

PRESIDENT WILSON APPEALS TO BELLIGERENTS TO CONFER

U. S. Head Surprises World By Asking For a Peace Conference Says Objects For Which War Is Waged Were Never Stated

Washington Report.—President Wilson has appealed to all the belligerents to discuss 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 its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future as would make it possible frankly to compare them."

Wholly without notice and entirely contrary to what Administration officials have described as his course, the President, last night, despatched the notes to all the belligerents, and to all the neutrals for their information. This latest development in the rapidly-moving world events toward a discussion of peace was not permitted to become known until tonight, when the notes were well on their way to the American Ambassadors in the belligerent capitals, and probably already in the hands of some of them.

SURPRISE AT WASHINGTON. It was a most distinct surprise to all official Washington, which had been led to believe that the formal transmission of the proposals of the Central Powers, the offices of the United States would await further moves between the belligerents themselves, and that certainly, in view of the speech of Premier Lloyd George and the announcements in Russia, France and Italy, further action by neutrals would depend upon the next careful and delicate moves of the belligerents.

Nowhere on the surface appears any indication of the history-making events which diplomatists 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 statements that no exchanges whatever had passed through the Embassy here as a preliminary.

The wish and hope of the German powers that President Wilson would intercede in some way has long been well 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 an ultimatum.

Diplomatists 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 position of the United States as a possible mediator.

BERNSTORFF PLEASED. 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 Bernstorff, the German Ambassador: "Now," said he, "I am perfectly convinced that there will be a conference."

Those in official circles who would discuss the notes thought it worthy of attention that President Wilson, after saying his action had long been in mind, added: "The President can only beg that his suggestion be considered entirely on its own merits, and as if it had been made in other circumstances."

The President looks forward in the notes to the part the neutrals shall take in assuring the future peace of the world. He expresses justification "in suggesting an immediate opportunity for a comparison of views as to the terms which must precede those ultimate arrangements for the peace of the world, which all desire, and in which the neutral nations as well as those at war are ready to play their full responsible part."

There are indications that President Wilson began preparation of his notes some time ago, probably even before the German proposals came out, and that the offer of the Central Powers and the succeeding devotion made a more favorable opportunity for its presentation.

GUESSING AT THE ANSWER. Just when the note was finished has not been disclosed, but it is known that it went to the cables yesterday. On Monday the higher officials of the State Department were taken into the President's confidence and the text was sent to the public printer to make copies for the diplomatic corps. The fact that the note was completed not later than Monday and its despatch Tuesday indicate that it was sent regardless of anything that Lloyd George might say.

Officials expect the note to be received with general favor in Germany, but many believe the real test

will come with its arrival in the Entente countries, where many influential persons have feared and sought to prevent any American intervention until the military situation changed. From the fact, however, that Lloyd George's reply to the Central Powers was milder than generally had been expected, and still left the way open for further negotiations, it is believed that the Allies will meet the present note in at least a friendly spirit.

So far as Germany is concerned the view held here is that she would be perfectly willing that a committee of three, formed of a representative of the Central powers, a representative of the Entente and a representative of the United States, should hold preliminary discussions. The main idea of Germany and her allies is to get each set of belligerents into direct personal communication with the other. The method is considered of secondary importance. The view prevails in German quarters that all the belligerents will make some definite statement in reply to the United States. The very phraseology of the American communication, it is felt, calls for replies far more definite than mere acknowledgments of receipt.

The notes to the belligerents are with the recent overtures of the Secretary Lansing to the American Ambassadors presenting them: "The President directs me to send you the following communication to be presented immediately to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government to which you are accredited."

The text of the notes is the same with this exception—that to the Central Powers contains the phrase that he is embarrassed to offer it at this particular time because it may now seem to have been prompted by a desire to "play a part in connection with the recent overtures of the Central Powers." This phrase becomes, "It may now seem to have been prompted by the recent overtures of the Central Powers," in the note to the Entente Allies.

TEXTS OF THE NOTES. The texts of the notes themselves follow: "The President of the United States has instructed me to suggest to you (there is inserted a designation of the government addressed), a course of action with regard to the present war which he hopes that the Government will take under consideration as suggested in the most friendly spirit, and as coming not only from a friend, but also as coming from the representative of a neutral nation, whose interests have been most seriously affected by the war and whose concern for its early conclusion arises out of a manifest necessity to determine how best to safeguard those interests if the war is to continue."

"The suggestion which I am instructed to make the President has long had in mind to offer. He is somewhat embarrassed to offer it at this particular time, because it may now seem to have been prompted by a desire to play a part in connection with the recent overtures of the Central Powers. It has, in fact, been in no way suggested by them in its origin and the President would have delayed offering it until those overtures had been independently answered but for the fact that it also concerns the question of peace and may best be considered in connection with other proposals which have the same end in view. The President can only beg that his suggestion be considered entirely on its own merits, and as if it had been made in other circumstances."

BELLIGERENTS TO STATE TERMS. "The President suggests that an early occasion be sought to call out from all 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 its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future as would make it possible frankly to compare them. He is indifferent as to the means taken to accomplish this. He would be happy himself to serve, or even to take the initiative in its accomplishment, in any way that might prove acceptable, but he has no desire to determine the method or the instrumentality. One way will be as acceptable to him as another, if only the great object he has in mind be attained."

SECURITY FOR FUTURE. "He takes the liberty of calling attention to the fact that the objects which the statesmen of the belligerents on both sides have in mind in this war are virtually the same, as stated in general terms to their own peoples and to the world. Each side desires to make the rights and privileges of weak peoples and small States secure against aggression or denial in the future as the rights and privileges of weak peoples and small States now at war. Each wishes itself to be made secure in the future, along with all other nations and peoples, against the recurrence of wars like this and against aggression or selfish interference of any kind. Each would be jealous of the formation of any more rival leagues to preserve an uncertain balance of power amidst multiplying suspicions; but each is ready to con-

sider the formation of a league of nations to ensure peace and justice throughout the world. Before that final step can be taken, however, each deems it necessary first to settle the issues of the present war upon terms which will certainly safeguard the independence, the territorial integrity, and the political and commercial freedom of the nations involved.

RELIEF OF WEAKER PEOPLE. "In the measures to be taken to secure the future peace of the world, the people and Government of the United States are as vitally and as directly interested as the Governments now at war. Their interests, moreover, in the means to be adopted to relieve the smaller and weaker peoples of the world of the peril of wrong and violence is as quick and ardent as that of any other people or Government. They stand ready, and even eager, to co-operate in the accomplishment of these ends, when the war is over, with every influence and resource at their command. But the war must first be concluded, and the terms upon which it is to be concluded they are not at all desirous to suggest, but the President does feel that it is his right and his duty to point out their intimate interest in its conclusion, lest it should presently be too late to accomplish the greater things which lie beyond its horizon, lest the situation of neutral nations, now exceedingly hard to endure, be rendered altogether intolerable, and lest, more than all, an injury be done civilization which can never be atoned for or repaired."

SUGGESTS COMPARISON OF VIEWS. "The President therefore, feels altogether justified in suggesting an immediate opportunity for a comparison of views as to the terms which must precede those ultimate arrangements for the peace of the world, which all desire and in which the neutral nations as well as those at war are ready to play their full responsible part. The contest must continue to proceed toward undefined ends by slow attrition, until one group of belligerents or the other is exhausted, if million after million of human lives must continue to be offered up until on the one side or the other there are no more to offer; if resentments and despairs engendered from which there can be no recovery, and if the peace and of the willing consent of free peoples will be rendered vain and idle."

OBJECTS OF WAR NEVER STATED. "The life of the entire world has been profoundly affected. Every part of the great family of mankind has felt the burden and terror of this unprecedented contest of arms. No nation in the civilized world can be said in truth to stand outside its influence or to be safe against its disturbing effects. And yet the concrete objects for which it is being waged have never been definitely stated. "The leaders of the several belligerents have, as has been said, stated these objects in general terms, but stated in general terms, they seem the same on both sides. Never yet have the authoritative spokesmen of either side avowed the precise objects which would, if attained, satisfy them and their people that the war had been fought out. The world has been left to conjecture what definite results, what actual exchange of guarantees, what peace or terms of final changes or readjustments, what stage of military success, even, would bring the war to an end. "It may be that peace is nearer than we know; that the terms which the belligerents on the one side and on the other would deem it necessary to insist upon are not so irreconcilable as some have feared; that an interchange of views would clear the way at least for conference and make the permanent concord of the nations a hope of the immediate future, a concert of nations immediately practicable."

NOT OFFERING MEDIATION. "The President is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, the neutral nations, what the belligerent, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing. He believes that the spirit in which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light into the affairs of the world."

The note to the Entente group will be delivered to Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, Belgium, Montenegro, Portugal, Roumania and Serbia. That to the Central allies will be delivered to Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. It is being delivered to all neutral Governments for their information.

GREEK PROTEST TO THE ALLIES

Royalists Amazed at Venizelists' Course. And Its Support by Entente Fleet.

Athens, Cable, via London Cable.—A note was presented by the Greek Government to the entente powers last evening. It read: "The royal government learns with astonishment that a large number of revolutionists, under command of sedition officers from Saloniki landed several days ago on the island of Syra, despite the blockade of the allied fleet maintains, arrested all the high functionaries and many notables and committed every sort of outrage, since when it has continued to terrorize the inhabitants of the islands. Later a British warship landed a detachment and arrested the chief of police."

"The revolutionists spread their activity to other islands in the archipelago, where they committed depredations, made arrests and abolished the legal authorities, whom the government could not rescue on account of the allied blockade. "The government most astonished to see allied warships permit the revolutionists to perpetrate these acts, since by its reply to the ultimatum on Dec. 14 the government gave the strongest proof of its good will toward the entente."

The note further recites that the French landed at Zante, where they threatened a bombardment and that the allies are making preparations to land on the Sporades Islands and the coasts of Euboea. The note protests vigorously against "the allied naval authorities' tolerance of the extension of the seditious movement and the occupation of the islands of the kingdom by the allied authorities."

BRITISH ENTER GERMAN LINES

They Inflict Much Damage Around Gommecourt.

Numerous Prisoners Taken in Raid at Arras.

London Special Cable.—The official statement from British headquarters in France reads: "During the night the enemy lines were entered by us in the neighborhood of Gommecourt and considerable damage was done. A number of prisoners were taken in the course of another successful raid carried out by us early this morning against the enemy's trenches north of Arras."

"In a patrol encounter this morning north of Neuve Chapelle the leader of a hostile patrol was killed; his men were taken prisoner. The enemy exploded a camouflaged mine at Ypres. The enemy's artillery was particularly active on the right of our line north of the Somme and in the neighborhood of Pestiubert and Ypres. Our artillery vigorously replied. "Enemy trenches at Gommecourt and in the neighborhood of Loos and Hulluch were also bombarded by us."

ALLIES' REPLY WITHOUT DELAY

Britain's Answer to Peace Offer to Go This Week.

Terms Already Agreed On by War Council.

London Cable.—There is a strong probability that Great Britain's note in reply to the German peace proposal will be made before Christmas. This was the opinion in well-informed Government circles to-day, when it is also believed the reply will be brief, and will likely follow the lines of Mr. Lloyd George's maiden speech as Prime Minister in so far as it will leave the door open for Germany to make concrete peace proposals.

Great Britain's official reply to Germany, as prominent dispatches preferred to term it, will be despatched simultaneously with that of her allies. Ever since the German note was handed to the Foreign Office by the American Ambassador it has been the subject of discussions between Premier Lloyd George and his Cabinet Council, which meet daily. The note and the nature of the reply also have been discussed with Great Britain's allies, and it is stated that these conversations have progressed so rapidly that preliminary drafts have already been made.

It would therefore not be surprising if the Allies' replies were ready by the end of the week. Especially, it is said, would be true in the case of Great Britain's note, which the Prime Minister is declared to be anxious to despatch without delay. "When the terms of the note are definitely agreed upon, and the document is signed by Lord Robert Cecil, who is acting Foreign Secretary in the absence of Mr. Balfour, it may be handed to Ambassador Page with the request that he forward it to the State Department at Washington for transmission to Germany. This is said to

HEAVY BATTLE IN DOBRUDJA

Russo-Roumanian Forces Have Turned About And Are Engaging the Teuton Invaders.

London Cable.—In the Northern Dobrudja the Russians and Roumanians have faced about and are giving battle to the Teutonic allied forces who have been pursuing them. Just how strong the stand they are making has not yet been made known, the German official communication announcing it merely saying that they have "again offered fighting resistance." Petrograd reports that attacks by the invaders near Parlita, on the left bank of the Danube, were repulsed, and says also that operations successful for the Russians and Roumanians are being carried out by scouting parties in the direction of Rimyka-Buzdu. The Russian War Office statement reads: "Roumanian front: Rifle firing and artillery duels are proceeding. In the direction of Rimyka-Buzdu, successful operations are being conducted by our scouting parties. "On the left bank of the Danube in the region of Parlita, enemy attacks have been repulsed. "In Dobrudja on the right flank, fighting is proceeding between advance detachments and has attained more than the average intensity on our right flank in the region of the Village of Cerna and in the centre of the region of Umachea. "The German War Office announcement to-night states that the hostile forces, after retreating to the northern part of Dobrudja are again offering resistance. The text reads: "In the most northern part of Dobrudja the enemy, who retreated there, has again offered fighting resistance."

Paris Cable.—The official statement from the War Office Tuesday night reads: "There was spirited artillery activity on both sides on the right bank of the Meuse, especially in the regions of Bezonvaux, the Courlerve wood and Chambrettes there was no infantry action. "On the rest of the front intermittent artillery actions took place."

TO LAST MAN, LAST SHILLING

Earl Curzon, in Lords, On the Peace Offer.

Answer to Move Must be Swift and Sure.

London Cable.—In presenting the policy of the Government in the House of Lords, Earl Curzon, who is a member of the new War Council, said: "The policy of the new Government is that the war must be conducted with the utmost prosecution; that there must be a complete return for all sacrifices; that full reparation must be made by the enemy for his countless crimes and security given that those crimes will not be repeated, and that the sacrifices made shall not have been in vain. "The Government's aim is that the peace of Europe shall be re-established on the basis of the free and independent existence of nations great and small, and that as regards this country, it shall be free from the menace which the triumph of Germany and the German spirit would entail. "Our answer to Germany's latest move must be swift and sure. It is not too much to ask the people to take upon themselves for a few months the obligations which Germany has imposed upon herself. The nation is fighting for its life, and is entitled to the best and fullest service of its sons. "Aluding to the position of Roumania, Lord Curzon said that Germany's success was by no means so great as she was trying to make out. "Evidence is forthcoming daily of the desperate straits of Germany at home and in the field," he said. "The position of the Central Powers is not so good as they would have the world believe. Our attitude should not be one of dependency or alarm."

Lord Curzon spoke for an hour and twenty minutes, and was followed by the Marquis of Crewe, Lord President of the Council in the late Government, who approved in general terms the policy outlined by his successor, Lord Curzon, touching peace. He said: "We haven't much hope that Germany's peace offer will lead to anything. The offer, however, seems an indication of the strength of the pressure of our blockade. If peace were made on German terms, while the present age may not see war again, nobody can say that our children will not witness another war with greater horrors. We must carry it on to the last man, and the last shilling."

ROUT TEUTONS IN GALICIA

Petrograd Cable, via London Cable Press.—Russian troops operating in the region of the River Bystritsa, in Galicia, says the Russian official statement issued to-day, broke through the barbed wire entanglements in front of the Austro-German advanced posts yesterday, and penetrated into Bohorodczany State southwest of Stanislaw. The Teutons are said to have fled in disorder, leaving some prisoners in the hands of the Russians.

AUSTRIAN CABINET

Clam-Martiniz Forms One-Spitzmueller Failed.

Amsterdam, Holland Cable, via London Special Cable.—Count Clam-Martiniz, to whom was deputed the task of constructing an Austrian Cabinet after Alexander Spitzmueller failed in his efforts to do so, is reported in a despatch from Vienna to have presented the following list of Ministers: Premier, Count Clam-Martiniz; Minister of Interior, von Handel; Minister of Commerce, Dr. Urban; Minister of Labor, von Trnka; Minister of Education, Baron von Hussar; Minister of Agriculture, Count Clam-Martiniz; Minister of National Defence, F. von Georgi; Minister of Finance, Alexander Spitzmueller; Minister of Justice, von Schenck; Minister of Railways, Dr. Z. von Forster; Minister without portfolio, Dr. Bienenreiter; Governor-General of Galicia, Michael Bobzynski.

GERMAN PRESS ON THE SPEECH

Brag and Bluster Again the Leading Feature.

Means Eternal War Unless Germany Soon Wins.

Amsterdam Cable, via London, 11.50 a.m.—Commenting on Premier Lloyd George's speech, the Taegliche Rundschau, of Berlin, says: "Reparation could be demanded by England only if Germany had declared war on England. If we were to blame for the war, if we had committed crimes against international law, and if we had been defeated. "The Lokal Anzeiger takes the viewpoint that Mr. Lloyd George's remarks about reparation are of no value, inasmuch as nothing has been said thus far about peace conditions. This newspaper continues: "If Lloyd George means to postpone satisfying Europe's desire for peace until the time when the Entente is successful in conquering Germany's armies and those of her allies, then the whole of Europe, as well as Lloyd George, knows full well that this announcement means eternal war, unless it is in the power of German command to bring it to an earlier termination than Lloyd George supposes. "The Tageblatt says it prefers to await the promised reply of the Entente, adding: "For the present it appears that the gulf is very great between Lloyd George's standpoint and that described from the German side as the basis for peace."

SOLDIERS SAVED SICK OFFICER

Windsor, Report.—Fire of unknown origin broke out early this morning in the Agricultural Building at Windsor Race Track where members of No. 2 (colored) Construction Battalion are quartered. Flames spread rapidly and it was only quick action by several of the soldiers which saved the life of Captain T. G. McLaren, who was in the quarters. The officer was carried to a place of safety shortly before the roof of the building fell in. The loss is estimated at \$2,000.