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GERMANY MAKES PEACE PROPOSAL

SUBMITS BASIS OF TERMS TO REPRESENTATIVES OF NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

BERLIN IS WILDLY EXCITED

London Shows a Decided Skepticism and Does Not Look For an Immediate Stopping of Hostilities.

Berlin.—Chancellor von Bertman Hollweg on Tuesday proposed to the representatives of the United States, Spain and Switzerland a basis for peace negotiations that would be acceptable to Germany and asked that these proposals be presented to the nations with which Germany is at war.

At the same time the Austrian, Turkish and Bulgarian governments made the same proposal through the nations representing their interests in countries with which they are at war. The proposals of Germany and her allies were also transmitted to the Vatican.

Germany proposes to enter upon peace negotiations at once and to suspend hostilities during the negotiations.

The presentation of these notes to the representatives of neutral governments has created wild excitement throughout Berlin and all of Germany, and reports from Sofia, Vienna and Constantinople show that the move is equally popular in those capitals. While neutral representatives are not willing to talk they indicate that they hope this move is the beginning of the end, and that hostilities will stop in the near future.

London is Skeptical. London.—News that Berlin has proposed a basis for peace through the medium of neutral countries has created a feeling of skepticism in government circles, and with the public. While it may be several days before the proposal of Germany and her allies will be laid officially before the English and other governments of the allied nations, men in public life do not hesitate to say they do not believe the terms will in any way be acceptable to the Allies, or that hostilities will be stopped in the near future.

To Probe Vote in Ohio. Columbus, O.—Acting upon the request of Jas. S. Hatfield, chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee, Secretary of State Charles Q. Hildebrand requested all county boards of election in the state to preserve the ballots cast in the recent election in Ohio to give opportunity for an investigation of charges of irregularities and alleged fraud.

Embargo on News Print. Washington.—A bill designed to place a two-year embargo on exports of news print paper was introduced by Representative Campbell of Kansas and referred to the Commerce Committee. Penalties ranging from fines of \$1,000 to \$20,000 an imprisonment of not more than 10 years would be provided.

He Leaves \$49,566,895. New York.—Charles W. Harkness, who at the time of his death on May 1 last was said to be the third largest holder of Standard Oil stock, left an estate worth \$49,566,895. His brother, Edward S. Harkness, willed \$36,182,000, is the chief beneficiary.

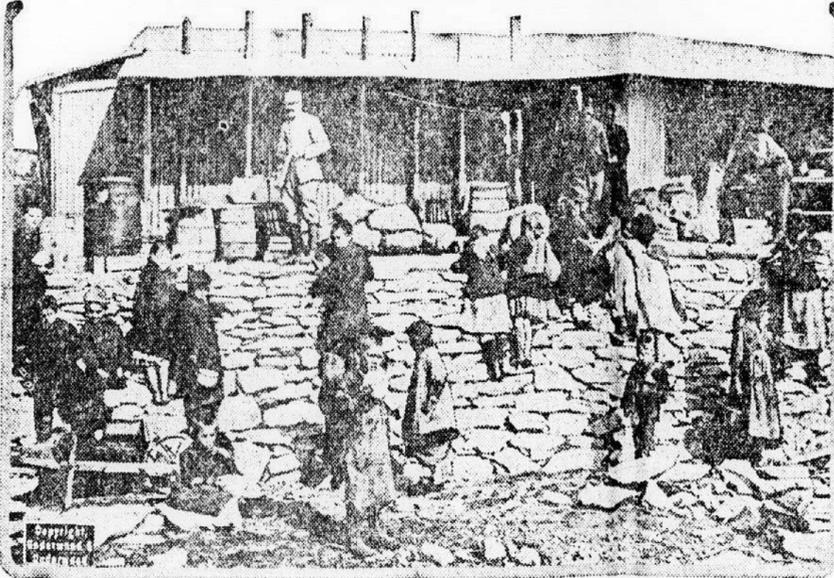
Suspend Lumber Rates. Washington.—The Interstate Commerce Commission suspended until April 9 proposed increases in freight rates on hardwood lumber in carloads from Louisiana and Arkansas points to Rochester, N. Y., and other cities taking the same rate.

Ten Years For Miss Colby. Thompson Falls, Mont.—Miss Edith Colby, a newspaper reporter, convicted of second degree murder for shooting A. C. Thomas, a politician, was sentenced to serve 10 years in the penitentiary.

Medal to Mrs. Duryea. Paris.—President Poincare has awarded a gold medal to Mrs. Harry Duryea of New York for her services during the last two years as head of an American Aid Commission for war victims.

To Seize Farm Lands. London.—In order better to secure food supplies, King George has signed an order in council empowering the Board of Agriculture to take over unoccupied or occupied land for cultivation.

SAVING THE MACEDONIANS FROM STARVATION



Famine prevails in northern Macedonia, and the Greeks are being fed by the French military kitchens. The photograph shows a group of poor children waiting around one of the kitchens for a meal.

AMERICAN STEAMER SHELLED AND SUNK

NO WARNING WAS GIVEN ACCORDING TO SURVIVORS ARRIVING AT NEW YORK.

New York.—The steamship John Lambert, listed in the maritime register as an American vessel, was shelled and sunk without warning by a German submarine off the Isle of Wight, according to members of the crew, Americans, who arrived here on the French line steamship Espagne from Bordeaux.

The John Lambert was one of 12 vessels built on the Great Lakes, which the French agreed to purchase. According to the arrivals, the vessel was on its way to Havre for delivery to the French interests. The attack took place at 4:30 p. m., 25 miles south of the Isle of Wight, members of the crew said. The engineer, Edward Harrison of this city, said the U-boat first made its presence known by sending a shell through the John Lambert's bridge and that the firing continued during the time the crew was taking to the boats, 12 shots in all being fired.

The crew, numbering 16, all of whom arrived here without their captain, said they rowed 40 miles to the French coast, being in the water 12 hours, and shortly after the John Lambert went down they saw the submarine attack and sink two unidentified vessels—a steamship and a bark.

The John Lambert was the last of the 12 Great Lakes craft to be taken to France for delivery. Eighty members of the crews of four of them were passengers on the Espagne. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Transportation Company owned the John Lambert, of 1,550 tons gross, which was built in 1903 at Chicago. The vessel sailed from Montreal on October 20.

Take Wood Pulp Census. Washington.—A census of the amount and cost of pulp wood consumed in the United States is to be taken by the Federal Forest Reserve in co-operation with the News Print Manufacturers' Association, it was reported. The statistics are needed, it is explained, because of the scarcity of pulp wood. Comparative figures showing the total pulp wood consumed for 1899, 1909, 1914 and 1916 are to be compiled.

Only Chinese Are Slain. El Paso.—Reports telegraphed by government agents to Washington that a number of foreigners had been killed in Chihuahua City when Villa bandits occupied the town, are denied by Gen. Jacinto B. Trevino, commanding Carranza forces, who reoccupied the capital. He telegraphed that "only a few Chinese were killed during the time Villa occupied the city."

Want No Recount Now. Concord, N. H.—A petition which had been filed at the office of the secretary of state for the recount of the vote for presidential electors was withdrawn by Philip H. Faulkner, chairman of the Republican State Committee. The reason for withdrawing the petition was not stated. Official returns gave President Wilson a plurality of 56.

No Eggs and Turkey. Richmond, Va.—An absolute boycott on eggs and turkeys for two weeks was declared by the Executive Committee of the Housewives League of Richmond.

DEUTSCHLAND SAFE IN GERMAN WATERS

COMPLETES QUICK TRIP HOME FROM UNITED STATES—MADE PASSAGE IN 19 DAYS.

BEATS FORMER RECORD

Commercial Submarine Completes Its Second Round Trip to America After Again Running the Allied Blockade—\$2,000,000 Cargo.

Berlin.—The German commercial submarine Deutschland, completing a quick voyage home from the United States, arrived off the mouth of the Weser.

The arrival of the Deutschland at a German port marks the successful completion of the second round trip of the commercial undersea boat to the United States.

On her voyage just finished she made the passage in 19 days, having left New London on November 21. This bettered considerably the record of her previous eastward trip, which, starting from Baltimore, took her 23 days. Her two westward voyages occupied respectively 16 days and 21 days.

The Deutschland, which is the only commercial craft of her type that has succeeded in reaching America from Germany, was forced to make two starts from New London.

On her first attempt on November 17, she collided with an escorting tug and had to put back to port. The Deutschland on both of her trips brought valuable cargoes, chiefly of dyes and chemicals. On her present voyage she took a cargo estimated at \$2,000,000 in value and official mail for Germany.

Wrapping Paper Short. New York.—The high cost of wrapping paper has caused department and other retail stores to institute many novel methods of economy. The various grades of heavy paper used for wrapping as well as of tissue paper used for inside wrapping have advanced in price, it is stated, between 300 and 400 per cent in the last 15 months.

W. U. Pays Bonus. New York.—Directors of the Western Union Telegraph Company, at a special meeting voted a bonus to employees receiving less than \$2,000 a year—seven per cent of their annual salary to those receiving less than \$1,200, and 6 per cent to those receiving between \$1,200 and \$2,000. Messengers will receive \$25 each.

Calls Trails Meeting. Oklahoma City, Okla.—W. H. Harvey of Monte Ne, Ark., president of the Ozark Trails Association, called a delegate conference to meet here December 29 to discuss and determine the best methods of hardening surfacing roads. Mr. Harvey issued a general invitation to citizens of all states interested in the subject.

Officer to Hot Springs. Deming, N. M.—Capt. Albert Claunch of Company D, First Arkansas, who has been confined in the base hospital for a month with rheumatism, was sent to Hot Springs, Ark., for treatment. Captain Claunch's home is at Jonesboro.

VILLA BANDITS BURN AMERICAN AT STAKE

REFUGEES BRING REPORT TO THE BORDER—HANG ANOTHER AMERICAN.

El Paso, Texas.—Government agents sent a report to Washington saying an American named Foster had been mutilated, then burned at the stake by Villa bandits operating near Torreon. The report was said to have been brought by refugees coming to the border from Torreon.

Foster was an American hacienda superintendent. His first name, his home in the United States and his relatives are not known here.

Holmes Grey, an American mining man at Parral, Chihuahua, was killed by Villa bandits when they entered the town, according to a telegram received by the Alvarado Mining & Milling Company.

A messenger who arrived from Parral shortly after the telegram was made public said Gray was hanged by order of Villa. The telegram said all other Americans were safe and that American property was not harmed.

Gray was shot to death in the doorway of his home, near Parral, and his body then hanged by a band of Villa bandits from Villa's main column, two foreign refugees reaching here from Parral reported.

These men said Edgar Koch, German consul at Parral, told them he was ordered executed by Villa bandits at Santa Rosalia, after being robbed of \$50,000 worth of silver bars belonging to the Alvarado Mining & Milling Company. Though taken out to be shot, he was later released.

Villa ordered the Palmillo mills of the Alvarado Mining Company's plant at Parral dynamited after an effort had been made to operate it. Two foreign refugees who arrived here said Jose Ynez Salazar, Villa's second in command, protested, and they were closed down.

These refugees said one of the three Iwonsky brothers, who are Germans, were arrested and taken to Villa's military headquarters, but were later released.

They said Dr. Thomas Flannagan, C. Smith, Jacob Meyer, W. A. Scott, McKee and the other Americans except Howard Gray, were safe. They said bandits went to the home of Scott, searched it for him and, failing to find him, threw his wife and children into the street and destroyed his property. A store belonging to Juan Canavati, a Syrian, was dynamited.

Another Appam Case. Washington.—The Supreme Court having agreed to hear on January 8 a case testing possession of the German prize ship Appam, now at Newport News, Va., British claimants asked the court to hear at the same time another case determining ownership of the ship's cargo.

Mail Gifts Early. Washington.—Another appeal to the public to mail Christmas packages early to prevent a crush of mail in the final days before the holidays was issued by the Postoffice Department, with a warning that postal facilities would be taxed this year to capacity because of the country's prosperity.

Would Repeal Guard Act. Washington.—Senator Borah of Idaho announced that he had prepared a bill to repeal the act which federalized the National Guard.

BOARD AIDS FIGHT ON COTTONY SCALE

\$2,500 SET ASIDE FOR BATON ROUGE—TWENTY YEAR BONDS TO BE INVESTIGATED.

RAIL BOARD IN SESSION

President Boyd of Louisiana State University Announced Holidays Will Begin December 22 and Last Until Wednesday, January 3.

Baton Rouge.—At a meeting held in the governor's office the State Board of Liquidation decided to borrow \$29,024.85 of the fiscal agency banks to pay the newspapers of the state for printing the constitutional amendments. The board also authorized the borrowing of \$1,500 to meet the expenses of the state board of parole until July 1, 1918, and \$2,500 for use in eradicating the cottony cushion scale which is attacking trees and shrubbery in Audubon Park in New Orleans.

Senator E. M. Stafford, of New Orleans, asked the board for the last-named appropriation. He said the city would appropriate \$2,500 and would erect a building to help fight the pest and the conservation department and extension department would each appropriate \$500 pending action by the Legislature.

The state treasurer, auditor and the governor, as ex-officio chairman, were appointed as a committee to investigate the proposal of a New York bond company to retire the bonded indebtedness of the state and issue twenty-year bonds, saving the state several thousand dollars in the course of a year.

Present at the meeting were: Governor Pleasant, Attorney General Coe, State Treasurer Hunsicker, State Auditor Capdevielle, Secretary of State Bailey, Lieutenant Governor Mouton and Hewitt Bouanchaud, speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Louisiana Railroad Commission met for its two days' December session with Commissioners Shelby Taylor, J. M. Michel and B. A. Bridges present. The committee heard a number of cases from over the state. Among these is the case of citizens of New Orleans against the Pontchartrain Railroad to compel the road to erect a shed over the end of its pier where the Mandeville steamer lands.

President Boyd, of Louisiana State University, has announced that holidays at the university will begin Friday, December 22, at 1 o'clock, and last until 8:30 a. m. Wednesday, January 3. No extension of time will be granted except under exceptional circumstances and with permission of the president and commandant of cadets.

BRIEFLY RELATED.

The property of the late D. R. Swift is left, according to the Louisiana law, in his will which was opened at Lake Charles. Four heirs will receive about \$67,000 each, they being J. A. Trotti, of this city; William E. and Henry Lee Trotti, of Jasper, Tex., and Benjamin Arthur Trotti, of Brookeland, Tex. Mrs. C. N. Powell of Deweyville, Tex., John I. Trotti, of Elizabeth, and David H. Trotti, of Merryville, children of a deceased sister, will receive \$22,000 each.

Deputy Sheriff Fred Petit of Monroe left for Baton Rouge with Meredith McCormick, who was sentenced to serve ten years in the state penitentiary. McCormick was convicted at the recent term of the district court on an attempted attack on Louise Green, a young girl from Natchez, Miss. Notice of an appeal was given in the case, but this was not perfected.

The prolonged drought, there having been only showers occasionally since the middle of September, has caused all the fields and pastures around Abbeville to become ready prey for flames, and the air has been filled with the smoke of innumerable fires in the fields and marshes. Much damage has been done to fields, crops and farm buildings.

Cottonseed is bringing \$60 and cotton 20 cents, at Newellton, and there was a large corn crop made, for which the Newellton elevator is paying 90 cents a bushel and is being kept busy with an extra force of men.

Elaborate services were conducted at the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at Levy in memory of Rev. Father Charles Richard, the late rector of this church, who died in New Orleans at the Hotel Dieu.

Scoring of the contested parts of the southern end of Jefferson Highway by J. D. Clarkson, general manager of the Jefferson Highway Association, was marked by wildest enthusiasm all along the route traversed by him. The official Jefferson Highway automobile is being escorted by 30 automobiles from both the northern and southern routes of the stretch between Colfax and Alexandria.

Mr. Clarkson scored the southern route via Boyce from Colfax to Alexandria. He reversed and went back over the northern route via Marks-ville, Echo, Tioga and Hadnot to Colfax. Both routes are in heated contest, and, in addition to the personal inspection being made by Mr. Clarkson, the representatives are flooding him with a volume of statistics relative to population, land values, resources, paved roadways and available bond issues for road building.

Mr. Clarkson will be the sole arbiter of the route to be selected, and will render his decision on the route between Colfax and New Orleans Tuesday, December 19, at 2 o'clock in the parlors of the Association of Commerce. All of the route from Winnipeg, Canada, to Colfax already has been designated, with more than a thousand miles of the way smooth paved and 500 miles in course of construction.

Upon completing the scoring of routes between Colfax and Alexandria, he will return to Alexandria and score the north and south routes between Alexandria and Bunkie, and after that the north and south routes between Bunkie and Port Allen, completing this work about December 16. This will be followed by trips between Port Allen and New Orleans, scoring both sides of the river. This will require another week.

Officials of the Louisiana State Interdenominational Sunday School Association of Amite City addressed the annual convention of the Tangipahoa Parish Sunday School Association during the second day's session when a delegation of Sunday school workers assembled in the Laurel Street Baptist Church. They were Val Carter, state secretary, of New Orleans, and Miss Susie Judin, state field worker, of New Orleans. The Tangipahoa Association was divided into five districts and officers will be named for each district. Samuel Gate of Hammond was elected representative of Tangipahoa parish on the state executive board. Other speakers were Mrs. Brittain M. Purser, Dr. Gillen, Rev. C. O'N. Martindale, Miss Agnes Scot, W. A. Sizemore, Rev. J. G. Murphy, Rev. J. B. Williams.

The proposal to create an additional indebtedness of \$40,000 for extensive drainage work undertaken in the New River drainage district near Donaldsonville, was approved by the taxpayers of the district at a special election held November 23, the vote being 140 for and only 14 against. The value of the property represented by the affirmative vote was \$70,900; in opposition to \$,660. The vote by precincts was: St. Amant, for 72, against 0; property value, \$37,685 for, Gonzales, for 42, against 1; property value, \$20,455 for, \$380 against. Dutchtown, for 22, against 13; property value \$8,520 for, against \$5,290. Geismar, for 4, against 0; property value \$4,060 for.

The annual one-week institute for the public school teachers of Ascension parish will be held in Donaldsonville immediately after the Christmas holidays, beginning Tuesday, January 2, and ending Saturday, January 6. The teachers will be paid for attending the institute, the same as a regular school week, and Superintendent H. P. Broussard has notified them that he will expect them to report promptly for the opening and to be present every day. The program on Tuesday will be conducted by Superintendent Broussard; on Wednesday by L. J. Babin, principal of Dutchtown High School; on Thursday by L. A. Sims, principal of Gonzales High School.

Sheriff Tom Hughes of Shreveport, in the face of the remarkable disparity between the number of poll taxes that had been paid by this time last year, and the number paid so far this year, issued an urgent request to those who are eligible to quit waiting so long. He suggested that the school board, which gets the entire proceeds of poll tax payments, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and other civic organizations get behind the delinquents and hustle them along to the collector's office.

A new registration of Lake Charles must be effected between January 1 and 9, and, as there are 2,000 persons now registered, the office of the clerk of court will see quite a rush of voters after the first of the year. Under the state law a new registration is required for the year 1917, and as a primary election is to be held in Lake Charles for the election of city officers about the tenth of February, the rolls will be closed on January 9.