Germany Makes Offer of Peace

The following dispatches were carried by the Associated Press:

Berlin, Dec. 12.—(By wirless to Sayville.)—Germany and its allies today proposed to enter forthwith into peace negotiations.

The propositions which they will bring forward are, according to Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, appropriate for the establishment of lasting peace.

The Austrian, Turkish and Bulgarian governments are making similar proposals. These proposals also have been transmitted to the vatican.

The following announcement was given out today by the semi-official Overseas News agency:

"The chancellor this morning received one after another of the representatives of the United States of America and Spain, and Switzerland; that is, of the states protecting German interests in hostile foreign countries. The chancellor transmitted to them a note and asked them to bring it to the knowledge of the hostile governments. The note will be ready today in the Reichstag by the chancellor.

"In the note the four allied (central) powers propose to enter forthwith on peace negotiations. The propositions which they bring for such negotiations are according to their firm belief appropriate for the establishment of a lasting peace.

"The governmnts at Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia transmitted identical notes and also communicated with the Holy See and all neutral powers."

TEXT OF GERMAN NOTE

Berlin, Dec. 12.—Following is the text of the note addressed by Germany and its allies to the hostile governments:

"The most terrific war ever experienced in history has been raging for the last two years and a half over a large part of the world— a catastrophe which thousands of years of common civilization was unable to prevent and which injures the most precious achievements of humanity. Our aims are not to shatter nor annihilate our adversaries. In spite of our consciousness of our military and economic strength and our readiness to continue the war (which has been forced upon us) until the bitter end, if necessary; at the time prompted by the desire to avoid further bloodshed and make an end to the atrocities of war, the four allied powers propose to enter forthwith into peace negotiations.

"The propositions which they bring forward for such negotiations and which have for their object a guarantee of existence, of honor and liberty of evolution for their nations, are, according to their firm belief, an appropriate basis for the establishment of a lasting peace.

"The four allied powers have been obliged to take up arms to defend justice and the liberty of national evolution. The glorious deeds of our armies have in no way altered our purpose. We always maintained the firm belief as to our own rights and justified claims in no way control the rights of these nations.

"The spiritual and material progress which were the pride of Europe at the beginning of the twentieth century are threatened with ruin. Germany and its allies, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, gave proof of their unconquerable strength in this struggle. They gained gigantic advantages over adversaries superior in number and war material. Our lines stand unshaken against attempts made by the enemies.

"The last attack in the Balkans has been rapidly and victoriously overcome. The most recent events have demonstrated that further continuance of war will not result in breaking the resistance of our forces and the whole situation with regard to our troops justifies our expectation of further successes."

WHAT BRYAN IS DOING

Even to the most cynical, it should be apparent these days that William Jennings Bryan is laboring devotedly and unselfishly for the democratic cause. At this writing he has stumped for the President in sixteen western states, and will have toured three more before the end of the campaign. He is giving his whole time and energy to the work, and making four or five speeches a day. He is footing his own traveling expenses. A paper which is not in the habit of plucking bouquets for commoners (the New York Evening Post) reports of him: "He is giving more of time, energy and money combined than any other single man to bring about the re-election of Woodrow Wilson."

What is more, all reports agree that Mr. Bryan is doing this in no perfunctory manner, but with all the ardor of an evangelist. And if response from the people is his pay, he is being richly rewarded, for, judged by the amount of enthusiasm he is arousing, this is the most successful campaign of his career. He is, as he perceives, making more votes for Wilson than he ever won for himself.

"I can make a much better argument for the re-election of President Wilson than I ever could for myself," he explains. "For four campaigns I have been able to talk about promises only, but today I can point to a record greater than any administration of our generation. Deeds are so much more convincing that promises."

This is not merely an attempt on the part of the speaker to prove himself a good sportsman. We are proud to give Mr. Bryan credit, even as the Post does, for "caring for a principle far more than a good many other men in public life today." That he should win more votes for Mr. Wilson than he ever did for himself is natural. Mr. Bryan is the finest type of idealist— a type more effective in working for a cause than in working for himself.

We can not help but note, in passing, how much more dramatic a figure Mr. Bryan is in this campaign than Colonel Roosevelt. The Colonel stood by watching the fight and fondling a shillelah. Was this a private jamboree, or could anybody mix in? Finally, his impatience got the better of him and he had to take the plunge. He saw so many heads to bash that it made his mouth water.

Mr. Bryan is of a different temper. He was far from spoiling for a fight. He had had an encounter each year and had not emerged from it with much distinction. Mr. Bryan is not bloodthirsty, anyway. The whisper of conscience was all that urged him on. As usual he did what he thought was right. He swallowed his pride and "sailed in."—From Puck, N. Y.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Asheville extends a cordial greeting to William Jennings Bryan.

This splendid statesman will find the Asheville folk neighborly and he and his family will enjoy spending a part of the days of the year in our midst. Speaking of Asheville people, The Times delights to honor the distinguished disciple of peace, and wishes for him all of the joy and delight that comes to one who has seen a vision and has manfully wrought towards its achievement.

Notable for his conviction and loyalty to his purpose in life William Jennings Bryan is not merely a national figure but a world-recognized character with ability unquestioned and sincerity undisputed, and those who disagree with him acknowledge his integrity and admire his fidelity.

Asheville feels honored at having been chosen the place where the distinguished Nebraskan will build his summer home—the place to which he comes for rest and thought and more than this Asheville will always look toward Mount Calm with a feeling of joy and appreciation.

Added pleasure would be Asheville's if that master man — Henry Ford — could see his way clear to make a sojourn regularly on another one of our delightful hilltops. Mr. Ford, by reason of his remarkable foresight and glimpse of better things is also a world-wide character. Another man noted for his integrity, uprightness, and ability and if he could have his resting bungalow within Asheville's limits this community would indeed appreciate the acquisition.

Both of these distinguished gentlemen, prominent in somewhat different lines and yet each without superior in his own sphere, are thrice welcome to our midst, and if any little service of ours can make their days more happy it will be a joy to tender such service. — Asheville (N. C.) Times.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

Send The Commoner to your friends— a constant reminder for the whole year.

VOX POPULI

The people of the United States are not in a truculent temper. They are not ashamed of the role this nation has played in respect of the European war. They do not believe the Allies have been "fighting our battles" while we sat snugly by and coined blood money out of the operation. They are patient under the injuries that both parties to the war have visited upon this country, because they take into account the abnormal state of the belligerents—very much as a wise man makes allowance for a neighbor who acts in the stress of an overmastering emotion.

They are, in their international relations, by far the most idealistic people in the world—a result, no doubt, of their fortunate geographical position. They actively wish their neighbors good. That this nation, on a broad view, has consistently stood for the highest interests of civilization in the face of embroiled Europe satisfies their idealism. They know that our participation in the war, from however strong compulsion, would be a world calamity.

That much is clearly deducible from the presidential campaign, and we look upon this expression of public opinion as one of the finest incidents in American history. Man is naturally a fighting animal. Getting him to fight has always been the easiest trick in the statesman's box. Moreover, war is contagious, and the contagion has been in the air for many months. That the American people in 1916 refused to be hurrahed, heckled and taunted into belligerency will stand as one of the high justifications of democracy.

One singular phase of the campaign consisted in persistently insulting a public that saw its own interests and the highest human interests. That phase was conducted by a rather extensive and clamorous set; but the public's answer was merely a good-natured shrug.—Saturday Evening Post.

MR. BRYAN'S PART

Referring to the Washington banquet, December 6, the New York World said editorially:

"Mr. Bryan deserves all the honor accorded him yesterday and last evening in Washington. He quit the Wilson administration because he feared it was too militant, he did not rush into the arms of a candidate who was practically committed to war in both hemispheres. In loyalty to party principle as well as faithfulness to an idea, he has given the country a fine example of fidelity and common sense."

Governor Hiram Johnson of California, whose election to the senate was marked by a plurality so large that nobody can remember its extent, has been able so far to conceal his grief over the fact that the electoral vote of the state did not go to his genial friend, Judge Hughes.

Peter Goelet Gerry, called a free trade democrat, was elected United States senator in Rhode Island, defeating that sterling champion of high protection, the Hon. Henry Frederick Lippitt. This is the first official intimation that the millenium is not very far distant.

Wanted---the name of every democrat and independent who will assist Mr. Bryan in driving the liquor interests out the party and out of the nation.