

## Germany First to Answer President's Note; Suggest Immediate Conference Delegates Belligerents Neutral Place

### GERMANY SAID TO HAVE HANDED SEALED PACKET WITH PEACE TERMS TO NEUTRAL REPRESENTATIVES; CONDITIONAL RELEASE

Official Comment Not Obtainable, But Rome Report Says Neutrals Given Liberty to Answer Allies If They Specifically Call for Germany's Peace Terms—Pope Given Copy and Permitted Read Secret—Gerard and Swiss Minister at Berlin Called In Special Audience With Kaiser—British Ire Assuages

Berlin, Dec. 26.—Germany has handed Ambassador Gerard for transmission to Washington its answer to President Wilson's peace note. The American representatives at the capitals of Sofia, Vienna and Constantinople were handed the same reply. It proposes an immediate meeting of delegates from the belligerent countries at a neutral place, but says the "great work" of preventing future wars is possible only after the end of the present war. The note declares that "when this moment shall have come" Germany will be "ready with pleasure to collaborate entirely with the United States in this exalted task." The answer holds that the most appropriate road to reach the desired result is the meeting of delegates of belligerents at a neutral place. The note is short and says "The high-minded suggestion made by the President of the United States in order to create a basis for the establishment of a lasting peace, has been received and considered by the Imperial government in the friendly spirit, which was expressed by the President in his communication. The President points to that which has a heart but leaves open the choice of the road."

Rome, Dec. 26.—Germany has handed to the neutrals, whose services she asked in forwarding the suggestion to her enemies, a sealed packet containing the specific terms upon which she is willing to make peace. It is reported. The report said the packet was sent with instructions only to be read and forwarded to the Allies if the latter actually asked for her terms. The same report said that in the note sent to the Pope, he was permitted to read the secret list of terms. No official comment was obtainable.

**Ambassador Gerard Granted Special Audience.**  
Amsterdam, Dec. 26.—American Ambassador Gerard is scheduled for a special audience with the Kaiser today, according to Berlin dispatches. It is stated that the Emperor has also asked the Swiss Minister to come to the palace for an audience. Presumably the conferences are in regard to peace.

**Another British Interpretation.**  
(By EDWARD Y. KEEN)  
London, Dec. 26.—The British hostility to President Wilson appeared modified. The change is attributable to the latest interpretation of the motives which impelled the American note. It is now regarded that the note has been sent with the purpose of forcing Germany to state her peace terms, and that it carries the implication that unless the terms are satisfactory to America she may enter the war on the side of the Allies.

**South American Countries Back President.**  
Buenos Aires, Dec. 26.—That certain South American chancelleries are tentatively communicating in regard to a note to be sent to the Belligerents backing up President Wilson's peace plea is reported.

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE IS BEING ENDORSED BY OTHER NEUTRALS

Encouraging Messages Arrive From Holland, Norway and Sweden—Switzerland Has Likewise Forwarded Note

(By the United Press)  
Washington, Dec. 26.—A flood of telegrams from organizations and individuals in Holland, Norway and Sweden, reached the White House today. There is indication of strong movements on foot in these countries to follow the lead of Switzerland in backing up President Wilson's peace overtures. All messages report a tremendous growing sentiment commending the President's move.

### PEACE BEFORE ANOTHER CHRISTMAS.

The war on earth with all its bitterness will turn to peace and goodwill before another Christmas comes, the government heads believe. Their hope and belief in such an outcome within the year is strengthened by Switzerland's note, to the belligerents, approving President Wilson's peace move, and offering the little mountain republic's bit toward halting the great world struggle, and seeing peace made permanent. On top of this very encouraging news came word that other neutrals may soon take a similar course, while it is less behind the American position. The administration has reason to believe the warriors themselves will take kindly to a peace proposition before very long, and hence the American cause for rejoicing despite the fact Jean officials believe there is real laughter abroad.

## BULLETINS

### PITTSBURGH REPUBLICAN CONTESTS FOR SEAT.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 26.—Representative William H. Coleman, Republican, has served notice in court that he will contest the election of M. Clyde Kelly to succeed him from the Thirtieth district, on account of alleged fraud.

### BREAD FAMINE THREATENED.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 26.—The fear of a bread famine has increased by additions to the bakers' strike.

### More Assistance Sent.

Washington, Dec. 26.—A fourth revenue cutter, the Gresham, has been dispatched to help the steamship Maryland.

## POPE DECLARES THAT PEACE IS UPPERMOST IN MIND AND DESIRE

(By the United Press)  
Rome, Dec. 25.—The Pope's reply to the congratulatory address of the College of Cardinals expressed a fervent hope that the belligerents "would finally listen to the voice of the Church invoking the restoration of peace." The Pope declared that "peace was uppermost" in his mind. He referred to neither the German note, nor the President's proffer.

## SANTA AROUSED THE WHITE HO'SE FAMILY AT THE CRACK O' DAY

President's Grandniece Had Household Up Much Before Usual Time On Christmas Morn—Mr. Wilson Manifested Keen Interest

(By the United Press)  
Washington, Dec. 25.—The golden rays of a gorgeous sunrise bursting in the east windows of the White House cast light upon the magnificent Christmas tree, laden with sparkles and wondrous gifts at the same time, Josephine Cothran, grandniece of the President, stirred restlessly, open her baby eyes, saw the sunlight, and crawled out from under the covers. She couldn't wait. Throughout the night her sleep had been disturbed by strange dreams of Santa Claus, and strange noises in the library which led her to believe that he was at work. That is just why the executive family was disturbed at the unusual hour, and forenoon command of little Josephine to appear at the tree soon after dawn. The President enjoyed the occasion so much that he let Mrs. Wilson attend church alone.

Elicia McAdeco, his little granddaughter, had her own tree, but joined the White House celebrations. This afternoon the White House automobiles sallied forth to distribute the President's gifts to children. The President distributed gifts to children along the favorite paths to Washington and the country club. Tonight the President and relatives will have an old-fashioned celebration at the White House.

## MEXICAN SNIPERS FIRE AT KENTUCKY TROOPS

(By WEBB MILLER, United Press Staff Correspondent)  
El Paso, Dec. 25.—Over 300 shots were fired across the Rio Grande last night by Mexican snipers at the outposts of the Third Kentucky regiment, just above Juarez. A machine gun company rushed to the scene, swept the hills and the sniping ceased. Officers believe the firing was started by drunken Mexicans.

## LONDON CELEBRATION NATURALLY TINGED A LITTLE WITH SORROW

(By the United Press)  
London, Dec. 25.—Not even the Christmas cheer stopped war's maiming. Reports from every front disclosed a light tinge in the business of killing. London itself celebrated, but with a cheer tinged with sorrow for its lost and reconsecrated for the future. London's main manifestation of the holiday spirit was furnished in its elaborate arrangements to give the furloughed Tommies a real taste of the cheer of home comforts. Thousands of khaki-clad warriors from France spent the holiday at home. Snow made real Christmas surroundings at nearly every front, traced a covering over the trenches in the Vosges, and interposed a natural obstacle to unlimited fighting in the east. High up in the Carpathians the Germans and Russians are locked, and south of the Alps the Italians and Austrians, fought in trenches at dizzy heights above the valley, and in Macedonia both sides were snowed in.

## LITTLE OUT OF USUAL MARKED DAY'S BATTLES

Berlin, Dec. 25.—A temporarily strong artillery duel in the Wyshaete sector is the only instance above ordinary fighting on the western front. An official report tells of the repulse of the Russian attacks in the Carpathians, forcing back the Csar's troops to Dobruja.

## AUSTRIAN BOATS ROUT ENEMY IN A VERY SPIRITED FIGHT

British Patrols Repulsed—Increased Artillery Fighting On All Fronts—Germans and Austrians Defend Village

Berlin, Dec. 26.—Four Austrian destroyers successfully raided the straits of Otranto, sank two patrol boats, routed six enemy destroyers of superior type and speed. The Vienna official report says:

"In a heavy duel one of the hostile destroyers was set afire and three others were hit at short range. Our losses are one dead." Artillery Activities Increase.

Repeated repulse of British patrols is reported officially. Artillery battles have actively increased in some sectors. On the Ypres front the Germans and Austrians being stung at bayonet point, tenaciously defended the village of Filippin, in Wallonia.

Paris, Dec. 26.—There was active artillery action Christmas night on the Somme front, in the region of La Fosse, says the official report. French Advances In Valley.

Berlin, Dec. 26.—Russian raiding detachments have advanced in the Novgorod Valley, it is said officially. There has been a temporary ebb of artillery fighting in the Karst Plateau, on the Italian front, says the official Austrian report.

## STEAMER MARYLAND REPORTED SINKING 150 MILES OFF COAST

Revenue Cutters Rushing to Assistance—Boiler Room Said to Be Flooded—Sandy Hook Picked Up Wireless Distress Call

(By the United Press)  
New York, Dec. 26.—The steamship Maryland is reported sinking a hundred and fifty miles off the Sandy Hook wireless station. The revenue cutters Aucushnet and Mohawk from Savannah, have gone to her assistance. The messages said the engine rooms of the Maryland steamer were being flooded.

## TUESDAY LAST DAY GIVEN CARRANZA TO SIGN UP OR REJECT

Protocol Relative to Withdrawal Troops From Mexico—Friendly Termination Mexican Troubles In Balance—Reply Expected In Washington

(By the United Press)  
Washington, Dec. 26.—A settlement of the difficulties between Mexico and the U. S. by peaceful means depends on what answer Carranza gives today. This is the last day set by the Peace Commission for him to sign the troop withdrawal protocol. Administration officials expect to hear today whether he agrees to the protocol. If he does not sign the peace negotiations will be at an end, and the troops will probably be kept on the border.

## JEWISH PEOPLE ARE LIBERAL IN GIVING TO WAR SUFFERERS

Splendid Meeting Held On Sunday Night Netted \$125—Plans Laid for a Jewish Sunday School for Kinston—List of Donors

The Jewish people of Kinston subscribed one hundred and twenty-five dollars to the fund for the relief of Jewish peoples in war-stricken Europe at a most interesting and spirited meeting held Sunday night. Dr. J. B. Gordon and Mr. Philip Olarsch of New York arranged the meeting and made the principal addresses.

Plans were also laid for the organization of a Jewish Sunday school under the leadership of Dr. J. L. Mayberry of Goldsboro. The following account of the meeting was kindly contributed to The Free Press:

The Jewish people of Kinston did themselves proud Sunday night at a meeting arranged by Dr. J. B. Gordon and Philip Olarsch of New York, under the auspices of the Daughters of Zion, a society of the Jewish women of Kinston. The occasion will long be remembered by those present as the most thrilling and stirring event of their lives.

Mr. Philip Olarsch was the chairman of the evening, and after an opening prayer by Dr. Mayberry, a very warm and cordial welcome was extended to all present by the popular and well-loved president of the Daughters of Zion, Mrs. Eli Nachamson.

An address by Dr. Mayberry, the well-known rabbi of Goldsboro, who came to Kinston especially for this audience interested to such a degree that when he offered to do the same for them that he had done for Durham and other places, namely, founded a Jewish Sunday school, the support and co-operation of all was eagerly given.

But it remained for the last speaker, Dr. J. B. Gordon, who together with Philip Olarsch, the chairman, represent the interests of the American Jewish Chronicle, to really stir the assemblage. He swayed his audience first to tears, then to laughter, then back to tears, playing with their emotions as though they were but pawns in a chess game. He described the conditions of the war-ridden districts of Europe so vividly that there was not a dry eye in the assemblage and sobs were audible throughout the room. Then followed a description of the hunger and destitution and an appeal for help so fervent, so stirring and so touching, that no sooner had he ended than money began pouring in. Eli Nachamson started the ball rolling with a donation of \$25.00.

Everyone gave, men, women, children, large sums, small amounts, as much as each was able to give; but give they did. The money came in checks, bills and silver, so fast that Mr. Olarsch, who received the money, had his hands more than full. And the result in ten minutes was \$125.00, which was turned over to Mr. Eli Nachamson, to be sent by him to the General Relief Committee in New York. Following are the contributors:

- Eli Nachamson ..... \$25.00
- H. Stadium ..... 10.00
- M. Pearson ..... 6.25
- M. Goldstein ..... 6.00
- Wolf Adler ..... 5.00
- "Shocket of Kinston" ..... 1.00
- B. Naiman ..... 5.00
- Mr. Cohen ..... 5.00
- Mr. Aaron Adler ..... 3.00
- Mr. Silverstein ..... 1.00
- L. Postman ..... 2.00
- Miss M. Passman ..... 2.00
- A. Snuckl ..... 2.50
- Mrs. Anselowitz ..... 2.00
- Sam Pearson ..... 1.00
- Miss Esther Lipman ..... .50
- Miss Gertrude Guyiss ..... .25
- Barnett Neiman ..... .75
- Isidore Paris ..... .50
- Cash ..... .50
- Jack Lipman ..... .50
- Benj. Anselowitz (81-2 yrs. old) ..... .50
- Becky Bloom (6 yrs. old) ..... .50
- Victor Kazz (5 yrs. old) ..... .50
- Miss Paris ..... .50
- Grand total ..... \$125.00

## ONE NEGRO WOMAN IS DEAD, ANOTHER IS WOUNDED IN FIGHT

Three-Cornered Embroilment Saturday Night In Tenderloin All That Married Kinston's Most Orderly Christmas

Sue Huggins is dead; Odenia Tartt is lying critically wounded in the hospital ward of the county jail, and Ada McNeill is held on the charge of assault with a deadly weapon. All are negroes, residing in Kinston's tenderloin, and their three-cornered fight Saturday night was the sole serious disorder reported in the county in the observance of the Christmas season.

From accounts gathered by the police, it seems that the Huggins and Tartt women became involved in a difficulty, which resulted in the Huggins woman receiving mortal wounds from a knife in the hands of the Tartt woman. She died Sunday morning. Ada took the part of Sue and used a gun on Odenia. The results were as above stated. The women are all of questionable character and bad reputation. The Huggins woman was a native of Kinston, while Odenia Tartt is said to be a Georgia negro, and Ada McNeill hails from Wilmington.

Most Orderly Observance.  
Quiet. Yes, the quietest Christmas Kinston has ever celebrated, say the old timers, and those whose duty it is to keep up with the orderliness of the section. There was no serious disorder except the murder of a negro woman, as already related. Few drunks were to be seen, and none were incapacitated to the extent of requiring the attention of the police. Sheriff Taylor, Chief of Police Skinner and other officers all are loud in their praises of the good order of the people hereabouts. Yes, the folks are getting more sense, declared one of them. The good "preachments" which the newspapers and other educational agencies are making in regard to safe and sane observances of the Christmas season is having its good effect.

- Mr. Aaron Adler ..... 2.00
  - Mr. J. Diamond ..... 2.00
  - Mrs. A. Diamond ..... 1.00
  - A. Diamond ..... 3.00
  - Mrs. Philip Adler ..... 1.00
  - S. W. Gyiss ..... 3.00
  - Mrs. J. Plesko ..... 2.00
  - M. Emanuel ..... 1.00
  - Jacob Neuman ..... 3.00
  - M. Bloom ..... 2.00
  - Sam Lipman, New Bern ..... 2.00
  - L. Kazz ..... 4.00
  - Jack Lipman ..... 1.00
  - A. Perez ..... 1.00
  - H. Pearson ..... 2.00
  - L. Pearson ..... 2.00
  - Mrs. Goldstein ..... 2.00
  - Mrs. A. T. Gross ..... 1.00
  - Dave Bronstein ..... 1.00
  - Albert Helfont ..... 2.00
  - J. Hishfield ..... 2.50
  - Miss M. Passman ..... 2.00
  - A. Snuckl ..... 2.50
  - Mrs. Anselowitz ..... 2.00
  - Sam Pearson ..... 1.00
  - Miss Esther Lipman ..... .50
  - Miss Gertrude Guyiss ..... .25
  - Barnett Neiman ..... .75
  - Isidore Paris ..... .50
  - Cash ..... .50
  - Jack Lipman ..... .50
  - Benj. Anselowitz (81-2 yrs. old) ..... .50
  - Becky Bloom (6 yrs. old) ..... .50
  - Victor Kazz (5 yrs. old) ..... .50
  - Miss Paris ..... .50
  - Grand total ..... \$125.00
- The officers of the Daughters of Zion are: Mrs. Eli Nachamson, president; Mrs. A. Gross, vice-president; Miss Dora Diamond, secretary; and Mrs. Jacob Neuman, treasurer.

## FURTHER PLANS FOR UNIVERSAL MILITARY SERVICE BE SUBMIT'D

(By the United Press)  
Washington, Dec. 26.—Plans for universal military service, designed to offset objections to the existing plans, will be submitted to the Senate Military Committee by Col. Webb J. Hayes of Ohio. The plans designed by him and Colonel Foote, who is in charge of the artillery school at Fortress Monroe, involve the calling of each youth of 17 for training during three summer months for four years. Congressional districts would be units.

## COTTON

The farmers were still celebrating the Christmas holidays Tuesday, and there were no receipts on the local cotton market. The local market would have offered from 16 to 16 1/2. In New York January closed 29 points higher than the opening figure.

New York quotations:

	Open	Close
January	16.50	16.75
March	16.86	17.10
May	17.26	17.39
July	17.45	17.47
October	15.75	15.80
Spot	16.90	

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