

# Last Night's Cables

## The Integrity of Nations Must Be Safeguarded

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—President Wilson has appealed to all belligerents to discuss terms of peace without actually proposing peace or offering mediation. The President has sent formal notes to the governments of all warring nations suggesting that an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to terms upon which the war might be concluded, and arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as would make it possible to frankly compare them. Wholly without notice and entirely contrary to what administration officials described as his course, the President last night despatched notes to all belligerents and all neutrals for their information. This latest development in the rapidly moving world of events toward the discussion of peace was not permitted to become known until to-night, when the notes were well on the way. American Ambassadors in belligerent capitals probably already have in their hands some of them. It was a most distinct surprise to all officials of Washington now here. On the surface it appears an indication of history making events which diplomatists generally are convinced must have transpired since the German allies brought forth their proposals and will dispel the generally prevalent belief that such action on the part of President Wilson would be unacceptable to the Entente Powers. British Embassy officials declared they were utterly taken by surprise, and were wholly unable to explain it, and were emphatic in their statement that no exchanges whatever had passed through the Embassy here as a preliminary.

Before the final step can be taken, however, each of the Allies deem it necessary to first settle issues of the present war upon terms which will certainly safeguard the independence and integrity and political commercial freedom of the nations involved. In measures to be taken to secure the future peace for the world and people, the government of the States is as vitally and as directly interested as the governments now at war. Their interest, moreover, in the means to be adopted to relieve the smaller and weaker people of the world from the peril of wrong and violence is as quick and ardent

as that of any other people or government; they stand ready, even eager, to co-operate and accomplish these ends when the war is over, with every influence and resource at their command. But war must first be concluded. Terms upon which it is to be concluded they are not at liberty to suggest. But at present does not feel that it is right to point out their intimate interest in its conclusion, at least it should be too late to accomplish great things which lie beyond its conclusion, lest the situation of neutral nations now exceedingly hard to endure be rendered altogether intolerable, lest more than all injury be done civilization itself which can never be atoned for or repaired. The President, therefore, feels altogether justified in suggesting immediate opportunity for a comparison of views as to the terms which must precede these ultimate arrangements for the peace of the world which all desire and in which neutral nations as well as those at war are ready to play a full and responsible part. If contest must continue to proceed towards undefined ends by slow attrition until one group of belligerents or other is exhausted, if million after million of human lives must continue to be offered up until on one side or other there are no more to offer if resentments must be kindled, can never see coal despairs engendered from which there can be no recovery. If hopes of peace and of the willing concert of a free peoples be rendered vain and idle, the life of the entire world will be profoundly affected. Every part of the great family of mankind felt the burden and terror of this unprecedented contest. No nation in the world can be said in truth to stand outside its influence or to be safe against its disturbing effects, and yet the concrete objects for which it is being waged have never been definitely stated. The leaders of several belligerents have, as has been said, stated these objects on general terms, but they seem the same. Both sides never yet had authoritative spokesmen to advance the precise objects which would, if attained, satisfy them and their people that the war had been fought out, we have been left to conjecture what definite results, what actual exchange or guarantees and what political or territorial changes or adjustments, and

what stage of military success even would bring the end. Maybe peace is nearer than we know. The terms which the belligerents on one side and on other would deem it necessary to insist upon are not so irreconcilable as some have feared. That an interchange of views would clear the way at least for a conference. The President is not proposing mediation, he is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, neutral nations with belligerents, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing. He believes the spirit in which he speaks and the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned. He confidentially hopes for a response which will bring new light into affairs of the world. The note to the Entente group will be delivered to Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, Belgium, Montenegro, Portugal, Roumania and Serbia, and that to the Central Powers be delivered to Germany, Austria, Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria, the same being delivered to all neutral governments for their information.

### Another Story From Berlin

Says French Military Strategist Asks to Be Recalled From Roumania.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—Gen. Berthel, the French military strategist, has asked to be recalled from the Roumanian front where he has been occupied for some time past, according to a report received by the Hamburger Fremdenbla, which says the majority of British officers attached to the Roumanian General Staff have left for England. The newspaper likewise reports a long conference between King Ferdinand of Roumania and General Alexieff of the Russian army, regarding the military situation. As regards the Roumanian army, Gen. Alexieff will report to Emperor Nicholas, says the newspaper, in the lack of opportunity at present for the Emperor to receive the King in person.

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### Rolling Stock For War Use

#### Passenger Traffic to be Curtailed on British Railways After New Year.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—With a view of curtailing travelling thus enabling British railways to use more rolling stock for war and food purposes, it has been decided to decrease after the first of the year the number of passenger trains by an increase fare of 50 per cent. This will not apply to workmen's tickets or the season ticket for distances not exceeding forty miles. This decision is announced by the Government in the Commons today.

#### AMERICANS DETAINED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Two hundred Americans, detained in Syria and Palestine by Turkish military authorities, have been granted permission to leave via Beirut, on condition that they intern at Beirut for one month.

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#### ONLY ANSWER PRIME MINISTER COULD MAKE

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Editorial comment on 'Lloyd George's speech' appears in newspapers this morning. The Tribune says the reply of the British Prime Minister to the German peace proposal was simple and straightforward. It was the only reply that a responsible Minister of an Allied Nation could make; it did not make war upon the idea of peace, but it did make clear that only one peace was possible, and that was a peace which restored to full vigor the whole structure and body of international law and nation right, which Germany invaded a year and a half ago. The Times says: All the portents foreshadowed the nature of the speech Lloyd George would make. It was inclusive. It set forth not only definite terms, but unmistakably it leaves the door open to further exchanges to actual peace negotiations that is all important.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

#### Big Tax From Excess Profits

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The tax on excess profits has produced 73,699,000 pounds up to Dec. 16, Bonar Law told the Commons to-day. The original estimate for the full year ending Mar. 31, the Chancellor said, was 86,000,000 pounds, an amount which he considered likely to be greatly exceeded.

#### HEAVY FIGHTING ON VERDUN FRONT

PARIS, Dec. 21.—Heavy artillery fighting continues on Verdun front. War Office announced this afternoon. The engagements were most spirited in the vicinity of Louvemont and Chambrettes.

#### LACKED SECURITY

TOKIO, Dec. 21.—Viscount Motono, Foreign Minister, to-day told the members of Parliament that he believed Germany's peace proposals lacked sincerity, and that Germany does not really desire peace. He added: "Japan's reply to the proposal would be made after consulting with the Allies."

#### DEMANDS GRANTED

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Complaint of railwaymen in Ireland was amicably settled by the Board of Trade today. The men were granted an increase of 7 shillings a week; they had asked for ten shillings on the grounds of the increased cost of living.

#### VOLCANIC EXPLOSION

SANAL VADOR, Dec. 21.—A volcanic explosion near the small village of Verapaz, Guatemala, have caused the death of 15 persons.

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MEN'S BLACK and TAN SLIPPERS, 80c., \$1.30, to \$2.60.

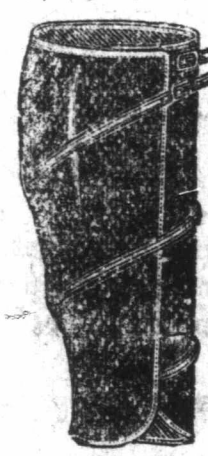
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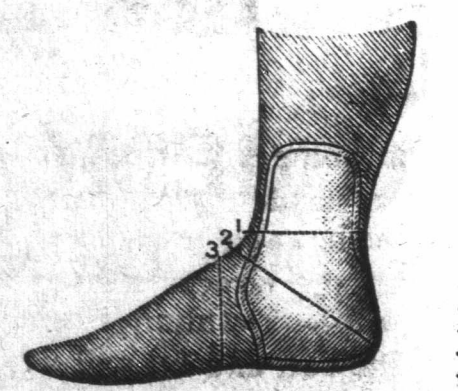


A stock of Women's Spats, in Black, Fawn and White.  
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WOMEN'S BUTTONED GAITERS... \$1.60 to \$2.50  
WOMEN'S BUCKLE GAITERS... \$2.50 to \$2.70.  
CHILDREN'S BUCKLE GAITERS... \$1.20 to \$1.90  
CHILDS' LONG RUBBERS... \$1.45 to \$2.50  
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