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WEATHER—FAIR

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## PEACE OFFER MAY BE CONSIDERED, BUT RUSSIA STRONGLY OPPOSED

### PRESIDENT WILSON'S ATTITUDE UNKNOWN

Both German and Austrian Notes Received in Washington—Bonar Law Says Entente Allies Require Adequate Reparation for Past and Guaranteed Security of Future.

**NO ABATEMENT IN BRITAIN'S MILITARY PREPARATIONS—LITTLE FIGHTING EXCEPT IN ROUMANIA, SERBIA AND ON BOTH BANKS OF THE MEUSE—MONASTIR BOMBARDED—VIOLENT SLUMP IN STOCK MARKETS YESTERDAY ON POSSIBILITY OF PEACE.**

Both the German and Austro-Hungarian notes concerning peace have been received in Washington and soon will be transmitted to the belligerents of the Entente Powers. No official intimation has yet come as to whether President Wilson will merely transmit the notes as received or announce to their recipients that the United States hopes that a discussion of peace may result.

While Great Britain has not yet officially received the proposals her attitude and that of her allies with regard to peace was reiterated in the House of Commons Thursday by Andrew Bonar Law, the new chancellor of the exchequer, who said the Entente Allies required adequate reparation for the past and adequate security for the future.

**Russia Opposes Parley.**  
A semi-official statement from Petrograd regarding the peace proposals attacks the Teutonic Powers for lack of sincerity and says the firm determination of the Entente "to continue the war to a final triumph can be weakened by no illusory proposals of the enemy."

That there is to be no abatement in Great Britain's military preparations is indicated by the unanimous vote of parliament of an additional credit of 400,000,000 pounds.

**Slump in Stocks.**  
There was a violent slump in stocks yesterday.

On the fighting fronts everywhere, except in Roumania and along both banks of the Meuse, only bombardments and minor operations are being carried out. In Roumania the Danube army of the Teutonic Allies has now crossed the Jalomitza river and all along the front the advance of the invaders continues unchecked.

No details have come through as to French operations along the Meuse.

### RUSSIA OPPOSES CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER PEACE NOW

Petrograd, Dec. 14, via London.—The peace proposal of the Central Powers is regarded by the Russian government as "an attempt to court public opinion and encourage the people of Germany by appearing to put the responsibility for the continuation of the war upon the Entente Allies."

The proposal has been received by official Petrograd without an atom of sympathy.

**Official Statement.**

An official of the foreign office made today the following statement, which has been issued by the semi-official Petrograd news agency:

"The new appeal of our enemies is not their first attempt to throw upon the Entente Powers the responsibility for the war they are losing. In order to obtain the support of the German peoples, who are tired of the war, the Berlin government many times has had recourse to fallacious words of peace, and has frequently, in order to animate its troops, offered prospects of an early peace. It promised peace when Warsaw was taken, when Ser-

### BRITISH DECLARATION

London, Dec. 15.—"The Allies require that there shall be adequate reparation for the past, and adequate security for the future. That is still the policy and still the determination of His Majesty's government."

This was the declaration of Andrew Bonar Law, repeating the words of Mr. Asquith three months ago, as he made his debut today as the leader of the new government in the House of Commons. It was only a brief and passing allusion to the German peace proposal, but the ringing announcement that it was still the policy and determination of the government struck the keynote of the new government's attitude, and roused a prolonged demonstration of approval.

### LLOYD-GEORGE NOT SO WELL

London, Dec. 14.—The condition of Premier Lloyd George has taken a slight turn for the worse. He suffered considerably from a severe chill, contracted early in the week, and his physicians have ordered him to remain in bed for a few days more. Friends of the premier express the hope that he will be able to appear in the House of Commons next Tuesday, as planned.

**Foster Cables Premier.**  
Ottawa, Dec. 14.—Sir George Foster, who left last night for England, sent the following message to Premier Lloyd George:

"Canadian government sends hearty congratulations. Canada stands with you and the empire for vigorous prosecution of the war until complete victory is attained."

**British War Statement.**  
London, Dec. 14.—The war office tonight issued the following communication:

"Last night enemy trenches were entered by us in the neighborhood of Monchy-Amba, south of Arras. A number of casualties were inflicted. Dugouts filled with German troops were bombed. A raid was attempted against our trenches in the neighborhood of Hulluch, but the enemy failed to enter them. Prisoners were left in our hands."

"The usual artillery activity continued today on both sides. Our bombardment of an enemy dump in the neighborhood of Pys (northeast of Albert) set fire to the material collected there, causing large clouds of smoke."

"We are struggling for our existence; we are proposing peace; it is refused us. Therefore the responsibility for the continuation of the war falls upon our enemies."

"The object pursued by Germany, however, is clear. She speaks of respect for the rights of other nations, but at the same time she has introduced into Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro and Poland a regime of terror and violence. As for the future, Germany has proclaimed an illusory independence for Poland; she proposes to divide Serbia between Bulgaria and Austria; to reduce Hungary to a vassal state; to introduce into Bulgaria part of Roumanian territory."

**Oppose Negotiations.**  
"Everywhere the idea of the hegemony of Germany predominates. The latest speeches of Von Bethmann-Hollweg show the true aspirations of the German government. But today, when the Entente Powers have proclaimed their unshakable determination to continue the war to a successful end, and to prevent Germany from establishing her hegemony; no favorable ground exists for peace negotiations."

"Our enemies knew of the speeches of Lloyd George, Briand and Bessell and the statement of Treppoff. They were therefore assured that their proposal would be unacceptable. It is so, because the Entente Powers—the friends of peace—are not inclined that way, but because the peace offered by Germany is a snare for public opinion. That is why the enemy governments carefully avoid mentioning the conditions of peace. We are sure that this new enterprise of the disturbers of peace will lead to no astray, that it is condemned to failure, like the previous efforts."

"The Entente Powers would assume a terrible responsibility before their people, before all humanity, if they suspended the struggle against Germany's latest attempt to betray, by the present situation to implant her hegemony in Europe. All the innumerable sacrifices of the Allies would be nullified by a premature peace with the enemy, who is exhausted, but not yet brought down."

"The firm determination of the Entente Powers to continue the war to a final triumph can be weakened by no illusory proposals of the enemy."

### THINKS ENTENTE ALLIES WILL NOT REJECT PEACE OFFER

Broad Intimation at Washington Embassies of Allies to this Effect—German and Austrian Notes Arrive—Wilson Undecided.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Arrival of both the German and Austrian peace notes, and broad intimations at the Entente Allies' embassies that the proposals of the Central Powers would not be flatly rejected without examination, were the outstanding developments here today in the peace move.

Germany's note, substantially the same as the published texts, arrived by cable this morning, and was followed later by Austria's note. Secretary of State Lansing said it was identical with Germany's and that neither contained any change in meaning from the semi-official versions.

**Wilson Undecided.**  
It was stated officially from the president that he had not decided what action, if any, he would take in transmitting the Central Powers' proposals to the Entente belligerents.

When, with announcement of German proposals two days ago, it appeared that the Entente Allies were inclined to reject the offer flatly it appeared very doubtful if President Wilson could find a way to add a word of mediation in transmitting the notes. With the apparent moderating of that first attitude, as reflected in the British newspapers, and among the Entente Ally diplomats here, the way seems easier for the president to express, in some way, the hope of the United States that the proposal for a discussion of peace will not be rejected without consideration."

**General Conference?**  
The German view of the next probable step is that a meeting of representatives of all the belligerents should be proposed for a general discussion of an approach to a basis for peace. German officials here repeatedly have expressed their conviction that, once having gone that far, the movement would result in an actual peace conference. The conviction of the Allied diplomats, on the other hand, is that Germany's terms, as outlined by the German embassy here, and as indicated by the tenor of the German chancellor's speech, are such that discussion would be fruitful of no conclusion. But before approaching this stage, they seem to agree that an inquiry to the Central Powers for more information of their proposal will be proper, and that it will develop the ground for the next step.

**European Neutrals.**  
In such a step there is a likelihood of the United States being supported by some of the European neutrals. The minister of one of them today asked his government to authorize him to assure the president of endorsement in such a move, and it is believed others are considering the same phase of the situation.

The change in the attitude of the Entente embassies was regarded as the most interesting development pointing to the probable position of the Allies. It was indicated that to avoid being placed in the position of

### TORPEDO BOAT GRILSE SAFE IN SHELBURNE, BUT SIX LOST

Remarkable Escape of Canadian War-ship which was Thought to Have Foundered—Terrible Experience of Crew, Six of Whom Perished and Two Injured.

**Special to The Standard.**  
Shelburne, N. S., Dec. 14.—H. M. C. torpedo boat Grilse is safe, but six of her gallant crew have been drowned. At half past ten o'clock tonight she arrived in Shelburne under her own power.

The following men were drowned in the terrible storm in which it was believed the Grilse went down with all hands:—A. J. Harris, Mayo, Ireland; E. Ashwin, London; Harry McAuliffe, Halifax; Walter Tremble, Toronto; Robert Wilkinson, Wellington-on-Tyne, England; E. Clements, Hamilton, Ont.

**Storm Began Monday.**  
Bad weather was encountered on Monday night, and it was decided that it would be advisable to put into Shelburne for shelter. On Tuesday the storm continued and as night advanced the storm became more severe. The Grilse began leaking and commenced to settle dangerously by the head. Wireless calls were sent out for assistance. Tremendous seas piled over the little craft smashing her hatches and flooding her engine room. Her engineers and officers worked up to the waist in water and were violently thrown about among the engines.

The Grilse carried three boats, two of these were smashed and carried away. Her life rafts also washed adrift. Hope was given up, and while the S. O. S. signals, and the news that the vessel was sinking. By this time she had reached what they thought was the latitude and longitude sent out in the final call.

**Six Men Perished.**  
The six sailors who lost their lives went over under that terrific weight of water. Her wireless outfit became a hopeless wreck. Shortly after midnight the storm somewhat abated and although there were occasional gusts and a succession of heavy seas it became evident that the weather was moderating. The men took heart and worked hard to save their vessel. Although the boat settled heavily by the head it was evident when daylight came that the leak could be controlled. Before noon yesterday the wind had gone down and the sun shone brightly.

The cold was less severe and all that was lacking to bring comfort was food and drink. Every drop of fresh water was gone. The ship's stores had been smashed and soaked. But the men worked on. Water was pumped and matted out of below decks and finally the engine room was cleared and the engineers were able to get steam.

It was a happiness indescribable (Continued on page 2.)

### FINANCES OF BRITAIN GREAT FACTOR IN WAR

Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of Exchequer, Makes Important Announcement in House of Commons, Which Voted Additional War Credit of Nearly Two Billion Dollars.

**EXPENDITURES TO DATE £3,852,000,000 — "WE CANNOT CONTINUE AT THE PRESENT FIGURES INDEFINITELY, ALL WE CAN HOPE FOR IS THAT WE CAN KEEP AT THAT FIGURE LONG ENOUGH TO BEAT OUR ENEMIES."**

London, Dec. 14.—"Something has happened on which I think it necessary that I should say a word. Naturally the papers are full of the peace proposals from Berlin. Until now no proposals have reached His Majesty's government. It is obvious that under these circumstances no member of the government can make any statement on the subject."

"Considering the nature of the country and how entirely its energies had been devoted to peace it is marvelous to consider how she had been organized for war."

These words were the only ones which directly referred to the peace proposals from Berlin which Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, (a native of Richibucto), uttered when he spoke in the House of Commons today in moving a credit of £400,000,000.

Owing to illness neither Premier David Lloyd George nor former Premier Asquith was present. The house voted unanimously to adopt the vote of credit.

"Financially we cannot hope to go on indefinitely on the present scale, but we can go on long enough to make sure that it will not be from financial causes if we fail to secure victory."

**Increase in Munitions.**  
Mr. Bonar Law said the actual expenditures had exceeded the estimate involving the increase in munitions and additional loans to Great Britain's allies and to her dominions.

The chancellor said the total amount of votes of credit since the outbreak of the war was £3,852,000,000, including £32,000,000 for extra administration expenses.

"Continuing the chancellor said: 'In moving the last vote of credit Mr. Asquith used the words: 'They (the Allies) require that there shall be adequate security for the future.' That is still the policy and still the determination of His Majesty's government."

The statement was received with prolonged and general cheering. In moving the vote of credit Mr. Bonar Law said that, assuming the rate of expenditure was the same as at present, the vote would carry them until February 24. The total for the financial year would be £1,950,000,000.

The budget estimate of the financial year, he said, was exceeded by £350,000,000.

Loans to allied governments amounted £400,000 daily.

**Vote of Credit.**  
In discussing the vote of credit Mr. Bonar Law said an additional £200,000,000 would be required from February 24, to which time today's vote is expected to suffice, until the end of the financial year, which would bring up the total vote for the year to £1,950,000,000 or £350,000,000 in excess of the estimate made some months ago by the then chancellor, Reginald McKenna. The enormous increase in output of munitions was emphasized by the chancellor, who said that if he could give the figures of June 1915, and those of today the difference would be almost incredible.

**Berlin's Peace Proposal.**  
"Something has happened on which I think it necessary that I should say a word," Mr. Bonar Law continued.

"Naturally the papers are full of the peace proposals from Berlin. Until now no proposals have reached His Majesty's government. It is obvious that under these circumstances no member of the government can make any statement on the subject."

"Considering the nature of this country and how entirely its energies had been devoted to peace," Mr. Bonar Law went on, "it is marvelous to consider how she had been organized for war. No more striking proof of the vitality of the country, from an industrial point of view, was found than in the enormous extent by which the output of munitions had increased during the last year."

Referring to the increase in loans to allies and dominions the chancellor said it would be gratifying to the house to know that it had gone largely to Great Britain's allies, the dominions having been able to finance their expenditures. These advances were just as much war expenditure, he said, as the amount expended on the British troops.

In response to a question, the chancellor said it was hoped to expedite the business of the house, so that if

possible it might be prorogued on December 22. In regard to the bill introduced in order to avoid election and cases of new ministers who are members of the house, the chancellor would allow it to pass through all its stages. Mr. Bonar Law said the house would be occupied with the appropriation bill on Monday and Tuesday, at which time any business might be discussed. Being asked by John Redmond as to the possible length of the recess after the prorogation, he replied:

"I cannot see Premier. I have been considering that, but the Premier is ill, and the doctors will not allow me to see him, so that I am not prepared to answer."

Philip Snowden urged that a full day be given for discussion of the speech before the Reichstag of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg at which there were cries of "no" from all parts of the House.

"Two great advantages are possessed by the Germans," said Mr. Bonar Law. "One is their preparedness for war. They have today another advantage, that is, that circumstances have so fallen out that the control of all the resources of our enemies are practically in one hand. One of the drawbacks of our alliance, as of every alliance, is that it is very difficult to get this central control. To secure it has been the object not only of this government but of the governments of our allies, and a great deal has been done in this direction during the last year, and particularly during the last six months."

"In my belief, success in this war, and the rapidly with which we can bring it to a victorious conclusion, must depend upon the extent upon which the resources of the Allies in men, money and munitions can be pooled, and thrown into the common cause."

Mr. Bonar Law said there had been considerable saving in some of the miscellaneous expenditures, especially in regard to food and railways. A bargain made with the railway companies had been a very good one for the state, not merely from the point of view of the immense convenience which state control gave, but financially.

Despite the war bonuses there had been no financial loss, and probably some financial gain.

The chancellor gave the votes of credit since the outbreak of the war and said that they did not quite represent all the expenditures. There had been expenditures over and above the votes of credit of 330,000,000 pounds, bringing the total since the outbreak of the war to 3,852,000,000 pounds.

"That figure taxes the imagination," he went on.

"It is a colossal figure, but I do not think it is an appalling amount. We cannot continue at the present figures indefinitely. All we can hope for is that we can keep at that figure long enough to beat our enemies, and I believe we can go on long enough to make sure that it will not be from financial causes if we fail to secure victory."