

LOYD GEORGE REJECTS GERMAN PEACE PROPOSAL; STRIKING SCENE IN BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS

London, Dec. 20.—Premier Lloyd George yesterday afternoon announced in the House of Commons that Great Britain had rejected the German peace proposal.

Mr. Lloyd George asserted that at the moment Germany was sending the note, assuring her intentions as to the rights of other nations, she was dragging Belgium into slavery. He announced that the note presented through Washington contained no proposals of terms but was a paraphrase of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech and that the allies had separately concluded to reject it, although they had informally exchanged views and would within a few days present a joint reply.

Mr. Asquith, the former premier, seconded Mr. Lloyd George's decision with even stronger words and almost at the same moment Earl Curzon was informing the lords that the government would enter no conference that did not guarantee for Europe the free and independent existence of nations great and small. The Marquis of Crewe affirmed the approval of the members of the late government.

The day was a doubly important one for the commons because the new premier unfolded his program for defeating war measures and Mr. Asquith closed the last chapter of his nine years of leadership with an accounting of his war stewardship.

The premier promised another attempt at a settlement of the Irish question. He paid a tribute to the colonies and promised the speedy assembly of an imperial conference for the purpose of giving the overseas sections of the empire more information regarding the war and obtaining their advice.

Overlooked Navy. No plaudits, so far reaching and so crowded with vital innovations has ever been proposed to the British nation by any previous prime minister in its history. Mr. Lloyd George was duly honored on every side.

Mr. Lloyd George was sitting in uniform a few rows behind the speaker, called out "What about the navy?"

The premier was visibly embarrassed as he stoned for his neglect by a sketch of what the senior service had done in keeping open communications at sea and remarked that the Germans had seen given the British sailors the luxury of stand-up night.

Was Thrilling Scene. The most skillful theatrical producer could not have staged a more moving act than that offered by the external of this historical passage in the House of Commons. Before the gavel and wigged speaker stretched on long and onerous lay the famous mace. To the speaker right were the members of the new cabinet with A. Bonar Law and Sir Edward Carson at the end. Opposite them were ranged the members of the former ministry with Reginald McKenna, Walter Runciman and Herbert Asquith at the end.

Colonel Winston Spens and Churchill next. The peers gallery was filled with lords who crossed the lower chamber more engrossed than their own and the chief of the chief of staff, General Sir Wm. Robertson, dressed in khaki faced the speaker from a gallery packed with diplomats and representatives of the colonies.

Rising in the house a few minutes after 4 o'clock, the prime minister said: "I appear before the house of commons today with a heavy and terrible responsibility that can fall upon the shoulders of any living man as chief adviser of the crown, in this country of ours, in which the country was ever engaged, and upon the events of which its destiny depends. It is the greatest war ever waged; the burdens are the heaviest that have been cast upon any other country and the issues of the gravest that have been attached to any conflict in which humanity was ever involved.

The responsibilities of the new government have been suddenly accentuated by the declaration made by the German chancellor. The statement made by him in the Reichstag has been followed by a note presented by the United States without note or comment and which arrived in full accord with all our allies.

All in Accord. "Naturally there has been an interchange of views not upon the note, because it has only recently arrived, but upon the speech which impelled it, and as the note itself is practically only a reproduction of a paraphrase of the speech, the subject matter of the note itself has been discussed informally between the allies. I am glad to be able to state that we each separately and independently arrived at identical conclusions.

"I am very glad that the first answer given to the statement of the German chancellor was given by France and Russia. They have the unquestionable right to give the first answer to such an invitation. The enemy is still on their soil and their sacrifices have been the greater.

The answer they have given has already appeared in the papers and I simply stand here to give clear and definite support to the statement they have already made.

"Any man or set of men who wanted to enter on a conflict like this could have on his shoulders a crime that oceans could not cleanse. "On the other hand, it is equally true that any man or set of men who abandoned the struggle without achieving the high purposes for which we entered it, would be guilty of the confessed and notorious crime of having betrayed by any statement, I should like to quote the words of Abraham Lincoln under similar conditions: "I have accepted this war for an object, and a world object, for which I will end when the object is attained under God. I hope it will never end until that time."

"Are we likely to believe the object by accepting the invitation of the German chancellor? What are the proposals? There are none. "To enter on the invitation of Germany, proclaiming herself victorious, without any knowledge of what she proposes to make, into a conference to put our heads into a mortar, is a crime of the first magnitude. "This country is not altogether without experience in these matters. This is not the first time we have fought a great military despotism overshadowing Europe and it won't be the first time we have helped to overthrow a military despotism. "I have an uncomfortable historical memory of these things and can recall one of the greatest of these despots, whose favorite device was to appear in the face of the world as a peacemaker, either when he wished time to assimilate his conquests or to reorganize his forces for fresh conquests. "Secondly, when his subjects showed signs of fatigue and war-weariness, an appeal was always made in the name of humanity. He demanded an end to the bloodshed, although he pressed himself horrified although he himself was mainly responsible.

Warned By Past. "Our ancestors were taken in once and bitterly they and Europe rue it. The time was devoted to reorganizing his forces for a deadlier attack than ever upon the liberties of Europe. "Examples of this kind cause us to regard this note with a considerable measure of unimpaired disquietude. "We feel that we ought to know, before we can give favorable consideration to such an invitation, that Germany would accept of a considerable number of terms on which it is possible peace can be obtained and maintained in Europe. Those terms have been repeated, stated by all the great powers, by the allies. They have been stated repeatedly here and outside. To quote the leader of the house last week: "The government and guarantee against repetition, so there shall be no mistake, and it is important that there should be no mistake in a matter of life or death to millions."

"Let me repeat—complete restitution, full reparation and effectual guarantees. "The German chancellor use a single phrase to indicate that he was prepared to accept such a peace? Was there a hint of restitution? Was there a suggestion of reparation? Was there any implication of any security for the future that this outrage on civilization would not again be perpetrated at the first profitable opportunity?

"The very substance and style of the speech constitutes a denial of peace on the only terms on which peace is possible. He is not even content to say that the German government committed an offense against the rights of free nations. Listen to this from the note: "For an instant have they (the Central powers) averted from the conviction that respect of the rights of other nations is not in any degree incompatible with their own rights and legitimate interests."

New Discovery. "When did they discover this? Where was respect for the rights of other nations in Belgium and Serbia? That was self-defense, menace, and purpose by the overwhelming armies of Belgium. I suppose the Germans had been intimidated into invading Belgium by the invading armies of Belgium, into massacring thousands of the inhabitants, old and young, into carrying off the survivors into bondage, and then they were carrying them into slavery at the very moment when this note was being written about their unswerving conviction that they would respect the rights of other nations.

"Are these outrages the legitimate interest of Germany? We must know. This is not a moment for peace. If excuses are made for the culpable crimes can be put forward two and a half years after grim facts, is there any guarantee that similar subtleties will not be used in the future to overthrow any treaty of peace you may enter into with Prussian militarism."

"The note and speech prove that they have not yet learned the alphabet of respect for the rights of others. "Without reparation peace is impossible. All these outrages against humanity on land and sea, to be liquidated by a few pious phrases about humanity? "Germany leaves us to exact the damage of the future violence committed after the war. We must exact it now so as not to leave such a grim inheritance to our children.

No Encouragement. "Much as we all long for peace, deeply as we are horrified with this note and speech which heralded it, do not afford us such encouragement to hope for an honorable and lasting peace. "What hope is given in the speech that the whole root and cause of this great bitterness, the arrogant spirit of the Russian military caste will not be removed? If we patch up peace now? The very speech in which these peace suggestions are made resounds to the hearts of Prussian militarism. It is a long peace over the victory of von Hindenburg.

"We must keep a steadfast eye upon the principles for which we entered the war. We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by the peace suggestions we have been making will be in vain. "Defend Europe. "The allies entered this war to defend Europe against the aggression of Prussian military domination, and having begun it, they must insist that the only end is the most complete effective guarantee against the possibility of that caste ever again disturbing the peace of Europe. Prussia, since she got into the hands of that caste, has been a bad neighbor, arrogant, threatening, bullying, shifting her boundaries at her will and making one fair field after another from her weaker neighbors and adding them to her own dominions. "With her belt ostentatiously full of weapons of offense and ready at a moment's notice to use them, she has always been an unpleasant, disturbing neighbor in Europe. She got on the nerves of Europe, there was no peace near where she dwelt. It is difficult for those who are fortunate enough to be thousands of miles away to understand what it has meant to those who live near.

Prussian Menace. Even here, with protection of the broad seas between us, we know what a disturbing factor the Prussians were with their warlike men. But we can hardly realize what it meant to France and Russia. Several times there were threats directed against them even within the lifetime of this generation which present the alternative of war or humiliation. There were many of us who hoped that the international influence in Germany would be strong enough to check and ultimately to eliminate it. "Now that this great war has been forced by the Prussian leaders, it would be folly not to see to it that this swashbuckling through the streets of Europe and this disturbance of peaceful citizens was dealt with here and now. On the other hand, a serious offense against the law of nations was committed. "We will wait until we hear what terms and guarantees the German government offers other than those, better than those that we have heard, which she so lightly broke. And meanwhile we shall put our trust in our unbroke ally, rather than in broken faith. "For the moment I do not think it would be advisable for me to add anything upon this particular invitation. I have to be delivered by the allies in the course of the next few days."

Higher Than Party. The premier's peroration was as follows: "If in this war I have paid scant heed to the call or party it is because I realized from the moment the Prussian cannon hurled death at a peaceable and innocent people, that a challenge had been sent to civilization to decide an issue higher than all parties, all issues, upon the settlement of which will depend the fate of the man in this world for generations. Like existing parties will have fallen like leaves on the highway. "These issues are the issues we want to keep in front of the nation so that we shall not falter or faint in our resolutions."

Struggle for Right. "There is a time in the passion and rage of conflict men forget the high purposes with which they entered the struggle. They forget for international right, international honor, international good faith—the channel along which peace, honor and good will may be carried. "The embankment built up by generations of men against barbarism have been broken and had not the moral and British passed into the breach Europe would have been inundated with a flood of savagery and unbridled lust of power. "I have tried once to remove the mis-understanding between England and Ireland. I was drenched in the suspicion of Irishmen by Englishmen and of Englishmen by Irishmen, and by Irishmen of Irishmen. It was the quarrel of distrust which clogged my footsteps and made progress impossible.

A Common Front. "The policy of a common front must be a reality. It is on the other side. Austrian guns are helping the German infantry and German infantry is helping the Austrian army. The Turks are helping the Austrians and Bulgarians mix with all.

Then the premier enthusiastically house he was cheered and applauded from all quarters. Mr. Asquith, who entered a moment later, also was cheered loudly by the Liberals. Mr. Lloyd George, after dealing with the peace problem, touched upon the general policy which would be inaugurated by the new government. With regard to the question of food supplies, he said: "The main facts are plain. The harvests of the United States and Canada are failures and the Argentine crop is a failure. Under the circumstances the late government decided to appoint a food controller. "We appeal to the nation to assist the government in this emergency. Resources so that no man shall suffer hunger because somebody else has too much. That means sacrifice. But the sacrifice must be enduring. Announcement was made by the premier that more drastic steps would be taken regarding excess profits. He also stated that his proposal for universal mobilization of labor, saying: "We propose to appoint immediately a food controller, the man who will be in charge of the matter of universal national service. The military director will be responsible for recruiting the army. The civil director will begin by scheduling all industries and services according to their character as essential or non-essential to the war."

New Shipping Plan. After making an announcement in regard to the nationalization of shipping Mr. Lloyd George said the shipping controller was now conferring with the legislative, executive and judicial departments. He stated that it would be possible shortly to announce not merely the plan for more effective use of ships on the register but for the construction of new ships to make good the wastage of war. "Dealing with the war situation the premier said he had to paint a stern but not a gloomy picture. The Prussian blunder was an unfortunate one but at the worst it only prolonged the war and could not affect it. To prevent the Rumanian situation from becoming worse they had taken strong action in Greece. They had decided to recognize the agents of former Premier Venizelos. "Speaking of the growth of the British army there and added: "I am convinced ultimate victory is sure if the nation shows the same spirit of endurance and readiness to learn as the mud-stained armies of the front. "Of the co-operation between the allies, he said: "As to our relations with our allies, I venture to say we should seek two things—unity of aim and unity of action. "The solution of the Irish problem, said the premier, was one largely of a better atmosphere. "I wish I could say something definite about Ireland."

Tribute to Colonies. Paying tribute to the contributions of the Dominions to the prosecution of the war, he said the great administration full of gratitude to the old "for the superb valor of our kinemen," and he believed the dominions ought to be more fully consulted in the progress and course of the war. Break With Asquith. The premier referred briefly to his break with Mr. Asquith, saying: "It is one of the deepest regrets of my life that I parted with Mr. Asquith, and some of my friends have known how strove to avert the parting. I am proud to say we never had a personal quarrel. It was with the deepest grief that I found it necessary to part with my venerable friend. "Turning to the more purely political of the domestic problems before the new ministry, Mr. Lloyd George said: "I have been anxious to avoid all controversial questions. The judgment of the premier and leader of the house of commons have been separated because we too much believed the double task of the government to be the organization of the new cabinet is best adapted for the purpose of war. In war you want prompt decision, and

WEATHER RETARDS LIVESTOCK SUPPLY

South St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 19.—Estimated receipts at the Union stockyards today: Cattle, 5,000; calves, 500; hogs, 13,500; sheep, 5,300; cars, 238. "Late rains held back part of the cattle run. The early display of killing stuff found prompt clearance at steady terms with Monday. Estimated receipts of 35,000 were a trade-off about week ago. "Hogs—With severe weather conditions throughout the northwest resulting the arrival of stock billed today, a spotted market, was in effect. On the whole the market was aged up about the same as on Monday. One good lot sold early up to \$9.75 and another bunch went at \$9.70. These transactions reflected a little stronger trend. "Sheep—Another liberal supply of sheep and lambs was offered on this market today. The dealings throughout the day were steady and in some instances a trifle stronger than on Monday. During the early rounds no lamb lots cashed over the \$12.25 mark. Receipts at Monday were \$12.35 was paid. Seconds moved between \$10.50 and \$11.00 mostly. In some instances ewes earned up to \$12.50, quite better than at any time previous, but most of them continued to sell at \$8.50 or under. Representative sales:

Table with columns: Number, Weight, Price. Rows include Beef steers, Butcher bulls, Stock cows and heifers, Veal calves, etc.

LIVE STOCK MARKET. South St. Paul, Dec. 20.—Hogs, 11,300 steady; range, \$9.25 to \$9.75; bulk, \$9.60 to \$10.00. Cattle, 2,500; killers steady; \$4.25 to \$10.25; cows and heifers, \$4.75 to \$7.50; calves 25 cents lower, \$4.25 to \$5.00. Sheep, 5,000; steady; lambs, \$7.00 to \$12.25; wethers, \$6.00 to \$9.00; ewes, \$5.50 to \$8.50.

Sloux City, Dec. 20.—Hogs, 15,500 steady; range, \$9.25 to \$9.75; bulk, \$9.40 to \$9.80; mixed, \$9.45 to \$9.65; heavy, \$9.70 to \$9.95. Cattle, 2,000; killers weak; estimated, \$4.25 to \$5.00. Sheep, 2,500; strong.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Hogs, 58,000 steady; range, \$9.15 to \$9.75; \$9.30 to \$10.05; mixed, \$9.65 to \$10.25; heavy, \$9.75 to \$10.30; rough, \$9.75 to \$9.90; pigs, \$7.00 to 9.25. Cattle, 16,000 steady; native beef cattle, \$7.00 to \$11.60; western steers, \$7.00 to \$11.00; stockers and feeders, \$5.00 to \$8.00; cows and heifers, \$4.25 to \$5.00. Sheep, 17,000, steady; wethers, \$8.35 to \$9.80; lambs, \$11.00 to \$13.00.

Discussion of the measure, which carries appropriations aggregating about \$9,000,000, was productive of much debate over the financial condition of the country. Chairman Fitzgibbon of the appropriations committee, and Representative Rainey of the ways and means committee, protested against the proposed increases on the ground that the government already faces a huge deficit.

How Raise It? "How are you going to raise it?" he asked. "The Payne-Aldrich bill? That is the proposal, some of you make, to save your lives you cannot frame a tariff bill which will yield over \$350,000,000 a year. Mr. Rainey asserted that the limit of revenue had been reached from income taxes, the present rate being the highest in the world and that nation-wide prohibition would make necessary to raise \$257,000,000 from some new source.

Republican Leader Mann favored higher salaries for employees, declaring they should share in the general prosperity which the country is experiencing as a result of the European war. The bill carried appropriations for all the nine sub-treasuries in the country. Representative Sisson of Mississippi made an unsuccessful fight for a settlement of the Irish question, but that the federal reserve banks had made them useless. Secretary McAfee advised congress to have them abolished on the ground that the federal reserve banks had made them useless.

Secretary Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalists, referring to the premier's remarks with regard to Ireland, appealed to him to take drastic action for a settlement of the Irish question, but not to link it with difficulties of anything of the nature of conscription for Ireland.

THE MARKET WORLD

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WHEAT MARKET VERY NERVOUS

Minneapolis, Dec. 20.—Dec. wheat 3 7/8c lower; May wheat 2 1/8c lower; July wheat 3c lower. The wheat market has been very active today and has ruled strong and weak by turns. Opening figures were firm and the market scored a good advance afterwards but the bulge did not hold and there was a 1/4c break later in the day. The political situation is still causing considerable apprehension and the market rules very nervous and the changes come fast and furiously. The Liverpool spot wheat market was unchanged and dull with a steady undertone. A better demand was received there for Manitoba.

Grain Quotations.

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SLUMP IN WHEAT FOLLOWS ASCENT

Chicago, Dec. 19.—After a skyrocket ascent of 7 1/4c today, wheat prices fell 7 1/2c and closed in a state of semi-collapse at a range varying widely from 1/2c under yesterday's finish to 1/4c net advance with May at \$1.64 1/2 @ 1.65 1/2 and July at \$1.38 1/2 @ 1.40. The rise was due to a general impression that Great Britain had rejected outright the German overtures for peace. Ensuing assertions that nevertheless a loop hole for a peace conference still remained were responsible for the subsequent drop in value. Corn lost 1/4 @ 1 1/4c net; oats 3/4 @ 1/2c to 3/4c and provisions 2 1/2 to 1 1/2c.

Selling that grew swiftly into something like a landslide took place when the wheat market had approached to within measurable distance of the prices ruling a week ago before the announcement of the German offer. Rushes to realize profits had much to do with the general unloading and the ensuing price declines, but the stampede to the bear side seemed to derive chief impetus from what purported to be London dispatches asserting that the Lloyd George address had left the door ajar for Germany, provided specific terms were named. "Corn swayed almost wholly as a result of the changes in the wheat market. Oats followed other grain and showed no sign of independence. "Liberal receipts of hogs made provisions average lower. Speculators who were watching the European situation seemed for the time being to have transferred their activities to the wheat pit.

GRAIN OPINIONS. Chapin—Wheat a peace market. Doubt if corn shows much advance. Thomson McKinnon—A repetition of yesterday's violent action in wheat may become more active with the political news in the limelight. Corn should seek lower levels. Especially if more cars can be secured. "Gardner—With sharp sellings either way are always in order under present conditions. Advise caution. Bartlett Frazer—Looks as though sentiment would result in further recovery in wheat for time while speculation of freight in the east permits of the shipping of grain freely.

WEATHER MAP. Canadian west, 3 to 63 below; northwest, 8 to 64 below; west, 14 above to 26 below; cloudy; southwest, 4 to 14 above; rain, cloudy; Ohio valley, 30 to 40, clear. Forecast—North Dakota and Minnesota, fair and continued cold all over except above; generally unsettled snow; colder.

Hides, Pelts, Wool, Etc. Review of the hide and tallow markets by the Hide & Fur Co., Grand Forks. HIDES: The market is very strong and higher. With the season for long hair hides, the market is very active. It is possible of decline later on so market your hides promptly. Calf and Kip prices very high. Horse hides prices higher. PELTS: Pelts are bringing good prices, according to the growth of wool on the pelt. TALLOW: Strong prices ruling.

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MARKET NEWS

Buenos Aires—Wheat closed yesterday 2 1/8 to 2 1/4 higher than opening; corn and oats unchanged. New York—A few minutes consideration of the British premier's speech created the impression in Wall street speculative circles that peace discussion between the entente and central powers was not out of the question. This interpretation led to heavy selling. There was some indication that the important financial interests who are opposed to a spectacular bullish demonstration in the stock market at this time, encouraged the decline that developed on traders' disappointment over the failure of Lloyd George to come out with a direct statement that under no conditions would England entertain peace proposition. Cables—Corn 1d higher. Chicago—Large local traders who were bullish and long on wheat at the close Monday sold out on yesterday's bulge and were bearish and short last night. The bearish feature is that submarine activity on the part of Germany may become more active with a continuation of the war, which will make it more difficult to export grain. The belief is that supplies are ample and heavy exportation to the east is discounted in the recent rise. It will be no surprise to trade in general to see lower prices unless the unexpected happens and shorts start to cover. Shorts in December corn have reduced their lines but it maintains a premium over the May. A good export business was under way in oats at sea-board yesterday, sales exceeded 250,000 bushels. Russell failed to report any trades. Chicago, Dec. 20.—Wheat market opened nervous today. Wheat for May delivery which closed at \$1.64 3/4 to \$1.65 1/8, touched \$1.62 1/2 in the first few minutes of trading. July dropped to \$1.36, a decline of 2 3/4 to 2 7/8 cents.

New York, Dec. 20.—Firmness ruled at the opening of today's stock market with a gain of a fraction to a point in leading issues. The only note worthy exception to this trend was manifested by shipping shares, mercantile marine, preferred and common, losing two and one-fourth and one and one-fourth respectively. The shorts in December corn have reduced their lines but it maintains a premium over the May. A good export business was under way in oats at sea-board yesterday, sales exceeded 250,000 bushels. Russell failed to report any trades.

Trading was in moderate volume with few traces of yesterday's excited and erratic movement. United States steel has a "wide" opening of 16,000 shares at an extreme gain of half a point which was soon extended to a full point. A few examples of the progress of science and civilization and some queer bits of older customs. It is computed that America's output of lumber from 1850 to the present time would make a solid board ten inches thick and 100 feet wide, reaching from the earth to the moon. A new container for a can of condensed milk has been invented, which has a built-in pump that the can and permits the milk to be poured out in the same manner as from a teapot.

Financial Correspondents. GRAND FORKS, N. DAK.

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