

PRESIDENT ASKS BELLIGERENTS TO DISCUSS PEACE

Not Concerned About the Methods Employed, as Long as Peace Discussion Begins.

To the American ambassadors presenting the notes Secretary Lansing follows:

"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 text of the notes themselves follows:

"The president of the United States has instructed me to suggest to you (there is inserted a designation of the government addressed) a course of action with regard to the present war which he hopes that the 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."

In the notes to the central powers these paragraphs follow next:

"The suggestion which I am instructed to make the president has long been in 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 merits, and as if it had been made in other circumstances."

In the note to the entente allies the following was inserted:

"The suggestion which I am instructed to make the president has long been in mind to offer. He is somewhat embarrassed to offer it at this particular time because it may now seem to have been prompted by the recent overtures of the central powers. It is, in fact, in no way associated with them in its origin and the president would have delayed offering it until those overtures had been 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."

Then all the notes proceed as follows:

"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. He would be happy himself to be of service, 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 as 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 statesmen 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 provisions of weak people and small states as secure against aggression or denial in the future as the rights and privileges of 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 or selfish interference of any kind."

"Each would be jealous of the formation of any more rival leagues to preserve an uncertain balance of power against multiplying suspicions; but each is ready to consider the formation of a league of nations to in-

sure peace and justice 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 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 interests in its conclusions, lest it should presently be too late to accomplish the greater things which lie beyond its conclusions, 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."

HITCHCOCK INTRODUCED RESOLUTION ENDORSING WILSON

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—Senator Hitchcock, Nebraska, presented a resolution today endorsing President Wilson's note to the warring powers and asked immediate consideration of it. Senator Borah, Idaho, opposed immediate adoption of the resolution.

The resolution was introduced before news of Secretary Lansing's explanation statement had reached the capital.

Borah said that while the president's offer evidently was made with the best intentions, he felt action by the senate should be withheld at this time and suggested that a more effective plan for bringing about peace may later present itself.

The resolution was referred to the committee on foreign relations. It follows:

"That the senate strongly endorses and approves the action taken by the president in sending diplomatic notes under date of December 16 to the nations now engaged in war suggesting and recommending the first steps in possible negotiations to arrange the terms of peace."

"Resolved, that it is the sense of the senate that this action of the president represents the overwhelming public sentiment and earnest desires of the people of the United States."

Not Released at London.
London, Dec. 21.—President Wilson's message to the belligerents had not been released for publication here at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The note has been received at the foreign office, but its contents remain undisclosed.

It is apparent from the above dispatch that the British censor has held up the press dispatches from the United States regarding the message.

The United Press cabled the note last night to its clients in both London and Paris. Up to an early hour this afternoon, however, no word of acknowledgment had been received from Paris. Cables from both France and England were silent so far as comment on the note was concerned. Obviously no comment, official or otherwise, will be available in London until the message is released by the censors.

Condemned By Canadians.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 21.—President Wilson's message to belligerents was condemned by such Canadian officials as would discuss it and by the dominion press today.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson characterized the note as "gratuitous" and "inopportune." Hon. F. G. McDiarmid predicted the message would be strongly resented.

Under the heading "President Wilson starts his knitting," the Morning World interprets the peace move as merely safeguarding the interests of the United States, which feels that the allies, in ending the war, will make far reaching trade deals among themselves, barring out neutral nations who do not play a part in maintaining the liberties of the world."

The Star "resents interference by outsiders," but points out that Wilson "may have been bringing great pressure to bear on the German government."

LANSING GIVES CAUSE OF NOTE

Our Rights Being Invaded by Both Sides, and Situation is Becoming Intolerable.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—Danger of the United States being drawn into the war was the real reason behind President Wilson's message to the belligerents, said Secretary of State Lansing today.

"The position of the United States as a neutral is rapidly becoming intolerable," he said. "Therefore, the president has demanded a showdown."

"Our rights have been invaded, and the situation is becoming so intolerable that it cannot go on long."

"More and more our rights are invaded by the belligerents on both sides, so that the situation is becoming increasingly critical."

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

"It was not our material interests that were considered when we said that the situation might become unbearable. We should have prospered by the war, but our rights have been invaded."

Overtures Only Delayed the Note.
"No nation has been sounded on this matter, and we did not know in advance what Lloyd-George would say. And there was no consideration of German overtures or the speech of Lloyd-George in connection with formation of this note."

"The only thing the German overtures did was possibly to delay the note a few days."

"It was not finally decided to send this until Monday. (The note was sent Monday night and Tuesday morning.) The difficulty that faced the president was that the note might be construed as a movement for peace, and in aid of the German overtures. He specifically denied that that was a factor in the communication itself."

U. S. Could Turn Scale of War.
Previous to authorizing the above quoted statement, Lansing had talked more freely than usual, and in the same tenor.

It has been suggested to him that the United States really was in no position to stop the war, unless the belligerents themselves desire to end it; to this he hinted that if the United States were to enter the war, it would turn the scale definitely, and he emphasized that there was a feeling of danger that the country would be drawn in.

He had also said that there was in the administration's mind no purpose to suggest peace in any way.

Neutral's Rights Are the Issue.
On the contrary, he explained, that what had been generally interpreted as a desire to learn the peace terms of both sides was in reality an effort to ascertain "what would satisfy the belligerents as to ending the war," but with the viewpoint of rendering the position of neutrals less ignoble.

Lansing's whole talk embodied the idea that "we will have to do something" if American rights are further invaded and if both sides continue infraction of international laws which involve American lives, property and rights.

KING GEORGE LAUDS THE REJECTION OF PEACE

London, Dec. 22.—King George today added the weight of his words to the allies' rejection of a German-made peace.

"The vigorous prosecution of the war must be our single endeavor," he declared, "until we have vindicated the rights violated by our enemies and established the security of Europe on a sure foundation."

King George thanked the house of commons for its "liberality," in providing funds to cover the burdens of the war.

"In this sacred cause," the king declared, "I am assured of the united support of all of my peoples. I pray God may give us his blessing."

John Kubishka and wife of Havelock are in the city enjoying a holiday visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Rotter and family.

Miss Claire Bookmeyer was among those going to Omaha this morning to spend the day in that city looking after some business matters.

John Rotter departed this morning for Glenwood to spend a short time there with relatives and friends as a guest at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ed. Gilson and family.

FORD PLANT CLOSED TO RELIEVE THE RAIL JAM

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 21.—Beginning tomorrow the Ford Motor company will close its plant for seven days in order to relieve the railroad congestion here, that carloads of food and fuel may be handled, it was announced today by Frank L. Klingensmith, vice president. The suspension will mean a production loss of about 12,500 cars a day.

Mr. Klingensmith said that the normal coal consumption of thirteen cars daily will be curtailed to the amount needed to keep the plant above freezing temperatures. Forty-two thousand men are made idle by the order, meaning a wage loss for the week of \$1,400,000.

STOCK MARKET IS DEMORALIZED

War Issues Break Heavily—50,000 Shares of Steel Offered.

New York, Dec. 21.—Extreme weakness bordering upon demoralization marked the opening dealings on the stock exchange today. The so-called war shares broke from 2 to 11 points, these being extended in the course of the first 10 minutes.

The most sensational feature was the offering of 50,000 shares of United States Steel of 104 1-2 to 104 1-2 against yesterday's closing price of 108. Never before in the history of the exchange has a single block of such volume been recorded.

Transactions in steel continued on an enormous scale. Including the 50,000 share lot at the opening, total sales in that stock amounted to 220,000 shares within the first half hour, at between 104 1-2 and 106 1-2.

The lots sold ranged from 1,000 to 6,000 shares with one lot of 15,000 shares.

Steels which broke sharply included Atlantic, Gulf and West Indies, Industrial Alcohol, Crucible Steel, International Paper, Republic Iron and Steel, Lackawanna Steel, American Car, Central Leather, Pittsburg Coal and Utah Copper.

The selling seemed to come from all quarters and represented further unloading of impaired margins. Renewal of liquidation was largely ascribed to President Wilson's attitude to the belligerent nations.

Even rails, which have been generally strong in the midst of the recent liquidation, gave way in the first rush of selling today. Reading selling off over a point, while Union Pacific lost 1 1-8.

Although the market continued feverish, rallies were registered in the first half hour of from 2 to 7 points. Recoveries proved of brief duration, steel falling to 104 soon after 11 o'clock, with similar recessions in other industrials. Sales of the first half hour aggregated 85,000 shares. Liquidation on the second setback was less general, but seemingly no less imperative than that which attended the wild opening.

U. S. PAPERS LAUD AND DERIDE WILSON'S NOTE

New York, Dec. 21.—New York papers today commented on President Wilson's note as follows:

Tribune—Today we have become the agents and purveyors of a German peace.

Times—It (the note) may serve to turn the mind of the belligerents to peace.

Sun—The president makes plain his intention to labor for the construction of post-bellum days that in international transactions will involve this country in a manner that it has hitherto scrupulously avoided.

Herald—Mr. Wilson should not forget that he is president of the United States, and that to him have been entrusted the vital interests of the American people.

The World—He has taken peace steps in a manner to which no belligerent can well offer objections.

Staats Zeitung—The note may prove to be a step in the interests of all peoples involved in the fearful war.

FOR SALE.
Improved farm, northwest 1/4 of 13-20-6, Boone county, Nebraska; two and a half miles from Albion; \$16,000.00. Easy terms.

MICHAEL V. RUDDY, Albion, Nebraska.

IN PLATTSMOUTH FORTY YEARS AGO.

Dovey has put up a new awning in front of his store.

The town of Cazad, in Dawson county, was almost completely destroyed by fire on Sunday Morning a week ago.

J. N. Wise, Esq., is going into the Centennial business heavy. Nice plump boy up at his house. It's a Wise child, and knows its daddy already.

White & Darrah have dissolved partnership, and Frank E. White goes it alone now, we mean in the grain business. Billy Darrah makes a double splice and hitches on to Thatcher. Hufrah for a good crop.

Mr. Reinbackel desires to return thanks to the many friends who helped preserve his house during the late fire at the machine shops; likewise, C. P. Moore and family. This ought to have been in last week, but was overlooked.

We learn with sincere regret that Mr. Hesser, our well known Horticulturist, is dangerously ill, although he seems to be mending slowly at last accounts.

Sam Chapman has returned from the Centennial exhibition. Like all the rest he says it is wonderful. You walk and walk, and look and look, and see everything, and then walk some more, and then your feet quit on you, and you sit down and wish it was "tomorrow." Sam literally wore his legs down a solid foot and never knew it till he came home and measured by an old mark he had in the back office. The last we saw Sam was stretched out on the long table. Father Hayes was holding on to his head and shoulders and Pollock and Sprague had each a leg stretching it out. We're bound to have "them legs" stretched out again, for we want to run Sam against Griggs this fall for United States senator, and we don't mean he shall be an inch shorter than G. Say, won't they make a pair of high-toned rivals.

Assessed Valuation of Plattsmouth. Personal property \$133,365 Real estate 284,000 It only falls short about \$40,000 of last year, owing to some new improvements though. Property on the whole was taken less. It is too small though, and gives us a ridiculous appearance, as every one knows we have five times that amount at fair valuations.

GLOOMY VIEW BY GERMAN PAPER

British Premier's Statement Is Taken As Stern Refusal of Peace.

Berlin, Dec. 22.—(Via London)—The Vorwaerts, which was one of the first newspapers in Germany to talk of peace, expresses deep disappointment over the speech of Premier David Lloyd-George. The paper cites passages in the speech from which it claims the only logical inference is that, firstly the entente refuses to make peace until it can do so upon the ruins of Germany's military power; secondly, the entente, because Germany breaks treaties, will make no treaty with Germany at all but will itself take substantial guarantees by force of arms; thirdly, that Germany must swallow the entente's terms many's terms.

"The whole tenor of the speech,"

whole and unseen before Lloyd-George will consent to negotiate.

Lloyd-George, says the Vorwaerts, speaks like a judge in robes thundering a sentence against a poor sinner. It also compares him to a superman and to employers who during a strike demand that the workmen resume work unconditionally. The Vorwaerts sees everywhere in the language of the speech a stern rejection of Germany's offer to negotiate and hence it concludes that Lloyd-George is logical in finally saying that the entente must wait until it hears Ger-

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May yours be a merry, merry Christmas—a day filled with gladness and good cheer—a day that knows no regrets—a day that when past shall linger always among your happiest memories.

And we wish to thank you most sincerely for your share in our past years of prosperity—without your approval, your patronage we could not have had such splendid success and we assure you that we shall always show our appreciation by giving you always a little more than you expect, rather than a little less than you demand in value, style and service.

Store closed all day Christmas

New ties every week!

C. E. Wescott's Sons

"Everybody's Store"

Christmas Gifts for Every Day Use

- Percolators
- 50 Year Guaranteed Knives and Forks
- Roasters of all kinds
- Aluminum Skillets
- Aluminum Kettles
- Kitchen Utensils
- Silver Spoons
- Pocket Knives

Bestor & Swatek

shown the falsity of their allegation that the only obstacles to peace are German's refusal to negotiate and the abandonment of an exaction.

Clarence C. Cotner and wife departed this morning for Blue Hill, Neb., where they will enjoy a visit of a few days in that city with the brother of Mrs. Cotner and will remain over Christmas.

Cough Medicine for Children.

Mrs. Hugh Cook, Scottsville, N. Y., says: "About five years ago when we were living in Garbutt, N. Y., I doctored two of my children suffering from colds with Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and found it just as representative in every way. It promptly checked their coughing and cured their colds quicker than anything I ever used." Obtainable everywhere.

Mrs. Hugh Cook, Scottsville, N. Y., says: "About five years ago when we were living in Garbutt, N. Y., I doctored two of my children suffering from colds with Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and found it just as representative in every way. It promptly checked their coughing and cured their colds quicker than anything I ever used." Obtainable everywhere.

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We wish you all a

Merry Christmas

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Stetson Hats

Philip Thierolf
VALUE GIVING CLOTHING

Carhart Overalls
Hansen Gloves