

DETAILED STATEMENT OF OBJECT FOR WHICH EACH BELLIGERENT IS FIGHTING IS ALL THAT IS ASKED

United States Wants to Know What Would be Called a "Just and Permanent Peace."

THIS NEVER MADE KNOWN Leading Statesmen in Both Sets of Belligerents Have Stated Identical "Terms."

THEIR SPEECHES ARE VAGUE

No Nation Would be Embarrassed in Answering Wilson's Note.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Information as to their exact meaning in seeking a "just and permanent peace," is the whole purpose of the note addressed to all the belligerents by President Wilson.

No Definite Meaning Given.

This government does not know, and feels that it has no real means of knowing, what terms would be required by each of the belligerents to make peace.

Recent press comment has been frank in its disclosure of what the United States feels most earnestly that the execution of her northern provinces; or in addition to that, the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine, or if in addition to both those claims she expects a money indemnity for the damage of invasion.

President Wants Details.

Similar issues apply to all the belligerent countries in merely a varying form. What President Wilson wants in the details. As the largest neutral being grave problems and as the United States feels most earnestly that it is entitled to know those facts.

Nothing to Embarrass.

Not in any embarrassment seen to any of the nations named if which terms it is understood in advance that they are apt to fluctuate with the military changes and are not permanently binding under new conditions.

As to permanent guarantees it was declared that the United States stands ready to enter any kind of international agreement that may seem most desirable to the nations.

Resentments Unwarranted.

It is further understood of the embarrassment caused by the administration by the coincidence of its note with German proposals was given today when it was said that, despite the early utterance of the note, it was intended to be in view of the greater interest involved.

WARNS AGAINST ANY HASTY ACTION ON WILSON'S NOTE

Manchester Guardian in Long Editorial Advises That Document be Given Due Consideration and Endeavors to Interpret President's View-Point, European Press Comments Freely.

London, Dec. 23.—Analyzing the criticisms of President Wilson's note to the belligerent nations the Manchester Guardian, in a remarkable editorial a column long, which is unique because it endeavors to interpret the President's viewpoint, sounds a word of caution to day against hasty and ill-considered action in making a reply.

The Guardian believes that the note answered can only help the Allies' cause and throw into stronger relief the moral weakness of the German position. The newspaper says that a careful reading of the passage in which President Wilson suggests that both sides are fighting for the same end reveals what the belligerents tell their own countrymen. Continuing, the Manchester Guardian says:

"Coming on top of Germany's suggestion of negotiations the note appears to associate itself with the German view and the reference to measures which the United States may have to take, reads as follows: 'A little too late a suggestion of menace. However, it is not in our mind that any one couched in similar if not identical terms is being sent to all the belligerents, and if President Wilson wants war with either side he cannot, without departing from the appearance of strict neutrality, avoid addressing the same words to the other. For our part, it will require the very strongest evidence to persuade us that in the face of the great volume of sympathy for the Allied cause which we are assured of on the other side of the Atlantic, that any act seriously prejudicial to our cause cannot be contemplated at Washington.'

"Another passage in the note which comes in for even more criticism also acquires a different value so soon as we turn ourselves that it is addressed to both parties. This is the passage which appears to suggest a real identity of views as between the belligerents. When the passage is carefully read, it is seen to say not that the two belligerent parties have the same views or are fighting for the same ends, but that they profess to do so when the governments justify the war to their own countrymen. This is a very different proposition and a perfectly sincere one."

The newspaper then adds this advice: "Let us avoid imputing motives, take the President's note at its face value, and in a perfectly sincere document, making simply what it says. The President believes the two belligerent alliances to be less far apart than appears on the surface. Washington probably has means of information that are not fully available to us, and if this view is taken at Washington, it gives us a valuable hint as to the mind of Germany and conditions in Germany which are working upon the minds of her rulers."

"In any case believing rightly or wrongly Germany would go further to meet us than we suppose. Dr. Wilson suggests that the two sides compare views. Again be it remembered that this suggestion is addressed to both sides and not to one alone."

VIENNA PRESS LOOKS WITH FAVOR ON PRESIDENT'S MOVE

Vienna, Dec. 23.—(via Amsterdam to London).—The keynote of the comment in the Vienna press on President Wilson's note to the belligerents is that the idea of peace thus brought forward will not easily be dissipated. "Neither exaggerated optimism nor its opposite is the proper attitude to assume," says the Neues Wiener Tagblatt. Instead, it should be one of the calm patience and dignity. The Zeitungs says: "It is to be hoped that President Wilson's action will further the bringing about of peace, but it may also have the opposite effect."

The Arbeiter Zeitung welcomes the fact that a neutral power has spoken, for the first time. The Neues Wiener Journal says: "President Wilson in any event has brought humanity a great step nearer to peace."

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS, Dec. 23. (via London).—Opinions of various prominent men of Europe as to whether the peace proposals of the Central Powers should be accepted or rejected by the Entente and their constructive suggestions for a proposed peace, have been gathered by the bureau of The Hague of the neutral conference for continuous mediation resulting from Henry Ford's peace movement. Among the answers are the following:

Christian Lange, of Christiania, secretary of the Inter-parliamentary Union, expressed the hope that the Entente would demand concrete proposals from the Teutonic Allies; at the same time he was ready to state their own fundamental principles which he said, opportunities would offer themselves to clear up the whole situation.

Professor Morgenstern, rector of Christiania University, expressed the fear that the conditions and assumptions of the belligerents were too conflicting to hope for a speedy pacific settlement.

Hjalmar Branting, the Swedish Socialist leader, said: "Germany, by continuing the Belgian deportations, has shown the unbroken power of the belligerent spirit. A demand for full definition of war aims must be put forward by democratic parties on both sides, as the starting point for a common movement toward peace."

The Entente nations would be unwise to decline unconditionally to consider peace proposals, in the opinion of Dr. Svante Arrhenius, president of the Nobel Institute, of Stockholm, who also said that if they did decline they should state their motives and define the modifications they deemed necessary. He also appealed for the free development of small nations.

Admiral Lindman, former premier of Sweden, appealed to the Entente not to exclude the possibility of further conversations.

"The proposal of the Central Powers should not be accepted," replied Baron A. T. Adelswaerd, former Swedish minister of finance, "because it conveys no clear idea of the principal of the basis of peace."

"The Central Powers start from the view point that they have been attacked and that they have established a decisive military superiority. Neither of these points is correct. Germany has a very good reason to desire peace."

Carl Lindhagen, Socialist mayor of Stockholm, declared that impartial justice must be done with regard to peace making as proposed by Germany. The Entente nations, he said, should state their conditions.

Pieter J. Troelstra, the Dutch Socialist leader, replied: "The German proposal could hardly contain anything other than the general declaration of readiness to begin negotiations, but the proposal should have included a declaration of readiness in the spirit of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg's recent speech, to co-operate in the establishment of an international association to insure a durable peace, including an agreement for the reduction of armament on land and sea. All the world knows that, notwithstanding its military successes, Germany has a very good reason to desire peace."

NOT ALLUDED TO AS "GREAT WORLD EVENT OF THE DAY" Rome, Dec. 23. (via Paris, Dec. 23).—The Popolo Romano, in its comment on President Wilson's note to the belligerents, alludes to its issuance as the "great world event of the day." Its tone is characterized as friendly, but firm, with a certain acceptance of the "new year" proposal to co-operate in the establishment of an international association to insure a durable peace, including an agreement for the reduction of armament on land and sea. All the world knows that, notwithstanding its military successes, Germany has a very good reason to desire peace.

BETTING IN BERLIN ON PEACE BEFORE AUGUST

London, Dec. 23.—A Frankfurt dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, via Rotterdam, says there was heavy betting on the Berlin exchange market that peace would be signed before August. The same dispatch says that the German emperor will return to Berlin for conferences with the American and Spanish ambassadors.

EXPRESS VIEWS ON PEACE PROPOSALS

Prominent Europeans Give Opinions to Neutral Conference Bureau at The Hague.

SOME FAVORABLE; SOME NOT

Tell Whether They Think Central Powers' Overtures Should be Accepted or Rejected by the Entente Allies.

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NO PAPER MONDAY. Unless there are news developments of an important nature, locally or abroad, arrangements having been made for keeping in touch with the situation, there will be no issue of The Morning Star tomorrow (Monday) morning in order that members of The Star family may in a measure share with the general public a proper observance of the Christmas holiday.

TORREON REPORTED OCCUPIED BY VILLA

Carranza Officials Admit the Bandit Chief Could Easily Defeat De Facto Forces.

HAS AN ARMY OF 7,000 MEN

Bandits Reported to Have Blown Up Train, Killing Number of Constitutional Soldiers, South of Saltillo.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 23.—Persistent rumors that Torreon had been captured by Villa were in circulation here today but Carranza officials here and at Juarez insisted that nothing had been received from the Coahuila metropolis. As the report originated from sources known to be strongly pro-Villa, government agents and military officers here refused to accept them until something more definite could be obtained. However, Carranza officials admit that Villa with his present force of 7,000 men, could capture Torreon from the de facto forces without difficulty.

GARCIA REPORTS TORREON AND CHIHUAHUA CITY SAFE. Washington, Dec. 23.—Consul General Garcia, at El Paso, reported to the Mexican embassy tonight that he has been in communication with Carranza officials at Chihuahua and Torreon and was informed that neither of those cities had been captured or was in danger of being captured by Villa forces.

TRAIN REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN BLOWN UP BY BANDITS. Laredo, Texas, Dec. 23.—Villa followers blew up a train at Carneros, 47 miles north of Saltillo, December 21, killing a number of constitutionalist soldiers, according to information received by the railroad which reached the border this afternoon. According to this information a number of the soldiers were massacred after having escaped injury from the explosion.

FUNSTON OFFICIALLY ADVISED TORREON HAS BEEN ATTACKED. San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 23.—Although confirmation of the report that Torreon has fallen into the hands of Villa is still awaited by officers of the Southern Department, Major-General Frederick Funston declared tonight that he had been advised officially of the fact that the bandit leader had attacked the city. The early reports said the Villa followers appeared to be advancing into the city.

MURGIA SAYS GARRISON AT TORREON CAN DEFEND CITY. Chihuahua City, Mex., Dec. 23.—(via El Paso Junction, Tex., Dec. 23).—General Francisco Murguia, military commander of the northern military zone, at a conference today with the foreign consular representatives, announced that Villa and his forces were advancing on Torreon, but that General Talamante, the de facto commander in Torreon, had a sufficient force to defend the city.

JUDGE PRITCHARD AND HARRISON TO TESTIFY Star Witnesses in \$30,000 Suit Against Music Festival. Asheville, N. C., Dec. 23.—Judge Jeter C. Pritchard and President Fairfax Harrison, of the Southern Railway, will be called as star witnesses to testify in the \$30,000 civil action brought by Frank S. Westbrook against the National Music Festival of America. The case will probably be called in January.

ASKVILLE JARIST, President of Corporation, Said to Have Protested Against Some of Alexander's Deals—Trial in January? (Special Star Telegram.) Durham, N. C., Dec. 23.—Judge Jeter C. Pritchard and President Fairfax Harrison, of the Southern Railway, will be called as star witnesses to testify in the \$30,000 civil action brought by Frank S. Westbrook against the National Music Festival of America. The case will probably be called in January.

WESTBROOK, who originated the idea of establishing a mecca for music lovers from all over the United States at Black Mountain, has come to Durham to live. He is working insurance. President Harrison's connection with the movement has its origin in his suggestion that Judge Pritchard be made president and the railway president promised co-operation. The plaintiff alleges that it was at a meeting in Winston-Salem in a conference with President Harrison, that R. O. Alexander, H. D. Shutt and G. W. Kinshaw agreed with and in the presence of Mr. Fairfax Harrison to subscribe all the money necessary for promoting the proposed organization.

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RUSSIAN REAR GUARD IS SLOWLY YIELDING TO TEUTONIC ARMIES

EIGHT-HOUR DAY GIVEN SWITCHMEN

Also Granted Increase of Five Cents an Hour and Straight Pro Rata Over-Time.

THIRTEEN ROADS AFFECTED

Decision Announced by Federal Arbitration Board—Points Out Duty of Government to Protect Railway Interests.

New York, Dec. 23.—An 8-hour day, an increase in wages of 5 cents an hour, and straight pro rata over time, were granted to the members of the Switchmen's Union employed by thirteen Eastern and Middle Western railroads in an award filed here today by the Federal Board of Arbitration that heard their differences. The decision of the board had been eagerly awaited by the railroads in general and the four major brotherhoods of railroad trainmen for what bearing it might have on the controversy between them over the Adamson act, in which the eight-hour day is a question at issue.

How Wages Are Affected. Switchmen at present receive a maximum hourly rate of 40 cents. The award increases this rate to 45 cents, so that, as explained tonight by Judge Charles B. Howrey, chairman of the board, on the eight hour basis, they will receive \$3.60 for a day's work, 40 cents less than they received under the ten-hour basis. By working ten hours under the new rate, they will receive \$4.50, or 50 cents more than under the old rate.

In a statement appended to the award by Judge Howrey and Prof. Jeremiah W. Jenks, the neutral members of the board of six, it is declared that the hours of switchmen do not imply "excessive physical labor" that it has been established that it will not be possible to make the actual working eight-hour day effective in the case of "more than a small percentage of the switching crews," and that "with the exception of one experiment, the testimony was unanimous to the effect that the efficiency of switchmen on the shorter work day would be only slightly increased, so that the burden of the shorter hours would fall almost entirely upon the railroads."

WILL DISCUSS TRADE PROBLEMS AFTER WAR National Civic Federation to Meet January 22 and 23. Chairman Easley Says Present Moves For Peace Vividly Suggest Disturbance That Is Bound to Occur In This Country

New York, Dec. 23.—Whether the present moves to end the great war prove "effective or abortive" they vividly suggest the economic disturbances that is bound to occur in this country when peace does come," according to Ralph M. Easley, chairman of the executive council of the National Civic Federation, in announcing today that the annual meeting of the federation will be held here January 22 and 23. "Already in one of the nations at war," said Mr. Easley, "a joint committee of employers and employees is at work trying to arrange an industrial truce to operate for three years after the termination of the conflict. In another nation co-operative schemes of almost every description, backed by the government, are being formed in preparation for the economic war that is sure to follow the military engagement. Can the great industrial forces of the United States be brought into a more harmonious relation that they may give the best that is in them to meet these grave problems is the question which the federation hopes to be able to have answered in the affirmative, at its annual meeting, by the leaders of these forces."

Subjects to be considered at the meeting of the federation will include: "The lesson from the mobilization on the Mexican border." "The indifference, if not positive opposition of the wage earners and farmers." (Continued on Page Two.)

Continue Retreat North in Wallachia and Dobrudja, Although Offering Resistance.

THE RUMANIANS WITHDRAW

Big Guns Are Active in the Region of Hardaumont and Chambrettes, Near Verdun.

BRITISH SHIPS SUNK, 435

This Represents 12 Per Cent of the Total Vessels Owned.

Fighting a series of defensive battles, but slowly yielding to Teutonic pressure, the Russian rear guard in Wallachia and Dobrudja are being pressed backward to the north. Heavy fighting is in progress in the vicinity of Rimnik-Sarat, midway between the Buzeu and Sereth rivers, in Wallachia. Russian advanced posts at Rakovitheni, in the foothills of the mountains west of Rimnik-Sarat, were compelled to retire after battles at that point and Vadulsoresoi. An engagement at Balatchenu, south of Rimnik-Sarat, also is recorded, indicating that the Russian lines still protect that town. May be Covering Retreat. These engagements are regarded by some Teuton military critics as an effort on the part of the Russians and Rumanians to cover the retreat of their armies and of the Rumanian refugees across the line of the Sereth river and to cover the flank of the Russo-Rumanian armies fighting in the Carpathian mountains of Moldavia. In Dobrudja the Rumanian line is reported to have withdrawn northward until it is only 13 miles south of the northern extremity of that province. Only artillery action is recorded on the Russian front in the vicinity of Baranovichi. The big guns are active also in the region of Hardaumont and Chambrettes near Verdun. Operations on the Macedonian front are being prevented by bad weather. President's Note Delivered. The American ambassador at Petrograd delivered the German peace note to the Russian government Saturday and President Wilson's note to the belligerent governments was handed to the Italian foreign minister by the American ambassador at Rome. "It is unlikely that the reply of the Entente powers to the German note will be dispatched before Monday and it may be delayed for ten days, according to the delays in communication. It is reported in Paris, however, that the reply is almost finished. Rumors are circulating in London that the Entente's answer is being drawn up at Rome to be forwarded thence to Germany. British Shipping Losses. It is estimated that the losses of British shipping resulting from the war total 435 steam vessels, each of more than 1,600 tons, or 12 per cent of all steamships owned in Great Britain at the beginning of the conflict.

SAYS RUSSIANS IN DOBRUDJA HAVE BEEN BADLY DEFEATED. Berlin, Dec. 23. (via Sayville).—"The Teutonic operations in Dobrudja are developing further," writes the Overseas News Agency's military critic. "The Russians have been repeatedly defeated in the Dobrudja area, abandoning two fortified positions and then offering resistance on another line in order to cover a retreat on the road to Tulcha, Isakcha and Matchin. The defensive line now is resting on the hills in the northern extremity of Dobrudja, only 20 kilometers from Tulcha and Isakcha. The third Cossack division, which reached Dobrudja only on December 19, was completely defeated by the Bulgarians on December 19, the Russians suffering heavy losses. "Likewise in eastern Wallachia the Russians and Rumanians are trying to cover the retreat of the remnants of their defeated armies and Rumanian refugees across the line of the Sereth by an effort to hold up the advance of the Central Powers at a point south of Rimnik Sarat. This effort also is intended to cover the flank of the Russo-Rumanian bodies fighting in the Moldavian-Carpathian-Rumanian offensive."

GREAT BRITAIN HAS LOST 12 PER CENT OF HER SHIPS. London, Dec. 23.—In the shipping party Fair Play, Sir Norman Hill, secretary of the Liverpool steamship owners association, makes calculations that the effect of the German campaign on British shipping has been as follows: "In the 27 months of the war from August 1914, to October, 1916, 435 steam vessels, of more than 1,600 tons, representing 1,774,000 tons, gross register, were lost through war perils. Great Britain started the war with 8,600 steamships, of 16,000,000 tons gross, so (Continued on Page Sixteen.)

DARCY SAYS HE IS NOT A MILITARY 'SLACKER'

Will Join British Army When He Gains Support for Family.

Australian Middleweight Arrives in New York—Expects to Sign Up for Bout With Carpenter, Dillon or Miske.

New York, Dec. 23.—Les Darcy, the Australian middleweight, who arrived here today after having left his home as a stowaway two months ago, declared he did not leave Australia to evade military service, and that he expected to enlist in the British forces as soon as he had made enough money to care for his relatives. It was expected here he would be signed within a few hours to meet Georges Carpentier, Jack Dillon or Billy Miske.

He said he had kept in moderately good condition on board ship, where he traveled under the name of Dawson, and was willing to meet any one. Darcy said he wanted to make it clear that he was not a "slacker" and had not left Australia to avoid going to the front. "I am going to fight for Great Britain as soon as I have had a few fights here and made enough money to support my father and mother and sisters at home," he said. "After that I will go to Canada or England and enlist. "I would have gone before, but I would have left my family in want then. One of my brothers is older than I am, but he is a cripple. Another is IT and he works day and night as a baker. The others are only little fellows. After I have got enough money for the family, then I will go to war. What happens after that won't make much difference then. I can be killed."

OLD BRIDGE REPLACED BY NEW IN 15 MINUTES

Remarkable Engineering Feat on Union Pacific Railroad.

Structure Built on False Work and Weighing 11,200,000 Pounds is Slipped Into Place in Ten and a Half Minutes.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 23.—The old steel bridge of the Union Pacific Railway over the Missouri river, between Omaha and Council Bluffs, which had been in existence for 30 years, was today removed and replaced by a new steel bridge which had been built on false work alongside the old.

The actual operation of removing the old bridge, which weighed 5,600,000 pounds, and putting in place the new, which weighed 11,200,000 pounds, required 15 minutes, four and a half minutes for removal of the old and ten and one-half minutes to replace it with the new. Five hoisting engines equipped with block and tackle, were used. Union Pacific officials said the work was an unusual engineering feat.

The work of removal began at 11:10 in the morning with 200 men and was finished at 8:40 in the afternoon. Delay was occasioned by the breaking of lashings. An hour after the new bridge was in place trains were running over it. This is the third bridge across the Missouri on the same site. A certain historical interest attaches to the place, for it was here that pioneers first crossed the river on a flat boat.

London, Dec. 23.—The Danish steamers Hroptatyr, 1,789 net tons, and Danskborg, 2,183 gross tons, have been sunk.