

FIRST OFFER OF PEACE IS MADE

GERMANY TIRED OF WAR ASKS NOW FOR PEACE

Proposal Today From Central Powers That Peace Negotiations be Entered Into Forthwith by Warring Nations.

NEUTRALS ASKED TO DELIVER REQUEST

Proposition for Ending War, According to Germany's Belief, is Appropriate for Establishing Lasting Peace.

[United Press Leased Wire Service]

BERLIN (via Sayville wireless) Dec. 12.—Proposals by the central powers that peace negotiations be entered into forthwith were made in notes handed to representatives of neutral countries which are representing Germany in the belligerent nations today.

Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg called the diplomatic representatives of the United States, Spain and Switzerland to his office, one after the other and handed this note to them. The full text of the note will be read in the reichstag today.

The chancellor asked the neutral nations which represent Germany and her allied powers at the capitals of the nations with which she is at war to bring these proposals to the attention of Germany's enemies.

The proposition which Germany advances in these negotiations are according to Germany's belief, appropriate for the establishment of lasting peace. The governments at Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia transmitted identical notes. The text was also communicated to the vatican at Rome and to all other neutral powers.

The exact text of the first announcement of Germany's intention, as wirelessly by the official press bureau today to neutral countries, was as follows:

"The chancellor this morning received one after the other, the representatives of the United States of America and 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 the hostile governments.

"The note will be read, complete today, in the reichstag, by the chancellor.

"In the note, the four allied powers propose to enter forthwith into peace negotiations.

"The propositions which they bring for such negotiations are, according to their belief, appropriate for establishing lasting peace.

"The governments of Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia transmitted identical notes. Terms were also communicated to the holy see and to all other powers."

[By handing the note to the representatives of the United States, Spain and Switzerland, Germany really transmitted it directly to her enemy nations. Under existing conditions this is the only possible course of diplomatic interchange between the central powers and the entente allies.

The procedure in transmission of Germany's peace proposals will be identical in the cases of all the neutral powers whose aid is invoked. The diplomatic representatives of America, Spain and Switzerland will forward the note handed them by Bethmann-Hollweg to their respective capitals. The foreign offices of state departments of these neutral nations will then transmit the text of the American note.

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Kaiser Sends Message For Men to Fight On

Soldiers in the Field Notified of Peace Proposals, But Told to Keep Up the Deadly Struggle

[United Press Leased Wire Service]

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—Kaiser Wilhelm notified his troops in the field today that he had made peace proposals to the enemy.

"Soldiers," his message said, "in agreement with sovereigns of my allies and with 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."

INTENSE INTEREST IN TODAY'S SPEECH

Great Throngs Crowded About German Reichstag to Hear What Chancellor Had to Say.

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

Had Been Announced That Address Would be of World Interest at This Time.

[United Press Leased Wire Service]

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—Great throngs about the reichstag marked the German public's interest today in what was expected to be the most important meeting of that body since the start of the war.

Expectancy was keyed to the highest pitch as to what message Imperial Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg had to deliver. It was announced semi-officially the address would be of world interest. Newspapers have been indulging in the liveliest speculation as to what announcement the chancellor will make. The public's interest was vouchsafed in an unprecedented demand for tickets of admission to the galleries and by great crowds that thronged the streets around the building wherein the session was to be held.

The chancellor, it was announced, expected to begin his address immediately after convening of the reichstag and to occupy not more than a half hour. After that the session will adjourn for once.

Bethmann-Hollweg's address will refer to military and political topics—but its exact nature has been carefully guarded.

Practically every member of the reichstag was in Berlin today for the session. All members on duty at the front were recalled for today's address.

Tom Murphy Retires.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 12.—Thomas Murphy has retired. The famous coachman who for forty-five years guided the steeds and played Santa Claus for Edward D. Brandegee of Brooklyn, today became a gentleman of leisure. Before he left, the Brandegees gave a reception at their mansion which was attended by many social people and Murphy was presented with an oil painting of Mrs. Brandegee and his favorite horse, "Nip." Mrs. Larse Anderson was one of Murphy's first pupils in the art of riding.

Prayer vs. Surgeon.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—The curative power of prayer is to be weighed against a surgeon's skill when the jury in Judge David's court here considers the damage suit of Mrs. Fannie Mitchell today. Mrs. Mitchell is suing the Chicago Street Car Co. for \$10,000 for injuries to her spine. The company alleges she resorted to prayer and disregarded the advice of the surgeon to be placed in a plaster cast.

Mrs. Mitchell asserts she is a member of the Pentecostal church and has entire faith in prayer.

Escaped From Submarine.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 12.—The Belgian ship Kasbek, Captain Sytor, is in port here today after having been under the fire of a German submarine for ninety minutes without being hit. The attack, according to members of the crew, occurred on November 16, near Gibraltar. Two rapid firing guns of the submersible were used for the bombardment.

PREPARING FOR WINTER CAMPAIGN

Germany's Clean Up of Rumania Has Only Started and Will Grow in Violence.

COUNTRY DEVASTATED

Retreating Armies Are Burning Villages, Destroying Food and Wrecking the Land.

[By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WITH THE GERMAN ARMY AT BUCHAREST, FIELD MARSHAL VON MACKENSEN'S HEADQUARTERS, Dec. 12.—(By courier to Berlin and wireless to The United Press, Dec. 12.)—Germany's campaign in Rumania has only started. Every German soldier is fitted with snow shoes for the winter campaign—and all wagons are so devised that they can be transformed into sleds. Favored by ideal weather, the forces of Field Marshal Von Mackensen and General Von Falkenhayn have acquired such momentum with the fall of Bucharest, that they will surge on farther into Rumania. Field Marshal Von Mackensen, by Bucharest's fall, is in a position to swing masses of men and artillery north, south, east and west, with clear lines of communication.

The complete demoralization of the Rumanian forces has permitted Von Mackensen's troops to advance with insignificant losses.

As General Von Kluck once declared in an interview for the United Press: "One cannot postpone the opportunity to fight, if one expects to win the battle" and it is on this theory that Von Mackensen is operating in Rumania. There is every indication that the Russians will have to fight for their lives this winter—instead of next spring, as General Brustloff has declared.

For the first time since Belgium was crossed, newspaper correspondents were permitted to follow the German army without restrictions, allowed permission to live with the troops and to watch bombardments.

Apparently acting under the influence of Russia, the retreating Rumanian attempted to burn all cities and villages which they evacuated, but the German advance was so swift in many instances, that this plan of destruction was abandoned.

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IS DESIRE TO FEEL OUT ALLIES

Germany's Peace Proposals, According to Embassy Official, Are Merely Preliminary Talk.

RETURN OF TERRITORY

Plan to Let World Know That If the War Continues, It is Not the Fault of the Teutons.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Germany's peace proposals, according to a German embassy official, will include a suggestion that the territorial status of the nations engaged, be returned "practically" to what it was before the war started.

The exemptions are establishment of independent kingdoms of Poland and Lithuania and some readjustment of international boundaries in the Balkans.

On the latter question, it was said, the situation is so complicated, it is hard at this time definitely to suggest anything like positive terms that will be accepted by all belligerents.

The one concrete suggestion made, is that Bulgaria probably will want the return of the territory she lost in the second Balkan war and it is supposed Germany guaranteed this when Czar Ferdinand cast his lot with the central powers.

The peace terms, the United Press informant said, include the evacuation of northern France, restoration of the kingdom of Belgium, at least a partial restoration of Serbia and Rumania, and the return to Germany of her lost colonies.

The factors which are said to have led to the German peace proposals at this time are:

The favorable military position of the central powers.

The fact that the winter at hand will necessitate cessation of hard fighting for three months.

A desire to "smoke out" the allies to announce just what they are fighting for.

Desire to convince the world and the German people wherever they are, that Germany is not fighting a war of territorial conquest, and

Desire, if war continues, to let the world know Germany will not be responsible for further bloodshed.

The peace terms outlined, the German official intimated, are not necessarily Germany's final proposition.

"The important question is to find out whether the allies will talk peace," said this official.

"Germany makes the proposal in order to find out whether it may be more reasonable to stop the fighting before either side is able to get in what Lloyd-George called, in his interview with the United Press some days ago, "a knockout."

Although he has no appointment, it is expected Ambassador Von Bernstorff will see Secretary Lansing and thoroughly discuss with him the whole matter. It is believed possible Von Bernstorff may shortly press a desire for an audience with President Wilson.

BOASTS OF VICTORIES WON SO FAR IN WAR

German Chancellor Calls Attention to Nation's Position While Suggesting That it is Time for Peace Discussion.

EMPIRE IS NOT BESIEGED FORTRESS

"Conscious of Responsibility Before God and Humanity," Proposes That Hostile Powers Put an End to War.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

BERLIN, (via Sayville wireless) Dec. 12.—Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg's statement to the reichstag as issued by the press bureau is as follows:

"Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg today announced in the reichstag that Germany together with her allies, conscious of their responsibility before God, before their own nation and before humanity, had proposed this morning to the hostile powers that they enter peace negotiations.

"Practically all members of parliament appeared in answer to an unexpected summons.

"A crowded house and thronged galleries listened in respectful silence when the chancellor arose for his speech, in which he first outlined the extraordinary political situation and then, insisting upon the achievements of the central powers, made the announcement which possibly may act as the turning point in the war, which for more than two years has held the world under spell.

"The chancellor said it was fortunate that the reichstag had not been adjourned, but the calling of the next meeting had been left to the discretion of the president.

"This decision," said the chancellor, "was caused by the hope that soon happy events in the field would be recorded. That hope has been fulfilled quicker almost than expected. I shall be brief, for our actions speak for themselves.

"Rumania had entered the war in order to roll up our position in the east and that of our allies. At the same time the grand offensive on the Somme had for its object the piercing of our western front and renewed Italian attacks had as their purpose to paralyze Austria-Hungary. The situation was serious.

"But with God's help, our troops shaped conditions so that they give us security, which, not only is complete, but still greater than ever before.

"The west front stands, not only, but in spite of the Rumanian campaign, is outfitted with larger reserves of men and material than it had been formerly. Most efficient precautions have been taken against all Italian diversions. And while on the Somme and the Karst drum fire resounded; while the Russians launched troops against the eastern frontier of Transylvania, Field Marshal Von Hindenburg captured the whole western Bucharest, meeting with unparalleled genius troops which in competition with all allies, made possible this which hitherto was considered impossible.

"And Hindenburg does not rest. Military operations are in progress by strokes of swords. At the same time firm foundations have been laid for our economic needs.

"Great stocks of grain, victuals, oil and other goods fell into our hands in Rumania. Transport immediately began.

"In spite of the scarcity that existed we could have lived upon our own, but now our safety is beyond question."

The chancellor then referred to the fact that added to the events on land, heroic deeds of equal importance had been accomplished by the German submarine which Germany's enemies had intended to appear before Germany, now pursues them. He said the German empire is not the besieged fortress which its adversaries had imagined, but is now a gigantic firmly disciplined camp with inexhaustible resources, fully united with the Austria-Hungarian, Turkish and Bulgarian flags."

Emperor Always Wanted Peace. BERLIN, (via London) Dec. 12.—Chancellor Hollweg's propositions for peace negotiations as outlined in the reichstag have as their object, he said, the guarantee of existence, of honor and of liberty of evolution for the central powers, appropriate for the basis of the establishment of lasting peace.

"Unconfused we have progressed. It is our firm decision thus to continue to progress, always ready to defend ourselves to the end for the nation's existence," he said, "and for its free and safe future. We are always ready to stretch out the hand of peace.

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"Unconfused we have progressed. It is our firm decision thus to continue to progress, always ready to defend ourselves to the end for the nation's existence," he said, "and for its free and safe future. We are always ready to stretch out the hand of peace.

Our strength has not made our ears dumb against responsibility before God, before our nation and before humanity.

"Former declarations," he said, "had been evaded by Germany's adversaries and are now advanced further. During the long early years of the war, the emperor has been moved by a single thought: 'How peace can be restored so as to safeguard Germany after a struggle which she has fought victoriously.'"

Bench cabinet makers use charcoal in polishing wood to give it a dead black color and present an appearance of ebony.

NOT BEATEN IN WAR, BUT PROSPECTS DARK

Greatly to Germany's Advantage if Peace Could be Declared at Present.

[By J. W. T. Mason, Written for the United Press.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Germany's proposals for peace are made at a time when her armies have taken the offensive in the newest battle area and when the western front has reached another deadlock.

The peace that Germany now wants is one with Teutonic troops occupying enemy territory on practically every front.

The war is yet far from having gone to the knockout that David Lloyd-George demanded in his United Press interview a short time before he became the British premier. On the contrary, Germany's position now is not that of a beaten antagonist. The Germans occupy at the present moment probably the highest position they will reach, as far as practical purposes are concerned, no matter how long the war continues.

They have a clear road to what they regard as the center of their future colonial empire in Asia Minor and they are holding in check every movement to break through the German defenses. It would be therefore, greatly to Germany's advantage if a peace could be secured on this basis.

Nevertheless, Germany's losses in man power are becoming constantly much greater than the losses of any one of her principal antagonists. At the same time the British government has just undergone reconstruction; and France too, is evolving a scheme for greater efficiency. Under these conditions, while Germany is not overthrown, the German militarists may well feel that the future developments of the war cannot hold out for Germany any better prospect than the ceaseless killing of proportionately more Germans than Frenchmen or Englishmen.

Germany must make large concessions to secure peace at present—far larger than are indicated by the war boundaries on the map. But, whatever Germany proposes as a basis for peace, in her first declaration, probably will not be her final word. The most important fact of Germany's new attitude doubtless will be the definite statement of tentative peace terms, which later, may be taken as a starting point for future elaboration and a possible settlement.

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—Read Gate City advertisements.

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