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EIGHT PAGES

## GERMANY'S IDEAS ABOUT PEACE

### READY TO DISCUSS PEACE WHEN TERMS ARE JUST

#### Germany's Position is Set Forth in Address by Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg in the Reichstag Today.

### NO OVERTURES HAVE BEEN MADE

#### Responsibility for the Continuation of War Cannot be Assumed by Germany in View of Her Many Successes.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, (via wireless to Sayville, L. I.), Dec. 9.—Speaking before a crowded gallery in the reichstag today, Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg made known Germany's position regarding peace.

"As long as in the countries of our enemies the guilt and ignorance of statesmen are entangled with confusion of public opinion, it would be folly for Germany to make proposals which would not shorten but lengthen the duration of the war," said the chancellor.

"First the masks must be torn from their faces. At present they speak of a war of annihilation against us. We have to consider this fact—that theoretical arguments for peace or propositions will not advance us; they will only bring the end nearer.

"If our enemies make peace proposals compatible with Germany's dignity and safety, then we shall always be ready to discuss them.

"Fully conscious of our unshaken military success, we decline the responsibility for the continuation of the misery which now fills Europe and the whole world."

"Enthusiastic cheers filled the reichstag chamber when the chancellor concluded his reply to the peace interpolation of Dr. Philipp Scheidemann, socialist leader. At first there was a tense silence throughout the whole house and galleries. This was soon interrupted by vigorous signs of assent. Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg first declared that the prospects of peace discussion in the reichstag had excited great expectations and such satisfaction in the countries of Germany's enemies. That this feeling should prevail, was incomprehensible, he said, in view of Germany's success in Serbia after opening the road towards her Turkish allies and after threatening the most vulnerable points of the British empire.

"Although this situation," he said, would explain the desire of Germany's enemies for peace, none of them have made any overtures.

"They rather cling to the intentions which they publicly had announced at the beginning of the war, he said, 'with naive brutality.'

"The chancellor reviewed recent utterances about possible peace conferences that have come from Germany's enemies. He mentioned among these the handing over of Alsace-Lorraine to the French, the annihilation of so-called Prussian militarism, the occupation of the Turks from Europe, the creation of a greater Serbia, including what is now the Austrian province of Bosnia.

"But Bethmann Hollweg said he recognized the fact that some people in foreign countries were inclined to look at the situation sensibly. But these, he said, are in the minority and their voices go unheard like those of certain members of the English house of lords.

"But the enemies' theories have not force," he said. "The people have ceased speaking about the war"

lasted twenty years. The pretext that they are waging war for the protection of small countries has lost its persuasive power since the recent events in Greece.

"Small countries are in a severe plight since England is fighting."

The chancellor discussed the principle of nationalities as applied by Germany's enemies and asked whether the English colonial secretary knew that of the 1,900,000 inhabitants of Alsace, more than 87 percent speak German as their mother tongue. He asked whether Poland by right of nationality belongs to Russia. He demanded to know whether the same principle applied by England in the case of Alsace loses power when applied to India and Egypt.

Germany's enemies, Von Bethmann-Hollweg said, had blinded themselves at the beginning of the war by false stories about Germany.

"Now after military and diplomatic defeats," he said, "they are only able to cling to the idea of Germany's annihilation. For this purpose they invented the starvation theory.

"We all agree," he said emphatically, "that our food stuffs are sufficient and that the only important question is that of distribution. The great economic unit stretching from Arras into Mesopotamia cannot be crushed."

The chancellor mentioned the great stores of copper which he said were sufficient for years and years of industrial demands and the identification to substitutes like artificial rubber.

He pointed out that France already has called to the colors boys of the class of 1917.

The more Germany's enemies continue the war with bitterness, Bethmann-Hollweg said, the more will Germany need guarantees to insure her future position.

"We do not fight to subjugate other nations," declared the chancellor in conclusion. "We fight for the protection of our life and liberty. For the German government this war has always remained what it was at the beginning—a war of defense for the German nation and for her future.

"This war can only be terminated by a peace which gives human certitude that it will not return. We all agree to that and that always will be the root of our strength."

Dr. Philipp Scheidemann, the socialist leader whose interpolation resulted in today's peace discussion, followed the chancellor.

Dr. Scheidemann reminded the reichstag that at the beginning of the war the socialists approved the attitude of the German government.

"A glance at the map," said Scheidemann, "will show that Germany is conscious of her strength and her success.

"Germany can now speak for peace"

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### GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, Dec. 9. (Via Amsterdam.)—The "peace day" in the German reichstag, in anticipation of the possible ending of the war, by Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg, crowded flocked to the reichstag building.

In official circles it was hinted that those who expected a sensational declaration from the chancellor at this time were bound to be disappointed. If Von Bethmann-Hollweg intends to announce to the world Germany's terms of peace, he has kept that fact a secret. The general opinion was that the chancellor would repeat his earlier statements that Germany is fighting to safeguard her future and secure freedom of the seas. It was believed he would express Germany's willingness to enter peace negotiations whenever those points were conceded by Germany's enemies.

The radical socialists were expected to press the chancellor for a more specific statement, but it was believed he would reply that a more detailed statement would not at this time best serve the interests of the empire.

Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg planned to touch briefly upon the success of German arms on all fronts. The conquest of Serbia and recent success against the French in Champagne gave him fresh themes. He was expected to point out at the same time the rout of the British forces on Mesopotamia by the Turks, recent Anglo-French reverses at the Dardanelles, the continued failure of Italian attacks against Austria, and defeat of Anglo-French diplomacy in the Balkans.

The efforts of the radical socialists to heckle the chancellor are expected to bring replies from the conservative branch of the socialists who are opposed to peace discussions until Germany's enemies admit their defeat.

### CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS.

[By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Staff Correspondent.] BERLIN, (via wireless to Sayville, L. I.), Dec. 9.—The Imperial German Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg, today refused to state possible terms of peace, in reply to the demand made by the German socialists.

Instead, he made it plain to a great gathering in the reichstag, that any peace proposals must come from Germany's enemies.

"For the German nation," said the chancellor, "this year has always remained what it was at the beginning—a war of defense for the German nation and her future.

Von Bethmann-Hollweg emphatically served notice on the quadruple entente that they must abandon completely the idea of crushing Germany, or so-called "Prussian militarism."

The allies still cling to this notion, he added, "with naive brutality."

He indicated, too, that Germany would not consider as one of the possible terms of peace the surrender to France of Alsace and Lorraine.

He met the French claims on Alsace and Lorraine on the "nationality basis" with the statement that eighty-seven percent of the Alsace inhabitants speak German. And he taunted England by inquiring what would happen if the same "nationality" test were applied in the British possessions of India and Egypt.

"We do not fight to subjugate other nations," was one of the chancellor's main points. "We fight for the protection of our life and liberty."

"If our enemies make peace proposals compatible with Germany's dignity and safety, then we shall always be ready to discuss them," was another assertion.

And a moment later, continuing: "This war can only be terminated by a peace which gives human certitude that it will not return."

Thronged galleries heard the chancellor's declaration. It was known more than a week in advance that the chancellor would make his expected answer to the demands of the socialists today and all tickets to the reichstag were at a premium several days ago.

Both Von Bethmann-Hollweg and his socialist interrogator found themselves in complete accord on certain main points. They agreed that Germany now dominates the military and diplomatic situation and that responsibility for continuing of the carnage in Europe rests on the allies.

Both ridiculed the idea that Germany's enemies might crush her, or starve her out, or that Alsace-Lorraine might ever be surrendered to the French.

But Scheidemann insisted that all the belligerents are now thinking of peace.

"The question of peace is now uppermost in all the countries at war," he told the reichstag, "only the statesmen do not know how to begin negotiations because they consider such a step would be a confession of weakness."

"If the war continues," shouted Scheidemann, "the United States will be the only victor. Europe will commit suicide."

Scheidemann assailed those who favored annexation by Germany of

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### FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PARIS, Dec. 9.—A decision of the greatest importance was reached at the fourth session of the allies' war council today, it is understood. No announcement has been made thus far.

In view of yesterday's discussions, it is generally believed the allied representatives have reached an agreement as to the future conduct of military affairs in the Balkans.

England, a high French official hinted to the United Press yesterday, favored the immediate withdrawal of the allied expeditionary forces from Serbia. General Joffre was understood to oppose this action and to be supported strongly by General Gillinsky, Russia's representative in the war council.

The importance of today's war council was emphasized by an official statement that both Lord Kitchener and Sir Edward Grey, British foreign minister were present, as was also the British ambassador to France. At previous sessions this week Sir John French represented Great Britain.

ARTILLERY BUSY.

PARIS, Dec. 9.—French artillery broke up repeated heavy attacks on the Germans east of Souain during last night, the war office reported this afternoon. The whole eastern Champagne region is being rocked by heavy artillery fire.

South of St. Souplet, French shells exploded a German munitions depot. It is admitted that the Teutons established themselves in a part of a trench east of Souain, but elsewhere their attacks were repulsed, it was officially stated.

French troops in the Argonne successfully exploded two mines in the region of Chevauchee.

### TURKEY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CONSTANTINOPLE, (via Amsterdam) Dec. 9.—In constant clash with the retreating British, Turkish advance columns have reached Shaikh base at Kut El Amara.

"We continue to harass the enemy's retreat," said today's official statement, "punishing some enemy columns attempting to escape. We have captured 300 camels."

ON THE MARCH.

CONSTANTINOPLE, (via Amsterdam) Dec. 9.—Turkish troops are now marching toward Aden, following their successes in the vicinity of Mahadi, it was officially announced today.

Aden is the chief trading city of Arabia and has a population of about 50,000. It was captured from the Turks by the British in 1839.

### ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Dec. 9.—The British steamers Veria and Gouladrils have been sunk by submarines.

LIFE OF PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Sir John Simon, secretary of state for home affairs, today introduced in parliament a bill extending the maximum life of the present parliament from five to six years to prevent the holding of an election while war was in progress.

### AUSTRIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PARIS, Dec. 9.—Austrian warships bombarded the port of Durazzo, Monday and also shelled the Italian wireless station, the Montenegrin consul reported today. Several Albanian, Montenegrin and Italian vessels were sunk.

### BALKANS

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] ATHENS, Dec. 9.—Anglo-French forces have begun to retire from southern Serbia toward the Greek frontier, according to official dispatches today. It is believed here the withdrawal is part of a general plan determined upon immediately after the Serbian retreat.

How far the expeditionary forces intend to withdraw was not indicated. But dispatches from Greek frontier points during the night reported the Anglo-French front under heavy attack by large German and Bulgarian forces.

The Bulgars are smashing hard at General Sarrail's right and center. Italian liner Ancona, was taken up against the allied left and center. By combined pressure, the Bulgar-German armies are striving to squeeze Sarrail's forces out of Serbia and across the Greek frontier.

It is believed here the expeditionary forces are outnumbered nearly two to one.

News of the allied retreat has caused the greatest excitement here. The tension in official circles has suddenly increased. With the battle drawing closer to the Greek frontier it is realized here that King Constantine may be forced to decide between the entente and the central empires within a few days.

Anglo-French reinforcements arrived at Salonika early this week. Whether they proceeded at once to the Serbian front has not been stated in Salonika dispatches.

It was reported today that Greek military authorities who visited Salonika to confer with the Anglo-French officials have been ordered to proceed at once to the frontier. It is assumed that they have been given full power to deal with any situation that may arise out of a possible Anglo-French retreat into Greece.

### RUSSIANS ARRIVING.

ZURICH, Dec. 9.—The Russo-Romanian frontier station at Ungeni and the harbor at Reni have been closed, according to Bucharest dispatches today. Thousands of Russian troops are arriving at both frontier towns. The Russians are displaying the greatest activity in Bessarabia.

Ungeni lies 125 miles north of Reni near a railway leading through Kisinef and south through Roumania, with branches extending to the Bulgarian frontier. Concentration of Russian troops at Reni for an offensive against Bulgaria, had been reported several times.

### GREECE IS ACTIVE.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Greece is taking active steps to resist if the allies attempt to compel compliance with their demands by force, the Rome correspondent of the Daily Mail cabled today. The Greeks with the aid of teutonic agents, are also preparing to fight a commercial blockade, the correspondent reported.

The Germans, the dispatch said, have assured the Greek government that their submarines will make ineffectively any commercial blockade by the Anglo-French fleet.

"In the meantime," it was added, "every possible annoyance is being placed in the way of the allies at Salonika. Promised transport lines are withheld and lines of communication are blocked by Greek transport."

### BULGARIAN VICTORIES.

PARIS, (via wireless to Sayville, L. I.), Dec. 9.—Bulgarian troops have occupied Struga, Ochrida, Debia and Dyakova in extreme southwestern Serbia, clearing practically the entire region of Serbian forces, the war office announced this afternoon.

The combats on the Vardar river front are progressing," said the official statement. "South of Plevlje, south of Sjenica and near Ipek (Montenegro) the fighting continues successfully."

### FRENCH DRIVEN OFF.

SOVIA, (via Amsterdam) Dec. 9.—Bulgarian troops have occupied the railway station of Demirkapu, which has been evacuated by the French, it was officially announced today. The village of Grovica has also been occupied by Bulgarians.

Ford is Confident.

[By Chas. P. Stewart, United Press Staff Correspondent.] ABOARD PEACE SHIP OSCAR II, (via wireless to Cape Race, N. F.) Dec. 9.—Premier Asquith's declaration after the allies will consider any serious peace proposal, was received with great rejoicing by voyagers aboard the Ford peace ship today.

The news was transmitted by wireless to S. S. McArthur, New York editor, by the Evening Mail.

"I'll bet this ship against a cent that we'll have the men out of the trenches by Christmas," said Ford, after hearing the message read.

Great Days for Driving.

Council Bluffs, Nonparoli: Iowa roads are as fine as any in the country now. The air is vigorous and bracing, too, and if you have a car just bundle yourself up warmly and take a spin. Go to it and you will like it.

### PROMPT AND VIGOROUS ACTION BY UNCLE SAM

#### Demand is Sent to Austria That Sinking of the Ancona be Explained and Similar Cases Avoided.

### NEW POLICY ON WAR MEASURES

#### Plans to Back the President's Intention of Crushing Hyphenated Conspirators Whose Actions Border on Anarchy.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—A new American policy of prompt action in the matter of submarine outrages was indicated today. The demand on Austria concerning the sinking of the Italian liner Ancona, was taken to mean the administration had resolved against delay in settlement.

Long waits like those occurring with Germany over the Lusitania and Arabic cases, will be avoided, it is said, by the prompt dispatch of a note to Austria demanding disavowal of the Ancona's sinking, reparation for American lives lost, assurances against repetition of the act and punishment for the submarine's commander.

The note, declared to be in firm, plain terms, was sent without waiting for the final report from the Austrian admiralty.

The Ancona was sunk just one month ago today and the administration believes sufficient time for an explanation has elapsed. Resentment over dismissal of former Ambassador Dumba, officials admitted today, may add to the difficulties of securing settlement.

Conflicting Reports.

ROME, Dec. 9.—Conflicting reports reached the American embassy today regarding the American tank steamer Communipaw, at first said to have been sunk by a submarine.

Commanders of an Italian torpedo boat and of a Greek steamer which answered the Communipaw's distress signals, reported to the embassy that they had captured the vessel. They said they found neither survivors, wreckage or traces of oil. The embassy had no confirmation of this report nor of another story that the Communipaw was shelled, but escaped.

Half the tanker's oil cargo was discharged at Genoa. It is presumed the rest was aboard when she encountered a submarine.

To Crush the Disloyal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—A program of action to back up the president's announced intention to "crush with the hand of power, creatures of passion, disloyalty and anarchy" was mapped out by the administration today.

Following a cabinet meeting late yesterday, discussing cooperation on a vigorous campaign to stamp out criminal conspiracies, District Attorney Marshall of New York conferred here today with Attorney General Gregory. Marshall went over various plots, Von Rintelen's case and others pending. Evidence against David Lamar, "wolf of Wall street," and the Labor Peace council was also submitted by Marshall.

A chain of indictments was expected to follow the return of the New York district attorney. The first onslaught in the administration campaign

of extermination was expected to be staged there.

Agencies of a half dozen federal departments were today in motion against hyphenated conspirators. On every hand there was evidence of determination to prove that the warning of the president was not a play of words.

Thousands of postoffice inspectors were enlisted with other government secret service agencies in the campaign. While by law their power is limited to postal violations, it is believed they will be able to furnish much valuable information to the justice department. Aig of congress will soon be invoked. Attorney General Gregory is having bills drafted to reach crimes and offenses to the senate and house judiciary committees.

Not Honest Neutrality.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 9.—The Berlin Tageblatt, admitting that German-Americans who violate the United States laws should be punished, nevertheless took the view today that President Wilson and his administration are partly responsible for any alleged teutonic activities.

In discussing the president's message, referring to "hyphenated" German-Americans who violate the United States laws, under Wilson's guidance, has not preserved "honest neutrality."

Seize no More Ships.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—The British government has acceded to the American request that no more American trans-Atlantic line vessels be seized, pending the action of a prize court in the cases of the Hocking, Genesee and Kankakee, according to advices to the state department today from Ambassador Page in London.

The state department also was informed that none of the vessels already seized by the British government would be requisitioned until the prize court had given some decision. The Hocking is believed on her way to England, but the Genesee and the Kankakee are in the Falkland islands and Montevideo respectively. Although the department was without direct information on the point, it was understood the Hocking only would be brought into court.

Bopp is Disgusted.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 9.—Declaring himself disgusted with America's ill feeling toward Germany and stating he would be happy to return to the fatherland, German Consul Bopp of this city today predicted a general exodus of German-Americans after the European war.

Bopp charged that both England and Japan violated America neutrality and in alleging federal officials

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### TIED GIRLS UP WITH ROPES AND ROBBED ONE OF \$7,000

#### Cashier Was Coming to Work With Money in Satchel This Morning.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—Three young handits today held up Miss Emma Schlinke, 24, cashier of the North Side branch of the Prudential Life Insurance Co., tied her and a girl clerk together and escaped with \$7,000 in cash.

When police arrived, they found Miss Schlinke, Mamie Hain, the clerk, and Larry Wold, watchman, severely bound. Wold was tied to a chair and the two young women were

### ROBBED ONE OF \$7,000

roped together on the stairway leading to the office.

While Miss Schlinke was enroute to a safety deposit vault, after cash for the company's pay roll today, the robbers entered the office on the second floor of a building in West North avenue. After tying Wold to the chair, they waited until the cashier returned with the money in a satchel.

Miss Hain, who was just coming to work, saw the hold-ups accost the cashier on the stairway. She screamed and tried to interfere, but was overpowered and bound.

The robbers seized the satchel containing the cash and fled to a nearby park where they were thought to have boarded an automobile.

They were all young men, said Miss Schlinke.

### Only 13 More Shopping Days Until Christmas.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—A chain of indictments was expected to follow the return of the New York district attorney. The first onslaught in the administration campaign

### WAR OF INDUSTRIAL GIANTS IS SEEN IN STEEL MERGER

#### Standard Oil Millions Are Being Invested in Five Big Plants.

lacking to complete the transactions. The companies slated to come under common ownership are the Cambria Steel Co., Lackawanna Steel company, Newport News Ship Building company, Youngstown Steel and Tube company and either the Iroquois or International plants, near Chicago.

Reports on Wall street today were that the Standard Oil Co. was a leading factor, planning to add the properties to its present steel possessions. The Colorado Fuel and Iron company, Midvale Steel and Ordnance Co. and numerous other smaller properties. In financial circles it was reported to-day that the National City bank had removed the last obstacle to the merger by acquiring the missing 100,000 shares of Cambria stock in the open market.