

America Throws Down Gauntlet To Warring Europe!

Rights of This Nation Must Be Kept In Mind by Belligerents; Patience of Government Now About Exhausted

LANSING DECLARES PRESIDENT DID NOT HAVE IN MIND PEACE ONLY WHEN NOTES WERE FORWARDED TO RIVAL'S CAPITALS

United States Seeks to Know What a Belligerent Should Know, What She Should Do If Role of Mars Is Thrust Upon Her, Asserts Secretary of State In Most Remarkable Statement—If Warriors Will Not Heed Great Neutral Republic Will Be Forced to Join One Side or Other and Help to Bring Peace Through Strife—“Verge of War” His Words—Nation in Shadow of Dark Cloud That Is More and More Spreading Over Globe

(By R. J. Bender)

Washington, Dec. 21.—A showdown by the belligerent countries because American rights have been invaded, because this nation feels that this cannot go on long, is the real purpose behind the President's so-called “peace” notes. Secretary Lansing today said frankly that matters could not continue to go on much longer as they had been. He said that this nation is “drawing nearer to the verge of war.”

Secretary Lansing authorized the following statement as the real purpose behind the message sent:

“Our rights have been invaded and the situation is becoming so intolerable that it cannot go on long. More of our rights have been invaded by the belligerents on both sides, so that the situation is becoming increasingly critical. I mean by that that we are growing nearer to the verge of war. Therefore, we are entitled to know what to expect the belligerent seeks in order that we can regulate our conduct in future. It was not our material interests that were considered when we said the situation might become intolerable. We prospered by war, but our rights were invaded.”

Mr. Lansing emphasized positively that the German peace proposal and Lloyd-George's speech had nothing to do with the dispatch of the Wilson note, except possibly to delay sending it. On this point he authorized the following:

“No nation has been sounded on this matter. We did not know in advance what Lloyd-George would say, and there was no consideration of German overtures or the speech of Lloyd-George in connection with the formulation of the note. The only thing the German overtures did was possibly to delay the note a few days. The difficulty faced by the President is that the note might be construed as a movement for peace, and in aid of the German overtures. He specifically denies that in the communication itself.”

Previous to authorizing the above, Secretary Lansing talked more freely than usual in the same tenor. It was suggested to him that the United States is really in no position to stop the war unless the belligerents themselves desire to end it. To this he pointed out that if the United States were to enter the war it would turn the scale definitely. He emphasized a feeling of danger that the country would be drawn in. Also he said that in the administration's mind, there is no purpose to suggest peace.

Backed by Other Neutrals; Significant Statements.

Washington, Dec. 21.—In making the first formal effort to evolve from the European war means of preventing a recurrence of a similar world tragedy, the President acted with the knowledge of other world neutrals, who stand behind him. He has the greatest confidence that he will succeed.

Official and diplomatic Washington scarcely recovered from the startling development, awaited with anxiety today the first response from the belligerent nations to the President's suggestion for peace definitions.

The President had made it clear many times that he would make no such move unless assured of its definitely accomplishing its purpose.

In diplomatic circles the President's move was discussed with mixed feeling. There was outspoken optimism at the German embassy. The British, however, pointed out that Mr. Wilson's request for specific terms is a matter of more vital concern to France and Russia, whose territory has been invaded, than to Britain. It is pointed out that the Czar has pledged himself to consider no peace not predicted on German evacuation of the Russian provinces.

Surprising Action; No Actual Proposal.

Washington, Dec. 20.—President Wilson has appealed to all the belligerents to discuss terms of peace.

Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation, the President has sent formal notes to the governments of all the warring nations suggesting that “an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future, as would make it possible frankly to compare them.”

Wholly without notice and entirely contrary to what administration officials have described as his course, the President last night dispatched notes to all the belligerents and to all the neutrals for their information. Summarized in the President's own words as contained in the notes, his attitude is as follows:

“The President is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, the neutral nations with the belligerent, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind 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 into the affairs of the world.”

The notes to the belligerents are prefaced with this instruction by Secretary Lansing to the American ambassadors presenting them:

“The President directs me to send you the following communication to be presented immediately to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the government to which you are accredited.”

The texts of the notes themselves then begin identically as follows:

“The President of the United States has instructed me to suggest to you (here is inserted a designation of the government addressed) a course of action with regard to the present war which he hopes that the government will take under consideration as suggested in the most friendly spirit and as coming not only from a friend but also as coming from the representative of a neutral nation whose interests have been most seriously affected by the war and whose concern for its early conclusion arises out of a manifest necessity to determine how best to safeguard those interests if the war is to continue.”

Not Associated With Teuton Proposals.

To the Central Powers the President says his action was in no way “suggested” by the Teutonic proposals while to the Entente Allies he says his note is “in no way associated with them.” To both sets of belligerents, he says he “would have delayed offering it until those overtures had been answered but for the fact that it also concerns the question of peace and may thus be considered in connection with other proposals which have the same end in view.”

It was a most distinct surprise to all official Washington which had been led to believe that with the formal transmittal of the proposals of the Central Powers, the officials of the United States would await further moves between the belligerents themselves.

Would Like to Hear Terms.

In the text the President says he is indifferent as to the means taken

TO RAISE TEN MILLIONS FOR RELIEF IN RUSSIA

(By the United Press)

New York, Dec. 21.—How to get ten million dollars to save five million Jews from perishing in German occupied portions of Russia is the task of a conference of prominent Jews from all over the United States at Carnegie Hall here today.

The decision to raise this amount in addition to the \$6,000,000 already sent to relieve the suffering Jews in Russia was made following the report of Dr. Judah L. Magnes, who went there from New York to investigate.

Theodore Marburg, Louis Marshall, Nathan and Oscar S. Straus, Jacob H. Schiff, Henry Morgenthau, Dr. Cyrus Adler and others will be present today.

TOBACCO SALES NEAR SIXTEENTH MILLION

Tobacco sales during December were 479,829 pounds. The market has closed for the month. The season's sales to date have been 15,926,814 pounds, according to Secretary E. Y. Speed of the Tobacco Board of Trade.

NOT BIRTH CONTROL, BUT BOOZE CONTROL

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Booze control, not birth control, is the panacea for domestic ills, according to Judge W. N. Gemmill, formerly of the court of domestic relations here today.

“Every man, especially every judge, knows that the cause which overshadows all others and which more than all others combined brings separation and misery to the family is the open saloon,” Judge Gemmill said. “At least 75 per cent. of all family desertions are due to booze.”

THREE MEMBERS CREW OF STEAMER KILLED

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 20.—Three negro firemen were instantly killed and one white man seriously injured tonight when steam pipes burst in the boiler room of the liner Princess Anne, of the Old Dominion line. The accident disabled the ship and she was forced to return to her dock for repairs.

to compare views. He “takes the liberty of calling attention to the fact that the objects which the statesmen on both sides have in mind are virtually the same, as stated in general terms to their own people and to the world.” Each side, he says, desires to make the rights and privileges of weak peoples and small states secure against aggression, etc. In the measures to secure future world peace the United States is vitally and directly interested—as much so as the governments at war.

In conclusion the text says: The Misery and Uselessness Of It All.

“If the contest must continue to proceed towards undefined ends by slow attrition until the one group of belligerents or other is exhausted, if million after million of human lives must continue to be offered up until on the one side or the other there are no more to offer, if resentments must be kindled that can never cool and despairs engendered from which there can be no recovery, hopes of peace and of the willing concert of free peoples will be rendered vain and idle. Belligerents Don't Know What the Fray Is Over.

“The life of the entire world has been profoundly affected. Every part of the great family of mankind has felt the burden and terror of this unprecedented contest of arms. No nation in the civilized world can be said in truth to stand outside its influence or to be safe against its disturbing effects. And yet the concrete objects for which it is being waged have never been definitely

PROHIBITION BILL FAVORABLY REPT'D TO SENATE THURSDAY

(By the United Press)

Washington, Dec. 22.—The National prohibition bill was reported favorably to the Senate today.

GEO. BEN. JOHNSTON, NOTED SURGEON, DEAD

Richmond, Va., Dec. 20.—Dr. Geo. Ben Johnston, a noted surgeon, died suddenly here today of heart failure. He was a fellow of the International Surgical Association and past president of the American Surgical Association, the Medical Society of Virginia, and the Southern Surgical and Gynecological Society.

Dr. Johnston was a great nephew of General Jos. E. Johnston, Confederate States army.

SEEK TO VOTE A DRY SPOT INTO WET TEXAS

Austin, Tex., Dec. 21.—Prohibitionists today were striving to give the next legislature a dry spot in which to cogitate on the proposed state-wide anti-booze measure, which is scheduled to provide the fireworks in the coming session.

Travis county, in which the capital is located, is voting on local option. The dries are confident of victory, even though they have had to worry along in their campaign without the aid of “Cyclone” Davis, who is detained at Washington by a farewell appearance.

MARIAN HARLAND IS 85 YEARS OLD TODAY—“DON'T STOP WORK,” SHE SAYS

New York, Dec. 21.—Marian Harland, (Mrs. Edward Payson Terhune) celebrated her 85th birthday anniversary at her home here today by working. She is the author of more than 40 books.

“A sense of humor and plenty of work keep you young,” said she today. “I would go to the graveyard and the insane asylum in three months if I quit working. Also learn your gastronomic limitations and stay within them; that's my advice.

stated. “The leaders of the several belligerents have, as has been said, stated those objects in general terms. But stated in general terms, they seem the same on both sides. Never yet have the authoritative spokesmen of either side avowed the precise objects which would, if attained, satisfy them and their people that the war had been fought out. The world has been left to conjecture what definite results, what actual exchange of guaranties, what political or territorial changes or readjustments, what stages of military success ever would bring the war to an end.

“It may be that peace is nearer than we know; that the terms which the belligerents on the one side and on the other would deem it necessary to insist upon are not so irreconcilable as some have feared; that an interchange of views would clear the way at least for conference and make the permanent concord of the nations a hope of the immediate future, a concert of nations immediately practicable.

“The President is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, the neutral nations with the belligerents, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind 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 into the affairs of the world.”

SAYS GENERAL STAFF GAVE MILITIA SLIM CHANCE START WITH

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 22.—Federalization of militia was predestined to failure because of premature condemnation by the general staff, Representative McKeller today charged.

DENVER NOW IS THE WASHINGTON OF WEST

(By the United Press)
Denver, Dec. 21.—This city is now the Washington of the West. Denver today has more Federal offices, bureaus and branches of governmental departments than any other city in the United States, except the national capital.

In the new \$2,500,000 federal building here are assembled more Federal offices under one roof than anywhere else in the country—not excepting Washington itself this time—for Denver is headquarters for the entire United States for some departments and the western pivot for practically all of the other government branches. The marine service is the only one not represented here.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

LONDON GETS NO NEWS.
London, Dec. 22.—The President's note will not be released by the Foreign Office here until 4 o'clock this afternoon.

STOCK MARKET BREAKS.
New York, Dec. 21.—The Stock market broke from 2 to 13 points because of the “peace” notes.

STEAMER TORPEDOED.
Washington, Dec. 21.—The British steamer Ursula has been torpedoed, unwarmed. Six Americans were aboard. None was killed.

AMBASSADORS GET COPIES NOTES.
Washington, Dec. 21.—The ambassadors of the belligerents called upon Secretary Lansing and received copies of the peace notes.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The ambassadors of the belligerents called upon Secretary Lansing and received copies of the peace notes.

COTTON

Following the pessimistic statement by Lansing on the President's notes to Europe, cotton dropped sharply Thursday. Not more than a dozen bales were sold here, at prices as low as 14-1-4. The high price was 16-1-4.

	Open	Close
January	17.26	16.47
March	17.60	16.79
May	17.86	16.98
July	17.89	17.04
October	16.05	15.39
December	16.05	16.60

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FRIDAY NIGHT

The Christmas exercises of the Christian Sunday school will be held in the social rooms of the church on Friday evening. The program will begin at 7:30. Members of the Beginners', Primary, Junior and Intermediate departments will have parts in the program. There will be a Christmas tree and a Santa Claus. Each member of the school will be remembered.

Another feature of the celebration will be the giving by members of the school and others who may desire to do so.

KITCHIN SAYS THE PRESIDENT FACING DISAPPOINTM'T NOW

In Revenue Hunt—Floor Leader Against Levy On Gasoline, Tea, Coffee and Pig Iron—Sure of What He Says, Believes

Kitchin, says the New York Tribune, is to fight the President on a big tax question. The Tribune printed a long interview with the local congressman on the 19th. The story in full follows:

“A fight to the last ditch against Federal taxes on coffee, tea, gasoline and pig iron was promised today by Democratic Floor Leader Kitchin of the House of Representatives, following an intimation by President Wilson that the present session of Congress may be asked to pass an additional revenue measure.

“President Wilson himself is not at all clear as to whether the present financial situation of the government will require the prompt remedy of additional taxes or a bond sale, or whether the government can be operated without such additional sources of revenue until the convening of the first session of the Sixty-fifth Congress. If he decides that additional revenue is needed at once to protect the Treasury he will go before Congress and point out his opinion as to the best manner of raising the \$800,000,000 needed.

“If the President expects to get a revenue measure along the lines he suggested at the last session he will be disappointed,” declared Mr. Kitchin positively. “There will be no tax on tea or coffee and there will be no tax on gasoline or pig iron.

“Further, there will be no reduction of the present exemption limits of the income taxes. The poor man is not the one who is helping to force up the appropriations, and I will fight to the last ditch before I see him taxed for something he is not responsible for.

“If we have to get more revenue—and there is no doubt at the present rate that we must have it, probably not at this session, but certainly at the next—most of the taxes are going to come from the profits of munitions makers, from increased surtaxes on incomes and from increased levies on inheritances.

“I am so sure of the attitude of my friends on the ways and means committee, which will shape that bill, and of which I am chairman, and I am so sure how the majority of the members of this House feel about it, that I can prophesy there will be no tax on the articles I have mentioned.

“As a matter of fact, there ought not to be any further taxes at all. Members of the cabinet should be compelled to cut their coats according to the cloth. They have scolded Congress for not installing a budget system, and here they are deliberately asking appropriations \$300,000,000 in excess of the amount of money which it is estimated the government will receive under existing taxation. They should be compelled to revise their estimates and get their appropriations down within our income.

“Personally, I would cut down the appropriations for the army and navy to at least the amount which was appropriated last year. There is something curious about it, certainly, for the money is not being spent. No start has been made on the ships we authorized last year, as yet, and it was only the other day that the keel for one of the two dreadnaughts we authorized two years ago was laid.

“Last year's appropriations were the largest—by a tremendous sum—of this country's history, yet those asked this year exceed those of last year by \$194,000,000 already, and Heaven only knows how much more they will be before the bills are finally passed.”