

The Herald

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We wish all our friends
"A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR"

President Wilson Interferes

President Wilson has appealed to all the belligerent nations to accept the terms of peace. Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation the president has sent formal notes to the governments of all the 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 the terms upon which the war might be concluded, and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future as would make it possible frankly to compare them."

It was a most distinct surprise to all official Washington, which had been led to believe that, with the formal transmittal of the proposals of the central powers, the officers of the United States would await further moves between the belligerents themselves and that certainly, in view of the speech of Premier David Lloyd George and the announcements in Russia, France and Italy further action by neutrals would depend upon the next careful and delicate move of the belligerents. Nowhere on the surface appears any indication of the history-making events which diplomats generally are convinced must have transpired since the German allies brought forth their proposals to dispel the generally prevalent belief that such an action on the part of President Wilson would be unacceptable to the entente powers. British embassy officials declared they were utterly taken by surprise, were wholly unable to explain it, and were emphatic in their statement that no exchanges whatever had passed thru the embassy there as a preliminary. The wish and hope of the German powers that President Wilson would intercede in some way has long been known and has been conveyed in different ways to the white house. The attitude of the entente allies, as expressed by their statesmen, and certainly until recently in official advice to the American government, has been that a peace offer by the United States would be considered almost the next thing to unfriendly. Diplomats consider it incredible that the president would bring forward such a proposal at such a time, unless he had reason to believe it would receive respectful consideration at the hands of all the belligerents and, above all, would not prejudice the proposition of the United States as a possible mediator. The German embassy view, consistently hopeful that proposals of the central allies would lead to a discussion of peace, was expressed in this authorized statement by Count Von Bernstorff to the German ambassador, as follows:—"Now," said he, "I am perfectly convinced that there will be a conference."

The New York Tribune profoundly regrets that President Wilson should at this time have been moved to make any gesture which, however honestly intended to promote the cause of peace, will inevitably tend to complicate and not to clarify the situation. To the allies this gesture, following

the speech of Lloyd George, will seem a deliberate effort to give force and power to a German maneuver made in the name of peace, but intended to promote the process of profit-taking as a result of a violation of right and justice to the Germans the president's course will seem not alone an endorsement of their contention that they come cleanhanded to the discussion of peace, but it will enable those in charge of the German policy to declare to the German people that, having honestly sought peace, having earned the support of the president of the United States for their peace proposals, they were blocked by the allied determination to destroy Germany, which expressed itself in a demand for more war and for more suffering. If only Mr. Wilson could have waited until there was any sign that Germany really sought peace, if only he could have waited until there was a single fact to show that Germany renounced the crime against humanity, which was and is Belgium. But now American influence for real peace, for just peace, is abolished. Our dispatches from Washington tell us that the president's course was received with enthusiasm by the German embassy. It is not difficult to see why. Cautious and reserved as are the president's words the words are nothing and the action is everything. He has given to the German peace proposal a character it could not otherwise have gained. He has bestowed upon it the color of an endorsement which it did not deserve. In the eyes of Europe today the United States is no longer a nation dedicated to the championship of noble principles and committed to the support of a just peace. Today and henceforth, we have become the agents and purveyors of a German peace.

The nation that did not protest when Belgium was invaded could not wait until the liberation and restoration of Belgium was assured before it raised its voice on behalf of what?—of whatever German purpose lies behind the German proposal. Now the thing that Americans must keep clearly in mind is the fact that it will be impossible for any nation on the allied side to discuss any peace with Germany while Germany still declines to concede the main points at issue in the war—the rights of the Serbs and the Belgians to independence and to indemnity for the injuries they have suffered. If Germany purposes at the same moment to invite peace negotiations in the name of humanity and to inflict upon humanity sufferings and wrong that can have no palliation and no justification, the allies cannot dream of discussing peace with her and the whole civilized world must give the allied nations moral support. We have a world at war because of these two things: they are symbols of the meaning of the war. If Germany and Austria maintain these acts by a failure to concede the just settlement of the cases of Belgium and Serbia in advance then it is as idle to think of peace negotiations now as it would be to think of discussing national political issues with a murderer still at liberty and insisting upon the right to murder.

So far, the New York Tribune, but let us now see how the intelligence of President Wilson's note was received in the outside world. Absolute and startling surprise was the first feeling aroused in Great Britain. The Government was surprised, and frankly admitted so. The members of Parliament were equally surprised when the news spread through both houses during the afternoon of the 21st. The newspaper offices were surprised, and the people were equally surprised when they read Ambassador Page's statement to the foreign office in the papers. All information from

America in the previous few days both in despatches from the usually best-informed Washington correspondents and in advice to the banking and business firms, had said that the President had no intention of taking any steps toward peace or making any move in European affairs. When he transmitted Germany's note to Great Britain without comment, it was assumed that this action represented his general attitude towards the European situation.

Right on the heels of the surprise and excitement caused by the President's note comes from Washington a supplementary note from Secretary of State Lansing explaining and modifying his own previous interpretation of what the President said in his message to the belligerents. Secretary Lansing tells the public that the President had no intention of hinting at war, but wished the impression to go abroad that his country intended to adhere to neutrality. It is certainly a wonderful kettle of fish between them. Secretary Lansing says:

"I have learned from several quarters that a wrong impression was made by the statement which I made this morning, and I wish to correct that statement. My intention was to suggest the very direct and necessary interest which this country, as one of the neutral-nations, has in possible terms which the belligerents may have in mind, and I did not intend to intimate that the government was considering any change in its policy of neutrality which it has consistently pursued in the face of constantly increasing difficulties. I regret that my words were open to any other construction, and I now realize that they were. I think that the whole tone and language of the note to the belligerents show the purpose without further comment on my part. It is needless to say that I am unreservedly in support of that purpose, and hope to see it accepted."

By the time the President's note to the European powers and his Secretary's explanatory notes are interpreted, it seems to us it will be difficult to realize what the whole affair means. Perhaps President Wilson just wished to exercise his prerogative to write notes; but when he discovered some trouble might follow he hastened to assure the world he did not mean what he said.

Premiers Exchange Messages

Lloyd George sends this message to Sir Robert Borden:—"On taking up the high offices with which his majesty has charged me I send to you on behalf of the people of the Old Country a message to our brothers beyond the seas. There is no faltering in our determination that the sacrifices which we and you have made and have still to make shall not be in vain and that the fight which we are waging together for humanity and civilization shall be fought to a triumphant issue. We realize that we still need every man that we can put in the field, every pound that rigid private and public economy can produce and every effort which a united people can put forth to help in the heavy task of our soldiers and sailors. The splendid contributions to our common cause already made by the Dominion government give me sure confidence that your determination is no less high than ours and that however long the path to final victory we shall tread it side by side."

"LLOYD GEORGE." Through the Governor-General Sir Robert replies as follows:—"On behalf of the Canadian people I send to your kinsmen of the motherland the assurance that our hearts are as undaunted, and our determination as resolute, as when

we ranged ourselves in the Empire's battle line two years ago. All our sacrifices would be worse than useless unless the purpose for which this was undertaken is achieved in such victory as assures the future peace of the world. Your message reached me in the western provinces of Canada while engaged in commending and supporting proposals for better organization of our national service and for more effectual utilization of our natural resources from the Atlantic to the Pacific. I have found everywhere the strongest determination that both the human energy and the national resources of this Dominion shall be utilized to such purpose as will throw the full strength of Canada into the struggle. At Regina and at Brandon I read your words to two great gatherings and the response which they evoked was splendid and inspiring. We shall indeed tread the path side by side in full realization that the sacrifice, however great, is for a cause transcending the interests and destiny of our empire, and in supreme confidence that this path alone can lead to the ultimate triumph of democracy, liberty and civilization."

"R. L. BORDEN."

Progress of the War

Paris Dec. 21.—In the Dobruja region of Roumania, where the Russo-Roumanian forces have turned upon the invaders, the Teutonic Allies have been driven from heights in the region of Balabanica and Dachkof, and the Russians and Roumanians are now disputing with them, in a violent battle, the possession of other positions along this line. In Roumania proper the Teutons are advancing along both sides of the Insu-Racovitzer road, but are meeting with steady resistance from the Russians and Roumanians. Along the Perlitza-Stankuca front the Teutonic Allies have pushed back the advancing guard of the defenders. Except for the battles in Roumania, in the Carpathians southeast of the Kimpolung-Jacobeni railway, where the Russians have captured several heights and at various points on the Russian front where attacks by the Russians have been repulsed by the Germans, little infantry activity is being displayed.

The artillery duels have been spirited at various points along the French front. Berlin reports a raid by Germans on British trenches and the capture of four officers and 26 men. In another raid British troops entered German trenches near Arras, but later were ejected. On the Verdun sector, where the French made a notable advance last week, the Germans have violently bombarded the Louvemont-Vaux front. In Mesopotamia the British report successful bombardments of Turkish river craft and land positions in the region of Kut-El-Amara.

London, Dec. 21.—The following communication concerning the operations in Mesopotamia was issued tonight:—"During the night of Sunday British airplanes successfully bombed the enemy's river craft west of Kut-El-Amara. Monday and Wednesday strong reconnaissance were made to the west of the Shuman bend of the Tigris. During the last few days the enemy's positions about Sannayyat and Kut, and his shipping west of the latter place, were heavily bombarded with satisfactory results. The bridge over the Hall river, near its junction with the Tigris, was destroyed by our fire."

Petrograd, Dec. 21, via London.—A violent battle is in progress in Northern Dobruja, where the offensive was assumed by the forces of the Central Powers, which at first carried several heights but later were driven from a position of the captured ground, the war office announced today. Russian attacks in efforts to gain control of the remaining heights are going on. "On the left bank of the Danube, north of Buzeu, engagements took place with our advanced detachments. Between the Buzeu, Rimnik and the Insu-Racovitzer

high-roads firing between advanced infantry detachments and artillery duels are proceeding. The enemy about a regiment strong in infantry and cavalry, advancing on both sides of the Insu-Racovitzer high-road, but a being held by our fire. "On the Perlitza-Stankuca front the enemy has pressed back our advanced guard. "In Dobruja the enemy assumed the offensive in the front from the Danube to Bachkoi, in the neighborhood of Balabanica and Bachkoi and he succeeded in occupying a series of heights. "The enemy was dislodged from several heights by our counter-attack, and for the domination of the rest the battle is continuing. "On the Black Sea one of our submarines sank, near the Bosphorus a steamer and twelve sailing vessels."

London, Dec. 23.—Except in the Northern Dobruja, where the troops of the Central Powers continue to drive the Russians and Roumanians towards Bessarabia, there has been little important activity on the battle fronts of Europe. The artillery bombardment continues at various points on the eastern front. Berlin reports increased activity, especially in the Somme sector of the latest French advance. El Arish, 90 miles east of the Suez Canal, in Egypt, has been captured by British troops. The town has been occupied for two years by the Turks, who had built strong entrenchments around it. The defenders fled from El Arish on the approach of the British army.

Petrograd, Dec. 22, via London.—(British admiralty per wireless press)—Russian troops in the northern part of the Roumanian province of Dobruja having been attacked yesterday along the whole front by superior numbers of Teutonic forces, says the Russian official statement issued today, they have begun a further retirement to the northward.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads:—"In this course of the day rather spirited artillery fighting took place in the region of Hardanmont work, Louvemont and the Chabrettes Farm (Verdun region). Several surprise attacks, which were carried out to the Gerchants Wood, at Chapelette, north of Colles (Vosges), and in Fave Valley, enabled us to destroy small enemy outposts and to bring back some prisoners. On the rest of front there was intermittent cannonading. "The Belgian communication: "On the southern portion of the Belgian front the bomb and artillery struggle has been very violent. Our field and trench batteries silenced the enemy artillery."

Ottawa's New Paper.

A powerful newspaper amalgamation that will result in Ottawa having a new Conservative morning paper has taken effect, and on January 1st, 1917, the first copy of the Journal-Press will make its appearance. This is the result of the amalgamation of the Ottawa Evening Journal and the Ottawa Free Press, a combination expected to make material changes in the newspaper situation at the Dominion capital.

For many years the Ottawa Citizen admirably filled the bill as the morning newspaper which voiced the views of the Conservative party. Since 1911, however, the Citizen, for reasons best known to its management, has developed a sort of independence which, as far as the reader can tell, consists chiefly with finding fault with the Government and actively supporting such Liberal policies as reciprocity with the United States.

The Ottawa Free Press for many years has been regarded as the Liberal organ at the capital, but that newspaper, too, has fallen into disfavor with the party, principally because it spoke out against petty criticism of and fault finding with the shell committee and persistently held to the belief that party politics should be ignored during the period of the war. Between these two stood the Ottawa Journal, and ably edited inde-

pendent Conservative newspaper. Out of this somewhat complicated situation has now come the amalgamation of the Free Press and Journal, which includes the appearance of the new paper and the disappearance from the field of the Free Press, which had an afternoon edition.

The New York Times says: It is understood that under the new Lloyd George plan for controlling British shipping, the White Star and Cunard liners will operate between Liverpool and Halifax instead of coming on to New York, and will be armed with 6 inch guns fore and aft.

The Christmas market on Friday last was very largely attended. Indeed it was the largest market for a long time. There was an abundant supply of commodities and prices ruled high. Geese constituted a large factor of the food supply. There was a tremendous quantity of them and they sold at prices ranging from \$1.75 to \$3.50. The extraordinary goose market on this occasion is ample proof that this is still the favorite bird for the Christmas dinner. There were very small markets Saturday and yesterday.

Those of our friends have not yet remitted subscriptions have a small margin of time before the end of the year. would even be in time to send the money as a Christmas Box. A number of these Christmas Boxes will be very pleasing to us.

A volcanic explosion in a small village of Lower Guatemala, on the 20th, the death of fifteen persons.

The champion turkey Christmas market was put by Mr. J. D. Jenkins from Hudson of Vernon River weighed 35 pounds and sold for \$8.50.

The bark Mary Duff ashore on the 20th on Narragansett Sound near Boston and foundering heavily. She was on a voyage from Charlotlett to New York.

His Grace Archbishop of Winnipeg was formally installed in his pro-Cathedral, due ceremonial on Christmas Eve by the Papal Delegate Stagni.

Morley West a well-farmer near Granton, Ontario was fined \$25 and cost for having the flesh of dead hogs in his pigs. Some were seized and sold to soap makers.

According to the Parliamentary correspondent of the London Daily News, the Government's orders for checking use of metal in new war factories include the prohibition of the further making of men's hair pins.

Christmas was duly celebrated in St. Dunstan's Cathedral, the chapels of the different religious institutions in Charlotlett. In the Cathedral the Mass was at 6 o'clock followed by Masses at 6.30 and 7 o'clock. Other Masses were celebrated the same hours as on Sunday. 11 o'clock Solemn Pontifical Mass was celebrated by Lordship Bishop O'Leary, assisted by Rev. Maurice McDermott as high priest, Rev. Father Hogan and Poirier, as deacon; Rev. Fathers Herold, McQuaid as deacon and deacon of office respectively Rev. Father Hughes as Mass celebrant. The sermon of the occasion was preached by Father Hogan. It was an admirable, appropriate discourse the evening at 7 o'clock. Lordship again officiated Solemn Pontifical Vespers. Benediction, assisted as usual by the choir.

The community was shown on Saturday morning last learn of the death of Ed Hackett, Esq. which had place very suddenly Friday night. He had been at the Office on Friday and left apparently in his usual health. He retired at his hour, but about 11 o'clock when he was in bed, he was found to be dying. A physician was immediately summoned; but before they could reach his home he had departed. Deceased was born at Tignish in 1876. He was elected Provincial Legislator at the Conservative meeting the first district of Prince Edward in 1878. Prince elected him to the House of Commons as a supporter John McDonald. He elected to the Commons Subsequently he was 7 years Inspector of Fish in this Province. On Feb. 1912 he was appointed Master at Charlotlett office he held up to his death. His wife preceded him some twenty years leaves to mourn one son and three sons. His were taken to Tignish on day, and the funeral to there yesterday. After Mass in the parish Church took place in joining cemetery. R. I.

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