

# World War Comes to an End

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have by unanimous resolution assured the people of the Central Empires that everything that is possible in the circumstances will be done to supply them with food and relieve the distressing want that is in so many places threatening their very lives; and steps are to be taken immediately to organize these efforts at relief in the same systematic manner that they were organized in the case of Belgium.

"By the use of the idle tonnage of the Central Empires it ought presently to be possible to lift the fear of utter misery from their oppressed populations and set their minds and energies free for the great and hazardous tasks of political reconstruction which now face them on every hand. Hunger does not breed reform; it breeds madness and all the ugly distempers that make an ordered life impossible.

"For the fall of the ancient governments which rested like an incubus upon the people of the Central Empires has come political change not merely, but revolution; and revolution which seems as yet to assume no final and ordered form, but to run from one fluid change to another, until thoughtful men are forced to ask themselves, with what governments, and of what sort?

"The present and all that it holds belongs to the nations and the peoples who preserve their self-control and the orderly processes of their themselves the true friends of mankind. To conquer with arms is to make only a temporary conquest; to conquer the world by earning its esteem is to make permanent conquest. I am confident that the nations that have learned the discipline of freedom and that have settled with self-possession to its ordered practice are now about to make conquest of the world by the sheer power of example and of friendly helpfulness.

"The peoples who have but just come out from under the yoke of arbitrary government and who are now coming at last into their freedom, will never find the treasures of liberty they are in search of if they look for them by the light of the torch. They will find that every pathway that is stained with the blood of their own brothers leads to the wilderness, not to the seat of their hope. They are now face to face with their initial tests. We must hold the light steady until they find themselves. And in the meantime, if it be possible, we must establish a peace that will justly define their place among the nations, remove all fear of their neighbors and of their former masters, and enable them to live in security and contentment when they have set their own affairs in order. I, for one, do not doubt their purpose or their capacity.

"There are some happy signs that they know and will choose the way of self-control and peaceful accommodation. If they do, we shall put our aid at their disposal in every way that we can. If they do not, we must await with patience and sympathy the awakening and recovery that will assuredly come at last."

## ABDICATION OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED

A wireless report from London, Nov. 9, says: A German wireless message received in London this afternoon states:

"The German imperial chancellor, Prince Max of Baden, issued the following decree:

"The kaiser and king has decided to renounce the throne."

"The imperial chancellor will remain in office until the situation connected with the abdication of the kaiser, the renouncing by the German crown prince of the throne of the German empire and of Prussia and the setting up of a regency have been settled.

"For the regency he intends to appoint Deputy Ebert as imperial chancellor, and he proposes that a bill shall be brought in for the establishment of a law providing for the immediate promulgation of general suffrage and for a constitutional German national assembly, which will settle finally the future form of government of the German nation and of those peoples which might be desirous of coming within the empire.

"Berlin, November 9, 1918.

"The Imperial Chancellor."

## MAXIMILIAN ISSUES STATEMENT

The chancellor issued the following statement: "In these difficult days hearts of many among you, my fellow countrymen, who outside the

frontier of the German fatherland are surrounded by manifestations of malicious joy and hatred, will be heavy. Do not despair of the German people.

"Our soldiers have fought to the last moment as heroically as any army has ever done. The home-land has shown unprecedented strength in suffering and endurance.

"In the fifth year, abandoned by its allies, the German people could no longer wage war against the increasingly superior forces. The victory for which many had hoped has not been granted to us. But the German people has won this still greater victory over itself and its belief in the right of might.

"From this victory we shall draw new strength for the hard time which faces us and on which you also can build."

## LETTER OF ABDICATION

A London cablegram, dated Nov. 10, says: Emperor William signed a letter of abdication Saturday morning at the German grand headquarters in the presence of Crown Prince Frederick William and Field Marshal Hindenburg, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam, to the Exchange Telegraph company. The German crown prince signed his renunciation to the throne shortly afterward. Before placing his signature to the document an urgent message from Philipp Scheidemann, who was a socialist member without portfolio in the imperial cabinet, was handed to the emperor. He read it with a shiver. Then he signed the papers, saying:

"It may be for the good of Germany."

## Diplomatic Correspondence

[Below will be found the diplomatic correspondence covering the period previous to the signing of armistice terms by the German and Austro-Hungarian government.—Ed.]

### TEXT OF GERMAN PEACE NOTE

The text of the reply of the German government to President Wilson's note of October 14, as received by wireless, and published under date of October 21, follows:

"In accepting the proposal for an evacuation of occupied territories the German government has started from the assumption that the procedure of this evacuation and of the conditions of an armistice should be left to the judgment of the military advisors and that the actual standard of power on both sides in the field has to form the basis for arrangements safeguarding and guaranteeing this standard.

"The German government suggests to the President that an opportunity should be brought about for fixing the details. It trusts that the President of the United States will approve of no demand which would be irreconcilable with the honor of the German people and with opening a way to a peace of justice.

"The German government protests against the reproach of illegal and inhuman actions made against the German land and sea forces and thereby against the German people. For the covering of a retreat destructions will always be necessary, and they are carried out insofar as is permitted by international law. The German troops are under the most strict instruction to spare private property and to exercise care for the population to the best of their ability. Where transgressions occur in spite of these instructions the guilty are being punished.

"The German government further denies that the German navy in sinking ships has ever purposely destroyed lifeboats with their passengers. The German government proposes with regard to all those charges that the facts be cleared up by neutral commissions.

"In order to avoid anything that might hamper the work of peace the German government has caused orders to be despatched to all submarine commanders precluding the torpedoing of passenger ships, without, however, for technical reasons, being able to guarantee that these orders will reach every single submarine at sea before its return.

"As a fundamental condition for peace the President prescribes the destruction of every arbitrary power that can separately, secretly and of its own single choice disturb the peace of the world. To this the German government replies:—

"Hitherto the representation of the people in the German empire has not been endowed with an influence on the formation of the government.

"The constitution did not provide for a concurrence of representation of the people in deci-

sions of peace and war. These conditions have just now undergone a fundamental change. A new government has been formed in complete accordance with the wishes (principle?) of the representation of the people, based on equal, universal, secret, direct franchise.

"The leaders of the great parties of the reichstag are members of this government. In the future no government can take or continue in office without possessing the confidence of a majority of the reichstag.

"The responsibility of the chancellor of the empire to the representation of the people is being legally developed and safeguarded. The first act of the new government has been to lay before the reichstag a bill to alter the constitution of the empire so that the consent of the representation of the people is required for decisions on war and peace.

"The permanence of the new system is, however, guaranteed not only by constitutional safeguards but also by the unshakable determination of the German people, whose vast majority stands behind these reforms and demand their energetic continuance.

"The question of the President — with whom he and the governments associated against Germany — are dealing — is therefore answered in a clear, unequivocal manner by the statement that the offer of peace and an armistice has come from a government which is free from any arbitrary and irresponsible influence and is supported by the approval of an overwhelming majority of the German people. SOLF."

### PRESIDENT WILSON'S REPLY

The President's note to Germany as given out by Secretary Lansing at Washington, October 23, follows:

"From the Secretary of State to the Charge d'Affaires ad Interim in charge of the German interests in the United States, Department of State, October 23, 1918:

"Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 22nd, transmitting a communication under date of the 20th from the German government, and to advise you that the President has instructed me to reply thereto as follows:

"Having received the solemn and explicit assurance of the German government that it unreservedly accepts the terms of peace laid down in his address to the congress of the United States on the 8th of January, 1918, and the principles of settlement enunciated in his subsequent addresses, particularly the address of the 27th of September, and that it desires to discuss the details of their application, and that this wish and purpose emanated, not from those who have hitherto dictated German policy and conducted the present war on Germany's behalf but from ministers who speak for the majority of the reichstag and for an overwhelming majority of the German peoples; and having received also the explicit promise of the present German government that the humane rules of civilized warfare will be observed both on land and sea by the German armed forces, the President of the United States feels that he cannot decline to take up with the governments with which the government of the United States is associated the question of an armistice.

### RESTATES ARMISTICE TERMS

"He deems it his duty to say again, however, that the only armistice he would feel justified in submitting for consideration would be one which should leave the United States and the powers associated with her in a position to enforce any arrangements that may be entered into and make a renewal of hostilities on the part of Germany impossible.

"The President has, therefore, transmitted his correspondence with the present German authorities to the governments with which the government of the United States is associated as a belligerent, with the suggestion that, if those governments are disposed to effect peace upon the terms and principles indicated, their military advisers and the military advisers of the United States be asked to submit to the governments associated against Germany the necessary terms of such an armistice as will fully protect the interests of the peoples involved and insure to the Governments the unrestricted power to safeguard and enforce the details of the peace to which the German government has agreed, provided they deem such an armistice possible from the military point of view. Should such terms of armistice be suggested, their acceptance by