

BERLIN WILLING TO EXCHANGE OF WAR PRISONERS

U. S. and Germany Plan Conference Relative to Agreement Which Will Include Treatment of Soldiers.

Washington, June 25.—Germany has been asked through Spanish diplomatic channels to send representatives to Bernese Switzerland to meet American representatives there on August 5 to discuss maintenance, treatment and exchange of prisoners.

In response to a proposal from the State department the German government recently signified its agreement in principle to such a conference.

The United States also has asked Germany to permit a Swiss commission to visit German prison camps to determine what American prisoners may be classed as invalids and released for internment in Switzerland.

VICTORY FOR ALLIES CALLED DREAM BY GERMAN MINISTER

(Continued from Page One.) One of the most remarkable utterances of the foreign secretary was a declaration in which he placed the onus for starting the war on Russia, with France and Great Britain next in order culpable.

Von Kuehlmann's Speech. Amsterdam, June 25.—Germany's war aims were briefly set forth, peace ideas outlined, the idea that he desired to secure world domination through the war disclaimed, and the responsibility for the conflict primarily placed upon Russia by Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary, in a speech to the Reichstag in Berlin yesterday.

While declaring that what was desired for the German people and their allies was "a free, strong, independent existence," within the boundaries drawn for them "by history," the foreign secretary said Germany would have to decline to make any prior concessions by stating its position as to Belgium in a way which would bind it without similarly binding Germany's enemies.

Denies World Control. Referring to the responsibility for the war, as he viewed it, Dr. Von Kuehlmann said:

"I do not believe any responsible man in Germany, not even the emperor himself or the members of the imperial government, ever for a moment believed they could win the domination of Europe by starting this war. The idea of world domination in Europe is Utopian, as proved by Napoleon."

After declaring that the revelations that had been made showed Russia as the power which planned and desired the war, with France abetting it and England's attitude strengthening the Russian desire for conflict, Dr. von Kuehlmann again declared that Germany had not entertained any belief that this war could lead even to the domination of Europe and much less that of the world.

Holds Germany Cannot Be Beaten. "For so long," said Dr. von Kuehlmann, "as every overture is regarded by others as a peace offensive—as a trap or as something false for the purpose of sowing disunion between the allies, so long as every attempt at a rapprochement is at once violently denounced by the enemies of a rapprochement in the various countries, so long will it be impossible to see how any exchange of ideas leading to peace can be begun."

In view of the magnitude of the war and the number of powers, including those from overseas, that are engaged, its end can hardly be expected through purely military decisions alone and without recourse to diplomatic negotiations. "Our position on the battle fields, our enormous military resources, the

situation and the determination at home permit us to use such language. We hope our enemies perceive that, in view of our resources, the idea of victory for the entente is a dream."

Emperors in Agreement.

"In Austria-Hungary," said Dr. von Kuehlmann, "that brilliant representative of her foreign policy, Count Czernin, retired because of internal political reasons. His successor, Baron Burian, is a well tried diplomat, whose loyalty, friendship and devotion to the alliance were assured from the outset."

"It is also to be reckoned among Baron Burian's services," Dr. von Kuehlmann went on, "that an interview between the two emperors occurred at main headquarters, which history will record as momentous in shaping the relations between Germany and Austria-Hungary. Both the emperors, in the presence of leading statesmen, assured each other solemnly that they would not only loyally abide by the existing alliance, but that they also intended to strengthen, widen and deepen it in political, military and economic directions."

"With Bulgaria too," continued the foreign secretary, "recent events, especially the peace negotiations, have facilitated the drawing closer of many personal and political ties. It is a matter of regret that Premier Radoslovoff recently resigned. The explicit assurances of his successor and the king are a guarantee to us that there will be no change in the policy hitherto followed."

Dr. von Kuehlmann again went into the subject of negotiations between Turkey and Bulgaria, and added:

"But there does not exist any conflict of interest between us and Turkey."

Dr. von Kuehlmann announced that within the next few days a conference would be held at Constantinople, where the questions that had arisen between the quadruple alliance and "the Caucasian people would find a settlement."

Polish Question Difficult.

Dealing with the question of Poland, Dr. von Kuehlmann said that not only was the Polish question inherently a difficult one, but the almost inseparable connection between it and the solution of the economic questions existing between Austria-Hungary and Germany had so far prevented the attainment of a definite result.

"I believe, however," said the foreign minister, "that before there are general peace negotiations in Europe, the zealous efforts of the statesmen concerned will result in their succeeding in finding a solution acceptable to all parties."

"In south Russia, our occupation of the Crimea gave rise to certain incidents respecting the Russian fleet, but these have been satisfactorily settled."

The foreign secretary said an agreement had been reached whereby the fortifications on the Aland islands, in the Baltic, were to be removed, but that a final decision had not yet been reached regarding the future of the islands.

Russian Situation Uncertain.

With reference to Russia Dr. von Kuehlmann said:

"It is impossible to believe that the great process of fermentation and wild, irregular movement of conflicting forces which the disappearance of the czaristic power released has reached permanent equilibrium. All conditions in the former empire of the czar must to a certain extent be described as uncertain. Our policy, in view of the situation, is close observation and utmost caution and so far as purely internal affairs are concerned, correspondingly wise."

"In Finland the battle has been decided in favor of the party which was striving for Finland's independence. The soil of Finland has been cleared of red guards and everything points to Finland being about to develop that high culture which is hers in the form of an independent state."

"By the treaty of Brest-Litovsk," continued Dr. von Kuehlmann, "Courland and Lithuania were severed from the Russian empire. It was from the outset clear to the negotiators that the partition of the Baltic region by the line fixed in the peace treaty was bound to create an extraordinarily difficult situation."

"It was hard for the Lettish population to endure the prospect of being cut up. The historical interdependence of the entire Baltic region suggested at that time objections against the possibility of a lasting separation between Livonia, Estonia and Courland."

"In agreement with the entire German public, we resolved to give ear to Livonia's appeal for help and replace the reign of terror carried on by the red guards by a reign of peace and order. The inhabitants of these provinces, mindful of the misgovernment and terrible sufferings which they must endure, turned to the German authorities."

"After referring to the discussion which had taken place with the soviet government, Dr. von Kuehlmann said that a conference was about to take place in Berlin under his presidency, at which an attempt would be made to bring about friendly agreement on all points still pending."

"I can express the hope that the discussions will completely correspond with the requirements and wishes of the populations there and the interests of the German people, the secretary added."

Forecasts Further Successes.

Speaking of the military situation, the secretary said that victories had given the Germans the initiative in France, and he continued "we can hope that the summer and autumn will bring to our arms a new and great success."

"The Austro-Hungarian army also has in a dashing onslaught attacked the Italian positions and achieved noteworthy successes and pinned down large and important enemy forces on that front."

"When one makes a wide survey of events, one must ask whether the war, according to human calculations, will last beyond the autumn or the winter or beyond next year. There is a common idea among the people that the length of the war is some-

thing absolutely new, as if the authoritative quarters had in our time never reckoned on a very long war. This idea is incorrect."

"Despite the brilliant successes of our arms," continued the secretary, "there has been nowhere clearly recognizable among our enemies readiness for peace. The German government has repeatedly laid down its standpoint in declarations intended for the widest publicity. Our enemies have nothing to show that can in any way compare with the German peace offer, or with the reply to the papal note."

"The declaration of our enemies, especially of English statesmen, allow us yet no peaceful ray of light on the darkness of this war."

Take Steps to Organize Auto-Truck Freight Lines

Preliminary steps were taken to organize an extensive auto truck freight service between Omaha and surrounding towns at a meeting of truck owners last night at the Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting was called by Manager Gillan of the Industrial bureau. He explained the idea, which is to have a central office in Omaha where freight may be booked for various towns so that when a truck comes to Omaha with a load it can take a load on the return trip also if there is freight going in that direction.

Mr. Gillan stated that truck service is already in operation between Omaha and Fremont, Missouri Valley and Plattsmouth. All are good roads with the exception of about a mile near the river on the Plattsmouth road.

Other desirable routes mentioned are between Omaha and the following towns: Lincoln, on the Omaha-Lincoln-Denver road; Fremont, on the Lincoln highway; Tekamah, on the Washington highway; Creston, Ia., on the Blue Grass road; and Avoca, Ia., on the River-to-River road.

Another meeting will be called soon to take further steps.

Italian General Promoted To Command for Leadership By Associated Press.

Italian Army Headquarters, June 25.—General Badoglio, chief of staff to General Diaz, has been promoted by the king to the rank of an army commander as an expression of the king's satisfaction with the present operations. General Badoglio will remain in his present position.

Advertisement for Hartmann Trunk, \$32.50, featuring a heavy padded lift-top trunk with 10 drawers and compartments. Advertiser: FRELING & STEINLE, Omaha's Best Baggage Builders, 1803 Farnam St.

Tornado in Missouri Takes Toll of Five Lives

Unionville, Mo., June 25.—A tornado south of Green City, Mo., last night took a total of five lives, injured a number of others and destroyed much property. The dead are: William White, Mrs. William White, Mrs. Bina Abernathy, Flint Johnson and Mrs. Bernese Smart.

Sagl Becomes Banker From a Staff Correspondent.

Lincoln, June 25.—(Special.)—Anton Sagl, for some time chief clerk in the office of Governor Neville, and who later resigned to accept a position as examiner in the insurance department, has resigned that job, having purchased an interest in the Lancaster State bank at Waverly.

Zabriskie Appointed Sugar Administrator

Washington, June 25.—Food Administrator Hoover has selected G. A. Zabriskie of the milling division of the administration to become sugar administrator and direct enforcement of drastic new sugar regulations, which are to be announced shortly, effective July 1.

Large advertisement for THOMPSON, BELDEN & CO., The Fashion Center for Women. Features tailored suits for summer, handkerchiefs, summer gloves, children's hosiery, women's union suits, and wash blouses. Includes an illustration of a woman in a suit.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Generally fair Wednesday and Thursday, preceded by unsettled in east portion; cooler on Wednesday.

Table showing temperature at Omaha yesterday and comparative local record for 1913, 1917, 1916, and 1915.

Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal at Omaha since March 1: Normal temperature 51.7; actual 54.4; excess for the day 2.7.

Table showing reports from stations at 7 p. m. for various locations including Cheyenne, Denver, and Salt Lake City.

Large advertisement for Willys Knight Sleeve-Valve Motor. Features a detailed illustration of the car and text describing its quiet operation and reliability. Advertiser: Van Brunt Automobile Co., Omaha.

Advertisement for Berry Brothers' Auto Color Varnishes. Promotes refinishing cars 'the Berry Way' and lists downtown and north part of town dealers. Advertiser: NELSON-ZARP PAINT CO., SUNLIGHT PAINT.

Advertisement for MOVING PACKING STORAGE OMAHA VAN & STORAGE CO. Phone Doug. 4163, 806 So. 16th St.

Advertisement for FIGHT - for Sales with Pictures that tell Your Story at a Glance. Features an illustration of a soldier.

Advertisement for FREE TO ASTHMA SUFFERERS. Promotes a new home cure for asthma and includes a coupon for a free trial.