

Papal note, to sow discord between the German Government and the German nation has done its work. It was possibly this unanimous rejection which led Mr. Wilson on the right road, and perhaps a beginning has been made because now there is, at least, no longer any question of the suppression of the German nation by an autocratic Government, and the former attacks against the House of Hohenzollern are not repeated. I will not go into the distorted representations of German policy which are even yet to be found in Mr. Wilson's message, but I will discuss in detail the points which Mr. Wilson brings forward. There are no fewer than fourteen points in which he formulates his peace programme, and I beg of you to have patience if I bring forward these fourteen points for discussion, as briefly as possible.

The Chancellor then dealt seriatim with the fourteen points:

(I) "History records that we were the first to be able to declare ourselves in agreement with the most extensive publicity of diplomatic agreements. I remind you of the fact that our defensive alliance with Austria-Hungary has been known to all the world since the war of 1889, while the offensive agreements of our enemies have had to be disclosed during the course of this war, chiefly by the publication of the Russian secret documents. The full publicity also given to the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk proves that we were in a position readily to consent to this proposal, and to declare the publication of negotiations as a general political principle.

(II) "Complete freedom of navigation on the seas in war and peace is also put forward by Germany as one of the first and most important demands for the future. Here, therefore, there is no difference of opinion whatever. The restriction mentioned by Mr. Wilson toward the end is incomprehensible and

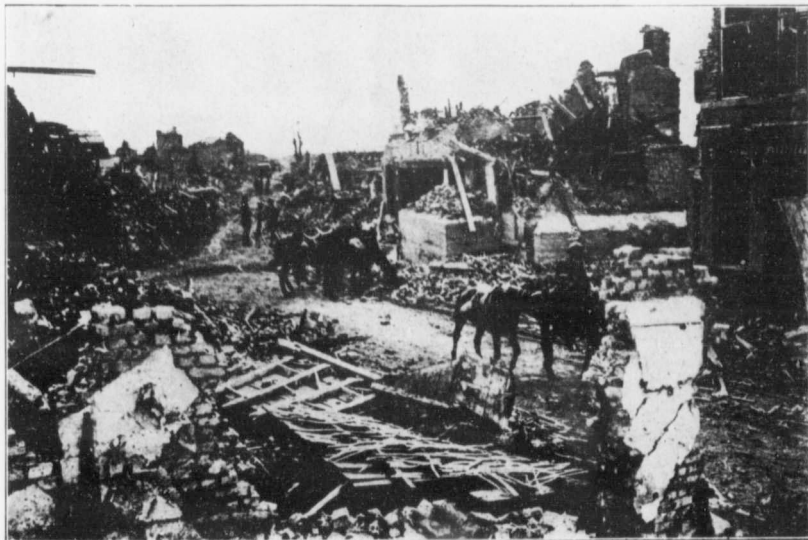
seems superfluous. It should therefore be suppressed. It would, however, be important in a high degree for the future freedom of the seas if claims to strongly fortified naval bases on important international shipping routes, such as England maintains at Gibraltar, Malta, Hongkong, on the Falkland Islands, and at many other points were renounced.

(III) "With this we wholly agree. We also condemn an economic war which would inevitably bring with it causes for future warlike complications.

(IV) "As has already been declared by us on a previous occasion, the subject of the limitation of armaments is a matter quite suitable for discussion. The financial situation of all the European states after war should further its satisfactory solution in a most effective manner. It will be seen that as to the first four points of the programme agreement could be reached without difficulty.

(V) "The practical carrying out of the principle laid down by Mr. Wilson will in this world of realities meet with some difficulties. In any case, I believe that for the time being it may be left to the greatest colonial empire—England—to determine as to how she will come to terms with her ally regarding this proposal. We shall have to talk about this point of the programme at the time of reconstruction of the colonial possessions of the world, which has also been demanded unconditionally by us.

(VI) "The Entente states having refused to join in the negotiations within the period agreed upon by Russia and the four allied powers, I must decline, in the name of the latter, any subsequent interference. The question here involved is one which alone concerns Russia and the four allied powers. I cherish the hope that, under the conditions of the recognition of the right of self-determination for the nations within the western boundaries of the former



La Bassee stronghold, as it fell into British hands.

act
as-
eo-
nte,
rn

nat
of
ved
ng
of
ich
the
ms
ace
be
in
ere
ver
ent
rucy,
rin-

of
rk-
ping
nia,
jdg-
na-
rec-
bore
hich
ar-
this
cir-
the
nde,
illes,
d at
s of
era-
ants
ation
pur-
the
File
in
nfer-
vices
ered,
the
eater

N'S

Great
y the
y the
Count
f the

lson.
l. It
time
o the