

PRESIDENT WILSON ASKS PEACE TERMS

Believes Interchange of Views Would Clear Way For Conference.

THINKS PEACE MAY BE NEAR

Concord Of Nations Possible, He Thinks—Note Voices Hope Way May Be Found To End All Warfare.

President Wilson amazed official and diplomatic Washington by the publication of an almost identical message sent to all the belligerent nations in Europe, in which he asks them to state concretely their aims in the present war, in order that some possible basis may be found for the restoration of peace.

"Now I am perfectly convinced we will have a conference," said Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, when he learned of President Wilson's message.

The President, however, did not propose peace; he is not even offering mediation. He says in his message that he "is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn—the neutral nations as well as the belligerents—how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs, with an intense and increasing longing."

Washington.—The following communication has been sent by Secretary Lansing to the American diplomatic representatives accredited to the governments of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. A communication practically identical in phrasing has been sent to the American diplomatic representatives accredited to the governments of Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, Belgium, Montenegro, Portugal, Roumania and Serbia. Copies of both communications have been sent to all neutral nations for their information:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, Dec. 18, 1916.

The President directs me to send you the following communication to be presented immediately to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government to which you are accredited:

The President of the United States has instructed me to suggest to the Imperial German Government a course of action with regard to the present war which he hopes that the Imperial Government will take under consideration as suggested in the most friendly spirit and as coming not only from a friend but also as coming from the representative of a neutral nation whose interests have been most seriously affected by the war and whose concern for its early conclusion arises out of a manifest necessity to determine how best to safeguard those interests if the war is to continue.

The suggestion which I am instructed to make to the President is long and it is in my mind to offer, he is somewhat embarrassed to offer it at this particular time because it may now seem to have been prompted by a desire to play a part in connection with the recent overtures of the Central Powers. It has in fact been in no way suggested by them in its origin, and the President would have delayed offering it until those overtures had been independently answered, but for the fact that it also concerns the question of peace and may best be considered in connection with other proposals which have the same end in view. The President can only beg that his suggestion be considered entirely on its own merits and as if it had been made in other circumstances.

The President suggests that an early occasion be sought to call out from all the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future as would make it possible frankly to compare them. He is indifferent as to the means taken to accomplish this. He would be happy himself to serve, or even to take the initiative in its accomplishment, in any way that might prove acceptable, but he has no desire to determine the method or the instrumentality. One way will be acceptable to him as another if only the great object he has in mind be attained.

He takes the liberty of calling attention to the fact that the objects which the statements of the belligerents on both sides have in mind in this war are virtually the same, as stated in general terms to their own people and to the world. Each side desires to make the rights and privileges of weak peoples and small states as secure against aggression or denial in the future as the rights and privileges of the great and powerful states now at war. Each wishes itself to be made secure in the future, along with all other nations and peoples, against the recurrence of wars like this, and against aggression of selfish interference of any kind. Each would be jealous of the formation of any more rival leagues to preserve an uncertain balance of power amidst multiplying suspicions; but each is ready to consider the formation of a league of nations to insure peace and justice

SENTENCED TO PLAY BALL.

Two Boys Charged With Stealing Told To Learn Fairness.

Decatur, Ill.—Two 16-year-old boys, arrested on a charge of stealing brass from the Wabash Railroad, were sentenced to play baseball by Judge J. H. McCoy. The judge gave the boys a lecture on honesty and fairness and asked them if they played baseball. Both admitted they did. "I sentence you to continue playing baseball," said Judge McCoy, "and learn well the lessons of fairness taught by the game."

throughout the world. Before that final step can be taken, however, each deems it necessary first to settle the issues of the present war upon terms which will certainly safeguard the independence, the territorial integrity and the political and commercial freedom of the nations involved.

In the measures to be taken to secure the future peace of the world the people and Government of the United States are as vitally and as directly interested as the governments now at war. Their interest, moreover, in the means to be adopted to relieve the smaller and weaker peoples of the world of the peril of wrong and violence is as quick and ardent as that of any other people or government. They stand ready, and even eager, to cooperate in the accomplishment of these ends, when the war is over, with every influence and resource at their command. But the war must first be concluded. The terms upon which it is to be concluded they are not at liberty to suggest; but the President does feel that it is his right and his duty to point out their intimate interest in its conclusion, lest it should presently be too late to accomplish the greater things which lie beyond its conclusion, lest the situation of neutral nations, now exceedingly hard to endure, be rendered altogether intolerable, and lest, more than all, an injury be done civilization itself which can never be atoned for or repaired.

The President therefore feels altogether justified in suggesting an immediate opportunity for a comparison of views as to the terms which should precede those ultimate arrangements for the peace of the world, which all desire and in which the neutral nations as well as those at war are ready to play their full responsible part. If the contest must continue to proceed toward undefined ends by slow attrition until the one group of belligerents or the other is exhausted, if millions after millions of human lives must continue to be offered up until on the one side or the other there are no more to offer, if resentments must be kindled that can never cool and despair engendered from which there can be no recovery, hopes of peace and of the willing consent of free peoples will be rendered vain and idle.

The life of the entire world has been profoundly affected. Every part of the great family of mankind has felt the burden and terror of this unprecedented contest of arms. No nation in the civilized world can be said in truth to stand outside its influence or to be safe against its disturbing effects. And yet the concrete objects for which it is being waged have never been definitely stated.

The leaders of the several belligerents have, as has been said, stated these objects in general terms. But, stated in general terms, they seem the same on both sides. Never yet have the authoritative spokesmen of either side avowed the precise objects which would, if attained, satisfy them and their people that the war had been fought out. The world has been left to conjecture what definitive results, what actual exchange of guarantees, what political or territorial changes or readjustments, what stage of military success even, would bring the war to an end.

It may be that peace is nearer than we know; that the terms which the belligerents on the one side and on the other would deem it necessary to insist upon are not so irreconcilable as some have feared; that an interchange of views would clear the way at least for conference and make the permanent concord of the nations a hope of the immediately practicable.

The President is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, the neutral nations with the belligerent, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing. He believes that the spirit in which he speaks and the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light into the affairs of the world.

LANSING.

RICHEST COUNTY IN U. S.

Potato Makes District Wealthy—Town Next To Brookline.

Houlton, Maine.—Aroostook county is the richest county in the United States. The northernmost county of Maine snatched the crown from Los Angeles county, California.

The humble potato did it. Potatoes that sold for 75 cents a barrel a few years ago now bring \$4.75 and farmers here are holding much of their crop for \$5 a barrel.

As a result of this unprecedented prosperity, Houlton is now the second richest town in the country, ranking next to Brookline, the richest in the world. Fifty carloads of automobiles not flippers, are on their way here. It is estimated that 100,000 is coming into the county daily from the potato crop alone.

SOLDIER'S VOTE DECIDES.

Kelley, On the Border, Determines Result in Cohoes.

Albany, N. Y.—The vote of George A. Kelley, the only citizen soldier from Cohoes on the Mexican border, decided an election result. William Murray, Democrat, and Samuel McGinn, Republican, each received 2,207 votes for the office of City Assessor. Kelley voted for Murray and the vote was canvassed. Murray was declared elected by a majority. The Kelley vote also destroyed the secrecy of the ballot.

WILSON MAY DRAFT BILL.

President Reported Ready To Act If Adamson Law Falls.

New York.—If the Adamson Eight Hour law is declared unconstitutional, President Wilson will draft another which will insure railroad workers an eight-hour day, Warren S. Stone, Grand Chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, said in an address here. "The President intends to see that we receive the eight-hour protection," said Stone.

WILSON ACTED TO GUARD U. S.

Secretary Lansing Explains Sending of Note.

NOT A "PEACE NOTE"

Feared U. S. Might Be Drawn Into War—Allied Diplomats Convinced Move Was Not To Aid Germany.

Washington.—On top of the sensation caused by the announcement that President Wilson had sent to all the nations at war a note calling upon them to state the terms upon which they would agree to make peace, Washington was stirred by a statement issued by Secretary Lansing which appeared to intimate that President Wilson was moved to this step by an imminent possibility that the United States itself would be drawn into the war.

Although Secretary Lansing later in the day, after conferring with President Wilson, issued a second statement, in which he said the impression generally drawn from his first one was incorrect, the statement remained the outstanding feature of the day's developments in connection with the President's peace move.

Lansing's Statement.

Secretary Lansing's first statement follows:

"The reasons for the sending of the note were as follows:

"It isn't our material interest we had in mind when the note was sent, but more and more our own rights are becoming involved by the belligerents on both sides, so that the situation is becoming increasingly critical.

"I mean by that, that we are drawing nearer the verge of war ourselves and therefore we are entitled to know exactly what each belligerent seeks in order that we may regulate our conduct in the future.

"No nation has been sounded. No consideration of the German overtures or of the speech of Lloyd-George was taken into account in the formulation of the document. The only thing the overtures did was to delay it a few days. Of course, the difficulties that face the President were that it might be construed as a movement toward peace and in aid of the German overtures. He specifically denies that that was the fact in the document itself."

Not a "Peace Note."

After issuing this statement the Secretary said:

"The sending of this note will indicate the possibility of our being forced into the war. That possibility ought to serve as a restraining and sobering force safeguarding American rights. It may also serve to force an earlier conclusion of the war. Neither the President nor myself regard this note as a peace note; it is merely an effort to get the belligerents to define the end for which they are fighting."

It was after his statement had been sent throughout the country and had been discussed generally in diplomatic circles and at the Capitol that Secretary Lansing was summoned to the White House for the conference, at the conclusion of which he issued the second statement, intended, he said, to correct the "wrong impression" made by the earlier one.

No Change in Policy.

The second statement follows: "I have learned from several quarters that a wrong impression was made by the statement which I made earlier in the day and I wish to correct that impression.

"My intention was to suggest the very direct and necessary interest which this country, as one of the neutral nations, has in the possible terms which the belligerents may have in mind, and I did not intend to intimate that the Government was considering any change in its policy of neutrality which it has consistently pursued in the face of constantly increasing difficulties.

"I regret that my words were open to any other construction, as I now realize that they were. I think that the whole tone and language of the note to the belligerents show the purpose without further comment on my part. It is needless to say that I am unreservedly in support of that purpose and hope to see it accomplished."

At the White House no comment whatever was made on the note itself nor on the two statements by Secretary Lansing.

The German Embassy gave no outward evidences of concern over the sudden developments.

U-BOAT BASE SEARCHED FOR.

French Suspect One In Waters Around Cuba.

Havana.—At the instance of the French Government, Cuban vessels began a careful search of the keys at the eastern end of the island for a suspected German submarine base. France, it was stated, has reason to suspect that the Germans have a base in the vicinity and the Cuban Minister to France was requested to ask his Government to make a search.

BAKER DEFENDS GUARD.

Says System Has Shown Remarkable Development.

Washington.—The existing National Guard system, as reorganized under the recent National Defense act, has shown remarkable development to date, Secretary of War Baker testified before the House Military Affairs Committee. In event of its ultimate failure, Secretary Baker favors "some system not voluntary—either universal service or selective conscription."



ENGLAND TURNS DOWN PEACE OFFER

Peace is Impossible Without Reparation.

DECLARES BRITISH PREMIER

Will Await Terms and Guarantees Surer Than Those Germany Broke, Says Premier—Urges the People To Make Greater Sacrifices.

London.—The announcement in the House of Commons by David Lloyd-George, the new prime minister, that the first act of his administration was the rejection of the proposal of the Central Powers for a peace conference constituted one of the most momentous scenes which the oldest parliamentary democracy had ever witnessed.

The offer of Germany and her Allies to discuss peace will amount to naught unless they submit to the Entente Allies their terms, and these must embrace nothing short of "complete restitution, full reparation and effectual guarantees for peace in the future."

Failure by the Teutonic Allies to give such a peace as is required will mean the utmost prosecution of the war.

David Lloyd-George, the new British prime minister, has so told the House of Commons, while in the House of Lords his words were re-echoed by Earl Curzon of Kedleston, member of the prime minister's war council.

The Prime Minister said the German Chancellor had made no proposal and that for Great Britain to enter upon peace discussions without knowledge of what Germany proposed to offer would be "to put our heads into a noose with the rope end in the hands of Germany."

Almost simultaneously with the announcement in the British Parliament the French Chamber of Deputies was told by Premier Briand that the Entente Allies would send a concerted reply to the Teutonic Allies that it was "impossible to take their request for peace seriously," while the Russian Council of the Empire adopted an "order of the day unanimously in favor of refusing to enter under present conditions into any peace negotiations with Germany."

U. S. SPENDS \$424,000,000.

First Five Months Of Fiscal Year Show Increase in Expenditures.

Washington.—For the first five months of the current fiscal year authorizations for the expenditures of money from the United States Treasury have exceeded on an average of more than \$20,000,000 a month those of the corresponding months of last year, according to the financial statement issued today.

This is exclusive of the allotment for the Panama Canal, which exceeds that of last year, to date, by nearly a million dollars.

Already in the present fiscal year pay warrants have been drawn for \$424,027,933.24, against \$321,823,559.61.

LANDSTHING APPROVES SALE.

Both Houses Of Danish Parliament Favor Deal In Islands.

Copenhagen.—Both houses of the Danish Parliament now have approved the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. The Landsting, or upper house, voted favorably upon the proposition, 40 to 19.

THANKFUL FOR PEACE MOVE.

American Neutral Conference Sends Message To Wilson.

New York.—The American Neutral Conference sent a telegram to President Wilson thanking him for his efforts in behalf of peace. The message is as follows: "We desire to express our deep gratification that you have spoken for America on behalf of peace, and voice the hope that your efforts will speedily bear fruit in the restoration of international comity."

TO FIX ARMOR-PLATE SITE.

Board Of Three Appointed To Select Big Plant's Location.

Washington.—Admiral Fletcher, Commander Frank H. Clark and Rubin B. Backinhaus, civil engineer of the Boston Navy Yard, were appointed by Secretary of the Navy Daniels as a board to select a site for the proposed Government armor-plate plant.

PAPER PROBLEM UNSOLVED.

Latest Step Of Trade Commission is Dismal Failure.

Washington.—The latest step of the Federal Trade Commission toward finding a solution of the news print paper shortage is falling dismally. Replies to the commission's question whether publishers would be willing to curtail their demands for the 1917 supply so far show a general disinclination, both among large and small consumers, to relinquish any of the paper they have ordered.

COUNTER PROPOSAL SENT TO CARRANZA

U. S. Will Not Modify Plan of Withdrawal.

RATIFICATION IS EXPECTED

Mexican Representatives Confident That At Resumption Of Sessions Other Details Of Broader Scope Will Be Discussed.

Philadelphia.—Secretary of Interior Lane and his colleagues on the Mexican-American joint commission placed upon General Carranza the responsibility of deciding whether the American government should continue its efforts to effect a satisfactory and amicable adjustment of the questions affecting the relations of the two countries and then adjourned until after the holidays. Through his representatives on the commission they sent to him a communication further explaining the position of the United States government and containing protestations that there exists no intention to violate the sovereignty of Mexico. It was made clear, however, that there can be no modification of the conditions on which the American troops will be withdrawn from Mexico and that the attitude of the government as outlined in the declaration of policy made by Secretary Lane when the protocol was signed at Atlantic City has not been altered.

A Terse Message.

The communication was terse, but studious care had been exercised to keep out of the document any phraseology that might give offense to the Mexican executive. It was not more than 450 words in length. It was handed to the Mexican representative in joint session, and transmitted by them almost immediately to Queretaro, where it is expected it will be given prompt consideration by General Carranza. It was cabled and a copy sent by mail.

The message of the Americans was in reply to that presented by the Mexicans when they reconvened here. The communication of the Mexicans was signed by Mr. Carranza, but his spokesman made it clear that it was an authorized statement of his attitude, and the reply given by the Americans is understood to have been addressed to the Mexican commissioners, although intended for their executive.

Neither the American nor the Mexican commissioners appeared pessimistic in their contemplation of the future. The Americans insisted that they had asked Carranza to sign nothing that would impair his dignity or that would be incompatible with the ideals of his government. The Mexicans appeared almost equally confident that ratification of the protocol would be withheld no longer and that shortly after the beginning of the new year they would be discussing with the American commissioners those questions in which both nations are interested and which are not covered in the brief agreement whose ratification is being awaited.

It was not decided where the commissioners would reconvene in the event Carranza approved the protocol, but it appeared almost certain that the future sessions would be in New York. It was believed by the Mexicans that they would receive from Carranza within a week or 10 days his answer and that the conference might be resumed not later than January 2.

Widow Gets \$94,000 Insurance.

Easton.—The largest amount of accident insurance ever paid in this section has been received by Mrs. C. C. Woods, whose husband was killed by a fall from a moving train early last summer. Mrs. Woods received \$94,000. The policy contained a special provision for compensation in case of death by falling from a train.

Saves Husband From Bull.

Highmount.—William D. Scott, a farmer, owes his life to his wife. Attacked by a bull, his wife rushed to the scene with a pitchfork and drove off the animal, but not before Mr. Scott was injured internally. It was the second time he had been attacked by the animal.

Masonic Temple Burns.

Jersey Shore.—The large Masonic Temple was destroyed by fire. The loss to the lodge and storekeepers occupying portions of the structure, is \$90,000, the heaviest fire damage in the borough's history. Two adjoining buildings were damaged.

Explosion Fatally Injures Miner.

Shamokin.—As Leo Prodor was bending over an unexploded charge of dynamite in a break at the Susquehanna Coal Company's Luken Pitler Colliery, a spark from his lamp fell on the explosive, which discharged fatally injuring him.

Killed By Fall Of Rock.

Mt. Carmel.—As William Pollock was conversing with other workmen at the Pennsylvania Colliery, operated by the Susquehanna Coal Company, he was killed by a fall of top rock.

KEYSTONE STATE IN SHORT ORDER

Latest Doings In Various Parts of the State.

PREPARED FOR QUICK READING

Honey Crop Jumps.

Harrisburg.—Pennsylvania's honey crop showed the biggest jump this year since the gathering of figures for that branch of agriculture began. FIGURES taken from every county indicate a production of honey close to a record. The average production for each colony of bees was fifty-four pounds. In 1915 it was thirty-four pounds. The State's honey crop is estimated to be worth over a million dollars.

Boy's Death Attributed To Hazing.

Washington.—As the result of alleged hazing, suffered at the hands of men employed in the Eclipse Mine at Roscoe, this county, Charles Otto, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Otto, who also worked in the mine as a trapper boy, is dead. Just before he died young Otto gave the authorities the names of three men who he said had abused him continually during the time he worked in the mine.

Ten Years For Trying To Wreck Flyer.

Allentown.—Pleading guilty to placing ties on the Lehigh Valley Transit Company's tracks in Washington Township in an effort to wreck the midnight limited, Elias Krause, of Hoffman's, was given a ten-year jail sentence by Judge C. A. Groman and ordered to pay \$1,000 fine. Krause harbored an imaginary grievance against the company because its trolley lines run close to his property.

Right To a Name Protected.

Harrisburg.—In an opinion given to Secretary of the Commonwealth Woods, Attorney General Brown decides questions of similarity of names of corporations applying for charters. It was contended by one company that the use of its name with addition of adjective would tend to confuse the public. The Attorney General says the Secretary would be justified in refusing a charter.

Annexation Plan Dropped.

Harrisburg.—Weary of the delay and parleying in City Council in regard to the annexation of Riverside, a thriving suburb just north of the city line, the petitioners for annexation withdrew their petition. The town will take steps to seek incorporation as a borough. Council hesitated on annexation because of the cost of making sewer connections with the city.

P. O. S. Of A Wins Money Suit.

Pottsville.—Court ordered the funds of Lincoln Hall Association, of Lavelle, amounting to \$2,760, turned over to the trustees of the P. O. S. of A. Camp at Lavelle. The camp alleged that it was prevented from controlling the association's affairs because the secretary refused to register on the books the stock in the association owned by the camp.

No Cash For City Hall Contractors.

Judge Bechtel granted a permanent injunction prohibiting Mayor Pierce Mortimer and City Councilmen George Jungkurth, Hiram Davies, Jacob Schoon and Dr. J. Owen Bearstler from paying any money to the contractors who recently remodeled City Hall, because the work was not advertised and bids secured. The Mayor and Councilmen were ordered to pay the costs.

Half Century At Shoemaker's Last.

Reading.—Samuel L. Kelm just has completed half a century in the shoemaker's trade, during which time, he made 804 pairs of new boots and 5,622 pairs of new shoes, not counting the repair of ten to twenty-five pairs of shoes and boots almost daily. When he made his initial hand-made shoes, he got \$2.25 per pair and now he gets \$9 per pair.

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WHEAT CROWDING CORN IN STATE

Only Crop To Show Production Increase—Five Cereals Bring \$113,487,884.

Harrisburg.—The five great cereal crops produced in Pennsylvania during the 1916 season were worth to the farmers \$113,487,884, according to a crop report of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Wheat alone showed an increase in production over the 1915 crop, but corn and rye production was slightly below last year and there were marked decreases in the oats and buckwheat crops. Despite the shortage in bushels for the past season, the total value of the crops was much higher than the 1915 crop, which was valued at \$95,932,420. Corn was the most valuable crop, amounting to \$49,736,488, with wheat next at \$36,602,930; oats, \$17,914,050; buckwheat, \$4,659,200 and rye, \$4,675,216.

There were 1,333,540 acres of wheat harvested for a total yield of 25,070,500 bushels. The average to the acre was 18.8 bushels, as compared with 19 bushels in 1915, but there was a slight increase in acreage, which brought about a larger yield than the 24,928,000 bushels of 1915. The average price for wheat per bushel in the State was \$1.46 a bushel, against \$1.05 a year ago.

State Gift System.

Complete revision of the system of appropriating State money to hospitals and charitable institutions by the next Legislature was advocated in an interview by Congressman John R. K. Scott who termed the present method of appropriation a relic of antiquity conducive to a wasteful disposal of public funds. Congressman Scott, a former leader in the State House of Representatives, suggested the formation of a commission to carefully investigate the requirements of the various charitable institutions seeking State aid, to make recommendations binding upon the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature and finally to supervise the expenditure of the money appropriated by the State.

State Gave Out 22,300 Tadpoles.

The State of Pennsylvania has gone into the business of raising tadpoles and frogs, and in the last six weeks more such products of State fish hatcheries were shipped for distribution than ever before. During the month of November alone, 22,300 tadpoles were sent to various points for placing in streams, ponds, and lakes, while 2,000 young frogs were put out. The preparation of frogs has been taken up actively the last few years, and reports indicate that in many districts where frogs had been exterminated they are to be found again. Owing to the cold weather, the distribution of trout fry was suspended last week.

Home From the Border in January.

Adjutant General Stewart received word from Major General Clement commanding the Pennsylvania troops at the border in which he gave the following as tentative dates for departure from El Paso of Pennsylvania troops subject to delay, but not to advancement:

Sixteenth Infantry and Second Brigade headquarters, January 3.

Signal troops, January 4.

Fourth Infantry and division headquarters, January 6 or 8.

First Cavalry, January 9 or 10.

Ambulance Company No. 1 and Field Hospital, No. 1, January 11.

Killed By Deputy, No Compensation.

The State Compensation Board, in an opinion by Commissioner John A. Scott, concurred in by other members of the Board, has upheld Referee T. J. Dunn, Pittsburgh, in refusing compensation to Mary Yargo, widow of a man killed by a shot from the rifle of a deputy during the labor disturbances of last spring at Braddock. The opinion says that the man was not at the time he was shot in the course of his employment by the company whose works the deputies were guarding, and dismisses the appeal with the remark that "the whole affair is most unfortunate and a distressing tragedy."

Pennsylvania Postmasters.

President Wilson sent to the Senate the following list of Pennsylvania postmasters: