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PRESIDENT WILSON APPEALS TO THE BELLIGERENT NATIONS OF EUROPE TO DISCUSS TERMS OF PEACE

SUGGESTS AN EXPRESSION OF VIEWS AT EARLY DATE

Would Have Warring Nations State What Arrangements Would be Future of National Guard in Fed-Deemed Satisfactory as a Guaranty Against Renewal of the War or Kindling of Any Similar Conflict in the Future-Notes Made Public After Last Midnight.

ACTION NOT PROMPTED BY CENTRAL POWERS' PROPOSAL: NO PEACE PROPOSED, NOR EVEN OFFER OF MEDIATION His Criticisms of the System Make

Washington Officials, Who Were Taken by Distinct Surprise, Believe Prospects for Negotiations Have Been Improved-Mr. Wilson's Move May be History-Making Event-Copies of Notes Sent to Neutrals for Information.

Washington, Dec. 21. — President Wilson has appealed to all the belligerents to discuss terms of peace.

Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation, the Presi- committee when he touched upon redent has sent formal notes to the governments of all the warring sults of the mobilization of the state nations, suggesting that. "an early occasion be sought to call out from troops for border duty as shown in the the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views, as general staff report. Conclusion drawn to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrange- tention that the guard system is ineffiments which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against its cient and unreliable were promptly renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future, as would make it possible frankly to compare them."

President Summarises Attitude.

Wholly without notice and entirely contrary to what administration offi- belligerents themselves and that cerized in the President's own words as in the great diplomatic spectacle be-

may learn, the neutral nations with the out impairing the position of the Unitbelligerent, how near the haven of ed States, should they finally be unable peace may be, for which all mankind to find a ground on which to approach longs with an intense and increasing longing. He believes that the spirit in which he speaks and the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light and there was every indication that the

sion of peace was not permitted to beotes were well on their way to the American ambassadors in the belligerent capitals and probably already in ie hands of some of them.

Distinct Surprise for Officials. t was a most distinct surprise for all posals, to dispel the generally prevalent official Washington which had been led believe that with the formal trans-

Full Text of President's Notes Sent

SHARP DISCUSSION

eral Military System May be Debated in Congress.

GEN. SCOTT AGAIN HEARD

Him Liable to Vigorous Cross Examination.

Washington, Dec. 20 .- Sharp controversy in Congress over the future of the National Guard in the Federal military system was foreshadowed today at hearings before committees of both the House and Senate.

Major General Scott, chief of staff, entered vigorous cross examination by several members of the House Military from the figures to support the conthe head of the army would face searching questioning tomorrow when

Scott and Wood Lecalled. Powers, the offices of the United States cials have described as his course, the I tainly, in view of the speech of Pre- who already has presented the report President last night dispatched notes to mier Lloyd-George and the announce- on mobilization in full to that commitall the belligerents, and to all the neu- ments in Russia, France and Italy, fur- tee, and Major General Leonard Wood, trals for their information. Summar- upon the next careful and delicate move who described the mobilization as "tragedy." in his direct hearing before throughout Washington when the Pres- | ination by Senator Blair Lee, a cham

In preparation for the cross examintion. He is merely proposing that pects for some sort of exchanges look- ation, it is understood that staff offiing toward an approach to peace dis- | cers familiar with mobilization will be including names of the organizations examined which the summary did not

> the question of universal military service, recommended by the 'general staff, as General Scott had not reached that portion of his statement at the close of the day's session

Others Give Views. same careful secrecy which prevented Before the Chamberlain committee, however, Howard H. Gross, of Chicago, president, and Edward Harding, of New York City, representing the Universal Military Training League, outindication of the history-making events lined their views. They will be folvinced must have transpired since the Chamber of Commerce of the United Germanic allies brought forth their pro-States and later by certain officers and all of whom are expected to support belief that such an action on the part the recommendations of the general Senator Underwood, of Alabama, inlected the universal service discussion day, asserting that he did not favor compulsory military service in time of

> When General Scott, before the his opinion that completion of the new

"That order was issued by the Sec retary of War and I cannot discuss its plained later that the Secretary issued no orders of such a character without

Discuss Militia Recruiting. When the general read figures on Namonths active work throughout the professionals a few months ago. Tocountry, and that at a cost of more interrupted.

"Was not this after the young volun-"It was to carry out orders by the

"Oh, yes, that's the way it reads,"

(Continued on Page Ten.)

SCOTT WANTS ARMY OF THREE MILLION TROOPS



L. Scott, chief of staff of the United the United States under the present system of military training would be helpless. He urged that provisions be made to put an army of 3,000,000 trained men into the field in 99 days if an emergency should arise.

STOCKS TUMBLE TO

Bethlehem Steel Loses 72. Points. or 200 Points From Maximum Level Last Month.

PEACE RUMORS THE CAUSE

Rails Proved Only Notable Exception to the General Reversals-Shipping Shares Were Seriously Affected.

New York, Dec. 20 .- Losses of 5, 10 and 15 points accompanied today's further sweeping liquidation of stocks. with 72 points for Bethlehem Steel, which fell to 500, that quotation representing a decline of exactly 200 points

Rails again proved the only notable exception to the general reversal, which riously affected on the notice served by England's prime minister yesterday control over all vessels flying the Brit-

further price recessions which not only after the call was made, but reiterated of a year ago. A more powerful factraders, now largely committed to the has operated extensively ever since

> Leading financial interests continued seasoned stocks offered as collateral, to THINK REJECTION BY THE ers and their clients, the latter being in turn forced to strengthen impaired

7: Central Leather 6 3-8; Sloss-Sheffield hands." Steel 7; Crucible Steel 5 3-4; Lackawan-

The long list of larger or extra dividends of the last few months was ad- to make. ded to by Westinghouse Electric which increased the distribution on the common stocks from 6 to 7 per cent. Monin the Euorpean situation.

REPLY TO PEACE NOTE IS EXPECTED BEFORE CHRISTMAS

British Communication Will Like ly be in Accord With Premier Lloyd-George's Speech.

PRELIMINARY DRAFTS MADE However, None of the Survivors of

Official Replies of All the Entente Nations Will be Dispatched Simultaneously.

London, Dec. 20 .- There is a strong probability that Great Britain's note in reply to the German peace proposal will be made before Christmas. This was the opinion in well informed government circles today, where it is also believed the reply will be brief and will likely follow the lines of Mr. Lloyd-

will be dispatched simultaneously with Mediterranean, was struck astern by fice by the American ambassador it has pedo, though no submarine was seen been pursuing them. Just how

end of the week. Especially, it is said, alty charter, although she had deliv-would this be true in the case of Great ered a cargo of mules at Saloniki, the Britain's note which the prime minister Allied military base in Greece.

Germany. It is possible, however, that with her evidence. Great Britain may decide to dispatch the reply to the British ambassador at it over to the State Department.

MUST NOT TAKE LANGUAGE OF PREMIER TOO SERIOUSLY

The Cologne Gazette says: the past, such as that in which she lost trawler until night of 15th, when it own trenches again, Petrograd reports Amiens in 1802. There is a limit where the blindest obstinacy finds itself conlimit is being brought nearer and nearer by our submarines. Another possible contingency compelling England to make peace would be the secession o

DESIRE CO-OPERATION OF

HOLLAND IN PEACE MOVE Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Switz- Parliamentary Misplay Delays Ac- Was to Secure Information as to erland, in which they wish the co-oper ation of Holland, according to Deputy quoted in a dispatch to the Overseas News Agency from Rotterdam. news agency states:

"According to telegrams from Rotterdam. Deputy Schaper, of the Dutch par-Scandinavian countries were inclined to act as peace mediators, and that they Germany's peace overtures became wish the co-operation of Holland. Deputy Schaper advocated greater activity by Holland along this line."

menting on the speech of David Lloyd- that it go over until after the Christ- of German Vice-Consul E. H. Von According to board room gossip, George, the British premier, express the mas holidays for final action. heaviest losses of the past week have opinion that the rejection of the peace been sustained by a group of western offer of the Teutonic allies by the En

"After Mr. Lloyd-George's speech the day's more extensive recessions in ad- continuation of the world war is inevithan \$50 a man "just to enroll him, not dition to the set back in Bethlehem table. Fate will now take its course to equip him," Representative Green Steel were Mercantile Marine, 16 points, and the day doubtless will come when with 7 for the common; Atlantic Gulf Mr. Lloyd-George shudderingly will reand West Indies 15, South Porto Rico cognize that England by rejecting the Sugar 10 and American Beet Sugar 6 peace offer has really stuck his head admitted a fear that postponement of C. Crowley, another of the seven de-1-2; Utah Copper 5 3-4; American Zinc into a noose with the rope in our the vote until after Christmas recess fendants, and Louis J. Smith, star wit-The Neue Frie Presses, however

4 3-4 and as much for Pressed Steel still leaves open the possibility that ed before the Senate Senator Ashurst ton's request to see the orders brought the question will be put to the Central then sought to withdraw his land bill, an objection from Theodore Roche, of Powers as to what proposals they have and did so physically by stepping to the counsel for the defense, that such a

SAYS PARTY LEADERS WERE IGNORANT OF HOLLWEG'S PLANS London, Dec. 20 .- A dispatch to Reuter Telegram Company from Zurich says information has been received

(Continued on Page Two.)

TEUTONIC ARMIES IN DOBRUDJA NOW BEING OFFERED RESISTANCE

VICTIM OF U-BOAT

the Steamer Saw Either Submarine or Torpedo.

REPORT OF U. S. CONSUL

Ship Was Struck Astern as Night Was Approaching—Is Reported to Have Not Been Under Charter of British Admiratty.

Washington, Dec. 20 .- A detailed accan muleteers lost their lives, reached Calling attention to the possibility open for Germany to make concrete the State Department today by cable ous fronts. from Consul Keplinger, at Malta. It Great Britain's official reply to Ger- says the steamer, fighting through a many, as prominent officials term it, strong gale and drenching rain in the man note was handed to the foreign of- what was believed to have been a tor- the Teutonic allies which have Premier Lloyd-George and his cabinet cans, were drowned through the capsiz strong the stand they are making been discussed with Great Britain's al- rescue and took the Russian in tow. German official communication lies and it is stated that these conver- but the steamer went to the bottom sations have progressed so rapidly that the next day. The ship was sunk while announcing it merely saying that preliminary drafts have already been on a return trip in ballast to Newport

It would, therefore, not be surprising The consul said he was informed if the allies' replies were ready by the that the Russian was not under admir-

The American government will make Ambassador Page with the request that belligerents admits responsibility it is he forward it to the State Department regarded as probable that the nature at Washington for transmission to Ger- of the explosion that wrecked the Rus-

"It was absolutely dark by the time Washington, with instructions to turn life boats were launched and not one are of the opinion that the explosion was in water more than 2,000 fathoms deep at time. Russian was towed by a was taken over, it is said, by tugs and the breaking through of barbed wire (Continued on Page Two).

Berlin Admits This, But Nothing is Known of Strength of Russo-Rumanian Attacks.

PETROGRAD CLAIMS GAINS

British Near Gommecourt and Arras Carry Out Successful Raids Against Germans.

CARSO FRONT AGAIN ACTIVE

Russians Put Down Attempted Infantry Attack by Teutons.

Aside from the Rumanian thecount of the sinking of the British atre, little fighting of moment is horse ship Russian, in which 17 Ameri-

> In the Dobrudja section the Russians and Rumanians have faced about and are giving battle to is has not yet been known, the they have "again offered fighting resistance."

Petrograd Reports Successes,

Petrograd reports that attacks by the nvaders near Parlita on the left bank of the Danube were repulsed and says also that operations successful for the Russians and Rumanians are being direction of Rimnika-Buzdu.

their part shelled the British line north of the Somme, near Festubert and barded the French at numerous points.

against the positions of the Teutonic Allies in the Cerna river bend region

In Galicia, southwest of Brody, the infantry attack, but were forced by the fire of the Russian guns to seek their (Continued on Page Ten.)

SHEPPARD PROHIBITION ACTED ON ORDERS OF BILL IS NOT VOTED ON

tion Until After Holidays.

Measure Displaced on Senate Calendar This is Admitted by German When Senator Ashurst Secures Unanimous Consent to Consider Land Bill.

Washington, Dec. 20 .- A parliamentary misplay by one of its friends late received written orders from the Gertoday upset plans for an immediate man government to secure information vote on Senator Sheppard's District of on the Pacific coast concerning war Columbia prohibition bill and advocates | munition shipments to Great Britain of the measure were obliged to agree and her allies was the admission today

The the measure on January 9 after its op- | Consul General Franz Bopp and assoponents had been sustained by chair in contending that it lost its place on, ants are alleged to have plotted to the Senate calendar by the action of destroy ships and railroads carrying Senator Ashurst in securing unanimous | munitions to the Entente Allies. consent to consider a land bill.

would imperil its chances of passage. | ness for the government. Smith is a When the opponents of the prohibition bill contended that it had been displacdesk and putting the document in his

pocket. Senator Reed, of Missouri, insisted that such a method of withdrawing bills was new in parliamentary procedure. (Continued on Page Two.)

GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Shipments to Allies.

Consul von Schack, on Trial With Others For Violating U. S. Neutrality Laws.

San Francisco, Dec. 20 .- That he had Schack, one of the defendants in the ciates on conspiracy charges of violating American neutrality. The defend-

For the purpose of getting this in-Friends of the prohibition bill have formation Von Schack said he hired C.

co-defendant. United States District Attorney Presdemand was in violation of German and American treaty rights covering invio-

lability of government documents. Von Schack said Crowley had reported to him discovery of Japanese roam-"If men are permitted to dispose of ing up and down the California coast legislation by physically applying with field glasses gazing out at sea for

glimpses of German warships. (Continued on Page Twe)

somew h now see with the tral Post way sure and the offering been in the fact

there is inserted a designation of the overnment addressed) a course of acon with regard to the present war Rested in the most friendly spirit and as coming not only from a friend but have been most seriously affected by he war and whose concern for its early conclusion arises out of a manifest had been made in other circumstances."

ambassadors presenting them:

"The President directs me to send

you the following communication to

be presented immediately to the minis-

ter of foreign affairs of the govern-

The text of the notes themselves

ment to which you are accredited."

then begin identically as follows:

Begin Identically.

At this point the texts vary. In the graph follows next:

To the Central Powers. erns the ques-

its own merits and as if it had been made in other circumstances."

the one just quoted:

Recessity to determine how best to la finantiest to safeguard those interests if the war is lo continue."

"The President suggests that an ear-(Continued on Page Two.)

Last Night to European Belligerents Washington, Dec. 21-President Wil- tion of peace and may best be considson's notes to the European belliger- ered in connection with other proposals which have the same end in view. ents are prefaced with this instruction The President can only beg that his available for the Federal service, he ish flag. by Secretary Lansing to the American | suggestion be considered entirely on

known about the President's action un-

(Continued on Page Two.)

mittal of the proposals of the Central

tween the belligerents themselves

In the note to the Entente Allies, the following paragraph takes the place of To the Entente Allies.

"The suggestion which I am in somewhat embarrassed to offer it at this particular time because it may the recent overtures of the Central President would have delayed offering concerns the question of peace and may best be considered in connection with end in view. The President can only a neutral nation whose interests end in view. The Freshell can only tional Guard recruiting showing that and southwestern operators who took tente allies is virtually certain. entirely on its own merits and as if it only 15,000 men were collected in four the market out of the hands of local Fremdenblatt says:

Asks Interchange of Views.

lotes to the Central Powers this para- ly occasion be sought to call out from teer knew he was to see no active serall the nations now at war such an vice, but merely to do border police avowal of their respective views as to duty?" he asked. The suggestion which I am in- the terms upon which the war might dructed to make, the President has be concluded and the arrangements President of the United States to meet na Steel 5 1-2; American Locomotive thinks that Mr. Lloyd-George's speech offer. He is which would be deemed satisfactory an emergency," General Scott said. to offer it at as a guaranty against its renewal or cause it may the kindling of any similar conflict in Representative Greene said, "but that's prompted by a the future as would make it impossible not the way the men on the border in connection frankly to compare them. He is indif- looked at it or the young men back es of the Cen- ferent'as to the means taken to accom- home." fact been in no plish this. He would be happy himself "We cannot rely for our defense on in its origin to serve, or even to take the initiative, a system of a kind where that would ey was again easy and in light demand, have delayed in its accomplishment, in any way that be possible." General Scott said. "Let with no alteration in foreign exchangovertures had might prove acceptable but he has no me say, also, that I have especially es, such as may be reasonably expected wered but for desire to determine the method or the asked you to uncerstand that I am not to foreshadow important developments there from Berlinthat Dr. Von Beth- strong arm methods and grabbing bills