

GERMANY WANTS PEACE

Imperial Chancellor Speaking Before the Reichstag in Behalf of Bulgaria, Austria and Turkey Offers Peace to the Allies—Communications Have Also Been Sent to the United States, Spain, Switzerland and Pope Benedict—Chancellor Says Germans Are Ready Either for Fighting or Peace. But Prefer the Latter.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—The Chancellor said the propositions which Germany was bringing forward had for their object the guarantee of existence, of honor and of liberty of evolution for the four allied (Central) powers.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—Via Sayville—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech is reported by the Overseas News Agency as follows:

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg today announced to the Reichstag that Germany with her allies, "conscious of their responsibility before God, before their own nations and humanity," had offered peace negotiations.

Members of Parliament answered their unexpected summons hurriedly. The thronged galleries listened in intense silence while the Chancellor rose for his speech.

The Chancellor first outlined the extraordinary political situation, and then speaking on the achievement of the Central powers, made an announcement which may possibly be the turning point in the war. He said: "The Reichstag had not been adjourned for a long period, but fortunately it was left to the discretion of the president as to the day of the next meeting. This decision was caused by the hope that soon happy events in the field would be recorded, a hope fulfilled quicker, almost than expected. I shall be brief for actions speak for themselves."

Serious Situation.

The Chancellor said that Rumania had entered the war in order to roll up the German positions in the east and those of Germany's allies. At the same time the grand offensive on the Somme had as its object to piece the German western front and the new Italian attacks were intended to paralyze Austro-Hungary.

"The situation was serious," the Chancellor continued. "But with God's help, our troops shaped conditions so as to give us security which not only is complete, but still more so than ever before. The western front stands. Not only does it stand, but in spite of the Rumanian campaign, it is fitted out with larger reserves of men and material than it had been formerly. The most effective precautions have been taken against all Allied diversions. And while on the one hand and on the Carso drum-fire raged, while the Russians launched troops against the eastern frontier in Transylvania, Field Marshal von Hindenburg captured the whole of eastern Wallachia, and the hostile army of Bucharest, leading with unexampled genius the troops that in cooperation with all the allies made possible what hitherto was considered impossible."

Plenty to Eat.

Hindenburg does not rest. Many operations progress by the stroke of the sword at the same time as foundations for our economic needs have been laid. Great stocks of grain, victuals, oil and other goods fell into our hands into Rumania. Their transport has begun. In spite of scarcity, we could have lived; on our own supplies, but now our safety is beyond question."

Exploits of Submarines.

"To the great events on land," the Chancellor continued, "heroic deeds are added by our submarines. The specter of famine which our enemies intended to appear before us now pursues them without mercy. When, after the termination of the first year of the war, the Emperor addressed the nation in a public appeal, the said, 'Having witnessed such great events, my heart was filled with awe and satisfaction.'"

"Neither our Emperor nor nation ever change their minds in these respects. Nor have they since. Brave and heroic acts of our leaders have fashioned these facts as firm as iron."

If the enemy counted upon the weariness of his enemy, then he was deceived.

"The Reichstag, by means of the national auxiliary war service law, helped to build a new offensive and defensive bulwark in the midst of the great struggle," the Chancellor continued. "Behind the fighting army stands the nation at work—the gigantic force of the nation at work for the common aim."

"Inexhaustible Resources"

"The empire is not a besieged fortress as our adversaries imagine, but one gigantic and firmly disciplined camp, with inexhaustible resources. That is the German empire, which is firmly and faithfully united with its brothers in arms, who have been tested in battle under Austro-Hungarian Turkish and Bulgarian flags. Not confused by asseverations we progressed with firm decision and we thus continued our progress always ready to defend ourselves and fight for our nation's existence for its free future and always ready to stretch out our hands for peace."

"Our strength has not made our ears deaf to our responsibility before God, before our own national and before humanity. The declarations formerly made by us concerning our readiness for peace were evaded by our adversaries. Now we have advanced one step further in this direction."

Emperor's Responsibility.

"On August 1, 1914, the Emperor had personally to take the gravest decision which ever fell to the lot of a German—the order for mobilization—which he was compelled to give as a result of the Russian mobilization. During these long and earnest years of the war, the Emperor has been moved by a single thought: How peace could be restored to safeguard Germany after the struggle in which she has fought victoriously."

"Nobody can testify better than this who bears the responsibility for all action of the government. In a deep moral and religious sense of duty toward his nation and beyond it toward humanity, the Emperor now considers that the moment has come for official action toward peace."

"His majesty, therefore, in complete harmony and in common with our allies decided to propose to the hostile powers to enter into peace negotiations. This morning, I transmitted a note to this effect to the hostile powers, through the representatives of these powers which are watching over our interests and rights in the hostile States. I asked the representatives of Spain, the United States and Switzerland to forward that note."

"The same procedure has been adopted today in Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia. Other neutrals and the Pope have been similarly informed."

Four Paroled by Governor.

Columbia, Dec. 12.—Four paroles were issued by Governor Manning as follows, all conditional on good behavior:

J. P. Sullivan, convicted of violation of the dispensary law in Oconee County in March of this year and sentenced to one month on the chain gang; W. E. Artledge, convicted of violation of the prohibition law in Kershaw County in July of this year and sentenced to six months on the chain gang; Mollie Andrews, convicted of assault and battery with intent to kill at Greenwood in October, 1914, and sentenced to three years imprisonment; York Bradham, convicted of larceny at Bamberg in January of this year and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

TWO TOWNS CAPTURED

Berlin, Dec. 12.—The Germans have captured Urlazi and Misilu, Rumania.—Sumter Item.

GEN. PETAIO TO TAKE

JOFFRE'S PLACE IN WEST

Defender of Verdun Will Succeed to Supreme Command of Allied Forces, Says Report.

COLONEL WHEN WAR BEGAN

Move Said to be Result of Radical Changes Following Forming of Smaller War Council.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Private advices from Paris received here today telling of the secret proceedings in the French Chamber of Deputies during the last week confirm previous reports that Gen. Petain, the defender of Verdun, is to succeed Gen. Joffre in supreme command of all the Allied forces on the western battle fronts as the first result of radical changes in organization which are to follow concentration of management of the war in a small council.

Gen. Petain was a colonel at the outbreak of the war.

Radical Changes.

Paris, Dec. 11.—Premier Briand was busy all day Sunday, seeing not only politicians, but prominent business men and manufacturers in view of the new combination to facilitate which all ministers and under-secretaries will hand in their resignations. In the meantime, according to the Matin, the reorganization of the higher command in the army being an essentially administrative question, will not be settled until after the new government elects the Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday.

"In addition to forming a war council of five ministers on the model of that in England," continues the Matin, "Premier Briand has decided in the interest of the economic organization of the country to throw the old administration machinery into the melting pot and oblige all ministerial departments hitherto congealed in superannuated methods, to get in line with the rest of the country which is freely spending its blood and gold."

Terms of Peace Likely to Be Offered by Germany

Washington, Dec. 13.—Based upon information from their home governments, the Entente diplomats believe Germany's terms are in general about as follows:

Restoration of Belgium, with the conditions which would practically leave it under German control and probably give over the port of Antwerp to Germany.

Restoration of the occupied portions of Northern France, but with economic control, which would guarantee to Germany supplies of iron and other raw materials drawn from there.

Domination of Mesopotamia by Germany and Austria to give them a path to the Persian Gulf and break England's gateway to India and Egypt.

To award to Bulgaria all of Serbia as far south as Nish, which would take from Serbia as much territory as she gained in the Balkan wars.

They expect Germany will demand the return of her African colonies or at least propose to exchange them for the French colonies.

Turkey's interests are considered a minor affair and not fully developed in consideration of peace.

The attitude of the Balkan nations of the Germanic allies, it was explained, will be set forth in the notes which have been dispatched from Sofia and Constantinople and nothing of them is known at the Balkan legations here, except that Bulgaria probably will expect to get Macedonia and Dobrudja, which formerly belonged to her, making the Danube the boundary between Bulgaria and Rumania and shutting the latter from the Black sea.

Recent dispatches to the German embassy indicate a belief that the general terms might be in substance as follows:

A restoration of the status quo existing before the war. This includes the evacuation of Belgium and the restoration of the occupied portions of Northern France with the exception of Alsace and Lorraine. No authorized expression was obtainable from the embassy as to whether conditions would be attached to the restoration of Belgium and French territory but it was understood that the German idea was to make provision for the future neutrality of Belgium and probably propose demilitarization, particularly of the city of Antwerp. It was also understood that no conditions amounting to economic control of the mineral lands of Northern France would be likely to be asked. All Germany's lost colonies she expects to be returned. Her possessions in the Pacific, however, are not a subject of great concern and the Berlin government is understood to be ready to relinquish the claim on Kiau Chau.

The security of Turkey in possession of Constantinople probably would be insisted upon by the Central Powers, as well as the restoration of Albania.

The establishment of independent kingdoms in Lithuania and Poland would be one of the factors in the German proposal, that part of Poland possessed by Germany at the outbreak of the war would not be included.

What adjustment would be made to cover the Trentino region between Austria and Italy, or any provisions affecting Egypt, the Suez canal, Mesopotamia or the gateways of control to the Indian empire are not made clear in German quarters here. The Balkan situation is considered so delicate it would have to be untangled in the peace conference.

"In the course of conversations he had with prominent men on Saturday and Sunday Premier Briand announced that he intends to give a free hand to the ministers, under-secretaries and directors determining the part of the new ministry. The most absolute powers will be granted to them and if it is found the new methods meet resistance or that certain habits are persisted, these orders will be further increased and drastic measures taken. The composition of the new combination will clearly show the new spirit. It will be the most complete possible reconstruction as will be seen when their names are published."

Exciting Session.

There was tumult in the Chamber of Deputies today during the discussion of the military appropriations bill, when the Socialist deputy, Pierre Brizon, declared Frenchmen should no longer fight to assure the possession of Constantinople to Russia. "You're a traitor," was yelled at Mr. Brizon by numerous deputies.

M. Brizon's colleagues endeavored to quiet him but without avail and during the excitement he threw a water glass at the heads of the deputies in a semi-circle before the secretary's desk. Thereupon a suspension of the sitting was ordered.

M. Brizon was hooted by the entire chamber as he moved alone to his place among the Socialist seats, which mostly had been vacant during the tumult. After the chamber had reconvened it was announced that M. Brizon having outraged the assembly, the chamber would consider an application for his temporary exclusion.

M. Brizon, demanding the right to be heard, on the application of the rule, declared that M. Bouge had gravely insulted him by asking "how much did you receive from Germany to do the work to which you are applying yourself?"

German Subs Enter Port.

Paris, Dec. 12.—A dispatch to the Havas Agency from Las Palmas, Canary Islands, dated December 10 but delayed in transmission, says that two German submarines are reported to have entered the port of Las Palmas and moored beside a German intruder vessel there.

PALMETTO WOMEN

WILL SEEK BALLOT

Those in Favor of Equal Suffrage Will Take Question to Legislature.

PLAN TO INTRODUCE BILL

Will Ask for Referendum to Let Voters of South Carolina Decide.

Columbia, Dec. 12.—Equal suffragists are planning the introduction of a bill in the approaching session of the General Assembly for a referendum on the matter of granting to women the right of the ballot. It is not known who will sponsor this bill in the two houses but every indication points to it being pushed with all vigor.

The Democratic State Convention at its session last May endorsed women suffrage and this will be used as one of the arguments by the proponents of the proposed referendum. They will call on the members of the General Assembly to redeem the promises made in the platform of the State Democracy to give the women the vote or at least to submit the question to the qualified electors of the State. The Legislature is unanimously Democratic in both branches and the State convention represented the party in the State as pointed out by the advocates of equal suffrage and the voice of Democracy spoke for giving the ballot to the women.

Equal suffrage in South Carolina has grown rapidly in the last few years. In the last Legislature the House came within ten votes of passing the bill submitting the equal suffrage referendum to the people and it is believed that the proposition may receive a majority in the lower branch in the Seventy-second General Assembly. The attitude of the Senate is more uncertain and if the question is acted favorably on by the House it will probably strike a snag in the Senate unless there is a change in what is believed to be the sentiment of the elder body.

Governor Manning has not indicated his stand on the equal suffrage issue and whether or not he will touch on it in his annual message to the Legislature remains to be seen. It is probable that he may have something to say.

There is hardly any opposition to the proposition to amend the Constitution so as to give the women the right to hold the office of school trustee and notary public. This amendment was proposed in the last Legislature and defeated by a small margin. It will be offered again and if pushed properly will get favorable action.

South Carolina believes in handling the votes for women matter by the State and is practically unanimously opposed to the proposed federal amendment along this line.

KAISER TELLS ARMIES

TO CONTINUE FIGHTING

London, Dec. 12.—A Central News dispatch from Amsterdam says that it is announced officially in Berlin that Emperor William has notified his commanding generals of Germany's peace offer and has informed them it is still uncertain whether the offer will be accepted. Until that uncertainty is ended, the message says, they are to fight on. The message is quoted as follows:

"Soldiers: In agreement with the sovereigns of my allies and with the consciousness of victory I have made an offer of peace to the enemy. Whether it will be accepted is still uncertain."

"Until that moment arrives you will fight on."

Boll Weevil Clubs Organized.

Fairfax, Dec. 11.—Over 200 farmers, merchants and business men, met here today, to form boll weevil clubs in the seven border counties. These clubs will fight the cotton pest. Gov. Manning was the principal speaker at the meeting. The bankers attending promised their support in meeting the changed agricultural conditions.—Sumter Item.

HOLLANDERS MAKE

URGENT APPEAL TO

THE UNITED STATES

Hollanders Ask Uncle Sam to Take Lead in Behalf of the Belgians.

URGES COLLECTIVE ACTION

Says Cooperation of Neutrals Can Stop Deportation of Belgians by Germany.

London, Dec. 11.—The Associated Press has received from Amsterdam an "appeal to the American people" on behalf of the Belgians by the Holland section of the League of Neutral States. The appeal is signed by President Niemeijer and Secretaries Delafaille and Walthe. It follows:

"Your President has said that sooner or later a moment would come when the war would make the position of neutral nations unbearable. For us Hollanders that moment has arrived; not through our own sufferings, but because we cannot longer passively contemplate the ghastly suffering inflicted by Germany upon Belgium, our neighbor."

"The eloquent protests of the Belgian Government and of the higher clergy have acquainted you with the facts. A glance at the section of The Hague regulations of 1907, which deals with the law of war on land, will make it obvious to you that the sole reason why the prohibition of this modern slave dealing was not included was because no delegate imagined it could ever be necessary."

Back to the Primitive.

"Indeed, one must turn to the history of the early ages of long past centuries before international law existed to find a parallel to the enslaving of the Belgians. The Hague regulations stipulate that the 'honor and rights of the family must be respected,' but the German Government deliberately drags the Belgian families apart. To us this cruelty is more vivid every day. Every day numbers of fugitives, in spite of the deadly electric wire which the Germans have erected along the frontier, succeeded in escaping to The Netherlands. From them we learn the painful details of the unutterable despair of the women and children who are left behind and of the agonizing scenes which take place when husbands, brothers and sons, dragged from their homes and women folk, are packed into cattle and freight cars and thus transported slaves to an unknown destination and to an unknown fate."

Collective Action.

"To put an end to this—to arrest this hellish scourge, which at this moment lacerates the whole of Northern France and Western Russia—there is but one way open, and that is collective action on the part of the neutral nations."

"And for you, citizens of the mightiest of the neutral States, it is in our opinion, the right and duty to take the leadership upon you. Only if you place your services at our head can any success crown our efforts. This tyranny is not to be borne in patience, and the neutral nations can no longer stand idly by while in Western Europe the most primitive laws of humanity, observed even by uncivilized races, are trampled under foot."

Energetic Action.

"We appeal to you to urge your government to energetic and decisive action and to call upon the other neutral nations to rally around you. That they will find faith and strength in your leadership is evidenced by the stream of messages expressive of sympathy and a desire to cooperate which have reached us from the moment we published our intention to make this appeal to the American people. We do not hesitate to take it upon ourselves to speak with firm conviction in the name of humanity and our hope is firmly fixed on that sense of justice which has always formed one of the most cherished traditions of citizens of the United States. Americans, we are convinced that you will not disappoint our expectations."