

'RUSH TROOPS TO EUROPE,' SAYS COL. HOUSE

HOW NEAR IS PEACE? FAR OFF, ANSWER U.S. OFFICIALS

United States Unwilling to Treat With Powers Now Controlling Destinies of the German People.

By DAVID LAWRENCE.

Is peace on the horizon? Unquestionably many people in America are beginning to think the end of the war is near at hand. If there is no foundation for this sentiment, and a relaxation in war preparation results, Germany's peace offensive will have been successful. On the other hand, if the United States can, without slackening its war activities, shorten the war, that policy which will achieve America's war aims with the minimum sacrifice must be adopted.

To determine what the real opinion is of President Wilson and the men associated with him in managing for the United States the war as well as collateral diplomatic policies, I interviewed today several high officials. They are men who help shape the policy of the Government. If any know the plans and purposes of the United States it is they.

Doesn't See Early Peace. "Do you think that the negotiations between Russia and Germany and the general conditions in Europe warrant the belief that peace is near at hand?" was my first question.

"I certainly do not," said a man particularly in the confidence of the President. "Are there not certain things in the German proposals to Russia that meet our war aims?"

"To be sure, but then, again, there are other points which most emphatically do not."

"What do you consider the real obstacle to peace?"

"The trouble is that none of us here feel that we can trust the present German government. They might make the most tempting offer, but what good would it do if it were not?"

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TODAY

about the present feeble dynamite air visits. Thus far the allies have never sent more than thirty or forty flying machines into Germany at a time.

Before long, the Germans probably know it, the United States will visit German soil with flocks of flying machines, numbering from 1,000 to 5,000—and more.

Certain regions of the earth have been made uninhabitable by mosquitoes. Certain regions in Prussia are apt to be made THOUGHTFUL by dynamite shells as thick as mosquitoes.

Every time that the cynical old poker player raised a bet he said: "The only way to discourage vice is to make it expensive."

The way to discourage Prussian brutality is to make it evident that it doesn't pay, and that Hohenzollerns are not the only family that can play at the game of horribleness and murder.

Don't feel downhearted or pessimistic about this war.

In a civilized country, wolves, wild cats, and rattlesnakes are the first to disappear.

The combination of wild cat, rattlesnake, and wolf in the Hohenzollern family will disappear early.

YESTERDAY

The Washington Times GAINED

4,464 Lines of Advertising (16 Cols.)

Over the Corresponding Day (Jan. 2) Last Year.

EDGAR D. SHAW, Publisher.

Mysterious 'Explosion' Believed Meteor Falling On Lookout Mountain

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Jan. 2.—A terrific explosion was heard and felt all over this section of Tennessee and Georgia today, but efforts to locate its source have so far failed.

The belief is growing that the concussion was due to a giant meteor striking Lookout mountain in a remote section, and exploding.

MARTIAL LAW IN EFFECT IN NORFOLK

NORFOLK, Jan. 2.—With the city virtually under martial law, Government and city officials today are making a rigid investigation into the cause of the fires and explosions which yesterday did \$2,000,000 damage to the Monticello Hotel and surrounding business buildings.

Twenty suspects are in custody of Department of Justice agents here this afternoon.

An arrest that the investigators look upon as highly important was that of W. C. Brevoort, an unnaturalized German who was taken in his room at the Lorraine Hotel. His car was said to have been in the city at the time of the explosion.

Two of the suspects already arrested are women, but their names and all information concerning them are carefully withheld.

Sweeps Two Blocks. The fire, which swept nearly two blocks in the heart of the business section, is under control but not completely extinguished.

Shivering naval patrols guard the fire-swept section today with bayonets fixed. Sailors, marines, and home guards were on duty all night as the result of an encounter between an unidentified white man and a group of marines near the Old Dominion marine railway.

The stranger was challenged when a marine detected him lurking near a British steamer in dry dock undergoing repairs. The man opened fire on the guard with a revolver. The marine returned the fire. Several others rushed up and discharged their pistols at the man, who disappeared in the darkness after emptying his weapon at his pursuers.

Wind Fans Flaming. Winter winds sweeping in from the Atlantic stirred the flames through the night in the ruins of the hotel, Granby Theater, and other structures.

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GERMANY OPENS NEW U-BOAT DRIVE AS 'PEACE EFFORT'

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Germany is making her greatest effort of the submarine war now, in the hope of furthering her peace projects.

The United Press is permitted to make this statement today, in advance of the usual weekly official announcement as to British ships sunk during the past week.

It is possible, according to the United Press information, that Germany has organized her submarine warfare on an offensive scale hitherto unknown.

The results of her concentrated drive are not yet available, but they may show indications of a temporary success.

British authorities, however, are certain nothing more can be achieved than this temporary success.

MADDOO ACTS TO RELIEVE COAL FAMINE IN DISTRICT

Director General of Railroads McAdoo today took a hand in the coal situation in Washington.

Hale Holden, advisor to the Director General, who is directing the work formerly done by the Railroads War Board, has been designated by Mr. McAdoo to investigate the situation in Washington and rush relief.

Coal all along the line in Maryland and Pennsylvania consigned to the Capital is to be started moving, and an end to the shortage that has gripped the city for months is again promised.

Trainloads will be brought in as fast as car congestion can be broken up.

Will Make Survey. In addition Mr. Holden will make a survey of freight congestion in Washington terminals. He discussed the general freight situation here with Mr. McAdoo at the conference yesterday.

It is not yet prepared to make a statement on the coal situation, but it is believed that labor shortages has been made. This survey begins today.

"This local situation is all Greek to me. I will give it immediate study. It is necessary to relieve the situation in Washington, I am told is due to lack of facilities to haul freight from the railroad yards by auto and team."

Locating Consignments. Mr. Holden began today to locate all consignments to Washington of both anthracite and bituminous coal. If it is necessary he will probably secure amendment of the blanket order to move all coal caught in freight congestion in eastern Pennsylvania to New England points to relieve the shortage there. Much coal for Washington, particularly anthracite from Pennsylvania mines, was tied up in this jam, which is being cleared away. It was cut at junction points near the Philadelphia gateway, and did not get cleared, particularly at Garden City on the Pennsylvania and Wayne Junction on the Baltimore and Ohio, points where these two lines take cars from the Philadelphia and Reading.

Travelers coming to Washington from the West today state that there are hundreds of loaded cars all through Maryland coming this way.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS FORCED BY COLD TO CLOSE FOR DAY

All the public schools were closed at 1 o'clock today because of inability to get the buildings sufficiently warm. Several schools were closed all day, due to defects in the heating systems, from pipes, or delay in repair work started during the holiday recess.

The general order to close the schools was issued by Superintendent of Schools Thurston at 11 o'clock this morning. All the schools were notified by Assistant Superintendent Kramer.

At Business High School the pupils were dismissed at 9:30 o'clock because of failure of the heating plant. According to Principal Allan Davis, one of the engines which operates the circulatory system became disabled, and it became impossible to heat the building. It is expected the damage will be repaired in time for the evening school classes tonight.

The Mott School was closed because of failure to finish repairs to the heating plant, being made during the holiday season.

Not enough heat could be generated at the Military Road School, and the classes were dismissed early in the day. At the Slater School the water pipes were frozen, and classes were dismissed. The Montgomery School was cold as an iceberg all morning, and no classes were held. In the afternoon the school was reopened. The Cleveland School also was closed for lack of heat.

The Crumwell School in Ivy City was closed because of a lack of heat. Teachers who counted on shopping tours on their unexpected holiday were disappointed when announcement was made that no salaries would be paid today. No reason was given for the failure to distribute the checks at the disbursing office at the District building.

SPRING-RICE GOING HOME; EXPECTED TO BE RELIEVED

British Ambassador Sir Cecil Spring-Rice is returning to England "on leave," he announced today.

In announcing what apparently is his retirement from the Washington post, the ambassador said merely:

"The British ambassador is going home on leave, but he can make no further statement at the present time on the matter."

Further official announcement, however, covering the reason for his departure will be issued in London.

To Leave Soon. Sir Cecil notified Secretary of State Lansing today of his intentions, and it is assumed that his departure will be at an early moment.

The ambassador has been under fire some time from Lord Northcliffe, who opposed his system of handling war matters here. Even before the United States joined the struggle there were reports of dissatisfaction with the present incumbent because of the fact that Teuton diplomats were out-manoeuvring the British in respect to propaganda activity in this country.

It is known here that Sir Cecil has long been in ill health and has desired retirement, his only reason for staying being his country's need.

His relations with American officials have been uniformly pleasant, and it is felt in high quarters that, despite the criticism to which he has been subjected, he has handled many difficult situations in a highly satisfactory manner.

BRITISH JOIN OFFENSIVE ON ITALIAN FRONT

ROME, Jan. 2.—British troops joined in the allied offensive against the Tenthic line in Italy today. English patrols attacking advanced posts, inflicting losses and taking prisoners, the war office announced today.

About ten vessels loaded with troops attempted to approach the right bank of the Piave at Indestadura, the statement added, but were dispersed in the defenders' fire.

From Fontigo south to Conegliano Italian and English batteries caused an explosion of two enemy munition plants, the statement adds.

BANKS HAMPER SHIP BOARD, ROWLES CHARGES

Banks have hampered the carrying out of the Shipping Board's construction program by refusing to lend money to shippers with Government contracts, Admiral Rowles of the Emergency Fleet Corporation testified this in the Senate shipping investigation.

3 OVERCOME BY HEAT ON NEW YEAR DAY

PASADENA, Cal., Jan. 2.—While the East shivered in zero weather New Year Day, three persons were overcome by the heat during the football game between the Marines and Camp Lewis here.

One of the three suffered a sunstroke.

U. S. OWNERSHIP OF ROADS IS SURE, SAYS AITCHISON

"Government ownership of the railroads is inevitable," Interstate Commerce Commissioner Aitchison declared at the Senate inquiry today.

"It is coming—possibly very shortly."

He would not say whether he favored Government ownership or whether he believed Federal operation would be more efficient than operation by private interests.

Senator Watson believed efficiency might have been gained if the control of the railroads had been given by the President to the Interstate Commerce Commission "rather than to one man."

"There was much to recommend such a course," Aitchison said. "It might have been worth trying."

Trusts Safe Until After the War

Suspension until October of Government suits for dissolution of the International Harvester Company, the United States Steel Corporation, the United States Shoe Machinery Corporation, the Eastman Kodak Company, the Quaker Oats Company, the American Can Company, and the Corn Products Refining Company was asked of the Supreme Court by Attorney General Gregory today.

Further suspension until the close of the war will be requested then.

The tremendous expense involved in dissolving these seven great corporations, should the Supreme Court hand down a favorable Government decision, together with the disruption of business involved, prompted the Government move.

RUSSIANS RETURN TO WAR; END PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, LAUGHING AT FOE'S TERMS

BERNE, Jan. 2.—Within ten days the central powers will make a new declaration of modified peace conditions, "owing to the extent of the attitude," according to a quotation from the Munich Nachrichten received here today.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The Russian Bolsheviks are making preparations for defense against Germany and have broken off the peace negotiations because of the Germans' refusal to withdraw their troops from Poland and other occupied sections of Russia, according to a sensational dispatch printed in the Daily News today from its Petrograd correspondent, Arthur Ransome. The Russians are sending troops to the front again.

"I have reliable information regarding the breaking off of peace negotiations, which establishes the honesty of the Bolshevik purpose," Ransome's dispatch asserted. The central powers made a more detailed statement of their terms than that which has been published, including therein a demand that German garrisons be retained at Riga, Libau, and other strategic points.

RUSSIANS UNCOMPROMISING

"The Russians were uncompromisingly against this and also declared that self-definition of the peoples of Poland and other occupied parts of Russia was impossible until the last German soldier had left."

"The Germans asked for time in which to consider this refusal by the Russians and also begged that this stage of the negotiations be not published."

"The Russians refused this plea and left Brest-Litovsk."

"Red Guards are now being sent to re-enforce the front and other arrangements are being made for defense."

MANY GENERALS AFFECTED BY BIG ARMY SHAKE-UP

Maj. Gen. William A. Mann, first commander of the Rainbow division of the national guard, now in France, was assigned today to command the department of the east with headquarters at Governor's Island, N. Y., succeeding Gen. Eli D. Hoyle, who is returning to the inactive list.

Gen. Charles T. Menoher has been named as commander of the department of the southeast, succeeding Gen. W. P. DuWall. His headquarters will be Charleston, S. C.

Gen. Charles T. Menoher, who has been named to succeed General Mann as commander of the Rainbow division, was formerly colonel of the Fifth Field Artillery, and was stationed at Fort Bliss during the encampment of the national guard on the Mexican border. His promotion to Major General followed his arrival in France with the artillery.

Returned Yesterday. Mann and Sibert returned on the States yesterday. Mann, here today, received his orders for the Governor's Island post from the chief of staff.

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GERMANY'S REFUSAL TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM CITIES CAUSE OF BREAK

PETROGRAD, Jan. 2.—The Great-Litovsk peace conference broke up with Russian delegates taunting the German conferees on the demands of Junkerdom, according to returning Bolshevik members today.

The Germans, it was said, expressed their willingness to evacuate all of (Continued on Page 3, Column 1.)

1,000 KILLED, 600 WOUNDED IN NEW RAID BY ALLENBY

One thousand Turks killed, 600 prisoners taken, and twenty machine guns captured in the latest Egyptian general in Palestine was reported by General Allenby today.

Four points of "great tactical importance" north of Jerusalem have been captured in the latest British drive and the defense of the Holy City materially strengthened, Allenby's report continued.

At least four Teuton divisions are operating with the Turks in the Holy Land, the official report stated.

OFFICER IMPRISONED FOR STEALING COAT

Dismissal from the service and imprisonment for one year was the penalty imposed on Second Lieut. Charles W. Ferguson, Q. M. C., N. A., Camp Gordon Ga., for stealing a \$50 overcoat from a fellow-officer.

U.S. MISSION URGES MORE SPEED HERE TO WIN WAR

Systematic Co-ordination in Shipbuilding Also Set Forth as Primary Requisite in Colonel's Report.

American fighting forces must be dispatched to Europe "with the least possible delay incident to training and equipment," Colonel House's mission to Europe has recommended to Secretary of State Lansing.

Speed and systematic co-ordination in shipbuilding are likewise primary requisites; while unity of effort—military, naval, and economic—between the United States and the allies is essential, according to the other two prime recommendations. The full text of these recommendations follows:

Recommendations. "1. That the United States exert all their influence to secure entire unity of effort, military, naval, and economic, between themselves and the countries associated with them in the war."

"2. Inasmuch as the successful termination of the war by the United States and the allies can be greatly hastened by the extension of the United States shipping program, that the Government and the people of the United States bend every effort toward accomplishing this result by a systematic co-ordination of resources of men and material."

"3. That the fighting forces of the United States be dispatched to Europe with the least possible delay incident to training and equipment."

To Work in Unity. These accommodations means that all the allies will hereafter work together in unity, that the period of training and equipment of American forces will doubtless be shortened if this can be accomplished with the shipping and other resources at hand.

The recommendations for co-ordination in the shipping program emphasize more strongly than ever the urgent appeal of the allies for more ships, more speed in building them and less bickering and attention to details.

Summary of Colonel House's report to Lansing shows that the special war mission, "succeeded in its purpose of reaching a definite working plan for the prosecution of the war."

In making public the summary, the State Department expressed its gratification at the conference result because of the mutually helpful spirit manifested and because the plan outlined "will greatly increase the effectiveness of the efforts now being put forth by the United States and the allies in the conflict against Germany and Austria-Hungary."

Reviewed Report. The review of the report, filed with the Department of State by Colonel House, the head of the Special War Mission, which visited Great Britain and France in November, shows that it succeeded in its purpose of reaching a definite working plan for the prosecution of the war through co-operation of the governments, represented at the conferences held in Paris, in the various fields of activity and through marshalling the resources of the nations at war with the central powers and co-ordinating their uses under a common authority, thus avoiding the waste and uncertainties that arise from independent action.

The results of the conferences, as shown in the report, are most gratifying to this Government, first because they indicate that the conferees were inspired by the desire to be mutually helpful, and second, because the agreements, which were reached, when in full operation, will greatly increase the effectiveness of the efforts now being put forth by the United States and the allies in the conflict against Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Here are the results accomplished by the mission, as set forth in the official statement.

DIPLOMATIC. "1.—Full and frank discussion between Colonel House as special representative of the Government of the United States and the heads of the British, French, and Italian governments with regard to the war policy of the United States and her associates in the war."

"2.—Participation by the members of the mission in a meeting of the British war cabinet, at which conference a general and useful discussion was had concerning the needs of the allies and the extent of the assistance to be expected from the United States."

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