternoon in the T. K. K. liner Shinyo Maru will be worth close to \$75,000. This sum has accumulated in the last 10 days. The volume of business is far ahead of normal.

Edgar S. Barry, in charge of the money-order division, said today that there will be more than 125 sheets of foreign money orders to go on the Shinyo. There are 30 orders to a sheet, each sheet representing a value of \$500 or more.

In domestic money orders, for points in the states, a land office business is also being done. "We are averaging 300 orders a day right now," said Barry. "The orders running anywhere from a dollar to \$100 each."

DOMINIS TO JOIN EWA DECLARES INSURANCE FIRM EXTRA DIVIDEND

Instead of entering divorcees and attending to the general business of the clerk's office in circuit court, as he has done during the last five years, John Aimoku Dominis will sell insurance on and after December 15.

Dominis recently resigned as assistant to the chief court clerk, and his resignation has been accepted to take effect next Friday. He has accepted an excellent position with the Bishop Insurance Co., and begins work the end of this week.

Succeeding Dominis in the court is Ben N. Kabelepuna, clerk of the third division, who also has resigned. His place as clerk of Circuit Judge J. L. Coke's court will be taken by Claus Roberts.

The first circuit judges have signed an order appointing Melville T. Sinton as jury commissioner for the first judicial circuit, to take effect January 1, 1917. He succeeds the late John L. McLean.

EWA DECLARES EXTRA DIVIDEND

Directors of the Ewa Plantation Company this morning met and declared an extra dividend of 4 per cent and the usual dividend of 2 per cent. Both are payable December 30.

The action taken by Ewa directors was not unexpected. Some such action had been forecasted for some days past and a sharp demand for the stock of the company with accompanying strength had resulted.

The capitalization of the company is \$5,000,000, so that this year-end dividend disbursement will amount to \$300,000.

The funeral services of William G. Scott of Eleventh avenue, Kaimuki, were held Sunday and burial under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity was in Nuanuu cemetery. George A. Andrus, Stanley Livingston, Philip Hall and H. A. Brown comprised a quartet which sang, and Rev. F. B. Eteson and Rev. Canon William Ault of St. Andrew's Cathedral officiated.

NEW BOND ISSUE IS UP TONIGHT

At the meeting of the board of supervisors this evening the proposed water and sewer bond issue of \$480,000 will be introduced, presumably by Supervisor Larsen, and the board will be asked to call a special election.

The petition requesting the special election is signed by more than 2100, and from interviews with the members it is believed that a majority are in favor of calling the election.

The projects in the bond issue to be submitted tonight are as follows: Filtration Plant \$130,000 Sewerage System for Waikiki 130,000 Kakaako 33,000 Kalihi 40,000 Iwilei 16,500 Nuanuu 3,300 Punahou 4,000 Total \$226,800

Water System for Kaimuki \$ 37,000 Waikiki 28,000 Makiki and Manoa 7,400 Kalihi and Palama 8,000 Central District 47,000 Total \$103,200

Because of other business which will come up tonight, such as the Punui improvement district, it is possible that the board may call a special meeting to consider the petitions.

TO GAIN READERS FOR Y. M. PAPER

A plan was voted at the meeting of the Y. M. C. A. board of directors Monday by which the circulation of "Association Men," the official organ of the Y. M. C. A. movement, would be largely increased among the members of the local "Y." The present subscription list of 312 will probably be increased to 500 by March 1.

"Association Men" is a high grade monthly magazine carrying the latest news of the Y. M. C. A. as an international movement. It also contains valuable religious news and important developments in work for men and boys everywhere.

The directors elected nine men to represent the Honolulu association in a territorial supervising body. F. J. Lowrey, C. H. Cooke, W. F. Fraser, Dr. E. D. Williams, John Waterhouse, Judge C. F. Clemons, R. H. Trent, A. E. Larimer and F. C. Atherton were chosen for this work. It was voted to have a regular noon-prayer meeting at least once a month similar to those that proved so successful during the week of prayer last month.

MAGOON BOYS GET VALUABLE LANDS

Four gifts of valuable property in Honolulu by Mrs. Emmeline M. Magoon, widow of the late J. Alfred Magoon, to as many of her sons, have been recorded in the form of deeds in the bureau of conveyances. Consideration in each case was "\$1 and love," the records show.

To each of the four sons—Alfred K., Eaton H., Marmion M. and John H. Magoon—is given 18,500 square feet of land on Keolu street, this city, of the property being excellently located, and of high value. Mrs. Magoon also has transferred to Maria J. F. Ables for \$1 certain lands at Kulaokahua, Honolulu, and one-eighth interest in a certain artesian well on Beretania street.

BERETANIA ST. IS AD CLUB SUBJECT

Ad Club members will hear arguments on the proposed Beretania street improvement at their luncheon at the Alexander Young hotel Monday. This is one of the improvement projects that is of live interest and one as to which there have been prolonged arguments pro and con. Considering it to be a live wire subject for live wires to debate and to consider the program was so arranged as to give it the top line of the Ad Club program. Judge C. W. Ashford and W. L. Howard are to be heard as to their reasons for opposing the project as it now stands.

D. R. Marshall, the clever humorist,

WILL CONSIDER VICE SITUATION

To determine whether there shall be called a mass meeting to take action on various phases of the situation as to commercialized vice that have arisen and may arise since the action of the grand jury relative to the formerly restricted district of Iwilei, a meeting of the members of the Chamber of Commerce is called for tomorrow afternoon. Originally such meeting was set for December 6 but on that occasion other matters prevented a quorum being present.

In part the call for the meeting mailed Monday afternoon says: "The meeting will be held in keeping with an action by a meeting of the board of directors which had for its purpose the question of a special meeting of the members to consider a situation in Honolulu which, as is pointed out, comes from a disregard for certain laws now on our statute books. A meeting was attempted on the 6th instant, but owing to various other important matters requiring the presence of our members, there was not response sufficient to justify the handling of this important subject."

TONIGHT IS LAST MAILING CHANCE

In one hour, from 8 to 9 o'clock last night, Honoluluans turned in a continual stream of Christmas packages to the postoffice's parcel post windows, amounting to 245 bags, according to Theodore P. Melim, assistant superintendent of mails. "The majority of the 245 bags are for California points," said Melim today. "We are sorting out the packages for the small towns to which they go in California so a dozen or two dozen packages for each town can be sent in a separate bag." An upstairs room in the postoffice was filled today with the sorted parcels, a group to each town.

This morning there was also a steady line of people waiting to mail parcels. The postoffice will stay open tonight until 10 o'clock to take care of the rush. Mails for the Matsonia close at 8:30 sharp tomorrow morning and not a letter or parcel will be accepted after that hour. The public is asked to mail all remaining presents this afternoon or tonight, although they can be mailed down to within a few minutes of 8:30 tomorrow morning.

CHARGE BILLIARD PLAYERS GAMBLE

Because several complaints have come to D. L. Conkling, city treasurer, that gambling is going on in billiard rooms about Honolulu openly and that large sums of money are constantly won and lost, he is planning to investigate the matter and if found true will revoke the licenses.

Conkling said today that a number of mothers have come to him and complained that their sons are spending all their time at the billiard rooms, losing money to sharpshooters who frequent these places. Wives have also made similar complaints about their husbands.

"The licenses specifically say that gambling shall not be carried on in the licensed billiard rooms," Conkling said, "and if I find these reports correct it will mean that a number of men will go out of the billiard business. These complaints have not come from one locality, but from all over the city," he added.

COUNSEL IN KUHIO CASE TO CONFER

To determine the exact status of the case brought by Delegate Kuhio to break the trust in which the property of Queen Liliuokalani is held, and to discuss the further procedure of the case in the lower court, Circuit Judge J. L. Coke has summoned all attorneys connected with the case to confer with him in chambers at 1:30 o'clock next Wednesday afternoon.

The case originally was begun by Kuhio as "next friend" of the queen, but the supreme court, in a decision, held that the queen was rightly a respondent and her name was added to has promised to entertain the lunchers with some monologs.

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The list of respondents. Portions of the case were thrashed out before former Circuit Judge T. B. Stuart, and other portions are now in the supreme court awaiting a decision.

A declaration of intention to become an American citizen has been filed in the federal court by Herman Olsen, a native of Norway and a seaman by occupation.

Owner, anxious to sell, takes \$500 off the price of this investment property, in order to effect quick deal.

The property consists of a 5-room house at 929 Green Street, close to the business part of town, and now rented at \$35.00 per month.

The house is in good repair and has all modern city improvements of gas, electricity, water, sewer, etc.

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