

GERMANY MAKES OFFER OF PEACE

UNITED STATES, SWITZERLAND AND SPAIN ASKED TO SUBMIT TERMS TO FOES OF TEUTONS

Diplomatic Representatives of These Powers Summoned Separately To Audience With Imperial Chancellor

THE ACTION CAUSES SURPRISE HERE

Proposals Will Be Transmitted And May Be Accompanied By a Recommendation That They Be Accepted If the Outlook is Favorable.

(By Associated Press.)
BERLIN, Dec. 12.—Germany and her allies today proposed to enter forthwith into peace negotiations. The propositions which they will bring forward are, according to Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, appropriate for the establishment of a lasting peace. Spain and Switzerland are the nations protecting German interests in hostile foreign countries. The Chancellor transmitted to them the note and asked them to bring it to the knowledge of hostile governments. The following announcement was given out today by semi-official Overseas News Agency: The Chancellor this morning received one after another the representatives of the United States of America, Spain and Switzerland that is of the states protecting German interests in hostile foreign countries. The Chancellor transmitted to them a note and asked them to bring it to the knowledge of hostile governments. The note will be read today in the Reichstag by the Chancellor. In the note the four allied (Central) powers proposed to enter forthwith into peace negotiations. The proposition which they bring for such negotiations is according to their firm belief appropriate for the establishment of lasting peace. The governments at Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia transmitted identical notes and also communicated with the Holy See and all other neutral powers.

Washington Stirred by News From Berlin

GERMANY'S ACTION AT THIS TIME WAS HEARD OF WITH SURPRISE.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—News that Germany and her allies were about to enter on peace negotiations was immediately sent to President Wilson. Speaking for the President Secretary Tamm said he was deeply interested but could not comment at least until he was furnished with the text of the proposal received from the Entente allies. The department received its first information of Germany's proposal through Associated Press dispatches, from which officials assume that the offices of the neutrals addressed are asked only to transmit proposals. This will be done so far as the United States is concerned promptly on receipt of official dispatches in Washington. They will be forwarded to all the belligerent countries where the United States represents the Central powers diplomatically. Whether the United States would accompany the transmission with any comment or suggestion, it was indicated, depends entirely upon the nature of the proposal and whether it is considered likely of consummation. If the offer is deemed one on which all sides might negotiate the United States would urge that it be taken up. In transmitting the proposals, it was officially stated, the United States probably would follow the practice which has been invariably so far in acting as a medium of communication between hostile governments and would not make them public. The terms would, of course, be known to President Wilson, and Secretary Lansing would examine them to determine whether they should be accompanied by any word from the United States. The news was practically the only topic of discussion among members of Congress as they assembled for the day's session. A regular cabinet meeting was scheduled for this afternoon at the White House and there was no doubt it would be discussed there. The foreign embassies and legations received their first information of the event through the Associated Press dispatches. On every hand the discussion turned to what had moved Germany and her allies to make their proposals at this time. Although for many weeks there



Von Bethmann-Hollweg

For God and Humanity Says German Premier

LONDON, Dec. 12.—A wireless dispatch from Berlin says that in his speech before the Reichstag today Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg announced that Germany together with her allies "conscious of their responsibility before God, before their own nation's and before humanity" have proposed to the hostile powers to enter into peace negotiations.

Army Hears of the Peace Offers

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, Dec. 12.—A Central News dispatch from Amsterdam says it is announced officially in Berlin that Emperor William has notified his commanding general of Germany's peace offer and has informed them it is still uncertain whether the offer will be accepted. Until that uncertainty is ended, the message says, they are to fight on. The message is quoted as follows: "Soldier: In agreement with the consciousness of my allies and with the consciousness of victory I have made an offer of peace to the enemy. Whether it will be accepted is still uncertain. Until that moment arrives you will fight on."

What the Chancellor Told the Reichstag

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech is reported by the Overseas Agency as follows: The Chancellor first outlined the extraordinary political situation and then, insisting upon the achievement of the Central powers, made an announcement which possibly may be the turning point in the war which for more than two years has held the world under its spell. The Chancellor said the proposition which Germany was bringing forward had for its object the guarantee of existence of their honor, of liberty, of evolution for the four allied (Central)

POSSIBLE GERMAN TERMS

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Advices from Berlin to the German embassy indicate that Germany's peace terms in general measure propose the restoration of the status quo before the war, with the exception of the establishment of independent kingdoms of Poland and Lithuania. They are understood to propose the complete restoration of the occupied portions of Belgium and France in return for Germany's captured colonies and to dispose of the Balkan situation because of its extremely complicated nature in the Peace conference.

MEASLE SPREAD IN CITY FEARED BY HEALTH DEPT.

Eight Cases Now Reported and Preventative Steps are Taken.

Fearing a general epidemic of measles the health department of the city today warned physicians, school teachers and parents that all cases of suspected measles must be promptly reported so that an effective quarantine can be established and every possible measure taken so that the spread of this troublesome malady can be checked. Seven cases on the East Side and one at the White school have been reported. The start of the seven cases in the East Side schools was traced to one child that brought the diseases here from Rosebud. A number of children in the first and second grades at the East Side school, who had been exposed to the infection, were sent home and all of the cases which have developed are under rigid quarantine. City Physician Dr. C. M. Ramage was called to confer with Sup't. Husted, the regular medical inspector, Dr. Boyers, being confined to his home by an illness of gripe. Measles are more dreaded by the City Health department than any other disease that affects the children of the city since more deaths occurred last year from this malady and its complications than from diphtheria, scarlet fever, chickenpox and infantile paralysis all together. While the present cases are of a mild type yet it is feared they unless the spread of the present epidemic is checked, it will develop into even a more virulent type than that of last winter. No children were found at the White school that had been exposed and with the exception of the child that is now ill with the malady the school at that place is being conducted as usual. The chief reason that the spread of the epidemic at this time is feared is that in many of the cases physicians have not been called and the parents thinking that the child's illness is not serious do not report the case to the health department.

Silent on Proposal at British Capital

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, Dec. 12.—The Foreign office today informed the Associated Press that it is unable to discuss the German peace proposals until the terms have been received. Meanwhile the attitude of the British government toward possible peace terms remains as frequently enunciated by the former Premier and Foreign secretary.

FLEMING MAY START CONTEST FOR HOUSE SEAT

Gross Frauds in This County Would Be Basis of Move.

(Special Dispatch to West Virginian)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Hon. Thomas W. Fleming of Fairmont, is in the city. He came here to confer with the republican members of the West Virginia delegation in Congress and Representative Frank Wood of Iowa, chairman of the National Republican Congressional committee. The subject of the conference is whether Col. Fleming should contest the election of Representative M. M. Neely, of the First district, whose election on the face of the returns by approximately 700 majority has been certified to the clerk of the House of Representatives by Secretary of State S. F. Reed and upon whom certiorari a certificate of election was issued by Governor Hatfield. Alleged frauds committed by the Democratic organization in Marion county are the basis of talk of a contest on the part of Col. Fleming. The latter with Congressman Sutherland held a conference with Chairman Wood, and later Representatives Bowers, Cooper and Woodard conferred with Chairman Woods and advised him against contesting a contest on the part of Col. Fleming on the strength of what facts that have been collected to substantiate Democratic frauds in Marion. Col. Fleming has not decided what he intends to do, if anything, nor has Chairman Woods examined the case sufficient to warrant him in offering any advice of a definite kind at this time. The question is unsettled at the present time.

FOX FORGERY SUIT POSPONED A DAY

Supreme Court Will Listen to the Argument Tomorrow.

(Special Dispatch to West Virginian)
CHARLESTON, Dec. 12.—Argument on the petition of Fred L. Fox, Democratic leader in the Senate, for a writ of mandamus to prevent the clerk of legislature from incorporating in their journal certain alleged forged parts of the registration bill passed by the recent extraordinary session of the legislature was today continued until tomorrow by the Supreme Court of Appeals. No action was taken on the petition for a writ of prohibition to prevent the recount of the votes for state senator in Wirt county.

The Weather

West Virginia—Snow and colder tonight; Wednesday probably fair, except snow in extreme east. Local Readings: F. P. Hatf. Obs. Temperature at a. m. today 31. Yesterday's weather partly cloudy; temperature 29; precipitation .20.

French Cabinet Has Been Reconstructed

(By Associated Press.)
PARIS, Dec. 12.—Premier Briand announced today that he had completed the reconstruction of the cabinet and that the list will appear in tomorrow's Journal official. The Premier is expected to make a statement to parliament tomorrow.

SNOW AND COLD WEATHER LIKELY FOR CHRISTMAS

First Noticeable Snowfall of Winter Hits City Today.

Considerable Increase in Sale of Rubber Shoes and Overcoats.

Spludge spludge, goes the tread of the careful man, as he slopes home from the office in his new overshoes. Under foot Main street is a cheerful looking mess of half melted snow, sloppy looking mud and slippery pavement. It is the week before the week before Christmas and Fairmont's Christmas weather is just beginning to warm up to its job. As soon as every good housewife in the city stuck her head out of the door this morning, the door was immediately slammed and from then until school time the poor children were lectured on gripe, and keeping their feet dry, and were finally started off to school wrapped in shawls and blankets and with their feet covered with everything from overshoes to gum boots. The snow started at three minutes past eleven last night and in intermittent flurries kept up until this morning there was an inch and a half or two inches of the "beautiful." The temperature was at no time during the day so cold as to be disagreeable, hovering pretty closely about the freezing point. That fairmonters believe in preparedness was testified to by the fact that hundreds of pairs of overshoes, gloves and kindred winter and sloppy weather apparel was sold today. This time last year there was a cold rain falling and the favorite pastime of Fairmonters was trying to keep their feet out of the mud. There had been two light snows earlier in the season. The goose bone prophets and ground hog prognosticators are declaring that the weather from now on until Christmas will be pretty much snow speckled. A white Christmas is also one of their cheerful forecasts. Every one wants a white Christmas, even if they are not superstitious and don't believe that a "Green Christmas" makes a white graveyard. Christmas, as it has been described and written about by all the masters of our literature, has had its setting in snowy scenes. The overtones have always been the ring of skates and the shouts of sleighers, while the motif, a rugged, winter, defying, evergreen, has always been the Christmastide emblem.

Peace Talk Drives Down Wheat Prices

(By Associated Press.)
CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—Wheat on the Chicago Board of Trade on receipt of the news of the proposals for peace of Germany and her allies broke more than eight cents. May wheat sold last night at \$1.75 1/2. Within fifteen minutes after the opening today the price touched \$1.66 1/2.

Pressure Upon Rumania Relieved.

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, Dec. 12.—A Rome dispatch to the wireless Press says that Petrograd reports the Germans have begun the retirement of some divisions from Rumania, transferring them to other fronts and that the situation in Rumania is becoming more favorable for the entente.

PROVES LABOR EFFICIENCY.

MARTINSBURG, W. Va., Dec. 12.—J. Taylor Mosse contended that men working eight hours per day were more efficient and would do more work than men working 10 hours per day. He employed carpenters to build a six-room house, paying them for 10 hours per day, although they worked only eight hours. The house has been completed in record time and the work is perfect.

HOY CHRISTNER SAYS "FEARING SHAVER I SHOT"

Fred Shaver of Monongah is Killed by Shot Gun Wound.

Prisoner in County Jail is Badly Cut About the Head.

"He was coming at me, and I told him to stop, he had beaten me until blood was flowing from wounds all over me, my nose was broken and was stopping my breathing, my head was badly cut and bruised where he and King had kicked me while down and I was afraid of him. I had the shotgun to protect myself long enough to get to a doctor's office. When he saw me with the gun he ran up the hill to get me and when he came close he threw his right hand back this way, (toward his right hip pocket) as though he had a gun. I saw it had to be one of us and I shot."

This spoke Hoy Christner, through the bars in his cell this morning. He was put in jail yesterday evening, after having been arrested by Officer Alva Moore of Monongah, for having shot and instantly killed Fred Shaver, known as "Buckeye," at Monongah. Christner in his cell was very sick, suffering with terrible wounds about the head, a broken nose, one eye clotting with coagulated blood and an injured spine. He could not bend from the injury to his back. All his injuries he said, had come about through the beating received at the hands of Fred Shaver and Lee King who Christner says kicked him unmercifully after knocking him down. Christner was on his way from work. He lived on the Thoburn side of the West Fork river. Shaver lived on the Monongah side. Shaver accompanied by Lee King had gone across the river ostensibly to wait for Christner. When Christner came along he was attacked, he says, and knocked down by Shaver and then King and Shaver kicked him into unconsciousness and left him. Mrs. Christner then went to her husband and poured whiskey into his mouth to revive him. As soon as revived he went to his home and was further treated there by his wife. Mrs. Christner insisted that Hoy go at once to a physician and see what the cause of the excessive amount of flowing blood was. Christner telling his wife that he was afraid Shaver and King were waiting to waylay him, took along (he says for protection) a Winchester repeating shot gun. When he had gone some distance he saw Roy Addis, Lee King and Fred Shaver waiting for him. King and Addis, seeing Christner coming with a shot gun got under cover of the Monongah Valley traction depot. Shaver went into the store in the station and is said to have asked for a gun, a revolver. Whether he got the gun or not could not be learned but no weapon was reported found on him. Shaver, after leaving the store then climbed the flight of steps leading to the street overlooking the station and went 50 feet further to meet Christner. Shaver had been persuaded by his friends to leave Christner alone, to stay away from him while he had the gun but Shaver went regardless. When about 10 feet from Christner, the latter told Shaver to "Stop, don't come near me or I'll shoot." Shaver came nearer. Aagaa Christner told him to stop. When Christner for the third time told Shaver to halt, the latter, according to the prisoner made a motion toward his hip pocket—whereupon a report sounded and Shaver fell face downward in the mud. Christner went home. Roy Addis ran for a policeman and brought Chief (Continued on page nine.)

HELPS BOOST BUSINESS

FIGHT ENDS IN DEATH

ENGINEER WATSON HERE. Wilbur J. Watson, of Cleveland, O., bridge engineer, is in the city today conferring with city officials and city Engineer Shrewsbury Miller concerning the bridge to be put across Coal run and across the Monongahela river.

I WANT A PONY!
YES-YES PROCEED!

10 SHOPPING DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

PATHEPHONE
It is advisable to come in and hear the Pathe before deciding on your Christmas Phonograph.
SCOTT'S