SAINT MARY'S BEACON

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A report claims that Germany is ready to accept peace, provided it can be secured on her own terms. This has caused a decided opinion among some very credulous folk that the war will shortly terminate and has served to depres the industrial activity of the country. There are folk whose knowledge of international affairs is thus limited. It is a sad commentary on the times that such ideas should have any material effect upon the commercial world. Germany may or may not desire peace at this time, but she realizes that in order to obtain it she has to accept it on terms that even her bitterest enemies cannot for a moment expect her to stoop.
Germany thus far has had all the best of the game, but then it hasn't gone the full allottment of innings. She holds a part of France and France finds this holding most distasteful. She occupies all of Belgium and the entente object to this: she has overun Servia, Roumania and a portion of Russia. She has offended Italy and she has lost only her African colonies.

The new organizations of the warring coun tries were recently formed for the purpose of a more active prosecution of war, and now this talk of peace and dickering for it on terms tha cannot be accepted by either belligerents, seems a useless waste of valuable time, that the armies of all parties concermed might better employ in digging in for the winter campaign.
This is about all that can be accomplished by an attemipt to secure an ending of the war at this time. Germany has with her characteristic wisdom made her move at the physologica moment, but it came too late. There can be no peace, because too much has already been sacrificed by the warring nations to permit the consideration of a few million more lives and a few billion more dollars to interfere with the great "game". until the ultimate end sought for in the beginning has either been won or iricovably lost. Preparations in England for a long and bloody struggle were made and a lengthy program inaugurated by the great Kitchiner. She has, among other things, a good memory, and above all her bulldog tenacity for holding to the cnd in view will not be abandoned until she is cushed along with her allies or conquers.
Peace would be most welcomed by all who have a spark of humanity in their make-up, but that it cannot be until one or the other of the contending forces is victor is a fact that cannot be controverted. Too much has been sacrificed to begrudge the sacrifice of the necessary more that will either win the fight or lose all.
On the subject of an early peace, the Washington Post of recent date observes
"Germany chooses a most inopportune time in which to propose peace negotiations. She knows the time is inopportune; hence the conclusion is irresistable that she makes the proposal not in the hope that it will be accepted, but knowing that it will be rejected. The purpose seems to be to hoodwink the world into believing that fhe allies are responsible for a continuation of the war; that Germany generously offered to make peace, but the allies spurned her overtures.

Germany offers peace while she is temporarily ahead in the war game, after Roumania has been conquered and before the allied nations have recognized their governments and taken a new grip upon Germany's throat. Thus, if the peace overtures should lead to something tangible, Grmany would have something to trade upon, and if the peace overtures should be be rejected Germany can claim that the allies are to blame for the world calamity.
"The stimulation of flagging German enthusiasm is palpably a factor in making peace overtures. The kaiser and his advisers must dangle before the German people the hope of securing some return for their terrible sacriices."


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