

The Watchman and Southerner.

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"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aims' at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

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SAYS PEACE OFFER HELPS.

W. J. BRYAN SEES HOPE OF PEACE IN PROFFER OF GERMANY.

Great Commoner Believes Early Exchange of Views Will Follow German Proposal—Neutrals Can't Help

Charleston, Dec. 14.—William Jennings Bryan here to lecture before the Charleston County Sunday School association, declared in an interview that he thought Germany's proposal for a conference to negotiate for peace would hardly be rejected. He made the significant statement, also, that he did not see it would aid the cause of peace for neutrals to suggest terms. The Great Commoner was in a jovial mood, although rather travel worn upon arrival. A large committee in autos met him at the union station and escorted him to his hotel, where he accorded a newspaper man an interview while taking a hurried shave, before lunching with his hosts, and enjoying an automobile trip.

"None of the nations at war will admit that it is responsible for the war and since that war is much more horrible than anyone could have imagined, the responsibility for its continuance will be graver than the responsibility for its beginning. For that reason, I think that an exchange of views will follow and the chances are many that an agreement will be reached. That must surely be the hope of the people in the belligerent nations as well as people in neutral nations."

When asked what terms were likely to be agreed upon, Mr. Bryan replied that was a question for the belligerents, and that he did not see it would aid the cause of peace for neutrals to suggest terms.

"The belligerents will work that out for themselves, if they once get together, either directly or through an intermediate."

Mr. Bryan spoke very freely on the recent Democratic victory, and said that the result was not only gratifying, but the value of the victory was increased by the fact that it was secured without the aid of New York.

"The South and West are responsible for this victory, and they are natural allies," he said. "The East is the centre of consolidated wealth and the presence of these enormous corporations overshadows the producer of wealth and the common man. The East is also the centre of a subsidized press. When I say subsidized, I do not mean that the papers necessarily receive a specified sum for advocating or opposing a political measure, but the city newspaper is a big business proposition and it is often more or less intimately connected with franchise holding corporations and with large exploiting interests and, therefore, the people down East have little chance to be informed as to the merits of public measures."

After his lecture tonight, Mr. Bryan left for Miami, where he has a winter home. He addressed a very large audience at the Victoria theatre.

BERNSTORFF CALLS ON LANSING.

Discuss Questions in Dispute Between Two Countries—Talk Informally of Peace Offer.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Von Bernstorff today called officially on Secretary Lansing regarding the status of a number of questions in dispute between this country and Germany. At the same time the peace situation was discussed informally. Both declined to discuss the conference. Entente diplomats were greatly interested in his visit, eagerly inquiring whether Von Bernstorff had made any suggestions along possible German peace terms. When told "no," they expressed gratification.

GOOD NEWS FOR R. F. D. MEN.

Rural Carriers' Back Claims to Be Paid Soon.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Congressman Finley, vice chairman of the committee on the postoffice and post-roads, has made inquiries at the postoffice department in regard to the progress being made in paying the claims of rural carriers for back pay, as provided for in the last postoffice appropriation bill, passed in July, and finds that the work is rapidly going forward.

The department is paying those claims in alphabetical order, and the checks for the North Carolina carriers will be mailed out this week, while the South Carolina carriers will probably receive theirs during the holidays. These back pay claims have been the subject of much discussion and interest among Uncle Sam's rural mail men, and the receipt of this back pay will be welcomed by the carriers.

NOT READY FOR MEDIATION.

TO SEND NOTES ON WITH NO COMMENT.

After Long Cabinet Meeting Formal Announcement is Given Out That Washington Will Wait Entente Decision—Much Interest in Replies Which Allies are Expected to Make to German Proffer of Peace Negotiations.

Washington, Dec. 15.—President Wilson has decided that the notes of the central powers proposing a discussion of peace to the entente allies will be sent forward by the American government acting as intermediary without any accompanying mediation offer of its own. He has not determined whether any action in behalf of peace will be taken later by the United States on its own account, but is holding himself in readiness to serve in any way possible toward bringing the warring nations together.

The course to be pursued was made known tonight after the president had conferred with Secretary Lansing and after a prolonged cabinet meeting. It was stated that the delay in forwarding the notes to the entente capitals was due to the fact that the messages received from Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey, identical in substance, differed slightly in phraseology as a result of different translations. They probably will be put on the cables tomorrow.

Since the first note arrived, the one from Germany, the president and his closest advisers have been absorbed in study of the situation created. The Austrian note followed and the one from Turkey came late today, too late to be translated for the cabinet meeting. Those from Germany and Austria-Hungary have been gone over carefully by the president and Secretary Lansing to make certain of their meaning and so that they may be sure to properly represent the intent of the central powers.

The fact that the cabinet meeting today lasted more than three hours and was the most prolonged of the year attracted profound attention in official circles and led to all sorts of speculation. It was explained authoritatively later, however, that the meeting was devoted largely to consideration of departmental matters and had been prolonged because it was the first time since the campaign that all the members had been present.

In other quarters than the White House it was learned that some word indicating the official attitude of the entente allies toward the peace proposal is being awaited with the deepest interest by the American government. The president will not consider injecting the United States into the situation until he is thoroughly familiar with all its phases.

Secretary Lansing, explaining the delay in transmitting the communications of the central powers, pointed out that the German note was translated into English by Charge Grew at Berlin and the one from Austria by Ambassador Penfield at Vienna, while the Turkish note came to the state department in French. As the communications were intended to be identical the state department does not desire to transmit three different versions and when all three are in hand tomorrow a plan to avoid this will be determined upon.

In England, France and Japan this government represents all three Teutonic countries and will have to deliver three separate notes. In Russia and Serbia the United States represents both Austria and Germany and will have to send only two separate notes. Only to Belgium, where Austria is represented, and in Roumania, where Germany is represented, will it be possible to send only one note.

To avoid duplication of cables by sending several copies of the same note to the same country and also to insure one official version for all three notes entrusted to this government, it is possible that a careful translation will be made at the department and compared with the texts as arriving here. Even this involves a certain amount of interpretation in translation and some officials think it would be safer to direct the three American ambassadors in Berlin, Vienna and Constantinople to send on the text handed to them by the respective foreign offices for transmission in their original form to the countries named.

Switzerland's action in handing the German note to Italy without comment as announced through the Italian parliament by Foreign Minister Sonnino, was noted here with interest.

Definite indication of the attitude of the entente allies is expected in the speech of David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, next Tuesday.

LIQUOR MEASURES NUMEROUS.

CONTINUE TO ACCUMULATE IN BOTH HOUSES.

House Committee Makes Favorable Report on Bill Barring Whiskey Ads From Mails.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Legislative measures aimed at destruction of the liquor traffic continue to accumulate in congress as both houses are deluged with petitions from all parts of the country urging adoption of the national prohibition constitutional amendment and passage of other anti-liquor measures including the Sheppard bill to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor in the District of Columbia.

The house postoffice committee opened the door to another phase of the problem today in reporting favorably a bill by Representative Randall of California designed to close the mails to advertising of any intoxicating liquors and to deny mail order houses the right to go into either "wet" or "dry" territory to solicit sales through the medium of the mails.

No move was made during the day by prohibition leaders in the house regarding the constitutional amendment reported yesterday from the judiciary committee, but Representative Webb, chairman of the committee, plans to ask the rules committee for a special rule to get the resolution before the house soon after the holidays.

Now that excitement occasioned by the unexpected action of the judiciary committee in recommending the resolution has subsided, house members are reflecting on the prospects for its passage, as the consensus of opinion seems to be that it can not get the necessary two-thirds majority in the Sixty-fourth congress.

Representative Webb is confident that the amendment will receive more votes than it did in the last congress and that by the time the next congress has considered the issue the victory can be won.

The District of Columbia prohibition bill was considered for several hours in the senate today but was temporarily laid aside after Senator Sheppard had sought an agreement to vote next Monday. When opponents of the measure signified that they would be ready for a final vote at that time, Senator Jones of Washington, a friend of the bill, objected to fixing the date. Debate on the measure and the Underwood amendment to provide for a referendum on the issue to the voters of the district will be resumed tomorrow.

Senator Smart of Utah, declaring that the Sheppard bill is a makeshift, submitted a substitute today which would not only prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor in the capital but also prevent its importation for personal use.

Postmaster General Burleson is urging the early mailing of Christmas presents in order to insure prompt delivery.

Meanwhile the authorized statement of the German embassy here that partial disarmament will be one of the subjects taken up at any peace conference was discussed generally in official and diplomatic circles, with speculation as to how far in this direction Germany might be willing to go.

American diplomacy in the various questions relating to the war may be said to have stopped short, temporarily, with the announcement of the Teutonic offer to talk peace. The submarine issue, which again had reached an aggravated state with the completion of evidence that the steamers *Marina* and *Arabic* were sunk without warning or provision for the safety of those on board, and the Belgian deportation, as to which Germany has just replied in a note believed to be unsatisfactory to the state department, are temporarily out of mind and all the pending questions with England are also dormant.

Peace has been given the right of way at the department and it has been physically impossible for officials, already overworked with work, to give immediate attention to other business waiting on their desks.

The authorized statement at the German embassy that consideration of at least partial disarmament would be one of the things taken up at the peace conference attracted the widest attention among government officials and diplomats.

It was accounted doubly interesting because Germany had repeatedly refused such suggestions, even to the point it was said of threatening to withdraw from the second Hague conference if the subject was pressed.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR TOWNS.

SEVERAL REMEMBERED IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS BILL.

Rule Adopted by House for Speedy Action on Omnibus Measure—To Build or Enlarge Postoffices.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The following are the South Carolina items in the omnibus public building bill which under a rule of the house just adopted, will probably be brought up immediately for passage.

To enlarge or rebuild postoffice and court house building at Aiken, \$75,000; building at Dillon, \$25,000; sites at Conway \$3,000, Bamberg \$5,000, Easley \$5,000, Greer \$5,000, Hartsville \$3,000, Manning \$5,000, Summerville \$5,000, York \$9,000; postoffice, court house and other government offices at Greenwood, \$125,000, the secretary of the treasury being authorized to sell the present federal building and site at public sale for cash to the highest bidder; postoffice, court house and other government offices at Rock Hill, \$125,000, the secretary of the treasury being authorized to sell the present building and site at public or private sale and if he deems best to buy additional land for a site for the federal court house adjacent to or near the present postoffice building to erect a court house thereon, the sum of \$100,000 being authorized for the acquisition of additional land and the erection of a court house in that event.

HOPEFUL OF PEACE PARLEY.

Washington Officials Express the Belief That Proposals Will be Considered.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Despite the action of the Russian duma in voting against the Teutonic tender of peace, administration circles today express the optimistic belief that the offer of peace will be considered carefully by the Russian foreign office, as well as by the other entente governments.

TO DECIDE POLICY.

Cabinet Meeting Will Today Consider Peace Proposals.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The course that will be taken by this country as an intermediary between the warring nations will be settled definitely at the meeting of the president and cabinet late today. President Wilson conferred with Secretary Lansing today. Secretary Lansing refused to make any statement, but the understanding is that the rights of neutrals with an interest at stake in the struggle will be upheld with view of at least suggesting that the peace proposals be given the gravest consideration by the nations addressed.

BIG DEAL IN GREENVILLE.

Piedmont Northern to Spend \$150,000 on Warehouses.

Greenville, Dec. 15.—The Piedmont and Northern Railway has purchased additional property to the west of its warehouse, on Washington street, at a cost of \$50,000, and will erect a series of twelve new warehouses, to cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000, the whole investment representing an expenditure of approximately \$150,000. Announcement to this effect was obtained yesterday from officials of the Electric Railway Company, and probably means more to the constructive life and business development of Greenville than anything that has occurred in recent years.

RAILROAD COMMITTEE CONTINUES.

Congress Will Carry on Investigation Until January, 1918.

Washington, Dec. 16.—A resolution continuing the joint congressional committee investigating railroad conditions until January 1st, 1918, was introduced in the house today by Representative Adamson.

DISCUSS GERMAN PROPOSALS.

Entente Powers Exchange Notes on Peace Proffer.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Diplomatic exchanges, understood to refer to the German peace proposal, are reported to be taking place in London, Paris, Petrograd and Rome.

London, Dec. 15.—The tangled Greek situation now existing, today became even more complicated, according to reports received today. A Reuters dispatch from Athens stated that the ultimatum of the allies would probably be accepted in principle. An earlier dispatch says King Constantine had already accepted the ultimatum.

TO STANDARDIZE PAPER PRICE.

PLAN PRESENTED TO FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.

Scheme Contemplates Determination of Value and Setting of Fixed Limit Through Inquiry.

New York, Dec. 15.—A plan designed to standardize the price of news print paper so that it shall be within reach of the small as well as the large newspaper publishers was presented to three members of the federal trade commission who came here today to confer with half a hundred representatives of the paper manufacturing industry.

The plan proposes that an investigation of the paper making industry be undertaken by the commission and after the cost of production is ascertained to have the commission fix a flat, standard price of the product at the mill.

The proponents of the plan are publishers of small dailies in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, represented here today by E. H. Tomlinson of Morristown, N. J., and Ernest G. Smith of Wilkesbarre, Pa.

The paper manufacturers met here with members of the commission to formulate a policy for the conduct of their side of the case at the joint conference in Washington tomorrow.

They appointed the following committee to confer with the publishers at the conference: Justice Cowles of W. H. Parson & Co., New York; C. H. Mead, Spanish River Pulp & Paper mill, Ltd., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.; G. W. Mead, Consolidated Water & Power company, Grand Rapids, Mich.; F. T. Dodge, International Paper company, New York; E. W. Backus, Minnesota & Ontario Power company, Minneapolis, Minn.; C. T. McNair, Northwest Paper company, Coquet, Minn.; Alexander Smith, Abitibi Pulp & Paper company, Montreal; George Chahoon, Jr., Laurentine company, Grand Mere, Que.; and W. J. Scailon, Powell Paper company, Vancouver.

James B. Potter, attorney for the News Print Manufacturers' association, which called the paper men together, said the committee was given no power to act for them, but was appointed merely to meet the publishers, talk the situation over and report back to the manufacturers. He said the pain to standardize prices to large and small customers alike suggested by the small publishers was not taken up at today's meeting.

DISTINGUISHED HYPHENATE DEAD.

Prof. Hugo Munsterberg of Harvard Dropped Dead This Morning.

Boston, Dec. 16.—Hugo Munsterberg, aged 53, professor of psychology at Harvard college, dropped dead early today while addressing a class at Radcliffe. His death is believed to have been caused by heart disease, but he was apparently in perfect health.

GERMANY HAS TERMS READY.

Conditions on Which She Will Agree to Peace Formulated.

Berlin, Dec. 15.—The terms upon which Germany and her allies are ready to make peace are formulated and will be submitted to the entente powers as soon as the latter have signified their willingness to enter into negotiations.

From the expressions gathered in the corridors of the reichstag shortly after yesterday's historic session, it became clear that the majority of the members of the German parliament heartily favor Germany's peace move. To be sure, there were many expressions on the part of opponents of the chancellor's policy urging that peace be made only upon a basis of "victory to the conquered."

The consensus of opinion, however, was that the peace move is timely and whatever the reception accorded it in the entente countries, it will prove advantageous to the central powers.

FRENCH POUND GERMAN AT VERDUN.

Teutons Have Penetrated British Second Line West of Flanders.

Berlin, Dec. 16.—While the French pound the German lines on the Verdun front, the Teutons have launched a drive west of Flanders, penetrating the second line of the British positions in the Zillebeek sector, the war office announced.

RUSSIANS CONTINUE RETREAT.

Teutonic Allies Have Taken Many More Prisoners.

Berlin, Dec. 16.—Russians in northern Dobruja are retreating under fire of the German allies. Two thousand additional prisoners have been captured, the war office announced. The Teutons have reached Buzarniuk road. Russian attacks on the eastern frontier of Transylvania yesterday failed.

London, Dec. 16.—That the British censors are garbling news until it gives inaccurate and misleading impressions in the United States was charged in the Times, the most powerful British newspaper today.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

HOUSE COMMITTEE VOTES TO RECOMMEND NATION-WIDE PROHIBITION.

Opposition of Liquor Traffic Jubilant at Success in Bringing Proposal Before House With Favorable Report.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Nationwide prohibition took a long stride toward congressional consideration today when the house judiciary committee unexpectedly voted to recommend adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment to forbid the manufacture and sale of liquor for beverage purposes in the United States. Even the most enthusiastic champions of the amendment had not expected favorable action so soon from the committee, which at the last session voted to postpone its consideration indefinitely.

How far the resolution will progress through the various legislative stages of this congress is problematical and administration leaders doubt that it will reach the senate in time for action at this session. Prohibition advocates, however, predict ultimate adoption of the resolution and its reference to the various State legislatures at a much earlier date than they heretofore had hoped for. A two-thirds majority in both houses is required.

The prohibition issue also was brought directly to the attention of the senate when the Sheppard bill to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor in the District of Columbia became the unfinished business to be kept before the senate until disposed of. As an amendment to this bill Senator Underwood has proposed a referendum to the male voters of the district. Senator Karn of Indiana, has added a proposal that women also should participate in the referendum.

Sentiment in the senate for and against the referendum appears to be closely divided, with a vote on the subject expected within a day or two.

Discussion of the Sheppard bill afforded opportunity for comment on the proposed amendment, several senators, among them Sheppard, Vardaman and Owen, predicting triumph for the cause of nationwide prohibition in the near future.

Hardly any one doubted tonight that prohibition will be a dominant legislative issue before the new Sixty-fifth congress if the constitutional amendment does not reach a vote this winter.

In the house before the amendment can be taken up for consideration a special rule must be adopted giving it a right of way. Representative Webb, chairman of the judiciary committee, will ask for such a rule early in January and endeavor to press the resolution to an early vote.

Seven members of the judiciary committee voted against reporting the prohibition amendment. They were Gard of Ohio, Dyer and Igoe of Missouri, Graham and Steele of Pennsylvania, Walsh of Massachusetts and Danforth of New York. Representatives Elza Williams of Illinois and Carlin of Virginia, who were opposed to the resolution at the last session, voted this time to recommend its adoption.

President Wilson was urged late today by the Rev. Clarence T. Wilson, representing the Methodist conference board, to use his influence with congress to prohibit the use of the mails for the sending of liquor advertisements by unlicensed liquor dealers. An effort is being made to have such a provision included in the current postoffice bill.

RAISE FOR PERSHING.

Expedition Commander Made Major General.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Winthrop M. Daniels of New Jersey was nominated by President Wilson today to succeed himself as a member of the interstate commerce commission. Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing, commanding the American expeditionary force in Mexico, was nominated to be a major general. The following colonels were nominated for promotion to be brigadier generals: Eben Swift, Francis H. French, Edwin St. J. Greble and Charles A. Treat.