

AUSTRO - RUSSIAN PEACE LIKELY

German Chancellor Refuses to Cede Alsace-Lorraine Will Not Make Public Attitude Toward Russia

Austria and Russia Continue Negotiations at Brest-Litovsk on No-Annexations Basis; Count Czernin Hopes For Speedy Peace Settlement

Peace negotiations between Austria-Hungary and Russia, on the basis of no annexations and on indemnities will be continued, and, in the opinion of Count Czernin, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, peace between the nations can be assured if Russian maintains the same attitude. This declaration, coupled with the statement by Chancellor von Hertling before the main committee of the Reichstag yesterday that Germany, too, hopes to reach a "good conclusion" with the Russian delegates at Brest-Litovsk, indicates complete confidence on the part of the Central Powers as to the final success of their separate Russian plans.

HOPES FOR GENERAL PEACE

On the question of a general peace, Count Czernin is quoted as having told the Reichsrath that he considered President Wilson's latest peace propositions as an approach to the Austro-Hungarian point of view. While there were several points in common, Count Czernin said, yet there remained the fact that Austro-Hungary, as the ally of Germany, would fight to the bitter end in defense of her alliance. He expressed the opinion that once the Central Powers have reached peace with Russia that the Entente nations would be forced to conclude a general peace, despite the efforts of their statesmen to the contrary.

NO ANNEXATIONS OR INDEMNITIES

London, Jan. 25.—A Paris despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company quotes Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, as declaring in an address to the delegates of parliament that "I have no intention to demand from Russia a single metre of territory, or a single cent of indemnity."

Before the main committee of the Reichstag yesterday, Chancellor von Hertling also discussed peace with Russia, but without mention of the reported demands of the German delegates for annexation of Courland and other territory. The chancellor said that the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk had been resumed and that he held fast to the hope that peace would result. Both the German imperial chancellor and the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister remarked on the change in the tone of the recent speeches of President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George, but the former disagreed with certain foreign newspapers that Mr. Lloyd George's speech could be interpreted as either showing an earnest desire for peace, or friendship for Germany, declaring that to the contrary the British premier seemed to adjudge Germany guilty of all possible crimes. Referring to the chancellor's speech, the chancellor said there was no difference between Germany and the United States regarding the freedom of the seas.

Renewal of assurances of Japan's allegiance to the alliance with Great Britain and the other allies has been made by Count Terauchi, the Japanese premier. In an address at the opening of the Diet, the premier declared that Japan held herself responsible for the maintenance of peace in the Far East. The Russian situation, the premier said, was causing Japan great anxiety and he expressed the hope that a stable government would be established without further loss of time. Abandonment of the plan to

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Jan. 25.—The area of low pressure, which was in Manitoba yesterday is now passing eastward across the great lakes, while in the west the barometer is again high accompanied by a pronounced cold wave which has come in from the north. Light snow is falling throughout Ontario.

Forecasts. Southwesterly winds with snow Saturday — Strong northwesterly winds, fair and colder.

over-run the Venetian plans seems to have been decided upon by the Austro-German armies and is indicated in the retirement from the Piave River westward, due to the constantly harassing attacks by the Italian and their French and British allies. On other fronts intensive bombardments are reported from several sectors and infantry and air raids continue on an extensive scale.

WILL CONTINUE

London, Jan. 25.—Austria has decided to continue peace negotiations with Russia on the basis of no-annexations and no indemnities, according to a Vienna despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, quoting from Count Czernin's address before the Reichsrath. "I demand from Russia not a metre of territory, not a centime of indemnity," the foreign minister is quoted as having said, "and peace can be obtained if Russia maintains the same standpoint, as she evidently intends to do."

Austria-Hungary and America, Count Czernin said, were two belligerents whose interests were less incompatible than they seemed. He criticized the speech of President Wilson regarding war aims as an important advance towards the Austro-Hungarian viewpoint, which contained some proposals in which Austria-Hungary would gladly join.

The foreign minister said the population of Poland would decide its own fate. The Polish question must not delay peace one day. If Poland, after the war, wished to advance towards Austria-Hungary, such an advance would be welcomed. Count Czernin qualified his statement respecting agreement with some of President Wilson's proposals by saying that Austria-Hungary would support Germany.

SEES MORE HOPE

London, Jan. 25.—In his speech to the delegates of parliament, Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister described the difficulties attending the peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk, according to a Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. Count Czernin said that the publication of daily proceedings of the conference had caused nervousness among the people behind the front.

A Clearing Sale of Stout Ladies' suits. W. L. Hughes, 127 Colborne street.

BOLSHEVIKI HAVE BRANCH IN U.S. NOW

Society Organized in Harlem by Expelled College Student — Says Bolsheviki Plan Only One Which Can Prevent Future Wars

By Courier Leased Wire.

New York, Jan. 25.—What was declared to be the first branch of the Bolsheviki in the United States was organized at a meeting in Harlem last night presided over by Leon Samson, a former student at Cambridge University, who was dropped from the rolls because of his activities against the war. More than 1,500 persons were said to have signed membership cards, after speakers had assailed

ed the "moderate Socialists" and leaders of the American Federation of Labor.

The speakers declared that only the Bolsheviki plan would prevent future wars, and a message promising to spread the "spirit of the Bolsheviki in America" was cabled to Leon Trotsky, Bolsheviki foreign minister of Russia.

The Russian anthem was sung at the meeting in a medley of tongues—Russian, French, Italian and Yiddish.

SAYS GERMANY IS AS STRONG AS EVER

But Her Fatal Mistakes of Not Mobilizing Enough Men at Beginning, and of Starting Too Late to Crush France, Will Cost Her the War

By Courier Leased Wire.

Chicago, Jan. 25.—Germany is just as strong today as she ever was, Lieut. Andrew Nesmith, of the Canadian field artillery, told 1,500 delegates attending to the convention of the Vocational Education Association of the Middle West to-day.

"Germany has made two mistakes, which will cost her the war, however," he added. "The first mistake was to mobilize enough men to accomplish her purpose at the beginning, and secondly, she started too late in her attempt to crush France. We have Germany staggering at the present time and now is the time to drive home and to drive home hard."

HERTLING REFUSES TO CEDE ALSACE-LORRAINE

These Provinces Are Purely German Territory, Declares German Chancellor Before Reichstag; Their Seizure in 1870 Not Conquest, But Dis-Annexation; Makes No Promises as to Terms With Russia.

By Courier Leased Wire.

Berlin, Jan. 25.—The Imperial German chancellor, Count von Hertling, addressing the Reichstag to-day, according to a Central News despatch, said: "We hope soon to conclude an agreement with Ukraine, which would be mutually satisfactory, especially from an economic point of view."

When on January 3, the chancellor continued, the period expired for the co-operation of the Entente nations in the peace negotiations, Germany was no longer bound by its offer to the Entente, and had the right to separate negotiations with Russia. In these negotiations, Germany then felt herself not bound to the Russian proposals for a general peace, the chancellor asserted.

Question Open

Berlin, Jan. 24, via London.—Count von Hertling, the Imperial German chancellor, in his address before the main committee of the Reichstag to-day said the question of the limitation of armaments was quite open to discussion. The chancellor added that the financial position of all European countries after the war would probably operate most effectively for the solution of this problem.

Count von Hertling contended that Alsace-Lorraine was almost purely German territory, which had been severed from Germany by violence. When Germany, in 1870, claimed the land "thus criminally wronged from her," it was not the conquest of alien territory," the chancellor declared, but what to-day is called dis-annexation.

There is no difference between Germany and President Wilson regarding the freedom of the seas, Count von Hertling said. He added that he thought freedom of navigation during time of war, as well as in peace, was one of Germany's main demands, it being eminently important for future free navigation that England should be made to relinquish her strongly fortified points of support on international sailing routes, such as Gibraltar, Aden,

Hong Kong and the Falkland Islands.

von Hertling said that the evacuation of Belgian territory was a question which only concerns Russia and the Central Powers.

Commenting on the fourteen points in the programme for world peace, set forth in President Wilson's address to Congress, the chancellor said an agreement could be obtained without difficulty on the first four points.

Regarding the fifth point mentioned by President Wilson, the chancellor said, some difficulties would be met with.

Germany never demanded the incorporation of Belgian territory by violence, the chancellor asserted, he said the state of Poland would be decided by Germany and Austria-Hungary, when all other questions had been settled.

Interpretation of the right of free action of peoples had caused a difference between Russia and Germany, said Count Czernin, but a compromise must be reached. The differences of view were not great enough to justify abandonment of the peace negotiations.

"It is obvious to me," said the Count, "that an exchange of views between America and Austria-Hungary might form the starting point for a conciliatory decision among all the states which have not entered into peace negotiations."

Commenting on the fourteen points in President Wilson's war aims speech, Count Czernin said, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen, that Austria-Hungary and America were in agreement regarding the great principles for new arrangements after the war.

The Chancellor declared that Germany did not wish annexations by violence, but that the question of northern France could be discussed only by France and Germany.

He asserted that there would be no talk of the cession of Alsace-Lorraine.

agreement could be reached without difficulty, related to abolition of secret diplomacy, free navigation of the seas outside territorial waters, subject to international laws, removal of economic barriers and establishment of equal trade conditions among nations; reduction of armaments.

The fifth point in regard to which the Chancellor said some difficulties would be met with provided for impartial adjustment of all colonial claims based upon the principle that the interests of the population concerned must have equal weight with the claims of the Government whose title is to be determined.

MAYOR SAYS SITUATION IS BETTER

Systematically Eliminating All Fuel Shortage in the City

The coal situation is being systematically cleared up, according to Mayor MacBride, who is superintending the work of inventory taking. Yesterday a squad of returned soldiers visited every home in West Brantford, and only in a few instances was the desired information refused. Last evening all cases of immediate want were transferred to special blue forms and forwarded to the central office for the attention of the emergency squad. To-morrow orders for coal will be given to all needy homes in West Brant. While this is being attended to the squad will cover Terrace Hill, and to-morrow night emergency cases in that section will be likewise forwarded for attention. On Saturday the Homedale will be covered, and on each succeeding day another section of the city will be canvassed.

WILL SAIL

By Courier Leased Wire.

Amsterdam, Jan. 25.—It is authoritatively announced that the steamship Nieuw Amsterdam will sail soon. A dispatch from Amsterdam yesterday announced that the Holland-American line had obtained permission for the Nieuw Amsterdam to sail for the United States. The same dispatch quoted the Handelsblad as stating that it had been learned that the German Government intends to place all Dutch shipping firms on the blacklist, and to refuse Dutch vessels supplies of coal because of the agreement between the shipping firms and the United States. Outside sailings of Dutch ships would be stopped, according to the Handelsblad, if the coal supply was to be stopped.

BLAME GOVT. FOR LACK OF MEN AND MATERIALS BOTH

Government Alone is Directly Responsible, Says Morning Post

CANNOT AVERT BLAME

London Paper Charges Attempt to Hoist Onus Upon Soldiers

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Jan. 25.—The Morning Post in an editorial says: "For lack of men and material the government and the government alone, is directly responsible and it is at this crisis when the whole country is beginning to perceive the impending consequences of the failure of the government that an attempt is being made to cast the blame upon the soldiers. Lloyd George himself set the lead in his speech yesterday and although he was careful to avoid direct references, his meaning was unmistakable and his total lack of appreciation of the services of the army and even a latent hostility towards it became evident. The next step was to influence public opinion to depreciate the ability of the higher command and the vehicle selected was a part of the press. We have already described the progress of these manoeuvres which were (rather artlessly) designed to compel the resignations of Sir William Robertson and Sir Douglas Haig. To this end the misfortune at Cambrai, an event which marred the completeness of a victory, was carefully described as a heavy defeat, for which the chief blame was laid upon the army and held responsible. That Sir William Robertson had nothing to do with it makes no difference to the prime minister who, in the course of a speech, described the battle of Cambrai as a German victory, although as we remarked at the time, it was the exact contrary."

The Morning Post concludes: "The whole intrigue conducted against the higher command of the government will be driven from office and (what is of more consequence) the war will be lost."

While this work is going on a special squad of 10 men are engaged at the central office for the purpose of dealing with phone calls and messages from other sections of the city. A special phone is being installed No. 30 and three automobiles are at work hurrying the work of relief. A complete check has been put on all repeating, and things are moving much more satisfactorily. The Mayor would be glad if the assistance of any volunteer automobiles as there are yet a number of needy homes to be supplied. Persons wishing to volunteer a car for a day will confer a favor by phoning Mayor MacBride No. 2364 from 7 to 11 o'clock Friday or Saturday night.

It may be explained that the cars will not be used for drawing coal, but as a means of getting the order forms into the customers hands and then to the dealers. This assistance will save many a long walk, and will get the coal into anxious homes. From the information obtained by the canvassers on their inventory cards, a complete card system is being (Continued on page five)

TEUTONIC POSITION NOW CLEAR

Leon Trotsky Will Not Agree to Austro-German Demands

NOW SEES DUPLICITY

Kuehlmann Strove to Smooth Over Hoffman's Harshness

By Courier Leased Wire.

Petrograd, Jan. 25.—A detailed account of the Brest-Litovsk conference session following General Hoffman's bold statement of the aims of the Central Powers was published by the Smolny Institute to-day. Leon Trotsky, the Bolsheviki foreign minister, addressing the conference, declared that "the position of the Austro-Germans is now absolutely clear," continuing, the foreign minister said: "Germany and Austria seek to cut off more than 150,000 square versts from the former Polish kingdom of Lithuania, also the area populated by the Ukrainians and White Russians, and further, they want to cut into territory of the Letts and separate the islands populated by the Estonians from the same peoples on the mainland. Within this territory, Germany and Austria wish to retain their reign of military occupation, not only after the conclusion of peace with Russia, but after the conclusion of a general peace. At the same time the Central Powers refuse not only to give any explanation regarding the terms of evacuation, but also refuse to obligate themselves regarding the evacuation."

"The internal life of these provinces lies therefore for an indefinite epoch in the hands of these powers. Under such conditions any definite guarantees regarding the expression of the will of the Poles, Letts and Lithuanians is only of an illusory character. Practically it means that the governments of Austria and Germany take into their own hands the destiny of these nations."

Trotsky declared that he was glad now that the Central Powers were speaking frankly, stating that Gen. Hoffman's conditions proved that the real aims were built on quite a different level to the principles recognized on December 25, and that real or lasting peace, was only possible on the actual principle of self-determination.

"It is clear," Trotsky declared, "that the decision could have been reached long ago regarding peace aims if the Central Powers had not stated their aims differently from those expressed by Gen. Hoffman."

Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, general secretary for foreign affairs, replied to Trotsky, declaring in principle that General Hoffman's aims were the same as those advanced at Christmas. Throughout the negotiations, the Germans kept in view ethnological boundaries, but also the actual boundaries of the old Russian empire. He said that the Central Powers intended to permit free self-determination, scoffing at the theory that the presence of troops would prevent this. Regarding evacuation, Dr. Kuehlmann said that it must be taken up with the newly-born self-defined governments.

"If General Hoffman expresses the terms more strongly," said Dr. Kuehlmann, "it is because a soldier always expresses stronger language than diplomats. But it must not be deduced from this that there are any dissensions between us regarding the principles which are, on the whole, well thought out."

Dr. Kuehlmann consented to Trotsky's request for a postponement of the conference, concluding, however, that it would be much preferable if they could finish the negotiations now, as the former adjournments brought about many misunderstandings.

A Clearing Sale of Ladies' Suits and Coats, \$10.00. W. L. Hughes, 127 Colborne street.

ays rifle With vesight? valuable gift of or vision is indis- have headaches, burn—you need ight glasses—and at once. mine your eyes, make the kind of fill correct your to your comfort Our charges are Optical Co. Open Tuesday and HAVANA CIGARS 25 cents Bouquet Cigar straight & CO., Ltd., ORD, ONT. WOOD SALE Card Wood Lengths R CORD VERED Garage E 2306 -CAB Day Service SAY & CO. Machine 45 SALE PILLS Restores Vision and Vitality. Complaints. \$5 a box. 25 stores. Mailed to any address. The Scientific Basis. DR MEN Restores Vision and Vitality. Increases Energy. \$5 a box. 25 stores. Mailed to any address. Mailed on receipt of price. 25 stores. Mailed to any address. CANADIAN NORTH REGULATIONS family, or any male who was at the present war, and has a British subject or neutral connection, a quarter-section of land in Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, or Ontario. Applicant must be a Dominion citizen, and must be a resident of the province in which the land is situated. A homestead may be a quarter-section or 800 acres, or a homestead in excess of 800 acres. Must be a pre-emption, or homestead in excess of 800 acres. Must be a pre-emption, or homestead in excess of 800 acres. Must be a pre-emption, or homestead in excess of 800 acres. 1386 ILL'S WOOD EARNING BRANTFORD