

KAISER READY TO HEAR PEACE PLAN, IS REPORT

Washington Hears President's Second Mediation Offer Has Been Accepted by Emperor.

Protection of German Territory and Commerce Said To Be Terms For Ending Hostilities.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—There is a persistent report in Administration circles that Emperor William has accepted conditionally President Wilson's second offer of mediation.

These conditions are said to insist that German territory be preserved and German commerce afforded full protection.

Both the White House and State Department refused to discuss the report and the German Embassy said it was cut off entirely from Berlin.

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 17.—The official newspaper, the Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, says that the stories from hostile sources that Germany is inclined to make peace and is tired of the war are entirely false.

"The German people will never lay down their arms in this war," it says, "without guarantees necessary to its future in the world of nations."

A military expert has inquired directly of the Krupp at Essex if 42 centimeter guns (guns of a calibre of 16.5 inches) exist. The Krupp's reply was that such guns, transportable over land, have been manufactured but that they regret they are unable to give details at present.

The reference is to the immense slogan which the Germans have been reported as using in bombarding the Belgian and French forts, for which they are said to have laid tracks along roads and streets.

BERLIN, via Amsterdam, Sept. 17.—Informal representations about Emperor William as to whether Germany would accept another offer of mediation by the United States. A reply has been sent to Washington.

Though the contents of the reply have not been made public, it is reported semi-officially that the Emperor pointed out that Germany had not obstacles in the way of peace, but under no circumstances would enter into negotiations that would threaten the territorial integrity of the Empire or weaken her commercial resources.

NO ACTION ON RATE CASE UNTIL EARLY IN OCTOBER

Officials Close to Commission Think New Hearing Will Be Held. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—The next step in the new five per cent. advance rate case will not be taken until the early part of October, Interstate Commerce officials today said.

RHINE CITIES STRENGTHENED TO GUARD ESSEN DISTRICT

Move to Protect Centre of War Supply Manufacture. THE HAGUE, Sept. 17.—The German fortifications about Cologne, Duesseldorf, Wesel and Duisburg are being strengthened, apparently as a defensive measure, according to reliable reports received here today.

GENERAL CONSCRIPTION ORDERED IN AUSTRIA

Francis Joseph Grieved Because Order Was Needed, Dispatch Adds. ROME, Sept. 17.—A Vienna dispatch to the Corriere Della Sera says that Austria has ordered conscription on a massive scale to form new armies. It adds that Emperor Francis Joseph on taking this step said:

BRYAN HAS A NEW DRINK

"Villa Sorrento Limesade" Displaces the Grape Juice. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Secretary of State Bryan is introducing a new "dry" drink. He calls it "Villa Sorrento Limesade," being made of limes from Villa Sorrento, his Florida home.

WEATHER FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity—Increasing cloudiness tonight followed by showers in the early morning and on Friday; not much change in temperature; moderate easterly winds. For details, see last page.

DEMOCRATS MEET TO APPROVE WAR TAX BILL

Introduction of Measure Today or Tomorrow Will Follow. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Democrats of the House Ways and Means Committee met today to approve the tentative draft written by Chairman Underwood of the internal revenue "war tax" bill.

The Republicans will be called in later for a formal, perfunctory meeting, to be followed by a favorable report and introduction of the measure late today or tomorrow.

Underwood indicated today that some of the Spanish war tax items might not be included in the present bill.

Republican committeemen plan a scathing minority report, indicting the Democrats for alleged extravagance in appropriations.

COUNCILS TO TAKE FIRST STEP FORWARD IN CITY'S ADVANCE

New Draft of Loan Bill Includes \$500,000 Item for Preliminary Work on the Subway. The first step toward the actual construction of the subway and elevated lines and the abolition of exchange tickets will be taken today when Councils' Finance Committee and Common Council meet to carry out the agreement made by Councilman leaders last Tuesday.

reapportionment of the loan so as to include the item of \$500,000 for preliminary work in the transit program.

Just before the Subcommittee on Appropriations met in City Hall at 1:30 o'clock there was a feeling of confidence among the business men of Philadelphia that the subcommittee would prepare a new draft of the loan bill and include the appropriation for transit.

This committee is expected to present the reapportionment to the general Finance Committee at a meeting to be held immediately before the session of Common Council this afternoon.

A general reapportionment of the loan probably will be made. The original allotments for the Parkway, for man-damuses and for general repaving, it is planned, will be cut to provide the \$500,000 for transit.

Director Norris, of the Department of Wharves, Docks and Ferries, has also asked a new allotment of the appropriation for the work of his department. He wants two items of \$600,000 and \$200,000 to be incorporated in a lump sum of \$800,000 for general pier construction, and also wants other changes made. His request probably will be granted.

There was considerable discussion preceding the subcommittee meeting about a plan accredited to Councilman leaders to cut the payroll of the Transit Department. It was said that Councils planned to transfer \$5,000 from Director Taylor's unexpended salary appropriation as part of the \$72,000 saved by the re-estimation of work at Ryberty, Holmesburg and for repairs at the Municipal Hospital.

On the other hand, it has been said that the original attitude of Councilman leaders, they have been ordered to keep hands off the Transit Department for the present.

JAPANESE ENGINEER HERE ON MISSION OF PEACE

Inspects Water Works and Declines to Discuss European War. Satoru Nishioeda, chief engineer of a municipal water works at Tokyo, Japan, is here on a mission of peace.

On a tour of the world, for the purpose of inspecting the filtration plants of the great cities of America and Europe, he is visiting the water works department in City Hall today, where he obtained permission to inspect any part of the departmental machinery.

AVIATOR'S DARING AIDS JAPANESE AT KIAO-CHAU

Railroad Station in German Leasehold Taken With Little Loss. TOKIO, Sept. 17.—The capture of the railroad station at Kiao-Chau was effected with slight loss to the Japanese because of the daring of an aviator who flew in a hydro-aeroplane from a warship outside the bay.

REPUBLICANS IN SENATE WOULD OUST PENROSE

La Follette, Cummins, Borah and Clapp Say His Elimination Is Party Necessity. Evening Ledger's Support of Palmer Regarded as Powerful Factor in Campaign for Political Morality.

FROM OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Republican and Democratic Senators are silent today on the resolution introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator George W. Norris, of Nebraska, for an investigation by the Committee on Privileges and Elections, of the primary campaign expenses of Senator Penrose and Roger C. Sullivan, the Democratic Senatorial nominee in Illinois.

Many predictions are made that the resolution will not be reported out of the committee.

Progressive Republicans like La Follette, Cummins, Borah and Clapp make no secret of their opposition to Penrose, and among the leaders of this wing of the Republican party there is a strong feeling that the sooner men of the type of Penrose and William Barnes, Jr., of New York, are eliminated as leaders, the better it will be for the party.

On the other hand, Democrats who ten days ago were very outspoken in their opposition to the nomination of Sullivan refuse to discuss the Norris resolution.

CALL FOR SPECIFIC CHARGES. Senator John W. Kern, of Indiana, chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, announced today that the committee would be called for a special session within a few days to consider the Norris resolution.

Senator Kern told the Evening Ledger, however, that there is little prospect of an investigation of the Pennsylvania and Illinois primary campaigns unless Senator Norris is willing to incorporate into his resolution definite and specific charges of the misuse of money by Penrose and Sullivan "to the end that we may have something to report."

The reputation of Senator Penrose by the Evening Ledger and the Public Ledger has caused more comment in Washington than has the resolution of Senator Norris. Republican and Democratic school types, who have been confident of the re-election of Penrose, now express fear that Representative A. Mitchell Palmer will be elected to the Senate.

Palmer is expected to visit Washington within a few days to confer with his friends in the Senate for the purpose, it is believed, of bringing every pressure to bear to keep the Norris resolution from being reported out of the committee.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels today said: "The strong support that is being given to the candidacy of Representative Palmer by the PUBLIC LEDGER and the Evening Ledger has, I believe, turned the tide in Pennsylvania. Those who a few weeks ago thought Mr. Palmer was engaged in a hopeless fight are now satisfied that he has more than an even chance to win the senatorship in Pennsylvania."

Colonel Thomas C. Pence, assistant to National Chairman William F. McCombs, said:

"No one thing is going to contribute so much to making the election of Representative Palmer certain as the stand taken by the Evening Ledger and the Public Ledger. Mr. Palmer is making a wonderful campaign and the support of the Curtis newspapers will, in my opinion, make the defeat of Penrose possible. The reputation of Senator Penrose by these newspapers has disorganized much comment among Senators and Representatives of both parties."

ENGLAND OFFICIALLY SENDS APOLOGY FOR GARDEN CRITICISM

Ambassador Spring-Rice Expresses His Government's Regret for Attack On Wilson by British Diplomat. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—The British Government today, through Ambassador Spring-Rice, apologized and expressed a great regret to the American Government for the interview alleged to have been given by Sir Lionel Garden, in which Carden criticized the administration for withdrawing the troops from Vera Cruz.

Sir Lionel Garden was banished from Mexico by Provisional President Carranza. This was the surprising statement made today by a high official. It was intimated that because of the known animus of Sir Lionel Garden for the Mexican Constitutional Government, the Washington Administration would take no further notice of the diplomat's recent interview in New York which he characterized as the withdrawal of American troops as a "desperate shame."

Garden is now on his way to England, and from there will go to Brazil where he has been accredited by his government.

U. S. ASKS BRAZIL TO EXPLAIN

Government Wants to Know Why Clearance Papers Were Refused. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—The United States today called upon Brazil for an explanation of her refusal to issue clearance papers to the steamship Robert Dollar at Rio De Janeiro.

MT. LASSEN'S NEW FISSURE

Ash-laden Vapor Escapes From West Side, Below Summit Crater. MINERAL, Cal., Sept. 17.—Vast quantities of ash-laden steam vapor are escaping today as a result of a violent eruption yesterday at Lassen Peak.

The vapor is escaping from the west side of the mountain below the rim of the summit crater. The indications are that the crater will fill up and that future eruptions will occur through the new fissure.

BELGIANS START NEW ATTACK ON GERMAN INVADERS

King Albert Leads Army Against foe—Kaiser's Veteran Troops Rushed to France—Reserves Replace Them. ANTWERP, Sept. 17.—King Albert led his army away from Antwerp today for another offensive movement against the Germans, while Belgian volunteers are carrying on an active campaign in the extreme northwest part of Belgium against Uhlans who are raiding isolated districts in west Flanders.

Fights are reported from Waerzeghem, St. Eloi and Ingelmunster, where the Belgian volunteers were successful. At Iseghem 190 Belgians attacked 200 Uhlans, who were ambushed in houses. 64 Germans are reported to have been killed and a number wounded, while 30 others were made prisoners. The balance fled.

The Belgians lost four men killed and 14 wounded. Another German detachment is reported to have been defeated by Belgians near Alost. The Germans lost a number of men in killed and wounded and seven wagons.

One hundred regiments of German infantry (about 100,000 men) and artillery forces with 40 guns passed through Liege toward France on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Germans are withdrawing their main forces and sending them into France in enormous numbers. But there are no signs that they contemplate the general evacuation of Belgium as those withdrawn are immediately replaced by troops of the second line and from the navy reserve.

A continuous stream of trains is passing through Aix la Chapelle carrying fresh troops to the scene of battle in the south, and it is believed certain here that the Germans again are hoping to resume the offensive.

Reports that the Germans were actually evacuating Brussels were set at rest today when couriers arrived here from the Belgian capital, now held by the enemy. They reported that the troops which have been holding the city have been withdrawn to go to the French front, but that their places have been taken by members of the naval reserve who are acting as infantry, and by troops from the landsturm.

Only the western lines through the center of Belgium are held by the Germans. The towns to the eastward, notably Liege, have been tenuded of their garrisons and the troops sent on to the front. As a result of these manoeuvres, if the Germans so desired, they could evacuate all of Belgium within 24 hours.

TO ANSWER BELGIAN CHARGE

German-Americans of Chicago Interview President Wilson. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Headed by Horace L. Brand, a Chicago editor, a group of Chicago German-Americans will present to President Wilson a reply to a Belgian charge that they are traitors. Their documents were received by way of East Africa.

MUST NOT FLY OVER CANADA

Official Warning After Canadians Fire at American Aeroplanes. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Official warning that American aviators must not fly over the boundary into Canadian territory, today was issued by the State Department.

Acting Secretary of State Lansing said that an American aeroplane had been fired upon by Canadians while in the vicinity of the Long Sault Canal.

GERMANS HURL BACK ALLIES' ASSAULTS ON AISNE ENTRENCHMENTS

Kaiser's Artillery Mows Down British As They Force Passage of the Aisne. German Line Repulses French Infantry As They Storm Defenses.

The battle of the Aisne continues. The allies are hurling forces again and again upon the strongly entrenched lines of Germans north of the river and have been repulsed in each advance. The position of the Kaiser's forces is said to be so strong that attacks are made only at heavy losses by the allies.

General von Kluk's army on the German right wing is in danger of being surrounded, London reporting his forces already hemmed in.

French War Office, at Bordeaux, announces that the Germans have been compelled to raise the siege at Verdun and that the Crown Prince's army again has been forced back.

German official War Office statement today explains the retreat of the Germans in France was only to their prepared positions and to enable the troops to recover from their earlier exertions. It is announced that the general battle now in progress is proceeding favorably to the German cause.

Przemysl, the strong fortification on the San, near where the Austrian armies are reported to have effected a junction, has been captured by the Russians, according to a Petrograd dispatch. The Austrians are being compelled to take a final stand at Cracow, near the meeting point of Russian, Austrian and German borders.

Capture of Cracow would open the way for the Czar's forces to march on Breslau, in Silesia, 150 miles from Berlin. Meanwhile, another Russian army is proceeding west through Poland toward Silesia, and military experts believe that these movements will fatally expose Berlin, if the Kaiser has, as reported, withdrawn eight army corps (320,000 men) from East Prussia and Galicia to reinforce the German armies in France.

Advices from Vienna, however, state that the fighting in Western Galicia is not ended and that the junction of the armies of Generals Danik and Auffenburg will be followed by fresh offensive tactics between the San and Vistula, with the object of keeping the line intact between Przemysl and Linc, thus protecting Central Austro-Hungary on one hand, and Silesia on the other, from Russian encroachments.

German forces to the number of 320,000 are reported from Petrograd to have been withdrawn from the East Prussian campaign and rushed to aid the Kaiser's forces defending their position along the Aisne. Eight corps comprise the force reported moving. Belgium dispatches report that Germany is rapidly withdrawing her veteran troops from all the large cities and towns. They are being rushed to reinforce the army of Von Kluk. New garrisons of the naval reserve and Landwehr have arrived to replace the veterans.

British War Office says the general situation continues favorable to the allies, but makes no statement regarding the battle now in progress in France. Turkey has an army within Russian borders along the Bulgarian River, according to reports in Petrograd. It is said a German cavalry officer is in command.

Servia announces officially that the Crown Prince's army has been withdrawn from the proposed invasion of Slavonia. Air scouts detected a trap laid by Austrian forces and the army was saved. The invasion of Bosnia, however, continues. Italy clamors for war against Austria and Germany. Soldiers have been called, ready to quell rioting, street demonstrations already having reached almost unmanageable stages.

LOW WATER CLOSES MILLS

Nearly 400 Persons in Manayunk Plants Made Idle. Nearly 400 persons were thrown out of work today by the closing of several Manayunk mills on account of the lack of water in the canal. Unless rain comes to their relief none of the manufacturers will be able to operate for at least several days.

Those most seriously affected are yarn and push manufacturers, who say that this is their busy season. The water is ten inches below normal in Flat Rock Dam, and unless it soon rises it is believed that more mills will have to close.

Kaiser's Artillery Mows Down British As They Force Passage of the Aisne. German Line Repulses French Infantry As They Storm Defenses.

Flanking Movement to Cut Off Army of Von Kluk Reported Successful—Both Sides Bring Up Powerful Guns and Great Duel Is On.

PARIS, Sept. 17.—The battle of the Aisne continues. Again and again have the allies attacked the German lines, but except on the extreme western end they have failed to break the German defense.

The Germans made a fierce counter attack from their strongly entrenched positions along the Aisne river, but were repulsed by the allies. Furious fighting is going on all along the line. The war office issued an official statement at 3 o'clock this afternoon giving this information:

"Fighting continues with the utmost violence everywhere. Allies have repulsed a fierce counter attack attempted by the Germans from their strongly entrenched positions." Heavy reinforcements have reached the German right wing and General von Kluk's army, taking the offensive, is striking fiercely at the allies' left. New French troops are being rushed to the vicinity of Noyon from the army of the defense of Paris.

This statement was made by a high Government official at noon today: "The German action on the right has suddenly become very strong, indicating that the enemy is making another effort to cut our line. Along the centre the Germans show less strength, while on their left their position is almost untenable."

"The Germans have attempted a bombardment of Rheims, but with little effect. Should the enemy win the battle now in progress, a second advance on Paris will naturally follow, but we believe General von Kluk's army has little chance of success."

It is believed here that the Germans have succeeded in withdrawing a large portion of their eastern army from Prussia, and have hurried it into action in another attempt to break through the allied line in a general circling movement.

The official War Office statement issued at Bordeaux at 3:15 this afternoon, and made public at General Gallien's headquarters, states that the battle continues along the entire front between the Rivers Oise and the Meuse, with the Germans resisting the French advance at all points in an effort to prevent the carrying of their fortified positions behind which the armies which participated in the battle of the Marne are re-forming.

"The battle continues along the entire front between the Oise and the Meuse," says the statement, "with the Germans fiercely resisting the French attack and fortifying their positions along the lines previously indicated."

The allies have suffered the heaviest losses yet sustained by them. The allies are still bombarding the German positions along the Aisne River. The Germans, despite the difficulties caused by heavy rains of the past week, have brought up most of their guns, and the greatest artillery duel that the world has ever heard of is in progress. At least 5000 guns are believed to be engaged.

The Germans thus far have repulsed the efforts of the British and French forces to drive them back from the hills along the Aisne. The allies have been unable to secure a firm foothold on the north side of the river, although they gained crossings at three

points under a terrific concentrated fire from the German batteries. The efforts of the Fifth French Army and the First and Second British Corps are concentrated in an endeavor to shatter the German line by cutting off the German right wing, commanded by General von Kluk. The French are driving from the west, while the British are striking up from the southeast.

The fighting at this point on the 120-mile front is deadly to both sides. The British attack on the German right wing centres around to the north of Soissons. No details have been received as to the fighting along the allies' centre and right flank.

It is reported from the front that the British army has been successful in its flank movement and that Von Kluk's army is practically surrounded. General von Kluk was reported today withdrawing his lines closer to those of General von Buelow, which were in turn drawing in on the main German centre. This movement followed the attempt of the allies to flank the German right, perilously extended west of Noyon.

The losses of the allies have been far heavier in the last two days than at any other period of the war. The German counter assaults have been determined and have required frequent use of the bayonet in checking them. But it has been in the general assaults that the French have lost heaviest.

The German artillery fire continues particularly deadly. Their batteries, masked in the hills which for the most part constitute their new positions, are served with the utmost precision, while their rapid firers, mounted on automobiles, simply mow down the French who attempt to carry the German lines by storm.

It is evident that the Germans have massed all their available strength along the battle line to hold back the pursuit of the allies. The battle front is about the same as it was yesterday. It extends from a point near Noyon across the plains to the north of Vic-sur-Aisne, near Soissons and Laon, and thence over the heights north and northwest of Rheims; thence to the north of Ville-sur-Tourbe and from there through Verennes in the northern part of the Argonne region to Meuse, north of Verdun.

The position held by the Germans around Laon is particularly strong. They have heavy artillery and troops massed on a hill which rises above a big area of marshy ground. The allies are compelled to cross this marsh land before they can attempt to dislodge the Germans by storm.

General Gallien, the Military Governor of Paris, declared that dispatches to the military authorities here from the front show that the allies have been gaining ground since the fight opened, although slowly. "The Germans have been compelled to yield under the pressure of the French and British, despite their reinforcements," said General Gallien. "We feel sure that the Germans will again be in rapid retirement before the end of the present week. The invaders fell back to a good position, but their strength and the power of their big guns will be as naught before the glorious bravery and dash of our men. The artillery duel which is going on is one of the mightiest known to warfare, with guns of tremendous power used on both sides. We have been fortunate in silencing a number of German batteries that commanded formidable points on the Aisne."

The great battle front is admitted by the French military authorities to give the Germans an advantage, if they have a sufficient supply of ammunition and their men are not too exhausted to hold it. The line of the German