

# Germany Offers to Treat for Peace With the Allies

## THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

THE WEATHER  
FAIR

Use the telephone for  
BEE WANT-ADS  
Telephone Tyler 1000  
Easiest way.

VOL. XLVI.—NO. 153.

OMAHA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 13, 1916. FOURTEEN PAGES.

On Train, at Hotel, News Stand, etc. 5c. SINGLE COPY TWO CENTS.

### PESSIMISM FELT IN ENGLAND OVER TEUTONS' OFFER

Kaiser's Proposals Not Likely to Bring Immediate Results, Is Impression Prevailing in London.

PAPERS GROW SARCASTIC  
News Declares Chancellor's Declaration in Reichstag Almost Blasphemous.

FOREIGN OFFICE SILENT

London, Dec. 12.—The foreign office today informed the Associated Press that it is unable to discuss the German peace offer until the terms have been received. Meanwhile the attitude of the British government toward possible peace terms remains as frequently enunciated by the former premier and foreign secretary.

A general note of pessimism prevails in London. One prominent official expressed himself to the Associated Press today as being very skeptical that the proposed terms would offer even a basis for negotiation.

Note Dramatic Coup.  
This official said, however, that the note was a dramatic coup which would create interesting developments in the diplomatic situation and provide the first official peace overture of the war.

The offer finds the foreign office upset in the midst of a change of administration, but as the new foreign secretary, A. J. Balfour, has kept most closely in touch with foreign affairs while serving in a different department in the late government, it is not expected that it will take long for him to be as well prepared as Viscount Grey, the retiring foreign secretary, to take charge of Great Britain's end of any negotiations which might follow Germany's offer.

Although it is still a matter of mere speculation, diplomats believe the modus operandi would follow the precedent set by the negotiations which ended the Spanish-American war, when France presented the Spanish offer through Jules Cambon, the French ambassador at Washington. No action could be taken, of course, without full consultation with Great Britain's allies.

Much speculation in official circles as to the possible action of the Reichstag today, had hardly prepared them for an actual offer of peace and the utmost curiosity was displayed as to the details of the proposed terms.

Comment Sarcastic.  
Later editions of the evening newspapers comment sarcastically on the German peace offer. The Evening News says that inasmuch as the Germans have obtained their "maximum of plunder" and as "the avenger in the shape of Lloyd George is about to inflict punishment," Germany now desires to make peace.

"The chancellor's declaration is almost blasphemous," the News continues. "After the crushing of the citizens of Roumania and the deportation of French and Belgians, the kaiser and chancellor place on the allies the responsibility for continuing the war."

Lathrop to Address Public Affairs Committee of C. C.  
John E. Lathrop of the American City Bureau will address the public affairs committee of the Commercial club at noon luncheon today. He will speak on city planning and the exhibit which opens today in the court house.

### HEADS OF KAISER'S WAR MACHINE—Chief of general staff and first among the leaders of the great driving columns of the German army.



GEN. VON HINDENBURG



GEN. VON FALKENHAYN

### FARMERS SEEK INFO ON FEDERAL BANKS

Quiz E. V. Parrish on Details of Farm Loan Bill at Farmers' Congress.

### MORTGAGE IS DISCUSSED

The farmers attending the Nebraska Farmers' congress wanted to know a whole lot about the federal farm loan banks and their operation when E. V. Parrish, manager of the bureau of publicity of the Commercial club, undertook to tell them all the details of the bill. They wanted to know what would happen if a farmer negotiated a loan and then soon afterward sold his farm, or rented it out and moved to town, since the bill provides that only resident farmers may have these loans. They wanted to know what would happen if a man got a loan on a half section of ground and then the following year rented out half of it and only personally farmed a quarter section of it. In fact, they put a number of vital questions up to Mr. Parrish, who although he had made a comprehensive study of the bill and all its provisions, could not answer for what the board would do in all of these hypothetical cases. He told them many of these things would be discretionary with the local board of each bank.

Prof. H. Clyde Filley of the University of Nebraska, College of Agriculture, followed with a further discussion of the subject, showing a chart he had prepared, with the state roughly divided into districts. Prof. Filley made a survey of the prevailing interest charges and commission charges on farm mortgages in the various sections of the state and it was the result of this survey that he gave the members.

### Charges Are Varied.

He showed that the charges varied from 5.6 per cent interest and one-half of 1 per cent commission in the southeastern part of the state to a total of over 10 per cent interest and commission in the northwestern part of the state, where, often as much as 3 per cent commission is charged annually, so that when the loan is for five years, this commission amounts to a total of 15 per cent. In other words, when a man tries to borrow \$1,000 he gives his note for that amount and gets but \$850, the commission of 3 per cent for each of five years or a total of 15 per cent being deducted to begin with. Thus, he showed the great need of a federal money at a cheaper rate to the farmers, and with no commission charge.

W. F. Baxter delivered the address of welcome in the morning, when the convention opened at the Hotel Castle. He urged that a community viewpoint be taken in the consideration of all big problems in the farmers' organizations, as well as elsewhere. He declared that the different groups of men who are now pulling each other's noses should pull together, and declared that consistent economic advance is possible only under such a condition.

About sixty of the farmers attended the banquet at the Hotel Castle in the evening. In former years the Commercial club has sometimes entertained the delegates at a banquet. Opposition to this practice arose among some of the farmers, however, who were reluctant to accept such courtesies from the club. For that reason they decided to pay for their own banquet this year. Cabaret and informal talks occupied the evening.

### GERMANY TRUSTS POPE WILL AID IN WORK FOR PEACE

Note Presented by Teuton Minister to Vatican Says Kaiser Willing to End War for Humanity's Sake.

### FIGHTING IN SELF DEFENSE

Communication Says Enemies Unable to Shatter Armies of Teutons.

### SURE OF OWN STRENGTH

Berlin, Dec. 12.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—The note presented by Dr. von Muhlbarg, German minister to the Vatican, to Cardinal Gasparri, papal secretary of state, follows: "According to instructions received, I have the honor to send to your eminence a copy of the declaration which, by the good offices of the powers entrusted with the protection of German interests in the countries with which the German empire is in a state of war, has been transmitted to these states and in which the imperial government declares itself ready to enter into peace negotiations. The Austro-Hungarian, Turkish and Bulgarian governments also have sent similar notes."

### Reasons Are Manifest.

"The reasons which prompted Germany and her allies to take this step are manifest. For two years and a half a terrible war has been devastating the continent. Unlimited treasures of civilization have been destroyed. Extensive acres have been soaked with blood. Millions of brave soldiers have fallen in battle and millions have returned home as invalids. Grief and sorrow fill almost every house.

"Not only upon the belligerent nations but also upon neutrals the destructive consequences of the gigantic struggle weigh heavily. Trade and commerce, carefully built up in years of peace, have been depressed. The best forces of the nations have been withdrawn from the production of useful objects.

### An Immense War Camp.

"Europe, which formerly was devoted to the propagation of religion and civilization, which was trying to find solutions for social problems and was the home of science and art and all peaceful labor, now resembles an immense war camp in which the achievements and works of many decades are doomed to annihilation.

### Iron Wall Impenetrable.

"All the efforts for her enemies are unable to shatter the heroic armies of the Teutonic allies, which protect the frontiers of their countries, strengthened by the certainty that the enemy shall never pierce the iron wall.

### Efforts of Pope.

"Since the first day of the pontifical reign, his holiness, the pope, has unsparingly demonstrated in the most generous fashion his solicitude for the innumerable victims of this war. He has alleviated the sufferings and ameliorated the lot of thousands of men injured by this catastrophe. Inspired by the exalted ideas of his ministry, his holiness has seized every opportunity in the interest of humanity to end so sanguinary a war.

"The imperial government is firmly confident that the initiative of the four powers will find friendly welcome on the part of his holiness and that the work of peace can count upon the precious support of the holy see.

"If, in spite of this offer of peace and reconciliation the struggle should go on, the four allied powers are resolved to continue to a victorious end, but they decline responsibility for this before humanity and history. The imperial government through the good offices of your excellency, asks the government of (here is inserted the name of the neutral power addressed in each instance) to bring this communication to the knowledge of the government of (here are inserted the names of the belligerents.)"

### Germans Formally Make Offer to Allies; Will Treat for Peace With Enemies; Proposals for Settlement Not Fully Declared

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 same 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 the 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 armies.

"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."

### BARBER AND OTHERS BUY WILD HORSES

Tonsorial Artist Says it Would Have Been Easier to Catch Deer.

### TO HURRY CASE ALONG

H. B. Halverson, Hettinger, N. D., was too smart a business man to pass up a good trade. So when he had the opportunity of swapping his half section of North Dakota land, which was slightly incumbered, for wild horses that could easily be realized upon, he made the trade. As a result he told the "wild horse" jury that he had just about dropped \$3,300 in the transaction.

"I was to get 200 head of horses for my land," he said. "One hundred for my quarter section in Adams county, North Dakota, and the other 100 for a quarter section of land in Perry county of the same state."

The North Dakota man said that he made the first deal with B. C. Gullickson of Minneapolis, Minn., and the other through A. O. Perry of this city.

"When I went to Arizona for my horses, I was unable to get one to catch them for me," he testified.

"I offered expert cowboys as high as \$30 a head to gather the animals, which I had been assured by Mr. Perry and Gullickson would be comparatively easy thing to do, but they all told me that they wouldn't undertake to catch the wild horses for any price."

When asked if he had made any effort to get back his property he said that he had written to A. O. Perry of this city and received the following letter in return:

"I would have to employ a stenographer at a cost of at least \$25 to get it all written up. My advice to you is to find another fellow like yourself and trade your horses to him. Smith has the horses, but you can't get anything out of Smith; others have tried it and failed. Just keep quiet, tell no one your troubles, and get to trading. That is what I done and come out all right."

"A. O. PERRY."

He told the jury that he never got anything in return for his property except his trouble and expense of trying to get his animals.

Barber Takes Stand.

W. W. Middleton, barber of Kansas City, Kan., told of going to Arizona with his brother, H. L. Middleton, in quest of the imaginary horses. "Did you see any horses?" he was asked.

"No many."

"What else did you see?" "Some deer."

"Did you catch any of the horses?" "No it would have been much easier to catch the deer."

J. S. White, Grinnell, Ia., called upon to testify said that he traded a half section of Canada land and a eighty-acre farm in Shannon county, Missouri, for 200 wild animals. He told of his coming to Omaha and meeting J. S. Smith, E. O. Amos and E. C. Hodder in the office of the United States Land and Investment company and how they misrepresented the animals to him.

Picture Were Fine.

"They showed me fine pictures and said that the animals would be at least worth from 900 pounds ap," he testified.

He got his bills of sale, but not his horses, he said.

On cross examination he admitted that he tried to sell the bills of sale

(Continued on Page Eleven, Column Five.)

### Peace Terms Would Restore Status Quo

Washington, Dec. 12.—Advices from Berlin to the German embassy indicate that Germany's peace terms in general measure propose the restoration of the status quo before the war, with the exception of the establishment of independent kingdoms of Poland and Lithuania.

They are understood to propose the complete restoration of the occupied portions of Belgium and France in return for Germany's captured colonies and to dispose of the Balkan situation, because of its extremely complicated nature, in the peace conference.

### PROFFER OF PEACE UPSETS MARKETS

Wheat, Corn and Leading Munition and War Supply Issues Drop Many Points.

### COTTON PRICES HIGHER

Chicago, Dec. 12.—Wheat on the Chicago Board of Trade on receipt of the news of the proposals for peace of Germany and its allies broke over 8 cents. May wheat sold last night at \$1.75 1/2. Within fifteen minutes after the opening today the price touched \$1.66 1/2.

The extreme drop was to \$1.66 1/2 for the May delivery, a loss of 8 1/2 cents as compared with yesterday's finish. At this point buyers took hold with vigor and a rally to \$1.68 1/2 for May ensued. Trading was on a huge scale.

During the last fifteen minutes of the session wheat for May delivery broke to \$1.64, a drop of 1 1/2 cents a bushel in twenty-four hours. December touched \$1.53 1/2, a fall of 1 1/2 cents. The close was wild, 4 1/2 @ 10 1/4 cents under yesterday's finish, with May at \$1.65 1/2 @ 1.65 3/4 and July at \$1.42 1/4 @ 1.43.

May corn dropped to 90 1/2 cents, a loss of 2 1/2 cents compared with closing prices of yesterday. May oats similarly sold off 1 1/2 cents to 54 cents. January lard, the index of the provisions market, after selling at \$15.60, advanced to \$15.90 on the peace proposals.

### Stocks Take Big Drop.

New York, Dec. 12.—The stock market became immediately unsettled today on the receipt of the news of the Teutonic peace proposals. Munitions and shares of other companies which have profited by the war were most affected, Bethlehem Steel dropping twenty-six points.

United States Steel fell 3 points and other prominent industrials yielded as much. Trading became feverishly active on the decline and urgent liquidation was in evidence.

The selling embraced practically every issue in that class of specialties which have been strongest and most active recently. While the market was not demoralized in the first period of heavy selling, support was evident only in the investment issues.

### Cotton Market Rises.

New York, Dec. 12.—The announcement of German peace proposals served to stop the decline of the cotton market here this morning, prices advancing from the opening of 18.18 cents for May to 18.50 cents, or about \$3.50 a bale above the low level of yesterday afternoon.

### GERMAN EMPIRE SUGGESTS PEACE PARLEYS TO FOES

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg Gives Note to Neutral Diplomats for Transmission to Nations.

### TEUTONS UNCONQUERABLE

Prime Minister Asserts Forces of Central States Everywhere Standing Firm.

### QUESTION UP TO ENEMY

Berlin, Dec. 12.—(By Wireless 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 read today in the Reichstag by the chancellor.

"In the note the four allied (central) powers propose to enter forthwith into 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 governments at Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia transmitted identical notes and also communicated with the Holy See and all neutral powers."

### Speech of Chancellor.

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech is reported by the Overseas News agency as follows:

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg today announced to the Reichstag that Germany, together with its allies, "conscious of their responsibility before God, before their own nations, before humanity, had proposed this morning to the powers to enter on peace negotiations."

Practically all the members of Parliament answered the unexpected summons. The crowded house and thronged galleries listened in attentive silence when the chancellor rose for his speech.

The chancellor first outlined the extraordinary political situation and then, insisting upon the achievements of the central powers, made an announcement which possibly may be the turning point in the war, which over the next two years has held the world under its spell. The chancellor said:

"The Reichstag had not been adjourned for a long period, but, fortunately, it was left to the discretion of the president as to the day of the next meeting. This decision was caused by the hope that soon happy events in the field would be recorded, a hope fulfilled quicker almost than expected. I shall be brief, for actions speak for themselves."

The chancellor said Roumania had entered the war in order to roll up the German positions in the east and those of Germany's allies. At the same time the grand offensive on the Somme had as its object to pierce the German western front and the renewed Italian attacks were intended to paralyze Austria-Hungary.

### Praises God and Troops.

"The situation was serious," the chancellor continued. "But with God's help our troops shaped conditions so as to give us security which not only is complete, but still more so than ever before. The western front stands. Not only does it stand, but in spite of the Roumanian campaign it is fitted out with larger reserves of men and material than it had before. The most effective precautions have been taken against all Italian diversions. And while on the Somme and on the Carso the drum fire resounded while the Russians launched troops against the eastern frontier of Transylvania, Field Marshal von Hindenburg captured the whole of western Wallachia and the hostile capital of Bucharest, leading with unparalleled genius the troops that in competition with all the allies

(Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

A gain of more than 54,000 paid want ads in 1916 as compared with last year is proof of satisfied advertisers, Both as to Results and Price.

You are as close to The Bee Want Ad Dept. as your phone is to you

Call Tyler 1000 Today

### The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair			
Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.			
Hour	Temp.		
5 a. m.	10		
6 a. m.	10		
7 a. m.	10		
8 a. m.	10		
9 a. m.	10		
10 a. m.	10		
11 a. m.	10		
12 m.	10		
1 p. m.	10		
2 p. m.	10		
3 p. m.	10		
4 p. m.	10		
5 p. m.	10		
6 p. m.	10		
7 p. m.	10		
8 p. m.	10		
9 p. m.	10		
10 p. m.	10		
11 p. m.	10		
12 m.	10		
Comparative Local Record.			
1916	1915	1914	1913
Highest yesterday	13	22	12
Lowest yesterday	4	28	24
Mean temperature	9	29	44
Wind velocity for the day	9	20	44
Precipitation	0.02	0.0	0.0
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal at Omaha since March 1, and compared with the last two years.			
Deg.			
Normal temperature	29	29	29
Deficiency for the day	20	19	19
Total excess since March 1	392	392	392
Normal precipitation	60	60	60
Deficiency for the day	20	21	21
Total rainfall since March 1	16.44	16.44	16.44
Deficiency since March 1	43.56	43.56	43.56
Deficiency for period, 1916	1.85	1.85	1.85
Deficiency for period, 1915	2.56	2.56	2.56
Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.			
Station and State	Temp.	High.	Rain.
Omaha, clear	10	21	0.0
Landar, part cloudy	14	24	0.0
North Platte, clear	6	26	0.0
Omaha, clear	10	21	0.0
Pueblo, clear	20	35	0.0
Cheyenne, clear	16	32	0.0
Davenport, snowing	12	20	0.1
Des Moines, clear	12	18	0.0
Sioux City, part cloudy	5	24	0.0
Shrader, snowing	4	24	0.1
Sioux City, clear	12	12	0.0
Valentine, clear	12	12	0.0
+ indicates below zero.			
L. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.			