

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA VAINLY TALK OF PEACE WHILE THE ALLIES DRIVE ON TOWARD THE RHINE

GERMANY OFFERS PEACE TO BELGIUM WHILE AUSTRIA IS READY TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS

Teutonic Powers Wish To Avoid a Decision in the War By Force of Arms Alone.

AUSTRIAN NOTE TO ALLIED POWERS PROPOSES PEACE BY AGREEMENT

Urges That Representatives of Warring Powers Assemble At Neutral Meeting Place and Open Peace Conference—Note Suggests Compromise, But Contains No Specific Terms.

London, Sept. 15.—Germany has made a definite peace offer to Belgium, according to information received here.

London, Sept. 15.—It is understood that the government has received the Austro-Hungarian peace note and also the proposal, previously referred to, that all the powers should withdraw their troops from the Murman territory.

It is also learned that Germany has made a peace offer to Belgium. The terms of this proposal are as follows:

That Belgium shall remain neutral until the end of the war.

That thereafter the entire economic and political independence of Belgium shall be reconstituted.

That the pre-war commercial treaties between Germany and Belgium shall again be put into operation after the war for an indefinite period.

That Belgium shall use her good offices to secure the return of the German colonies.

That the Flemish question shall be considered, and the Flemish minority, which awoke the German invaders, shall not be penalized.

The proposal contains no word respecting reparation or indemnities, no admission that Germany wronged Belgium.

Amsterdam, Sept. 15.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Austrian government announces that a note embodying its peace suggestions had been addressed to the various belligerent powers and that the Holy See had been apprised of the proposal in special note. The governments of the neutral states also had been made acquainted with the proposal.

The text of the official communication reads: "An objective and conscientious examination of the situation of all the belligerent states no longer leaves doubt that all peo- ples, on whatever side they may be fighting, long for a speedy end to the bloody struggle. Despite this natural and comprehensible desire for peace, it has not yet been possible to create those preliminary conditions calculated to bring the peace efforts nearer to realization and bridge the gap which at present still separates the belligerents from one another.

"A more effective means must therefore be considered whereby the responsible factors of all the countries can be offered an opportunity to investigate the present possibilities of an understanding.

"The first step which Austria-Hungary in accord with her allies, undertook on December 12, 1916, for the bringing about of peace did not lead to the end hoped for.

Desire for Peace Strengthened.

"It is true it must be remembered that an agreement on general principles is insufficient, but that there remains the further matter of reaching an accord upon their respective proposals and their application to individual concrete war and peace questions.

"To an unprejudiced observer there can be no doubt that in all the belligerent states, without exception, the desire for a peace of understanding has been enormously strengthened that the conviction has been spread that the further continuance of the bloody struggle must transform Europe into ruins and into a state of exhaustion that will mar its development for decades to come—and this without any guarantee of thereby bringing about that decision by arms which has been vainly striven after by both sides in four years filled with enormous sacrifices, sufferings and exertions.

"In what manner, however, can the way be paved for an understanding and an understanding finally attained—is of reaching this aim by whatever means, even somewhat less; that decision and hitherto unbridged differences, a partial turning from many of the most extreme concrete war aims is visible and a certain agreement upon the relative general basic principles of a world peace manifests itself. In both camps there is undoubtedly observable in wide classes of the population a growth of the will to peace and understanding. Moreover, a comparison of the reception of the peace proposal of the powers of the Quadruple Alliance on the part of their opponents with the later utterances of responsible statesmen of the latter, as well as of the non-responsible, but, in a political respect, likewise influential personalities, confirms this impression.

"The grounds for this lay essentially in the situation at that time. In order to maintain in their peoples the war spirit, which was steadily declining, the Allied governments had by the most severe means suppressed even any discussion of the peace idea. And so it came about that the ground for a peace understanding was not properly prepared. The natural transition from the wildest war agitation to a condition of conciliation was lacking.

"It would, however, be wrong to believe that the peace step we then took was entirely without result. Its fruits consist of something which is not to be overlooked—but the peace question has not since vanished from the order of the day. The discussions which have

TWO LIVES LIKELY TOLL OF ACCIDENT NEAR ST. STEPHEN

Carriage Containing Mr. and Mrs. George Stuart Struck By Train—Mrs. Stuart Instantly Killed, Husband Dying.

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, Sept. 15.—A fatal accident occurred at Baring, Maine, four miles above here, on Saturday evening. Mr. and Mrs. George Stuart had been to St. Stephen and were returning to the home of their daughter, Mrs. Foss, in Baring, with whom they lived. They had crossed from the Canadian side of the river at Upper Mills and had to cross the tracks of the Princeton branch of the Maine Central Railway. They saw a tail light on a moving train but evidently supposed it was a street car from Calais to Woodland, and it collided with their train.

Mrs. Stuart, aged 58 years, was instantly killed and her body badly mangled. The pieces were picked up and placed in a basket. Mr. Stuart, who is 72 years of age, is still living. He was picked up unconscious and was badly injured. He was taken to the Calais hospital but is so badly injured that no hopes are held for his recovery. The horse was killed and the carriage demolished.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart were life-long residents of Lyndale, near St. Stephen, but sold their farm there about a year ago and after spending the winter with a son in Boston, had returned east and were making their home with their daughter at Baring, Me. They were widely known and were highly esteemed and the tragedy is deeply regretted.

been carried on before the tribunal of public opinion have disclosed proof of the not slight differences which today still separate the warring powers in their conception of peace conditions. "Nevertheless an atmosphere has been created which no longer excludes the discussion of peace problems.

"Without optimism it is at least surely may be deduced from the utterances of responsible statesmen that the desire to reach an understanding and not to decide the war exclusively by force of arms is also gradually beginning to penetrate into allied states, save for some exceptions in the case of blinded war agitators, which are certainly not to be estimated lightly.

"The Austro-Hungarian government is aware that after the deep reaching convulsions which have been caused in the life of the peoples by the devastating effects of the world war it will not be possible to re-establish order in the tottering world at a single stroke. The path that leads to the restoration of peaceful relations between the peoples is cut by hatred and embitterment. It is toilsome and wearisome, yet it is our duty to tread this path—the path of negotiation—and if there are still such responsible factors as desire to overcome the opponent by military means and to force the will to victory upon him, there can nevertheless, no longer be doubt that this aim, even assuming that it is attainable, would first necessitate a further sanguinary and protracted struggle.

"But even a later victorious peace will no longer be able to make good the consequences of such a policy consequences which will be fatal to all the states and peoples of Europe. The only peace which could righteousness adjust the still warring peoples of the opponents would be a peace desired by all the peoples. With this aim, even assuming that it is attainable, would first necessitate a further sanguinary and protracted struggle.

"The earnest will to peace of wide classes of the population of all the states who are jointly suffering through the war—the indisputable rapprochement in individual controversial questions—as well as the more conciliatory atmosphere that is general, seem to give a certain guarantee that a fresh step in the interests of peace, which also takes account of past experience in this domain, might at the present moment offer the possibility of success.

Compromise Hinted At. "It is true that, independent of all these oscillations, it can be stated that the distance between the concepts of the two sides, has, on the whole, grown somewhat less; that decided and hitherto unbridled differences, a partial turning from many of the most extreme concrete war aims is visible and a certain agreement upon the relative general basic principles of a world peace manifests itself. In both camps there is undoubtedly observable in wide classes of the population a growth of the will to peace and understanding. Moreover, a comparison of the reception of the peace proposal of the powers of the Quadruple Alliance on the part of their opponents with the later utterances of responsible statesmen of the latter, as well as of the non-responsible, but, in a political respect, likewise influential personalities, confirms this impression.

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FOG AIDED TRANSPORT TO ESCAPE

British Steamer Shelled By Submarine Off Atlantic Coast.

HUNS DIDN'T HIT HER; SHE STEAMED AWAY

Germans' Poor Gunnery, Coupled With Heavy Fog, Probably Saved Many Lives — 189 Missing From Galway Castle—Spanish Steamer Fired on.

An Atlantic Port, Sept. 15.—A British passenger steamer which arrived here reported she was shelled by a German submarine eighty miles off the American coast earlier in the day. Five shots were fired by the U-boat. None took effect. The steamer fled without returning the submarine's fire and escaped in the fog. Five shots were fired by the submarine at the steamer, which is in the transport service and was bringing home ninety-six wounded Canadian officers. None of the shells struck the vessel. The first screamed across the starboard bow, struck the water beyond, and exploded harmlessly. Instantly the captain altered his course and slowed down. The second missile blew over the port bow, and the next three struck the waves astern.

Though the ship was armed, the captain ordered the gun crew not to respond to the fire, determining to rely on speed and the low visibility for escape. As soon as the shells began to fall behind he ran for full speed ahead and the liner leaped away into the murk. The U-boat then ceased firing.

During the shelling, perfect discipline was maintained on the steamer. After the fog closed around her she continued her voyage with no further incident until she reached harbor.

The Galway Castle.

London, Sept. 15.—The missing from the torpedoed Galway Castle number 189. They include 120 passengers, thirty-six naval and military officers and men and thirty-three of the crew. Ninety third class passengers lost were without exception women and children. The liner floated for two days in charge of the captain and volunteers.

The Galway Castle left port for South Africa on Tuesday last and was torpedoed on Thursday in a stormy sea.

The Central News account of the sinking says that one of the lifeboats was driven by a stormy sea against the ship's propeller and smashed. One of the steamer's passengers, the account says, was Henry Burton, minister of railways of the Union of South Africa, who was saved, and Major Rabuntine, a member of the South African parliament, who is missing.

The Galway Castle was built at Belfast in 1911. London was her port of registry. She was owned by the Union Castle Mail Steamship Company.

London, Sept. 15.—Crew scrutiny of the Galway Castle passenger list indicated that she had on board only 749 instead of 940 as announced earlier. The majority were women and children, but many were discharged soldiers returning to their homes. The boats were picked up by scouting vessels and by destroyers sent to the spot.

Spanish Steamer Fired On.

Paris, Sept. 14.—That a Spanish steamer was fired upon by a German submarine near the Canary Islands is confirmed by despatches received here.

LLOYD GEORGE IMPROVED.

London, Sept. 15.—Premier Lloyd George, who suffered an attack of influenza Thursday night after an address at Manchester, spent a good night and his condition today was declared to be satisfactory. The inflammation has gone from his throat but there was a slight rise in his temperature tonight.

PERSHING'S ARMY IS FACING GUNS OF GERMAN FORTRESS OF METZ; BRITISH ADVANCE

FOSTER GOVERNMENT AGAIN GOES FISHING

James McQueen of Shediac Named As a Commissioner To Investigate Sale of Potatoes.

James McQueen, of Shediac, has been appointed a Royal Commissioner to investigate the sale of potatoes by the firm of A. C. Smith & Company, acting as agents for the provincial government in 1915, and the payment of \$22,681.33 credited to that firm for same.

It is alleged that the accounts of the auditor-general for 1915 credit the payment of a large portion of this amount to certain dealers, who have since stated that they did not receive any potatoes from the firm of A. C. Smith & Company in that year. It is also alleged that the accounts of the auditor-general show that the amount was paid by A. C. Smith & Company in cash, which it is now claimed the payment was made by a four months' note which was discounted by the deputy-provincial treasurer. It is also alleged that at maturity this note was not paid by A. C. Smith & Company but by funds transferred from Moncton.

The commissioner is empowered by order-in-council to investigate into any matters or things relating in any way to the purchase, sale or delivery of the said potatoes, or any such remittances were made, to enquire from whom they were purchased, the disposition of them, the person or persons, firms or corporations through whom the said potatoes, or any part of them were sold or delivered, the amounts of money received and the dates and manner in which such remittances were made. To enquire into these preliminary notes and the sources from which the money came to pay it, and to investigate the disbursement of the sum of \$40,000 withdrawn by William B. Tennant from a bank on John bank on or about May 29, 1916.

The Commissioner will open his enquiry in this city on Tuesday, September 24.

French Capture Prisoners.

Paris, Sept. 15.—"South of the Oise," says the war office announcement tonight, "we maintained our positions against violent counter-attacks. We captured the plateau east of Valenciennes and the crest northeast of Colles-Sur-Aisne. The prisoners taken by the French yesterday morning exceed 3,500."

French Premier Pleaded.

Paris, Sept. 14.—The prisoners taken by the Americans in the St. Mihiel operation number nearly 20,000 according to Marshall Hutin, editor of the Echo de Paris, among them being 5,320 Austrians.

British Capture Malaisemy.

London, Sept. 15.—The British have captured Malaisemy, northwest of St. Quentin, together with the trench system to the southeast and east of that place. Field Marshal Haig made this announcement in his report.

Four Buildings Burned in Halifax.

Fire in Drydock and Shipyards Did Considerable Damage on Saturday Night.

Halifax, Sept. 15.—Four buildings at the Halifax drydock and shipyards were destroyed by fire Saturday evening. They included a boiler house, the boiler house, air compressor structure and the old machine shop. The fire was discovered near the furnace in the machine shop at 6.30 p. m. The fire brigade arrived in twenty minutes, and the two motor engines played the hose on the burning buildings. The blaze was not subdued until ten o'clock. The loss is fully covered by insurance.

The fire was due to carelessness.

NECESSARY TO EXEMPT THE VICTORY BONDS

Lord Shaughnessy Says Finance Minister Acted Wisely in Order To Get Money For Canada.

Calgary, Alta., Sept. 14.—"The chief thing is for Canada to get the money and the only way to get it is from tax exempted bonds," stated Lord Shaughnessy Saturday morning when asked what he thought of a proposal to tax victory bonds. "If they are to be taken either the rate of interest must be increased or the selling rate reduced. Manifestly it would be fairer and equitable to all if the bonds were taxed, but the minister has thoroughly considered these points and considers that the best way to get the money for Canada's use, which is very necessary, is by the system of tax exempted bonds. Securities free from taxation in this way have been very attractive to the buyer, and there is no doubt that it is the best way to raise the money."

Further Successes Scored By Allies in the Fighting of Saturday and Sunday on Western Front.

FRENCH PREMIER VISITING FOCH DECLARES "THINGS WILL GO WELL"

South of the Oise French Capture Important Positions and Bring in 3,500 Prisoners — British Gain on St. Quentin Sector, While Italians Also Score.

London, Sept. 15.—General Pershing's army, according to this afternoon news, is making fine progress. Since yesterday afternoon it has advanced from two to three miles on a thirty-three mile front and the fortress guns of Metz have come into action against it.

French Succeeded in Local Attacks. Paris, Sept. 15.—The war office communication last night says: "South of St. Quentin we advanced our lines as far as the outskirts of Pontaine-Les-Clercs.

"Between the Oise and the Aisne we proceeded at various points to carry out local attacks designed to improve our positions. Despite the spirited resistance of the enemy we occupied the village of Allemenot and the progress east of Sancy and northeast of Colles-Sur-Aisne. The number of prisoners taken up to the present amounts to 2,500.

"South of the Aisne, in the neighborhood of Merval, we made progress, about 200 prisoners fell into our hands.

Airplanes Aided Americans.

Aviation—On September 12 and 13 our airplanes participated actively in the offensive operations of the American army. In spite of strong winds, low clouds and rain our bombing and pursuit squadrons attacked troops and convoys in the region of Conflans, Chantilly, Vignelles-Les-Hattonchateau and Mars-La-Tour. Seven enemy planes were brought down or put out of control and one captive balloon was burned.

Our observation squadrons, flying in the storm, did not cease to inform the command of the situation on the battlefield and of the progress of our troops who were supporting the American units.

"Eastern Theatre, Sept. 15.—There was reciprocal artillery activity between the Vardar and the Cerna Bend."

TEN YEARS FOR DEBS IN ESPIONAGE CASE

Motion For New Trial Overruled, But Exception For Defendant Allowed—He Is Out on Bail.

Cleveland, Sept. 14.—Eugene V. Debs, charged with violation of the espionage act, was sentenced to 10 years in the Moundsville, W. Va., penitentiary, on each of three counts of the indictment of Federal Judge D. C. Westenhaver, here today. The sentence will run concurrently.

Motion for a new trial was overruled and an exception on behalf of the defendant was allowed. A motion for arrest of the sentence was also overruled.

The court admitted Debs to \$10,000 bail with permission to leave the northern federal district of Ohio, only to go to and remain at his home.

New York, Sept. 14.—The opening was dull with slight over-night advance chief of which was one of 3-4 of a point in U. S. Steel.

The Steel and Equipment issues gathered strength throughout the morning and closed with net gains of a point to 1 1/2 points. The rails were in demand at better prices. St. Paul and New Haven gained a point each.

The pool stocks which had suffered the greatest declines in the past few days, including Industrial Alcohol, Distillers and General Motors made gains of two to four points.

Today's market moved up in response to the war news, and to a generally easier feeling about the money situation.