

## GERMANY'S REPLY TO PEACE INQUIRY IS NON-COMMITTAL

### Suggests That United States Get Proposals From the Allies.

### NOTHING TANGIBLE IN MESSAGE FROM GERARD

### Does Not Indicate Whether Im- perial Chancellor Speaks for Kaiser.

### PRESIDENT TAKES NO ACTION

### Diplomatists Believe Something Defi- nite May Result From In- formal Parleys.

WASHINGTON, September 17.—Germany has suggested informally that the United States should undertake to elicit from Great Britain, France and Russia a statement of terms under which the allies would make peace. The suggestion was made by the Imperial Chancellor, Von Bethmann-Hollweg, at Ambassador Gerard, at Berlin, as a result of an inquiry sent by the American ambassador to learn whether Emperor William desired to consider peace as Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, and Oscar Strauss recently had reported. Emperor William himself made no reply nor did the Imperial Chancellor indicate whether he spoke on behalf of his monarch. Ambassador Gerard called President Wilson's Chancellor's remarks from recollection, which substantially were as follows:

"Germany appreciated the American government's interests and offer of services in trying to make peace. Germany had been forced on her. Even if she defeats France, she must vanquish Great Britain and Russia also, all three being united to make peace except by common consent. England has announced that she intends to fight to the limit of her endurance. In view of that determination, the United States ought to get peace proposals from the allies. Germany could accept only a lasting peace, one that would make her people secure against future attacks. To accept mediation would be interpreted by the allies as a sign of weakness, and also would be misunderstood by the German people, who, having made great sacrifices, had the right to demand guarantees of security."

### MAY YET FIND WAY OPEN TO MEDIATION

Ambassador Gerard added to this only the brief comment that he himself thought the way might possibly be opened to mediation.

President Wilson, however, did not regard the message as bringing anything tangible. He referred to the Chancellor's conversation as non-committal. The President took no action as a result of the message, waiting to hear from Ambassador Gerard anything of a more formal character could be obtained.

### DENIAL BY GREGORY

Germany's position is that she will give her opinion on peace proposals from the allies of their terms. The statement that Germany had been forced on her, as well as the declaration that she would not be interested in anything but a lasting peace, are identical with remarks Sir Edward Grey made to Ambassador Page in London last week.

The general belief to-night was that the President after waiting a few days for more information from Berlin probably would instruct the American ambassadors at London, Paris and Petrograd to communicate to the Imperial German Chancellor his own views on the subject of the American government to be of service in bringing about peace.

### FRIENDSHIP TOWARD U. S.

NOTEBOOK. September 17.—A notable demonstration of friendship toward the United States was made to-night at a dinner given by the Japanese Association, which was attended by Takaaki Kato, Japanese minister, and George W. Guthrie, the United States ambassador.

### SEVERAL CONDITIONS ADVANCED BY GERMANS

Various reports were current to-day that Germany had named several conditions under which she would make peace. That she had refused proposals for the territorial status of her empire and possessions and would cede no territory or dismember her fleet, but it was said authoritatively that nothing of this character was contained in any of the messages from Berlin to the American government.

### FLETCHER IN COMMAND

Takes Over North Atlantic Fleet From Rear-Admiral Badger.

WASHINGTON, September 17.—Rear-Admiral Charles J. Badger, to-day turned over the command of the North Atlantic Fleet to Rear-Admiral Frank E. Fletcher, who was commander of the fleet at Vera Cruz, at the time of the American occupation last spring.

## SEA DUTY FOR LINE OFFICERS

### Secretary Daniels Announces Important Changes in Naval Commands

WASHINGTON, September 17.—Important changes in naval commands were announced to-day by Secretary Daniels, continuing his policy of giving line officers adequate sea duty.

Rear-Admiral James M. Helm, commander of the Charleston, S. C. Navy Yard, succeeds Rear-Admiral William B. Caperton in command of the Atlantic Reserve Fleet at Philadelphia. Admiral Caperton having been detailed to command the newly organized cruiser squadron of the Atlantic Fleet. Rear-Admiral John R. Edwards, lately president of the board of inspections for shore stations, which has been abolished, will assume command of the Charleston Navy Yard, goes to the New York yard, in succession of Captain Albert Cleverly, detailed to command the battleship Utah. For the present, Commander Louis R. Destelkuer, captain of the Norfolk yard, will continue acting commandant, on account of the illness of Rear-Admiral Usher.

### CHASED BY GERMAN CRUISER

British Steamer Reaches Boston After Narrow Escape From Capture.

BOSTON, September 17.—Reporting a narrow escape from capture by the German auxiliary cruiser Luxembourg, when 300 miles south of St. Lucia, British West Indies, the British steamship Anselma de Larrinaga arrived here today from Buenos Aires.

Captain Davis said the Luxembourg, formerly a Hamburg-American liner of the same name, chased his vessel for 150 miles, until the appearance of a French cruiser and a British warship forced her to abandon the pursuit.

### MEET AT SAN FRANCISCO

National Association of Life Underwriters End Annual Convention.

CINCINNATI, September 17.—Hugh M. Willett, of Atlanta, Ga., was chosen president, and San Francisco chosen for the next convention of the National Association of Life Underwriters at their twenty-fifth annual convention here to-day.

E. E. Rittenhouse, of New York, after reading a letter to the association from former President Taft in which the latter dwelt on the importance of life insurance and private ownership agencies controlling large amounts of capital, said he regarded the present war as a destroyer of life rather than of wealth.

### ATTORNEY GENERAL GAVE NO ASSURANCES

WASHINGTON, September 17.—Department of Justice officials to-day denied a report that Attorney General Gregory had authorized the department to consider a general marketing organization of naval stores factors and operators to be in violation of the Sherman law. It was said operators who sought the department's aid merely were informed that the Attorney General never gives opinions except to the President and other Cabinet officers.

### FALSE REPORTS OF VICTORY

German Embassy Statement Denies French-Successful Strategy.

WASHINGTON, September 17.—The German embassy to-day received the following wireless from Berlin:

"All the French-English reports of victories of battles in France are untrue. The German retreat of the western wing was a practical maneuver not affecting the strategic position. The French attempt to break through the center of the German position was victoriously repulsed."

### WARNING TO AEROPLANISTS

Must Be Careful Not to Cross Border Into Canada.

WASHINGTON, September 17.—Aero-Planists in the northern part of the United States were warned to-day to be careful not to cross the border into Canada during the war. This explanation was issued by the State Department.

### SPEAKER COX SAYS

HIS POSITION IS WELL KNOWN.

The following letter was received from Edwin H. Cox, speaker of the House of Delegates:

Richmond, September 16, 1914.

The Times-Dispatch,

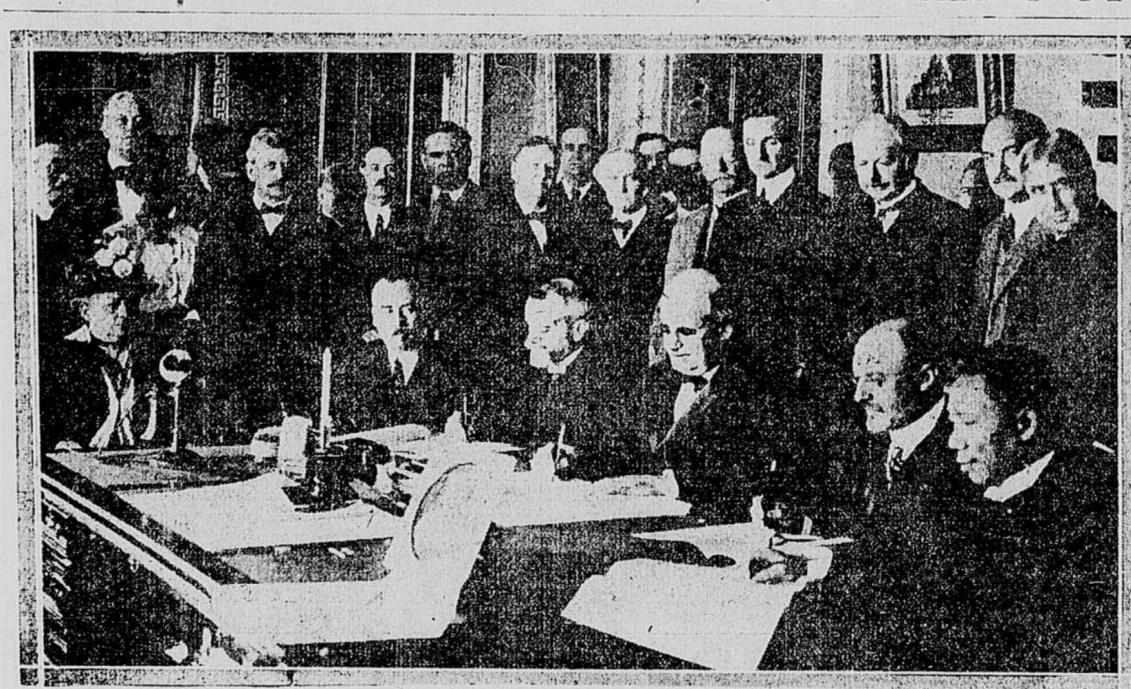
Richmond, Virginia.

Your letter of the 11th inst., asking my position on the question of State-wide prohibition, has been received.

The records of the House of Delegates are on file in your office.

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# ARMIES DRAWN UP FOR GREAT BATTLE WHICH MAY CONTINUE SEVERAL DAYS; BOTH SIDES RECEIVE REINFORCEMENTS



SIGNING THE PEACE TREATIES  
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## COX AND SLEMP INDICATE POSITION ON STATE-WIDE

### Speaker of House of Delegates Will Vote Against Prohibition.

### SLEMP WILL VOTE FOR IT

Further replies were received by The Times-Dispatch yesterday to the telegram of inquiry as to their stand on the question of State-wide prohibition sent to a number of public men last Friday by Congressman C. Bascom Slemp. It indicates that he will vote for State-wide prohibition, and Speaker Cox, of the House of Delegates, states that he will vote against it.

The Times-Dispatch invited brief expressions of their attitude from members of the Virginia delegation in Congress and from a number of State officers. Up to this time no replies have been received from Senators Martin and Swanson, from Representatives Jones, Holland, Watson, Saunders, Hax, Carlin and Flood.

### STATE-WIDE TICKET

The following letter was received yesterday from Representative Slemp, House of Representatives, U. S. Washington, D. C.

September 15, 1914.

The Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va.

I arrived here this morning and read your request for my attitude on State-wide prohibition, and inclose you herewith a copy of my correspondence with Mr. S. B. Vaughn, of Abingdon, Va., which, I think, covers the subject fully.

I regret that I did not receive your telegram in time, so that I could have answered it sooner.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) E. H. SLEMP.

The correspondence referred to follows:

Abingdon, Va., July 15, 1914.

Hon. C. Bascom Slemp,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,—I am addressing you this note to ascertain your attitude on State-wide prohibition, as it is now before the people of Virginia. I am fully aware of the fact that politics do not enter into this question, it being purely a moral one, but I have been asked separately your attitude and convictions on the subject. I will appreciate, therefore, an expression from you.

I am addressing a similar letter to your opponents, Hon. E. Tate Irvine and J. L. Rose.

Thanking you for the information, I am,

Yours respectfully,  
(Signed) S. B. VAUGHN,  
July 15, 1914.

My Dear Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 15th, in which you ask my attitude on the question of State-wide prohibition, to be voted for on September 22, 1914. In reply I beg to say that I have always been a dry man and expect to cast my vote for State-wide prohibition at this election.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) C. B. SLEMP.

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The Times-Dispatch,

Richmond, Virginia.

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(Continued on Fifth Page.)

## SEGREGATION ORDINANCE IS HELD VALID BY COURT

### Judge E. H. Wells Pronounces Richmond Law Regulation in Interest of Public Order.

### RULING OF FIRST IMPORTANCE

Matter Has Been Subject of Attack for More Than Year—Seven Test Cases Pending on Appeals From Police Justice.

Richmond's segregation ordinance is declared to be a valid and lawful regulation in the interest of public order, in an opinion announced yesterday by Judge Ernest H. Wells, of Hastings Court, Part II. The enforcement of the ordinance is held by Judge Wells to be a legitimate exercise of the police power vested in municipalities by the State Constitution.

### UPHOLDING ORDINANCE

In announcing his decision as to the validity of the ordinance, Judge Wells decides against Mary Hopkins, David Hoover, E. W. Henry, Della Austin, Amedeo Toul, Betty Christian, and Mary A. Hitchens—all appellants from the decision of the Police Court, where they have been fined for violating the segregation act. Judge Wells said yesterday that he will shortly enter a formal order upholding the ordinance.

The cases enumerated came to trial in the Hastings Court, but Judge Wells, of the Police Court, Part II, was called in to preside. Judge Richardson, as Mayor of the city when the ordinance was passed, approved it by giving it

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## KITCHENER THINKS WAR IS BOUND TO BE LONG ONE

### Believes England to Develop Armed Forces to Bring Conflict to Successful Conclusion.

### STRENGTH OF ARMY IN FRANCE

Steady Flow of Reinforcements Must Be Maintained—Sir John French and Other Generals Praised for Their Bravery and Endurance.

LONDON, September 17 (19 P. M.).—Speaking in the House of Lords to-day, Field Marshal Earl Kitchener revealed the strength of the British expeditionary force in France, and described what he believed must be done to assure a successful issue of the conflict. A steady flow of reinforcements was required, he said.

"There were already in France, the Secretary of War said, more than six divisions of British troops and two divisions of cavalry, which were being maintained at their full strength. Further regular divisions and additional cavalry were being organized from units drawn from overseas carriages, which were being occupied by territorials and volunteers. A division of territorials already had left for Egypt, a brigade had gone to Malta, and a garrison force to Gibraltar.

Referring to the new armies, the secretary said that new divisions were being collected at the training quarters. The third army was being formed on the new camping ground, and the fourth army was being created. Meanwhile, Indian divisions were on their way.

In his dispatches from the front, Sir John French, commander of the British expeditionary force, had omitted, the secretary continued, one aspect of the situation—the consummate skill and calm courage of the commandments.

### GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES

FULL VALUE OF SERVICE.

The government appreciated, however, the full value of Sir John's services.

Earl Kitchener also paid a tribute to the officers and men of the expeditionary force. The latest advice from General French, he said, did not materially change the situation as it already was known from published statements. The troops were reported to be in good heart and ready to move forward "when the moment arrived."

On the subject of recruiting, Earl Kitchener said:

"A country which prides itself on outdoor sport as does England should have no difficulty in finding men capable of making officers. The territorials are making great strides in efficiency, and before long will be able to take their part in the campaign."

While England has good ground for quiet confidence, it should be borne in mind that the struggle is bound to be a long one, and it behooves us to develop armed forces to carry on and bring the mighty conflict to a successful conclusion. It will be necessary in order to keep the army at its full strength to maintain a steady flow of reinforcements."

### NO DELAY BY I. C. C.

Will Announce on Saturday Whether It Will Reopen Rate Case.

WASHINGTON, September 17.—The Interstate Commerce Commission expects to announce Saturday noon whether it will reopen the advance freight rate case upon the petition of Eastern railroads. The determination to dispose of the question immediately was announced late to-day.

Protests of shippers against a further hearing already had been made.

The commission's announcement came somewhat as a surprise to some interests which had anticipated that no conclusion could be reached until after its first formal meetings in October.

## ARMIES IN CO-OPERATION TO DRIVE BACK GERMANS

### Accounts of Operations of British and French Forces Written by English Staff Officer.

### COVERS THREE-DAY PERIOD

Fighting Takes Place in Undulating Country, Chief Feature of Tactical Importance Being Six Rivers Across Direction of Advance.

LONDON, September 17 (19 P. M.).—An account of the operations of the British army in France, and of the French armies in immediate touch with it during the period from September 15 to 16, written by an officer attached to Field Marshal Sir John French's staff, was issued to-night by the official press bureau. The account in part follows:

"Since Thursday, September 10, the British army made steady progress in its endeavor to drive back the enemy in co-operation with the French. The country across which it had to force its way, and will have to continue to do so, is undulating and covered with patches of thick wood.

"Within the area which faced the British before the advance commenced, right up to Laon, the chief feature of tactical importance is the fact that there are six rivers running across the direction of the advance, at all of which it was possible the Germans might make resistance. These are, in order from the South the Marne, Ourcq, Vesle, Aisne, Ailette, and Oise.

"The enemy held the line of the Marne, which was crossed by our forces September 8, as a purely rear guard operation. Our passage of the Ourcq was not contested. The Aisne was held by the enemy, but resistance along the Aisne, both against the French and British, has been and still is of a technical character.

### LITTLE OPPOSITION

OFFERED ON FRIDAY.

"On Friday, September 11, but little opposition was met with along any part of our front, and the direction of the advance for the purpose of co-operating with our allies, was turned slightly to the northwest. The day was spent in rushing forward and gathering in various hostile detachments. By midnight our forces had reached a line north of the Ourcq extending from Ouchy-le-Chateau to Longpont.

"On the next day there was a general advance of the French along their whole line, which ended in a substantial success. In one portion of the line, Duke Albert, of Wurttemberg's army, was driven back across the Sardy, and elsewhere the whole of the corps artillery of a German corps was captured. Several German colors were taken.

"It was only on this day that the full extent of the victory gained by the allies on September 8 was appreciated by them, and the moral effect of this success has been enormous. An order, dated September 6 and 7, issued by the commander of the German Seventh Corps, was picked up. It stated that the great object of the war was about to be attained, since the French were going to accept battle, and that upon the result of this battle would depend the issue of the war and the honor of the German army.

"It seems probable the Germans not only expected to find that the British army was beyond the power of assumption for the offensive in some time, but counted on the French having been driven back onto the line of the Seine, and that, though surprised to find the latter moving forward against them, were not deterred from making a great effort.

"On Saturday, the 12th, the enemy were found to be occupying a very formidable position opposite us on the north of the line at Soissons. They held both sides of the river and an

(Continued on Second Page.)

## FRONT IS SHORTER THAN IN RECENT BATTLE OF MARNE

### Fight Now Raging More Vital to Countries Than Previous Conflicts.

### GERMANS APPARENTLY IN STRONGER POSITION

### Fortify Themselves on Mountains North of the River Aisne.

### REINFORCED BY FRESH TROOPS

### Counter-Attacks Against Allied Forces Repulsed at Many Points.

## No Direct Reports From Battle Line

While no direct reports have been received from the front, it is apparent from the official statements and from other sources, that the allied forces and the German armies are again drawn up for a great battle, in the opinion of military observers, may last several days.

The Germans occupy favorable positions and are well entrenched. The allies, as well as the Germans, are receiving reinforcements, and both British and French are using their utmost endeavors to improve the advantage they gained during the retirement of the Germans beyond the River Aisne and into the hills north of the same river.

The official statement, issued at Paris, merely announces that there has been no change in the situation. An official statement showed that the allied forces were making strong resistance on the French left wing, while on the center they continue to fortify themselves, and in other districts were well entrenched.

French officials admit the Germans are in strong force, and have behind them plenty of artillery. This is further emphasized by the fact that they have repulsed several counter-attacks in the past day or two.

On late operations the British War Office stated in an official account of British operations during the period from September 10 to 13 has been issued by the official press bureau, which offered several British troops had broken through, they made a steady advance, in co-operation with the French through a territory crossed by numerous rivers, and which offered many obstacles to a forward movement.

Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, the British Secretary of State for War, has again stressed the necessity of developing armed forces to carry on and bring the mighty conflict to a successful conclusion. "It will be necessary, he says, to keep the army at its full strength to maintain a steady flow of reinforcements."

German official statements from Berlin, by way of London, report that the German fleet has fulfilled all expectations; that none has been destroyed or captured, although some have been damaged; that submarines to the German navy have been ordered to be ready; that German Colonial troops have successfully attacked the Ugandan Railway, and that the Serbian forces, which crossed the River Save, have been repulsed everywhere.

A Tokyo report says the Japanese cruiser Emden has sunk five British steamers off the coast of India.

According to announcement from Washington, Germany has suggested informally that the United States should undertake to elicit from Great Britain, France and Russia a statement of the terms under which the allies would make peace. The suggestion was made by the Imperial German ambassador, at Berlin, as a result of an inquiry sent by the American ambassador to learn whether Emperor William desired to consider peace as Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, and Oscar Strauss recently had reported.

### LONDON, September 17.—Another great battle, even more vital for the countries concerned than those that have preceded it, is in progress on a line extending from the region of Noyon, on the River Oise, northwest of Paris, to the River Meuse, north of Verdun.

The front is shorter than in the battle of the Marne, but this will result only in a more fiercely contested battle, with masses of troops throwing themselves at each other, and every available piece of artillery concentrated in the determined effort of the armies to break through each other's lines.

The Germans, who a fortnight ago had to abandon their first swift endeavor to destroy the armies of France and Great Britain and capture Paris, have fortified themselves on the mountains north of the River Aisne, through the plains of Champagne and in the Argonne mountains, through which the allies are in stronger position than they were for the battle of the Marne, and have been strongly reinforced with fresh troops from the north and east. They already have attempted counter-attacks against the allied troops, which, dashed with victory, have been trying to prevent them from entreaching themselves.

### COMPELLED TO GIVE WAY

According to English and French official reports these attacks have been

### FALL FASHION SHOW

### RICHMOND SHOPS

SEPT. 23-24-25