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WEATHER—FAIR

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## ENTENTE REPLY TO THE AMERICAN NOTE GIVES GENERAL TERMS FOR ENDING WAR BUT AVOIDS GOING INTO PARTICULARS

### HUN AGENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR FIRE IN MUNITIONS PLANT NEAR NEW JERSEY?

Tremendous Explosions Cause Panic Throughout the Country and Thousands Flee for Safety—A Number of Employees Believed to have Broken Through the Ice but None are Dead.

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.

None Killed; Seventeen Missing.

New York, Jan. 11.—The plant 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 be \$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 chief constituent used being trinitrotol, 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.

Investigation Underway.

The authorities began tonight an investigation to fix responsibility for the disaster. The fire, which began at 3:50 p.m., was still smoldering 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 plant, and it is held 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.

### CANADIANS WILL BUILD MILITARY RAILROADS FOR THE ALLIES IN FRANCE

Col. J. W. Stewart of Vancouver to Have Charge of This Important Work—Hundreds of Miles to be Built.

Age Limit Raised to 48 and Physical Requirements Not So Severe—Militia Department Makes Urgent Appeal for Men for this Work.

Special to The Standard.

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. J. W. Stewart, of Vancouver, is in command of this important work. 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 Militia 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 48 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 Gardner 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.

When Germany is Ready to Negotiate for Peace on Basis That Will Amply Guarantee Future Security of Small Nations of Europe, With Full Reparation for Damage Done, Entente Allies Will Announce Exact Demands That Must be Met.

### ALLIES DECLARE EMPHATICALLY THAT THEY DO NOT DESIRE GERMANY'S RUIN

While Entente Reply Puts Early Peace Out of the Question It Still Leaves an Open Door for the President to Try Again—Belgium wants No Peace Without Assurance of Reparation and Future Security.

Washington, Jan. 11.—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 tonight, are dated January 10th, and were transmitted in translations 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 diplomats regard the reply as even more severe than they expected. They declare "it is evidence 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 feeling. Naturally they expected 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.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The translation of the French text of the Entente note as called 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 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.

PEACE IMPOSSIBLE NOW.

"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 principles 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 as guarantees for the future; President Wilson, in alluding to this analogy, certainly had no intention of adopting it as his own.

Germany Cared for no Ethical Consideration.

"If there is an historical fact established at the present date it is the willful 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 Luxembourg, 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 (Continued on page 2)

### GERMANY ALSO SENDS NOTE EMBODYING HER EXCUSES FOR THE VIOLATION OF BELGIUM

Declares She Was Willing to Guarantee Integrity of Belgium and Pay for all Damage Done if that Country Would Permit Her Troops to Pass Through Rough Shod—An Interesting Exhibit of Prussian Ingenuity.

Berlin, Jan. 11, via Sayville—Germany today handed neutral governments a note concerning the reply of the Entente to the German peace proposals, the Overseas News Agency announces. It is first stated, says the newspaper announcement, that the German government has received the reply of the Entente to the note of December 12 containing a proposition to enter at once into peace negotiations. The note then continues:

"Our adversaries declined this proposition, giving as the reason that it is a proposition without sincerity and without importance. The form in which they clothe their communication excludes an answer to them, but the Imperial government considers it important to point out to the governments of neutral powers its opinion regarding the situation.

"The Central Powers have no reason to enter into any discussion regarding the origin of the world war. History will judge upon whom the immediate guilt of the war shall fall. History's verdict will as little pass the encircling policy of England, the revengeful policy of France and the endeavor of Russia to gain Constantinople as over the instigation of the Serbian assassination in Sarajevo and the complete mobilization of Russia, which meant war against Germany.

"Germany and her allies, who had to take up arms for defense of their liberty and their existence, consider this their aim of war, as obtained.

"On the other hand, the hostile powers always went further away from the realization of their plans which, according to the declarations of their responsible statesmen were, among others, directed towards the conquest of Alsace-Lorraine and several Russian provinces, the humiliation and diminution of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, the partition of Turkey and the mutilation of Bulgaria.

"In the face of such war aims the demand for restitution, reparation and guarantee in the mouth of our adversaries produces a surprising effect."

The note continues:

"The sincerity which our adversaries deny to the proposals of the four allied powers will not be conceded by the world to these demands, if the world holds before its eyes the fate of the Irish people, the destruction of the Boer republic, the subjugation of Northern Africa by England, France and Italy, the suppression of Russian alien nations, and also the violation of Greece, which is without precedent in history.

"Against the pretended violation of the laws of nations by the four allies (Teutonic) those powers are not entitled to complain, which from the beginning of the war trampled upon justice and tore to pieces the treaties upon which it is built. England already, during the first weeks of the war, repudiated the London Declaration, the contents of which had been recognized by its own delegates as a valid law of nations, and in the further course of the war violated in the most severe fashion also the Paris Declaration, so that, by her arbitrary measures, for warfare a condition of lawlessness has been created.

Objects to Blockade.

"The war of starvation against Germany, and the pressure exercised in England's interest against neutrals, are not less scandalously conflicting with the rules of the laws of nations, as with the commands of humanity.

"Likewise, contrary to the laws of nations and incompatible with the usages of civilization, are the use of colored troops in Europe and the extension of the war into Africa, which was done by a breach of existing treaties, and which undermines the prestige of the white race on that continent. The barbarous treatment of prisoners, especially in Africa and Russia, and the deportation of the civilian population from Eastern Prussia, Alsace-Lorraine, Galicia and Bukovina, are further proof of how our ad-

versaries respect justice and civilization.

"At the end of their note of December 30 our adversaries point out the special situation of Belgium. The Imperial government is unable to acknowledge that the Belgian government has always observed the duties which were enjoined upon her by her neutrality. Already before the war Belgium, under England's influence, sought support in military fashion from England and France, and thus herself violated the spirit of the treaty which she had to guarantee her independence and neutrality.

Huns Offered Compensation.

"Twice the Imperial government declared to the Belgian government that it did not come as an enemy to Belgium, and asked it to spare to the country the terrors of war. Germany offered to guarantee the integrity and independence of the kingdom to the full extent, and compensation for all damages which might be caused by the passage of the German troops. It is known that the Royal British government in 1887 was resolved not to oppose the use of the right of way through Belgium under these conditions.

"The Belgian government declined the repeated offer of the Imperial government. Upon her and those powers which instigated her to this attitude falls the responsibility for the fate which befell Belgium.

"The accusations about the German warfare in Belgium, and the measures taken there in the interest of military safety, have been repeatedly refuted by the Imperial government as untrue. Germany again offers energetic protest against these calumnies.

"Germany and her allies have made an honest attempt to terminate the war and open the road for an understanding among the belligerents. The Imperial government asserts the fact that it merely depended upon the decision of our adversaries whether the road towards peace should be entered upon or not. The hostile governments declined to accept this road. Upon them falls the full responsibility for the continuation of the blood shed."

### RUSSIANS MAKE GAIN NEAR RIGA

Petrograd, Jan. 11, via London (British admiralty per Wireless Press).

Regarding operations of Russian and Rumanian forces in Roumania today's official communication says:

"As a result of repeated attacks under the cover of heavy artillery fire, the enemy took possession of two heights north of River Otuz. By stubborn attacks the enemy slightly pressed back the Rumanians southeast of Monestarkachinul, on the River Kasin, and northeast of Kempulie De Sus, on the River Surchaltz.

"Taking advantage of the fog, the enemy crossed the River Putna in the region of Svendschi, 10 versts north of Ffishani, and took the offensive on the sector of one of our regiments. By an impetuous counter-attack, and after bitter bayonet fighting the enemy was thrown back across the river with great losses, leaving a number of prisoners in our hands."

There were no developments of importance on the Caucasian front.

Statement reads:

"Russian front: In the region south of Lake Habit fighting continues. On Wednesday one of the villages to the east of the village of Kainzow, which was stubbornly defended by Germans with a great number of machine guns, was taken by our detachments. Two enemy counter-attacks were repulsed.

### BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE WAR

The Wall Street Journal Says: New York, Jan. 11.—The feeling is strong that the beginning of the end of the war is in sight and that all stock commitments should be made on a virtual peace basis.

### BONAR LAW ON BRITISH WAR LOAN

Nation Will Never Again Offer as Good Terms to Investors.

Hints at Possible "Conscription of Wealth" if that Becomes Necessary.

London, Jan. 11.—In his announcement on the war loan Mr. Bonar Law said that investment in the loan would be on better terms than would be offered in the future.

There was a limit to the rate of interest the government would pay for money, he declared, and so far as he could forecast the future a higher rate of interest than the present would not be paid.

Mr. Bonar Law outlined the terms of the new loan approximately as had been forecast.

The bulk of the issue will be five per cent. bonds sold at 95, thus yielding approximately 5 1/2 per cent. There will also be four per cent. bonds free of income tax, to be sold at par.

The five per cent. will be issued for a period of thirty years, with the option of redemption after twelve years. The same will run for twenty-five years with the same option.

Five per cent. of the subscriptions must be paid with the application and the remainder will be payable in equal instalments before May 30. The previous war loan may be converted into the new loan at par. A similar provision is made for conversion of various types of short term paper issued in the last few months.

Foreign holders of the new loan will not be liable to the British income tax. The sinking fund provision outlined by Mr. Bonar Law was the most striking innovation in connection with the new loan.

This is the first time that a British loan has been issued with a sinking fund provision. The government agrees to set aside monthly one-eighth of one per cent. of the total amount of issue. This sum, representing an annual sinking fund appropriation of 1 1/2 per cent., will be allowed to accumulate until a fund of £10,000,000 is in hand, which will then be used for purchasing bonds in the open market whenever they fall below the issue price.

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