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WARRING NATIONS NOW WILLING TO TALK PEACE

Premier Asquith Tells House of Commons England Will Discuss Terms of Peace Either Directly or Through Neutral Nation, and Germany Indicates Readiness to Enter Into Negotiations That May Lead to End of War

+ ENGLAND AND GERMANY +
+ READY FOR PEACE TALK +

England is willing to discuss serious proposals for peace, made by her enemies either directly or through a neutral nation—Premier Asquith told the house of commons yesterday.

Germany is ready to discuss peace terms if they are compatible with Germany's dignity and safety—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg to the reichstag today.

Berlin, Dec. 9.—Germany is ready to harken to peace proposals.

But these proposals must be "compatible with Germany's safety and dignity." Moreover, Germany feels it would be folly to make overtures herself at a time when enemy statesmen's "guilt or ignorance" are entangled through the confusion of the public.

Such are Germany's ideas on peace—made known to the world today for the first time through a speech by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg before the reichstag in answer to the interpellation by Socialist Member Scheidemann.

Germany, however, scoffs at enemy views that she can be starved into submission; she wonders why, with her armies triumphant on every front, the enemy does not propose a halt. Upon Tautou shoulders henceforth, Hollweg declares, there can be no guilt for continuation of the struggle.

"A glance at the map," he said, "will show that Germany is conscious of her strength and successes. Germany can now speak for peace without risking being considered weak-hearted or dispirited."

At the same time, he protested against the dreamers who see annexations in the wake of the struggle. "But," he added, "it is equally foolish for our enemies to advocate dismemberment of Germany or a crusade against so-called Prussian militarism."

Moreover, he branded it folly for the French to continue to desire possession of Alsace-Lorraine. But in demanding a statement as to Germany's peace terms, he asserted that notwithstanding her great victories, Germany also has made great sacrifices.

"The question of peace is uppermost in the minds of belligerents," he said. "Statesmen, however, do not know how to begin negotiations because they consider it would be taken as a confession of weakness."

In this connection, he mentioned Lord Courtney's peace address to parliament, and the agitation of Italian socialists for peace. He quoted Count Andrassy as authority for the statement that the longing for peace is general in France.

"The war," he suggested, "is bringing Europe to the verge of ruin."

However, he assailed the idea that it is possible to starve Germany. The census, he pointed out, showed 20,000,000 kilograms of grain and 55,000,000 kilograms of potatoes, and these amounts are enough to last Germany for a long time.

In concluding, he denied that Germany is seeking world leadership, as enemy nations maintain. She wants merely to be equal with other nations. By moving toward peace now, Germany may gain the glory she first dreamed of, he suggested.

Following Hollweg's speech all parties united in a declaration approving his stand, and declaring any peace terms must guarantee Ger-

many's safety even if annexation of territory is necessary. It had been suggested, though, that annexation is not what Germany seeks.

Hollweg claimed that the allies had tried liberal offers to persuade Bulgaria to join them.

"But King Ferdinand redeemed the promise he gave after the second Balkan war, in which Bulgaria bore the brunt of the battle and was then deserted by Russia," said the chancellor. "Serbia then received her reward from Russia because of her vanguard against Austria, but now Bulgarian flags float over the reconquered Bulgarian soil. Serbia is crushed and another small country has been sacrificed for the allies' interest."

"The Danube is now free. The Turkish position at the Dardanelles is firmer than ever, although Premier Asquith of England this summer proclaimed its imminent fall."

The chancellor mentioned, too, the allies' attempts to regain the lost Balkans through threats of vengeance against Greece.

"Those who used the pretext that they are warring against Prussian militarism," now threaten Greece with the English navy. This attitude makes it impossible for them to continue their hypocrisy about Belgium."

The economic life of Belgium, von Bethmann-Hollweg declared, is reviving. Her coal mines, crippled by the war, produced 3,500,000 tons in the last three months, and this is almost the normal amount.

"Belgium," he said, "now suffers from the fact that England hinders export of Belgian goods. Germany's task in Russia is especially hard since the Russian government has left everything undone. Germany has built nearly 3,000 miles of new roads. We have opened new schools, but these teach the mother tongue, not Russian. In Warsaw the Polish language, and in Belgium the Flemish, were formerly suppressed."

Bethmann-Hollweg charged "the allies newspapers are full of sensational lies about Germany, as they need something to divert public attention from their own miserableness."

Galleries were filled some time in advance of the chancellor's speech. Tickets of admission had been eagerly taken up, and when the chancellor arose not a vacant seat was to be had.

Scheidemann assailed those favoring annexation of conquered countries, and reminded them that the kaiser himself declares this is not a war of conquest by Germany.

Berlin, via Wireless to Sayville, Dec. 9.—Germany stands ready to discuss peace proposals with her enemies, provided they are "compatible with Germany's dignity and safety."

Such was Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's statement at "Peace day" in the reichstag today before crowded galleries.

"As long as in enemy countries, the statesmen's guilt and ignorance are entangled with the public's confusion," Hollweg declared. "It would be folly for Germany to make proposals which would not shorten, but instead would lengthen the war."

"First the masks must be torn from their faces. Now they speak of a war of annihilation against us. We have to consider this fact—that theoretical arguments for peace will not advance us; they will not bring the end nearer."

"If our enemies make proposals compatible with Germany's dignity and safety, we will always be ready to discuss them."

Germany does not, however, ac-

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RAILROAD MUST PAY COSTS IN THE GRANT LAND CASE

Portland, Dec. 9.—Federal Judge Wolverton formally read in court today the decree which limits the equity of the Southern Pacific railroad in 2,300,000 acres of the Oregon-California land grant to \$2.50 per acre.

The decree will be filed tonight. The decree furthermore permanently enjoins the railroad from selling portions of the land in question to others than actual settlers or in tracts larger than 160 acres.

Another injunction prevents even such sales until congress shall have had time to define its attitude in the matter.

An important feature of the decree is the ruling which will compel the railroad to pay all costs of the suit, which are tremendous. The cross-complaints and intervenors who claimed title to the land by right of settlement or otherwise are relieved of the costs in their suits.

The decree affects hundreds of settlers on Oregon land and is one of the most important in the history of Oregon jurisprudence.

CASE OF THE LINER MINNESOTA NOW FULL OF MYSTERY

San Francisco, Dec. 9.—That either Captain Garlick of the crippled Hill liner Minnesota, struggling northward in tow along the coast, is not telling all he knows of affairs aboard, or that the agents here are concealing some information, was the belief prevailing along the waterfront today.

Port Captain Wiley of the line claimed Garlick denied any mutineers or spies had crippled the vessel—that the troubles were solely mechanical.

On the other hand, it was regarded as significant that the steamer City of Para, landing here today, picked up a long code message from Captain Garlick to the Hill line here. That this, indeed, revealed much to clear up the mystery of the crippled food laden ship is generally believed.

Some suggest that the length and secrecy of the message indicated that it revealed something more than a mere statement that the vessel is afflicted only by mechanical ailments.

A deep silence meantime has settled over those who may know all the details. There is from them no explanation of early reports that the ship has aboard mutineers in irons.

San Diego reports that Captain Garlick had refused to answer wireless requests for information sent by newspapers and other interested parties, seemed significant.

BONDS COVERING BIG LOAN TO ALLIES ARE GOING BEGGING

New York, Dec. 9.—Bonds covering the \$500,000,000 loan to the allies sold down to 95 today, the lowest point they have reached since they were issued.

It was rumored that investors were not taking them up as well as had been expected and that this was in part responsible for the low level.

The life of the Morgan syndicate engaged in floating the bonds expires Tuesday, and it may have half of the loan left on its hands at that time.

J. P. Morgan is reported to be trying to induce banks to hold their allotments for a time to prevent a bad slump in price which might follow sudden unloading.

I. A. Robie went to Roseburg this morning on a business trip.

GOVERNOR PARDONS DODSON

Convicted of Brutal Murder and Once Sentenced to Hang, Man Is Released Through Executive Action

Salem, Ore., Dec. 9.—After having served 10 years in the state prison for the murder of William Dunlap, an aged miner of Grants Pass, A. E. Dodson, who was once sentenced to hang for the crime, was pardoned Tuesday afternoon by Governor Withycombe. Dodson was sentenced to hang August 11, 1905, but a movement to have his sentence commuted to life imprisonment was successful.

It was argued in his behalf then that he was a tool of Andrew Ingram, who was given a life sentence for his part in the murder. Dodson confessed he had fired the shot that ended Dunlap's life.

According to evidence introduced at the time of the murder, robbery was the motive, and Dodson and Ingram had twice visited Dunlap's cabin in the Louse creek district with the intention of killing the miner. The killing occurred on the occasion of the third visit.

Ingram's son became suspicious of the actions of his father and Dodson and watched them. When his father learned that the boy knew of the murder he made the boy return to the shack and search the dead body, hoping in this way that he would not tell the authorities. The youth kept silent for a year and a half and it was his confession that sent his father to prison with Dodson.

The murder was a cold blooded affair. Dunlap had entertained Dodson and believed him to be his friend. He was shot down without warning. Following his crime, Dodson rushed from the cabin, but later returned with Ingram to loot the place.

According to statements given out here, Dodson was pardoned because he has already lost the sight of one eye and will soon be totally blind. Dodson, it was explained, will go to Colorado to live with a brother.

CITY OF HOPEWELL, VA., BUILT BY WAR BOOM, IS BURNING

Hopewell, Va., Dec. 9.—The entire business section of this "war boom" town was threatened today by a fire which started in a Greek restaurant and spread rapidly, as it was fanned by a high wind.

The DuPont Powder company fire department was aided by volunteers and aid came, too, from Petersburg, Va.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 9.—A special train carrying fire apparatus was rushed this afternoon to Hopewell to cope with the conflagration there. The flames were reported still spreading.

Later Hopewell was cut off from the world and all wires were reported to be down. The cause of the fire has not been ascertained, but it is believed to have been incendiary.

Hopewell, Va., Dec. 9.—Believed to be a Teutonic agent, a man caught placing explosives in the DuPont Powder company's shipping warehouse was arrested here last night. Blueprints and sketches of the plant were found on him, but his Greek companion was released after a quantity of nitro-glycerine had been taken from him. The warehouse contained a shipment of gun cotton for the allies.

REIGN OF TERROR OF BANDITRY IN CITY OF SEATTLE

Seattle, Dec. 9.—Seattle's experience with crooks Wednesday night and early this morning included a pistol fight between a merchant patrolman and two alleged highwaymen, one of whom was perhaps fatally wounded. A jitney bus hold-up by three bandits, who later held up a saloon, and the robbery of \$20 from a meat delivery boy by a man who had telephoned for pork chops and asked that change be sent. James Morman, 43 years old, is in the city hospital with a bullet through his liver, and Charles Sato, 24 years old, is in the city jail as the result of the encounter with a merchant patrolman, H. Alverson.

After robbing Will Kritner of \$10 and a gold watch, three masked bandits stole Kritner's jitney bus at 1:30 this morning, and driving to the Boulevard saloon on Plummer street, held up the bartender, proprietor and five patrons at the point of revolvers, obtaining \$100 cash and several hundred dollars' worth of jewelry.

Just at closing time last night a man telephoned to the Sontag Meat market, on Madison street, asking them to send a half dozen pork chops to 1644 20th avenue.

... and have the boy bring change for \$20," it was ordered. The meat was dispatched on a bike, a man met the boy and invited him inside and took the \$20 and also \$10 additional the boy had, threatening him with death if he gave the alarm, locked him in a closet and escaped on the boy's bicycle. The house had been unoccupied for some time.

TURKS HARASS RETREATING BRITISH AT BAGDAD

(By United Press Leased Wire.) Constantinople, Dec. 9.—In constant clash with the British retreating from their Bagdad failure, the Turks have reached Sheikh Saad, a few miles from Kut-el-Amara, the British base, it was officially announced today.

"We continue to harass the enemy," the war office claimed. "We have captured 300 camels."

DISEASED PORK KILLS FOUR IN PORTLAND

(By United Press Leased Wire.) Portland, Dec. 9.—Following four deaths in Portland of trichinosis, 1,195 pounds of pork will be destroyed today as a part of the campaign of the city health department against further spread of the disease. The pork came from a Clackamas county farm. An extensive investigation of pork shipments into Portland has been promised.

Nine other cases of trichinosis were reported to the health authorities.

GREECE WILL SOON BE INVOLVED IN EUROPEAN WAR

Athens, Dec. 9.—King Constantine may have to make an early and definite choice between the entente and central powers. The allies, it is officially reported, are retiring from southern Serbia toward Greece. How far they will withdraw is not indicated, but the retirement results from Austro-German and Bulgarian attacks along the allied front, with the odds two to one against the allies.

News of the allies' withdrawal has caused the greatest excitement here, for it is realized that with the battle approaching the Greek frontier the king perhaps may have to make his decision soon between the two sides.

Reports are current that Greek authorities who went to Saloniki to confer with the allies have now gone to the frontier, empowered to deal with any situation arising from a possible allied retreat through Greece.

CLAIMS ENGLAND VIOLATES NEUTRALITY OF AMERICA

German Consul Bopp at Trial of Alleged Bomb Plotter at San Francisco Charges That Both Great Britain and Japan Are Transgressors, and Names American Officials as Countenancing Activities of the Agents of the Allies

(By United Press Leased Wire.) San Francisco, Dec. 9.—Both German Consul Bopp and Attorney Lempe for C. C. Crowley, alleged anti-ally bomb plotter, today laid at England's door charges that she has been a transgressor against American neutrality.

Japan, likewise, was termed an offender, while American officials were named as countenancing some of the British activities.

Bopp was frankly bitter toward America. He expressed himself as willing and anxious to quit the country, and claimed many German-Americans are renouncing their citizenship and will return to the fatherland when the war is over because of the anti-German feeling in this country.

Bopp intimated United States District Attorney Preston is pro-British. In fact, he suggested Preston failed to take action against the British consul following discovery of British recruiting activities here.

As for Crowley's lawyer, he pleaded, Crowley had traced for the German consulate activities of the British and Japanese that were flagrant violations of American laws.

Among his claims were: That American tugs left here to aid the Japanese cruiser Asama, stranded in Turtle bay; that Japanese cruisers smuggled Japanese re-

cruits aboard after rounding them up in Fresno and Los Angeles; that Collector of Customs Davis permitted the British steamer Liangora to remain in this port 64 hours, violating by over-staying her allowed time, though the Washington administration ruled there was not a violation; that submarine parts, made by the Union Iron works here, had been smuggled into Canada for assembling; that submarine parts destined for Vancouver were taken on barges in the night to the British ship Civilian; that sulphuric acid had been shipped on British vessels under the guise of oil; that collusion between United States officials and the Canadian authorities permitted Japs to pass into Canada to reinforce Japanese cruisers; that army autos, bought for Canada, were stored in the Buffalo, N. Y., army.

"I am disgusted with the ill-feeling displayed in this country," Bopp declared. "And I am not the only one. After the war there will be a general exodus of German-Americans. I do not like this country any more, and I shall be happy to return to Germany."

He recalled alleged conversations on the president's attack on "hyphenated Americans," but hinted he believed it was aimed chiefly at German-Americans, though he admitted perhaps it dealt with pro-British sympathizers, too.

UNCONSCIOUS MAN FOUND NEAR THE R.R. TRACK EARLY TODAY

When the section crew from Merlin went out to work this morning they found lying by the track two miles this side of Merlin a young man who was in an unconscious condition and suffering from injuries evidently caused by a fall from a train. He was lying in a pool of water by the side of the track and was bruised about the head, a bad scalp wound being the most serious injury noted. The man was at once brought to Grants Pass on the hand car and placed in the hospital, where he was attended by Dr. Loughridge. Later it developed that the young man was Wm. V. Haverson, and that he lived near Salem, his parents' home being on route 7 out of that city. He had left with a brother, with whom he arrived at West Fork yesterday, where they became separated, the one coming on to this city, where he was waiting for his brother. On learning of the injured man, he made inquiry, and found that it was the brother he had left at West Fork. It is supposed that the man started for this city on one of the night trains, probably the Shasta Limited, and that he fell from it, the fall causing him to lose consciousness. The doctor thinks that the man is now suffering more from the exposure of lying most of the night in the cold and wet than from the fall from the train. The injured man is showing improvement this afternoon, though he has not yet fully regained consciousness. He is 19 years of age.

ACCOUNTS OF SEATTLE SUICIDE FOUND SHORT

Seattle, Dec. 9.—William G. Lewis, who shot and killed himself in his real estate office here last spring, did so to save himself the humiliation of facing a \$4,000 default. When his estate was being settled Wednesday afternoon in Judge Gilliam's department of the superior court it was learned that Lewis misappropriated funds which should have been turned over to Richard M. Scott, an army quartermaster-sergeant.

TURKISH DESTROYER SUNK BY SUBMARINE

Paris, Dec. 9.—A British submarine sank the Turkish destroyer Yavuz in the Sea of Marmora, and two officers and 40 men were made prisoners, official announcement said today.

VILLAGE OF GROVICA OCCUPIED BY BULGARIANS

Sofia, Dec. 9.—The Bulgarians have occupied the village of Grovica and the Demirkapu river front, from which the French retreated. It was officially announced today.

BRITISH SHIPS ARE SUNK

London, Dec. 9.—The British vessels Veria and Gomlandria have been sunk by submarines.

HYPHENATED AMERICANS SUBJECT OF CONFERENCE

Washington, Dec. 9.—Following a cabinet conference yesterday in which supposedly plans for laws to deal with activities of "hyphenated Americans" were discussed, United States District Attorney Marshall of New York conferred with Attorney General Gregory today. They went over the evidence of various plots of hyphenated Americans, and a chain of indictments is expected to follow the attorney's return to New York.

SEIZE NO MORE SHIPS TILL PRIZE COURT ACTS

Washington, Dec. 9.—Great Britain has acceded to the United States' request that no more American trans-Atlantic line vessels be seized pending action of the British prize court in the Hocking, Genesee and Kankakee cases, Ambassador Page at London today advised the state department.

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