

JOINT REPLY TO BE MADE BY ENTENTE

Bonar Law Says Britain and Allies Will Make Concerted Answer to Wilson's Notes.

BRITISH PRESS IS HOSTILE First Impressions Reflect Resentment at Tone of President's Language—Sincerity Unquestioned.

London, Dec. 23.—The British government will make no statement at the present in regard to President Wilson's peace note, considering it a question that can be dealt with only in communication with the other members of the entente. Announcement to this effect was made in the house of commons today by Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer and government leader in the house.

Mr. Law was asked whether a statement could be made regarding the American note. He replied: "It must be obvious to the house that this is a question that can only be dealt with in communication with our allies, and that it is absolutely impossible to make a statement now."

Parliament was prorogued this afternoon without the members being given further information regarding President Wilson's note or what action the government contemplated with respect to it.

No Mention of Peace.

Neither the note nor the German peace proposal was mentioned in the king's speech, read in both houses. The only reference to the president's suggestion was made by Andrew Bonar Law, the government leader, in reply to a question by Sir William Pollock Byles, a pacifist member. Mr. Law declaring the question was one which could not be dealt with except in communication with the other members of the entente.

The speech from the throne was one of the briefest on record. It expressed confidence in the ultimate victory of the allies and determination to prosecute the war "until we have vindicated the rights so ruthlessly violated by our enemies and established the security of Europe on a sure foundation."

Britain Taken Aback.

The general public had their first news of President Wilson's note from the morning papers and the matter was the one topic of consideration on incoming suburban trains and throughout the country. The people, like the press, were rather taken aback, as they had about arrived at the conclusion that Premier Lloyd-George's speech had put an end to all peace talk unless the central powers, in their reply to the premier, were prepared to define their terms. That the president or any other neutral ruler would take any action was farthest from their mind.

The evening papers, which do not print editorials, came out with big headlines, which expressed their views. The Evening News, which is the afternoon edition of the Daily Mail, heads a reprint of the comment of the morning papers with the one word, "No!" in a large, black type, and under it: "Our Answer to President Wilson." And again: "No, No, No!" that is the answer Great Britain gives today without a moment's hesitation to the surprising note from President Wilson.

The Globe today gives a presidential reply to its comment upon President Wilson's note, which is made in a satirical vein under the heading: "What Is the Matter With Him?"

"We sincerely hope President Wilson is not unwell," says the Globe, "yet we are ourselves gravely doubtful as to his physical well being."

The newspaper proceeds to ask if the president has never heard of what the Germans did in Belgium and Serbia, and continues that it finds itself unable to believe in the peace proposals which he "describes the central powers as desirous of securing small states against aggression."

"The high cost of living is said to be hitting the average American citizen very hard, and which is the cause in some measure for the milk of human kindness in the presidential cocoon."

Star's Views Friendly.

The Star in its comment says: "President Wilson's note is a Christmas bombshell. It comes as a complete surprise to us. Let us say at once that the allies in general and Great Britain in particular ought to treat it with the most sympathetic respect and give it most friendly, most careful, consideration."

"Mr. Wilson is one of the greatest presidents of one of the greatest nations in the world. He stands for the things that we as a nation believe in. His ideals are our ideals. We gladly give his words the hearing due to a friend speaking in behalf of friends. We refuse to question his sincerity or his single-mindedness."

"The spirit of his Christmas soundings is the right spirit. It is a spirit which he believes animates the British people and their allies. They are not afraid of soundings."

"There could be no worse mistake than to think Mr. Wilson is doing to the allies what President Lincoln dreaded the European powers would do during his fight for the union."

"We did not ask President Lincoln to save Lancashire at the expense of American liberty, and we are confident Mr. Wilson will not ask us to sacrifice our liberty in order to mitigate the hardships which the war inflicts upon Americans."

"As to the question of objects of the belligerents being virtually the same, the Star, in its allusion to President Wilson's words in this case, says: "This is an astounding statement, which we cannot, with the best will in the world, reconcile with the facts."

"The Daily News, which is the nearest to pacifist among the London newspapers, says today, regarding President Wilson's note: "No one can fail to appreciate the spirit in which the proposal is made, or approve the cautious terms in which it is couched. The history of the great struggle in his own country is too recent and too memorable for President Wilson to be unaware of the perils of too hasty intervention. From our side it was the specter of European intervention that haunted Lincoln, and especially in those days when the cause of the north was passing through its darkest phases."

Wilson Taking Soundings.

Mr. Wilson is far too wise to add that trouble to the enormous burdens of the nations engaged in war for liberty no less, but far and far greater.

THE SHADOW OF THE DOVE!



VILLA IS ATTACKING TORREON CITY TODAY

Battle Begun This Morning Was Still in Progress at Noon.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 22.—Francisco Villa's forces began an attack on Torreon at 4 o'clock this morning, according to newspaper reports received here today. The battle was said to be in progress at noon.

He is taking soundings. If he finds the waters still too deep, he will wait until a more favorable opportunity."

The newspapers say the central powers would accept the note eagerly and, despite their arrogant tone, the door should not be barred and bolted in their face.

The Daily Chronicle says: "We ask our friends across the Atlantic to believe us when we say no American state paper in our generation has been calculated to cause so much pain, not merely to Englishmen, but to liberal opinion throughout southern and western Europe."

"The note is in effect, however different be its aim, an appendix to that lately received from Berlin."

Saying that it is not based on the grounds of humanity or injury to the United States, the Daily Chronicle says: "We are bound to observe that with only the recent exception in the matter of the Belgian slave raids, President Wilson never in the face of unparalleled openings intervened on the ground of humanity before."

Recount German Wrongs.

The newspaper then recounts a list of alleged German outrages in Belgium, and elsewhere, on which it says President Wilson remained silent. It adds that he protested against the Lusitania, Ancona and Sussex "massacres" not because they were inhuman, but because Americans perished by their inhumanity.

"With this difference—that humanity did not warrant intervention, but the American interests did—we have never quarreled," continues the Daily Chronicle, "but since he omitted to intervene to stop crime is it consistent he intervene to hinder others from punishing the criminals?"

The newspaper considers President Wilson's statement that the objects of both belligerents are virtually the same is most painful for European liberals, and adds: "The president did not intend his words as an insult, but they are deeply insulting none the less, and none of the allied peoples can be expected to relish them."

MAY SERVE GOOD END.

Liverpool, Dec. 22.—The Post, referring to President Wilson's note suggesting that the belligerents make known their desires concerning peace, says: "President Wilson must not be surprised if, as far as the allies are concerned, his intervention produces a state of mind contrary to that at which he aims. The allies will readily give the president credits for the best of intentions, but they will be justified in wondering whether, from their point of view, the note is not particularly ill timed and ill judged."

"The president's assurance that the recent German overtures had no prompting influence on his proposals must be accepted. At the same time it is, to say the least, somewhat maladroit that we should be so appealed to by the United States at a moment when the allies are at the height of their power and Germany knows her own apparently favorable position cannot possibly be maintained."

"On the other hand, there is the possibility that Mr. Wilson's efforts are directed toward eliciting from Germany concrete terms of peace which she withheld in her extraordinary approach to the entente. In that case a useful purpose may be served for we then would be in a position to judge whether war weariness is associated with the consciousness of criminality of which Germany has been found guilty in the eyes of the civilized world, and the extent to which this will induce her to yield to the allies' inexorable demands for guarantees against future barbarism."

English people use an average of eight matches each person a day.

RICH OLD BANKER JILTS YOUNG GIRL

Manning, 83, and Worth \$15,000,000, Turns Down Honora O'Brien, 28, on Very Eve of Wedding.

New York, Dec. 22.—The marriage of John B. Manning, aged 83, and worth \$15,000,000, and Miss Honora May O'Brien, aged 28, whose chief possessions are youth and beauty, was "on again, off again" this week.

According to the family of the wealthy octogenarian, it is going to stay "off." And that is probably so, because the Irish lass admitted tearfully herself "there'll be no wedding, at least for the present." To which testimony may be added that of the authorities at St. Patrick's Cathedral, who said yesterday afternoon: "The wedding has been postponed indefinitely."

But that probably won't be the end of the affair, because there arrived in town yesterday James S. O'Brien of Newport, R. I., an upstanding brother of the bride-who-expected-to-be, and he said he came here for the specific purpose of showing anybody and everybody that the family bearing his good old name was not to be trifled with.

O'Brien Blood is Stirred.

Neither he nor his sister would say anything last night about a breach of promise suit, but they made it quite plain that an O'Brien couldn't be led almost to the altar and then dismissed by a mere phone call, which was the case here. No, sir! The Manning will hear more of this.

The wedding was to have been celebrated Wednesday morning by Cardinal Farley in the Archbishop's residence in Madison avenue. All arrangements had been completed. Even the invitations to a small group of guests had been sent. And then—the phone call.

NERVOUS SITUATION IN GRAIN MARKETS

Inability of Trade to Interpret Peace Situation Causes Upset.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Wheat today opened nervous and irregular, with prices from 1/4c under to 1 1/2c over yesterday's close. A sharp break quickly ensued. May dropped to \$1.62 1/2, a maximum over night loss of 1 1/4. July fell to \$1.34 1/2, a similar loss. At the opening, May sold at \$1.65, and July at \$1.35 1/2. Traders seemed perplexed in endeavors to interpret the so-called peace situation.

In the later trading decided strength developed, owing to assertions that export demand was urgent and that indications pointed to a war like note from the entente allies to the central powers. The market closed strong at 2 1/4 @ 4 1/2c net advance with May at \$1.67 1/2 @ 1.68, and July at \$1.38 1/4 @ 1.38 3/4.

FIRST IOWA INFANTRY BACK TO DES MOINES

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 22.—Delayed south of Kansas City, in their traveling yesterday, the first detachment of the First Iowa infantry will not arrive in Des Moines until late this afternoon.

The first train, bearing the Second battalion reached Kansas City before midnight and left at 5 o'clock this morning over the Great Western. It is due in Des Moines about 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The first train, bearing the Second five in Des Moines at 8:30 o'clock last night. The troops will be conducted to Fort Des Moines, on street cars, immediately upon their arrival.

The greater part of 4,000,000 tons of herring caught yearly in Japanese waters are used to fertilize rice fields.

Germany Is Prepared to Lay Her Cards on Table

London, Dec. 22.—An Exchange Telegraph dispatch from The Hague says it is an official statement that Germany is prepared to lay her cards on the table for negotiations, Germany will make known her chief peace terms immediately.

Fear Resumption of U-Boat War if Peace Efforts Fail

Secretary Lansing's Remarks Yesterday Revealed Administration Belief United States May Become Involved With Teutons If All Efforts Fail.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Standing in the background of the assertions in the peace appeal of the president and what Secretary Lansing has said, that conditions for the neutral United States are becoming intolerable, is the fact that the administration apprehends that if the present German peace overtures fail, the central powers will conduct the war with less regard for humanity than before.

In other words, a relentless submarine war is feared. Should this eventuate, the United States would be in danger of a break with Germany, if not something more grave.

This apprehension, according to good authority here, partly at least was responsible for the tone of what the president and Secretary Lansing have recently given out. It is felt here that Secretary Lansing, though his language may not have been fortunate, in fact spoke what is in the administration's mind as to the danger to the United States in the war's continuance.

FIVE DIE IN BLAZE IN MASONIC HOME

Wichita Lodge Building For Aged and Children Destroyed With Loss Put at \$250,000.

Wichita, Kan., Dec. 23.—At least five persons were missing and several were suffering from injuries as the result of a fire that destroyed the main building of the Kansas Masonic home early today. In addition scores of old men and women and children were exposed to the effects of the flames and blizzard weather. Many were rescued with difficulty and several, made unconscious by the smoke and fire, or overcome by the intense cold, as they fled from the burning structure in their night clothes, were taken to hospitals and private homes.

Joseph Deck, who was believed to have been burned under a bed where he was seen by firemen, was later found at a nearby residence.

There were 92 inmates in the home, a large three-story brick building, built in the form of a key. Most of the number were rescued by the firemen, but there are several still unaccounted for. A boy sleeping in a basement of the building discovered the flames and in his efforts to sound the alarm shut off the lights. When the firemen arrived the flames had gained great headway and their efforts toward suppressing the flames were hampered by frozen water plugs in the thermometer being about eight degrees above zero.

Finding it impossible to get sufficient water to throw on the flames the firemen directed their efforts toward rescuing the inmates. These were taken to the hospital in that portion of the building where the flames had made more rapid headway and were carried down the stairways where these were available. The children were housed on the third floor of the home as were two old and crippled women. Most of the children were taken out by the firemen, but the two crippled women and eight of the little ones are unaccounted for, and are believed to have perished. Several of the firemen suffered from the effects of smoke inhaled in their efforts at rescuing the inmates. Children and elderly persons who were rescued suffered greatly from exposure.

The fire is believed to have been caused by a defective furnace. The loss is given as about \$250,000.

RUMORED LANSING PLANS TO RESIGN

Report Not Sustained in Official Circles—Claimed That Statements Were Ill-Timed.

Washington, Dec. 23.—A rumor gained currency here today that Secretary of State Lansing would resign because of the fact the president thought his remarks yesterday about the country drifting to the verge of war inopportune and badly timed.

The report found no support whatever in administration quarters.

In the same connection, the view was pronounced in some quarters that the force of the appeal of the president had been weakened by the statement of Secretary Lansing followed by his explanation that this country contemplated no change in policy.

FOREIGN TRADE TO BREAK ALL RECORDS

Now Believed Total For Year 1916 Will Reach \$7,800,000,000, Report.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—The country's foreign trade this year probably will reach a total of \$7,800,000,000. A bureau of foreign and domestic commerce statement shows that for 11 months ending with November exports and imports combined totalled \$7,148,000,000.

November exports of \$517,900,000 set a new monthly record. The highest previous month was September, when exports were \$3,000,000 short of November. Imports fell off slightly last month.

"WILD HORSE" DEFENSE TO REST CASE TODAY

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 22.—Counsel for the defense in the case of the government against the United States Live Stock company and the Omaha Land & Investment company, charged with using the mails to defraud in the sales of "wild horses" in Coconino county, Arizona, aggregating \$1,000,000, stated today that they probably would rest their case in time to permit cross examination to be concluded before night. There is no regular session of the federal court on Saturday and the jury will be dismissed for a Christmas recess until Tuesday morning, when the attorneys' arguments will be begun. They expect the case to go to the jury Tuesday night, the 17th day of the trial.

C. M. Thompson, secretary-treasurer of the United States Live Stock company, and the sixth of the indicted men to testify, continued today his testimony begun yesterday. As did other defendant witnesses, he asserted that the "wild horses" actually existed in the number represented to the alleged victims and that his company had received worthless property in return for most of the trades made.

BUFFALO BILL CODY IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Denver, Colo., Dec. 22.—Col. William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) is seriously ill at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Max Decker, in Denver. He has been confined within doors for 10 days, but not until today did his condition cause alarm. Colonel Cody is suffering from nervous breakdown complicated with a severe cold. Despite his 70 years, he has shown remarkable recuperative powers, according to his physicians and has a "fighting chance" to recover.

NEW FRENCH TAXES ARE APPROVED BY DEPUTIES

Paris, Dec. 22.—The chamber of deputies has approved a batch of new taxes among them a graduated tax on theater and vaudeville tickets. Moving picture establishments must pay 5 per cent on monthly receipts under 25,000 francs, 1 per cent from 25,000 to 50,000 francs, 2 per cent from 50,000 to 100,000 francs and 2 1/2 per cent on receipts in excess of that.

Forty francs per 100 kilos is imposed on refined sugar. The price of tobacco is also raised as well as the rates of letter and postal card postage, telegrams, telephone calls and money orders.

NEUTRALS OF WORLD MAY JOIN APPEAL

White House Lets It Be Known Belligerents Are Expected to Leave Way Open For Negotiations.

WILSON SEES A WAY OUT

Hopes to Become a Clearing House For Views and Possibly Terms of Warring Powers.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—With the purpose of President Wilson's note to the belligerents clarified by official statements on the subject, the attention of the United States has turned to the reception of the note in the foreign capitals.

Diplomats here were early watching for indications of whether the European neutrals will follow the lead of the United States and make a similar appeal to the warring powers.

There is growing feeling that the United States hopes to become the clearing house for views and possibly for terms of the belligerents. Several of the diplomats have advised their governments to that effect in order to guide them in their replies.

Surprise at the fast growing significance of the president's move was expressed on all sides, where it was pointed out that at first the opinion prevailed that the note itself was merely a "feeler" and that the most immediately contemplated effect in issuing it was the receipt of some sort of definition of the desire of the warring nations.

Expect Frank Reply.

That the president should let it be known indirectly to the diplomats for their guidance that he went even further than that and counted on an absolutely frank reply from the belligerents which would lead to an actual opportunity for negotiations, proved only less surprising than the actual note itself.

"This feeling was increased by Secretary Lansing's statement yesterday that no soundings had been taken of the attitude of the belligerents, and that the note had been sent regardless of the central powers' proposals or of the reply of Lloyd-George."

"The question is raised to the fore today was whether the European neutrals would present a united appeal. The Spanish and Swiss representatives here have been at the state department repeatedly since those proposals came out and probably know fully the plans of this government."

It is pointed out that the European neutrals have suffered beyond any other nations not actually involved in the war and that peace is more essential to them than to any, but the actual belligerents. In addition, they have none of the bitterness of war and none of its ambitions and are anxious more for the coming of peace than for the accomplishment of any other purpose. Nevertheless, their geographical position between the two contending forces has been so dangerous that up to now they have been able to do no more than maintain their neutrality, without mixing in the struggle even to suggest peace.

Meanwhile, at the capitals of the warring powers, American diplomats, following their instructions, are taking soundings and observing closely the currents of sentiment of the different governments.

Public Approves Move.

The American public generally and congress and officials approve the sending of the communication. Neutrals show a strong disposition to approve it, and it is felt here they will take encouragement from it.

Though press comment in British quarters reveals that the communication has produced an impression not altogether favorable, it is not here indicated that the entente will make a less favorable reply toward Germany than otherwise or that it will refuse to leave the door open for Germany to venture a second note.

Though Lansing's explanation of his statement tempers his original declaration that the country is drawing nearer the verge of war, it does not alter the fact that the president and secretary of state fear continuance of the war will cause graver and graver complications for the United States, and that they feel the United States as the leading neutral has the right to urge that a move be made toward bringing the belligerents together.

Gradual clarification among the entente diplomats here of the president's purpose, and indications that they would advise their governments to reply in a friendly spirit, proved a source of deep gratification today, as it was pointed out both in the note itself and in Secretary Lansing's explanation that one of the dangers was that the allies would consider the step as a pro-German move. Every effort was made to remove this impression and to have the note considered entirely apart from any other events. The entente diplomats, at first very fearful, have now accepted this view.

Note Reaches Berlin.

Charge Grew, reported to the state department today that the president's peace note had been received in Berlin.

Early London press comment that the note was painful because it said the objects of the belligerents were practically the same, was not unexpected here, where attention has already been drawn to the fact that President Wilson specifically declared that the published views of the opposing statesmen left that impression.

It is stated officially that the president would not presume to say that the two groups were fighting for the same object, but merely that their official spokesmen had outlined much the same general program without going into actual details, which he now seeks.

Messages Pour In.

Several hundred telegrams congratulating President Wilson on his note to belligerents arrived today at the White House. Practically all of them congratulated the note as a move for peace. They came from individuals and organizations. The White House telegraphers were kept busy for hours receiving the messages.

SUCCEEDS ARCHBOLD.

New York, Dec. 22.—A. C. Bedford was today elected president of the Standard Oil company of New Jersey, to succeed the late John D. Archbold. Mr. Bedford for some years has been vice president and treasurer of the company.