

PEACE PROPOSALS FORWARDED

NOW ON WAY TO CAPITALS OF ENTENTE COUNTRIES.

President Sends German, Austrian, Belgian and Turkish Notes to Entente Capitals Without Comment but May Say Something in Future.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The forwarding today of the central powers' proposals for peace removed the centre of interest in the peace move to the allied capitals, particularly London, where the final attitude of the entente is expected to find expression.

With the announcement that the proposals had gone forward without any accompanying comment by this government speculation here turned from what President Wilson may do in injecting neutral mediation to what Premier Lloyd-George will declare to be the attitude of the allied nations when he speaks on the subject Tuesday in parliament.

The three versions of the proposal differing slightly because of the translations made in Berlin, Vienna and Constantinople, were harmonized into one official American translation, a single copy of which was sent to the American ambassadors in the seven belligerent countries where the United States represents German, Austrian or Turkish diplomatic interests.

Whether any suggestion or offer to mediate will be made by this government until it is indicated unmistakably that such action would be welcomed by both sides remains undetermined, but President Wilson is known to be anxious that the United States shall not impair its usefulness as a mediator by premature action.

EXPLOSION CAUSES FIRE.

Barnwell Has Narrow Escape From Costly and Disastrous Conflagration—One Man Hurt.

Barnwell, Dec. 17.—Barnwell had a narrow escape from a costly and disastrous fire Friday afternoon when a gasoline water heater in the B. & M. barber shop exploded. One of the owners of the shop while filling the tank allowed the gasoline to overflow. It became ignited from the burner and in the excitement that following the heater was overturned causing the tank to explode and filling the room with flames. The blaze was further scattered by the well meant but ill advised efforts of volunteer fire fighters in using water to extinguish the fire.

The barber shop is located in the centre of the business part of town and as a high wind was blowing at the time the fire started it was feared at one time that a costly blaze would be the result.

Bringloe Moody was painfully burned about the face when the gasoline tank exploded.

ROUMANIAN SITUATION UNCHANGED.

Aeroplanes Bombed Retreating Troops—No Changes in West.

Berlin, Dec. 18.—No important fighting has taken place on the Verdun and Somme fronts, the war office announced.

The repulse of the Russians northwest of Lusk and south of Zborov is reported. The Russo-Roumanian columns retreating towards Braila were successfully attacked by German air squadrons. The general situation in Roumania is unchanged. The German has reached the gates of Moldavia, the only Roumanian province remaining in the hands of Roumanian forces.

VILLA RECAPTURES PARRAL.

El Paso, Dec. 18.—Villa has recaptured Parral in his advance toward Torreon, according to reports received today. Gen. Herrera, whom Villa promised to kill, left Parral before the bandit force arrived. There is a panic in Chihuahua as the result of Villa's statement that he will again attack that city on Christmas day.

ASK FOR RETURN OF SECOND.

CHARLESTON WOMEN WANT GUARDSMEN RELIEVED.

Appeal to Governor, Who Has Asked War Department to Send Carolinians Home.

Columbia, Dec. 17.—Fifty-six Charleston women, described as "distressed mothers," have sent a petition to Gov. Manning, in which they ask for the return of the Second South Carolina infantry from the border. The petition, in the form of a night letter, was sent also, it is said, to Senator Tillman at Washington.

The petition says that the Second regiment has served long enough on the border and should be released from service. It claims that the signers were in hope, when the First regiment was ordered home, that the Second would be in the next group, and they were sorely disappointed when their expectations were not realized.

Gov. Manning who is now in Washington, attending the conference of governors, has been working for the release of all of the South Carolina units remaining at the frontier. The chief executive in a speech to the First regiment the day before it was mustered out, said that he had large hopes of getting the other units back into South Carolina at an early date.

Gov. Manning got the First regiment back into South Carolina through intercession with the war department and, since the return of that unit, he has been working hard for the return of the Second Regiment, the Charleston Light Dragoons, the field hospital and the Johnson engineers. The Second regiment returned from patrol duty only last week. Gov. Manning had a conference with Secretary Baker on the matter last week. Private Secretary LaRouque wrote the signers of the petition that the governor had the interests of the Second next to his heart and was working for the return of that regiment and the other units to South Carolina in the near future. Secretary LaRouque advised the governor by wire of the receipt of the petition.

AUXILIARY PRAYS FOR SOLDIERS.

Motion in Florence to Secure Return of Second Regiment to South Carolina.

Company K of the Second Regiment, South Carolina National Guard, joined its prayers and entreaties with those of the mothers of Charleston and Columbia for the return of this regiment to the state. Members sent a message to Senator Smith and Congressman Ragsdale asking their aid in the matter, and their intercession with the president and the war department. They also communicated with the Women of Timmonsville and Darlington, asking that they also join in the appeal. The mothers feel that this regiment could be returned home now. Another matter that is proposed among the women is that all members of women's clubs in the city set a candle in the window on Christmas eve between 9 and 10 o'clock and all pray for peace in the world. Every woman, whether a club member or not, is requested to join in this petition, and it is a general movement through the country.

The Women's auxiliary to company K has gathered a number of subscriptions and contributions to a box to be sent to the company for Christmas. Every girl in the city is urged to make some candy, every mother to make a small cake, and every man to give 25 cents for the boys on the border.

COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE.

Senate Committee Begins Hearing on Chamberlain Bill.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The first serious effort in congress to establish compulsory military service in the United States was begun today when the senate sub-committee on military affairs began hearings on the Chamberlain bill designed to create an army along the lines of the Swiss system. Anti-militarists and preparedness advocates are present in large numbers to criticize or approve the measure. The committee hopes to complete the hearings by January 1st.

PROHIBITION IN CONGRESS.

Fight for District of Columbia Bill Reaches Climax Today.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Supporters of the District of Columbia prohibition bill today planned to bring the measure to a vote before night. The indications were that the vote will be extremely close, with a slight advantage on the side of the drys.

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Wilson is planning to grant pardons to several federal prisoners as a Christmas gift, it was learned at the department of justice.

TO DECIDE LAND BANK CITY.

POSITIVE ASSURANCE OF SPEEDY ANNOUNCEMENT.

Work for Columbia—Byrnes Says South Carolina Members are Still at Hunt for Institution to Locate at Columbia.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Positive assurances of the farm loan board that announcement will be made within the next week as to the location of the farm loan banks has been made here. Representative Byrnes, who has been instrumental in keeping the eyes of the board fixed on South Carolina, was advised to this effect today.

"While it can not yet be told where these banks are to be located," Mr. Byrnes said to The State's correspondent, "we are working to get one for South Carolina."

Asked specifically whether information as to certain locations having been agreed upon as sent out a few days ago would indicate whether Columbia would win, Mr. Byrnes said that the members of the board would not commit themselves.

"Until Secretary McAdoo, who has returned to Washington, makes the official announcement regarding the locations of the banks," he said, "we will have to wait."

SMITH STILL HOPEFUL.

Says Columbia Has Not Been Eliminated.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Senator W. D. Smith today had a personal interview with officials of the war department relative to the nitrate proposition. The interview was highly satisfactory. He also spoke to the members of the Rural Credit board in reference to the land bank. He said he was assured that up to the present there had been no final decision as to what States would be grouped together in the different districts. He was also assured, he stated, that the decision would be made entirely upon the merits of the place selected, and selection to be with due regard to the function that the bank is to serve. Columbia has not been eliminated for Jacksonville, he said.

A few days ago Senator Smith saw the president and had a talk with him in reference to the nitrate proposition and was much gratified to learn that the president was in favor of having three plants distributed as far apart as possible in the south for which they are designed.

OFFICERS NAB JOHNSON.

Negro Wanted in Connection With Harrelson Murder.

Dillon, Dec. 16.—State Constable M. L. Rowell, Rural Policeman Sam Cole, and a Mr. Dennis, of Florence, arrived in Dillon tonight about 3 o'clock with John Johnson, the negro wanted in connection with the murder of Rev. Hugh Harrelson, of this county. The officers were going below Florence to make a raid when Mr. Dennis of the party recognized Johnson as the man wanted in Dillon. They captured him and rushed toward Florence with the fugitive, but on nearing Florence they decided to come on to Dillon as Johnson seemed unconcerned about his arrest. They neared Dillon Officer Rowell, and that Johnson asked him if the woman was dead. Johnson was connected with the murder of the Rev. Hugh Harrelson, according to a statement by Mrs. Harrelson, who declared at the time of the crime that he was the negro that beat her.

Tracks around the commissary where the murder was committed, it is stated, were recognized as those of Johnson. Johnson had had some trouble, it is asserted, with the Rev. Hugh Harrelson a few days before the crime for which he had been reported to the rural policeman.

Johnson has been lodged in jail and has been identified as the man wanted. Johnson was well-known in Florence as "Bully Howard."

He has served several changang sentences in that county. A reward has been offered for Johnson's capture by local men and by Governor Manning.

MAY IMPORT LIQUOR.

Senate Rejects Smoot Amendment to Stop Importation of Liquor into the District.

Washington, Dec. 18.—By a vote of sixty-one to eight the senate rejected the Smoot amendment to the district prohibition bill. The amendment sought to prevent the importation of liquor.

WILL CONSIDER REPLIES.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Germany will consider any replies the allies make to the peace proposals, it was learned at the German embassy today. The offer prevails in pro-German circles that Britain will soon find a way to invite the belligerents to a peace conference at the Hague. The situation is so important that Von Bernstorff has abandoned his trip to Boston and a trip to Florida.

AROUSSED AT TALK OF REPEAL.

MAY HAVE "TO SPANK BOTH SIDES," SAYS CONGRESSMAN ADAMSON.

Railways and Men Can Settle Wage Disputes—Although Favors Efforts of Brotherhoods and Heads to Get Together but Opposes Repeal.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Reports that railroad and brotherhood heads in peace conference have planned to propose the repeal of the Adamson act and the substitution of a working agreement of their own making for it, aroused Representative Adamson, author of the law, to declare today that congress would "spank both sides to the controversy if necessary."

Mr. Adamson, the house representative of President Wilson in railway legislation matters is willing to cooperate in any plan employees and employers may evolve for the interpretation of this law as applied to working conditions but will vigorously oppose repeal of it, as he thinks will the majorities of both houses.

"Congress will not agree to any repeal of the Adamson law" he said tonight. "The measure was passed in good faith and it is a constitutional enactment regulating hours of labor and not wages. Let the roads and their men settle their wage disputes."

"I hope that the negotiations between the railroads and their employees will result in an agreement which will not make further legislation necessary but congress will see that the public gets a fair deal. If it becomes necessary to spank both sides, we'll spank them, though I hope that won't be necessary."

Representative Adamson looks with optimism upon the efforts of the railroads and brotherhood heads to get together, however. He says the result of the presidential election made the employers more eager for peace than they were last fall and that the growing belief that the president stands for a compulsory arbitration law has put the brotherhood leaders in a conciliatory frame of mind.

Neither labor nor congressional leaders here have official reports as to just what phase of the situation they have taken up.

Repeal of the law, it is thought, hardly will be suggested. It is pointed out that many members of both houses, having defended the law on the stump last fall, will not be anxious to defend the repeal of it in the next campaign.

A plan for the investigation of threatened strikes also is expected to result from the deliberations. Labor is determined that no compulsory arbitration law shall go on the statute books but realizes that the president is very serious in his determination to prevent strike crises without investigation they will exert every effort to draft a compromise plan that will have his endorsement.

The conferences are proceeding, all parties to them maintain without the official promise of administration leaders that action on the president's railway legislation programme will be held up pending an agreement. Nothing will be done by congress, however, to interfere with their progress for the present.

Mr. Adamson will make an attempt in the house tomorrow to get unanimous consent for action on his resolution designed to provide for a continuation of life of the Newlands commission investigating all phases of the transportation problem until January, 1918. This may provoke a storm of argument as friends of the state regulation of railroads are expected to oppose the resolution. Assurance of the president's desire to have the resolution adopted is expected to be sufficient to carry it through the house.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States announced tonight that a referendum vote of members of member organizations had been ordered on a report of its railroad committee recommending legislation to prevent strikes or lockouts pending investigation of disputes between railroads and their employes. The committee proposes that the interest of the public in such controversies be recognized as paramount and that representatives of the public constitute the majority of any board of conciliation or arbitration.

ROUMANIANS BACK TO RUSSIAN BORDER.

Paris, Dec. 18.—The Roumanian army has retreated to the Russian border, where it is being reinforced by fresh Russian troops, according to a dispatch to the Parisienne. Russians hold the entire Roumanian front, remnants of the Roumanian army having retired behind the Sereth river.

Licenses to marry have been issued to the following colored couples: Hampton Albert Coard, Silver, and Sylvia Duffie, Remini; Marcus Sanders and Fannie Wilson, Sumter; William Alexander and Rosa Lee Harrison, Mayesville; Singleton Pringle, Horatio, and Louise Nelson, Boykin.

YOUNG EMPEROR LOVES PEACE.

CHARLES OF AUSTRIA CREDITED WITH INITIATING MOVEMENT.

Anxious to Begin Reign With Effort for Peace But Willing to Wait, Says Report.

Paris, Dec. 16.—Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary is credited with having taken the initiative in the peace move by the coalition of the central powers, according to the Lerne correspondent of La Liberté on the strength of information obtained from political circles in touch with officials of the central powers. The new emperor, it is said, desired to inaugurate his reign by an effort in favor of peace. This worried the Berlin government, which feared that the young monarch might prove an uncertain ally.

The visit of Emperor William of Germany to Vienna, it is declared, was not to attend the funeral of the late emperor, but was for the purpose of having a personal interview with Emperor Charles. The interview could not be held on the day of the funeral but at the second conference, at which King Ferdinand of Bulgaria also was present, Emperor Charles is supposed to have consented to a postponement of the offer of peace until after the capture of Bucharest.

TO AWAIT ALLIES' REPLY.

WILSON CONSIDERS TIME INOPPORTUNE TO URGE PEACE FOR EUROPE.

Convinced That Any Premature Action Will Act as Bar in Future to Peace Move.

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Wilson will await the reply of the allies to the German note before taking any steps towards urging peace in Europe. The president is convinced that premature action would act as an incurable aggravation and block peace for months. Lansing has been assured that the allies will carefully consider the German proposals. Until their answer is made known, Washington deems the time inopportune to take any steps. The future depends on the character of the reply the allies make.

Rome, Dec. 18.—The vatican has announced that it will not attempt to intervene in the war on the strength of the German peace proposals.

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Your Boy's Xmas Gift. Last Christmas his father gave him a Bank Book with a deposit in it of \$10. Today he has in his account \$178.50—every dollar besides the interest he earned himself. He is 14 years old. Before last Christmas he had never put by a dollar. Let's start your boys with Christmas Accounts this year. \$1—\$5—\$10 does it. May we make them out for you? THE PEOPLES BANK. We pay 4 per cent. interest in our Savings Department.

Lumber, Line, Cement, BUILDING MATERIAL GENERALLY AND FEED OF ALL KINDS. BOOTH & McLEOD, Successors to South Shuler Lumber & Supply Co. Geo. Epperson's Old Stand Opp. Court House EVERYTHING AT ONE PLACE.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR EXCURSION FARES Between all points on the Atlantic Coast Line The Standard Railroad of The South Also to practically every point in the Southeast, including Washington, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Memphis and New Orleans. Tickets will be sold DECEMBER 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25. Limited returning to reach original starting point by or before Wednesday, January 10th, 1917. For schedules, Pullman reservations and any further information desired call on O. V. PLAYER, Ticket Agent, Sumter, S. C.

\$44.75 EXCURSION TO HAVANA Thursday, December 21 For the Christmas and New Year Holiday excursion to Cuba, the Atlantic Coast Line will sell excursion tickets from Sumter to Havana, including meals and berths on steamships, at the fare and on the date named above, limited returning until January 7, 1917. Fares will apply via Jacksonville; thence via the East Coast and the "Over Sea Railroad," or via the West Coast of Florida, through Port Tampa, but not going via one route and returning via the other, and tickets will be good to stop over at all stations en route, either on the going or return trip, or both. Proportionate fares from nearly every other point in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Children Half Fare. For schedules, reservations on trains and ships, and interesting literature on Cuba, apply to the undersigned, who will procure it for you promptly. O. V. PLAYER, Ticket Agent, Sumter, S. C. Atlantic Coast Line The Standard Railroad of The South