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THE PRESIDENT'S ANSWER

Makes Clear Statement That There Can Be No Armistice While the Huns Continue Atrocities.

In an epoch-making document President Wilson Monday afternoon thrilled the American nation with a clear and unmistakable answer to the German peace note, declaring that there could be no peace with an autocracy that persisted in its course of frightful atrocities on land, and submarine piracy at sea. While such autocracy existed the president declared in substance, no final peace could come.

The chief executive of the United States also made it plain that the terms of an armistice, should one come, would be laid down by the "military advisers of the United States and her allies." The allied armies would fight on, so that they would lose no military advantage. They will fight on, says the president, until the destruction of arbitrary power makes it impossible for the recurrence of another world slaughter. In face, the sharp, incisive note sent by the United States in answer to Germany's apparent acceptance of terms is a clear, unmistakable demand for unconditional surrender.

That the president's reply met the highest expectations of the American people was evidenced at Washington last night when congratulatory telegrams from all sections of the country poured in. The American press, too, with phenomenal unanimity warmly approved the president's course.

NO PEACE WITH KAISERISM.

Washington, Oct. 14.—President Wilson has answered Germany's peace proposal with a decision which not only fulfils the expectation of supporters of his diplomacy but also dispels the fears of those who predicted he would substitute victories at arms with defeats at diplomacy.

No peace with kaiserism! Autocracy must go; no armistice can ever be thought of while Germany continues her atrocities on land and sea; one cannot be considered unless it is fully dictated by the allied commanders in the field in such terms as absolutely provide safeguards and guarantees that Germany's part will not be a scrap of paper.

This is in a few words the president's answer.

If it does not bring a capitulation which may be more than unconditional surrender allied diplomats and American officials believe it may cause a revolution in Germany.

Beyond question it speaks for the entente allies as well as the United States.

The dispatch of the president's reply was followed by the issue of this formal statement at the white house by Secretary Tumulty:

"The government will continue to send over 250,000 men with their supplies every month and there will be no relaxation of any kind."

Quite outside of the formal phrases of a diplomatic document that was President Wilson's word to the world that he had no thought of stopping the fighting at this stage.

The senate chamber rang with applause of senators as the presi-

dent's answer was read a few minutes after it had been announced at the state department. Senator Lodge, the president's chief critic in his course until today, issued a statement expressing his gratification at the president's decision. Opinion at the capitol and throughout official Washington was unanimously in approval.

The official note which will convey the president's decision to the German government, and more important, to the German people, was delivered today by Secretary Lansing to the charge of the Swiss legation who has been acting as the intermediary. It was given out publicly by Mr. Lansing at the state department at 6 o'clock this evening.

One outstanding point which does not appear in the president's note—a point on which the world has been asking questions can be answered tonight.

When the president declared that the wrong done to France when Germany took Alsace-Lorraine should be righted, he meant that Alsace-Lorraine should be returned to France.

Those who contend that the president's decision arranges the situation for something more than an unconditional surrender base it on the argument that he has now passed the stage where he might have accepted a surrender of the German military and naval forces and left the Hohensollern autocracy on its throne.

Mr. Wilson, according to this view, has now finally informed the German people that if they want peace, they can only attain it by getting rid of the kaiser and his system.

Dr. Terrell Dies from Pneumonia.

Dr. Albert J. Terrell, of Black Mountain, died Sunday afternoon at the Meriwether hospital in Asheville of pneumonia, which followed an attack of influenza. He had been ill for ten days.

Dr. Terrell was borned at Old in 1875. He was graduated at Wake Forest college, studied medicine at Richmond Medical college, Richmond, Va., for one year and graduated in medicine at the medical school of the University of North Carolina. As a doctor he was widely known in this section of the state, both by his skill as a practitioner and his readiness to respond to the needs of those who were suffering, regardless of personal sacrifice. He was a Blue Lodge Mason and held the thirty-second degree in the Scottish Rite.

He is survived by his wife and a son, Albert, Jr.; by his father, W. P. Terrell, of Old Fort, and two brothers and three sisters.

The funeral services were conducted Tuesday morning at the residence in Black Mountain and the body was taken to Old Fort for the interment.

American Soldiers Lost.

Probably 372 American soldiers were lost Sunday, 6th, on the North channel between the Scottish and Irish coasts, when the transport Otranto and the steamer Kashmir collided. Of the 699 American soldiers on board the Otranto, 310 were landed. Seventeen were rescued alive at Islay, leaving 372 unaccounted for.

STILL DRIVING THE HUNS

Entente Forces in Belgium and France Continue to Successfully Drive Enemy Before Them.

The entente force in Belgium and France continue successfully to drive the enemy before them. In Belgian Flanders the advance is somewhat rapid but on all the sectors in France the Germans are fighting with desperation to hold back their foes.

The great wedge that is being driven by the Belgian, British and French troops in Flanders now threatens seriously the tenure by the enemy of many positions in north Belgium from the Lys river to the sea, including his submarine and other bases along the coast, while to the south the Lille salient gradually is being enmeshed and doubtless soon will receive attention from the pincers, which are being oiled for the task of reclaiming this important tract of territory as far as Valenciennes for France.

TEN THOUSAND PRISONERS TAKEN.

With the Allied Forces in Belgium, Oct. 15.—British, French and Belgian troops in their offensive begun yesterday in Belgium, have captured more than 10,000 prisoners and have taken more than 100 guns.

Advanced allied troops have signalled that they are from six to seven miles inside the German positions.

Five Hundred People Dead and Many Towns Wiped Out by Fire.

Duluth, Minn., Oct. 13.—With probably 500 persons dead, thousands homeless and without clothing, and with property damage mounting far into millions of dollars, whole sections of northern Wisconsin and Minnesota timberland tonight are smouldering, fire-stricken areas, with only the charred ruins of abandoned, depopulated towns to accentuate the general desolation. The bodies of seventy-five victims lie in Duluth morgues. Hundreds more along the roads leading to Duluth and Superior lay where they fell when overtaken by the fire.

Twelve thousand homeless and penniless refugees are quartered in hospitals, churches, schools, private homes and in the armory here.

Reports that the holocaust resulted from the work of enemy agents were circulated here tonight.

Crop Report Shows Improvement.

The crop report October 1st shows a great improvement in conditions during September. The corn crop, estimated at a big loss in production as a result of July and August weather, is now estimated at 2,717,775,000 bushels, which would be 441,000,000 bushels less than last year. Reports from the spring wheat crop show an increase over last year and the total wheat yield in prospect is 918,920,000 bushels, very close to the billion bushel mark set by the government a year ago to meet the war needs.

J. M. Tyler, who has been confined home for the past week on account of sickness, is able to be out again.

From Grafton C. Bird to his Mother Mrs. J. L. C. Bird.

On Ship Board. "Way Out"

Dearest Mother: Your darling boy is now on ship headed to France, or somewhere else, and at present is threatened with a siege of sea-sickness. Have been having quite a time so far. These Englishmen have a peculiar brogue. Each morning about 6 or 7 o'clock we are served with coffee, then at 7:30 to 8:00 we have breakfast. At noon lunch, at 4 p. m. tea (tay), and at 6 dinner. The fare is fine.

Yesterday morning the steward stuck his head in our cabin and said: "I beg your pardon, but would you like a bit of coffee?" Now you can imagine how we were feeling, for it was the first good night's sleep we had had for two weeks, for we had been seeing the shows. One of the fellows requested that he get out, and he got. Didn't show up this morning, but we looked for him.

There are only three field clerks on our boat—the others were stuck on some of the other boats. We are all in the same state room, travelling second class.

SECOND INSTALLMENT.

I started this letter two days ago, but couldn't finish it at that time. I did not feel equal to the task, but after I was in bed a few hours I felt better. Have not been too sea-sick yet. We have so far had splendid weather. The sea has been very smooth, but it is pretty chilly. Last night I was on the top deck and was very comfortable in my heavy shirt, sweater, blouse and overcoat. Seems funny to have to wear all that in August, doesn't it?

According to rules, I can't tell you one-fifth of the things I would like to—I guess in about a week I will be on "yon side" of the pond. I am enjoying myself. Four and five meals a day is telling on me, too. I am getting fatter already. The food is well prepared and the service all you want. If one helping is not sufficient, "have a bit more, sir."

Hope you are enjoying the mountain breezes now. Please write me when you can. Your son, G. C. B.

Dearest Mother:

Once more I have the pleasure of stating that we have so far eluded all passing "subs" and are in the midst of a dense fog, just off the North Pole. I have on heavy under clothes, shirts, sweater, coat, overcoat and life-preserver and am soon going below for two or three blankets. Rawther chilly, you know. It may interest you to know that I have only had my clothes off one time since I left ———, then I was taking a bath, and if I have good luck from now until I get to ——— I won't take another. I asked to have a fresh water bath and thought I was getting it, but when I tried to raise a lather with some of my soap it wouldn't work, and I had to disregard the dirt and concentrate my efforts on the soap which stuck to me like a brother.

There are two "Tar Heels" on this boat, a Mr. Giles from Charlotte and Mr. Bailey from Wilmington. Both are with the Y. M. C. A.

I am studying military tactics reading infantry drill regulations, etc. A lieutenant from Georgia is instructing me.

We have, so far, had splendid weather, but this old tub sure has a roll all of its own—kind of jelly roll, you know.

The next time I cross the ocean I am going to buy out a magazine stand. I had a Post, but it is gone now. By the time we hit our destination we will be greatly behind the times.

Give my regards to all. Tell them I like the ocean and can always be found watching the fish come up at meal time for their daily bread—and other things. Take it from me, after the war there will be some hungry fish in the Atlantic ocean. Think of all the extra meals they have had.

Please write some times, and don't forget to send me some newspapers.

YOUR SON,
GRAFTON C. BIRD.

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Roberts and children, of Bristol, Tenn., are visiting Mrs. Roberts' parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Bomar.

A Liberty Loan Appeal from a McDowell Boy in Camp.

Some time has elapsed since the launching of the first Liberty Loan drive. Having read numerous reports of what other states are doing and of what a few places in North Carolina are doing, I often wonder what McDowell county, or rather my home people, are doing in this which is destined to be the greatest "Liberty" drive recorded in history. When I think of what McDowell county has done to forward every nation-wide issue that has ever been presented to her, I am proud to say that she is my home. There is no other spot so dear to me. Her people are my people. Her burdens are my burdens, and no one could be prouder than I to know that I have the honor of being in the camp to do my best for her, as well as for all the world.

Let me urge upon every man, woman, boy and girl of McDowell the great importance of quickly giving to the limit of their ability in the great drive now on. Don't stop and say, "I have done my 'bit'". Do your best and be satisfied with nothing short of your best. Think of the boys from among you who today are either on the battle field of Europe or in our various camps. Some of them have already paid their Liberty Loan in full and others will gladly do so if necessary. Dare you for one minute think they are doing what they are for their own benefit? They are doing what you expect of them—their best. You will not be content with them doing less. Should one of them dare turn his back in battle, or refuse to give his life's blood for you, you would at once denounce him as a slacker—yellow thru and thru. Then have we not as much right to expect you to do your best? Is your money worth more to you than our life is to us? If you call us yellow for refusing to fight, have we not a greater reason to call you yellow for failing to buy bonds to the limit of your ability?

When the boys come home again can you clasp their hand and say "I did my best to send you safely to victory," or will you hang your head and say "I have failed to do my part. You have sacrificed everything while I have sat idly by until now, when it's too late." Look around you at those little bright-eyed girls and boys. Do you wish them to be slaves for Germany? How about that wife who has made your home the most hallowed place on earth, and that mother whose head is crowned with silvery locks; shall they live in the happiness they deserve, or shall they be treated as the mothers of Belgium and France? Your money can decide their fate! What will you do?

Your boys are going over the top to victory to make this world a decent place in which to live. They will not hesitate to pay their Liberty bonds in full. How about you?

PRIVATE LEE LAVENDER.

As a result of an earthquake Saturday, 150 lives were lost in Porto Rico. The greatest loss of life from the shock was at Mayaguez and Aguadilla, west coast cities, and in the intervening territory.