

Austria's Peace Proposal

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itself solve its internal problems, and that no one could impose a constitution on Germany from the outside. Premier Lloyd George declared at the beginning of this year that it was not one of the allies' war aims to partition Austria-Hungary, to rob the Ottoman empire of its Turkish provinces, or to reform Germany internally. It may also be considered symptomatic that in December, 1917, Mr. Balfour categorically repudiated the assumption that British policy had ever engaged itself for the creation of an independent state out of the territories on the left bank of the Rhine. The central powers leave it in no doubt that they are only waging a war of defense for the integrity and the security of their territories.

"Far more outspoken than in the domain of concrete war aims has the approachment of conceptions proceeded regarding those gliding lines upon the basis of which peace shall be concluded and the future order of Europe and the world built up. In this direction President Wilson in his speeches of February 12th and July 4th of this year has formulated principles which have not encountered contradiction on the part of his allies and the far reaching application of which is likely to meet with no objection on the part of the powers of the quadruple alliance also, principles, supporting that this application is general and reconcilable with the vital interests of the states concerned.

"It is true it must be remembered that an agreement on general principles is insufficient, but that there remains the further matter of reaching an accord upon their interpretation and their application to individual concrete war and peace questions.

GUARANTEE OF DECISION

"To an unprejudiced observer there can be no doubt that in all the belligerent states without exception, the desire for a peace of understanding has been enormously strengthened; that the conviction is increasingly spreading that the further continuance of the bloody struggle must transform Europe into ruins and into a state of exhaustion that will mar its development for decades to come—and this without any guarantee of thereby bringing about that decision by arms which has been vainly striven after by both sides in four years filled with enormous sacrifices, sufferings and exertions.

"In what manner, however, can the way be paved for an understanding and an understanding finally attained? Is there any serious prospect whatever of reaching this aim by continuing the discussion of peace in the way hitherto followed? We have not the courage to answer the latter question in the affirmative. The discussion from one public tribune to another, as has hitherto taken place between statesmen of the various countries, was really only a series of monologues. It lacked, above everything, directness. Speech and counter speech did not fit into each other. The speakers spoke over one another's heads.

"On the other hand was the publicity and the ground of these discussions which robbed them of the possibility of fruitful progress. In all public statements of this nature a form of eloquence is used which reckons with the effect at great distances and on the masses. Consciously or unconsciously, however, one there-

by, increases the distance of opponents conception, produces misunderstandings which take root and are not removed, and makes the frank exchange of ideas more difficult. Every pronouncement of leading statesmen, is directly after its adversary and before the opposite side can reply to it, made the subject of passionate or exaggerated discussion of irresponsible elements.

INFLUENCE AT HOME

"But anxiety lest they should endanger the interests of their arms by unfavorable influences and feeling at home and lest they prematurely betray their own ultimate intentions, also causes the republic statesmen themselves to strike a higher tone and stubbornly to adhere to extreme standpoints.

"If, therefore an attempt is made to see whether the basis exists for an understanding, calculated to deliver Europe from the catastrophe of the suicidal continuation of the struggle, then, in any case, another method should be chosen which renders possible a direct, verbal discussion between the representatives of the governments, and only between them. The opposing conceptions of individual states would likewise have to form the subject of such a discussion, for mutual enlightenment, as well as the general principles that shall serve as the basis for peace and the future relations of the states to one another and regarding which, in the first place, an accord can be sought with a prospect of success.

"As soon as an agreement were reached on the fundamental principles, an attempt would have to be made in the course of the discussions concretely to apply them to individual peace questions. There will be no objection on the part of any belligerents to such an exchange of views. The war activities would experience no interruption. The discussions, too, would only go so far as considered by the participants to offer a prospect of peace. No disadvantages would arise therefrom. Far from harming, such an exchange of views could only be useful to the cause of peace.

THE AUSTRIAN PERCEPTION

"Mountains of old misunderstandings might be removed and many new things perceived. Streams of pent-up human kindness would be released, in the warmth of which everything essential would remain, and, on the part of, much of which is antagonistic to which excessive importance is still attributed would disappear. "According to our convictions, all objects we owe humanity to examine, whether now, after so many years of a costly but undecided struggle the entire course of which points to an understanding, it is possible to make an end to the terrible grapple.

"The royal and imperial government would like, therefore, to propose to the governments of all the belligerent states to send delegates to a confidential and unbinding discussion on the basic principles for the conclusion of peace, in a place, in a neutral country and at a near date that would yet have to be agreed upon—delegates who were charged to make known to one another the conception of their governments regarding those principles and to receive analogous communications, as well as to request and give frank and candid explanations on these points which need to be precisely defined.

"The royal and imperial government has the honor to request the government of—through the kind mediation of your excellency, to bring this communication to the government of—"

(The names of the intermediary government and of that addressed in the note dispatched are left blank.)

WHEN THE NATION IS BONE DRY



When Wildcat Bill comes in to shoot up the town he will have to load up on anarsparilla.

When Cannel Brockbridge Clay of Kentucky, by god, ah, wants to take a drink he'll have to get it at a soda water fountain.



J. Raglan Patchmore will have to be chained to the wagon.

The town drunkard will have to bid adieu to his old associations.



The only place you can see a drink will be in the museum.

"Hic" "Hic" will become a dead language in the United States, like Latin and German.

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"WHERE IS BRYAN?"

There is a paper up in Minnesota which goes by the name of the "Red Wing Eagle." A more appropriate name for it might be the "White Liver Buzzard." Like many other papers, this sheet makes frantic efforts to obtain notoriety by saying "cute" things about prominent men. It asks the question: "What has become of one William Jennings Bryan, of whom we used to hear occasionally in times gone by? * * * Bryan, where is Bryan?" Now, it is true that people who depend upon a certain class of newspapers for their information do not hear much about Mr. Bryan these days, but intelligent people know why, and they know where he is. They know that he has done more for the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A. and similar organizations, and more to make America's participation in the war popular than has any other hundred private citizens in the United States. He has made more effective speeches to larger audiences in upholding the war and in the cause of true patriotism. They know that from the very day that we entered the war to the present hour, Mr. Bryan has devoted every day and every particle of his wonderful energy to make the war a success and build up needed reforms in this country. The intelligent public knows that twice has he nominated and elected Woodrow Wilson president of the United States. They know that he gave us the right to elect United States senators by direct vote. They know that through his efforts we are going to have national prohibition and woman suffrage. They know that he has justly gained the reputation of being the most eloquent and attractive orator in the world by his honesty, sincerity and ability. They know that by right living and right thinking he has gained the con-

fidence, respect and love of most people on the globe. In addition to all this, the public knows that a large number of the so-called great papers have entered into an agreement to ignore Mr. Bryan as far as possible and avoid giving publicity to the work he is doing. The public knows, or could know, why this is true and that it is a very high compliment to Mr. Bryan.—Clay Center, Kans., Economist.

SOME OF THE BITS YOUR LIBERTY BOND WILL DO

If you buy a \$100 bond of the Fourth Liberty Loan you are lending the United States Government enough money to feed a soldier in France a little more than seven months. Or you have furnished enough money to give him a complete outfit of winter and summer clothing, including shoes and stockings, and slicker and overcoat and blankets, with enough left over to arm him with a good revolver. You have done that much to beat back the Hun.

It takes \$35 more to arm him with a rifle with a bayonet on it, and if you buy a second \$100 bond you furnish him this rifle and 1,000 cartridges for it; and there will still be enough of your money left to purchase a good-sized bomb to throw in a dugout, or demolish a machine gun together with the Huns operating it.

Man pays for all he gets in this world in two ways—workin' for it and worryin' about it.—Baltimore Sun.

Pronouncing correctly the names of two French towns out of four is a good battling average.—Toledo Blade.