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Germany Ready Now to Discuss Peace Terms

New York Post Publishes a Dispatch Stating That German Chancellor Sends For Ambassador Gerard and Intimates Germany is Prepared to Talk Peace—Germany Would Restore Belgium and Not Seek Indemnity From That Country—Would Expect England to Hand Back German African Colonies—Understood Hun Chancellor First Consulted Kaiser About Peace

NEW YORK, Mar. 21.—A despatch to the Evening Post from Washington, says:

"Germany is seeking to make peace with her enemies and to bring the great war to an early end. The Imperial Government has gone so far as to intimate to the United States Government that the time is ripe, may be, for the services of the largest neutral nation in the beginning of peace negotiations. Some general idea even of the terms under which the Teutonic Empire would be willing to make peace have been given within the last four days to the American Ambassador Gerard by Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, Imperial Chancellor at Berlin and spokesman of the Emperor.

The Evening Post's correspondent learned the above to-day in connection with the hitherto unpublished fact that Von Bethmann-Hollweg four days ago, sent for Gerard, and not only discussed with him for nearly an hour, the possibility of an early peace in Europe, but also frankly advised the Ambassador, who had contemplated a vacation, that it would be inopportune for him to leave Germany at this time. Gerard promptly changed his plans, and notified Washington that he would remain at his post indefinitely. The American Ambassador had on three occasions been given leave of absence, but only a week ago did

he accept the privilege. Learning that the Ambassador was preparing to leave Germany, the Imperial Chancellor, who had previously conferred with Emperor William, summoned Gerard, to the German Foreign Office.

The discussion was of a most friendly and intimate nature, not only affecting the relations of Germany with the States, but with respect to the peace of Europe. While not referring directly to the resignation of Von Tirpitz as a factor in the situation, the Chancellor spoke of the desire of Germany to remain at peace with neutral countries. He emphasized his hopefulness that there would be an early termination of the terrible struggle which was devastating Europe.

The Chancellor's remarks on peace terms are of a most general character, but indicative of a desire to speak more fully on a later occasion. There was no intention to lay down hard and fast terms, but merely to give general ideas. The Chancellor said, for example, that Germany was willing to help rehabilitate Belgium, and would withdraw from that territory. She would not seek indemnity from the little country, but did seem to think it was essential in German public opinion that indemnity be paid before the German troops were withdrawn from Northern France.

Restoration of Belgium, implying that Germany is ready to succor the wounded nation, is, in itself, the most significant advance toward the viewpoint of the Allies, noted since the outbreak of the War.

The Chancellor made it clear that in exchange for withdrawal from Belgium, Germany would want Britain to return the German African colonies she had occupied. Generally speaking, the Chancellor suggested return to the territorial status, as it existed before the beginning of hostilities in July, 1914, as a just basis for negotiations.

Preparing for Economic War

NEW YORK, Mar. 21.—Afternoon newspapers here publish the following news agency despatch:

"London—Germany will never again raise her helmet in a world engaged in peaceful pursuits, President Walter Runciman, of the Board of Trade, declared in an exclusive interview to-day, officially outlining for the first time the Allies' commercial plans after the war. Great Britain does not contemplate a throttling that will leave the German people crushed to poverty and unable to rise again, he said, but peaceful preparations, as a means to military ends, will never again be tolerated by Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy. Nor can we submit to meet favoured nation clauses in commercial treaties being utilized to the detriment of any one of the Allied countries. We object to Germany using her resources and commercial relations with us for the purposes of aggression as she did in her preparations for this war. Runciman's statement is of the highest importance in view of the forthcoming Allied commercial conference at Paris, which he will attend.

American traders and manufacturers, he indicated, must prepare for rigid, though friendly, British commercial competition in neutral markets after the war. Germany has announced that at the conclusion of the war she will attempt to establish a customs union of the Central Powers on aggressive lines, he said. This can only mean that she intends to follow up the present conflict with an economic war. If this is her deliberate object, we and our Allies will know how to meet an aggressive war of that nature, just as we have met hostile action for the last twenty months. But we will be better prepared for this threatened economic war. We are much obliged to Germany for warning us before hand.

Asks For More Troops For Mexico

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Mar. 22.—General Funston asked the War Department to-day for more troops to send into Mexico to assist General Pershing in his operations against Villa. General Pershing yesterday suggested another regiment be sent him. To-day General Funston asked the War Department for what he characterized as an adequate force. The chase of Villa has grown larger than even many military men believed it would. It is pointed out that if it became necessary to extend operations much more it might be necessary to move into the field almost all the remaining available forces of the regular army eliminating however some 20,000 men now on duty in Texas, New Mexico and the Arizona border.

A Danish Steamer Torpedoed Without Warning

LONDON, Mar. 22.—The Danish steamer Skodsborg, from Norfolk for Helsinghorn, sunk yesterday, was torpedoed without warning, according to a statement made by the captain of the steamer. This information is contained in a Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. Three of the crew were lost.

Asquith On the Mending Hand

LONDON, March 21.—Premier Asquith, who has been suffering from bronchial catarrh, has recovered to such an extent that he was able to preside at a War Council this morning. It is doubtful whether he is well enough to attend Parliament this week.

MADE OVER

"John, I understand you have been saying mean things about me to your acquaintances."

"Why, dearest, everybody knows that isn't so. Why, I tell everybody that it is you who has made me what I am."

"That's what I mean."

Earl Derby Receives Deputation

Receives Deputation of Married Men—Director of Recruiting Says Every Man Should be Prepared to Defend His Country

LONDON, Mar. 22.—The German Emperor won't wait, and the War Office cannot wait, or we might be able to consider, or even concede, to some of your demands." This was the gist of the brief reply given to-day by Earl Derby to a deputation of married men who had attested and had demanded enrollment of every unmarried man before calling up the substitution of general military service as an alternative to the existing system. Lord Derby added, no matter whether married or single, every man should be prepared to defend his country.

The Director of Recruiting explained that every effort was being made to release single men from munitions and other works, but the immediate release of all single men, he said, would disorganize both munitions supplies and the general trade of the country, as married men would need training in order to take their places.

OFFICIAL

BRITISH

LONDON, Mar. 21 (Official).—Last night we made a small raid on hostile trenches near Mauquissart, accounting for about twenty of the enemy. Early this morning the enemy attacked and entered a small port in the River Somme, but were driven out, leaving one officer prisoner and two men dead. There has been considerable artillery activity on both sides about the Hohenzollern Redoubt, Neuve Chapelle and Mauquissart.

FRENCH

PARIS, Mar. 21.—Heavy German bombardment on the left bank of the Meuse is reported in an official communication issued by the War Office to-night. This operation was carried out against the village of Esnes and Hill 354, which lies from one to two miles east of the Avocourt-Malancourt line. French guns replied, vigorously shelling. No attempt at assault with infantry was made.

ST. PIERRE BULLETIN

PARIS, via St. Pierre, Mar. 21.—In Belgium the enemy, in reconnoitering, made an eruption in our lines north of Boesighe Bridge, but was immediately thrown out from them by a counter attack. In Argonne, our artillery has been very active on the outside of Ckeppy Wood, West of the Meuse, the Germans at several times during the night renewed their attempts on our Avocourt-Malancourt front, where big calibre shelling continues. Their attacks were made with a mass of detachments of soldiers carrying apparatus of a special kind for the throwing of inflammable liquid. Though their losses were heavy, caused by our firing, the enemy succeeded in capturing, after a hand-to-hand fight, a part of the Malancourt Wood, the south-east portion which we occupied and is named Avocourt Wood. All the enemy's efforts to come forward from this wood failed. A calm night in the other sectors of the Verdun region.

PARIS, via St. Pierre, Mar. 21.—In Argonne, our artillery overthrew German trenches north-east of Four de Paris and Haut Chevauchee. Heavy sulphurous clouds rose from the German lines, the result of our batteries destroying a number of German gas tanks. We shelled strongly the German lines in the Avocourt-Malancourt sector and dispersed German troops moving north of Montfaucon. West of the Meuse, after a fierce bombardment with shells of heavy calibre, the Germans tried to enlarge their attacking front, a fresh division brought in from some far-off point of their front, attacked fiercely, under cover of burning liquids. Our cross-fire, quick fire and infantry fire inflicted very heavy losses on the assailants, checking their offensive,

Grey Renews His Guarantee

LONDON, Mar. 21.—The Entente Allies have promised Belgium that she will be invited to participate in peace negotiations. This announcement was made by Sir Edward Grey, who informed the Commons to-day that Great Britain, France and Russia had made a declaration to Belgium that when the time came she would be invited to participate in peace negotiations.

A guarantee was given Belgium, Grey said, that the Powers would not cease hostilities until she had been reinstated, in her political and economic independence, and largely indemnified for the wrongs she had suffered. The Entente Allies, the Foreign Secretary added, would also lend their aid to help her financial recovery.

"For Home Consumption"

BERLIN, Mar. 21.—The German Admiralty's account of the battle between the British destroyers and German torpedo boats off the Belgian coast is as follows:

"On March 20th, off the coast of Flanders, a fight which was successful for us took place between German torpedo boats and a division of five British destroyers. The enemy broke off the engagement, after he had received some direct hits, and he steamed out of sight at full speed. We suffered only unimportant damage."

Berlin Says 2500 Are Captured

BERLIN, Mar. 21.—French positions north-east of Avocourt were captured by Germans, who took 2,500 prisoners, the War Office announced to-day.

Big Fire At Paris, Texas, U.S.

Paris, Texas, March 22.—A fire started near Paris Cotton Compress late this afternoon and swept northeast heart of the city at eight o'clock to-night, destroying 27 blocks, residences and business buildings. The loss is estimated at \$1,500,000.

Paris, Texas, Mar. 22.—At nine o'clock 30 blocks of business houses and residences were destroyed by fire which was not under control at that hour; estimated loss is \$2,000,000. Flames made clean sweep of the southern portion of the city, burned path through four blocks wide and extending to public square where a large oven arrested the course of the fire temporarily.

Paris, Tex., Mar. 22.—Survey of business district at 10.30 to-night showed only 15 out of more than 140 business buildings still standing. Fire still burning, having passed public square into north side of residential district.

Sinn Fien Rioters Fire on Police

LONDON, Mar. 21.—Sinn Fien rioters fired on the police last night at Tullemore, King's Co. Ireland. County Inspector and District Inspector received slight wounds.

which only resulted in a very slight and costly gain in the eastern part of Malancourt Wood. Heavy bombardment of Hill 304 and Bourroux Wood, east of the Meuse, and in the Woeyre intermittent activity of artillery. During the night of 19th to 20th, our aeroplanes dropped, with excellent results, twenty-five shells on Dun-sur-Meuse Station, where important movements of troops had been reported. During the morning another enemy plane was brought down by a French plane in the Verdun district. The German machine fell in our lines, on the Belgian front, during the 20th, artillery activity was very heavy on both sides.

French Contest Vigorously the Hun Advances

Huns in Their Attempt to Flank Verdun From West Succeed in Working Their Way Through Malancourt and Avocourt Woods—French Are Vigorously Contesting Further Advances—Lively Fighting Reported Between Russians and Germans West of Jacobstadt Along Dvina River—Russians Capture Ispahan, a Persian Town—Heavy Fighting Between Austrians and Italians Along Major Part Austrian Front

LONDON, Mar. 22.—In their attempts to flank Verdun from the west, the Germans, having succeeded in working their way through Malancourt and Avocourt Woods, have begun a heavy bombardment of the village of Esnes, about eight miles north-west of Verdun and Hill 304, which lies about a mile and a half north of Esnes. The French, however, are vigorously contesting further advance eastward, which not alone would bring the German line nearer the fortress, but spreading fan-like northeastward, would put in jeopardy the French in the region of Le Mort Homme. So great has been the counter offensive of the French guns, that after debouching from the woods the Germans were unable to launch their infantry attack, presumably being held hard in their newly-gained lines. North-east of Verdun, cannonading has been only intermittent. In Argonne forest, Lorraine and Upper Alsace, French guns have been

active against German positions and marching columns. On the River Somme the Germans entered a British trench, but were immediately driven out.

There has been lively fighting between Russians and Germans west of Jacobstadt, along the Dvina River, and in the Lake region between Dvinsk and Vilna, with the Russians generally on the offensive. While Berlin reports these attacks as having been repulsed with heavy losses, admission is made that the German salient near Lake Narocz was withdrawn in order to escape the encircling fire of the Russians. Near Butzitski, midway between Dvinsk and Nova Alexandrovsk have repulsed a German counter attack on positions taken at Velikoles. Petrograd says that in the capture of the Austrian bridgehead near the village of Mikhaltsche, Galicia, most of its defenders were killed in the hand-to-hand fighting. The Russians in the Caucasus have thrown a line several miles nearer on Trebizond and on the Black Sea coast, after further fighting with the Turks. Ispahan, in Persia, is reported to have been taken by the Russians.

Heavy fighting continues between the Austrians and Italians along the greater part of the Austrian front, especially on the front from Rovereto to the Gorizia Heights. No important changes in positions have taken place, however. A successful night attack by Austro-Hungarian aviators has been carried out against the port and barracks at Avlona, in Albania, according to Vienna.

Canadian Airman is Hit While Flying 12,000 Feet in Air—Lands in Dutch Territory Where He is Now Interned

NEW YORK, Mar. 14.—Flight Lieutenant J. Erro Boyd, 121 Bedford road, Toronto, formerly of the Queen's Own Rifles, now an interned prisoner in Holland, gives a graphic account of his thrilling experience when his machine was struck by a German bullet while he was flying 12,000 feet in the air.

"Three of us set out with orders to let go a few on some hangars and supply sheds the Germans had at Zebrugge, some forty-odd miles up the coast from our station at Dunkirk," said Lieut. Boyd. "We got away in the dark about 4 o'clock, and back of our own lines climbed till we were about 10,000 feet up. Then we headed up the coast and got away over the town of Zebrugge just as daylight was appearing. We located the sheds we wanted and one after the other of us let go at them. It's a great time to pull your lever, let the old bomb go whizzing down for nearly two miles, and then wheel around to see what she'll do when she hits. Of course, you can't see anything, but you see a puff, a burst of earth, and, if you are lucky, may be you'll see a building go to smash."

Attacked by Enemy. "Then the enemy begins to throw shells. So I climbed and climbed. At 12,000 feet I felt entirely safe, and began to look around to see where I was. The next thing I knew there was a blinding flash right in front of me. I realized two things—that my propeller was gone and that I was falling like a stone. They got me at last. I was a scared Canadian, I was strapped in or I would have beaten the machine to the ground."

Three cylinders were torn away from the engines of the monoplane. The wings were pierced in five places. Like a falling leaf the machine stopped that terrifying distance—more than two miles. It twisted and turned. It looped the loop nine or ten times on the way

down. It finally handed right side up, with the Toronto map safe and sound, just fifty yards inside of Dutch territory. Boyd, to the amazement of the soldiers and civilians of the Netherlands (who expected to see him killed), was quite all right. So much, indeed, that after bringing his machine to a stop after a short run he sprang from his seat and gave brisk battle to the soldiers of Queen Wilhelmina. They overpowered him, of course, and interned him, but not until there had been a considerable mix-up.

War Costs Canada Twelve Millions Per Month

Ottawa, March 22.—In Commons Finance Minister while informed House that was costing Canada about eleven or twelve millions per month or some \$350,000 per day, exclusive of Canada's share of Imperial expenditures, which could not be paid until later.

INNOCENT

Two of the clock and a cold and chilly night. The night wind whistled round the corners of the streets and the sky overhead was clouded and threatening.

A policeman coming stealthily along, saw a suspicious-looking man loafing about outside a certain house. For some time he watched, and then determined to solve the mystery.

"Here, you," said advancing suddenly, "watcher hangin' out this house for?"

The loafer turned his weary eyes on the questioner, as he replied, "I'm only waiting for the lady inside to get to sleep, constable, we're married!"

Gasoline also feels like thirty cents.

To Change System of Native Labor

LONDON, Mar. 22.—That the system of indentured native labor which obtains in India, as well as in the British West Indies and other tropical colonies, is to be abolished is indicated by a special despatch from Delhi, which says a Resolution having been moved in the Legislative Council urging the abolition of Indian indentured labor the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford, said the Government accepted the resolution. He announced that the Secretary of State for India was prepared to accept a policy for the eventual abolition of the system in Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, Fiji and Dutch Surinam. But time must be allowed for a change to enable the Colonial Office and the Crown Colonies concerned to work out a scheme to meet the new conditions.

Russian Government Control Railways

WASHINGTON, Mar. 21.—Russia is taking over the control of all inland water transportation along the line, and has already enforced the railways act, according to advices to-day. A committee of government heads and ship-owners will direct waterway traffic. The committee is given broad power over rates, employees, their pay and consignments. They have power to recommend loans to be made to ship-builders.

Russians Occupy Southern Poland

A Copenhagen despatch from Berlin says that there are great concentrations of Russian troops occupying Southern Poland. It is supposed the Russians are preparing an attack on a line from Czartorysk to Kovel.

Japan Invited To Take Part

LONDON, Mar. 21.—David Lloyd George, speaking in the Commons to-day, confirmed the report that Japan had been invited to take part at Paris in the economic conference, at which Walter Runciman, President of the British Board of Trade, will be the principal representative of Britain.

Thought To Foreshadow German Activity in Baltic

COPENHAGEN, March 22.—Kreuz Zeitung, Berlin, copy which have been received here, says a new German mine field, which has been laid at the southern part of the sound, will cause no interruption to shipping, but will compel all vessels to report to German guards at both ends of the field mine laying. It is believed here to be the forerunner of German operations in the North Sea, which necessitate the closing of the entrance from the Baltic into that sea.

To Fight For Allies

NEW YORK, March 22.—Norman Kemp Smith, Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University, sailed for England to-day aboard the steamer Noordam of the Holland-American Line, with the vowed intention of joining the Scottish Regiment going to front to fight for Britain. With him were his wife and two daughters. He is said to be the fifth member of Princeton faculty to join the forces of the Entente Allies.

Enlistment in Canada

OTTAWA, Mar. 21.—Latest recruiting figures show that about 280,000 have enlisted in Canada.

The schr. Annie L. Warren arrived at Pernambuco on the 16th inst. after the good run of 33 days, laden by the Monroe Export Co.