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PEACE NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED?

German Situation In Darkness Until Chancellor Speaks No Vital Change In Foreign Peace Policy Expected

Negotiations Have Been Resumed at Brest-Litovsk Germany Hears, Although Official Confirmation is Lacking--Bolsheviki are Faced With War Against Russia

While German newspapers report a resumption of peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk, official confirmation is lacking. The result of the conference in Berlin also is uncertain. Both Militarist and non-Militarist newspapers in Germany claim victory for their respective groups and nothing official probably will be forthcoming until Chancellor von Hertling makes his statement before the Reichstag main committee on Friday.

OFFENSIVE ON THE WEST FRONT COMING?
It is assumed in London that the hurried meetings of military and political leaders in Berlin did not result in any definite change of peace policy. In some quarters in Germany, it is believed that the crown councils had more to do with plans for military operations on the western front.

German newspapers have heralded a strong attack on this front and it is declared the Germans had brought more than 1,000,000 men to France from the eastern front.

BOLSHEVIKI HAVE HANDS FULL

In Russia the Bolsheviki Government is faced with the meeting of the Constituent Assembly on Friday and with the carrying out of a threat of war made against Roumania should the Bolsheviki ultimatum not be answered satisfactorily. Premier Lenine has demanded that the Roumanians release Bolsheviki soldiers now under arrest with the alternative of a rupture of relations and military measures by the Bolsheviki. Roumania is given 24 hours in which to make a satisfactory reply.

Opening of the Constituent Assembly has been put off from time to time by the Bolsheviki since the elections resulted unfavorably to the Lenine Government. Control of the assembly is in the hands of the Social Revolutionists, whose leader announces that the Assembly, if convened, will appeal for an Inter-Allied conference to discuss an immediate democratic peace on the basis of the statements of Premier Lloyd George and President Wilson.

MILITARY SITUATION

Military operations on the western front are confined to the usual raids and artillery activity. East of the Brenta and on the Lower Piave the Italians have repulsed the efforts of the Austrians to recover the positions lost Monday.

SHIPPING LOSSES AGAIN DROP

British merchant shipping losses show a decrease from the previous two weeks. Submarines and mines accounted for six vessels of more than 1,600 tons and two of less than that tonnage, the past week, as compared with 21 ships, including 18 of more than 1,600 tons, in the reports of both January 9 and January 2. French losses increased from one in the previous week to six including five of more than 1,600 tons, during the week ending January 12.

How It Happened

London, Jan. 17.—The version of the incident, which resulted in the arrest of Roumanian Minister Diamandi, given by the Petrograd correspondent of The Daily News says that Roumanian troops surrounded a Russian regiment and with it some Austrians who were visiting the Russians, thus breaking the conditions of the armistice on the eastern front. The Roumanians stopped the Russian supplies, disarmed the Russian soldiers and arrested the Russian minister.

The whole incident, the correspondent says, suggests a German agency because nothing would suit the Germans better than an excuse to break with Russia over a breach of the armistice instead of over an independent point in the peace negotiations.

The visit of the allied and neutral diplomats to Premier Lenine constitutes a de facto recognition of the Bolsheviki. This correspondent says the general tone of the conversation at the meeting was friendly. The Italian ambassador took the opportunity to protest against the looting of his wine cellar. Lenine replied that the ambassador should have telephoned to him.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Jan. 17.—The eastern storm has passed to the Atlantic. A shallow area of low pressure now covers the great lakes, while in the western provinces, the barometer is high and the temperature quite low. Light snow is falling in many parts of Ontario.
Forecasts.
Fresh south-west winds, cold with light local snow. Friday—Northwest winds and colder.

MUTINY IN KIEL

By Courier Lensed Wire

London, Jan. 17.—A mutiny among submarine crews at the German naval base of Kiel on Jan. 7 is reported in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Geneva. Thirty-eight officers are said to have been killed.

There have been various reports in the last few months of mutinous outbreaks in the German navy and also in the Austrian navy. Confirmation was given by the German government reports of a mutiny among warship crews at Kiel in September. The men on board several capital ships were involved, and a number of officers were said to have been killed. Unwillingness of the men to do duty on submarines was given as one of the reasons for the outbreak.

A mutiny at Ostend among German sailors who refused to go on board submarines was reported in October. Official information received in Washington in October reported mutinies in the Austrian navy, and clashes between Austrian sailors and crews of the German submarines at Pola, in which officers on both sides were killed.

HANSELMAN FOUND GUILTY OF FRAUD ONLY

By Courier Lensed Wire

The jury in the Hanselman case returned a verdict early this afternoon finding the prisoner guilty of fraud and deception, but not of treason. He was remanded until Jan. 26th for sentence.

Hamilton, Ont., Jan. 17.—The case of E. L. Hanselman, the Brantford shell and practicing deception and fraud against His Majesty, the King, while employed in a Brantford munition plant, was given to the jury at 10 o'clock this afternoon. The judge charged against a conviction on a treason charge, but he said the fact that the prisoner acted under orders did not relieve him of responsibility for fraud. The firm was exonerated of any blame.

After being out two hours and a half the jury in the Hanselman case returned a verdict early this afternoon, acquitting the prisoner on the treason, but finding him guilty of practicing fraud and deception against His Majesty. In view of the fact that he acted under orders from a superior, the jury recommended the judge to be lenient.

A request from the prisoner's counsel for a stated case was refused. His lordship remanded Hanselman until January 28 for sentence and said his lawyer could in the meantime apply to a higher court for a stated case, if he desired. The judge said he would take note of the recommendation for leniency.

Hamilton, Jan. 16.—Chief Justice Sir Glenholme Falconbridge started the trial of Edward L. Hanselman, of Brantford, this morning. Hanselman faces two charges—treason in assisting a public enemy of King George V., by tampering with shells intended for the use of H.M. forces and of deception and fraud of one of H.M. servants in damaging military stores destined for the use of H.M. forces.

Counsel for the accused objected to the indictments on the ground that they were not sufficiently explicit. The accused pleaded not guilty to both charges, and requested that his trial be gone on with.

W. E. Kelly of Simcoe and Martin McEwen are defending Hanselman. A Munro, of Toronto, assisted by A. J. Wilkes, Crown Attorney of Brantford, are the Crown prosecutors. W. S. Brewster, K.C., ex-Kelly being elected chairman. It was decided to get into touch with Toronto in the matter of sending agents into the Pennsylvania coal district, and the decision was also reached to communicate with Aid. Chalcraft who is now in California, with a view to having him return to Pennsylvania and endeavor to obtain a supply of fuel for this city. Some fifty cords of wood have been obtained by the city for sale to the public.

On Tuesday to support the Housing Bill. He said the conditions which had grown up around the large German towns and industrial centres were such as might fill the members of the house with serious anxiety. The conversations at the meeting, the correspondent of The Daily News says, confirmed his view that more is to be feared than gained from the replacement of the Bolsheviki by the Social Revolutionists.

The Social Revolutionists, Rudnev said control a majority of the Constituent Assembly and would, if the Assembly meets, immediately appeal to the Allies for an Inter-Allied Conference with a view to opening negotiations for an immediate democratic peace. The speeches of Premier Lloyd George and President Wilson could be the starting points and a speedy answer to the appeal would be desirable as delay would mean the ruin of the Social Revolutionists and a serious risk for the Allies.

Asked whether, if the Bolsheviki retain power and wage a holy war against Germany the Social Revolutionists would support it, M. Rudnev is reported to have replied: "We regard the Bolsheviki power as a mirage. In the case you mention we would act toward the Bolsheviki Government as we acted toward the Czar."

Pitched Battle.
London, Jan. 17.—A pitched battle has occurred in the streets of Odessa between Ukrainian and Bolsheviki troops, according to a despatch received in Petrograd and forwarded by Reuters' Limited. The Ukrainians hold the theatre building and posted machine guns in nearby streets. The shooting soon spread throughout the city. The chief of the Bolsheviki troops was wounded mortally.

A battleship and other warships in the roadstead opened fire on the town. Accounts of the battle differ as to whether the Bolsheviki have taken the arsenal.

Hertling Speaks.
Amsterdam, Jan. 17.—Chancellor von Hertling made his first appearance as member of the Prussian cabinet in the Prussian upper house

AMERICAN INDUSTRY STARTLED BY NEWLY ENACTED FUEL RESTRICTIONS

ESCAPE OF CZAR AND FAMILY REPORTED

Unconfirmed Despatch Says That Nicholas Romanoff Has Broken Prison Near Tobolsk

LONDON, JAN. 17.—NICHOLAS ROMANOFF, THE FORMER EMPEROR, AND HIS FAMILY HAVE ESCAPED FROM THEIR PRISON NEAR TOBOLSK, IT IS REPORTED IN PETROGRAD. ACCORDING TO A REUTER DISPATCH FROM THE RUSSIAN CAPITAL, THE REPORT, THE DISPATCH ADDS, LACKS CONFIRMATION.

Nicholas Romanoff and his family were removed to Tobolsk by the Kerensky government last August. In October, the Romanoffs were taken to the Abolok Monastery, some distance outside Tobolsk. The executive committee of the congress of peasants' deputies on January 13, adopted a resolution urging that the former emperor be brought to Kronstadt or Petrograd. A dispatch from Amsterdam on Tuesday reported that German papers had said that the former emperor had become insane and was confined in a sanitarium at Tobolsk. Her condition was reported to be hopeless.

RUSSIAN PROPOSALS INACCEPTABLE TO FOE

Degree of Divergence as to Disposal of Regions Now Occupied by Central Powers Forces Teutons to Reject Offer of Bolsheviki

BERLIN, JAN. 17.—VIA LONDON.—AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED HERE TO-DAY GIVING THE REPLY BY THE CENTRAL POWERS TO THE RUSSIAN PROPOSALS AT BREST-LITOVSK ON MONDAY SAYS THE RUSSIAN PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE REGIONS OCCUPIED BY THE CENTRAL POWERS DIVERGE TO SUCH A DEGREE FROM THE VIEWS OF THE CENTRAL POWERS THAT IN THEIR PRESENT FORM THEY ARE INACCEPTABLE.

The official statement says the Russian proposals do not show a compromising attitude, and do not consider the opposite parties on a just basis. Nevertheless, it adds, the Central Powers again are prepared to give a clearly formulated expression of their opinions and to try to find a basis for a compromise. For the Central Powers, as distinct from the case with Russia, the announcement adds, a conclusion of peace with Russia has no connection with a general peace, and the Central Powers are compelled to continue the war against their enemies.

The assertion that the right of self-determination is an attribute of nations and not of parts of nations, is not our conception of self-determination, the official statement declares. It must not be assumed that the limits of occupation are a standard for fixing the boundaries of such portions.

CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH FAVORED BY A. BONAR LAW

Chancellor However Regards Scheme as Impracticable—A Matter of Expediency, Whether to Enact General Capital Levy or to Have a Long Continued Taxation

London, Dec. 31.—By Mail.—Conscription of wealth is a matter of expediency, says Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, in reply to a memorandum from a committee of the British Trades Unions demanding conscription of wealth. The memorandum urged him "immediately to conscript the wealth of the nation."

The chancellor declares that the cost of the war should be borne by wealth which is in existence when the war ends so as not to overburden the future industry. The government already is acting on the "principle of the end" adds the chancellor, "not anxious that it should not fall on the wage earning classes or on the people with small means, but that it should, as far as possible, be borne by the wealth that exists at the time, so that it would not be there as a handicap on the creation of new wealth after the war. I think that is what we have to aim at. And how is that to be done?"

"Until now I have never seen any proposal which seemed to me to be practicable for getting money during the war by conscripting wealth, and personally up to this moment, I do not believe it is possible."

Before the war indirect taxation represented forty-two per cent. of the total, and direct taxation fifty eight per cent. Now the indirect taxation is eighteen per cent. and direct taxation eighty-two per cent. The great cost of the war, Mr. Bonar Law declares, has been paid by those who had wealth.

"Suppose you take this view—and I am inclined to take it myself—that we ought to aim at making the burden after the war on which will rest practically on the wealth that has been created and is in existence at the time the war comes to an end" adds the chancellor, "not anxious that it should not fall on the wage earning classes or on the people with small means, but that it should, as far as possible, be borne by the wealth that exists at the time, so that it would not be there as a handicap on the creation of new wealth after the war. I think that is what we have to aim at. And how is that to be done?"

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Business of United States Stirred to Uttermost Depths

MEASURE IS DRASTIC

Surprise and Frank Criticism Greet Washington's Regulations

ALL NOT SATISFIED

Washington, Jan. 17.—Protests against the fuel administration order closing down industrial plants began pouring into the White House and Congress to-day from all over the country. Business men everywhere aroused at the prospect objected to its enforcement and suggested many other remedies.

It developed to-day that under the fuel administration's plan the Government will buy all coal consigned to the suspended industries. These transactions will be conducted through the Treasury Department and it is estimated will cost the Government about \$25,000,000. State fuel administrators will re-allocate the coal to food plants and other industries permitted to run.

Daily newspapers may burn fuel as usual, excepting on Mondays from January 21 to March 26, inclusive. On such days they may burn fuel to such extent as is necessary to issue such editions as they customarily issue on important national legal holidays. When a newspaper does not customarily issue any edition at all on such a holiday it may issue one edition on these specified Mondays.

The food administration will issue a series of rulings on queries concerning the conservation order. State fuel administrators will not be allowed to make rulings and the rulings issued here will have general application.

New York, Jan. 17.—Surprise and in many instances frank criticism that greeted the first news in New York of the drastic measures promulgated by the National Fuel Administration for the conservation of coal, to-day found officials, employers and employees studying the provisions of the order and their effects on the city industry.

Fuel administrators frankly admitted they were not prepared for such a strutting announcement from Washington and that it would be some time before they could familiarize themselves with the complex details of the plan. Opinion among business men and officials, as to whether results would be beneficial, or otherwise, was widely divergent, many criticized the orders as unnecessary and as furnishing no real solution of the problem, while others were inclined to the belief that stern measures were needed to cope with the situation and that the saving of (Continued on Page Two.)

THE MERCHANTS CORNER

The dealer who doesn't advertise doesn't have to sweat out his store so often in muddy weather—neither does he have to visit the receiving seller's window at the bank—he doesn't have to go looking for his daily exercise, he gets plenty of it in sidestepping bill collectors—he does not have to bother about making a will to divide his property, because the sheriff usually beats him to it.—The Ad route.

The man who argues that advertising is an expense which must be charged up to the consumer is usually a fellow who does not advertise. Generally his prices are just a trifle higher than those of the man who does advertise, and it is frequently the case that his goods remain on the shelves so long that he is selling last year's goods this season. If he advertises, he would have cleaned out the stock twelve months ago, and his turnover would have been so fast that it would have been possible for him to reduce prices—and make more money on a larger volume of business.