

BOCHES NOW SURE TO SIGN ARMISTICE

Washington Accepts Abdication as True and Forerunner of Quick Surrender.

REPUBLIC A PROBABILITY

Wilson's Fight on Kaiserism Prominent Feature in His Chief War Speeches.

Special Despatch to THE SUN. Washington, Nov. 9.—The Kaiser is to abdicate. This news, symbolizing Germany's complete defeat and the consummation of President Wilson's policy to make the world safe for democracy, caused Washington this afternoon to believe that the great war drama was swiftly approaching its end.

Everywhere the fall of Kaiserism is interpreted as the harbinger of peace. Everywhere it is regarded as presaging the acceptance of the armistice. No single event has been such a dominant issue of the war as the fall of the Hohenzollerns. For the people of America this event consummated to-day has been the one concrete objective for which the nation has been in arms, for which American blood has been shed on the battle fields of Europe, the fulfillment of the nation's openly expressed purpose in entering the war.

News Had Been Expected for Days.

Although expected for days, when the news finally reached here this afternoon of the Kaiser's intended abdication it brought officials to the full realization that the end is at hand. President Wilson was notified early this afternoon of the news which had come from the British wireless and which, though not official, was accepted as correct. The President received the news quietly in his study at the White House.

While no statement was forthcoming this afternoon from the President it is probable that when the last act of the great drama has been reached by the signing of the armistice he will address a statement to the American people and to the world upon the solemn significance of these momentous events in the history of America and of mankind.

Up to a late hour this evening the news that begins a new epoch in the long struggle for freedom had not reached Washington in official form. But the British wireless picking the announcement from the air early this afternoon flashed it to the Government wireless here and it was quickly communicated to all officials. The announcement was in the form of an unambiguous message from Prince Max, Baden, the Imperial Chancellor, to the German people.

A German Republic, Perhaps.

The whole crowd of Hohenzollerns appear to be going. A German republic would not surprise many here. Only the fall of the Bourbons in France, in the opinion of many here, is at all comparable to what has been going on to-day in Germany, where reigning royalty is being separated from what it has long been regarded as its heritage and its place is being taken by representatives of the people it had repressed. President Wilson said in his remarkable prophecy contained in his flag day speech of June 16, 1917, the power represented by Hohenzollernism is falling to pieces "like a house of cards."

It was only yesterday that the Kaiser learned of the armistice terms stripping Germany of all military power. That his abdication should follow so swiftly and dramatically the knowledge of these terms is regarded here as extraordinary significance. It is believed by some that the Kaiser, true to his military ideals, refused to approve the terms and saw his usefulness was ended.

Fate was thus inexorably demanding that the Kaiser sever his connection with the German Empire and allow its representatives to work out their own destiny unencumbered by his presence. The selection of Frederick Ebert, Socialist, to head the regency, is taken to mean that it was the pressure of the Socialist demand that had persuaded the monarch to accept the Kaiser's abdication.

There is not the slightest doubt here, in view of these developments, that the power of the Socialists is gradually becoming supreme in Germany. Two questions were forced upon us to-day by these developments: First, what form of government the movement now going on in Germany will crystallize into; and second, what control the new element now apparently dominant in its civil affairs will be able to exercise over the German army.

It was in this army that Hohenzollernism and autocracy had its roots. This army is still fighting desperately under the command of men appointed by the Kaiser. It must soon elect what part it is to play in the determination of Germany's new government. Great curiosity is felt here as to the attitude of the military leaders of this army toward the Socialists, whom they have been accustomed to regard without controlling power.

In getting rid of the Kaiser and what he stands for the German people have taken a course mapped out by President Wilson. Always he has held out before them the promise of peace and a partnership with the other nations of the world, once they fulfilled this condition. This may have indirectly had some effect on the situation.

It is pointed out here that in his note of October 14 the President, once more following his many utterances on the subject strikingly emphasized the course which the German people would have to follow to obtain peace. Referring to the arbitrary power that had held their destinies in its hands and the demand for its destruction, he said in that note: "It is within the choice of the German nation to alter it."

Forced by President's Note.

All the evidence has pointed to this note of the President's as having had a profound effect in Germany and demands for the Kaiser's abdication began almost immediately after its publication. As pointed out here this note was merely the logical development of a policy which the President has held to consistently since the war began in 1914. The attention of the German people upon their form of government. It was for this reason that friends of the President might be led the power of the Kaiser's abdication as a diplomatic triumph of the first magnitude.

It was evident before the United States had entered the war in 1917 that the Kaiser's autocracy and publicly stated policy against which democracy in arms must battle.

In his address to the Joint session of Congress on April 2, 1917—four days before a state of war was declared—the President in recommending that the United States assume the role of belligerent said:

man Government following such methods we can never have a friend; and that in the presence of its organized power always lying in wait to accomplish we know not what purpose there can be no assured security for the democratic Governments of the world.

"We are now about to accept the gage of battle with the natural foe to liberty and shall if necessary spend the whole force of the nation to check and nullify its pretensions and its power. We are glad now that we see the facts with no veil of false pretence about them, to fight thus for the ultimate peace of the world and for the liberation of its peoples, the German peoples included," etc.

In his flag day speech on June 24, 1917, a little more than two months after the nation had been at war, the President went further than this, however, and virtually prophesied the present ending of the war.

"The military masters under whom Germany is bleeding," he said, "see very clearly to what point fate has brought them. If they fall back or are forced back an inch their power both abroad and at home will fall to pieces like a house of cards. It is their power at home that they are thinking about now more than their power abroad. It is that power which is trembling under their very feet; and deep fear has entered their hearts if they fall their people will thrust them aside; a Government accountable to the people themselves will be set up in Germany as it has been in England, in the United States, in France and in all the great countries of the modern time except Germany."

From this beginning the President in subsequent addresses almost without exception singled out Kaiserism and what it stood for as the real foe, all with the definite purpose in his mind of separating the German people from their masters and encouraging the German liberals. Referring to the haughty and aggressive action of the Imperial German military commanders under the Kaiser's orders in Russia, after Russia's collapse, the President on April 6, 1918, said:

"I accept the challenge. I know that

you accept it. All the world shall know that you accept it. It shall appear in the utter sacrifice and self-forgetfulness with which we shall give all that we love and all that we have to redeem the world and make it fit for free men like ourselves to live in."

In his address at Mount Vernon on July 4, 1918, the President outlined the following as the first of the ends for which the associated peoples of the world were fighting:

"1. The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can separately, secretly and of its single choice disturb the peace of the world; or if it cannot be presently destroyed at least its reduction to virtual impotence."

In the latter part of this same address the President was even more prophetic: "I stand here now to speak," he said, "proudly and with confident hope, of the spread of this revolt, this liberation, to the great stage of the world itself."

"The blinded rulers of Prussia have roused forces they knew little of, forces which once roused can never be crushed to earth again, for they have at their heart an inspiration and a purpose which are deathless and of the very stuff of triumph."

OFFICIALS LOOK FOR TRUCE REPLY TO-DAY

Germans May Take Full Time, Some Believe.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9.—Signing of the armistice terms by Germany appears to be not for the moment imminent. Expectation here throughout the day that the momentous announcement for which the whole world is waiting with bated breath might come any minute to-night was lessened by the fact that the German courier carrying the armistice terms from Marshal Foch was not yet

reported to have even reached the German lines. Unofficial reports stated that heavy German barrage fire delayed his return.

The distance between the meeting place and German headquarters is not great, but a circuitous route is required, due to the shell torn roads. It is at best a journey of several hours. The news late this afternoon seemed to preclude the possibility of the return of the courier during the night. Arrangements might be made to send the necessary authority to the German delegates at Marshal Foch's headquarters by wireless, but this was not considered likely.

There is considerable expectation here in official circles, however, that the great news may be released to the waiting world some time to-morrow.

Frank L. Polk, Counselor of the State Department, announced to the newspaper men at 3:30 this afternoon that at 2:15 the armistice had not been signed. It is assumed here that at that hour the German plenipotentiaries were still at Marshal Foch's headquarters waiting to hear from Spa, the place to which the terms had been sent.

According to cable advices from abroad Vice-Admiral Sims, commanding the American naval forces in European waters, is with Marshal Foch. A representative of the American army is also in the allied party, but Secretary Baker said to-day he was as yet uninformed as to his identity.

The time expires at 11 o'clock, French time, Monday morning. This means that the Germans either by courier or by radio must get their answer in before that time. Many here believe Germany will consume the full time.

President Wilson is to make a statement upon the signing of the armistice, though whether this would take the place of all other announcements was not made clear to-day. Secretary Baker said to-day that if the armistice was signed he would have important announcements to make regarding the plans of the future. Secretary Daniels is prepared to make similar announcements.

HOOVER WILL FEED MOST OF NATIONS

Will Go to Europe to Direct Food Relief of Liberated Peoples.

AID FOR BELGIANS FIRST

Serbian, Slovak and Others Also to Be Fed to Combat Bolshevism.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9.—The United States is about to embark on a gigantic plan of feeding practically the entire world.

President Wilson to-day directed Food Administrator Hoover to take charge of the organization of measures for the food relief of the liberated peoples of Europe and to proceed at once to Europe as this Government's special representative for the determination of measures of relief in cooperation with the various Governments concerned.

The peoples of Belgium, France, Serbia, the liberated populations in southern Europe and others are to be provided for. The peoples of Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria are not specifically mentioned, but it is understood that the relief plans will extend to them in view of the recent announcement by Col. House in Versailles that assistance along these lines would be given to

these peoples, who are now no longer engaged in hostilities against the Entente and the United States.

The first work undertaken by Mr. Hoover in Europe will be to perfect and enlarge the arrangements for foodstuffs to the populations in Belgium and France now being released. These populations have been supported for the last four years by the Commission for Relief in Belgium under Mr. Hoover's chairmanship, but owing to the difficulty of transportation and distribution, of finance and fear of German seizure, the amount of foodstuffs furnished has been the very minimum on which human life could be maintained.

In a statement explaining Mr. Hoover's mission the State Department made public the following:

"As the first measure of assistance to Belgium it is necessary to increase immediately the volume of foodstuffs formerly supplied so as to physically rehabilitate this undernourished population. The Relief Commission during the last four years has sent to the 10,000,000 people in the occupied area more than 600 cargoes of food, comprising 120,000,000 bushels of breadstuffs and more than 3,000,000,000 pounds of other foodstuffs, besides 20,000,000 garments, the whole representing an expenditure of nearly \$600,000,000.

Its Value Clearly Proved.

"The support of the commission has come from the Belgian, British, French and American Governments, together with public charity. In addition to this some \$350,000,000 worth of native produce has been financed internally in the relief operation.

"That the maintenance of this relief commission has been critically necessary is evidenced by the fact that in the same time and under the same conditions the population of Serbia is estimated to have diminished 50 per cent, and that of Poland 25 per cent., whereas the population of Belgium is still intact.

"All the departments of the Government are cooperating to support the enlarged programme. The War Industries Board, the War Trade Board, the

Treasury, the Shipping Board and Food Administration are all putting their backs to the prompt advancement of the necessary measures for the immediate care of the population in every direction.

"The second portion of Mr. Hoover's mission is to organize and determine the need of foodstuffs of the liberated peoples in southern Europe—the Czechs, Slovaks, the Jugo-Slavs, the Serbians, Rumanians and others. An adequate

food supply will assist the Government to set up to maintain order and cohesion in government and to prevent a debacle such as has taken place in Russia.

"Arrangements are being made by the Food Administration, the Shipping Board and the War Department for the earliest possible despatch of foodstuffs to these liberated peoples and Mr. Hoover will make the necessary arrangements abroad for distribution."

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