GERMANY'S ALLEGED PEACE PLAN MEETS OUR WAR AIMS, IN PART

(BY H. S. H.)

THE state department has received, through neutral diplomatic channels, what purports to be an outline of the peace terms which emperor William of Germany is said to be preparing to submit to the allies in his Christmas message. They include the following:

To leave the disposition of Alsace-Lorraine to a plebiscite (vote) of the inhabitants.

England to pay Germany for her lost African colonies and the money to be used for the rehabilitation of Belgium, Servia, Rumania and northern France.

Russian provinces bordering the Baltic sea, the Black sea and Prussia to become independent under a Germon plan.

Poland to be called an independent state under Austrian suzerainty.

Disarmament, freedom of the seas and commerce to be left to the peace conference.

Rumania, Servia and Montenegro to retain their original boundaries with the right to access to the sea being granted to Servia.

Turkey to remain intact.

Whether this outline really represents the peace terms which Germany is willing to sign, or whether it is merely one of those frequent "feelers" sent out to test the state of the entente's mind, cannot be said now. The central powers, meaning Germany, hardly would lay the cards on the table at first. If this is a genuine outline, Germany probably is willing, in order to obtain peace, to grant even more than is indicated in the above. But let us examine the offer seristim.

1. To decide the disposition of Alsace-Lorraine, whether it shall be restored to France or remain in German possession, by a vote of the inhabitants. Germany has contended from the beginning that a majority of the inhabitants of the provinces do not want to be restored to France; that they are German or Germanized. France has held an unwavering view that Alsace-Lorraine is as much French in spirit as ever and would welcome return to the mother country. France also has said that a full and free election, with no "floaters" or "repeaters" rung in by Germany, would show the French sentiment. It is remarkable that Germany should even consent to a vote of the inhabitants on this proposition, since every German official and prominent publicist—it is believed there are no exceptions—has declared the future of Alsace-Lorraine is not open to discussion; that it must remain German. On the theory that Germany is not now offering a topmost price for peace, it might be a fair guess that Germany would consider influencing any election in such a way that France could not lose. That would save the imperial prestige at home.

2. Relinquishment of all German colonies in Africa to England, England to apply the purchase price to the restoration of Belgium, Servia and Rumania and the occupied parts of France, would be counted a powerful temptation to England, who would not only receive a great territorial acquisition, but would have achieved the objects for which British statesmen contend the nation is fighting, namely, the restoration of all occupied territories and especially of Belgium, in whose defence Britain entered the war. Germany would be the loser in this transaction, for the colonies would pass out of Germany's hands and the purchase money would be applied to righting the wrongs Germany has done in occupied territory. This might also appeal to France very strongly, for France would be restored physically and France is fighting for restoration and for Alsace-Lorraine. The proposition would appeal, naturally, to Belgium and Servia and doubtless to Rumania also, for Rumania probably has long ago forgotten her original hope of territorial acquisition. The German African colonies, which England would receive, consist of German East Africa, German Southwest Africa and Kamerun, three large states, each about the size of Spain. The two first named touch British territory. Their acquisition would give Britain a coast line of 3000 miles and a depth of 1000.

3. Russian provinces bordering the Baltic and Black seas and Prussia to become independent under a German plan. Here is where Germany comes in. Better rich semi-territories right at hand than colonies thousands of miles away. Independencies created under a German plan would mean German dependencies. The provinces involved were heavily Germanized before the war. Germans lived in them and had the best farms, the largest stores and the finest homes. Germany would thoroughly Germanize them by colonization. Their nominal independence would be an advantage to Germany. They would be the much desired buffer between Russia and Germany. Germany would get their riches. Theoretically they would be free. Practically they would be no more free than Bavaria, which has its own king, parliament and cabinet, yet is part of the German empire, save that they would not be acknowledged as a part of the German empire as Bavaria is.

Under this arrangement, Germany would practically obtain the following provinces: Livonia and the Dago and Oesel islands, Courland, Kovno, Suwalki, Bessarabia, Cherson, Taurida and the Crimea. No mention was made of the provinces bordering Austria Hungary. They are two: Volhynia and Podolia. If they were meant to be included, the kaiser would be provided with his much desired outlet from Prussia to the Black Sea, with the splendid port of Odessa, and would have a very rich territory 12 miles long and 300 miles wide, on an average. Austria-Hungary would be compensated, of course, by the suzerainty over Poland.

How would the allies regard this? Probably with indifference. Russia, formerly the dangerous rival of Great Britain, is almost wholly destroyed and a little further destruction would cause no great worry to either England or France, as Germany is well aware, and especially in view of Russia's defection from the alliance.

It will be observed no mention has been made of the German possessions in the Orient, now in Japan's hands. Japan will keep them. Do not doubt it, and perhaps Germany thinks nothing would be gained by mentioning them.

4. Disarmament., freedom of the seas and commerce to be left to the peace conference. That is as it should be, if Germany could be depended on to respect it, but she can't.

5. Rumania, Servia and Montenegro to retain their original boundaries, with Servia to have the right of access to the sea, would satisfy those small countries.

6. Turkey to remain intact. That would run very much counter to England, which already has conquered much of Mesopotamia and Palestine and the whole Christian world would balk at allowing Jerusalem to revert to Turkey.

As to conclusions: Most of the material requirements of the allies would be satisfied by these proposals. The war aims of the United States would be defeated utterly. We are out to overthrow dangerous autocratic power and would not have achieved the aim. We are cut to make the world safe for democracy and it would be no safer than before. Far from being forced to overthrow the Hohenzollerns and renounce militarism, Germany would be undefeated, potentially stronger than ever, and prepared to undergo another period of preparation for "The Day."

Lloyd George and Clemenceau hold the same view and so do a very considerable portion of their countrymen. Germany cannot be left a menace to the peace of the world. There can be no compromise with a criminal. Therefore these peace proposals, as alluring as they are, generally, cannot be accepted so long as Germany's megalomania is uncured.

When they get done showing up Luxburg, he also will be "spurlos versenkt."

If what Heney says is true, the Chicago packers have been engaged in making the world safe for plutocracy.

Whatever the real situation with regard to sugar shortage, the investigation disclosed no shortage of pepper.

It's an encouraging sign of a change in spirit when youth drops cheap "popular" tunes and begins whistling "the Marseillaise."

The Colorado grandmother who related the horrible murder tales involving her son and grandson is wasting her talents on a coroner's jury when she might be composing movie melodrama. Her gruesome yarn made a good story, only it wasn't so.

JERUSALEM

By WINSOR McCAY

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:: FACTS ABOUT OUR NAVY ::

The Skipper.

By LIEUTENANT FITZHUGH GREEN, U. S. N.

ABOARD his ship a Skipper is Czar of the Hours, Grand Mogul of the Minutes, and Sultan of all the Faltering Seconds. He is Lord High Arbiter of the Watches, King among his Clocks, and Three-Tailed Bashaw of the Calendar. Let the Sun go glimmering across the sky, and time balls drop like ripe apples; let every doughty Ingersoll do its bit to see it through—yet, should the Skipper please, any and all can be exiled to Siberia of "Leave it be, Charlie; them Lubbers can't keep time!"

The surprising (to Pale faced City) part is that he is legally, practically, and, I may say, morally within his rights.

Every fraction of an inch east and west around the world has its own time—has four kinds of its own time! Whence it follows that on a ship occupying several million of these fractions the captain can choose the one he shiver-his-timbers pleases to choose.

I sit here writing in my little steel stateroom. Since the sun is directly over my head the time is noon. For a sailor scrubbing paintwork outside my port it is afternoon because the sun has already passed his busy swab a few moments ago. Our Navigator across the way is still chasing logarithms in this morning—the sun has not yet reached him.

That kind of noon is called Apparent Noon not real time but Apparent Time. For, I grieve to say, Old Sol, like many other public characters is irregular in his private habits. Winter and summer he moves at an entirely different rate than in spring or fall. Which of course annoyed systematic scientists until they were forced to produce an imaginary sun whose movements average the tipsy wanderings of the Great Blaze. This rayless automation is called the Mean Sun, and his time is Mean Time.

But, as usual, Law had last word in the matter. Broadway closing hours if applied to Front street, Frisco would annihilate profit and end in civil war. Chicago, divided in sentiment, would increase the tumult. Men compromised, and to Free Speech and Free Religion added Free Time, with a few local ground rules. The well behaved Mean Sun was subsidized. When it melted collars in Times Square, Local Mean Noon was announced. For each 1 deg. of longitude, or 900 miles) further east or west an hour's difference was set. Civil Time it is called. Its civility is obvious.

Finally for the star gazers we have Star or Sidereal Time. The star day is 23 hours, 56 minutes, 4.09 seconds long; never varies; and is the period in which earth makes one complete revolution. Sidereal watches are often used by astronomers, but it is known that they eat breakfast by the alarm clock in the kitchen.

Well versed in these ephemeral idiosyncracies, the Ship Captain views with indifference all time but that which suits his fancy—except Greenwich Time, kept by a chronometer in a padded box below. Minutes past Greenwich noon mean 15 miles apiece west of that illustrious English village. Minutes before noon mean miles east. The fisherman uses a 5.50 nickel-plated clock; a battleship has $2000 worth of chronometers. The former can navigate in miles; the latter cuts to yards. But they run aground with equal frequency. Piloting is a matter of minutes rather than miles, of skill more than school; and commonsense is worth a dozen chronometers.

"Eight bells, sir," reports the Officer-of-the-Deck. "Make it so," says the Skipper; and, if he hesitates, a thousand men will wait—for that 'make it so' is the ship's noon tick, her time ball and factory whistle rolled into one. Noon tick it is, but a tobacco-scented, hard-strung, ill timed one compared to the polished hair spring. But all ticks are not the bed kind; and this one is from a pretty big bug.

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Abe Martin

Th' American people have been educated up t' about ever'thing 'cept puttin' their country before their stomachs, an' it'll probably take a couple o' good defeats t' do that. Th' devil soon gits onto a lonesome feller.

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Uncle Walt's Denatured Poem.

German Chemistry

THE German chemists work all night, and hustle all the day. "We'll make for everything in sight a substitute," they say. "The people say they're needing meat, but meat is not for sale; we'll make a substitute of peat, and sell it by the pail. They cry for bread throughout the realm, but bread no merchants sell; we'll treat a block of slippery elm, and that will do as well. Though there's no sugar in the land, let this be understood: We're busy now refining sand, which will be just as good." The chemists make their turnip jam and toadstool marmalade, until the weary people damn their dark and mystic trade. The chemists brew their noxious dope, and say to hungry folk, "Cheer up! cheer up! don't give up hope—we're making flour of oak." The German parent, sick and sore, beholds his children starve; there comes a chemist to the door—"Here is a brick to carve! It's made of shavings and old shoes, excelsior and tar; you're needing bread? Don't have the blues, for this is better far." If famine comes to this our land I think we'll starve and die before

Copyright, by George Matthew Adams WALT MASON

Little Interviews

Prevent Fires at Christmas; Help Conserve the Resources Says Jitnes Give the City $12,000 Yearly; Home Industry

"IF the people of El Paso wish to hooverize and conserve in a way that will do the most good," said Tom Cruicker, of the publicity committee of the El Paso Insurance exchange, "they can find no better way to do this than by aiding the insurance men of the city in the prevention of fires during Christmas week. The citizens of El Paso are patriotic and are doing a great work along the lines of saving fuel, food and other material, and the fire prevention committee very greatly desires that the public will also be very careful especially during the holiday season, so that we may avoid any conflagration that would cause sorrow and loss of property to any of the inhabitants. Members of the Insurance exchange, after a full discussion of the subject, made the following suggestions in reference to the placing of candles in the windows behind the Red Cross emblems in our homes on Christmas eve: Be sure that the candle is placed in a candlestick, or on a large dish or plate, so that it will not fall. Be sure that the candle is placed so that the flame will not come in contact with the curtains or other inflammable material. Be sure to extinguish the flame of the candle before leaving the room for the night. The placing of candles on Christmas trees and Red Crosses should be discouraged, and electric lights should be used where this is practicable. This is the old fashion and dangerous."

* * *

"Passing through North Carolina on my way west I saw an interesting thing in two towns, the names of which I can't recall," said John Feeney, retired real estate man of Elmira, N. Y. "In those towns automobiles are barred from the downtown sections in the heavy shopping days immediately preceding Christmas. Everybody walks or rides street cars. The citizens took up the idea in the belief that Christmas shopping is bad enough without having added to it the danger of injury by automobiles. They acted in the interest of the mother trying to guide her little children over the crossings. Stopping over here on my way to Tucson to spend the winter, I have seen a number of narrow escapes of pedestrians from automobiles, and I wonder whether the North Carolina plan mightn't work out well here."

* * *

"The importance of birth records has never been brought to the public mind so forcibly as in the past year," said Elmer T. Clements. "When the draft law was passed there were many Americans who had not always given their proper age in sworn documents, who were driven to the necessity of procuring birth certificates in order to clear themselves from the scarce of evading the draft. Others procured certificates or affidavits from parents in order to make themselves safe when traveling in parts of the country where they were not known. Many church officers were called on to furnish baptismal certificates, which is the next thing to a birth certificate. The recent passport regulations have also made it necessary for many men to procure birth certificates or affidavits. In many cases this is absolutely impossible for older Americans, and the regulations have to be waived on proper presentation of the facts. In the future birth registration will be an official regulation in all states of the union."

* * *

"There is nothing like an old fashioned wood fire for comfort, and if it is burning in a fireplace it is all the better," said W. T. McFarland. "Steam heat, hot water heat, gas stoves, hard and soft coal fires are all fine, but give me the old fashioned wood fire that burns cheerily in the crisp winter evenings. There is something about it that calls back to mind the experience of the primitive man who sat around a camp fire of wood in far-gone ages; but, of course, all of our more immediate ancestors used wood for fuel also. There is a great deal of firewood available in the national forests, and the problem of conserving coal would be much facilitated by development of these wood supplies."

* * *

"Everything is being done for the boys of the army and navy who have been called to the colors," said A. Kean. "Dinners are given and Christmas boxes sent, and we are only too glad that it is so; but in our rush I think the lonely wives of the two branches of the personnel have been sadly neglected. What are we doing for their Christmas? There are enough of these women who have no relatives in the city who would appreciate an evening of dancing and the society of others just as much as our so called 'society girls,' and it would help them 'over the top.'"

* * *

"Speaking for myself and other jitne bus operators, I should like to have the public realize how much money we have to put into circulation in our business," said J. F. Haynes. "Understanding that they will be able to make a better decision in the fight being waged to curtail our operation. In the first place, the jitne busses in El Paso pay to the city annually about $12,000 in licenses, including chauffeurs' fees. Now, by the closest kind of figuring and the most careful handling of a car, I find that the lowest daily average cost of operation is $5.95. This goes to the local tire man, the local gasoline man, and the local repairman, while the small surplus we have left over in our income is banked in local banks. For these reasons showing that we are strictly a home industry, I believe we are entitled to fair consideration."

That Rookie from the 13th Squad.

By P. L. Crosby.

China Makes Final Plan For Sending an Army to Help Allies In Europe

Tokio, Japan, Dec. 22.—China has decided upon four measures regarding the expedition of troops to Europe, according to word from Pekin. They are: That the funds for the purchase of a uniform pattern of arms for the expeditionary force and the expenditure for their transportation shall be raised from the loan now under negotiation from Japan.

The second measure is that the British and French governments shall be requested to give transportation facilities for conveying the Chinese expeditionary force to Europe. Funds for the maintenance of the force in Europe shall be appropriated from the portion of the Boxer indemnity due Germany and Austria, and in sending the expeditionary troops to Europe the same measures shall be adopted as have been done by the United States.

STATE OFFICIALS FOREGO USUAL HOLIDAY HOME TRIPS

Austin, Texas, Dec. 22.—For the first time in the history of the state there will be no exodus of state officials and employes in the departments to their former homes to spend the holidays. Inquiry has developed that very few, if any, of the officials will leave their posts to spend Christmas at their old homes.

Failure of the railroads of the state to give excursion rates for the holidays is the principal cause.

Marriages in Seattle, Wash., increased 200 percent in the last year. In New York city a gain of 32 percent was shown.

Short Snatches From Everywhere

Our idea is, however, that when the war is over the men of Germany will want peace, not bigamy.—Kansas City Star.

If it seems that the kaiser is to have Russia on his hands he will do well to look up the accepted diet of white elephants.—Baltimore American.

The kaiser expects to regain the respect of the world by the sword. And the poisoned well and the mangled children, too.—Detroit Free Press.

The Japanese general who remarks that Japan is ready to join the allies in war might complete the information by explaining who is holding her back.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Lord Lansdowne appears to be under the impression that it would appease a brutal government bent on conquest to assure it that we didn't intend to harm it in the least.—Chicago Herald.

The people who think they are doing all they can possibly do for the country will probably be surprised a year hence to find themselves doing twice as much with half the effort. But they will know more then.—Houston Post.

$50,000,000 APPROPRIATION FOR WAR DEFICIENCY ASKED

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—Almost $50,000,000 in appropriations to complete war preparations during the present fiscal year has been asked in deficiency estimates submitted to congress since the holiday recess began last Tuesday. The navy club has asked for more than $45,000,000 of this. The largest item is $15,438,500 for naval ordnance and ordnance stores.

GET CHRISTMAS MONEY.

Acting mayor J. F. O'Connor and city clerk Jack Dawson have arranged that all city employes will receive their pay for the month Monday so that they might have funds over the Christmas holidays. County tax collector R. Del Riches is doing likewise with his deputies, while county school teachers received their pay Friday.

AND HE DID!

EL PASO HERALD

DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE, THAT NO GOOD CAUSE SHALL LACK A CHAMPION, AND THAT EVIL SHALL NOT THRIVE UNOPPOSED.

H. D. Slater, editor and controlling owner, has directed The Herald for 19 years; J. C. Wilmarth is Manager and G. A. Martin is News Editor.

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SKINNY SHANER'S TRIP

GOAT GRABBERS—

D. LIGHTED THE GINK WHO CLAPS HIS HANDS WHEN YOU TELL HIM A JOKE.

FROM JOE BRANDI—

WELL KNOWN SAYINGS ILLUSTRATED BY A.H. LISTHARDT

DEEP THINKERS

GEE, AIN'T IT COLD!!

Answer to Yesterday's

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WOMAN AND AN UMBRELLA?—YOU CAN SHUT UP AN UMBRELLA.

SO THEY TELL US!!

Get This!

FROM W. H. MORFORD, U. S. A.

WHAT HAS FOUR LEGS, TWO ARMS, YET NO HANDS OR FEET?

ANSWER MONDAY—

12-22

ARE YOU THINKING THIS WAY TO-DAY?

I WISH I KNEW WHO WAS GOING TO GIVE ME PRESENTS SO I WOULD KNOW WHO TO GIVE 'EM TO

THAT'S WHAT MANY ARE THINKING