# SPECIAL NOTE SENT VATICAN

## Confidence Expressed in Desire of Pope to Bring About Peace.

Berlin, Dec. 13.—The peace note presented to the papal secretary of state reads in part:

"The reasons which prompted Germany and her allies to take this step are manifest. For two years and a half a terrible war has been devastating the continent. Unlimited treasures of civilization have been destroyed. Extensive areas have been soaked with blood. Millions of brave soldiers have fallen in battle and millions have returned home as invalids. Grief and sorrow fill almost every house.

"Not only upon the belligerent nations, but also upon the neutrals, the destructive consequences of the gigantic struggle weigh heavily."

"Since the first day of the pontifical reigh His Holiness, the pope, has unswervingly demonstrated, in the most generous fashion his solicitude for the innumerable victims of this war. He has alleviated the sufferings and ameliorated the fate of thousands of men injured by this catastrophe. Inspired by the exalted ideas of his ministry, His Holiness has seized every opportunity in the interest of humanity to end so sanguinary a war.

"The imperial government is firmly confident that the initiative of the four powers will find friendly welcome on the part of His Holiness, and that the work of peace can count upon the precious support of the Holy See."

"Germany is carrying on a war of defense against her enemies which aim at her destruction. She fights to assure the integrity of her frontiers and the liberty of the German nation for the right which she claims to develop freely her intellectual and economic energies in peaceful competition and on an equal footing with other nations. All the efforts of their enemies are unable to shatter the heroic efforts of the (Teutonic) allies which protect the frontiers of their countries, strengthened by the certainty that the enemy shall never pierce the iron wall.

"Those fighting on the front know that they are supported by the whole nation, which is inspired by love for its country and is ready for the greatest sacrifices and determined to defend to the last extremity the inherited treasure of intellectual and economic work and the social organization and sacred soil of the country.

"Certain of our own strength, but realizing Europe's sad future if the war continues; seized with pity in the face of the unspeakable misery of humanity, the German empire, in accord with her allies, solemnly repeats what the chancellor already has declared a year ago, that Germany is ready to give peace to the world by setting before the whole world the true conditions."

# URGE WILSON TO BRING BELLIGERENTS TOGETHER

## National Retail Grocers' Executive Committee Send Petition to the President.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—The executive committee of the National Retail Grocers' association directed a petition to President Wilson yesterday asking him to do his utmost to bring the European belligerents together. The opinion was expressed that in no other way could the price of foodstuffs be reduced more effectively than by the consummation of the peace move.

"Peace would mean the end of the present high cost of living because it would make an end of war price conditions," said Sol Westerfield, former president of the association.

A contradictory sentiment was expressed by Wm. H. Whitcomb, spokesman for the Chicago Butter and Egg Board. "Whether the war continues or peace comes right away, there will be little change in the price of eggs or butter," he said. "The war has had little to do with these prices. They are high because there is a shortage of both in this country irrespective of European demands."

## Lord Northcliffe, London Editor, Called Real Ruler of Britain

Lord Northcliffe.

London, Dec. 13.—Although David Lloyd George, the new premier, is vested with the powers of a dictator, it is agreed by all that Lord Northcliffe, owner of the London Times, is in effect the driving force of the government and the virtual ruler of Great Britain. Said an American critic, who has observed British politics closely:

"Behind aroused England, behind the parliamentary, hat waving leadership stands Northcliffe—the steady, far seeing, hard driving, practical man, whose training was got not in law or diplomacy, but in life. And the import of it for England is very great. It means an end of two things—slowness and bungling.

"England knowing she is immortal, has always had a comfortable feeling that she could take her time about things. But Northcliffe is not slow and he cannot tolerate dawdling. For too many years he has been used—horribly used—to the swift exactitude of life. And he does not bungle. You can't 'muddle through' the daily Caesarian operation of bringing the London Times to birth.

"He has found in Lloyd George an agent—and an energy—ready to his hand. The one thing essentially great in Northcliffe has been that, always, he knew how to use men. Napoleon at St. Helena, looking back on his life, said his secret was that he knew how to get out of men all they had to give.

"Some of that faculty Northcliffe had at the beginning, and he has developed and perfected it through years of labor in the most complex of all the man-handling occupations—journalism. When he picked up the wild and ardent Welshman, as one picks up a weapon, he knew precisely what he was doing and precisely what Lloyd George could do and would do. He had measured the force and the direction. And he used it, first of all, to remove the fabric of old ineptitudes that blocked the way to swift and direct action. It was in order to give Lloyd George arm-room that he chased away the genteel but cumbersome coalition.

"The most evident thing is that from now on you are going to see the power of government harden, contract, condense, affirm itself more and more. Parliament is going to cut the cackle and come to the 'osses. Inevitably—with that grim, vehement, war-minded man-handler, Northcliffe, standing in the background.

"The heart and kernel of the Lloyd George ministery will be a war council—a compact committee of public safety. This will be a way of giving the public what it wants—for you have got to bear in mind that Northcliffe's strength lies in the fact that he is canalizing the public will. What he did first was to rouse the courage of democracy—the high unconquerable courage of England. What he is doing now is only the work of guidance. He is giving it direction."

The United States Steel corporation has more unfilled orders on its books now than ever before, exceeding all previous records by more than a million tons. The unfilled tonnage exceeds 11,000,000 tons.

# MEDIATION OF UNITED STATES PERMITTED BY GERMAN PROPOSAL MAY FORM NUCLEUS FOR PEACE

PEACE PROPOSAL reset

Washington, Dec. 13.—Germany's proposal for peace is regarded here as having broken the chains which for months have restrained the United States, as well as other neutrals from making offers of mediation.

Now that one set of belligerents has signified its willingness to discuss peace terms—a condition often reiterated as necessary to any action by President Wilson—there are indications that when the United States, acting as the intermediary, transmits the German proposal, it may accompany its action by some steps, necessarily delicate, to throw the influence of the United States into the balance for at least a consideration, however preliminary, of the terms on which a lasting peace might be brought to the world. Some ranking officials of the American government believe a league of nations, such as President Wilson has suggested, must be the outcome and it could not be perfected without the participation of the United States.

**Awaits Note.**

Whether the United States will transmit the German proposal without any comment whatever, or accompany it with some formal or informal expression, will not be finally decided until the note delivered to American Charge Grew in Berlin reaches President Wilson's hands.

There were indications last night that President Wilson might find some way to express the solemn and earnest wish of the United States for a careful consideration of the suggestion of peace—even before the entente governments have made known their attitude toward the German proposal. This, it was pointed out, would necessarily be done in such a delicate and ultra-confidential way that it never would be publicly known should the allies decline the offer. This course was said to be absolutely necessary so as to leave the United States free and unembarrassed to act when an acceptable peace offer comes.

**Will Seek Attitude.**

Regardless of whether President Wilson decides to accompany the German proposal with any word, it was said last night, he unquestionably would take steps to learn the attitude of the entente allies toward the peace move.

None of the official dispatches had arrived last night. The government's first information was conveyed in the Associated Press dispatches from Berlin. President Wilson was said to be "deeply interested but reserving comment." Secretary Lansing maintained a similar attitude. The cabinet discussed the development at its regular Tuesday meeting but the situation was described by members as so obviously delicate that no announcement could be made.

The absence of any specific terms for peace in the note, or in the German chancellor's speech was in a measure a disappointment to those who expected some concrete expression of a basis on which negotiations might begin.

**General Terms.**

Recent dispatches to the German embassy, covering a wide range of subjects, indicate a belief that the general terms might in substance be as follows:

"A restoration of the status quo existing before the war." This includes the evacuation of Belgium and the restoration of the occupied portions or Northern France, with the exception of Alsace and Lorraine. No authorized expression was obtained from the embassy as to whether conditions would be attached to the restoration of Belgian and French territory, but it was understood that the German idea was to make provision for the future neutrality of Belgium and further propose de-fortification, particularly of the city of Antwerp. It was also understood that no conditions amounting to economic control of the mineral lands of northern France would be likely to be asked. All Germany's lost colonies she expects to be returned. Her possessions in the Pacific, however, are not a subject of great concern, and the Berlin government is understood to be ready to relinquish the claim on Kiau Chau.

The establishment of independent kingdoms in Lithuania and Poland would be one of the factors in the German proposal, although that part of Poland possessed by Germany at the outbreak of the war would not be included.

**Adjustments Doubtful.**

What adjustment would be made to cover the Trentino region between Austria and Italy, or any provisions affecting Egypt, the Suez canal, Mesopotamia or the Gateways of Control to the Indian empire, are not made clear in German quarters here. The Balkan situation is so delicate it would have to be untangled in the peace conference.

Berne and The Hague are mentioned as the most likely places for a peace conference, and it is not doubted that Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador here, would go as one of his country's representatives His attitude was expressed tonight in the following statement:

"I am, of course, extremely gratified at the step that has been taken. I hope that it will be successful. Even if it does not lead to peace it offers proof that Germany wants peace, even after a victorious campaign, and does not desire the responsibility for further suffering of mankind, loss of life and property. Germany wants peace and does not desire conquest. I cannot say anything about the terms."

**Responsibility on Allies.**

Diplomats of the entente allies here regard the peace offer as having the double purpose of placing upon the allies the responsibility for continuing the war and of impressing upon the German people that they are fighting a defensive conflict against enemies who refuse quarter.

**Germany's Offer.**

Based upon information from their home governments, the entente diplomats believe Germany's terms are in general about as follows:

Restoration of Belgium, but with conditions which would practically leave it under German control and probably give over the port of Antwerp to Germany.

Restoration of the occupied portions of Northern France, but with economic control which would guarantee to Germany supplies of iron and other raw materials drawn from there.

Domination of Mesopotamia by Germany and Austria to give them a path to the Persian gulf and break England's gateway to India and Egypt.

To award to Bulgaria all of Serbia as far south as Nish, which, would take from Serbia as much territory as she gained in the Balkan wars.

They expect Germany will demand the return of her African colonies, or at least propose to exchange them for the French colonies.

Turkey's interests are considered a minor affair and not fully developed in consideration of peace.

**Balkan Situation.**

The attitude of the Balkan nations of the Germanic allies, it is expected, will be set forth in the notes which have been dispatched from Sofia and Constantinople, and nothing of them is known at the Balkan legations here, except that Bulgaria probably will expect to get Macedonia and Dobrudja, which formerly belonged to her, making the Danube the boundary between Bulgaria and Rumania and shutting the later from the Black Sea.

The actual procedure in conveying Germany's proposal to her enemies, according to precedent, begins with Charge Grew forwarding the note to Washington. The state department then will forward it to the American ambassador, resident in the country to be addressed, and he will in turn present it to the government, acting in the interest of Germany and her allies. The United States now represent Germany and Austria in Belgium, France, Great Britain, Japan, Russia, Serbia and Rumania; it represents Turkey in France, Great Britain and Japan. It does not represent Bulgaria anywhere and represents none of the belligerents in Italy, Portugal or Montenegro.

One immediate effect of the peace developments upon the United States will be to hold practically in abeyance all the diplomatic issues pending with the warring countries. With the new submarine issue with Germany the protest against deportation of Belgians, the controversy with Great Britain over mails and commerce, all will mark time until it becomes apparent whether they will be solved by the advent of peace.

Regardless of how far Germany's proposal may be expected to go toward ending the war, it was regarded as of greatest significance that for the first time in two and a half years of war one group of belligerents had addressed the other on the subject through the channels of diplomacy.

**No Armistice.**

In German quarters here it is believed that any sort of an armistice during a discussion of peace plans would be out of the question.

So far as has been disclosed, no intimations reached the American government forecasting the action of the central powers. Today a dispatch sent from Berlin Sunday night to the German embassy announced the intention of the government to make public peace proposals "probably Tuesday." This was taken to indicate that the move had been decided upon Saturday or Sunday and probably after Emperor William's five-hour conference with General von Hindenburg.

The first brief announcement from Berlin that Germany and her allies proposed to enter into negotiations for peace led many officials to suppose that actual terms were being advanced and they eagerly waited for the details. But as it was disclosed that a proposal for peace, rather than a suggestion of terms was being made, it became apparent that the matter resolved itself into an official communication of what German statesmen have said many times before in public and to the press, that they were willing to discuss peace on terms which would secure a lasting one.

# *Germany Asks Peace While in Area of Enemy*

## Fact that Teuton Armies are on Captured Ground may Help When Final Concessions are Made, Writes J. W. T. Mason.

By J. W. T. Mason.

Germany's proposals for peace are made at a time when her armies have taken the offensive in the newest battle area and the western front has reached another deadlock.

The peace that Germany wants is one with Teutonic troops occupying enemy territory on practically every front.

The war is yet too far from having gone to the knockout that David Lloyd George demanded a short time before he became premier. On the contrary, Germany's position now is not that of a beaten antagonist. The Germans occupy at the present moment probably the highest position they will reach, as far as practical purposes are concerned, no matter how long the war continues.

**Lines Holding Firm.**

They have a clear road to what they regard as the center of their future colonial empire, in Asia Minor, and they are holding in check every movement to break through the German defenses.

It would be, therefore, greatly to Germany's advantage if a peace could be secured on this basis.

Nevertheless, Germany's losses in man power are becoming constantly much greater than the losses of any one of her principal antagonists. At the same time, the British government has just undergone reconstruction for the purpose of carrying the war to a more bitter conclusion; and France, too, is evolving a scheme for greater efficiency.

**Make Concessions.**

Under these conditions, while Germany is not overthrown, the German militarists may well feel that the future development of the war cannot hold out for Germany any better prospect than the ceaseless killing of proportionately more Germans than Frenchmen or Englishmen.

Germany must make concessions to secure peace at present—far larger than are indicated in the war boundaries. But, whatever Germany proposes as a basis for peace, in her first declaration, probably will not be her final word.

In summer many men can respond to the early morning call of an alarm clock, but in winter he should have a combination derrick and cold shower.

# BRITISH NAVY FAILS, CHARGE

## Rear Admiral Says England Will Arm Merchantmen in New Policy.

Berlin, Dec. 13.—Rear Admiral Kalau von Hofe comments in the Vossische Zeitung on the recent change in the high command of the British navy.

"The former British plan was to risk the British navy under no circumstances, the admiral says. The German navy, being encircled in home ports, thus was supposed to be inefficient, while the forced idleness of German merchant ships would consummate the downfall of Germany.

"At the same time, the possibility was admitted that the German navy by an 'act of despair,' might search out the hiding place of the British navy in the north, but there it would fight under the most unfavorable strategic circumstances.

**Says British Fleet Fails.**

"The British plan was, at all events, to destroy in the peace conference whatever was left of the German navy and save the British navy for great future problems in the Pacific ocean. The British plan, however, has failed in every respect. For the grand fleet under Jellicoe obtained no victory, which is best proved by the fact that the German high seas forces appeared on the high seas after the battle of Skagerrak, approached the English coast, the Thames and the mouth of the channel and brought in steamers to Zeebrugge.

"Further proof of the inefficiency of the British navy is the increasing difficulty in the transportation of ammunition and other contraband, and the growing scarcity of food in England.

**Plan for Liner Attacks Charged.**

"Recept utterances of the British government show that it is resolved to arm all British merchantmen and order them to open fire against submarines on sight. These ships shall be armed with cannon at the stern, on the forecastle and at the sides. As to the blockade, the admiral is ready to go to the verge of rupture with neutrals.

"Instead of cool calculation, the British naval warfare henceforth shall be guided by a spirit of enterprise. The German navy will hail with satisfaction this change of mind on the part of its main enemy. What dangers this change implies for the neutrals hardly can be foreseen."

## Secretary Daniels Expects to Stick

Washington, Dec. 13.—"I will recommend next fall," is Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels' significant statement at the house naval committee hearing, which was today credited here as being his informal way of setting at rest reports and rumors that he would quit his post.

The statement closely followed a formal announcement by Secretary of the Treasury W. G. McAdoo saying he has no intention of resigning his portfolio. Authoritative declarations were also made at the white house that with one possible exception. President Wilson will at least start out his second term with no changes in his cabinet.

The one possible change is the attorney generalship. If Attorney General T. W. Gregory finds he cannot continue in that position, because of business reasons, it has been suggested to President Wilson that Secretary of War N. D. Baker be shifted to the department of justice and Vance McCormick, chairman of the national Democratic committee be given the war portfolio.

## Delay Probe of Fatal East Helena Wreck to Hear Injured Conductor

Helena, Dec. 13.—Probe of the collision between eastbound passenger train No. 288 and westbound extra freight 1720, which oocurred at East Helena last Thursday evening, has been postponed by the coroner's jury until the testimony of Conductor F. J. Bulow of Livingston can be heard.

Bulow is confined to his home in Livingston, suffering from mental and physical shock and cannot leave his bed.

Engineer Charles Sieb and Fireman H. C. Buffka of the Logan stub, the train which had the right of way, were killed in the crash, and it is to determine if possible the responsibility of the wreck that the inquest has been called.

## Cotton Crop of U. S. Will Reach Five Billion Col. Harvie Jordon Says

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 13.—Practically the whole of the great American cotton crop will be converted into the finished fabric in American mills twenty years from now if the present annual ratio of increase continues, declared Col. Harvie Jordon, president of the Southern Cotton Growers' association, today in an address before the Southern Commercial Congress. If this prediction should be fulfilled, he said, the ultimate annual value of each crop would reach the enormous total of $5,000,000,000.

"The south now occupies the leading position in cotton mill consumption throughout the world," said Col. Jordon. "It consumes annually more lint cotton than all of the textile mills of Great Britain, more than all those of New England and the balance of the United States combined and more than all the combined countries of Europe." A few years ago, he asserted, 75 per cent of the raw cotton had to be exported while now foreign mills under peace conditions could not expect more than 50 per cent.

Pointing out that it was the country or section which manufactures the raw material into the finished fabric that secures the maximum of value from such product, Col. Jordon declared that the present medium yield of the south's cotton crop, sold for its full value for the first time since the civil war, would bring growers $1,250,000,000. He said present high prices of the staple was due largely to the federal reserve banking system and the cotton futures law.

## Senator Walsh Seeks a Federal Farm Loan Bank for Montana

Helena, Mont., Dec. 13.—A Washington special to The Independent says:

United States Senator T. J. Walsh and State Senator Fred Whiteside conferred with Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo today with reference to having one of the new federal farm loan banks located in Montana. The district as proposed would include Montana and Wyoming.

In regard to the appointment of officers to manage the bank in the Montana district, it is known that the name State Senator O'Shea of Carlson county was mentioned.

Both Senator Walsh and State Senator Whiteside are confident that one of the new banks will be located in Montana.

## Butte Man Heads Mont. Wholesale Grocers

Helena, Mont., Dec. 13.—Amos Booth of Butte was elected president of the Montana association of Wholesale Grocers, who met here and organized today. The association will work in the legislature for the passage of laws surrounding their business.

## Montana Polytechnic can Confer A. B. Degree

Billings, Mont., Dec. 13.—At a meeting here today of the educational commissioners of the Montana conference of Congregational churches and trustees of local Polytechnic Institute, an affiliation was effected which will make the latter a college with authority to confer the A. B. degree. It is planned to raise $300,000 in subscriptions for the purpose of building and endowing the school.


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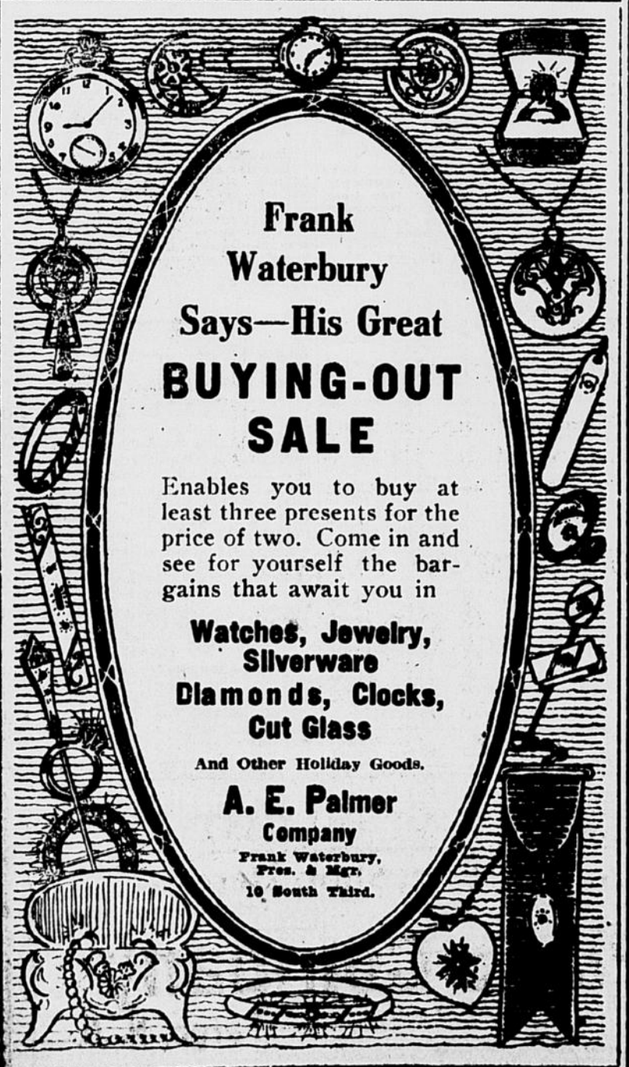

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