SENATORS ACCLAIM WILSON'S REFUSAL

Gratified by Peremptory Tone of the White House Statement.

THEIR STAND UNANIMOUS

Even Meyer London Condemns Austrian Proposal and Calls for Full Repentance.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—President Wilson's prompt refusal to participate in the suggested non-binding peace conference which the Austro-Hungarian Government proposed met with unqualified approval in Congressional circles.

Condemnation of the Austro-Hungarian proposal was unanimous in the Senate and House to-day. Not even the members of the two houses who in previous time have figured in the groupings of the less enthusiastic supporters of the war were willing to treat with Austria now and under the circumstances and conditions suggested in the Vienna note.

The sentiment in the Senate, regardless of party divisions or pre-war positions, is against peace talk. It is felt by all the leaders that the very fact that the problem of peacemaking has been broached by the Central Powers through the subservient member of the group is enough in itself to arouse suspicion. It is also pointed out that the only possible purpose at this time is the creation of schisms among the Entente Allies through forcing admissions which wherever variant in tenor might provide opportunity for dissensions.

"The President's stand suits me exactly," said Senator Borah (Idaho) tonight. "There could be no possibility of an informal conference until Germany herself and not the cat's paw Austria distinctly states that she is ready for peace and is prepared to surrender all the territory, east and west, that she has overrun."

Wants Teuton Surrender First.

Senator Borah is a Republican and a member of the Foreign Relations Committee. Senator Pomerene, member of the same committee, coincided with his colleague.

"The President's position is exactly my own on this situation," said Senator Pomerene. "Let the Teuton surrender, then we will talk peace. It is a strange time to ask peace when Germany is taking prisoner non-combatants from France and Belgium and laying waste the orchards and fields and vineyards of the country they have overrun."

A peace to-day would mean the accomplishment of Germany's barbarities and atrocities as a precedent for future wars," said Senator Frelinghuysen (N. J.), adding:

"I want to see Germany invaded, and for every French or Belgian city destroyed I hope to see a Teutonic city levelled to the ground."

Senator Brandegee (Conn.) said:

"We are fighting against the military autocracy of Germany, and we have not won until that military autocracy has been demolished or collapsed from within. We cannot discuss terms along the lines suggested by Austria."

Senator Chamberlain (Ore.), chairman of the Military Affairs Committee and supporter of every war move made by the American Government from the start of the movement toward a clash down to the present moment, said:

"The hour is not ripe for peace discussion. Peace should be made only after victory."

Meyer London Denounces Plea.

In the House of Representatives the leaders of all parties vied with one another in expressing gratification at the President's prompt action. There was no voice of dissent. Even Meyer London, the Socialist (N. Y.), and Baer, Non-partisan League (N. D.), were as earnest in their proclamations of dissent from the Austrian proposal as either the Republicans or the Democrats. Some opinions were:

Representative Gillett (Mass)—"Austria is only a tool and we cannot deal with her until a serious proposition is made by Germany. We cannot believe that Germany is in earnest until she has fully restored and indemnified Belgium."

Representative Kahn (Cal.)—"The Austrian feeler will not fool any one and we should reply by increasing the speed of our preparations for a fight to the finish."

Representative London (N. Y., an avowed pacifist, who opposed the war in the beginning)—"I would not deal with Germany at all until Germany announces her readiness to evacuate every piece of territory she has taken during the war. I would not talk peace with Germany unless Germany announces her readiness to tear up the infamous Brest-Litovsk treaty."

PEACE LEAGUE WITH WILSON.

President's Refusal to Accept Austria's Proposal Applauded.

The President's message rejecting the Austrian proposal for a peace conference was received by William Howard Taft just as he was preparing to preside at a meeting of the executive committee of the League to Enforce Peace at the McAlpin Hotel last night.

After the President's message was read and applauded vigorously, the following statement was issued: "The League to Enforce Peace rejoices in the refusal of the President to accept the invitation of the German and Austrian Governments to a secret conference as to peace. The league is pledged to a peace by victory as the only peace which can achieve the objects of the war in the destruction of German militarism and the creation of a league of free nations to enforce a permanent peace. To take part in a conference with an unconquered Germany is to confess a failure of our purpose."

"No conference of any sort can supply the need for a victory," Mr. Taft said opening the meeting. "Therefore the suggestion for a conference is something utterly contrary to our policy. It is a system we are fighting and nothing short of the destruction of that system will satisfy us."

REICHSTAG LEADERS CONFER.

Hertling Presided at Meeting Lasting Two and a Half Hours.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 16.—An important conference of leaders of the majority parties in the Reichstag was held on Sunday with reference to the Austrian peace note, telegrams from Berlin to-day report.

According to some of the reports, Count von Hertling, the Imperial Chancellor, presided at the conference, which lasted two hours and a half. Admiral von Hintze, the Foreign Secretary, and Herr Waltraf, the Minister of the Interior, are also reported to have been present. It was said the deliberations would be continued to-day.

The note in which Austria-Hungary invites the belligerents to a conference for discussion of the possibilities of peace was despatched by Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, on the order of Emperor Charles, the Cologne *Volks Zeitung* declares.

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CROWDER PREPARES FOR BIGGEST TASK

Serial Numbers, Questionnaires and Drawing in Quick Sequence.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—All is in readiness for the next three steps in the programme of mobilizing the new increment of fighting material registered to the gross total of 13,000,000 men last Thursday. The steps will come in quick succession, but until the final returns of all the States are in the hands of the Provost Marshal General none of them will be taken. The steps include:

1. The allotment of serial numbers.
2. The issuance of questionnaires to the registrants.
3. The drawing of the numbers under which the fighting force will be called to the colors.

It is believed that only the remaining days of the present week will be necessary for the complete returns from all over the country to be received by the Provost Marshal General. Immediately they are in hand the questionnaires will be sent forth and the registrants notified as to their new serial numbers. Then will come the drawing.

October 2 is the date tentatively set for the grand lottery. This is the date in the minds of the War Department officials, but as to whether it shall be the day finally announced depends upon the speed with which the registration returns are met.

CALL FOR 181,838 MAY HIT NEW DRAFT

Crowder Wants Men in Service Before October 16.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Draft calls announced to-day by Provost Marshal General Crowder will send 181,838 men qualified for general military service to army camps before October 16. All States have quotas to fill. Of the total 142,000 will be white registrants, who will entrain between October 7 and 11. The remainder will be negroes, who will move in two groups, 29,016 entraining between September 23 and 27 and 10,752 on October 16.

Men who registered last Thursday may be needed in a few districts to fill the new quotas, it was said at the Provost Marshal General's office, but in most localities sufficient men remain in Class 1 from the registration on last June 5 and August 24 to meet the requirements.

New York to Give 12,000.

New York is called upon to furnish 12,000 white registrants for training at Camp Wadsworth, 389 negroes for Camp Upton and 214 negroes for Camp Devens, Mass.; New Jersey, 3,487 white registrants and 500 negroes for Camp Dix; Connecticut, 513 white registrants for Camp Dix and 1,710 for Camp Greenleaf, Ga., with 117 negroes for Camp Devens.

Complete returns from the registration last Thursday in sixteen States and the District of Columbia of men between the ages of 18 and 45 years were received to-day by Provost Marshal General Crowder. They showed a total of 3,238,629 men, as against the estimate of 3,232,267, and it was announced officially that they do not justify the assumption that the returns from the entire country will show an enrolment very greatly in excess of the estimate of 13,000,000.

In six of the States the total registration fell below the estimate, but in ten of them it exceeded it. The District of Columbia registered 22 per cent. more than the number estimated for it, due, officials believe, to the influx of war workers. Of the States Vermont's percentage of excess enrolment was the highest, being 12½.

Registration by States.

Registration totals by States, together with the estimates as announced tonight by the Provost Marshal General, are as follows:

States.	Registration.	Estimate.
Arkansas	187,122	195,746
Connecticut	197,426	213,329
Delaware	30,023	29,489
District of Columbia	52,751	43,152
Florida	111,058	110,940
Indiana	350,352	340,920
Iowa	280,303	287,847
Maryland	177,098	152,090
Massachusetts	475,019	482,646
Mississippi	185,106	185,175
New Hampshire	52,618	50,012
New Jersey	425,136	405,509
Oklahoma	238,148	227,884
Rhode Island	73,503	71,481
Utah	52,709	58,863
Vermont	40,887	36,216
Wisconsin	308,861	326,377

Officials do not belive any appreciable number of men evaded registration. They ascribe the fluctuations of the actual totals as compared with the estimates to industrial conditions brought about by the war which have affected the distribution of the male population.

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BOOMERANG FEARED BY GERMAN PAPERS

Vienna's Move Welcome, but Little Hope Is Expressed of Successful Outcome.

WARN AGAINST OPTIMISM

Some Editors Believe Note Will Cause Allies to Increase Their Military Efforts.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN *from the London Times Service.*

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THE HAGUE, Sept. 16.—German newspaper comment on the Vienna peace note takes the line of throwing all responsibility upon Austria. This is done with such emphasis and unanimity as to make it certain that that course is pursued in accordance with orders from the German Foreign Office.

Briefly paraphrased the comment amounts to "We shall be delighted if anything comes of it, but if not we decline all responsibility in advance and on the whole think the step ill advised." After the visits of Chancellor von Hertling and Foreign Secretary von Hintze to Vienna the attempts to represent a step of this importance as taken without their entire concurrence presumes too much on humamn credulity.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 16.—Although the peace move launched by Vienna finds a favorable welcome in the German newspapers, fear is expressed that the proposal will not bring peace or a discussion of terms. In fact, some of the German newspapers arriving here express the opinion that the cause of the Central Powers may be injured by the Austrian move and that the Allied Powers will redouble their efforts to gain a crushing military victory.

Summarized the German newspapers express the opinion that the Austrian communication will do no real good and may cause harm, since it may be interpreted as a sign of weakness of the Germanic Powers and their allies.

The Berlin *Tageblatt* editorially expresses the opinion that the "independent action" of Austria Hungary probably will cause the Entente to redouble its military efforts. The Austro-Hungarian offer coming on top of the programme enunciated by Vice-Chancellor von Payer, it comments, betrays bad stage management.

With all respect to the nobility of the Austro-Hungarian Government's motives, the *Tageblatt* adds, this was not a psychological moment for the move as far as the Entente was concerned. The editorial also expresses disappointment that no mention was made in the note of the crucial Alsace-Lorraine question.

The peace initiative should have been left to the Entente Allies, according to the *Tageszeitung* of Berlin. "The fate of all previous announcements as to readiness for peace and a conciliatory spirit on the part of the Central Powers does not encourage great hopes that this offer will meet with great success," the newspaper says. "It must naturally encounter great skepticism on our part."

"After our experiences hitherto with peace proposals," says the *Lokalanzeiger*, "we cannot help feeling thoroughly skeptical."

Austria's move may prove quite a "risky step," says the *Neueste Nachrichten* of Berlin. The *Boersen Zeitung* places no very great hope in the offer and the Berlin *Post* fears the offer will be interpreted by Entente countries as weakness and a sign of impending collapse, as well as a begging for peace, on the part of the Central empires.

Warns Against Hasty Optimism.

"A discussion of the timeliness of the Austrian step is useless," says the *Vorwaerts*. "Once it was made without the German Government taking a similar step there is nothing for Germany to do but give its adhesion. That is the only way of preventing harmful effects and permitting the good effects to be fully developed. Austria's peace tentatives will be welcomed by the widest circles of the German people and many hopes will be placed in it, but it is necessary to utter a warning against overhasty optimism."

"Through the fault of both sides obstacles to peace have been piled mountain high," says the *Kreuzzeitung*, which fears that the Austrian note will be futile and may even lead to a result opposite to that intended.

"All the ill success which similar steps by the Central Powers have encountered from the Entente Allies has not taught the Austro-Hungarian Cabinet anything," says the *Taeglische Rundschau*. "It is absolutely inconceivable what motive induced the Austro-Hungarian Government now to officially repeat the step taken in the letter to Prince Sixtus."

The *Deutsche Zeitung* says: "The ill success which has hitherto attended our peace offers does not encourage us to hope for much from Count Burian's proposals for the promotion of the peace idea. That, of course, should not prevent the German Government from examining the Austro-Hungarian note benevolently and thoroughly."

Vienna Papers Are Belligerent.

The Vienna papers point out emphatically that the monarchy undertook the step with the knowledge of its allies, but declare that the action itself was exclusively Austro-Hungarian. They assert further in this connection that the indestructibility of the alliance of the monarchy with its friends, and particularly the fraternal cordiality of the relationship with Germany, most decidedly disposes in advance of the slightest attempt at misinterpretation, as if in its intentions and its consequences it could lead to Austria-Hungary taking an independent position.

The *Fremdenblatt* declares it is self-evident that Austria-Hungary only speaks in so important a matter after having acquainted therewith its friends, at whose side it has been fighting for years. Austria-Hungary, adds the paper, is not behind Germany in its determination to defend itself to the uttermost.

LONDON CALLS NOTE 'SHAM' AND 'INSULT'

Only One Pacifist Paper Refuses to See Anything But a Teuton Trick.

STRONG AGAINST PARLEY

Germans Are Stigmatized as Criminals Scheming to Cheat Civilization.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Characterizing Germany's offer of peace to Belgium as a shameless insult and indignantly rejecting Austria's offer of a peace conference as a German trick in which Austria has been made the catspaw, editorial opinion throughout England to-day reflects the public's attitude that there can be no peace parleying with the Central Powers until the Allies' specifically stated basic demands for the security of civilization have been unconditionally accepted.

The editorial opinions expressed in the evening newspapers to-day were if possible even more drastic than those contained in this morning's issues. The *Standard* this evening entitles its editorial on the Austrian peace offer "No Conference with Criminals." The *Pall Mall Gazette* says Austria can have peace by separating herself from Germany, withdrawing her troops from the western front and retiring from her annexations in Rumania and then opening peace negotiations with the Allies on her own account.

The only note of discord was sounded in the pacifist *Daily News* this morning, which, anticipating a general rejection of the Austrian proposals, says that responsible, sober minded men should, nevertheless, face the proposals squarely.

The *Standard* welcomes the note "Not only as a new sign of enemy distress, but because it affords the Allies an opportunity of making a plain statement as to the real obstacle to peace."

How Vienna Can Get Peace.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: "If Austria wants peace she can have it by separating herself from Germany, withdrawing her divisions from the western front, retiring from her annexations in Rumania and opening negotiations of her own accord with the Allies."

In the *Globe's* opinion "anything more impudent than this move to cheat civilization could not be imagined, even from Germany."

The *Westminster Gazette* considers that the Austrian note gives the Entente Powers an opportunity "to set forth anew our idea of the world as it should be after the war, the world of a league of nations. . . . That and not the contemptuous negotiations, which some people seem to favor, is the right way to challenge the German war lords and to appeal beyond them to the peoples of Austria and Germany."

Referring to Vice-Chancellor von Payer's speech, which the newspaper says contemplates an unqualified German victory in the east, the *Westminster Gazette* concludes:

"In answering the note we must make it clear to the enemy peoples that our principles apply to the east and to the west."

"The Austrian note does not bring real peace any nearer," says he *Express*. "Preliminary conditions to peace have been stated over and over again by the Allies, and there is not the faintest suggestion that the Central Powers will agree to any one of these conditions. They who drew the sword are scheming to save themselves from perishing by the sword. The disingenuousness of the note betrays that it was written in Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin."

Plan to Save Hohenzollerns.

Relative to the offer of peace to Belgium the *Express* says:

"This is another Brest-Litovsk scheme and part of the same plan for preserving the power of the Hohenzollerns."

After referring to the sinking of the liner Galway Castle as a coincidence to the offer of peace the newspaper says:

"The allied peoples will not shake hands. They will not be friends, nor will they agree to any hole in the corner negotiations. Democracy is now at the helm of the world's affairs. Militarism is tottering, and if the German people desire to save themselves from falling with it they must insist on the preliminary conditions which alone make useful talk possible."

"Our peace terms have been made abundantly clear," says the *Post*. "When Germany and her dependents are ready to accept them they can let us know. There will be no abatement to them. Germany must be beaten, and must recognize she is beaten. Until then her suggestions for peace conferences are not to be regarded any more than the crackling of thorns under a pot."

The *Daily News* says:

"There is no solid ground upon which statesmen sincerely zealous for peace can justify the rejection of the Austrian proposals. Discussion would not involve an armistice. There would be no question of the Allies compromising their fundamental principles. Against the more than remote prospect that discussions might leave Germany obdurate, they might have a very different result in the case of Turkey, Bulgaria and even Austria. The Allies, with an unassailable moral case, have everything to gain and nothing to lose by discussion."

Another Form of German Trick.

"An impudent sham," is the *Mail's* editorial head over its comment on the note, which it describes as "another form of an old German trick.

"The German Emperor is a ventriloquist whose voice we may hear in this Austrian telegram," the newspaper continues, "and we hear it because the military masters under whom Germany is bleeding are afraid. It is not humanity which they have in view, but the safety of their own skins. This German trick has been disposed of in advance by President Wilson's masterly addresses. Mr. Wilson's great watchword 'No peace with autocracy' applies to Austria as well as Prussia, and for the same cause no German autocracy can be trusted for an hour. The allied attitude is clear. We require reparation, restitution and guarantees, and since the fresh German outrages upon French territory we require the punishment of the criminals. Nothing less will do. We remind the enemy of President Wilson's words: 'There can be no compromise; no half-way decision is tolerable.'"

As to the offer to Belgium, the *Mail* says it is insulting and only "offers Belgians one more scrap of paper."

"The note is absurd on the very face of it," says the *Telegraph*. "It is disingenuous, cynical and insincere, while the proposal to Belgium is both insincere and insolent. Germany, as a Power, is not to be trusted. Her most solemn compacts are falsified by her actions.

"We must find a repentant and contrite Germany, and German policy carried out by very different rulers," the *Telegraph* continues, "before we can even hope to discuss peace. It is true that all nations desire the end of the war, but peace must be lasting. It must be one founded upon the recognition of the independence of nations. Above all it must be one which, in Mr. Wilson's words, makes the world safe for democracy. Negotiations at the present moment, even though they brought a temporary peace, would only postpone the struggle of right and might. As long as the Kaiser and the Pan-Germans direct with irresistible authority the destinies of Germany, so long can there be no question of an armistice or purely academic negotiations."

The *Daily Chronicle*, grouping the Austrian note with the offer to Belgium and the proposal to withdraw from Karelia as related incidents, indicating more than any previous happening the changed enemy mentality, says:

"Every one of these proposals will certainly be rejected. The fact that they are made concurrently is proof that the Central Empires are in a very bad way. In Berlin and Vienna it is now realized for the first time that the Central Powers cannot possibly win the war.

"After all they have suffered, the Entente Powers are not going to be bought off with an unreal peace, which could only mean a new war at some moment convenient to the militarists of central Europe. The free nations of the world are determined to hold together until this sinister menace has been finally removed."

IGNORE 'PEACE' NOTE, IS PARIS COMMENT

Journals Agree Germany Must Be Beaten First.

PARIS, Sept. 16.—Austria's peace proposals were printed textually in all the newspapers this morning. The comments differed only in phrases. Their purport was identical. It was that the Germans must be beaten before there can be talk of peace.

The *Matin* does not believe the allied Governments will take the trouble to reply to the Austrian note, for the answer already has been given. While the whole world is ignorant of the terms of the Central Powers all humanity knows those of the Allies so well it is unnecessary to repeat them.

L'Homme Libre, Premier Clemenceau's organ, says the trap is so clumsy that neither France nor the Allies will be caught in it. "Victory for our arms will be the answer to these tortuous proposals and equivocal manœuvres," it declares.

The *Petit Parisien* says the humanitarian jargon in which Baron Burian wraps up his proposal will deceive nobody. Austria would have done better to speak in July, 1914, the paper asserts, and then it would not have had to resort to-day to talk which is more or less hypocritical.

The *Journal* holds because it is an obvious cry of exhaustion, and for that reason alone, the Allies should reject Austria's appeal. "We have the right and the means to fix the terms of peace," it says. "That procedure is the only one which can convince Germany and the world of Germany's defeat."

WASHINGTON LEPER AT LARGE.

Early, Confined Several Years, Makes Second Escape.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—The police today were scouring the city for John Early, a leper, who escaped during the night from a detention house on the outskirts of the city, where he had been confined for several years.

On a previous occasion he came into the city and stayed at a hotel two days before he was captured.

Swiss Believe Berlin Inspired Peace Plea

BERNE, Sept. 16.—It is generally believed here that Austria-Hungary made her peace proposal with the consent of Germany, and it is even maintained in some quarters that Germany really inspired it.

It is pointed out that the German Socialist leaders have used very threatening language to Chancellor von Hertling lately, demanding internal reforms and the opening of peace negotiations.

In addition the rapidly growing food and clothing difficulties in Germany also must have had a considerable part in bringing about the step.

BALFOUR FINDS NO BASIS FOR PEACE

Continued from First Page.

mankind. The terms of peace and war were so tremendous, and the calamities imposed by the continuation of hostilities so overwhelming, he said, that he would never treat with disrespect any peace proposal.

Coming after the recent speech of Friedrich von Payer, the German Imperial Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Balfour said "this cynical proposal of the Austrian Government is not a genuine attempt to obtain peace. It is an attempt to divide the Allies."

Mr. Balfour said no one should take upon himself the task of rejecting with a light heart any proposal which would shorten the length of the war. He also declared that no coalition ever had been so strong as the allied coalition and that the enemy would not succeed in breaking it.

Questions Now Definite.

Conversations such as were proposed by Austria-Hungary, Mr. Balfour said, undoubtedly would have great value in certain circumstances. He said they would serve to smooth out obscurities, such as questions of pride, &c., but he declared that the questions now between the belligerents were definitely defined.

"I am not taking the proposals of two years ago or of last year but of last week," Secretary Balfour said. "The German Vice-Chancellor speaking for the German Government clearly and without obscure verbiage showed where Germany stood on the question of Belgium, Alsace-Lorraine, the German colonies and the Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest treaties."

It could not be more clearly set forth than it was by Von Payer last week that Germany intended to pay no indemnity to Belgium, Mr. Balfour continued. He indicated, the Foreign Secretary said, that Germany did not believe in the principle of indemnities and yet at the same time she was squeezing millons of dollars out of Russia.

"This," the speaker went on, "was for the wrongs Russia is supposed to have done Germany. How can those wrongs be compared with the devastation and ruin which Germany is wreaking on Russia now?"

Regarding the question of colonies, Secretary Balfour said:

"The colonies are one question on which there is no misunderstanding. We stand on one side and Germany on the other."

FOCH WILL STRIKE AT SEVERAL POINTS

Washington Expects Blows to Answer Peace Terms.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Another blow against the German lines as answer to peace proposals of the Central Powers is expected momentarily by military officials here.

The point of the expected attack is a matter of wide speculation by officers. Several simultaneous attacks will be delivered, it is thought, with the Flanders front, the French operation about La Fere directed at Laon and the new American front across the mouth of the old St. Mihiel salient as the logical positions from which Marshal Foch would strike.

It has been significant to some officers that the British have not pressed very heavily on the front between Ypres and Douai, north of Ypres. There has been only one minor operation by the Belgians since the allied counter offensive began.

British attention has been concentrated to a large extent on clearing up to the Douai-Cambrai-St. Quentin front and many observers here believe the lines have been strengthened sufficiently along this sector now for a new movement to the north. It has been noted, however, that British artillery has recently been pounding the German lines west of Cambrai with especial vigor, which may be the prelude to a direct drive for the capture of that city.

Since the French are slowly making their way to a flanking position which would force the Germans to withdraw from the Chemin des Dames line protecting Laon, some officers believe a new movement along the Aisne and probably extending to the east of Rheims is to be anticipated. It is pointed out that should the Germans be forced to withdraw from the Chemin des Dames a swift advance from the Rheims front would tend to outflank the whole enemy line from that point to Verdun.

There is no information of an official character as to Gen. Pershing's present operations. The greatest reticence apparently is being enforced on press correspondents in discussing the tactical disposition of the American army at this time and to observers here this suggests that preparations for a new advance are well under way.

The logical objective, it is held, would be the occupation of the Briey iron fields and an effort to encircle Metz from the west. If Gen. Pershing is moving toward that goal now, it is said, a joint attack by his army and the French army holding the Verdun front would be a probable development.

Such an action would be over a very extended front, however, and some further reconnoissance of the enemy's positions on the immediate American front may be necessary before it can be undertaken.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY KILLS PROPAGANDA

Continued from First Page.

it that it took the breath away from many who, cognizant of the traditions of diplomacy, had expected that its tedious processes and forms might have to be resorted to no matter what the answer.

A chorus of approval immediately went up when it was realized that the President, sure of his position in the eyes of the world, had brushed aside all ceremony and delay and struck down the subtle menace of the peace offensive almost before it got started.

The President is understood to have regarded it of vital importance to act before Germany and Austria could reap profit from their proposal. He had mapped out this programme in advance and he executed it to-day without even waiting for the official text.

Note Is Work of Few Moments.

Returning from the golf links this morning with his mind made up it was but the work of a few moments for him in his study to write the laconic paragraph with which the hopes of Germany and Austrian intriguers were dashed to the ground.

But this answer based on the press text was carefully withheld until the official note arrived. It was sent to Secretary Lansing with instructions to give it forth as soon as a comparison of the official text could be made. The President and Secretary Lansing, apprised early yesterday of the peace offensive, had had several consultations and were of one mind as to the plan to be followed.

It was a dramatic moment, therefore, when at 6:20 to-night the carefully groomed Swedish Minister, W. A. F. Ekengren, stepped from the elevator carrying with him in a large envelope the text of the note. His appearance had been awaited all the afternoon with a tenseness that the State Department has not experienced since the diplomatic negotiations preceding the war. All knew that the answer of the United States, written by the President, was ready and merely awaiting the appearance of this emissary of the Austrian Government.

The Swedish Minister hurried into Mr. Lansing's room. He was there just two minutes. He looked buoyant as he went in. He seemed surprised as he came out. He had been told by Mr. Lansing that the President's answer was ready for the press. He divined from this what it would be. In going out he passed through a crowd of newspaper correspondents waiting to receive the answer to the very note he had delivered.

Text Compared in 30 Minutes.

Thirty minutes were consumed in comparing the official text with the newspaper version as cabled from abroad.

Then Secretary Lansing received the newspaper correspondents and read to them the brief statement which already had been prepared. The Secretary was asked whether the reply had been given to Mr. Ekengren and he stated that it had not been. But it was indicated that there would be no delay in getting the reply en route for the Government of Austria-Hungary via official channels.

The time consumed in making the reply to the Austrian proposal established an unprecedented record for its brevity and the circumstances surrounding the whole handling of the question were unique and without parallel.

The speed with which the proposal was handled led to the suggestion in some quarters that the President was nettled, if not disgusted, at the whole tenor of this latest peace manœuvre, and particularly with the insinuations contained in the Austrian proposal that "confidential" exchanges of views were necessary to ascertain what the United States Government's views on peace really were.

The plain intimation in the Austrian proposal that Entente leaders had not been frank or sincere in their "monologues" concerning peace requisites is also understood to have aroused the President's indignation.

Antidote to Peace Drive.

The reply, it is pointed out, is an antidote for this and similar effusions of the Teuton diplomatists on the question of peace propaganda. In essential particulars the President's reply is the exact opposite in form as well as in substance from the Austrian proposal. The Austrian proposal is long and involved and uses countless words to convey the mere suggestion of vague idea. The President in six short lines tells all there is to tell at this time or at any other time recarding the fundamental position of the United States toward peace.

Expression in Entente diplomatic circles to-night is one of complete approval of the President's course. The speed caused surprise to some of the diplomats, to whom it seemed characteristically American and plainly without precedent.

The feeling in neutral circles was a hope that something might come of the plan, though diplomats admitted they had little ground for optimism.

No one questions here but that it was part of the German Austrian plan to use the time generally taken for replying to such a note for a campaign of extensive propaganda aimed at creating a peace atmosphere among allied people. The prompt action of the United States, however, has nipped this plan in the bud. Even the possibility of obtaining help from the Vatican, upon which there is reason to believe that Austria has counted, has been removed, it is thought.

For the United States the President's reply ends the peace incident. This Government, in cooperation with our allies, will now devote its thought and energy undivided toward prosecution of the war.

DUTCH SPECULATE ON PEACE.

Austrian Note Causes Advance in Mark Quotations.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 16.—The Austro-Hungarian peace proposal reached the Dutch Sunday newspapers just in time for its publication without comment. The possibilities of the situation created, however, were eagerly canvassed in various quarters and an excited speculation in foreign currency, stated to have run into the millions, was in progress throughout Sunday.

Marks, which closed Saturday at 31.55, were largely bought privately on Sunday afternoon at 34, while Austrian crowns rose from 17.25 to 19.50.

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