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The Toronto World

TUESDAY MORNING OCTOBER 15 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,852

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NO THOUGHT OF AN ARMISTICE WHILE ATROCITIES CONTINUE

NO PEACE WITH GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED BY MILITARISTS

President Wilson Answers German Note With Statement That the Only Condition Upon Which an Armistice Can Be Granted Is That Atrocities on Land and Sea Must Cease--When Time to Consider Armistice Comes the Allies Must Be Consulted, and in the Meantime No Military Advantage Will Be Lost.

Wilson's Second Reply to Germany

"Sir,—In reply to the communication of the German Government, dated the 12th inst., which you handed to me today, I have the honor to request you to transmit the following answer:

"The unqualified acceptance by the present German Government and by a large majority of the reichstag of the terms laid down by the president of the United States of America in his address to the congress of the United States on Jan. 8, 1918, and in his subsequent addresses, justifies the president in making a frank and direct statement of his decision with regard to the communications of the German Government of the 8th and 12th of October, 1918.

"It must be clearly understood that the process of evacuation and the conditions of an armistice are matters which must be left to the judgment and advice of the military advisers of the government of the United States and the allied governments, and the president feels it his duty to say that no arrangement can be accepted by the government of the United States which does not provide absolutely satisfactory safeguards and guarantees of the maintenance of the present supremacy of the armies of the United States and the allies in the field.

"He feels confident that he can safely assume that nothing but this will also be the judgment and decision of the allied governments.

"The president feels that it is also his duty to add that neither the government of the United States nor, he is quite sure, the governments with which the government of the United States is associated as a belligerent will consent to consider an armistice so long as the armed forces of Germany continue the illegal and inhumane practices which they still persist in.

"At the very time that the German Government approaches the government of the United States with proposals of peace, its submarines are engaged in sinking passenger ships at sea and not the ships alone, but the very boats in which their passengers and crews seek to make their way to safety; and in their present enforced withdrawal from Flanders and France, the German armies are

pursuing a course of wanton destruction which has always been regarded as in direct violation of the rules and practices of civilized warfare. Cities and villages, if not destroyed, are being stripped of all they contain, not only, but often of their very inhabitants. The nations associated against Germany cannot be expected to agree to a cessation of arms while acts of inhumanity, spoliation and desolation are being continued which they justly look upon with horror and with burning hearts.

"It is necessary, also, in order that there may be no possibility of misunderstanding that the president should very solemnly call the attention of the government of Germany to the language and plain intent of one of the terms of peace which the German Government has now accepted. It is contained in the address of the president, delivered at Mount Vernon on July 4 last.

"It is as follows: 'The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can separately, secretly and of its single choice disturb the peace of the world; or, if it cannot be presently destroyed, at least its reduction to virtual impotency. The power which has hitherto controlled the German nation is of the sort here described. It is within the choice of the German nation to alter it.' The president's words just quoted naturally constitute a condition precedent to peace, if peace is to come by the action of the German people themselves. The president feels bound to say that the whole process of peace will, in his judgment, depend upon the definiteness and the satisfactory character of the guarantees which can be given in this fundamental matter. It is indispensable that the governments associated against Germany should know beyond a peradventure with whom they are dealing.

"The president will make a separate reply to the royal and imperial government of Austria-Hungary.

"Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

(Signed) "Robert Lansing."

"Mr. Frederick Oederlin, 'Charge d'affaires, ad interim, in charge of German interests in the United States.'"

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—President Wilson has answered Germany's peace proposal with a decision which not only fulfills the expectations of supporters of his diplomacy, but also dispels the fear of those who predicted he would substitute victories at arms, with defeats at diplomacy.

No peace with kaiserism, autocracy must go; no armistice can even be thought of while Germany continues her atrocities on land and sea; one cannot be considered unless it is fully dictated by the allied commanders in the field in such terms as absolutely provide safeguards and guarantees that Germany's part will not be a scrap of paper.

This, in a few words, is the president's answer. If it does not bring a capitulation which may be more than an unconditional surrender, allied diplomats and American officials believe it may cause a revolution in Germany.

Beyond question, it speaks for the entente allies as well as the United States.

The despatch of the president's reply was followed by the issue of this formal statement at the White House by Secretary Tumulty:

"The government will continue to send over 250,000 men with their supplies every month, and there will be no relaxation of any kind."

Quite outside of the formal phrases of a diplomatic document, that was President Wilson's word to the world that he had no thought of stopping the fighting at this stage.

The senate chamber rang with the applause of senators as the president's answer was read a few minutes after it had been announced at the state department. Senator Lodge, the president's chief critic in his course until today, issued a statement expressing his gratification at the president's decision. Opinion at the capital and throughout official Washington was unanimously in approval.

The official note which will convey the president's decision to the German Government, and more important, to the German people, was delivered today by Secretary Lansing to the charge of the Swiss Legation, who has been acting as the intermediary. It was given out publicly by Lansing at the state department at 6 o'clock this evening.

One outstanding point which does not appear in the president's note, a point on which the world has been asking questions, can be answered tonight.

When the president declared that the wrong done to France when Germany took Alsace-Lorraine should be righted, he meant that Alsace-Lorraine should be restored to France.

Those who contend the president's decision arranged the situation for something more than an unconditional surrender base it on the argument that he has now passed the stage where he might have accepted a surrender of the German military and naval forces and left the Hohenzollern autocracy on its throne.

Wilson, according to this view, has now finally informed the German people that if they want peace they can only attain it by getting rid of the kaiser and his system.

Meaning of Armistice. An armistice, it is true, might come first, and the details of the downfall of the German Autocratic Government might be arranged later, but this is what an armistice would entail:

First: A stop to the atrocities on land and sea, and the systematic destruction and devastation in the wake of the retreating German armies. Then, the disarmament of all the German forces and the deposit of their arms and munitions at points to be chosen by the allied military commanders.

Then the occupation by allied forces of certain German cities or strongholds of strategic importance. Probably also the occupation of all the submarine bases, and turning over of the German fleet.

In short it would entail a taking from Germany of everything with which she might break her word to an armistice.

From that point, the United States and the allies might proceed to dispose of what remained of kaiserism if the German people have not done it before, as President Wilson in his note plainly invites them to do.

While nowhere in the note does the president openly join with the entente statesmen in the demand that the "chief criminals" must be delivered up for trial, the president's confidants point out that he plainly subscribes to the doctrine that the guilt of bringing on the world war is personal.

Foch to Dictate Terms. It will be noted that the president completely rejects the German suggestion for a mixed commission to arrange an evacuation, and reminds the militarists that they will accept the terms laid down by Marshal Foch and the associated commanders in that they will have no part in framing them. He makes it plain that he does not accept the new German Government headed by Chancellor Maximilian as anything less autocratic, anything less a creature of German militarism, than its predecessors, and warns

EXPLOSION WRECKS PLANT AT TRENTON

T.N.T. and Guncotton Factory is Completely Destroyed.

Trenton, Oct. 14.—Shortly after seven o'clock tonight the plant of the British Explosives Limited, was completely destroyed by a series of explosions. Fire set in and spread rapidly, but was confined to the chemical works. Despite the rumors that few over the town, and spread like lightning, only one man is known to have been killed of the 2500 employees.

Every window in the town was smashed by the explosion, and for a time there was great confusion. Hundreds of people thought the entire town would be destroyed, and made their way to Belleville, ten miles east of here, and Brighton, nine miles west. All telephone and telegraph wires are down, and the train services have been interrupted.

Mayor Ireland of Trenton, made the following statement at a late hour tonight: "Only one man is known to have been killed in the explosion which occurred at the British Explosives Limited, this evening. Reports received from the local hospital indicate that very few people were injured. All windows in the town were smashed by the concussion.

"The explosion completely destroyed the T.N.T. and guncotton plants. About 2500 people are employed by the company and most of these will be thrown out of work. The civic authorities of Kingston offered a despatch to our assistance a special train of supplies, with doctors and nurses aboard, but we found they were quite unnecessary as the local hospital is able to care for all the injured.

"The first explosion occurred about 7.10, said to be the result of a fire. It did little damage and the night shift of employees were able to make their escape. Twelve or thirteen other explosions followed in quick succession.

Gen. Collins, superintendent of the C. N. R. at Trenton, telegraphed the world at midnight as follows: "There was a fire at the British Chemical Company works here this evening, destroying the T.N.T. plant. There were several rather severe explosions which broke considerable glass in the downtown district. Cannot find that anyone was killed or even injured. There was much excitement in town for a few hours and a number of people left town. Fire was confined to the chemical company's plant and at midnight seemed to be under control. Outside of the plant there is no damage except broken glass. C.N.R. trains are running as usual."

Schools and Collegiates Closed

W. O. McTaggart, chairman of the management committee, board of education, announced last night that all collegiates and public schools will be closed this morning and will stay closed till further notice, to prevent the spread of the influenza epidemic.

BRITISH BLOW BREAKS THRU FLANDERS FRONT

Attack Breaches German Line in One Place, With Allies Advancing Upon Lys--Many Thousands of Prisoners Taken.

With the British Army in France, Oct. 14.—The British in their attack in Flanders today approached Courtrai. Counter-attacks by picked Bavarians against the French broke down under a hot fire. Thousands of prisoners have been taken and enormous casualties again have been inflicted on the enemy. The latest reports indicate that the British broke thru at one place and are advancing toward the Lys.

The Belgians have signaled from the east and southeast of Roulers that they have captured Hagobrooke, Gitsberg and Beverin and that 3000 prisoners thus far have been counted. The British have taken Denasp, Boschmolen, Gulleghem, Vulverghem and Werwico, and are a thousand yards northwest of Menin. They had captured by early afternoon 1500 prisoners and had counted eleven field guns.

ITALIANS TAKE KAVAYA; BOMBARD TRIESTE GULF

Rome, Oct. 14.—Kavaya, a town in Albania 12 miles southeast of Durazzo, has been captured by the Italians, according to an official statement issued by the war office last night. Only reconnoitering activity is reported along the Italian front. Air attacks on military works in the Gulf of Trieste and in the neighborhood of Durazzo have been made by the Italians.

ROULERS TAKEN BY THE FRENCH

Twenty-Five Hundred German Prisoners Captured in the Town.

Paris, Oct. 14.—French troops have captured the Town of Roulers, in Belgium Flanders, and also 2500 prisoners, according to the official announcement tonight.

In conjunction with Italian forces, the French captured and passed Sisonne and south of Serre occupied the Village of Monceau-lez-Leups.

STILL KEEPING IN TOUCH.

Paris, Oct. 14.—French troops last night continued to keep in contact with the retreating Germans, the French war office announced today. The French repulsed the remaining enemy troops showing resistance on the north bank of the Aisne Canal, south of Chateau Porcien.

3000 PRISONERS.

London, Oct. 14.—In the attack in Flanders today the French took 3000 prisoners.

FOCH'S MASTER STROKE LAUNCHED IN BELGIUM

Allies Start New Drive, Penetrating Five Miles, in Attempt to Make Sedan for the German Armies.

With the Allied Armies in Flanders, Oct. 14.—British, Belgian and French forces attacked at dawn this morning on a wide front in Flanders. The allied troops are driving in the general direction of Ghent and Courtrai.

The attack was general from Comines to the northward. The troops of the three nations went over the top after a "crust" bombardment only. There was no preliminary bombardment. It undoubtedly tactically surprised the enemy.

The allies captured Roulers. They made an advance of five miles and threaten Courtrai from the north. They have reached Landelede, four miles northwest of Courtrai and their new line runs in front of Issegheem.

In the British formations were some of Great Britain's best troops,

and the forces of the French were of famous fighting organizations. The Germans appear, perhaps, prepared to retire to the Ghent line.

The blow in Flanders may prove to be Marshal Foch's master-stroke. If the allied progress is continued the Germans threaten a wide stretch of territory, taking in the most important part of the Belgian coast, including possibly the important German submarine bases, as well as the forces in the entire Lille salient, will either have to get out or face a second Sedan.

The British troops drove first for the Comines-Menin railway. The Germans are weak numerically on this front numbering fewer than 15 divisions, and these are in poor condition.

It is known that the Germans have suffered more than 100,000 casualties in the Lys salient in the past three months.

BOTH SIDES OF DOUAL PRESSED BY BRITISH

Gains of Ground Are Reported by Haig Both North and South of City.

London, Oct. 14.—The British are pressing in on both sides of Douai. Field Marshal Haig's official statement today reports gains of ground both north and south of the city.

PRINCE MAXIMILIAN IS EXPECTED TO RESIGN

London, Oct. 14.—The resignation of prince Maximilian of Baden as German imperial chancellor is probable, according to reports from Ho land today. They quote The Berlin National Zeitung as saying the chancellor's resignation is regarded in certain circles as inevitable.

Positions North of Nish Are Held by the Serbians

London, Oct. 14.—After capturing Nish on Saturday, Serbian forces took possession of the enemy positions north of the town, according to the Serbian official statement issued today. French cavalry have occupied the Bela Palanka.

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