

## GERMANY WANTS INSTANT PEACE COUNCIL OF ALL THE BELLIGERENT NATIONS

Meeting of Delegates in Neutral Place Best Plan.

PROMPT REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S NOTE IS GIVEN

Washington Reserve Comment Until Official Text is Had.

Berlin, Dec. 26.—Germany and her allies, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, today replied to the note of President Wilson in which he asked the belligerent nations to state the aims for which they were fighting.

The proposal is made by the Central powers that a conference of delegates of all the belligerents be held immediately in a neutral city.

The task of preventing future wars, the official statement says, can be begun only after the end of the present struggle.

The answer, which also contains the reply of Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, says:

"The high-minded suggestion made by the President of the United States of America in order to create a basis for lasting peace has been received and considered by the imperial government in the friendly spirit which was expressed in the President's communication.

"The President points out that which he has at heart and leaves open the choice of road.

"To the imperial government an exchange of views seems the most appropriate road to reach desired results.

"We therefore suggest an immediate meeting of delegates of the belligerent states at a neutral place.

"The imperial government is also of the opinion that the great work of preventing future wars can be begun only after the end of the present struggle of the nations.

"It will, when this moment shall have come, be ready with pleasure to collaborate entirely with the United States in this exalted task."

The answer of the Central powers concludes with the usual diplomatic terms of politeness.

Washington Surprised.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Officials here are surprised that Germany's answer to President Wilson's peace note was given out in Berlin before it reached this country in official form. They pointed out that in sending his note, President Wilson allowed two days between the time of its dispatch and making it public that it might first reach the German government.

In the absence of an official reply formal comment was withheld at the White House and State Department. The direct conference of delegates at a neutral place was regarded as a further step in Germany's proposal, although officials considered it as having been definitely forecast in the first proffer. Such a formal offer has repeatedly been mentioned in authorized statements at the German embassy here, where the opinion has been freely expressed that if delegates could once be gathered around the table for discussing peace the result surely would be an arrangement of peace terms.

**Difference of View.**  
The Berlin dispatch containing the German reply was read by President Wilson and Secretary Lansing with the greatest interest. Some officials who compared the reply with President Wilson's note professed to see some conflict between the German statement that the work of securing the future peace of the world should be delayed until the end of the present struggle, while others were of the opinion that it was not entirely out of harmony.

President Wilson's purpose has repeatedly been expressed as making for the prevention of future wars as a part of the settlement of the present conflict but admittedly that is a subject broad enough to allow some variation when it comes to final consideration.

Count von Bernstorff had gone to New York and so far as could be learned, the German embassy's only information was in the Associated Press dispatches.

The unofficial text of Germany's reply did not get before the cabinet because the Tuesday meeting was suddenly abandoned a few minutes before the secretaries were due at the White House.

**Stock Market Rises.**

New York, Dec. 26.—Publication of the latest German proposals was followed by a moderate increase in activity of the stock market today with a gradual rise in prices. The market had previously been extremely dull and immediately preceding the publication of the German communication prices of important stocks were midway between the high and low of the forenoon.

The rise that followed appeared to be due to short covering more than anything else. United States Steel advanced 2 3/4 points from the low quotation of the morning.

## RAILROAD NET EARNINGS ARE OVER A BILLION

Washington, Dec. 25.—The net-earnings of the railroads of the United States for the year 1916, will amount to more than a billion dollars under present conditions, according to reports to the interstate commerce commission.

The commission has complete reports on the earnings and expenses of the railroads for the first nine months of the year, and they show a phenomenal gain in the business and earnings of the carriers for that period. With the railroads continuing their record-breaking business until the end of the year they will show net earnings of about a thousand millions.

The monthly reports submitted to the commission by the roads, indicate that the increased net earnings, which amount to the neighborhood of a hundred million a month, have increased for two reasons.

First, the tremendous increase in traffic due to the export business incident to the European war has increased the gross revenues, and second, the roads have generally reduced the ratio of operating expenses to gross income. As a result the net income has grown by leaps and bounds.

The general increase began shortly after the railroads were granted increased freight rates in the five per cent rate case, the Western rate cases and various related applications for higher rates, which covered practically the whole country. Immediately after these rates were advanced the monthly reports show that the operating expenses took a drop and the gross income increased. The operating expenses continued low right up to this fall when they gradually rose

## ENTIRE FAMILY IS MURDERED

Mother and Father Slain; Son Found Mortally Wounded Still Holding Baby.

XMAS GIFTS ON THE TABLE

Robbery Supposed to Have Been Motive of Tragedy. One Son Escapes.

Minden, La., Dec. 25.—After an all-day search through isolated sections of Webster parish, members of a posse formed this morning to search for the murderers of John N. Reeves, his wife and young child, tonight arrived here with three heavily manacled negroes. The prisoners were placed in separate cells in the parish jail here and a special armed guard of deputies was stationed about the building to prevent threatened mob violence. Possemen answered no questions and no one was allowed to approach within 100 yards of the jail.

First reports of the tragedy were received early today at a farm house near the Reeves home. A seven-year-old boy partly dressed rushed into the farm house at dawn and said: "All of the Reeves family are killed." Other neighbors were summoned, and when the party entered the Reeves home they found Reeves dead in bed, his head crushed and deep wounds, apparently inflicted with an axe, covering his body. Lying before the fireplace in another room was the eleven-year-old boy, unconscious, his skull fractured and his legs and arms slashed. Still clutched in the arms of the older boy was his fifteen-months-old brother, badly cut and bruised. In a third room, rapped in a blood-soaked blanket, was the five-year-old boy. He also was cut and bruised.

**Christmas Gifts.**

Neatly arranged on a pine board table were the simple Christmas presents which, before retiring, the parents evidently had placed here to surprise the children in the morning.

After searching the rooms of the house the party went to the rear yard and found Mrs. Reeves with a bullet hole in her head and her body horribly mutilated.

The three wounded children were taken to a hospital in Shreveport, the eldest dying shortly after his arrival there. Reports received here from Shreveport tonight were that the two other children had little chance for recovery.

The seven-year-old boy, the only one in the house to escape, was sleeping in the loft and arose to light the fire at dawn when he made the discovery that sent him running to the nearest house.

**Tracks Around House.**

Tracks around the house indicated there were at least two murderers. It was believed Mr. and Mrs. Reeves were killed while asleep.

The Reeves' had lived in this parish only a few years. Reeves was a native of Houston County, Texas.

The house occupied by the Reeves family is located about nine miles from Minden in a fairly populous neighborhood.

Reeves, according to several of his neighbors, did not believe in banks and it was said had openly boasted he kept \$4,000 locked in a tool chest in his house and was "prepared to defend it with hot lead."

The tool chest with the lock broken off was found later in a room which the boy, who gave out the first news of the crime, said was not the place where it customarily was kept.

Reeves, his neighbors said, had no regular occupation but was known as a successful gambler.

## KILLS BROTHER IN FAMILY QUARREL

Florence, Dec. 26.—C. Wilbur Daniels was shot and killed by his brother, Anderson Daniels, at Hannah, in the lower part of the county Sunday night. Before his death Wilbur made and signed a statement exonerating his brother, saying that he had provoked the trouble by trying to attack Anderson in his room.

The brothers had disagreed over the marriage of Wilbur, and in resentment for his refusing to meet him and his wife when they came to his house, Wilbur made the attack and on his return, after having been taken away by another brother, Anderson shot him as he entered the house.

They were sons of a prominent merchant and farmer of the lower part of the county recently deceased. Anderson Daniels is a son-in-law of Sheriff Burch, of Florence.

## DEATH OF MR. J. H. CHANDLER

WELL KNOWN AND HIGHLY ESTEEMED SUMTER CITIZEN PASSES AWAY.

Death Occurred Sunday Morning in Hospital at Baltimore, Where He Had Gone to Rest Up—Funeral This Morning at Presbyterian Church.

The whole community was saddened on Sunday when the news of the death of James H. Chandler became known over Sumter and the surrounding country, where the deceased had lived all of his life and was known by nearly everybody and highly esteemed by all who knew him.

Death came at 8:25 Sunday morning at Shephard and Platt's Hospital at Baltimore, where Mr. Chandler had gone about two weeks ago for rest and recuperation from a run-down condition and nervousness, following bereavements in his family. While at the hospital he contracted pneumonia which, with a complication of troubles, hastened his end. He was attended by his son, Dr. James J. Chandler and other physicians, who did all that was possible for him, but their human remedies were without effect, when a Higher Power called.

The body was brought from Baltimore and arrived here Monday morning at 11:15 o'clock. Dr. James Chandler, son of the deceased, and Dr. W. M. Shaw, accompanied the body to Sumter. On its arrival it was met by a large concourse of friends and relatives, who escorted the remains to former home of the deceased on Church street, where they were viewed by many of those who had known and respected him during his lifetime.

The funeral services were held this morning at 11 o'clock at the Presbyterian church, of which he was a ruling elder, the services being conducted by the pastor, Rev. J. P. Marion. The exercises were simple, but deeply impressive. The body was interred at the Sumter cemetery and many beautiful flowers covered the grave. At the grave the services were in charge of Clarendon Lodge No. 64, A. F. M., of which the deceased was a member. A large concourse of friends and relatives attended the funeral services at the church and followed the body to the grave to pay their sad tribute of respect to the deceased.

Mr. Chandler was a native of Sumter and spent all of his life as a resident of this city. He has for many years been one of the leading citizens of the town and has done much to build it up into a better town and community. He has been in the clothing business since young manhood and has been one of the leading merchants in this line for a number of years. At the time of his death he was president of the D. J. Chandler Clothing company. He was also associated with other business concerns and public enterprises. He was president of Security Building and Loan Association, a member of the Y. M. C. A. board, a member of the Sumter City School board. He served two terms as an alderman on the city council, but declined to offer for reelection. He was a member of Gamecock Lodge, K. of P., of which he was Past Chancellor Commander, of Clarendon Lodge, No. 64, A. F. M., and of other orders.

Mr. Chandler married Miss Rosine M. Jennings of Sumter, who survives him. He had two sons, Dr. James J. Chandler, of Bay View Hospital, Baltimore, and Norman C. Chandler, who has been with the Second regiment on the border, but arrived here last night, and one daughter, Miss Teresa Chandler. Two brothers survive him, Rev. John C. Chandler of Columbia, and Mr. C. W. Chandler of Wedgfield.

In the death of James H. Chandler, the community has lost a public spirited citizen, who will be much missed from Sumter for many years. His death comes less than two months after the death of his eldest daughter, Mrs. Jennie McLeod, and makes the third in the family within that short period, as Mr. S. M. McLeod died only ten days after his wife was laid to rest. The sympathy of the community goes out to the bereaved ones in their sad losses.—Tuesday's Sumter Item.

## TURKISH FORCE DESTROYED.

London, Dec. 26.—A British war office announcement today says that virtually the entire Turkish force of about 2,000 at Maghdabad, 90 miles east of the Suez canal, has been destroyed.

## PEACE NOW, SAYS BRITISH MINISTER, WOULD ONLY MEAN BONDAGE FOR ENGLAND AND FRANCE

Arthur Henderson of War Council Declares Compromise With Germany Impossible.

MOST DANGEROUS PERIOD OF WAR NOW FOR DEMOCRACIES

Frightful Strain May Lead to Mortgage of the Future to Imperialism.

Paris, Dec. 26.—In addresses at the national congress of the French Socialist party Arthur Henderson, the British cabinet minister, and J. H. Roberts, member of the British parliament both affirmed, amidst enthusiastic cheers, that the war must be fought out until full guarantees have been obtained for a lasting peace.

"In my opinion" said Mr. Henderson "if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than that is the price and our enemies would exact for peace today."

Emil Vandervelde the Belgian socialist leader said:

"Our comrades who have remained in invaded Belgium during German dominion with admirable firmness have made of themselves heroes. Nothing but encouragement reaches us from them. So that it would seem that the persons most hostile to war are those farthest from it."

M. Vandervelde also declared that the struggle must be carried on until Belgium and Serbia are delivered and "Caesarism is laid low."

In his speech Mr. Henderson said: "In my opinion we have now reached the most dangerous and difficult period of the war. During the next few months the democracies of England and France are going to be tested as never before. Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean that the stress and strain of fighting in the field will be more severe although I do not ignore such a possibility. But the danger is of entirely different character."

"Our stupendous losses, our unprecedented sacrifices, our horror of war, our love of peace may lead us to mortgage the future. With such awful experiences we are apt to forget the great moral, eternal principles and ideals for which we are entered the struggle. We are not only fighting a negative answer but we are engaged in a great spiritual conflict

upon the result of which depend all our great ideals. If we enter into negotiations now we do so when Germany is not repentant for her wrong doing and is glorifying in the success of her military efforts in fact, in the victory of German imperialism. In my opinion if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions with such a spirit, we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than that is the price which our enemy would exact for peace today.

"I cannot tell you how many months and what sacrifices stand between us and victory. But I can tell you what will be the rewards of victory if we are true to ourselves. We shall have asserted the rights of nations, large or small to live their own lives undisturbed by the ambitions of powerful neighbors. We shall have exacted such reparation for wrongs done them by this war as will be a warning to aggressors for all time to come. We shall have laid the foundations of that guard of nations beginning with those who have fought and suffered at our side, which will deliver Europe and the world from the terror of war.

"The choice today is between an untimely peace with years of fear and a few months of suffering with a lasting peace. Take into consideration all the consequences of our decision I say that now, as in August, 1914, the nations are presented with the choice as between honor and infamy. The choice is more sacred now as the choice has been sealed by the blood of our heroic dead. We in Britain feel that to make peace now, to think of peace at any time with less than full indemnity for the past and full security for the future would be to desert our Allies and betray the hopes of freedom throughout the world.

**Nations Must Be Free.**  
"We hate war. It is brutal, the negation of everything for which we stand. Therefore we must prevent its recurrence so far as is in our power. We desire to see the democracies of the world free to progress to their highest ideals. To accomplish this we must stand together for the destruction of militarism—the vindication of national right and liberty, the punishment of national wrongs. Be the nations large or small they must be free."

## XMAS AUTOMOBILE MARRIAGE

Couple Caught Preacher as He Was Leaving Church.

Cope, Dec. 25.—Quit late on yesterday afternoon Mr. Roy Williams, of near Noray, and Miss Mattie Boltin, of near Cope, motored into town in quest of a preacher and having found Rev. B. F. Halford, who had just finished conducting service and was leaving, they engaged him, and as they sat in the auto he soon pronounced the words that made them man and wife. Word having gotten out that a marriage was on hand, several gathered directly and they, with one or two friends already in the auto, witnessed the ceremony.

As they were leaving Mr. Ashton Antley and Miss Kathleen Kirkland, of Cope, accompanied by Misses Eloise Kirkland and Rita Barton, and Mr. Herbert N. Antley, left in an auto for Orangeburg, where Rev. Davis, of the Baptist church, performed the ceremony which made Mr. Ashton and Miss Kathleen man and wife, and a little later they boarded the train for Columbia.

## A SERMON ON CHRISTMAS

Rev. J. P. Inabnit Preaches at Spring Street Church.

At the Spring Street Methodist Church the pastor, the Rev. J. P. Inabnit, preached a special sermon appropriate to the Christmas season. Mr. Inabnit, took his text from the fourth chapter of Galatians, fourth and fifth verses: "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

The pastor pointed out that the birth of Christ marks the central point in human history. With His coming, the world's affairs take a new start. Upon this date the doors

of time move backward and forward, he stated. We rejoice, Mr. Inabnit said, that the Christ we worship receives such homage, even from an indifferent world. In the great marts of trades, in the counting houses and industrial centers, tomorrow, Christmas, the birthday of Christ, the world will do Him deference. The speaker showed man's inability to redeem himself, citing the building by the ancients of a temple that would reach to Heaven as a feeble effort of man to reach higher and holier things by means of material help. Such efforts, he said, are absolutely inadequate as demonstrated by their past results.

It is necessary that Divine Providence should redeem mankind by a Divine plan. God, in His majestic consistency, instead of resorting to the accomplishment of man's redemption by means of the forces of nature or by means of the angelic hosts, ordained that we should be redeemed by one bearing the likeness of Him and the power of God. To this purpose the God Child was born.

"I wish to emphasize," he stated, "that the birth of Christ has dignified womanhood with an honor coveted by angels and archangels." In closing his sermon, Mr. Inabnit reminded his congregation that in celebrating Christmas Day we should render gratitude; and while not being over pious to the extent of marring the joy of the day, nevertheless remember its true significance.—News and Courier.

## TEN ARE DEAD IN ARKANSAS CYCLONE

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 26.—At least ten persons were killed and many injured in a cyclone that swept through south central Arkansas late this afternoon.

Reports indicated great destruction over a considerable section of the country.