

Last Night's Cables Britain to Fight Enemy to Finish

Rather Than Leave Germany to Consummate Her United Balkan Idea, Britain Will Fight to the Last Man—Verdun Victory Effects Morale of Both Sides

LONDON, Dec. 19.—It has now become certain that sooner than leave Germany in her present position with ability to consummate her united Balkan idea, Britain will fight to the last man. At present there can be no thought of peace. It is safe to say that except for most extreme pacifists there is no idea of peace at the present moment. British people have made up their mind to fight on and not to accept any peace except one completely satisfactory to themselves. The Telegraph says it comes at the right moment as pledge and earnest of Allied success. We can imagine no more eloquent answer to Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg than that furnished by General Neville's victory. The Post recalling the German claims to victory in the war, says France has given a most damning reputation at Verdun, and referring to peace offers asserts that all the Allies are resolved not to accept but to dictate terms of peace. The 'Daily News' says the value of victory at Verdun is not to be measured by the prisoners and guns taken, or ground recovered. Its real significance lies in the effect it must have on the morale of both sides. There is no doubt that on both sides the campaign in Roumania has exercised an influence quite disproportionate to its importance. The serious threat to Germany, both east and west, is in no way reduced by her Roumanian adventure. If the victory at Verdun reminds both sides of this it will not have been won in vain. It is an additional argument as far as Allies are concerned, not for an arrogant refusal even to consider the question of peace, but for a cautious willingness to know the terms which the sobering influences of the war is inducing Germany to offer.

Enemy Submit Peace Proposals

Central Powers Presents Peace Proposals to Allies Through Agencies of Neutral Ambassadors—Documents Submitted Without Comment

LONDON, Dec. 19.—There were no formalities in connection with the presentation of peace proposals by Mr. Page. The Ambassador was received in the Foreign Secretary's room by Lord Robert Cecil, who was acting for the Foreign Minister, Balfour having just started on a three weeks vacation. The note, enclosed in a large white envelope, was handed by Ambassador Page to Lord Robert without any comment. The recipient made no reference to the question of peace, simply thanking Page for transmission of message from Central Powers. The two diplomats spent a short time in conversation. But as one of them said, we talked about everything but contents of envelope. The note to be considered by the British Cabinet being received too late today to enable the Council to be called, the next step after the meeting of the Cabinet will be to get into communication with the Allies. Joint action must be taken at least this week. It has been ascertained the note contains no terms. The impression prevails in official circles that until these are disclosed a conference is impossible.

The presentation of the German note to the Entente Allied Governments is now practically accomplished. While the British Foreign Office on receiving documents from American Ambassador Page shortly after noon it is believed that similar delivery is taking place in Paris. The Swiss Minister at Rome presented the note of the Central Powers to Italy without comment on the same channel as message was presented to Belgium and Portugal, also without comment. The Netherlands Minister tendered the peace proposals to Serbia on behalf of Bulgaria. Prior to receipt of note by the British Foreign Office deliveries to Italy, Belgium and other countries was permitted to be exchanged concerning the exact official contents which proved to be substantially the same as given in the speech made in the Reichstag by Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg, without containing any specific indication of terms.

HOPEFUL FOR PEACE

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Action is taken by the German shipping interests, evidently in anticipation of peace, was revealed here to-day when the announcement came from the local offices of two big German trans-Atlantic lines of instructions received to make freight contracts for shipments from

New York to Germany after the resumption of our regular service. We take pleasure in announcing, said the statement issued by the Hamburg-American line, we are now open to make freight engagements from the United States to Hamburg for shipment after the conclusion of peace or such earlier time as obstacles may be removed. In the notice sent out by freight agents and brokers and by Oltreichs Companys general agents in

this country for the North Germany Lloyd Shipping Co. Similar announcement was made of similar freight rates between this port and Germany. That young fellow you hired a month ago is a wonder. That so? Doing his work well, eh? Yes. Does everything we ask him to, but he actually uses his brains as well.

Roumanian Army Safe Says Paris

Now Being Regrouped to Take Field Again—Russians to Stop Invaders

PARIS, Dec. 19.—The Roumanian army is now safe, according to news received in Paris last night, says The Petit Parisien. Papers say that the survivors are now beyond the Sorth River, at Jossey and in Bessarabia where they are being regrouped and refitted for further operations. The entire Roumanian front is now stated to be held by Russians alone. After Bucharest and Plochti Tim was lost, the story says, the Russians sent divisions and forces of cavalry to support the retreating Roumanian army. King Ferdinand fell back as rapidly as possible, assured of the possibility of reforming behind the shelter of the Russians, and continued the withdrawal without halting until Sereth was crossed. The Russians offered strong resistance to the Germans in the region of Buzeu, so as to permit engineers to construct a defensive front between Rimnik Sarah and the Danube marshes, on which front it stated the Russians intended to stop the advance of the invaders.

Britain Replies Tomorrow

LONDON, Dec. 19.—It is being observed in official circles that the note presented without comment, is taken to indicate that Germany feared common neutral intermediaries would act only as forwarding agents. Lloyd George's speech in the House of Commons on Tuesday, is expected to show the general attitude of the British Government. Then after the exchanges between the Entente Allies will determine the nature of a joint reply. But the informal conference already have prepared much ground. It is understood the assertion made in the German note that war was forced upon Germany, will not be permitted to go unchallenged. That the matter of historical record of Germany's part in events leading to the war will be clearly shown. What is termed in British official circles as Germany's methods of conducting the war against the civilian population and women and children, particularly the recent Belgian deportations, are also likely to be pointed out. According to latest advices reaching the Entente Allied Governments the number of Belgians deported have reached 120,000. While the note presented makes no reference to a conference, there continue to be indications that Germany is seeking a conference. This led to a careful scrutiny of the last precedent of that conference preceding the Peace Congress at the close of the Crimean war. The preliminary conference held in Vienna in 1854 proved abortive, but when the peace congress which finally settled the terms was held in Paris a year later the discussions of the conference served largely as a basis for settlement.

S. S. PORTLAND SINKING

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Wireless call is asking for help sent out by the American steamer Portland, were received by the Radio Station at Bermuda, according to advices received here to-day by the Maritime Exchange. The Portland was owned by the Ken Steamship Co. of New York. She left Havre for New York on Nov. 30. At the office of the Ken Steamship Co. similar reports were received, but early this afternoon, no direct word was heard from the ship. Capt. The ship was returning in ballast. She registers 2,286 tons.

British Active Against Turks

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The renewal of British activity in Mesopotamia after seven months quiescence is attracting attention. Nothing is known of the new movement, except what is contained in the official communication. The near approach of the British forces to Kut-el-Amara is not regarded as necessarily of great consequence except so far it may be part of a definite plan, because it is believed here that General Maude, who now commands the expedition, has been in a position to take Kut-el-Amara at any time during the past three months if he had so desired. It is remarked by The Times that if as is possible the British now to enter Kut-el-Amara, the Turks will be compelled to evacuate Sannay Yat without having the satisfaction of resisting another frontal attack, and adds that the Mesopotamian expedition is in a much happier position than it occupied at the beginning of the year.

German Steamer Stranded Venizelos

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Copenhagen despatches state that the German steamer Prince Frederick Wilhelm is stranded between Samsoe Island and Northern Funen, and that salvage steamers are trying to save her. The steamer was enroute to Bremen from Vardo, Norway, where she had been sheltered since the outbreak of the war. After having, according to German reports, been sent out last night, succeeded in running a gauntlet of British destroyers which were lying in wait for her off Bergen, Norway. The island of Samsoe, which belongs to Denmark, is situated in Great Belt, north of the island of Funen, between Zealand and Jutland.

BRITISH SUBJECT ARRESTED

LAREDO, TEX., Dec. 19.—Wm. Mitchell, a British subject, said to be a Canadian, and Manager of the Bank of London and Mexico, together with several members of the Board of Controllers of that Bank, are under arrest in the City of Mexico, according to newspapers received to-day. No cause for arrest is given beyond the statement that the men declined to obey an order of General Carranza.

BIG STRIKE IN SPAIN

MADRID, Dec. 19.—A 24 hour general strike is called by the Labor Organizations as a protest against the increased cost of food, takes place tomorrow throughout Spain. Factories, stores and many offices will be closed and no newspapers will be published. The authorities have posted notices appealing to the good sense of the public to maintain order and announcing that any disturbances would be vigorously dealt with.

British Gains Against Turks

LONDON, Dec. 19.—British forces on the Tigris front improved their position the last two days, although no resumption of offensive operations on a considerable scale is indicated in to-day's official report on these operations. Gains made below Kut-el-Amara last week, were achieved with comparatively small losses. The statement says during Saturday and Sunday, General Maude extended his hold over Hal River and consolidated his line to Magasis and Kall Hajl. Fahan, while enemy's positions were bombarded with good results, the announcement says, Cavalry reconnaissance, during the day disclosed the fact of Turks constructing new positions at Bridge, west of Shurhan Bend, on the Tigris River. Some six to eight miles west of Kut-el-Amara, several large parties of Arabs were driven off.

CONSTANTINE IN TROUBLE

PARIS, Dec. 19.—The inhabitants of the Greek Island of Lemnos, have issued a proclamation declaring King Constantine to have forfeited his right to the throne, according to a despatch from Salonika to the Havas Agency. A committee of prominent citizens has been formed, the despatch adds, to convey the decision of Lemnos population to the Provisional Government at Salonika.

PREMIER IMPROVING

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The Premier is much better this morning, his Secretary said that he would certainly make a promised statement in the House of Commons Tuesday.

TERMS OF PEACE

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The peace terms of the Central Powers was handed to the British Government to-day by the United States Ambassador Page, in the presence of the Foreign Secretary he presented the note to the Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

RUSSIANS STOP TEUTONS

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The Teutonic offensive in Roumania has been arrested by the Russian fire, so the Russian War Office announces.

MANY PRISONERS AT VERDUN

PARIS, DEC. 19.—French forces have taken a total of 11,387 German prisoners on the Verdun front since Dec. 15, according to an announcement made by the French War Office. A violent German counter-attack, on the Meuse, has resulted in the German forces securing a footing at Chambrett Farm.

Venezelos Arrested

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A warrant has been issued at Athens for the arrest of Venezelos, former Premier, on charges of high treason by libelling Greek Government staff in the newspapers several months ago, says a Reuters despatch from the Greek capital.

RAEMAKERS' OBJECT.

Mr. Louis Raemakers, the great Belgian cartoonist, speaking at the Colquhoun Club of the Royal Society of Literature, said that when he set to work it was not for personal success or to make a pictorial thing of art which was pleasant to look at. His object was to make people think—to make people look at things as he looked at them. "I want," continued Mr. Raemakers, "when people are a little bit dangerously optimistic, to correct that tendency, and when they are pessimistic I want to point out what is good in the situation. I want to show the people what they are feeling themselves in expressing my own feelings. I have had the chance of expressing the feelings of all men who have a feeling for justice, for liberty, and for humanity."



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