

RUSSIA IS STANDING FIRM AGAINST PEACE

Foreign Office Brands Germany's Proposal as Insincere and Theatrical.

IMPERIAL POWER MUST BE CRUSHED.

Muscovite Government Ready For a Fair and Lasting Peace But Not of German Making. Present Method Not Honestly Made, It Is Charged.

Petrograd, Dec. 16.—Supplementing the foreign minister's speech in the Duma, unqualifiedly rejecting the central powers' offer of peace, the foreign office tonight gave out for publication a lengthy statement reading in part:

"The nation honestly desirous of commencing peace negotiations uses more dignified and direct methods. She does not advertise her intentions throughout the world before her proposals have been transmitted to the powers concerned.

"A complete and emphatic rejection by Russia of Germany's offer can hardly have been necessary to convince America and other neutrals of the attitude which the allies will take towards the proposal.

"Russia cannot speak of peace with an opponent who has proclaimed herself the victor.

"The rejection of Germany's proposal in no sense places Russia in the position of a nation not desirous of a durable peace or insensible to the urgent necessity of rescuing Europe from the calamity which has cast its shadow over the entire world.

"But Russia will continue to suffer from this calamity and add indefinitely to the sacrifices which she has already made rather than submit to greater catastrophe threatened by German imperial ambitions.

"The Russian in common with her allies desires is not a peace dictated by Germany, but the final defeat of those ambitions of German domination. When Germany desires a fair and lasting peace Russia will be disposed to consider the time ripe for peace negotiations."

CALLS FOR DEFEAT OF PROHIBITION

Central Federated Union Declares Millions Would be Out of Work.

New York, Dec. 16.—The Central Federated Union voted today to call upon all the unions in the country to make a direct plea to the members of congress and the United States Senate in opposition to the enactment of a National prohibition measure. The action was taken on the representing of labor leaders that if the country should go dry at least 2,000,000 would be thrown out of work and fully 10,000,000 persons would suffer in consequence.

Those who would be thrown out of work, according to the Union men, include farmers and grain workers, as well as those concerned more directly in the industry, such as brewers, bar tenders and waiters. The Federated Union also decided to endorse the proposal of the Federal Employees union advocating Congressional action to increase the wages of 500,000 Federal employees.

DARING RUTH LAW TO HAVE NEW AIRSHIP

New York, Dec. 16.—Within a month Ruth Law will have a brand new airplane, larger, safer and faster than the dinky little thing she sailed here from Chicago in and after that any New Yorker who wants to hasten to Chicago to dodge a subpoena, attend a ball, take a flier in wheel or do any of the things possible in Chicago, may make his arrangements with her.

Twice as fast as a railroad train Ruth will take him there for a fee that will have as many noughts for a tail as a slow freight engine has cars. On Tuesday she is going to Buffalo to draw up plans for her new machine in consultation with the engineers of the Curtis Aeroplane Company.

The new plane will be large enough to carry a ten hours' fuel supply besides Miss Law and one or two passengers. Its speed will be 100 miles an hour at least.

UNCLE SAM NOW READY TO GO AFTER BOOZE COMBINE

To Make Final Move to Break Up The Noted Whiskey Conspiracy.

GOVT. HAS LOST A GIANT AMOUNT.

Defrauded Out of Twenty Millions, It Is Claimed—Trials Next Month.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The United States government today announced its readiness to make the final move in the litigation to break up the whiskey conspiracy which Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Osborne estimates has defrauded the government out of \$20,000,000 of revenue during the last decade.

Attorney-General Gregory issued a statement saying that the government is preparing to press to trial early in January the cases against Guy Hartman, J. H. Surber and Thomas C. McCoy, the ring-leaders in the whiskey frauds. All are under indictment and McCoy has just been convicted of frauds at Jacksonville, Fla. Another indictment is pending against him at Fort Smith, Ark., where the January trial, which will include Hartman and Surber, will be held.

The three men engineered the frauds whereby liquor escaped taxation by conspiracy with government revenue agents. McCoy and Surber formerly were revenue agents. Surber resigned the Asheville district in 1912, to become, the Department of Justice says, the head of a "university" of whiskey swindlers. The three men operated from headquarters at Jacksonville and Fort Smith. The men are said to have amassed a fortune, the bulk of which is declared by the department to have been placed where the government cannot recover the money.

Minor government officials such as storekeepers and gaugers already have been tried and convicted for complicity in the plot.

Hartman over a year ago jumped a \$25,000 bond, fled to Mexico and there, in disguise, did valuable scout duty for the American expeditionary force. He crossed into the United States last summer and started to return. When but twenty feet from the international boundary an officer arrested him and took him back to Fort Smith. He has made a full confession.

COLONEL CODY IS SERIOUSLY ILL

Buffalo Bill Suffers From a General Breakdown in Denver.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 16.—Colonel Wm. F. Cody, who arrived in Denver two weeks ago for a visit with his sister, is seriously ill, according to Dr. J. H. East, who was called to attend him. The veteran Indian fighter and showman passed a very bad night and his condition showed no improvement this morning. It is understood that members of his family have been summoned from Cody, Wyo.

Dr. East says that because of the age of Colonel Cody, who is 70, he regards the latter's illness as very serious. He is suffering from a general breakdown. He returned to his ranch three weeks ago after the Buffalo Bill-101 Ranch Show closed its season.

GEN. SCOTT TO APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Major-General Hugh L. Scott, chief of the army staff, has been summoned to appear before the House and Senate committees on military affairs next Monday and Tuesday. The testimony he will give will be included in the reports these committees are expected to make on universal military training. General Scott, it is known, is determined to make a fight against the present law under which the National Guard was recently federalized. His report to the Secretary of War, issued two weeks ago, recommended military training by compelling every youth not physically or mentally disqualified to serve one year in the regular army.

After the year of service and training the young men would be discharged and automatically become reserves. They would not be called to the colors, except in the case of war with a foreign foe.

READY TO STATE TERMS OF PEACE TO THE ENTENTE

So Declares The German Ambassador to Secretary of State Lansing.

GERMANY WANTS TO GET TOGETHER.

All Foreign Diplomats at Washington Appear Pleased—Peace Note Leaves Washington.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, visited the State Department today and informed Secretary Lansing the central powers are ready to give the entente group a statement of the preliminary terms upon which they propose to discuss peace.

The German diplomat added that as soon as a conference had been organized his government would present full terms as a proposal for definite peace. It is understood the formal proposal contemplates an agreement for partial disarmament. At the conclusion of the conference Ambassador von Bernstorff said: "I have not received any formal terms and the American government knows officially that no formal terms have been proposed. All Germany has suggested is that the belligerents get together and talk."

"If that proposal is accepted definite terms naturally will be discussed but until then it will not be proper to indulge in speculation. My visit to the Secretary of State was merely for general discussion."

The German ambassador was in a most optimistic frame of mind over the widespread sentiment for peace expressed in this country. He appeared satisfied with the course adopted by this country.

The peace notes were forwarded to London, Paris and Petrograd before noon today. The text of each communication was in English, but for purposes of comparison the original text in French will be forwarded as soon as the cables are clear of the English text.

Hope was expressed at the State Department that a reply would be received from the allies within ten days. In anticipation of this President Wilson and Secretary Lansing will spend Christmas in Washington. Ambassador von Bernstorff also has cancelled arrangements for a Christmas vacation he had expected to spend in Florida.

The course adopted by President Wilson and the cabinet in deciding to transmit the peace offer without comment at this time met with full approval.

FIRST PERIOD OF CONTEST WILL CLOSE FRIDAY NIGHT

Candidates Should Make The Most of The Five Remaining Days and Secure Every Possible Subscription.

- THE PRIZES. \$685 Overland Automobile. Carolina Beach Lot. \$100 in Gold. \$75 Victrola. \$50 O. K. Mystic Range. \$40 Sellers Kitchen Cabinet. \$25 Wrist Watch. Two \$60 Diamond Rings.

The real excitement of The Dispatch contest began yesterday. This was the beginning of the last week of the first period, during which time a candidate can get 150,000 extra votes for each \$15 worth of subscriptions, and the last week of the competition for the diamond ring.

The list of candidates presented on another page represents many who have started their campaigns, a few who are still considering the matter and some whose names were sent in by friends who were anxious to see them win one of the valuable prizes offered.

If you are one of the first class, those who have already commenced the actual work of the campaign, double your efforts during the next five days, because this is one of the most important periods of the entire contest.

Now, if you are among the second class those who are still considering the matter—make the decision today.

SENATE REFUSED TO DISPLACE THE DRY MEASURE

Bill to Make District of Columbia Arid Up Again Tomorrow.

TWO AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED ON.

Question Likely to Be Settled Early This Week—Underwood Would Provide Referendum.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The Senate refused to abandon consideration of the District of Columbia prohibition bill to make way for a pension bill. Many "wet" senators voted to continue the dry district bill because they were opposed to the pension bill and the vote is not regarded as a test.

The Senate adjourned until Monday without acting in any way on the prohibition measure, but it appeared almost certain that the opposition will be unable to block a vote early next week.

Two important amendments remain to be voted on before the bill is placed on its final passage—the Underwood referendum amendment proposing to put prohibition to a vote of the people of the District, and the Smoot substitute designed to prohibit even the importation of alcohol for beverage purposes.

An effort this afternoon by Senator Sheppard, of Texas, to obtain the Senate's unanimous consent for a vote Monday afternoon was blocked by the objection of Senator Martine, of New Jersey.

BILLION DOLLARS FOR EDUCATION.

Washington, Dec. 16.—A billion dollars will be spent in the United States for education next year, the annual report of the United States Commissioner of Education, made public tonight, shows. The total expenditures in 1914, the last totals compiled were close to \$800,000,000.

The report declared that America is well ahead of other nations in the number of children receiving school instruction, nearly a quarter of the population of this country being under instruction.

About 24 per cent of the inhabitants of the United States are attending school, as compared with 19 per cent in Great Britain; 17 per cent in France; 20 per cent in Germany; and a little over 4 per cent in Russia.

THE FRENCH BLOW YIELDED BIG RESULTS

WOULD PURCHASE POSTOFFICE SITE

Senator Overman Introduced Bill For Mooresville—New Appointees.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—Senator Overman introduced a bill today to appropriate \$75,000 for the purchase of a site and construction of postoffice at Mooresville.

Congressman Doughton recommended to the postoffice department today appointment of Mrs. Martha Tucker as postmistress at Tuckerdale, Ashe county.

Isham Hudson has been appointed rural carrier at Coats, Clarence C. Thompson at Glade Valley and Green Eird on Route Six from Albemarle.

BRITISH TRAMP GOES AGROUND

Coast Guard Cutter to the Rescue—Transport Sumner Not Abandoned.

New York, Dec. 16.—While wrecking crews continued today their efforts to float the transport Sumner, which grounded on Barnegat shoals last Monday, word came from Brigantine, N. J., that the British tramp steamer, Juno, was ashore off the Little Beach life saving station.

The coast guard cutter Mohawk, went to the Juno's aid and reported tonight she was resting easily. No effort was made to get the vessel off, as a gale was blowing. The life saving crews from Little Beach, North Brigantine and Little Egg Harbor risked their lives in the storm to reach the Juno, only to find she was in no immediate danger.

The crew of the Sumner was brought here today by the coast guard cutter, Seneca. It was reported that the Sumner had been abandoned, but Col. John M. Carson, in charge of quartermaster department in the army, denied it.

"She is in no danger of being lost," he said. "She sprang a leak in the storm yesterday and the storm worked its way into her engine and boiler room. Her boilers were put out of business and as there was no heat for the crew the men were taken off."

WILL BE LARGEST HOTEL IN THE WORLD.

New York, Dec. 16.—The operation of the Pennsylvania Hotel, at first planned as the largest hotel in this city, changed hands today. Under the plans of the new operators it will be the largest hotel in the world.

This change followed the passing of the operating lease from F. J. Machette to E. M. Statler, president of the Hotel Statler Company.

Mr. Statler will construct a hotel with 2,200 rooms at an approximate cost of about \$12,000,000. The first plans called for a 1,200-room structure. Excavating for the mammoth hotel is already in progress. It will occupy a tract in Seventh avenue, facing the Pennsylvania station, having a frontage of 400 feet in Thirty-third street and 200 feet in Thirty-second street. The Pennsylvania will be 16 stories in height.

The Statler Hotel Company is now operating large hotels in Buffalo, Cleveland and Detroit. It is constructing another at St. Louis.

GERMANY ENTERS TRADE AGREEMENT.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Germany and Switzerland have entered a trade agreement providing that each of the contracting countries shall grant export permissions for its own products and for manufactured articles in amounts to be agreed upon, insofar as the products covered by the document are not needed by the home governments, it became known in official circles today.

Sudden Drive In The West Greater Than Was First Thought.

SCORES OF GUNS WERE CAPTURED.

Crown Prince's Army Successfully Beaten Back—Berlin Claims Russian Offensive Has Failed—Teutons Continue Advance in Rumania.

These were the results achieved by the French in their sudden blow struck against the Crown Prince's front before Verdun, east of the Meuse Friday:

More than 9,000 prisoners were taken, including 250 officers. Eighty-one guns were captured or destroyed.

The villages of Vacheran Ville and Louvemont, Chambrette farm and the Hardaumont and Besonvaux works were reconquered.

The positions thus reconquered are close to those held by the French on the right bank of the Meuse before the Crown Prince's great Verdun offensive began last February.

Brief admission of the reverse before Verdun was contained in yesterday's Berlin war office statement. It said that the French "on December 15th succeeded on the northeast front of Verdun in pushing us from the most advanced position into a prepared second line."

An official bulletin issued last night at Berlin said that fighting was revived east of the Meuse after a calm night.

The French attack was delivered by about 100,000 men and the front attacked was held by about the same number.

Russia's Offensive Fruitless. Berlin (Via Sayville), Dec. 16.—"The Russian discharging offensives in the wooded Carpathians and in the Transylvanian front mountains," writes the military critic of the Overseas News Agency, "has now lasted more than a fortnight, but has been unable to prevent the Rumanian catastrophe." (Continued on Page Three.)

MACEDONIA TO BE THE CHIEF SCENE

Military Writers Expect Teutons to Strike Big Blow There.

London, Dec. 16.—The chief interest in the war will center in Macedonia before the new year, in the opinion of many military experts here.

An effort to open communication with Greece and bring her into the war as a German ally is expected. Even in Germany the interest in Rumania is undoubtedly waning and is hardly likely to increase unless the campaign carries von Mackensen into Bessarabia.

It is almost a certainty that von Hindenburg, especially if the peace offers come to nothing, now plans to strike hard in Macedonia, and that there would be heavy fighting there shortly. It is a hard country for a winter campaign, but offers greater possibilities for decisive results than either the east or west fronts at this season.

NEEDS THOUSANDS MORE TO LIVE ON.

New York, Dec. 16.—Mrs. Olga V. Florman, Nils Florman's young wife, who last May informed the Surrogate's court she could not adequately maintain herself and 16-month-old boy on \$25,000 a year, today began suit in that court to get \$300,000 from the estate of her father, Charles Kohler, who manufactured musical instruments.

Mrs. Florman objects to an accounting by the executors, among them her mother, Mrs. Veronica L. M. Kohler, that they had set aside in trust funds amounts so large that the yearly income aggregates \$700,000 instead of the \$100,000 necessary to meet annuities provided by Mr. Kohler's will. She seeks a division among the heirs of \$1,200,318 surplus from the trust funds.