

# Ghent Within Grasp of Allies German Collapse Seen in Peace Reply

## GERMAN NOTE GIVES WORLD IDEA OF DEPRESSION WHICH DEMORALIZES CENTRAL POWERS

President Wilson Now Has Official Text Before Him, But Has No Comment Until He Goes Over it Carefully With His Advisers—Huns Offering Up Prayers of Mercy in Churches.

Washington, Oct. 22.—The official text of Germany's latest note to President Wilson was received by cable today at the Swiss legation. Frederick Oderlin, the Swiss charge, arranged to refer it to Secretary Lansing as soon as it could be decoded, a task which proved long and tedious. Considerable changes in verbiage may be shown, and it is understood the official text may clear up certain obscure passages in the wireless text received yesterday.

Secretary Lansing was with the president until near midnight last night discussing the wireless version, but there now must be further conferences, and it is presumed there will be exchanges with the allied capitals.

### No Comment Ready.

Official comment continued to be withheld. Everyone expected the president to decide the issue quickly.

Informal opinion as to the probable attitude of the president did not agree on the great point that immediate peace is not at hand and that however sincere the German overtures are no armistice will be agreed to except on conditions of surrender that will destroy forever the power of the kaiser's war machine for harm. Some observers thought no answer would be made and the German armies left to complete their forced exaction of occupied territories with the allies on their heels.

The next step would be a suggestion that the German military commanders if ready to accept unconditional terms should approach General Foch on the proposal of armistice. Many are of the belief that Germany is entirely beaten.

It was learned today that a private dispatch from Germany has been published in a Copenhagen newspaper saying that representatives on leave are receiving orders not to return to the front. Military men here, however, regard it as inconceivable that such orders would be given while desperate efforts are being made to hold the American and allied troops at bay on the western fronts.

### A QUIBBLING NOTE.

Paris, Oct. 22.—The German reply to President Wilson was received here too late for the afternoon papers but was eagerly discussed in official circles and in parliament. Among deputies of all shades of opinion the impression was first of all that the reply betrayed more than previous communications the state of depression and the demoralization of the German people as the result of the allied victories.

As a whole, the note is found equivocal, and tortuous and plausibly phrased, so as to leave the door open for all sorts of quibbling. Nowhere is there evidence in the reply of a genuine desire to accept the only way in which peace can be concluded, according to expression of opinion here. On the contrary all that is apparent is the urgent desire of the German general staff to get an armistice at any price in order to reorganize its reserves of men and material. Therefore it is generally believed the reply is not likely to be considered at Washington.

### A RESORT TO VERBIAGE.

London, Oct. 22.—The German reply is regarded here "as not business, but mere argument and protestation." In government, diplomatic and military circles the view is, it is not a reply, but simply a resort to verbiage to cover the absence of a reply. One high government official characterized it as badly camouflaged insincerity.

### DARK HOURS FOR GERMANY.

Basel, Switzerland, Oct. 22.—Cardinal Hartmann, archbishop of Cologne, has issued a pastoral letter, in which he says dark hours have come for Germany, threatened by an enemy superior in numbers and threatened to the foundation of the state by internal changes.

Discontent is spreading everywhere among the German people, the cardinal writes, and he invites all Catholics to rally around the empire. In every protestant church in Germany prayers have been ordered for the protection of Germany from the invading hosts.

### POINT OUT 'CHIEF CULPRIT.'

Amsterdam, (British Wireless Service) Oct. 22.—German socialist and provincial newspapers continue their campaign against the "chief culprit" responsible for the war. The Frankfurter Zeitung of Zurich, the first paper in Germany to demand openly the abdication of the emperor, declares the accession of the crown prince is entirely out of the question.

"The German people are seeking for the guilty one," says the Volksfreund, the official organ of the socialists of Neuremberg, which, referring to the junkers and pan-Germans, says: "They are a menace to the future healthy development of the German empire. The pan-German policy has gone bankrupt, but unfortunately it has led the German people to disaster. To the gallows with the guilty."

"Punish the chief culprit without mercy. When the German soldiers return home from the trenches after four years of unparalleled suffering there will be a reckoning for the people who have led them to this disaster, and the people will take their destiny into their own hands," says the Socialist Arbeiter Zeitung of Vienna.

### DEMOLISH PLANT.

Paris, Oct. 22.—Violent demonstrations have occurred in Jassy, temporary capital of Roumania, according to advices received here. A mob broke into the offices of the Issolar Gazette, the government organ, and the printing plant was demolished.

## 80% TAX ON WAR PROFITS RETAINED

Washington, Oct. 22.—In revising the war excise profits tax, feature of the house war revenue bill, the senate finance committee today struck out the alternative system of taxing war and excess profits and adopted a compromise plan designed to raise somewhat less than the \$3,200,000,000 estimate from the house provision.

Under the new provision, based on an arbitrary mathematical formula, the general rate of 80 per cent on war profits is maintained.

## TWO BAD EGGS FROM NEW YORK IN OUR STATE

Gov. Frazier today honored a requisition from the governor of New York for Arthur Colby, second degree forger, and William A. Delaney, third degree murderer, escaped convicts from Ansonia, now at Carrington.

## COLD WAVE IS ON ITS WAY

Washington, Oct. 22.—An early taste of winter is about to be given the country from coast to coast. A special bulletin says there will be a decided change to cooler within thirty-six hours.

## BOOZE WOULD HELP TO BEAT SPANISH FLU

Judge Robinson Thinks Bone Dry Bill Helps Spread Epidemic.

## WOULD GET GERMS DRUNK Believes if Properly Pickled in Alcohol They Couldn't Navigate.

"I think it my duty to give the bone-dry statute a complete and absolute knock-out so that it will never rise again," says Justice J. E. Robinson in a letter which he today gave the press under the caption, "Special on Bone Dry Law and the 'Flu.'" Judge Robinson argues that the lack of alcohol in the form of good wine or brandy is interfering with the successful treatment of the flu in North Dakota; he declares that this state never has had any more bone dry law than a rabbit, and he insists that the use of liquor for medicinal purposes is lawful and that it is justified in the present emergency. The facts as related by Judge Robinson in his "special" have been a matter of common knowledge in North Dakota since the adjournment of the last regular session, at which the so-called "bone-dry" act was passed. So Cead is King Alcohol in North Dakota, however, that even his best friends and relatives hesitated to make an effort to resurrect him. In spite of a similar opinion volunteered by Judge Robinson, more than a year ago, not a single action has been brought to test the validity of North Dakota's bone dry law, and high fines have been paid under its provisions, without questioning the right of the state or federal government to assess such penalties.

Judge Robinson's Letter. Judge Robinson's letter follows: "In the Grand Forks Normanden of October 18, 1918, Dr. Engstad writes that the overwhelming majority of physicians who think are of the conviction that alcohol in the form of good wine or brandy is a remedy which can save more lives if it is used in time and with reason than any other medicine. But the case is this, that the misuse of this drug has caused the death of thousands, and now many die by reason of the want of this remedy.

"Now, as the doctor says, and it is doubtless true, that many deaths have resulted and people are suffering and die all over the state because of a supposed bone-dry law denying them the right to obtain the best possible medicine. Hence, I think it my duty to give the bone-dry statute a complete and absolute knock-out so that it will never rise again.

House Bill 39. "This statute was known as House Bill 39. The bill was passed by the house and sent to the senate. On Thursday, March 1, at 4 p. m., Senator Putnam offered ten amendments to the bill. The amendments were (Continued on Page Six)

## TWO OFFICERS, 99 MEN LOST ON TICONDEROGA

Washington, Oct. 22.—Two officers and 99 enlisted men lost their lives in the sinking of the American steamer Ticonderoga September 30.

More than half of the soldiers lost were from Ohio. The list also gives the names of fourteen privates saved. The Ticonderoga, formerly the German steamer Camilla Rickmers, was torpedoed 1,700 miles from shore and the only known survivors were three officers and five men of the crew in addition to the 14 soldiers saved. The submarine is reported to have shelled the life boats, killing many who succeeded in leaving the ship in safety.

## SPANISH FLU HALTS DRAFT

Washington, Oct. 22.—Draft calls suspended three weeks ago because of the influenza epidemic now are going on in zones where the surgeon general's office has decided it is safe to send men to cantonments. The identity of these districts and cantonments will not be disclosed for the present.

Washington, Oct. 22.—The October program is understood to provide for induction of about 350,000 men and the number not called will be added to succeeding monthly quotas. The largest single call suspended was for 140,000 men, who were to have entered October 14.

## RAIN IN JIMTOWN.

Jamestown, N. D., Oct. 22.—A good rain fell here during the night, and it is expected to have a favorable effect on the influenza epidemic.

FARGO GETS DOWNFALL. Fargo, N. D., Oct. 22.—Rain fell in Fargo throughout the night.

## SHALL HUNDREDS OF BISMARCK BABIES SUFFER BECAUSE OF A SQUABBLE OVER ONE CENT CUT?

Capital City People Incensed Over Arbitrary Action of Local Dairy, Demand Municipal Plant and Control of Distribution.

Hundreds of Bismarck babies, some of them suffering from chicken pox, scarlet fever and influenza, will be left without milk if J. Spies, proprietor of the Bismarck Dairy Co., carries out a threat made openly at the regular meeting of the Bismarck city commission Monday evening. Mr. Spies informed the city commission that he intended to close his plant at once because, he stated, the new fair price schedule for milk fixed by the Burleigh county committee of the federal food administration would compel him to sell at a loss. The prices fixed by the fair price committee are one cent less on counter sales, and for deliveries the same that prevailed prior to October 1, upon which date Mr. Spies notified his customers of an advance of one cent per quart on milk and one cent per pint on cream.

### SPIES BOOSTS PRICES.

Mr. Spies placed his advanced prices in effect October 1. October 15, County Food Administrator O. W. Roberts and associates of the Burleigh county fair price committee announced the first fair price list for Burleigh. This schedule restored milk and cream to the former levels. Mr. Spies countered with a public announcement that in view of the fact that only one cent per quart was allowed by the fair price committee for the delivery of milk and cream there would be no deliveries. Patrons were advised that if they desired milk and cream they must call at the plant and carry it away. This arrangement has caused much dissatisfaction, especially during the present flu epidemic, because many households have no one whom they can send to the dairy for the day's supply of milk and cream. The climax was not reached, however, until Monday evening, when Mr. Spies flatly declared his intention of closing altogether.

### HAS PRACTICAL MONOPOLY.

The Bismarck Dairy Co. is successor to the Ward dairy which for years supplied probably 80 per cent of Bismarck's milk patrons. With the organization of the Bismarck Dairy Co., all other concerns which had handled regular routes retired from the field, leaving the Bismarck concern with only one or two neighborhood competitors. As a result the Bismarck dairy has a practical monopoly of the milk business in Bismarck, and if Mr. Spies arbitrarily shuts up shop, as he last night announced his intention of doing, several hundred homes will be left without milk and cream.

### COMES AT CRITICAL TIME.

This announcement could not have come at a more critical time in Bismarck. Milk enters very generally into approved diets for invalids, and Bismarck at the present time has at least 500 cases of Spanish influenza, several severe cases of scarlet fever, numerous sufferers from chicken pox and one or two cases of smallpox. There are also several hundred babies and little children whose daily diet is based on milk. It is especially important at this time that milk be pasteurized. Milk is a ready germ carrier and in its raw state may easily become an active agent in the dissemination of Spanish influenza. The Bismarck Dairy Co. owns and operates the only pasteurizing plant in the Capital City.

### COMMISSION PASSES BUCK.

After some debate, arriving at the conclusion that something must be done, the city commission last evening referred this matter to the health department. The commissioners hoped that Dr. Strauss, acting in conjunction with the state board of health and the federal food administration, might find some authority to keep the Bismarck Dairy Co. operating as an emergency health measure.

### GENERAL INDIGNATION PREVAILS.

General indignation prevails over the situation which has now developed. Milk patrons feel that they not only should be guaranteed their daily supply of milk and cream but that deliveries should be made. Everyone concerned appears willing to leave the question of a fair price to a disinterested commission which will assure justice to the producer as well as the consumer. They object, however, to a state of affairs which will permit any one man to arbitrarily deprive Bismarck babies of their daily milk. There is a growing demand for a municipal dairy and pasteurizing plant, where all milk consumed in the city will be received and sterilized and whence it will be delivered to the consumer for a reasonable price. It is probable that a petition will be presented the city commission, the health authorities and the food administration asking the steps be taken to provide Bismarck with a municipal plant and that the production and distribution of milk be placed directly under municipal control. The lives and welfare of Bismarck babies are a consideration superior in the public mind to the private profits or personal feelings of any individual or set of individuals.

## DELIRIOUS WITH 'FLU' KILLS WIFE AND 4 CHILDREN

Chicago, Oct. 22.—Peter Marrazzo coming home last night delirious with influenza killed his wife and four children, also ill of the disease, but cutting their throats.

## TO EXTEND AID TO STRICKEN FARMERS

Washington, Oct. 22.—The federal farm loan board will approve the St. Paul Federal Land Bank's proposed policy of extending financial aid to farmers in the burned district of Minnesota.

## SOAKING RAIN RELIEVES FIRES IN MINNESOTA

Duluth, Oct. 22.—A heavy soaking rain that had it fallen eleven days ago would probably have averted the Northern Minnesota conflagration is falling today, putting out the smoldering flames and allowing the city fire departments to return to their homes. Last night the Superior and Oliver fire departments fought for several hours a fire which threatened Oliver.

## ENTENTE PRESSURE THREATENS TO DISORGANIZE HUN RETREAT; ALLIES JOIN RUMANIANS

Metz Now Present Point of Teutons' Withdrawal—Foch Hammer Blows Hastening General Retirement Toward German Soil.

(By Associated Press.)

Allied troops on the northern end of the front in France and Belgium are driving into the lines west of Ghent toward Valenciennes. This is the line of the Scheldt and two of the important points on it are almost within the grasp of the British.

German resistance is stiffening between Tournay and Valenciennes, the southern end of the 80-mile line to the Dutch frontier. The British armies however continue to progress. Ourcq, within less than a mile of Tournay on the west, has been captured.

### Gaining Rapidly.

North of Tournay the British are along the Scheldt on a front of five miles and north and south of this sector are gaining rapidly on the western bank of the river. Between Valenciennes and Cateau the British maintain their pressure and have reached the Ecaillon river at Thiant, southwest of Valenciennes.

### Metz as Pivot.

Development of the plan being followed by the German command in conducting its retreat makes it apparent that Metz is being used as a pivot for the movement. While the Germans are pouring fresh divisions into the line northwest of Verdun against the Americans, the rest of the German legions are swinging back toward the Belgian frontier.

### Interferes With Retirement.

There are several situations along the front, however, which render it possible and even probable that Marshal Foch will seriously interfere with the orderly retirement of the enemy forces. It seems certain that the Hunding line has been outflanked in Belgium where the Scheldt river has been crossed and the British and Americans appear to have fought their way through all obstructions. This line, therefore, may be rendered untenable for the Germans.

In the meantime, attacks by the allies in Belgium east of the Selle river and in the Oise region threaten to disorganize the German retreat. The British and French in Belgium are pouring into the enemy positions so swiftly that they may outflank them to the southwest. Belgian troops advancing toward Ghent are systematically clearing the country from the Dutch frontier to Eclloo on the Lys-Bruges canal.

### Join Rumanians.

From the junction of the Aisne and the Fere the French continue their pressure. On the extreme left they have advanced north of Fere. East of the Aisne at Voizieres the Germans have ceased their violent efforts to dislodge the French from the hill positions.

French patrols have reached the Danube river at Vidin. This bank is on the southern bank of the river, and established contact with Rumania on the south.

It threatens Austria from the southeast if sufficiently heavy infantry forces are able to reach that region at once.

### TEMPORARY PAUSE.

With the Allied Armies in Belgium, Oct. 22.—The general situation in Belgium this morning seemed to be that on most of the fronts the allied armies had reached a period of pause which is inevitable when marked advances have been made. On the front of the British fourth army, with which the Americans are fighting, the situation was quiet. Fighting is progressing here and there along the allied lines north of Valenciennes for the purpose of straightening out the allied line. North of Valenciennes the British continued their progress toward the Scheldt.

German machine guns on the eastern bank of the Harpies river which had been causing considerable trouble have been put out of action.

### MAKING PROGRESS.

British Headquarters in Belgium, (Reuters)—Oct. 22.—Strong French forces attacked this morning on the center of the allied front in Belgium and are reported to be making excellent progress in the direction of Ghent.

## LES SIMPSON INDICTED IN BOX CAR CASE

Well Known Criminal Lawyer and Others Charged With Conspiracy.

### SPIRITED AWAY WITNESSES

Alleged That Accused Effected Induction of Boys Into National Army.

Fargo, N. D., Oct. 22.—Leslie A. Simpson of Dickinson, former state senator, T. A. Hartung of Dickinson, sheriff of Stark county, and A. R. Boxrud of Dickinson, former Northern Pacific conductor, were indicted jointly and individually on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice on the prosecution of men held in connection with the recent Beach box car robberies.

The facts were made known today when it was announced that two men who had been held in connection with the car robberies had been sent to federal

prison at Leavenworth for two years.

It is alleged in the indictment that the men indicted effected the induction of two men charged with the robberies into the national army. Through the efforts of Col. M. A. Hildreth these two young men were returned from Camp Custer, tried at the last term of federal court in Bismarck, and convicted. A. R. Boxrud and another older member of the train crew involved in the charge were tried at the opening of the term, before the return of the two younger men from Camp Custer, and without the material evidence which they gave in their own defense, the first two defendants were freed.

Simpson for Defense. Former Senator Simpson, who is secretary of the Stark county draft board, of which Sheriff Hartung also is a member, defended all of the alleged box car robbers at the recent term of federal court here. Following the conviction of the two young select service soldiers who were brought back from Camp Custer for trial, the court commented caustically upon the fact that others who may have been equally guilty, or more so, had escaped because of the fact of their absence at the time of the trial.