ITALY WILL STAND FIRM, SAYS PAGE

American Ambassador Believes Peace Offensive Will Have No Effect

HAVE SUFFERED MUCH

By the United Press

Rome, Sept. 23.—German newspaper reports that Italy and Austria were negotiating for peace were officially denied here today.

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Paris, Sept. 23.

Thomas Nelson Page, the American ambassador to Italy, is in Paris on his way to Rome, after five weeks' absence. I asked him what would be Italy's attitude toward the prolonged peace offensive, which everybody here thinks was only started by the recent Austrian note.

Mr. Page replied that Italy would stand firm with all the other Allies.

"My belief, based upon knowledge of the Italian people," he continued, "is that their action will be along the same lines as those of America, France and England. Being much nearer geographically to Vienna, the seat of this peace offensive, and having had to endure far greater economic hardships than any other people among the Allies throughout the war, and feeling at times somewhat isolated by reason of their geographichal position, it would not be outside the possibilities that the Italian people would be moved by the suggestion that peace might be brought about in terms acceptable to Italy and her allies, but I believe the virtue of the Italian people will resist whatever temptation may be held out to break their resolution.

"It is the feeling of isolation in Italy which is apparent at times that alone could cause concern. This feeling was immensely diminished by America's declaration of war on Austria, with the consequences which ensued on our sending the American flag into Italy. Far more than the military value of the contingent of American troops sent there was the fact that Italy felt their coming to be a guarantee of America's nearness to her.

"Italy feels that what she has done and accomplished in the war has not been wholly appreciated outside. She alone during the greater part of the time sustained the weight of the Austrian forces disposed along the mountain frontier laid down especially to hold Italy in subjection, and she has endured hardships of death and almost everything unsurpassed by any people in the war.

"The entrance of the United States into the war inspired her wonderfully, because she felt we comprehended what she had undergone. She undoubtedly looks to us to justify her conception of our sympathy with her.

"I believe that no offensive by the enemy, either of peace or war, will affect her."

DISCUSS DISPOSAL OF CAPTIVE TEUTONS

American - German Prisoner Conference at Berne to Consider Employment Here

By the United Press

Washington, Sept. 23.

Whether German prisoners taken by Americans in France shall be returned to this country for farm and other labor, will be among the problems settled by the American-German prisoner conference, convening today at Berne.

This conference will be followed by similar sessions with alternate delegates, if present plans carry.

The question of removing German prisoners to the United States has long been under discussion. It is pointed out that it takes no tonnage to supply them if they come here, while they can also be doing needed labor. Other matters to be considered are:

General treatment of prisoners, pay of officers, exchange of ill or wounded captives, supplying food to American prisoners in Germany.

The American conferees are headed by Minister Garrett, of the Netherlands, and included on the board is John W. Davis, newly appointed ambassador to England.

These delegates will make their arguments, as far as possible, along the lines of fair play. But if these arguments do not prevail, the Americans will be in a position to show Germany that the balance in number of prisoners is constanty against her, and that hence it behooves her to give the Americans proper treatment.

4,000,000-Ton Steel Shortage

Washington, Sept. 23.—Shortage of more than 4,000,000 tons of steel is shown by a report transmitted to the Senate by Chairman Baruch of the war industries board, in response to a Senate resolution.

British Armies Fight on Despite Storms

Continued from Page One

out of the wet earth, where countless trenches and shell craters are waterlogged there rises the ruins of this world of ours—the high, jagged walls of fallen houses, bits of churches, abbeys and monasteries with their stones washed white in the rain, masses of broken brick work from which the iron girders stick out, twisted fantastically where once there were villages of France; and here and there a pile of rubbish which was a mill or sugar factory or wayside shrine.

The wind howls through these ruins and the rain beats down upon them, and British soldiers wander through them with steel helmets lowered to the storm or crouch in the scanty shelter they can give. Horses and mules are stabled there in roofless rooms, and gun limbers are stacked in gardens, where flowers still grow in a wild chaos of sandbags and barbed wire and away over the desolate fields of thistles which cover some of the bitter of the infernal strife, long trains are moving, and their smoke trails across the sky or rises like the smoke of shell bursts.

They are marvelously near the fighting line, and within a week of the capture of another line of advance they come upon newly built tracks, making a 'Clapham' junction in the midst of the battlefields with branch lines and loop lines for the transport of ammunition and for Red Cross trains.

The light that pierces through the clouds reveals these slow-moving trains and the Red Cross flags of the field hospitals and long columns of motortrucks and transport wagons and gun limbers and mule teams, with little groups of men like ants on the distant skyline between the dead woods and ruins, while all around one and for scores of miles there are camps everywhere, like a mushroom growth of brown tents and horse lines and gun parks.

Scene Which Men Hate

This is the background of the war since the recent British advance, and the scene which the men hate sometimes with a sick hatred and in which at other times, because man is a queer, adaptable animal, they feel themselves at home with all this as their normal way of life, holding all the meaning of life till death comes.

The fighting Saturday was not all in favor of the British and they could not hold all the day's gains. This local setback was beyond Epehy, below Villers-Guislain, where some of the men of English county regiments had such fierce strife and such a hard time against the machine-gun fire of the German garrison four days ago. They were unable to get so far forward as the troops on their right and left in the advance of September 18, and Saturday morning they set out again, supported by those other troops, to gain more ground.

The enemy seems to have brought up four more divisions to strengthen his front hereabout and, although they were divisions which had suffered severely in the recent fighting, they were a big addition to the Alpine troops and other on this line. They were also stronger in guns at this point, and when the British attacked them the Germans concentrated the heaviest shrapnel fire on their assailants' advanced positions and lines.

In spite of the foul weather and bad ground, the men of the eastern counties and other battalions, with Londoners on the left and yeomen on the right, succeeded in struggling forward toward the Hindenburg outpost system and established posts at Guillemont farm, the Bird Cage and other positions in front of Epehy.

Bitter Fighting in Swamps

Until 10 o'clock they did not meet with strong resistance, and then the enemy launched a series of counter-attacks, sending parties of bombers and machine gunners down the old trenches, which gave them cover, while their guns pounded the British forward positions. There was close and bitter fighting all day of the old trench warfare kind, in dirty clothes and in swamps filled with barbed wire and among bits of ruins.

Owing to the enemy's gunfire, which increased in intensity, some of the British posts had to be abandoned on the right and center, and the men fell back to another line from which they organized for defense.

In their first attack they took 200 prisoners more than were reported earlier, and the London troops, with the yeomanry and others, showed the greatest gallantry in most trying conditions. At the end of the day they still held some of their gains, but, on the whole, the attack was not so successful as had been hoped, and no doubt some of the British troops had a very hard time.

It was only a minor action for straightening the line, and does not interfere with the general victory that was won September 18, nor does it encourage the enemy to believe that he will escape from the threat to his whole line but for the men engaged in it it was no easy day.

During the night and early Sunday morning determined efforts improved the British position a good deal, and by retaking Little Priel farm and other advanced posts the Tommies forced the enemy to yield the ground temporarily gained in counter-attacks.

U. S. Tests for Telegraph Operators

Examinations for telegraph operators, both men and women, will be opened on October 12 by the United States Civil Service Commission, 402 Postoffice Building. Applicants accepted will fill vacancies in the Ordnance Department.

PRESIDENT OF NORTH RUSSIA TELLS OF COUNTRY'S HOPES

First Step, Tschaikovsky Declares, Is Expulsion of Germans and Extermination of Bolshevism

Then by Force of Arms the Brest-Litovsk Treaty Will Be Destroyed—People With Government

Nicholas Tschaikovsky is one of the big figures in the Russian struggle for freedom in the last half century. He took part in the revolutionary movement of the early 70s, and has sometimes been called the "Father of the Russian Revolution."

By ARTHUR E. COPPING

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Archangel, Sept. 6 (Delayed).—"We do not call ourselves a ministry," said Nicholas Tchaikovsky today, "and take no such title as Premier. Our designation is Sovereign Government of the Northern Regions of Russia, and instead of Ministers we style ourselves merely Directors of the various departments of the administration. For instance, in addition to being President of the Government, am Director of Foreign Affairs."

We were in his private room, which opens into a spacious and lofty council had twenty chairs ranged about it. And had twenty chairs ranged about it. And one chair was raised and the ornate crimson table cover had a golden bor[illegible] and electric candelabra stood in [illegible] line of pens, inkpots and stationery, for let the Government be never so democratic little stately touches are [illegible] its setting.

Government Legal, He Says

Tchaikovsky's first concern was to vindicate the legal and authoritative position of his Government.

"We are all representatives," he explained, "of these Northern regions, having been duly elected by universal suffrage in September, 1917, to serve in the National Assembly, a constitutional body which, following upon its first and only meeting on January 5, 1918, was suppressed by the Bolsheviki.

"In addition to being the chosen spokesmen of the electorate, we represent the aspirations and enjoy the undivided support and confidence of the Union for the Regeneration of Russia, a powerful political combination, embracing besides the party of which I am a member, the Labor, Popular, Socialist, and all other progressive parties in the country. That union, which has its headquarters in Moscow, and of which I happen to be chairman, seeks as the principal items in its program to liberate the country from the Germans and to restore a United States of Great Russia. We are working here to that end."

Must Drive Out the Germans

So far the president, whose sixty-eight years have witness in his silver locks, had spoken with a mellow and measured urbanity to which his purple skull cap and the tumbler of tea before him seemed appropriate adjuncts, but in his next response the gray-haired veteran took fire. I had asked for a statement of the Government's program.

"The first and foremost plank in our platform," he cried with flashing eyes and an imperious wave of the arm, "is to drive the Germans away, knock out Bolshevism, and destroy the Brest-Litovsk treaty by force of arms.

"Because that is the first plank in our platform the first act of our Government was to urge the Allies to come over and help us—an appeal that happily was not made in vain. Then if you ask for the second item in our program, I would say—to open our arms to the Czecho-Slovaks and those working with them in Siberia, and to the Samara and Orenburg regional governments, for their aspirations are exactly the same as ours."

Referring to the local military enlistment, as now affected by his Government's adoption of conscription of men between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-six, I asked the President if he were satisfied with the results up to date.

"Yes," he replied, "the present position and prospects are all that I could wish."

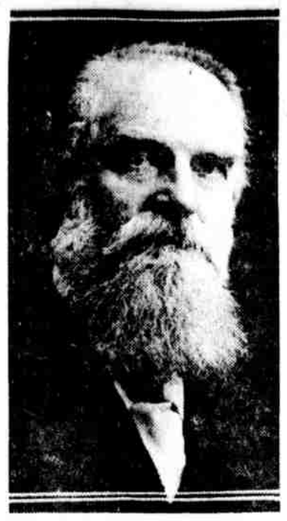
People Stand by Him

"And is your Government receiving the expected measure of popular support?"

Again the President readily replied in the affirmative, adding:

"Nine-tenths of the people of Northern Russia are on the side of our Government. In Central Russia, no doubt, a somewhat larger minority would be temporarily hostile. Our great strength lies in the peasantry. The persons either intoxicated by the Bolsheviki visions or contaminated by the Bolsheviki methods are to be found mainly among the urban working classes, but the overwhelming majority of the country are in our favor. They are anxious to undo the harm done by Bolshevism.

"They want to see local self-government restored. They are alive to the necessity of re-establishing industry, commerce and banking. They realize that Bolshevism has paralyzed production and destroyed trade, and that such a state of things, if suffered to continue, could result only in decay and death to both individual and nation."



NICHOLAS TSCHAIKOVSKY

JUGO-SLAVS BACK BALKAN R. R. PLAN

"Bordeaux to Belgrade" as a Block to Berlin-to-Bagdad Plan

By the United Press

Washington, Sept. 23.

Development of a Bordeaux-to-Belgrade railroad to give the Allies a land route to Constantinople is being urged by Entente diplomats as a step to block any Berlin-to-Bagdad scheme.

Such a rail route would dominate the Balkans and give the Allies both military and commercial advantages, diplomats say.

Special study of this project has been made by Dr. H. Hinkovich, heading the Jugo-Slav national council in the United States, who, with other representatives of oppressed nations, laid their plans for liberation before President Wilson.

"The Allies should maintain a road into the heart of the Balkans which would dominate land routes to Salonica and Constantinople and act as a foil of the Berlin-to-Bagdad path," Doctor Hinkovich said today.

"Railroads are now constructed over the entire route from Western Europe to the Balkans, though in southern Austrian provinces and Serbia they are temporarily held by the enemy. The roads from Bordeaux, Brest and the channel ports in France converge in the Alps, where they cross into Italy and then into the Austrian provinces of Carniola, Croatia and Slavonia. The road touches Trieste, the important Adriatic port. It enters Serbia at Belgrade and connects with the only rail route to Constantinople."

International control—under a League of Nations if one is created after the war—is considered necessary to enable the Allies to reap fullest benefits from the project.

Nine Piers Completed at Hog Island Plant

Continued from Page One

tions, many miles of splendid roadways, good street railway service, adequate power facilities for present and future needs—a mighty industrial city in itself. As a terminal it has a tremendous advantage over other Atlantic ports in having a depth of thirty-five feet of water—and fresh water at that, so much desired to rid ships' hulls of barnacles when they come into port, as compared to salt water elsewhere.

"Yet I doubt that Philadelphians realize the significance of all these things. I doubt that they have heeded opportunity knocking at the door. I have made Philadelphia my home since last February. I have found it a delightful place in which to live, and I have met many splendid people. But some times I have been impressed with the thought that Philadelphia, like Charleston, S. C., is, in the minds of its own people, one of the few 'completed' cities of the world. They seem to think that there is nothing left to be done. I have been astonished to find even among your business men a willingness to write 'finis' after 'Philadelphia.'

Urges Civic Expansion

"Such complacency will never push any city forward to the limits of its greatness. There must be an awakening, or Philadelphia will lose the greatest opportunity that ever fell to the lot of an American municipality. They tell me that a 'Greater Philadelphia Committee' was organized here some time ago. Has it, too, contracted Spanish influenza? What is it doing? What are your Chamber of Commerce, your Board of Trade, your Bourse, and all your numerous other business men's organizations going to do about world trade after the war?

"The time is at hand! The opportunity is here, right now! After a while, your young men and some of your older business men are coming back from the war, coming back with broader vision and a better grasp of the meaning of America, coming back aflame with ambition and energy! Places must be made for them, and a field provided for the fulfillment of their vision. Will you welcome them back with a stagnated business and a stifled foreign trade, and ask them to make your commercial fight as they are making your fight for life in the trenches? It is unthinkable! Inject into the business life of the city the same sort of good old Yankee 'pep' that makes the Germans yell 'Kamerad,' and you can make Philadelphia a trade name known in every port in the world!

"Previous to the war, the American International Corporation saw the necessity for an ocean rail terminal on the Atlantic coast. It organized a terminal company, and came to the conclusion that How Island provided the best site on the whole seaboard for such a terminal. That is why, when our contract was made with the Government, this site was chosen. In constructing Hog Island, we had in view not only the shipyard, but also a plan to make there something of permanent value to the interests of the nation. Out of this plan has grown, not only thhe greatest shipyard in the world, but also the best ocean rail terminal in the country.

American Greatness Just Beginning

"The United States has barely started on its career of greatness. Its wealth totals $250,000,000,000, more than the total wealth of Great Britain, France, and Germany combined. It is the financial giant of the world, the banker of the globe. In 1914, Great Britain had twenty million tons of shipping. The American trade flag was scarcely known on the seas. Today we are distancing Great Britain in the building of ships, and if we go on as we are now, speeding up production as we have done, by the end of 1920 we ought to have more ship tonnage than Great Britain.

"If such legislation is repealed as should be repealed, and such legislation enacted as should be enacted to enable this country to operate these ships in competition with the ships of the rest of the globe, we can have the merchant marine of the world.

EDGE LIKELY VICTOR AT JERSEY PRIMARY

Climax Tomorrow in Three-Cornered Battle for Republican Senatorial Nomination

TUMULTY'S HAND SEEN

Special Dispatch to the Evening Public Ledger

Trenton, Sept. 23.—Tomorrow's primaries in New Jersey will see settled one of the most interesting and at the same time one of the most bitter political fights ever staged in New Jersey. This is a three-cornered battle for the Republican nomination for United States Senator, with Governor Walter E. Edge, of Atlantic City, George D. Record, of Jersey City, and Representative Edward W. Gray, of Newark, as the participants. The chances all favor the selection of Edge for the nomination.

On the Democratic side there are more contestants but thte fight is not so bitter as in the Republican camp. Former State Banking and Insurance Commissioner George M. LaMonte, of Bound Brook, probably leads the field and it is expected that he will receive the Democratic nomination to oppose Edge at the general election. The other Democratic contestants for the nomination are former State Senator Charles O'Connor Hennessy, of Hackensack, Assemblyman Alexander Simpson, of Jersey City, and Frank M. McDermit, of Newark.

Bitterness has been injected into the Republican contest by Gray's attacks on Edge. Gray has accused Edge of having shielded the New Jersey Heavy Artillery regiment from the draft and this has been followed by a threat by Adjutant General Glikyson of summary action against Gray if he impugns the draft system of the State. Gray will likely poll his heaviest vote in Essex and Hudson, where the followers of Colonel Austen Colgate are the strongest. Colgate was a candidate for the nomination but withdrew some time ago, stating he was getting out of the race in the interest of party harmony but in the same statement he delivered a broadside at Edge, accusing him of building up a machine to bring about his own nomination to the United States Senate.

Edge Wins Many Friends

On the other hand, Edge has the prestige of the gubernatorial office and has won many friends during his two years in office. Of course, as might be expected, he has made some political enemies, but the situation at present is much in his favor. His campaign has been conducted mostly through the press. He has not taken the stump except to speak at several meetings of farmers and at State events, and has taken the position that the present is no time for political stumping. He has been at the head of the war program in the State and has been active in promoting State war activities.

That Governor Edge and his supporters regard Gray as the pawn of the national Democratic party in its attempts to dictate the result of the Republicanprimary was clearly indicated by a statement made by Francis F. Crossdale, private secretary to the Governor, with the latter's authorization. A letter written by Joseph P. Tumulty, secretary to the President, to T. M. Hansberry, a Newark supporter of Gray, to the effect that the White House had "a high opinion" of Gray is sharply criticized in the statement of Crossdale, who says:

"I have heard insistent reports, since Mr. Gray entered the campaign, that he represented the hope of the Democratic party to so scatter the votes among the three Republican candidates, Edge, Record and Gray, as to make possible the nomination of Record, who represents only the ultra radical faction, and thus give the Democrats a chance for success at the November election.

"It is easy to appreciate the fact that some such camouflaged indorsement of Tumulty Democrats was imperatively necessary in view of the splendid record of Governor Edge. The Republicans of New Jersey will do their own nominating."

On the Democratic side the principal fight is apparently being made by Hennessy, although LaMonte has the indorsement of many of the State leaders. It was planned to have President Wilson indorse LaMonte, but the President, in a reply to a letter from Hennessy asking if he was for any particular Democratic candidate in the race, said that the conditions in New Jersey did not warrant his interference.

State Senatorial Contest

Republican State senatorial contests are to be settled tomorrow in Burlington County where ex-Senator Blanchard White is opposing Senator Harold B. Wells; in Cape May between Senator Lewis T. Stevens and William H. Bright; in Morris between Jacob J. Vreeland and Arthur Whitney, and in Passaic between Albin Smith and ex-Assemblyman James G. Blauvelt. There are Democratic senatorial contests in Hunterdon between Senator George F. Martens, Jr., and Rev. Henry J. Iobst, a former Assemblyman; in Middlesex between Thomas Brown and Arthur A. Quinn, a labor leader and in Sussex between Henry T. Kays and Levi H. Morris.

The fight between Senator Wells and ex-Senator Blanchard White for the State senatorial nomination hinges largely on the prohibition issue. Wells is accused by White's friends of posing as a prohibitionist while at the same time acting in a legal capacity for individual liquor dealers.

HOUSE ORDERS WHEAT INQUIRY

Will Probe Report That President Rejected $1.46 Suggestion

Washington, Sept. 23.—The House today ordered an investigation of the report that a wheat price of $1.46 a bushel was recommended to the President before he fixed the existing $2.20 price.

A resolution was adopted, after it was taken away from the House Agricultural Committee, calling upon the Agriculture Department to supply Congress with copies of the reports of the agricultural advisory board as well as the one submitted by Secretary Houston regarding the price of wheat.

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The Management begs to announce that on Monday will be the opening date of

THE LADIES' RESTAURANT—
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In the Ladies' Restaurant orchestral music at Luncheon, Dinner and Supper.

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Afternoon Tea will be served from 4 to 6. Music by the Saxophone Quintet.

Take this as a very cordial invitation, indeed, so that you may know the Ritz better.

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