

PEACE PROPOSAL MADE BY GERMAN ALLIES TODAY

TERMS OF PEACE BID NOT MADE PUBLIC; AMBASSADORS OF NEUTRAL POWERS ARE ASKED TO APPEAL TO TEUTONS' ENEMIES

BETHMANN-HOLLWEG MADE ACTION KNOWN IN REICHSTAG; ARE READY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS AT ONCE

Emperor William Communicated With Commanders— Tells Them "to Fight on" Till it is Known Whether Proposal Will be Accepted.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—(Wireless to Sayville).—Germany and her allies today proposed to enter forthwith into peace negotiations. The proposals have been transmitted to the representatives of the United States, Spain and Switzerland and also the Vatican.

The following announcement was given out today by the semi-official Overseas Agency:

"The chancellor (Von Bethmann-Hollweg) this morning received one after another the representatives of the United States of America and Spain and Switzerland, that is, of the states protecting German interests in hostile foreign countries. The chancellor transmitted to them a note and asked them to bring it to the knowledge of the hostile governments. The note will be read today in the Reichstag by the chancellor.

"In the note the four allied (central) powers proposed to enter forthwith on peace negotiations. The proposition which they bring for such negotiations are, according to their firm belief, appropriate for the establishment of a lasting peace.

"The governments at Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia transmitted identical notes and also communicated with the Holy See and all other powers."

WILSON IS SILENT.

Washington, Dec. 12.—News that Germany and her allies were about to enter upon peace negotiations was sent immediately to President Wilson. Speaking for the president, Secretary Tumulty said he was deeply interested, but could not make any comments until he learned what reception the proposals receive from the Entente Allies.

London, Dec. 12.—A Central News dispatch from Amsterdam says it is announced officially in Berlin that Emperor William has notified his commanding generals of Germany's peace offer, and has informed them that it is still uncertain whether the offer will be accepted. Until that uncertainty is ended, the message says, they are to fight on.

The message says: "Soldiers: In agreement with the sovereigns of my allies and with the consciousness of victory, I have made an offer of peace to the enemy. Whether it will be accepted is still uncertain. Until that moment arrives you will fight on."

GERMAN DISPATCHES GIVE NO DETAILS OF TERMS PROPOSED; ALL HER ALLIES SUBMIT NOTES

Peace proposals have been made by Germany and her allies.

According to a semi-official announcement in Berlin the proposals are, in the belief of the central powers, appropriate for the establishment of a lasting peace.

The dispatches, however, give no details as to what terms are proposed. These were to be made public in a speech by Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German imperial chancellor, in the reichstag today.

The notes also have been transmitted to the vatican and all neutral nations.

Teutons Continue Advance. In the field of war the Teutonic advance in eastern Wallachia is continuing with the Rumanians apparently maneuvering their forces as best they can under steady pressure, with a view to taking up a defensive line along the Buzeu river near the southern boundary of their northern province of Moldavia. Petrograd reports the failure of Teutonic attacks along the Moldavian frontier and in certain Wallachian sectors notably northeast of Ploesti, where the Austro-German forces are pressing toward Buzeu.

New activity has been developed by the Germans on the Franco-Belgian front. They attacked last night on the edge of Des Loges wood, south of the Somme sector, but according to Paris, were checked and driven out of portions of advance positions which they have occupied.

Expect New Attempt to Break German Line

Berlin, Dec. 12. (via wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—A correspondent of the Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung with the German army in France is quoted by the Overseas News Agency as saying that new attempts to break through the German line must be expected.

Infant Mortality in New York Was Reduced This Year

New York, Dec. 12.—Deaths among babies in New York city were considerably reduced during 1918 as compared to previous years notwithstanding the infantile paralysis epidemic, according to an announcement by the Babies' Welfare association. The figures for the year indicate the mortality among babies will have been one thousand less than during 1917. During this year, the association, which acts as a clearing house for the care of babies, has benefited over ten thousand infants through a widely-varied number of channels. There are now 138 institutions and charitable societies co-operating officially with the Babies' Welfare association and scores of others call upon its services from time to time.

WAR LORD SEEKS PEACE



Emperor William, of Germany, who, through Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, today proposed peace.

RESTORATION OF OCCUPIED PARTS OF BELGIUM AND FRANCE MAY BE PART OF THE GERMAN PROPOSALS

Washington, Dec. 12.—Advices from Berlin to the German embassy indicate that Germany's peace terms, in general measure, propose the restoration of the status quo before the war with the exception of the establishment of independent kingdoms of Poland and Lithuania.

They are understood to propose the complete restoration of the occupied portions of Belgium and France in return for Germany's captured colonies and to dispose of the Balkan situation because of its extreme complicated danger, in the peace conference.

GERMANY'S PROPOSITION INSURES HER OF EXISTENCE, OF HONOR AND LIBERTY OF EVOLUTION FOR ALL

Berlin, Dec. 12.—(By wireless to Sayville.)—The Overseas News agency reports the chancellor's speech in the reichstag as follows:

"Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg announced today to the reichstag that Germany and her allies had proposed peace negotiations. He first outlined extraordinary political situations. Then, insisting on achievements of the central powers, including the campaign in Rumania, told of the entente united efforts in Rumania, on the western front, and the Russian and Italian fronts.

"The situation was serious," he said, "but with God's help our troops shaped conditions so as to give us security which now is complete. If the enemy counted on our weakness he was deceived.

"The chancellor then said the proposition Germany was proposing had the object of guarantee of existence, of honor and liberty of evolution of the central powers."

"The most effective precautions have been taken against all Italian diversions and while on the Somme and on the Carso drum fire resounded while the Russians launched troops against the eastern frontier of Transylvania, Field Marshal Von Hindenburg captured the whole of western Wallachia, and the hostile capital of Bucharest, leading with unparalleled genius his troops in competition with all the allies, and made it possible for what hitherto was considered impossible. "And Hindenburg does not rest. Military operations are in progress. By strokes of the sword at the same time firm foundations for our economic needs have been laid. Great stocks of grain, victuals, oil and other goods fell into our hands in Rumania. The transport has begun. In spite of the scarcity we could have lived on our own supplies, but now our safety is beyond question. "The Reichstag, by means of the national auxiliary war service law, helped to build the new offensive and defensive bulwark in the midst of the great struggle," the chancellor continued. "Behind the fighting army stands the national work and the gigantic force of the nation, working for the common aim."

BELGIAN AID IS GIST OF GERMAN NOTE

Presentation of Situation in Belgium Before Deportation Order.

Majority Who Have Been Taken to Germany Are Claimed to be Contented

Berlin, Dec. 12. (via London).—Germany's answer to the American note regarding the deportation of Belgians is confined almost exclusively to a presentation of the situation in Belgium before the deportation order became effective. The note declares that there was urgent need of some kind of work for the Belgians, because their idleness was demoralization, and says that the deported workers are assured of well-being in new situations in Germany.

It is contended that the majority of Belgians who have come to Germany are happy and contented, with high wages and increased personal liberties, and that only those who prefer to loaf have been compelled to work. The answer declares that the measure is entirely in accord with international law.

PESSIMISM IS PREVAILING IN ENGLAND TODAY

Officials Skeptical—Foreign Office Awaits Terms Before Commenting.

London, Dec. 12.—The foreign office today informed the Associated Press that it is unable to discuss the German peace proposal until the terms have been received. A general note of pessimism prevails in London. One prominent official expressed himself to the Associated Press today as being very skeptical that the proposed terms would offer even a basis for negotiations.

PETAINE TO SUCCEED JOFFRE IN COMMAND

Private Advices Reaching Washington Apparently Confirm Previous Reports of Change.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Private advices from Paris, received here today, telling of the secret proceedings in the French chamber of deputies during the last week, confirm previous reports that General Petain, the defender of Verdun, is to succeed General Joffre in supreme command. The allied forces on the western battlefield as the first result of radical changes in organization which are to follow concentration of management of the war in a small council, as has been done in England. General Petain, little known outside the French army, was a colonel at the outbreak of the war.

BRIAND CABINET READY

French Premier Announces That He Has Completed Body—to Announce Personnel Tomorrow.

Paris, Dec. 12.—Premier Briand today announced that he had completed reconstruction of the cabinet and that the list will appear in tomorrow's Journal officiel. The premier is expected to make a statement to parliament tomorrow.

ARGUMENTS ARE HEARD

Washington, Dec. 12.—Opening arguments in the habeas corpus suit brought by H. Snowden Marshall, federal district attorney at New York to prevent the house of representatives from bringing him to Washington to punish him for contempt, were heard yesterday by the supreme court.

Counsel for Mr. Marshall denied the authority of the house in the premises and reviewed at length the causes of the contempt proceedings, which grew out of a controversy between the district attorney and a house subcommittee investigating important charges against him. The lower court denied Mr. Marshall's petition for habeas corpus, directing that pending determination of an appeal to the supreme court he should remain technically in the custody of the house sergeant-at-arms sent to arrest him. The arguments will be concluded tomorrow.

PREMIER JOCKEY ENLISTS.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—Rastenberg, the premier among German jockeys who won almost 50 "first" this year for the Royal Grafting stable and who cleared nearly half a million marks for his employers, has at last been drawn into the army. He is now in training as an artilleryman at Frankfurt-on-the-Oder.

GERMANY'S MOTIVE IN OFFERING PEACE OCCUPIES ATTENTION OF ALL DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON

SOCIETY OF EQUITY MEETING IN WAUSAU

Representatives from Eleven States Gather in Wisconsin City for Big Session.

Wausau, Wis., Dec. 12.—Representatives from eleven of the eighteen states in which the American Society of Equity is organized, are here to attend the fourteenth annual convention of that society, beginning today and lasting until Friday. The states represented are North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa, Montana, Minnesota, Kentucky, Washington, Oregon and Wisconsin. A "get-together" banquet will be given to the delegates tonight by the Wausau Chamber of Commerce. An attendance of 250 delegates is expected.

PEACE PROPOSAL SENDS WHEAT, STOCKS DOWN

Wheat Broke Over Nine Cents on Chicago Board of Trade.

Munitions and Other "War Baby" Stock Affected in Wall Street.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—Wheat on the Chicago Board of Trade on receipt of the news of the proposals for peace of Germany and her allies, broke over nine and eight-cents. Within fifteen minutes after the opening today the price touched \$1.66 1/2. At this point buyers took hold with vigor and a rally to \$1.68 1/4 for May ensued. Trading was on a huge scale.

STOCKS HIT

New York, Dec. 12.—The stock market became immediately unsettled today on the receipt of the news of the Teutonic peace proposals. Munitions and shares of other companies which have profited by the war were most affected, Bethlehem dropping 26 points.

Entente Allies Make Air Raids on Belgium

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 12.—The telegraph reports that the entente allies have made important raids on various parts of Belgium. The newspaper says a dozen airplanes reached Zeebrugge, where anti-aircraft guns replied to them vigorously. British airplanes also attacked the military works at Brussels, Oudenarde and Louvain. Train traffic has been impeded as a result of the air raids.

LLOYD GEORGE AND ASQUITH ARE ILL TODAY

No Statement of Principal is Made at Meeting of the New Government.

London, Dec. 12.—The absence through illness of Premier Lloyd George and former Premier Asquith, the principal figures in the late ministerial crisis, and the decision of the cabinet to postpone until Thursday its statement of policy robbed today's session of the house of commons of the interest which usually attaches to the first meeting of a new government with parliament. However, a large number of members returned to London for the session. The attitude of those whose petition remained in doubt was indicated by the seats they took, either behind the cabinet or with the opposition forces. Meanwhile the new ministers are mastering their departments, which most of them took over yesterday. A. J. Balfour, however, delayed his transfer until this morning when he assumed charge of the foreign office. For the moment the foreign ministry is occupied with the problem of dealing with the Athens government.

THE WEATHER.

North Dakota: Generally fair and colder tonight. University Reading. 7 a. m., —0; maximum, 8; minimum, —13; wind northwest, 15 miles per hour. 50.01.

PUT BLAME UPON ALLIES FOR CONTINUING WAR, IS GIVEN AS ONE REASON

Also May be Intended For Home Consumption to Relieve People.

U. S. TO KEEP TERMS SECRET FOR PRESENT

Washington Recalls Recent Duma Crisis and Separate Peace Talk.

Washington, Dec. 12.—In transmitting the note of the Teutonic allies suggesting peace negotiations it was stated officially that the United States probably will follow the practice in such cases and not make public the terms of the peace proposals. They would be known to President Wilson, however, who would examine them to determine whether they should be accompanied by any word from this government.

Peace proposals probably will be discussed at the regular meeting of the cabinet this afternoon. Discussion of the question of Germany's motive in making the suggestion at this time. Despite rumors current for some time and officially denied, that peace negotiations were soon to be made, the announcement came generally as a surprise.

One prevailing opinion was that the German allies had brought out their peace offer at this time with the expectation of making terms which might be acceptable to the allies of England, and in effect might possibly cause the British government to yield to the pressure of the nations fighting with her.

In this connection the recent crisis in Russia, in which the duma interfered with the negotiations of a separate peace with Germany, was recalled as an indication of what the German foreign office might be looking for. It has been acknowledged in entente circles that Germany would be made by Germany to conclude peace separately with her enemies, but so far all the entente nations have refused to make any determination to adhere to their agreement made early in the war not to make a separate peace.

It was indicated that while the German allies might not entirely expect that the proposals actually would cause a peace conference they were not without hope that they would, and that they were hoping at least that they would be the means of getting the belligerents together in some manner to discuss the situation, and this it was expected, would lead to a basis for peace.

In German quarters the British cabinet crisis, the coming of winter and the fall in wheat prices are given as reasons for making the peace proposal at this time. Make Entente Responsible. Among the entente diplomats here, Germany's offer was pronounced to be of double purpose and unlikely of acceptance. The first purpose, they declare is to place upon the entente powers the responsibility for continuing the war, and the second is to give evidence to the people that the government was ready to end the war, but was forced by her enemies to continue.

U. S. AGAIN ASKS SAFE CONDUCT FOR ENVOY

Third Communication sent England and France Regarding Passage for Austrian Ambassador.

Washington, Dec. 12.—A third communication was sent today by the state department to Great Britain and France regarding a safe conduct through the allied blockade for Count Tarnowski, the new Austrian ambassador to the United States. The communication says that again this country regards the unhindered passage of the envoy as part of the admitted right of diplomatic intercourse and reiterates the opinion that the allies are acting beyond their rights in attempting to hinder such intercourse between this country and Austria. As with the preceding note, which was sent twelve days ago, the present one is very explicit in pointing out that this government does not demand a safe conduct for Count Tarnowski in its own name but is merely expressing what it regards as the international law in the matter. The new note was prompted by the fact that no reply has yet been received from either England or France, whereas the new ambassador is expected to sail from Rotterdam December 16.

Wilson to Resume His Meetings with Reporters

Washington, Dec. 12.—President Wilson will resume next Monday his weekly conferences with the Washington newspaper correspondents. A custom he inaugurated soon after entering the white house but abandoned some time ago to avoid discussing delicate international questions.