

PRESIDENT'S NOTE TO POPE IS CRITICISED

In Formal Statement Issued by Roman Catholic Centrist Party of Germany.

DECLARES THE REPLY IN OFFENSIVE TONE

Charges the President With Ignorance of the Conditions in Germany — Pronounces Mr. Wilson a More Autocratic Ruler Than the Emperor.

Berlin, Thursday, Sept. 6.—(Via London, Sept. 7).—The Roman Catholic Centrist party has issued a formal statement dealing with President Wilson's reply to the Pope's peace note. It may be taken for granted that it reflects the official view of its sponsors.

It urges that the President's message, although phrased in a tone which is considered offensive, should be considered wholly in the light of its essential and objective principle. This, it is pointed out, gives a different picture from that reflected in the early press comment.

The declaration of the Centrists then discusses the discrepancy between the war aims set down in President Wilson's message and those proclaimed by the Entente, adding that in this respect, Mr. Wilson's reply ought to prove acceptable.

The statement then deals with the President's demand that the German people stand surely for their government, saying: "What Mr. Wilson has to say concerning the democratization of the German empire has only demonstrated the helplessness of the United States."

"Whereas the more democratic system to be found today—Berlin or Washington? In truth there stands at the head of any belligerent nation a real autocrat, he may be called in the United States. No other else has a ruler attempted to suppress the right and desire of the people to cooperate in the government. It is necessary to remind the President that the accredited representatives of the German people on July 19 of this year solemnly participated in the disposition of their destinies? And is it further unknown to him that the German chancellor has summoned seven members from out of the ranks of Parliament to formulate the reply to the Pope? In no other country does a similar institution exist and no other so-called parliamentary system of government possesses a similar body of constituted representatives of the people which wield equal influence upon the shaping of policies in respect of an important international problem."

"At President Wilson's request, Mr. Adamson will seek to have a \$10,000,000 maximum optional policy, reduced in committee to \$5,000,000, restored."

CAN'T BE BOTH SOLDIER AND CONGRESSMAN

Washington, Sept. 7.—A Congressman who joins the army automatically vacates his seat and is not entitled to further Congressional pay. Sergeant-at-Arms Gordon, on the advice of attorneys, has so decided in the case of Representative LaGuardia of New York, who joined the signal corps late in August and now has claimed his pay for the month.

WAR BOND BILL SENT TO SENATE

Washington, Sept. 7.—The Senate today received the House bill, 538,445,400 war bond and certificate bill and will begin its consideration, according to present plans, immediately after disposing of the pending war revenue bill.

ATTEMPT TO BRIBE DRAFT OFFICER

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 7.—W. R. Brown of Summit, Emanuel county, Ga., was arrested yesterday here for \$25,000 for an alleged attempt to bribe Dr. D. D. Smith, of the Emanuel county military exemption board. Dr. Smith was \$500 if he would declare his son physically unfit for service in the army.

WITH FINAL VOTE ON WAR TAX BILL ALMOST AT HAND

High Tax Advocates Make Last Effort at Wealth Conscriptio

THEY CENTER ATTACK ON THE BIG INCOMES

Final Vote on Tax Section Expected to be Taken Late This Afternoon.

Washington, Sept. 7.—With the final vote on the income war tax section of the war revenue bill set for late this afternoon, Senate high tax advocates today made their last stand at wealth conscription. They concentrated their efforts on attempts to raise the levies on big incomes.

It was expected that the final vote this afternoon would result in retention of the Finance committee's income tax provisions designed to bring in about \$842,000,000 from individuals and \$300,000,000 from corporations.

When the Senate convened Senators LaFollette, Hollis and others of the high tax group were prepared to introduce amendments providing for various increases in the levies on incomes.

INSURANCE BILL FOR SOLDIERS

This Administration Measure Taken Up By The House Today.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The administration's \$175,000,000 soldiers' and sailors' insurance bill was taken up in the House today.

Opposition to the bill's optional insurance features, opposed by private insurance companies, is anticipated, but its passage is expected. Representative Adamson, of Georgia, in charge of the bill, opened the debate with a detailed explanation of its provisions.

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OPTIMISTIC VIEWS ON THE OUTLOOK BY LLOYD-GEORGE

German Submarines Unable to Beat Down the Hopes of the Allies.

HARMFUL EFFECT OF RUSSIA'S FAILURE

Not So Great on That Country As to the Cause of Democracy in the World.

(By Associated Press.) Birkenhead, Eng., Sept. 7.—Premier Lloyd-George, in a speech here today, declared that the whole allied cause and the freedom of the world depended on supremacy at sea and that he was certain it would be maintained.

German statesmen, he said, had been at great pains to impress upon their people that the submarine figures given out by him in the House of Commons recently were inaccurate. He declares these figures were absolutely correct and that they put an end to all hopes of the enemy to win.

The Premier asserted he was absolutely convinced that the German submarine never would be able to beat down the strength of the British empire or beat down the hopes of the alliance by means of all the efforts the Germans could make with the submarine.

The Premier said that the news from Russia in the last few days had not been good. He thought when the revolution came that it would have the effect of postponing victory, but he had expected an earlier recovery.

Mr. Lloyd-George said that the Russian leaders, all brave and patriotic men, knew the enemy attempt in the Riga region involved the fate of the revolution, the fruits of which they would do their best to defend.

It took a long time, said Mr. Lloyd-George, for oppressed people to get accustomed to freedom, as it did for free people to get accustomed to oppression.

"One thing gives me satisfaction," he continued, "German attempts to sow dissension between Allies in east and the Allies west failed. Germany only decided to invade Russia, with the sword because all her other methods and machinations failed."

NEGRO ATTACKS WHITE WOMAN IN A VACANT HOUSE

Mrs. M. Lance Assaulted and Robbed While Inspecting Residence.

NEGRO THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN LOCATED

Sheriff and Large Posse Searched Woods Near Sunset Park All Day.

The negro who is alleged to have assaulted and robbed Mrs. M. Lance, of \$20 or more in a vacant house belonging to Mr. Grover Bordeaux on the Carolina Beach road a short distance south of Sunset park had been located in the vicinity of Beasley's Bay, a body of water a few miles west of the scene of the alleged crime, this afternoon at 3 o'clock, according to police reports and the officers, together with scores of heavily armed citizens are said to be closing in on the black, determined to prevent his escape at all hazards. The police patrol was being held on the Carolina Beach road at that time this afternoon at a point opposite the Beasley Bay section, the driver expecting the arrival of the officers with their man at any time.

If the negro had been located, and there is every reason to believe that he had, it was the result of one of the most determined man hunts ever staged in New Hanover county. Immediately after it was learned that a lady had been attacked and roughly handled by a black, automobiles loaded with armed men put out from the city and joined Sheriff Jackson and his deputies and members of the police force in the chase.

The negro was first seen or reported seen by Mrs. Marsden Sellers, crossing the Carolina Beach road, going north at Gum Branch, some distance south of the alleged crime. The next report of his whereabouts was when he was supposed to be located (Continued on Page Eight).

STARTLING RESULT OF PRISON SURVEY BY THE GOVERNOR

Prisoners Who Years Ago Had Been Sentenced When Mere Children

FORGOTTEN BY ALL BUT PRISON OFFICERS

List of Pardoned Ones With Circumstance of Conviction and Reasons For Pardon.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, Sept. 7.—The pardoning of 21 State convicts by the Governor yesterday was the result of the second of his investigations into cases in which no human being has been interested.

The first of these surveys resulted in the pardoning of a number of men and women, likewise babies. If the initial investigation showed what a careless commonwealth has been North Carolina, the second pretty nearly convicts of criminal indifference. Governor Bickett releases some who are barely set men, but prisoners who have spent more years in the prison walls than they have lived without.

In one instance a New Hanover convict, John Perry, is released after having spent more than twice as many years in prison as he has out. And Perry was sent to the penitentiary for life on a crime committed when he was 13 years old. The survey does not yet disclose any life sentences imposed upon infants before they were weaned, although others may be heard from.

In regard to the pardons, Governor Bickett gets back to first principles. "On June 13, 1917," he says, "I gave out the following statement: 'Soon after I came into office I was convinced that there were men and women in the State prison who ought not to be there; that their relatives and friends, if they had any, had completely forgotten them, and, being without money and without influence, they were kept in prison simply because no human being had any interest in their release.'

"As a result of the study of this survey, and of the investigation made by me, pardons are granted to the 21 prisoners mentioned below."

The first released is Josephus Williams, Martin county, sentenced when 12 years old, to 25 years for burning a store. He has served 15 years, two longer than he had previously lived, has 909 days to his credit and is given full pardon.

George Johnson, Nash county, 30 years for burglary committed when 15 years old, served 15 years and has 815 days.

Melissa Clegg, Cumberland, when 16 years old, was convicted of murder in the second degree and sent up for 20 years. She has served 16 and has 1,033 days for good behavior.

Will Germann, Greene county, criminal assault when 12 years old, gets off after serving 11 years with 744 days to his credit. He was sentenced to 15 years.

Elliott Overton, Pasquotank county, evidently a most desperate criminal, when 11 years old, broke into a house and went up for 20 years, is pardoned after 11 years. He has a credit of 646 days. Oh, that 11-year-old beast!

John Perry, New Hanover county, life sentence for burglary, convicted when 13; served 27 years. Perfect record in prison.

James Baker, Gates county, murder in the second degree when 18 years old, served 9 1/2 years of 25. Lost an eye in a Whitney explosion.

Caesar Collins, Edgecombe county, burglary in the second degree, 30 years sentence, served 21. "On one occasion," says the Governor, "when a guard was paralyzed by a stroke of lightning, this prisoner came to his rescue and virtually took his place. I have made an investigation in the county where the crime was committed, and the authorities say in their opinion that in view of the good record and the long confinement of this prisoner, he has been punished long enough."

John Warrs, Martin county, 20 years for manslaughter, served 15 1/2 with 985 days to his credit.

PRECARIOUS HOLD BY THE AUSTRIANS ON LAST POSITION

PETROGRAD PEOPLE PREPARE TO LEAVE

Uncertainty as to German Movement After Fall of Riga. (By Associated Press.) Petrograd, Sept. 7.—(Delayed).—Although Petrograd, in the opinion of various military authorities, is in no immediate danger on account of the fall of Riga, preparations are being made against the eventuality of an unexpected descent by the Germans. The temporary government has appointed a special civil commission with authority to preserve order, suppress seditious meetings, suspend the publication of newspapers and, where desirable, clear the city of undesirable elements. The cabinet has decided that there is as yet no need for the government to be transferred elsewhere.

Although there are no signs of a panic, there are elements in the population, particularly members of the wealthy class, who are leaving, or attempting to leave in large numbers. Many business firms are considering transferring their headquarters to Moscow, Nijnin Novgorod, or some other provincial city.

According to the newspapers, the present Russian front represents the arc of a circle from the mouth of the river Aa, southeastward, about 40 miles from Riga. Dvinsk, according to reports, is still holding out.

The newspapers of all shades of opinions, shelving other questions, comment extensively on the Riga disaster. The Socialist papers publish articles in almost identical terms calling on the workers to perform their duty in defending the revolution. The organ of the Social Democrats and Minimalists, the Rabotchayor Gazeta, appeals to the workmen, not to wait for the moment when the Riga disaster will have become irreparable, but to close ranks immediately with iron discipline and proceed to prompt and decisive action. The proletariat, it says, must rally around its organizations and by a vigorous effort save the country and the revolution.

FOREIGN VESSELS IN COAST TRADE

The Bill to Permit This Argued Before House Maritime Committee.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Hearings on the shipping board's bill to authorize the President to permit by proclamation foreign vessels to engage in the American coastwise trade during the war began yesterday before the House Merchant Marine committee. Alfred Huger, admiralty counsel of the board, urged it as a war measure for relieving traffic congestion.

Edward C. Plummer, of Bath, Me., representing the Atlantic Carriers' Association, said the bill was too sweeping in view of the isolated cases it was contemplated to meet and that requirements that had proved their efficiency for a century should not be repealed. He added that if the bill were enacted it meant opening the coastwise traffic to foreigners and possibly never closing it because of international questions that might arise.

Fear that the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk lines would grasp the United States maritime trade with Alaska, if American coastwise vessels were diverted over-seas and the coastwise traffic opened to foreign competition, was expressed by John H. Bunch, of Seattle, traffic manager of the Alaska Steamship Company. He said the Canadian lines were waiting to divert Alaska's \$100,000,000 annual commerce to Canada and that this involved war supply problems, in view of the immense output of copper ore and canned salmon which American ships are now bringing to the United States.

NATION-WIDE PLOT AGAINST GOVERNMENT

Washington, Sept. 7.—Reports and disclosures made to officials here in connection with the seizure Wednesday of L. W. W. documents throughout the country indicate, it was said today, that there has existed for some time a nation-wide conspiracy to hamper the government in almost every conceivable way in carrying on the war.

Opposition to the draft law, burning of crops, some of the so-called labor disturbances, and attempts to curtail production in war industries, reports indicate, were all part of the same alleged conspiracy, whose prime motive was thought to be the crippling of the government's activities in every way possible short of interference with military and naval operations.

GERMANS BOMB AMERICAN HOSPITAL

(By Associated Press.) London, Sept. 7.—The Germans yesterday made an aerial attack upon the American hospitals occupied by St. Louis and Harvard contingents, situated in a coast village, killing one officer of the American army medical corps and wounding others severely.

General Cadorna's report today shows the Austrians still resisting desperately, but staggering under the heavy losses which the incessant Italian pressure of the last few days has inflicted upon them. This pressure is being maintained and is becoming decisive, the commander of the attacking forces announces.

The Italian reports are invariably conservative and it has been noted that General Cadorna has a habit of withholding an announcement until he is sure of his ground. The confident tone of today's communique from Rome, therefore, is considered significant.

According to the strategical experts, General Cadorna has only to obtain a secure hold on Monte San Gabriele to give him complete dominance of the Bainsizza plateau and the country far to the south, making it possible to push his way into the Chiapovano valley, and drive a wedge between the two Austrian armies, virtually isolating the southern army, which directly bars his way to Trieste.

LABOR ELEMENT WORKING FOR LOYALTY

(By Associated Press.) Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 7.—The American Alliance for Labor and Democracy expected to conclude the business of its three-day loyalty meeting today and adjourn tonight after a public mass meeting.

Most of the Eastern delegates will return to their homes on the "Red, White and Blue" special train. Literature will be distributed along the way, and the work accomplished in the first drive of the big campaign, to make American labor loyal, will be the land of pro-German propaganda.

THE SHIPPING BOARD REDUCING OCEAN RATES

Washington, Sept. 7.—Immediate control of ocean freight rates charged by American vessels will be assumed by the shipping board, which announced today it would appoint a general chartering board to which all charters must be submitted for approval. The new scale calls for reductions of from 65 to 75 per cent from present tariffs.

Nothing was said as to a reduction in rates charged by allied and neutral vessels plying from American ports, but the chartering board through operation of the export and bunker coal control will have power to regulate these, too. An agreement between the shipping nations for a joint rate scale was predicted.