

TEUTONS SEEK PEACE IN NEW VIENNA OFFER

Agree to "No Annexations and No Indemnities"

CZERNIN SUBMITS PROFFER TO SLAVS

Proposal Understood to Have Indorsement of Kaiser

U. S. DEMAND IGNORED

Elimination of Hohenzollernism Essential Element, Washington Declares

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 27.

The Central Powers are willing to make an immediate peace on the basis of "no annexations and no indemnities," according to an official statement received from Vienna, via Berlin, today. All that is asked is that other belligerents pledge the same policies.

The proffer of such a general peace was made in the formal reply to the Russian peace overtures.

According to information received here, the peace proffer which was submitted by Count Czernin to the Brest-Litovsk conference has the indorsement of the Kaiser and the Emperor of Austria.

The belief is held in neutral diplomatic circles that the Austrian Minister was virtually making a peace offer to the Allies and that this remarks did not refer specifically to the terms of a separate peace with Russia.

The peace conferences between Russian and German delegates were resumed today, according to Berlin dispatches received here. Previous reports had indicated a postponement of the meetings.

The Central Powers' delegates to the Brest-Litovsk conference formally assert that their nations "believe the principles of the Russian proposals form the basis of peace."

The reply likewise joins with the Russian condemnation of a continuation of the war with the sole object of "conquest."

The delegates solemnly declare their willingness immediately to sign a peace ending the war on the condition of "no annexations and no indemnities." They demand in return, however, that all nations participating in the war accept these same principles. A guarantee to this effect will be necessary, it was stated.

Regarding the Russian proposal that a vote of the people in the Central Powers would be necessary to determine the destiny of certain national groups, the reply asserted that this "was not a question to be settled internationally, but one which concerns the country to which such groups may belong."

"It must be settled independently and constitutionally in every State by its people," the reply asserted.

CAPITAL SEES GERMAN GAME IN PEACE TALK

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. From certain neutral legations and various unofficial quarters today there filtered peace suggestions. All were elaborately worded declarations of "peace with no indemnities and no forcible annexations" made by the Austrian Premier, Count Czernin, to the Russian peace conference at Brest-Litovsk. No one proffered to carry anything of an official character.

The State Department maintained its attitude of refusing to discuss the subject in any way. Secretary Lansing made it plain that he was without any official knowledge whatever that Count Czernin had made any such statement as was credited to him. The various propositions which were wandering through official and diplomatic circles here were wholly without confirmation. Such outlines as filtered into the State Department from the unofficial sources were quickly recognized as full of loop holes and catch phrases, designed, if they really did emanate from Berlin, principally to hoodwink the Russians.

Officials were reluctant to discuss the reported moves. They were anxious to avoid appearing to refuse to consider a matter of such tremendous importance, but they were nevertheless firm in their belief that all the peace talk now circulating is only a continuation of the usual German game.

UKRAINIANS CAPTURE 3 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

PETROGRAD, Dec. 27. The Ukrainian Rada today announced capture of the Rumanian front staff headquarters at...

CHEMICAL BURNS CARPENTER

Quick Leap Saves Life of Man Affected at Fertilizer Plant

George Stoopa, a carpenter, of 608 North Fifth street, is in the Methodist Hospital undergoing treatment for burns by salamoniac, used in preparing fertilizer at the plant of Baugh, Son & Co., Morris street.

GERMAN AIR RAID ON U. S. CAMP FAILS

Enemy Aviators Beaten Off in Attempt to Bomb Sammees

VIGILANT FLIERS DETECT ENEMY

Quick to Give Battle in Sky to Hun Assaultants

TROOPS REMAIN CALM

Interruption of Their Supper Only Damage Done by Incident

By NEWTON C. PARKE WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Dec. 27.

German airmen tried to bomb the American camp last night, but were driven away before they reached their destination.

This was the first time that the Germans have made an air attack upon the Americans in France.

The Germans approached the camp in the darkness of early evening, but were detected by the vigilant patrols. The guarding aviators were swift to give battle, and the Germans had to retire before their attacks.

The men accepted the incident with the calmness of veterans.

"This is a belated Christmas gift from the Kaiser," declared one. The only damage done was to the feelings of the doughboys, who suddenly found all lights shut off while they were eating their supper. Eating in the lily darkness was difficult, but some of them went on as though nothing had happened.

A heavy snowfall had been succeeded by a bright moon, which made an ideal night for an air raid. The Germans were not slow to take advantage of the opportunity. A bugle call suddenly rang out sharply on the frosty night air, giving warning that danger was approaching in their eyes downward.

The men did not show any fear, but there was a whole lot of curiosity exhibited. Some of them emerged from the barracks with their eyes fixed on the puffed intently skyward in an effort to get a glimpse of the hostile visitors.

Across the snow machine-guns were scouring to their positions, prepared to give the visitors a hot reception.

"I'd like to get a slant at Fritz," exclaimed one raw-boned doughboy who was straining his eyes downward.

The attempted raid marked the end of the Christmas holiday festivities, during which thousands of bags of mail from home had been distributed to the Americans.

Truck Hits Fire Chief's Auto

John Crucini, driver of a motortruck belonging to the Will-Jones Dairy Company, was held under \$500 bail this morning for his part in a collision with Battalion Chief Frederick L. Bunting, of the Fire Department, this morning at Dauphin street and German town avenue. Considerable damage was done to the chief's roadster.

SURVEY OF CITY FOOD ORDERED

Wholesale Grocers' Sales Company Strikes Blow at Profiteering

INVENTORY OF SUPPLIES

A comprehensive survey and inventory of all food in Philadelphia for the benefit of the Department of Agriculture and the nation was outlined this afternoon at a meeting of the Wholesale Grocers' Sales Company of Philadelphia, comprising twenty-four great wholesale grocery houses, with Special Agent Kersey, of the Department of Agriculture. The entire organization of the sales company and the organizations of the twenty-four grocery houses, including all their salesmen, will co-operate with the Government in the end that the exact food situation in Philadelphia may be learned.

With this information in hand the nation will be able to deal with the food problem of the war both here and in Europe as intelligently and effectively as a great private business corporation such as the Standard Oil Company, like surveys will be made throughout the United States.

The other important aspect of the food situation today is seen in reports that unscrupulous fish dealers are victimizing consumers by selling to them cheap fish under the names of high-priced fish. Huge prices, compared with actual value, are being obtained for whiting, for instance, which costs the dealer five to six cents a pound. The fish is represented as silver trout or snapper mackerel to obtain twenty and twenty-five cents a pound.

The grocers' meeting was held this afternoon in Room 509, Bourse Building. With a view to ascertaining as nearly as possible the exact amount of food that there is in the country the Department of Agriculture has sent out to every retail grocer a set of blank propounding questions as to their stocks of goods, the answers to which show how much of all kinds of food products they have on hand. As the salesman of the wholesale grocer is in more direct personal touch with the retailer than any Government official could possibly be, it was felt that he was in a position to



RAYMOND T. BAKER, Director of the Mint of Nevada, who is slated for the appointment as United States Senator, to succeed the late Senator Francis G. Newlands.

PICK "DESERT RAT" FOR U. S. SENATOR

Selection of Raymond T. Baker for Nevada Vacancy Caps Varied Career

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.

The appointment of Raymond T. Baker, of Nevada, director of the Mint, to be a United States Senator, succeeding the late Senator Francis G. Newlands, which now seems assured, will add another incident to the long list of cases in which Americans have won high places after strange vicissitudes.

From the position of "desert rat" of the western silver country to that of a Senator will be the jump. If Governor Boyle, of Nevada, appoints Mr. Baker, as is now planned.

Ray Baker for many weary years tramped the Nevada deserts with prospector's pick and shovel in search of silver and gold. He won and lost many fortunes and became the sort of a figure which carries the lead in a six-week western movie show to perfection.

Later he was appointed warden of Reno Penitentiary, introducing many reforms. At times when he was flush with gold due he circled the world and is known to many European courts; when he lost his fortunes he went back to the desert. His appointment as director of the Mint placed him in the position of banking the nation's money.

He was chairman of the National Board of Historical Service, sponsored by the association, has been reorganized by Dr. Evans E. Greene as chairman. Professor Dana C. Munro as vice chairman. The board will provide lectures which will explain to the men in contentions the historical background and the origins of the war.

Other speakers at the morning session were Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, of Washington, D. C.; Professor Frederick J. Turner, of Columbia University; and Professor Herbert H. Bolton, of the University of California. An announcement received by the convention with deep regret was the retirement of Dr. Charles W. Hodder, who has been treasurer of the American Historical Association since its foundation, thirty-three years ago.

A feature of the noonday luncheon was the reading of the address by F. H. Smith, of the University of Pennsylvania, at which Provost Edward

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SUGGESTS THREE WHEATLESS DAYS

Historical Association Speaker Would Triple Weekly Abstinence

APPEALS TO PATRIOTISM

Scientists of Nation Hold Meetings to Discuss Conservation of Energy

Three wheatless days a week instead of merely one should be observed by the people of this nation if they do their full patriotic duty. This, the opinion of one of the 300 scientists at the three-day convention of a dozen scientific associations which opened in this city today, is an example of the spirit of patriotism underlying the sessions of the learned bodies.

The man who advanced the plea for three "wheatless" days weekly in Professor Louis B. Schmitt, of Iowa State College, who addressed the morning session of the American Historical Association in the Bellevue-Stratford on the influence exerted by wheat and cotton on Anglo-American relations during the Civil War. In an interesting paper he advised that the American people must influence European diplomacy.

North-controlled wheat in the Civil War was the most powerful factor in preventing Great Britain from recognizing the Confederacy. Although the Confederacy controlled the cotton supply, it was proved definitely at that time that wheat was a more powerful factor than cotton. The great duty of the Mississippi Valley is to produce wheat, and what ever may be said, the West is standing solidly behind the administration.

Mr. Hoover, an Iowa, is doing splendid work, but he must put even more rigorous regulations into effect. He will find us all supporting him.

There is no way in which we can estimate the present wheat supply of Germany accurately, although, I believe the reports of the amount of grain obtained from Rumania have been greatly exaggerated.

It was brought out at the session that the National Board of Historical Service, sponsored by the association, has been reorganized by Dr. Evans E. Greene as chairman. Professor Dana C. Munro as vice chairman. The board will provide lectures which will explain to the men in contentions the historical background and the origins of the war.

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COLD TO CONTINUE, FORECASTER ASSERTS

Temperature of 15 Degrees May Be Expected at Midnight—Skating Still Good

Continued fair and cold weather is the promise for Philadelphia today and tomorrow. From a temperature of 24 degrees at 3 o'clock, the mercury is expected to rise only a degree higher, several degrees below yesterday's temperature. The local forecaster said that temperature of 22 degrees may be expected after midnight, one point lower than the mercury hit early this morning, registering 16 1/2 degrees at 5 o'clock.

Skating continues on all the lakes in Fairmount Park, on Hunting Park Lake and on the Wissinickon Creek. The ice is in good condition.

ITALIANS ROUT ENEMY BY RUSE

White Uniforms Against Snow Background Deadly Xmas Day Camouflage

ROME, Dec. 27. Eight of twenty-five enemy airplanes which attempted to bomb the aviation camp at Treviso were brought down, the War Office announced today. The remaining machines were driven off. In a later attack three additional enemy machines were forced to descend, the statement said. All Italian machines returned safely.

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS, Dec. 27.—Clad in white uniforms, invisible against the background of snow, Italian troops attacked and routed a body of Austrians ten times their number on a Christmas day surprise, east of Montegrappa. It was announced today.

The Italians, resembling a band of Perrots, swooped down upon the Austrian positions scattering defenders of the mountainside. The Austrians were quite unprepared, apparently enjoying a Christmas day rest.

Although the Italians have been compelled to give up two more fortified heights to the Austro-German invaders, a mountain wall five miles wide still separates the Teutons from the northern border of the rich Venetian plain.

Advices from Rome today admitted that the Italians had abandoned Col del Hozo and Monte Valbella in the face of advance Austro-German attacks, but they fell back to previously fortified positions of great strength.

The Austro-German attacks directed personally by Field Marshal Baron Conrad von Hotzendorff, the Austrian chief-of-staff, were carried out by a tremendous force of troops, supported by vast concentrations of artillery.

The invaders are driving down the Brenta Valley in the direction of Carpiano, but their ultimate objective is Bassano, at the foot of the Venetian Alps.

NATION'S COAL SUPPLY GOES ON WAR BASIS

Garfield's Action Puts Future Contracts Under Government Control

PRESIDENT TO FIX PRICE

Strict Limitation Placed Upon All Deliveries of Fuel in 1918

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. Fuel Administrator Garfield today placed the nation's coal supply on a war basis. Terms of all future contracts have been made subject to cancellation either by the President or the fuel administrator. Strict limitations are placed on all contracts for coal delivery in 1918.

No contracts hereafter can call for delivery of either coal or coke over a period longer than one year. Prices fixed by the President and the fuel administrator shall govern in all cases, and coal contracted for shall at all times be subject to requisition or diversion by the Government.

Garfield stated that by this method of rigid supervision over operators' contracts the Government will be insured against a recurrence of present conditions, under which no "free" coal had been available for distribution by the President's fixed prices. New contracts also will enable large coal companies to make arrangements in advance, at least tentatively, for the regular delivery of their coal supply. Field delivered that he would not approve contracts if they involve railroad cross-hauling of coal, except in the case of gas coal, or coal to be used for by-product purposes.

It is predicted that this will remove one of the transportation difficulties now confronting the fuel administrator, and will make possible the movement of coal from mine to consumer by the shortest possible routes. They were rapidly maturing today to establishing a system of distribution throughout the country, under which the output of a certain coal field will be assigned generally to a particular administrative territory. Under this system the producing field and its consuming territory will be connected by the shortest transportation distances, thereby tending to eliminate all cross-hauling of coal on its way to market and greatly relieve the congestion of traffic.

TROLLEY HITS POLE, TWO MEN INJURED

Suffer Broken Legs and Knave When P. R. T. Emergency Car Jumps Track

Elmer C. Smith, fifty-four years old, of 1145 Rising Sun avenue, suffered a fractured left knee cap and Charles Frank, thirty-nine years old, of East Washington, compound fractures of both legs, a fractured ankle and severe lacerations of the head early this morning when an emergency car of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, which they were riding jumped the track and tumbled into a deep well of the Washington avenue south of Wells avenue.

Both men are employees of the transit authority, but were on duty at the time. They were riding on its way to replace a car that had gone off the track. The car was badly damaged by the collision with the pole.

CITY FUEL CHIEF WILL NOT CONFER

Refuses Interview on Proposed Fifty-Cent Raise in Coal Prices

DEALER IS ARRESTED

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. Spectacular advances were recorded by railroad stocks at the opening of the New York Stock Exchange today as a result of President Wilson's action in taking over control of the railways. 529 stocks of the nation, with assurance of ten cents earnings equal to the average of the last three years. It was a sorry day for the bears, who had been in a lullant mood all day yesterday when they expected to reap harvests with the idea that there could be no such quick change in the market, and they scrambled to cover in wild confusion.

At the same time buying orders poured into Wall street from all parts of the country, with no supply to meet the increasing demand. There was also the increasing demand, and brokers crawled on each other's shoulders to reach the market, only to find themselves unable to have stocks to sell. There was also a hurried scramble for other stocks, while the market showed advances ranging from 1/4 to 1 1/2 points.

Delaware and Hudson opened 3 points up at 100, and on the next sale jumped to 106. St. Paul preferred made a gain of 1 1/2 points to 41 on the new transaction. New York Central advanced 8 1/2 to 72. St. Paul common rose 1 1/2 to 49. Baltimore and Ohio opened up 1 1/4 points at 45, followed by a sharp rise.

Southern Pacific made an opening gain of 6 1/2 points to 84. Atchafon 10 points to 68. Union Pacific 7 1/2 to 112. Chesapeake and Ohio 4 1/2 to 47. Lehigh Valley 6 1/2 to 49. and Northern Pacific opened more than 9 points higher at 85. These advances were followed by violent recessions of 2 to 6 points, but generally the market held at advances of 8 to 15 points.

In the dividend-paying rails at the end of the year, it is expected that the market will be a little more active. It is a letter from one gentleman to another, not a matter of interest to the newspapers.

M'ADOO TO CLEAR RAILS; GIVE WAR RIGHT OF WAY

WILSON'S RAILROAD EDICT TOLD IN SHORT SENTENCES

1. Congress has declared a state of war between the United States and the German and Austro-Hungarian Governments.
2. It has now become necessary in the national defense to take possession and assume control of certain systems of transportation.
3. Therefore I, Woodrow Wilson, take possession at 12 o'clock noon on the twenty-eighth day of December, 1917, of each and every system of transportation and the appurtenances thereof located wholly or in part within the limits of the United States.
4. William G. McAdoo is appointed director general of railroads.
5. Until and except as otherwise designated, present officers and directors shall continue to operate.
6. Nothing herein shall in any way impair the rights of stockholders, bondholders or creditors.

Efficiency Keynote Plans to Make Interests Second Purposes of Nation

Sweeping Economic Will Strip Traffic Nonessentials to Munitions Room

Congress and Country Agree New Program Should Solve Many Pressing Problems

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. Industrially America today virtually under Federal war control as a result of President Wilson's proclamation for Government operation of the railroads.

President Wilson and Secretary McAdoo conferred for some time, arranging final details for taking over the nation's railroads tomorrow. Afterward it was learned that McAdoo would devote virtually all of his time for the next three months to bringing the railroads up to the highest possible point of efficiency.

Questions of detail in the Treasury Department will be left to the assistant secretaries, Secretary McAdoo having divided most of the work among them in order to be free to solve the railroad problem.

Administration officials declared that they were highly pleased with the manner in which the country has accepted the action of the President in taking over the roads.

Congratulatory telegrams were pouring into the White House, while in the manner in which the railroad stocks responded to the general upward movement in the stock market showed that Wall street also was gratified. These were the undercurrents of criticism radicals making the point that the roads the benefit of wartime operations. However, the majority of leaders on both sides made it plain in their criticism that the President was wise and that the outcome would be far better national financial situation.

WAR BOARD IN SESSION The railroad war board, made up of railroad presidents, of which Paul W. Harrison, of the Southern, was chairman, was in session today. The members stated that they expected to be continued at least for the present, to act in an advisory position. Director McAdoo, Members of the board expressed themselves as well pleased with the action of the President. They said that they were certain that with the roads operating as a unit and the President wisely solved, the highest possible point of efficiency easily can be attained.

Members of the board and treasury department officials expressed their general plan for financing obligations would be necessary at present. They declared the majority of the roads could "stand on their own feet" and that the financial plans would be sufficient with Government backing. As for the weaker roads, they must of necessity benefit by the new plan.

A statement will be made by Secretary McAdoo later today concerning the policy which he will adopt in placing carriers under Government control. McAdoo is of the opinion that it is necessary to account for the railroads to the Government's policy.

Leaders of commercial enterprises working here for the Government, general officials and representatives of those who are in the railroad business, agreed that the nation is placed on a war footing under the central guidance of President Wilson and Secretary McAdoo is laying the foundation of the stupendous organization work.

Railroad officials here throughout the country returned him to the Treasury Department, where stocks, marking early gains on the Stock Exchange, merely reflect the "roads' confidence in the new order of affairs.

McADOO'S FIRST MOVE The first act of McAdoo, preliminary to actually starting operation of roads January 1, will be selection of a board of directors. This will include representatives of the railroads, Interstate Commerce Commission, priority board and other agencies engaged directly or indirectly in the operation of transportation work here, and the actual administration of the roads must be done, for the time at least, through existing agencies. Later, need for further co-ordination development McAdoo will alter his working agreement.

All industrial enterprises are under the President's order. Drastic actions to supply and accommodate those of their enterprises which are in work are expected.

Railroad employees stand behind Government. Questions of legislation to be introduced in the House to protect their interests from the war problems and other matters are expected.

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THE WEATHER FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity tonight, with lowest temperature 23 degrees; Friday, partly cloudy, somewhat warmer; gentle snow winds.

LENGTH OF DAY Sun rises... 7:51 a.m. Sun sets... 4:41 p.m. DELAWARE RIVER TIDE CHART High water... 12:32 p.m. High water... 1:25 a.m. Low water... 1:31 a.m. Low water... 1:25 a.m.

GERMAN COMMISSION TO GO TO PETROGRAD AMSTERDAM, Dec. 27.—The German commission provided for in the appendix in the Russo-German armistice will leave for Petrograd next Tuesday to negotiate an exchange of civilian war prisoners until for military purposes, according to Berlin dispatches today. The German delegates, who are headed by Count von Mirbach, former German Minister to Athens, will likewise seek re-establishment of Russo-German relations, according to Berlin's announcement.

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