

WILSON CURTLY SPURS AUSTRIA'S DESPERATE PLAN TO 'TALK' PEACE

President's Caustic 'No' Sounds Death Knell of Enemy Hopes... ANOTHER FORWARD STRIDE IN PROSPECT

President Wilson has bluntly, briefly but none the less emphatically refused to accept Austria's invitation to be a party to a round-table conference for the discussion of peace plans.

His brief 'No' must have burst upon Austria and simultaneously upon Germany with alarming effect, showing as it does in language too plain to be misconstrued or misunderstood that there will be no compromise, no dickering, no parleying with the enemy—that nothing short of absolute yielding to the President's terms will ever be acceptable to this country as the basis of peace negotiations.

President May Go Further While there is general approval here of the President's curt dismissal of Austria's request for a conference, there is also a feeling that so far as this country is concerned the President will soon have to go further and talk more as General March has talked recently, no doubt with Administration approval, and more as everyone here is now thinking.

It is a long time since President Wilson has discussed the war aims of the nation and in that time while it is not fair to say those aims have changed, it is proper to say that they have clarified and that there is a better perception of the methods by which they must be attained.

When Mr. Wilson spoke last, the Administration had great hopes of a diplomatic solution of the problem of the Central Powers and their relations to the world of the future. Mr. Wilson believed then that Austria could be trusted to readjust her own affairs so as to effect justice for her suspect races. The federalization of Austria was regarded as the way out of the tangle of Slavic and German races in the dual empire.

This new and clearer view has entered into the national consciousness for Mr. Wilson, it is a faithful exponent of public opinion, to refrain from expressing it. It is being forced upon his attention. A national campaign is on, which is an occasion when the real opinions of the country come to the surface.

The time when President Wilson shall say that he can and will win the war and win it quickly, counteracting the German plea that a military decision is impossible, and that nothing would have been done if Germany were to bring about the accomplishment of the larger ends the United States has in view, cannot, therefore, be far distant.

KAISER NERVOUS AND ILL, REPORT FROM ABROAD

London Hears Wild Rumor, Also That He Has Abdicated

The Kaiser has suffered a nervous breakdown and is very despondent, according to strongly persistent rumors.

DISTRICT PLANS NEW LOAN DRIVE FOR HALF BILLION

Workers in Convention Told Quota Will Double That of Third

Resolution of 150 Chairmen Indorses President's Refusal to Treat With Austria

WHAT THIS DISTRICT DID IN OTHER LOAN CAMPAIGNS

First Loan \$140,000,000... Second \$200,000,000... Third \$250,000,000... Fourth \$500,000,000

WAR MAY CLOSE TEXTILE PLANTS

Seventy-five Mills Likely to Suffer by Wool Diversion

PLENTY IN OTHER LANDS

Some of Philadelphia mills making woolen cloth, carpets and rugs are likely to close within the next few months, the withholding by the Government of wool from nonessential industries being the principal reason.

It is estimated that from fifty to seventy-five textile plants may be affected by the wool situation to such an extent that much of their machinery will be forced into idleness.

The dock and the area of shipyards and millstone plants are imposing a drain on the textile labor supply that is also complicating the situation, according to manufacturers.

One effect of the diverting of the wool supply will be a complete suspension of the manufacture of carpets and rugs by spring, it is predicted, Philadelphia normally makes about fifty per cent of the nation's carpet and rug production.

Some of the upholstery and carpet mills will be saved from idleness by Government contracts for canvas duck, which is made at a number of mills here and in other northern cities as well as getting the surplus contracts that southern mills, controlled by the so-called Duck Trust, cannot handle.

NAMED FOR LEGISLATURE

Philip Crockett, a Vore Follower, to Fill 25th District Vacancy

ALLIES ADVANCE MORE THAN FIVE MILES IN BALKANS

Revived Serbians, With French, Smash Bulgars' Defenses

3 CITY SOLDIERS DIE, 14 WOUNDED

5 Philadelphians on Official Casualty Lists—Many Unofficial Reports

TEN MORE PRISONERS

Roll of Honor of City and Vicinity for Today

LIEUTENANT R. J. PEGAR, on local address... PRIVATE EDWARD E. CADELL, 1637 North 22nd street

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Gen. Haig Congratulates Pershing on Big Victory

By the Associated Press London, Sept. 17.—Field Marshal Haig has issued a special order of the day for the information of British troops in France. It reads: "To General Pershing. Headquarters, American Expeditionary Force: All ranks of the British armies in France welcome with unbounded admiration and pleasure the victory which attended the initial offensive of the great American armies under your personal command."

FREED ST. MIHIEL RINGS JOY BELLS

Villagers Relieved of German Yoke Hang Out Faded Tricolor

MONEY TOLL EXACTED

By the Associated Press Paris, Sept. 17.—American troops have reached Vandieres, within a mile and a half of the German frontier. La Liberte announced today.

With the Americans on the Metz Front, Sept. 17.—Gradual progress of the American line at the right and left extremities continues as the Germans fall back toward the Metz defenses.

By the Associated Press With the American Army in Lorraine, Sept. 17.—Yesterday was the quietest day on this front since the beginning of the offensive last Thursday.

By the Associated Press The division that was used to bear the brunt of the attack in the lunge in the salient east of St. Mihiel, it appears, was the Thirty-fifth American Division. It was ordered to maintain a holding action until all the German troops were withdrawn.

By the Associated Press With the British Army in France, Sept. 17.—The advance of the British yesterday in Flanders was pressed along the Ypres-Menin road and carried the British to within a mile of Hooge. This operation represents an advance further north than recent operations in Flanders. Menin is eleven miles southeast of Ypres.

By the Associated Press London, Sept. 17.—The British lines have further closed in on St. Quentin from the northwest. Field Marshal Haig in his report today announced that the British had made progress in the direction of Le Verguer.

By the Associated Press NEWARK FIRE ENDANGERS MANY LIVES

LOOT HIDDEN IN THEATRE

Boy Dies From Bullet Wound Inflicted by Playmate

Continued on Page Six, Column Three

U. S. SOLDIERS PUSH TEUTONS TOWARD METZ

Americans Reach Vandieres, 1 1/2 Miles From Frontier of Germany

BOTH WINGS ADVANCE; ENEMY IS IN RETREAT

Foe Burns Moselle Towns, May Withdraw Behind Hindenburg Line

HAIG NEAR ST. QUENTIN

British Approach Hooge in New Flanders Plunge, Gain Above Lens

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