

WEATHER.
Rain east; rain or snow west portion
Friday; Saturday fair, colder.

THE MORNING STAR

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ONE SECTION

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WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 15, 1916

WHOLE NUMBER 39,795

ALLIES MAY AT LEAST EXAMINE PROPOSAL OF THE CENTRAL POWERS

This Probability Broadly Intimated at the Entente Embassies at Washington.

TWO NOTES ARE RECEIVED

President May Request Consideration When They Are Handed to Allied Governments.

OTHER NEUTRALS MAY JOIN

So Far as Known, Mr. Wilson's Intentions Are Still Secret.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Arrival of both the German and Austrian peace notes and broad intimations at the Entente Allied embassies that the proposals of the Central Powers would not be flatly rejected without examination were the developments here today in the peace move.

Germany's note, substantially the same as the published texts, arrived by cable in the early hours of the morning, and just as the State Department was closing for the day Austria's note arrived.

Secretary Lansing said it was identical with Germany's, and that neither contained any change in meaning from the semi-official versions.

May Ask Consideration.

It was stated officially that neither Germany's nor Austria's note would be forwarded before tomorrow if, indeed, then, and there was no outward indication that the President had made up his mind what action, if any, he would take in transmitting the Central Powers' proposals to the Entente belligerents.

When, with the announcement of the German proposals two days ago, it appeared that the Entente Allies were inclined to reject the offer flatly, it appeared very doubtful if President Wilson could find a way to add a word of mediation in transmitting the notes.

With the apparent moderating of that first attitude as reflected in the British newspapers and among the Entente Allied diplomats here, the way seems easier for the President to express in some way the hope of the United States that the proposal for a discussion of peace will not be rejected without consideration.

Other Neutrals May Join In.

In such a step there is a likelihood of the United States being supported by some of the European neutrals. The minister of one of them today asked his government to advise him to assure the President of endorsement in such a move, and it is believed others are considering the same phase of the situation.

The Spanish ambassador, Mr. Riano, and the Swiss minister, Dr. Ritter, both conferred today with Secretary Lansing. Their governments also are acting as intermediaries in transmitting the proposals. Whether they discussed the prospect of a neutral concert was not disclosed.

The change in the attitude of the Entente embassies was regarded as the most interesting development pointing to the probable position of the Allies. It was indicated that it was not improbable that after mature deliberation among themselves the Allies would make reply inquiring upon what basis a discussion was suggested. Such action by the Allies, it is pointed out, would not bind them to a conference.

Next Probable Step.

The German view of the next probable step is that the negotiating representatives of all belligerents should be proposed for a general discussion of an approach to a basis for peace. German officials here repeatedly have expressed their conviction that once having gone that far, the movement would result in an actual peace conference. This conviction of the Allied diplomats is that Germany's terms as outlined by the German embassy here and as indicated in the tenor of the German chancellor's speech, which was generally regarded as not fruitful of a conclusion. But before approaching that inquiry, they seem to agree that an inquiry to the Central Powers for more information of the proposal will be proper and that it will develop the ground for the next step.

Morgan Visits Allied Envoys.

J. P. Morgan, head of the financial agents of the Allies in this country, conferred today with the British ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, and the French ambassador, Jules J. Jusserand. Inasmuch as his engagement with the two ambassadors was made several days ago, the conference, it was declared, obviously was not brought about by the peace proposals.

So far as was known, the President's advisers remained undisclosed to any of the stronger, but the belief grew that the American government would not accompany them with more than a formal note of transmission, it probably

(Continued on Page Ten.)

ANNUAL MEET OF THE COMMERCIAL CONGRESS CLOSES

Ship Purchase Bill, Drainage Development and Crop Diversification Approved.

SEVERAL SPEECHES HEARD

Addresses Dealt With Extension of American Export Trade After European War.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 14.—The ship purchase bill before Congress, development of drainage for increased service of production and the intensification and diversification of crops, were approved here today by the Southern Commercial Congress at the close of its eighth annual convention. The Congress also urged greater efficiency in the management of cities and the more thorough and general education of the masses in all lines of effort, particularly in technical training in industrial and commercial activities.

The Congress also adopted the report of the Peace Bell Committee, which approved the naming of a general committee to present through popular subscription a great peace bell to the nation in celebration of the semi-centennial of peace in this country, the bell to be erected at Washington, D. C. Benjamin A. Altheimer, of St. Louis, presented the committee report.

A proposal for a great scheme of international advertising presented by H. S. Houston, editor of World's Work, also was endorsed.

Discuss Trade Extension.

Final addresses before the Congress today dealt with the extension of American export trade after the war. Foreign diplomats, government officials, editors and business men who spoke predicted that the United States would continue to hold its trade after the war because its factories have been damaged as never before, he said, and will need its goods and its business men have the will to develop new markets when the demands of the belligerents upon it decrease.

Should Develop Chinese Market.

Dr. Wellington Koo, Chinese minister to the United States, thought this country should develop the virgin market of China to offset the falling away of its commerce to Europe when the belligerents turn their energies now devoted to war to commerce and manufacture. The Chinese, he said, preferred to deal with the American business men because they knew the Americans came for only the legitimate profits of trade and not with a "sinister influence seeking territorial aggrandizement."

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Andrew J. Peters said the American manufacturer would be able to hold his trade after the war because the cost of production in Europe by reason of war taxes would be much higher than in the past, offsetting the advantages in the nature of commercial agreements and governmental assistance.

House to Give Consideration to Federal Amendment.

Measure is Reported by Judiciary Committee Without Recommendation. Fight to be Waged for Early Action.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Woman suffrage advocates won a partial victory in their long fight to have the Susan B. Anthony Federal amendment voted on in Congress today, when the House Judiciary committee reported the measure for consideration without recommendation. A campaign now will be launched to get a special rule to bring the amendment before the House for action, probably some time in January.

Both suffragists and anti-suffragists expressed satisfaction over today's development and are confident of victory on the floor. Though anxious that the resolution be reported favorably, the suffragists were pleased because the committee, which was generally regarded as hopelessly against their cause, went as far as it did. Their opponents declare an opportunity to have the House vote on the issue inevitably means a defeat for suffrage.

The vote in favor of reporting the resolution 11 to 8, does not represent the sentiment of the committee on the issue. Some of its bitterest enemies voted favorably, most of them confident of seeing it beaten on the floor and desirous of quieting charges of "smothering" in committee. One element of the committee sought vainly to prevent action.

"We are glad that the Federal woman suffrage amendment has finally been reported to the House," said Miss Lucy Burns, vice chairman of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, tonight. The women of the nation will watch its progress with greatest interest.

VON BETHMANN-HOLLWEG

German Chancellor who in a note handed to neutral powers, proposed peace negotiations.

SAYS PROPOSALS ARE NOT SINCERE

Russian Government Charges Germany with "An Attempt to Court Public Opinion."

AND ENCOURAGE GERMANS

Official of the Foreign Office at Petrograd Says That No Favorable Ground for Peace Proposals Exist.

Petrograd, Dec. 14.—The Russian government regards peace proposals of the Central Powers as "an attempt to court public opinion and encourage the people of Germany by appearing to put the responsibility for the continuance of the war upon the Entente Allies," according to a statement made today by a foreign office official and issued by the semi-official Petrograd news agency.

"No favorable ground exists for peace negotiations," says the statement, which follows in part:

"In its further efforts, which are similarly due to the same interested considerations, the German government is obliged to carry this question out of Germany. All the world recalls these attempts, notably its Bailons d'Essai, which were set up in neutral countries particularly the United States, which deceived nobody Germany attempted to create a peace atmosphere.

"Seeing the inanity of such methods which would allow her to consolidate her aggressive and imperialistic tendencies, while sowing discord between the Allies by seeking to make public opinion believe that separate negotiations were in progress between her and the Entente powers. There also were persistent reports of a separate peace. The lack of sincerity and the object of the German proposals is evident. The enemy governments have need of heroic measures to complete the gaps in their armies. Germany is projecting a sort of serfdom in the guise of compulsory military service. The German government in order to uplift the hearts of its people and to prepare it for fresh sacrifices is striving to create a favorable atmosphere with the following thesis:

"We are struggling for our existence; we are proposing peace; it is refused us; therefore, the responsibility for the continuation of the war falls upon our enemies."

"Everywhere the idea of hegemony of Germany predominates. The latest speeches of von Bethmann-Hollweg show the true aspirations of the German government. But today, when the Entente powers have proclaimed their unshakable determination to continue the war to a successful end and to prevent Germany from establishing her hegemony, no favorable ground exists for peace negotiations.

"Our enemies knew the speeches of Lloyd George, Briand and Bessell and the statement of Troppoff; they were, therefore, assured that their proposal would be unacceptable.

"The Entente powers would assume (Continued on Page Ten.)

REPARATION FOR THE PAST AND SECURITY FOR FUTURE IS ALLIES' PEACE POLICY

Andrew Bonar-Law Touches Lightly on Central Powers' Proposal in Speech in House of Commons—Additional Credit of 400,000,000 Pounds Sterling Voted to Carry on War—Only Minor Operations on Various Fronts.

Both the German and Austro-Hungarian notes concerning peace have been received in Washington and soon will be transmitted to the belligerents of the Entente Powers. No official intimation has yet come as to whether President Wilson will merely transmit the notes as received or announce to their recipients that the United States hopes that a discussion of peace may result.

While Great Britain has not yet officially received the proposals, her attitude and that of her allies with regard to peace was reiterated in the house of commons Thursday by Andrew Bonar-Law, the new chancellor of the exchequer, who said the Entente Allies required adequate reparation for the past and adequate security for the future.

A semi-official statement from Petrograd regarding the peace proposals attack the Teutonic Powers for lack of sincerity and says the firm determination of the Entente "to continue the war to a final triumph can be weakened by no illusory proposals of the enemy."

That there is to be no abatement in Great Britain's military preparations is indicated by the unanimous vote by parliament of an additional credit of £400,000,000 sterling.

On the fighting fronts everywhere except in Rumania and along both banks of the Meuse, only bombardments and minor operations are being carried out. In Rumania the Danube army of the Teutonic Allies now has crossed the Jalomir river and along the front the advance of the invaders continues unchecked.

No details have come through as to French operations along the Meuse except a statement in the Berlin official communication that the French have made advances on both banks of the river. Paris merely reports bombardments in these regions.

The Teutons have bombarded Monastir and the entire front held by the Serbians in this sector.

VOTE OF CREDIT IS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

London, Dec. 14.—The house of commons today unanimously passed a vote of credit of £400,000,000 sterling asked by Andrew Bonar-Law, chancellor of the exchequer, who made a lengthy speech explaining the nation's financial situation, and touching on the German peace proposals. He announced that the daily average expenditures of Great Britain for the war now amounts to £5,710,000 and that today's vote of credit probably would have to be supplemented February 24 with another vote of £200,000,000 sterling. This would make the total vote for the year £1,950,000,000 or £350,000,000 more than the estimates made some months ago by Reginald McKenna, then chancellor.

Referring to the peace talk, Mr. Bonar-Law said: "Something has happened of which I think it necessary that I should say a word. Naturally the papers are full of the peace proposals from Berlin. It is obvious that under these circumstances no member of the government can make any statement on the subject and in my view it would be better that very little should be said in the house of commons.

"There is one thing which, even at this stage, I think it necessary to say. In moving the last vote of credit, the late premier used these words: 'They (the Allies) require that there should be adequate reparation for the past and (Continued on Page Two.)

DECLARES PEACE MOVE BY AMERICA WHOLLY JUSTIFIED

Senator Stone Says This Nation Has a Right to Intervene to End European Strife.

NATION PATIENT SUFFERER

Says We Are Entitled to Speak, Without Asking, and Without Just Offense of Anyone.

St. Louis, Dec. 13.—The right of a neutral like the United States, which has suffered from effects of European war, to initiate a movement for peace was asserted here tonight before the League to Enforce Peace by Senator Stone, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee.

"Since the war, almost from the beginning, has resulted in continuing offensive attacks on the rights and dignity of this sovereignty and in inflicting incalculable injury to our national interests—all of which we have borne with patience because of our friendship for the nation involved—he wished for the nation to speak and without justifying these losses for nearly two and a half years with no end yet in sight, we have a right, without regard to any question of sympathy or of humanity but solely on our own account and a safeguard of our own interests, to approach the combatants as a mutual friend and open negotiations with a view to the re-establishment of normal international conditions.

"Speak as a Friend. "Our relations to the combat are such, and our interests are so involved, that I think we have a right to speak—a right so clear that we should speak without asking and without justifying these losses for nearly two and a half years with no end yet in sight, we have a right, without regard to any question of sympathy or of humanity but solely on our own account and a safeguard of our own interests, to approach the combatants as a mutual friend and open negotiations with a view to the re-establishment of normal international conditions.

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DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE.
Met at noon.
Passed immigration bill 64 to 7.
Interstate Commerce committee decided to hold further hearings on President Wilson's railroad legislative recommendations after the holidays.
Resumed consideration of bill to prohibit manufacture and sale of liquor in the District of Columbia.
Elected Senator Willard Saulsbury, of Delaware, president pro tempore to succeed the late Senator Clarke, of Arkansas.
Adjourned at 5:30 p. m. to noon Friday.

HOUSE.
Met at noon.
Debated legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill.
Leaders agree to Christmas recess from December 22 to January 2.
Judiciary committee favorably reported national prohibition constitutional amendment, ordered report without recommendation on universal suffrage amendment and favorably reported Borland resolution on cost of living.
Adjourned to 5:25 p. m. to noon Friday.

EXPLAINS ACTION OF RESERVE BOARD

Says Warning to Bankers Not Made With Intention of Reflecting on Foreign Credit.

W. P. G. HARDING SPEAKS

Denies Stiffening of New York Money Rates Was Due to Warning Against Investments in Foreign Loans.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 14.—An explanation of the Federal Reserve Board's recent warning to American bankers against locking up their money in foreign treasury bills was made in a speech here tonight by W. P. G. Harding, governor of the board, who reiterated the declaration that there was no intention to reflect upon credit of any nation. Soon after the board's statement appeared, short term British treasury bills which had been ordered for sale in this country were withdrawn. Mr. Harding spoke before the Boston city club.

"I know," he said, "that there has been criticism of the board's action in making this statement, which has been given a significance neither justified nor intended in its reference to investors.

"In my opinion what the board had in mind when it made its brief reference to investors, was simply this: American investors have for many years been accustomed to buying industrial securities—obligations to a great extent. In dealing with these securities, certain well established rules have been developed. The investor has acquired the habit of requiring specific information regarding gross earnings, fixed charges, net earnings, sinking funds, etc., and he insists upon knowing definitely whether he is offered a first mortgage bond, income bond, preferred stock or common stock.

"It is the practice of every issuing house when offering securities to state all necessary details either over its own signature or that of the head of the borrowing corporation. Nowhere is the importance of authentic and complete information more fully understood and appreciated than in Europe, both in England and on the continent, and prospectuses for foreign loans contain all the important facts relating thereto, in a statement signed by an authorized representative of the foreign government or by the issuing house, or in some cases by both.

"The board sought merely to call attention of the fact that this country has become an important market for foreign securities—the same businesslike habits which are well established regarding domestic loans should be developed in marketing foreign securities."

Mr. Harding denied that the stiffening of call money rates in New York, after the statement was issued, was due to the board's action, and said that any "furry" at that time was confined entirely to loans secured by stock exchange collateral.

Mr. Harding said this country has (Continued on Page Two.)

GERMAN REPLY TO U. S. NOTE 'EMPTY'

Sir Maurice de Punsen Says Contentions as to Belgian Deportations Won't Stand.

Places Blame for Destruction of Belgian Industries Upon the Germans Instead of the Blockade of the Allies.

London, Dec. 14.—"The German answer to the American government's protest against forced deportations from Belgium requires very little elucidation to show its dishonesty," said Sir Maurice de Punsen, assistant parliamentary under secretary of foreign affairs, when asked, by the Associated Press today for the British view of Germany's reply to the American protest. He continued:

"The main contention appears to be that, owing to the Allied blockade, Belgian workmen have been rendered idle and reduced to starvation, and, out of kindness the German authorities have offered these workmen employment in Germany. This answer seems to overlook several essential facts. In August, 1915, the American relief commission applied to the Allied governments for permission to import raw materials into Belgium and export manufactured goods made from these imports and from local raw materials. The balance of the receipts between the cost of the imported raw materials and the realized values of the exports was to be applied to the purchase of food for the commission. This food was to be sold in Belgium and from the receipts of such sales manufacturers were to be supplied with money to pay for their labor and local raw material.

"The plan was presented to the Germans at Brussels in September through the American minister and they would not agree to the very reasonable condition of the commission that the imports and exports should be free from interference or requisition by the Germans. The whole scheme, therefore, failed solely on account of the attitude taken up by the German authorities.

"Other actions of similar import could be instanced in proof of the hollowness of the German contention."

\$30,000,000 OMNIBUS BILL

Plans for Pressing Public Buildings Measure Practically Agreed On.
Washington, Dec. 14.—Plans for pressing a \$30,000,000 omnibus public building bill at this session of Congress were practically agreed upon at Conference today between members of the House Rules and the Public Buildings committee. The measure was reported last session but determined opposition prevented action.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 14.—An embargo on milk shipments into Cleveland will go into effect tomorrow as a result of strike between the Northern Ohio Milk Producers Association and the Cleveland dealers. Cleveland tomorrow will receive 14 gallons of milk instead of 70,000, the normal supply.

Springfield, Ills., Dec. 14.—Forty Illinois mayors in conference here today to devise some means of lowering coal prices, recommended state reservation of the coal industry "so as to permit the operators and dealers to realize a reasonable profit only and not all the traffic will bear as is now the case."

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