

## CENTRAL POWERS REPLY TO WILSON AND LLOYD-GEORGE

Amsterdam, Jan. 25.—In his address before the reichstag main committee yesterday Chancellor von Hertling referred to the negotiations with the Russians at Brest-Litovsk saying he held fast to the hope that a good conclusion would be arrived at. He continued:

"Our negotiations with the Ukrainian representatives are in a more favorable position. Here too difficulties have yet to be overcome but the prospects are favorable. We hope shortly to reach conclusions with Ukraine which will be economically advantageous."

"One result, gentlemen, might be recorded as you all know. The Russians last month proposed to issue an invitation to all the belligerents to participate in the negotiations. Russia submitted certain proposals of a very general character. At that time we accepted the proposal to invite the belligerents to take part in the negotiations, on the condition, however, that the invitation should have a definite period for its acceptance. At 10 o'clock on the evening of January 4 the period expired. No answer had come and as a result we were no longer under obligations and had a free hand for separate peace negotiations with Russia. Neither were we longer bound, of course, by the general peace proposals submitted to us by the Russian delegation."

"Instead of the reply which was expected but which was not forthcoming," Chancellor von Hertling continued, "two declarations were made by enemy statesmen—Premier Lloyd George's speech. I willingly admit that Mr. Lloyd George altered his tone. He no longer indulges in abuse and appears desirous of again demonstrating his ability as a negotiator, which I had formerly doubted. I cannot go so far, however, as many opinions which have been expressed in neutral countries which would read in this speech of Mr. Lloyd George a serious desire for peace, and even a friendly disposition. It is true he declares he does not desire

to destroy Germany, and never desired to destroy her. He even has words of respect for our political, economic and cultural position. But other utterances also are not lacking, and the idea continually comes to the surface that he has to pronounce judgment on Germany, charging her with being guilty of all possible crimes. That is an attitude with which we can have nothing to do, and in which we can discover no trace of a serious purpose to attain peace. We are to be the guilty ones, over whom the entente is now sitting in judgment. That compels me to give a short review of the situation and the events preceding the war, at the risk of repeating what long ago was said."

"The establishment of the German empire in the year 1871 made an end of dismemberment. By the union of its tribes the German empire in Europe acquired a position corresponding to its economic and cultural achievements and the claims founded thereon. Bismarck crowned his work by the alliance with Austria-Hungary. It was purely a defensive alliance, so conceived and willed by the exalted allies from the first. Not even the slightest thought of its misuse for aggressive aims ever occurred in the course of decades. The defensive alliance between Germany and the Danube monarchy, closely connected by old traditions and allied to us by common interest, was to serve especially for maintenance of peace."

"But Bismarck had even then, as he was often reproached for having, an obsession in regard to coalitions and events of subsequent time have shown it was no vision of terror. The danger of hostile coalitions which menaced the allied central powers of old made its appearance. By King Edward's isolation policy the dream of coalitions became a reality. The German empire, progressing and growing in strength, stood in the way of British imperialism. In French lust of revenge and Russian aspirations of expansion this British imperialism found only too ready aid. Thus fu-

ture plans, dangerous for us, were formed.

"The geographical situation of Germany in itself had always brought near to us the danger of war on two fronts, and now it became increasingly visible. Between Russia and France an alliance was concluded whose participants were twice as numerous as the population of the German empire and Austria-Hungary. Republican France lent the Russia of the czar billions to construct strategical railways in the kingdom of Poland in order to facilitate an advance against us. The French republic drew on its last man for three years of service. Thus France, with Russia, built up armaments extending to the limit of the capabilities of both, thereby pursuing aims which our enemies now term imperialistic."

"It would have been a neglect of duty had Germany remained a calm spectator of this game and had we not also endeavored to create an armament which would protect us against future enemies."

"I may, perhaps, recall that I, as a member of the reichstag, very frequently spoke on these matters and, on the occasion of new expenditure on armament, pointed out that the German people, in consenting to these, solely desired to pursue a policy of peace and such armaments were only imposed on us to ward off the danger threatening from a possible enemy. It does not appear that any regard was paid to these words abroad."

"And Alsace-Lorraine of which Lloyd-George speaks again? He speaks of the wrong Germany did in 1871 to France. Alsace-Lorraine—you need not be told but abroad they appear still to be ignorant of things—Alsace-Lorraine composes as is known for the most part purely German regions which by a century long of violence and illegality were severed from the German empire and until finally in 1779 the French revolution swallowed up the last remnant. Alsace and Lorraine then became French provinces."

"When in the war of 1870 we demanded back the districts which had been criminally wrested from us that was not a conquest of foreign territory but rightly and properly speaking what today is called disannexation and this disannexation was then expressly recognized by the French national assembly, the constitutional representatives of the French people at that time, March 29, 1871, by a large majority of votes."

"And in England, too, gentlemen, language quite other than is heard today has been heard. I can appeal to a classic witness. It is none other than the famous British historian and author, Thomas Carlyle, who in a letter to The Times, in December, 1870, wrote: 'No people has had such a bad neighbor as Germany has possessed during the last 400 years in France. Germany would have been mad had she not thought of erecting such a frontier wall between herself and such a neighbor when opportunity offered.'"

"Observe that I have not repeated a very hard expression which Carlyle used about France. I know of no law of nature, no resolution of heavenly parliaments, whereby France alone of all earthly beings, was not obliged to restore stolen territories if the owners from which they had been snatched had an opportunity of reconquering them. And respected English press organs expressed themselves in a like sense. I mention, for example, The Daily News."

"I now come to President Wilson. Here, too, I recognize that the tone appears to have changed. The unanimous rejection of Mr. Wilson's attempt in reply to the Pope's note, to sow discord between the German government and the German people has had its effect. This unanimous rejection might

of itself lead Mr. Wilson on the right path. A beginning to that end has perhaps been made, for there is now at any rate no longer talk about oppression of the German people by an autocratic government and the former attacks of the house of Hohenzollern have not been repeated."

"I shall not enlarge upon the distorted representation of German policy which is contained in Mr. Wilson's message but will deal in detail with the points which Mr. Wilson lays down there, not less than fourteen points, in which he formulates his peace program and I pray your indulgence in dealing with these as briefly as possible."

"The first point is the demand that there shall be no more secret international agreements. History shows it as we above all others who would be able to agree to the publicity of diplomatic documents. I recall that our defense alliance with Austria-Hungary was known to the whole world from 1888, while the offensive agreement of the enemy states first saw the light of publicity during the war, through the revelations of the secret Russian archives. The negotiations at Brest-Litovsk are being conducted with full publicity. This proves that we are quite ready to accept this proposal and declare publicly of negotiations to be a general political principle."

"In his second point Mr. Wilson demands freedom of shipping on the seas in war and peace. This also is demanded by Germany as the first and one of the most important requirements for the future. Therefore, there is here no difference of opinion. The limitation introduced by Mr. Wilson at the end which I need not quote textually, is not intelligible, appears superfluous and would therefore best be left out. (The limiting clause reads: 'Except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.')

"It would, however, be highly important for the freedom of shipping in future if strongly fortified naval bases on international routes, such as Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Hong Kong, the Falkland Islands, and many other places, were removed."

"Point three: We too are in thorough accord with the removal of economic barriers which influence trade in superfluous manners. We too condemn economic war, which would inevitably bear within it causes of future warlike complications."

"Point four: Limitation of armaments: As already declared by us, the idea of limitation of armaments is entirely discussable. The financial position of all European states after the war might most effectively promote a satisfactory solution. (Cries of 'hear, hear!') It is therefore clear that an understanding might be reached without difficulty on the first four points of Mr. Wilson's program."

"I now come to the fifth point: Settlement of all colonial claims and disputes. Practical realization of Mr. Wilson's principles in the realm of reality will encounter some difficulties in any case. I believe that for the present it may be left for England, which has the greatest colonial empire, to make what she will of this proposal of her ally. This point of the program also will have to be discussed in due time, on the reconstruction of the world's colonial possessions, which we will also demand absolutely."

"Point six: Evacuation of Russian territory: Now that the entente has refused within the period agreed upon by Russia and the quadruple alliance to join in the negotiations I must in the name of the latter decline to allow any subsequent interference. We are dealing here with questions which concern only Russia and the four allied powers. I adhere to the hope that with recognition of self-determination for the peoples of the western frontier of the former Russian empire, good relations will be established, both with these peoples and with the rest of Russia for whom we wish most earnestly a return of order, peace and conditions guaranteeing the welfare of the country."

"Point seven: Belgium: My predecessors in office repeatedly declared that at no time did the annexation of Belgium to Germany form a point in the program of German policy. The Belgian question belongs to those questions, the details of which are to be settled by negotiations at the peace conference."

"So long as our opponents have not unreservedly taken the standpoint that the integrity of the allies' territory can offer the only possible basis of peace discussion, I must adhere to the standpoint hitherto always adopted and refuse the removal in advance of the Belgian affair from the entire discussion."

"Point eight: The occupied parts of France are a valuable dawn in our hands. Here, too, forcible annexation forms no part of the official German policy. The conditions and methods of procedure of the evacuation, which must take account of Germany's vital interests, are to be urged upon be-

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tween Germany and France. I can only again expressly accentuate the fact that there can never be a question of dismemberment of imperial territory. Under no fine phrases of any kind shall we permit the enemy again to take from us territory of the empire which, with ever-increasing intimacy, has linked itself to Germanism, which has in highly gratifying manner, ever and increasingly developed in an economic respect, and of whose people more than 87 per cent speak the German mother tongue."

"The questions dealt with by Mr. Wilson under points nine, ten and eleven touch both the Italian frontier question and questions of the future development of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and the future of the Balkan states; questions in which, for the greater part, the interests of our allies, Austria-Hungary, preponderate. Where German interests are concerned, we shall defend them most energetically. But I may leave the answer to Mr. Wilson's proposals on these points in the first place to the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister. Close contact with the allied dual monarchy forms the kernel of our present policy, and must be the guiding line in the future. Loyal comradeship in arms, which has stood the test so brilliantly, in war-time, must continue to have its effect in peace. We shall thus on our part do everything for the attainment of peace by Austro-Hungary which takes into account her just claims."

"The matters touched upon by Mr. Wilson in point thirteen, concern our loyal, brave ally, Turkey. I must in no wise forestall statesmen in their attitude. The integrity of Turkey and the safeguarding of her capital, which is held closely with the question of the straits, are important and vital interests of the German empire, also. Our ally can always count upon our energetic support in this matter."

"Horses!" said the Yankee. "Guess you can't talk to me about horses. I once had an old mare that licked the fastest express on a thirty-five mile run."

"That's nothing!" said the Canuck. "I was out about fifty miles from my house on my farm one day when a frightful storm came up. I turned the pony's head for home and, do you know, he raced the storm so close for the last ten miles that I didn't feel a drop, while my dog, only ten yards behind, had to swim the whole distance."—Jack-o-Lantern.

On the British front in France on Saturday the London war office announces the bringing down of sixteen German airplanes. The British lost one machine.

**FINAL DISCHARGE**  
Notice is hereby given that one month from this date, on Friday February 15, 1918 I will make to the Probate Court of Kershaw County my final return as Guardian of the estate of Harriet Lorick Nelson, and on the same day I will apply to the said Court for a final discharge from my trust as said Guardian.  
CORNELIA MICKLE, Guardian.  
Camden, S. C., Jan. 12th, 1918.

**FINAL DISCHARGE**  
Notice is hereby given that one month from this date, on Tuesday February 12th, 1918, I will make to the Probate Court of Kershaw County my final return as Administrator of the estate of Dorcas McDonald, and on the same day I will apply to the said Court for a final discharge as said Administrator.  
R. H. HAILLIE.  
Camden, S. C., Jan. 8, 1918.

**FINAL DISCHARGE**  
Notice is hereby given that one month from this date, on Wednesday, February 27th, 1918, I will make to the Probate Court of Kershaw County my final return as Executor of the estate of W. J. James, deceased, and on the same day I will apply to the said Court for final discharge as said Executor.  
All parties, if any, having claims against the said estate will present them duly attested on or before that date, or be forever barred.  
C. S. JAMES, Executor,  
Estate of W. J. James.  
Camden, S. C., Jan. 24th, 1918.

**ESTATE SALE**  
State of South Carolina,  
County of Kershaw.  
Under and by virtue of an order made by W. L. McDowell, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Kershaw, State of South Carolina, will sell at public auction for cash on Friday Feb. 8th, 1918, at the residence of the late Alexander Mungo, commencing at 10 A. M. the following personal property of the estate of said Alexander Mungo:  
3 mules,  
3 horses,  
11 hogs,  
1 2-horse wagon  
1 buggy and harness  
1 lot of harness and gear  
1 cotton planter  
1 guano distributor  
lot of farming implements  
Household and kitchen furniture  
About 100 bushels of corn  
About 3,500 bundles of fodder  
And all other unsold property of estate of Alexander Mungo.  
J. H. SUTTON,  
Administrator.

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