

The Herald

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17 1917
SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR.
TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 81 QUEEN STREET
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.
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Answer President Wilson.

The Entente Allies, replying to President Wilson's peace note in a joint communication, express the belief that it is impossible at the present moment to attain a peace that will assure them reparation, restitution and such guarantees as they consider essential. In a separate note the Belgian government expresses its desire for peace, but declares it could only accept a settlement which would assure it reparation and security in the future. Both of the communications, made public by the state department Friday, are dated January 10th, and were transmitted in translation from the French texts through Ambassador Sharp, at Paris. The Entente reply is regarded in all quarters here as putting an early peace practically out of the question, but still leaving an open door for the President to make further efforts. The official view, on first consideration, is that it constitutes a complete answer to the president's note. German diplomat regard the reply as even more severe than they expected. They declare it evidences that the enemies of Germany are waging a war of conquest to crush and dismember her. The Germanic allies, they declare, never would agree to any such terms. President Wilson's next move now becomes the centre of attention. It will not be decided upon until a careful and detailed study of the replies of both the Central Powers and the Entente has been made. The Entente statement of terms is regarded as presenting a legitimate opportunity for the president to take another step, if he chooses to do so. By forwarding the replies of each set of the belligerents to the other, with or without suggestion of the views of the United States, the president may act without incurring exception from any of them. While the German diplomats denounced the terms laid down in the Entente reply, American officials made no attempt to estimate their real feelings. Naturally they accepted the Entente would state the limit of its expectations. At any rate they regarded such an assessment of the war situation as a valuable stepping stone. Whether the president still hopes to get from the Central Powers a similar statement of terms is not known.

The translation of the French text of the Entente note as cabled by Ambassador Sharp at Paris follows: "The Allied governments have received the note which was delivered to them in the name of the government of the United States on the Nineteenth of December, 1916. They have studied it with the care imposed upon them, both by the exact realization which they have of the gravity of the hour, and by the sincere friendship which attaches them to the American people. In a general way they desire to declare their respect for the lofty sentiments inspiring the American note, and their whole-hearted agreement with the proposal to create a league of nations which shall assure peace and justice throughout the world. They recognize all the advantages for the cause of humanity and civilization which the institution of international agreements destined to avoid violent conflicts between

nations which shall assure peace and justice throughout the world. They recognize all the advantages for the cause of humanity and civilization which the institution of international agreements destined to avoid violent conflicts between nations would prevent; agreements which must imply the sanctions necessary to insure their execution, and thus to prevent an apparent security from only facilitating new aggressions, but a discussion of future arrangements for assuring an enduring peace presupposes a satisfactory settlement of the actual conflict.

"The Allies have, as profound a desire as the government of the United States to terminate, as soon as possible, a war for which the Central Empires are responsible, and which inflicts such cruel sufferings upon humanity, but they believe that it is impossible to obtain, at this moment, such a peace as will not only secure to them the reparation, the restitution and the guarantees justly due them by reason of the act of aggression, the guilt of which is fixed on the Central Powers, while the very principle from which it sprang was undermining the safety of Europe and at the same time such a peace as will enable future European nations to be established upon a sure foundation. The Allied nations are conscious that they are not fighting for selfish interests, but, above all, to safeguard the independence of peoples, of right and humanity. The Allies are fully aware of the losses and suffering which the war causes to neutrals, as well as to belligerents, and they deplore them; but they do not hold themselves responsible for them, having in no way either willed or provoked this war, and they strive to reduce those damages in the measure compatible with the inexorable exigencies of their defense against the violence and the wiles of the enemy. It is with satisfaction, therefore, that they take note of the declaration that the American communication is in no wise associated in its origin with that of the Central Powers transmitted on the eighteenth of December by the government of the United States. They did not doubt, moreover, the resolution of that government to avoid even the appearance of a support, even moral, of the authors responsible for the war. The Allied governments believe that they must protest in the most friendly, but in the most specific manner against the analogy drawn in the American note between the two groups of belligerents. This analogy, based on public declarations by the Central Powers, is in direct conflict with the evidence, both as regards responsibility for the past and of guarantees for the future. President Wilson, in alluding to this analogy, certainly had no intention of adopting it as his own.

"If there is an historical fact established at the present date it is the wilful aggression of Germany and Austria-Hungary to insure their hegemony over Europe and their economic domination over the world. Germany proved by her declaration of war, by the instant violation of Belgium and Luxemburg, and by her methods of warfare, her contempt for all purposes of humanity and all respect for small states; as the conflict developed the attitude of the Central Powers and their allies has been a continual defiance of humanity and civilization. It is necessary to recall the horrors which accompanied the invasion of Belgium and of Serbia, the atrocious regime imposed upon the invaded countries, the massacre of hundreds of thousands of innocuous Armenians, the barbarities perpetrated against the population of Syria, the raids of

Zepplins on open towns, the destructions by submarines of passenger steamers, and of merchant ships, even under neutral flags, the cruel treatment inflicted upon prisoners of war, the juridical murders of Miss Cavell of Captain Fryatt, the deportation and the reduction to slavery of civil populations, etc. The execution of such a series of crimes, perpetrated without any regard for universal reprobation, fully explains to President Wilson the protest of the Allies. They consider that the note which they sent to the United States in reply to the German note will be a response to the questions put by the American government, and according to the exact words of the letter constitute a public declaration as to the conditions upon which the war could be terminated. President Wilson desires more: He desires that the belligerent powers openly affirm the object which they seek by continuing the war. The Allies experience no difficulty in replying to this request. Their objects in the war are well known; they have been formulated on many occasions by the chiefs of their diverse governments.

Their objects in the war will not be made known in detail with all the equitable compensations and indemnities for damages suffered, until the hour of negotiations. But the civilized world knows that they imply, in all necessity and in the first instance, the restoration of Belgium, of Serbia and of Montenegro, and the indemnities which are due them; the evacuation of the invaded territories of France, of Russia and of Roumania, with just reparation; the re-organization of Europe, guaranteed by a stable settlement based upon the right which all people, whether small or great, have to the enjoyment of full security and free economic development, and also upon territorial agreements, so framed as to guarantee land and sea frontiers against unjust attacks; the restitution of provinces or territories wrested in the past from the Allies by force, or against the will of their populations; the enfranchisement of populations subject to the bloody tyranny of the Turks; the expulsion from Europe of the Ottoman Empire, which has proved itself so radically alien to western civilization; the intentions of His Majesty the Emperor of Russia regarding Poland have been clearly indicated in the proclamation which he has just addressed to his armies. It goes without saying that if the Allies wish to liberate Europe from the brutal covetousness of Prussian militarism, it has never been their design, as has been alleged, to encompass the extermination of the German peoples, and their political disappearance. That which they desire, above all, is to insure a peace upon the principles of liberty and justice, upon the inviolable fidelity to international obligation with which the government of the United States has never ceased to be inspired.

United in the pursuit of this supreme object the Allies are determined, individually and collectively, to act with all their power, and to consent to all sacrifices, to bring to a victorious close a conflict upon which they are convinced not only their own safety and prosperity depends but also the future of civilization itself." The translation of the Belgian note, which was handed to Ambassador Sharp, with the Entente reply, agrees with the French provisions.

The British munition factories are turning out in 48 hours more heavy gun ammunition than they manufactured in the entire first year of the war and the production is steadily increasing.

Progress of the War

London, Jan. 11.—The British have captured 6 lines of entrenchments covering the town of Rafah on Sinai Peninsula. 16,000 Turks were captured and a relief force was destroyed.

Paris, Jan. 11.—In the Argonne district the French troops exploded a mine causing heavy damages to the enemy. On the right bank of the Meuse the German attack was repulsed with heavy losses to the Germans.

St. John, January 13.—By sharp thrusts north of the Ancre on the Somme front, the British are making inroads upon the German lines there. Today another attack is reported Berlin announcing an assault on Serre resulting in a footing being gained by the British in one advanced position.

London, Jan. 14.—A raid of the Anatolian coast by a Russian squadron is reported in a central news dispatch from Petrograd. The Russians sank forty Turkish sailing vessels which were carrying food to Constantinople.

Petrograd, Jan. 15.—In the course of a violent engagement yesterday near Kasino River on the northern Roumanian front the Roumanians threw back their opponents one verst (66-100 of a mile). The Teutonic forces northeast were repulsed by the Russians, who inflicted heavy losses on their opponents.

London, January 15.—The Times military critic says the British need 60 more divisions on the Western front to ensure a decisive victory. He says there is a crying need for men.

Canadians Build Railroads.

Ottawa, Jan. 11.—A signal honor has been bestowed upon Canada by the Allied powers in France. Canada has been given complete charge of the whole of the Allied railway construction on the western front. Col Stewart is a member of the well-known railway firm of Foley, Welch and Stewart, and has built hundreds of miles of Canadian lines.

In preparation for the spring offensive the Canadians are building hundreds of miles of road in France and Flanders and are evidently constructing behind the front lines strategic roads such as gave Germany such a tremendous advantage in the early part of the war. This accounts for the recent call for fifteen hundred miles of Canadian railway lines and for the insistent demand for men for railway construction corps.

An urgent appeal for men for such work is being made by the Military Department. As the men will not be required for fighting or trench work it has been decided to raise the age limit of enlistment to 45 and to lower the physical standard. In connection with this work four new companies have been authorized in Western Canada, one in each of the four western provinces.

The Manitoba battalion will be commanded by Major Lanigan, a son of Mr. J. B. Lanigan, general freight agent of the C. P. R. The Saskatchewan company will be commanded by Major George Robinson, a member of the first contingent who won the military cross. Capt. George Gardiner and Capt. Fitzsimmons will jointly raise the Alberta company and the British Columbia company will be recruited by Major Marsh, a well-known contractor of New Westminster.

The two new railway construction battalions, the 256th and 257th, will look after recruiting for Eastern Canada. In addition the 143rd Battalion of British Columbia and the 246th Overseas Battalion have been converted into railway construction corps and will leave for overseas very shortly.

It is understood also a number of battalions have been created from the Canadian forces in England for this work. Altogether there will probably be ten thousand Canadians shortly engaged in this employment and vital operation.

Munitions Plant Destroyed.

New York, Jan. 11.—A two hour series of tremendous explosions in the munitions plants of the Canadian Car and Foundry Company at Lyndhurst, in northeastern New Jersey, this afternoon, created a panic throughout the countryside, and caused thousands to flee to safety. At six o'clock this evening the explosions were still going on sounding like the roar of heavy artillery. A great fire was raging in the plant, which covers several acres. Telephone communication with the vicinity was impossible at this time, and it could not be learned whether any lives had been lost. The employees of the plant were reported, however, to have escaped in time. Police, surgeons and nurses were sent to the scene from nearby communities. Between 200 and 300 employees of the plant who fled to escape the explosions are reported to have broken through the ice in Berry Creek, and it is feared some of them have been drowned. Others are wandering through the Hackensack meadows, lost in the darkness, and fugitives said some of them might perish from the cold.

New York, Jan. 11.—The plants of the Canadian Car and Foundry, one-half mile east of Kingsland, N. J., in which were stored hundreds of thousands of 3-inch shells, destined for the Russian government, was destroyed late today by fire and a series of explosions which continued for three hours. So far as could be learned tonight nobody was killed or injured although it was said seventeen workmen were missing. No estimate of the loss was obtainable, but it was said it might reach \$4,000,000. Approximately 1,400 men were employed in the plant, which comprised between forty and fifty buildings and covered about eighty acres of ground. No munitions were manufactured at Kingsland, but the plant was used for the filling of shells, the constituent used being trinitrotoluol, one of the most powerful explosives known. While it was estimated that nearly 500,000 shells exploded, primary fuses or caps had not been attached to them, and consequently their detonation did not cause the havoc that follows their explosion when used on European battlefronts. Kingsland, Rutherford and other places nearby were filled tonight with refugees, who had fled from their homes in the vicinity of the plant.

The authorities began tonight an investigation to fix responsibility for the disaster. The fire, which began at 3.50 p. m. was still smouldering late tonight in the ruins. Shells exploded almost continuously until 7.30 o'clock, but after that hour the detonations were only intermittent. That there was not serious loss of life was considered remarkable by authorities in nearby towns. It was explained by the fact that most of the exploding shells fell in the Hackensack meadows, which are uninhabited. Guards and other officials of the company, aided by the police, checked up as carefully as they could the roll of workmen employed in the plants, and declared positively tonight that all but seventeen of them had been accounted for. When the authorities realized that many persons would seek safety in desolate meadows, where they might become lost and perish, from the cold, men were sent to warn back the refugees, and it was positively stated tonight that none had been lost in the marshes.

Several cases of smallpox have broken out at Bungay, near Wheatley River. A man named Wayne, who had returned recently from Maine, developed a mild form of the disease, which was not at first identified. Later five members of the family of eight, including the father and mother, contracted the disease, all in a mild form. Later a neighbor contracted it in a much severer form. Two other neighbor families also became victims. Monday Dr. W. J. P. McMillan Provincial Health Officer, was called. After an investigation he ordered all the infected homes quarantined.



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