

GERMANY'S REPLY.

Is It Genuine, or Made With Intent to Deceive the Allies?

Washington Regards It With Doubt--The River Selle Crossed By British, and 3,000 Prisoners Taken.

GERMANY'S REPLY.

Germany has replied to President Wilson's note saying she accepts his condition for an armistice. She declares Germany now has a parliamentary form of Government and says orders have been given submarine commanders not to sink passenger steamers henceforth. The German reply received by wireless in London says Germany agrees with the President that the military leaders shall arrange an armistice and the terms for the evacuation of occupied territory. Denial is made that the Germans have been unnecessarily destructive in retiring from occupied territory. It is admitted the German people previously had no word in making war and peace. The new Government recently formed under Prince Maximilian, the reply says, is responsible to the Reichstag and is supported by the German people and it is this Government with which the President is dealing. The new Government is declared has undertaken to alter the constitution of the German empire to give the representatives of the people power over the Government. The reply in full follows: "In accepting the proposal for an evacuation of occupied territory the German Government has started from the assumption that the procedure of this evacuation and the conditions of an armistice should be left to the military advisers and that the actual standard of power on both sides in the field has to form the basis for arrangements safeguarding and guaranteeing this standard. The German

Government suggests to the President that an opportunity should be brought about for fixing the details. It trusts that the President of the United States will approve of no demand which would be irreconcilable with the honor of the German people and with opening a way to a peace of justice. The German Government protests against the reproach of illegal and inhuman actions made against the German land and sea forces and thereby against the German people. For the covering of a retreat destructions will always be necessary and they are carried out in so far as is permitted by international law. The German troops are under the most strict instructions to spare private property and to exercise care for the population to the best of their ability. Where transgressions occur in spite of these instructions the guilty are being punished. The German government further denies that the German navy is sinking ships, or has ever purposely destroyed life-boats with their passengers. The German government proposes with regard to all these charges that the facts be cleared up by neutral commissions. In order to avoid anything that might hamper the work of peace the German government has caused orders to be despatched to all submarine commanders precluding the torpedoing of passenger ships, without, however, for technical reasons being able to guarantee that these orders will reach every single submarine at sea before its return. In his fundamental conditions for peace the

President prescribes the destruction of every arbitrary power that can separately, secretly and of its own single choice disturb the peace of the world. To this the German government replies: Hitherto the representations of the people in the German empire has not been endowed with an influence on the formation of the government. The constitution did not provide for a concurrence of representation of the people in decisions of peace and war. These conditions have just now undergone a fundamental change. A new government has been formed in complete accordance with the wishes of the representation of the people, based on equal universal secret direct franchise. The leaders of the great parties of the Reichstag are members of this government. In the future no government can take or continue in office without possessing the confidence of a majority of the Reichstag. The responsibility of the Chancellor of the empire to the representation of the people is being legally developed and safeguarded. The first act of the new government has been to lay before the Reichstag a bill to alter the constitution of the empire so that the consent of the representation is required for decisions on war and peace. The performance of the new system is however guaranteed not only by constitutional safeguards but also by the unshakable determination of the German people, whose vast majority stands behind these reforms and demand their energetic continuance. The question of the President with whom he and the

governments associated against Germany are dealing is therefore answered in a clear, unequivocal manner by the statement that the offer of peace and an armistice has come from a government which is free from any arbitrary irresponsible influences and is supported by the approval of an overwhelming majority of the German people.

WHAT WASHINGTON THINKS.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21. Germany's reply to President Wilson's as received to-day by wireless is regarded here as an awkward attempt to accept the terms for an armistice laid down by President Wilson. It is believed to be certain that the wireless version is garbled to an extent and officials will await the arrival of the official text before reaching conclusions. In the meantime there will be no official comment. Even officially no one will express an opinion of what the President will think of the note, though the general impression seems to be that it at least does not close the door to further exchanges. Upon the exact language of the official text may depend whether the President will consent to propose an armistice to the Allied powers. Denials of the Germans that atrocities have been committed are immaterial. The important thing is that atrocities now apparently have been ordered stopped.

3,000 PRISONERS CAPTURED.

LONDON, Oct. 21. More than three thousand prisoners were captured by the British yesterday in the operations north of LeCateau, when the Selle was crossed on a wide front, according to Field Marshal Haig's statement to-day. The German positions were of great natural strength and were strongly held and there was heavy fighting throughout the day. The weather was unfavourable and the river was in flood, but the British forced a passage of the river early in the fighting supported by the tanks.

AMERICANS MEETING FIERCE RESISTANCE.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21. Germany is drawing heavily upon other parts of the western front for reinforcements to check the Americans north of Verdun. General Pershing's communique for Sunday says during the heavy fighting of the past week a constant increasing number of German divisions have been brought up and are bitterly contesting every foot of ground.

HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY N. W. OF VERDUN, Oct. 21. (By the A.P.)—Fierce fighting took place in the Bois de Rapsheon on the western end of the American line. In the face of terrific machine gun fire the Americans were forced to fall back. Later they counter attacked and regained the part of the wood that had been lost.

ACROSS OISE CANAL.

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES IN NORTHERN FRANCE, Oct. 21.—American troops participating in this section crossed the canal under heavy fire. They and the British killed a great number of Germans who were attempting to hold the east bank and fought to stop them after they had gained it. Cyclists have reached Healdchin on the Scheldt, less than three miles southwest of the important city of Valenciennes. The infantry is pouring on after them. The Oise canal has been crossed on a wide front from Etreuix southward against the heaviest resistance. Here as elsewhere from along this part of the battle area the Germans are fighting with the realization that every foot of ground lost increases the menace to their comrades for many miles to the north and south.

200 LIVES LOST.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Oct. 17. Latest estimates on the loss of life in the recent earthquake which struck Porto Rico, place the total at not more than two hundred mostly at or near Mayaguez. The property damage is estimated at \$5,000,000.

ALLIES ENTER ZAIETCHER.

LONDON, Oct. 21. French and Serbian troops have entered Zaietcher, 28 miles from the river Danube, at Negotin, and 45 miles northeast of Nish, according to a Serbian official statement issued Sunday.

THE GERMAN NOTE.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21. The note as received by wireless will not be made public here nor will officials discuss London despatches describing its contents.

INDEPENDENCE FOR HUNGARY.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 21. Emperor Charles will shortly issue a manifesto to the Hungarians announcing the independence of Hungary, according to the Budapest correspondent of the Rheinisch Westphalian Gasette. Hungary, the manifesto will say, is to have economic independence and will maintain her own army and her own diplomatic corps.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL.

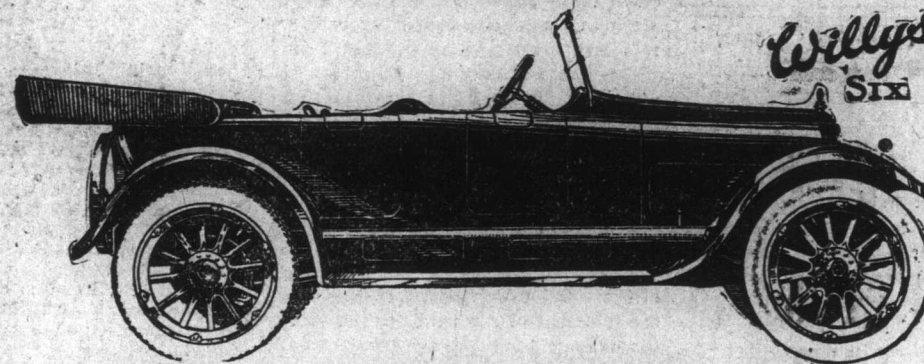
ROME, Oct. 21. Active artillery fighting on the Avigo plateau in the Grappa region and along the Piave river is reported to-day by the war office. Prisoners were taken by the French at Slesopol. In the Frensis valley the Italians dispersed an enemy outpost.

British are approaching St. Amand, 6 miles northwest of Valenciennes. North of Tournai they are pushing forward to the line of the Scheldt River. The French also have gained a bridgehead over the Lys River at Grammele. The Germans are attempting to hold a line from Reda to the River

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