

TEUTONS TO MAKE PEACE PROPOSITION

Central Powers Tell Russians of Prospective Offer to the Allies

TERMS NOT DISCUSSED WITH BOLSHIEVIKI

Reported Ready to Discuss Peace Without Indemnities or Annexation—Waiting for a Hint From the Allies

(By Associated Press.) Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—According to press reports Russia has been informed by the Central Powers that they intend to make peace proposals to the Allies.

The reports published in the Evening Post, which says the representatives of the Central Powers, at the preliminary peace conference which the Russians held yesterday, announced that their governments intended on principle to put the question of peace before all the powers and that they had asked their allies to do likewise. Russia was requested to take similar steps. It is stated the Russians are endeavoring by all means to satisfy the Allies.

The Evening Post says the Germans have officially informed the Bolshevik headquarters that the Central Powers are ready to consider the arrangement of peace on the basis of no annexations and no indemnities. It is pointed out that self-determination was impracticable.

The representatives of the Central Powers informed the Russians they were ready to discuss peace preliminaries but desired to know the result of Russia's efforts to induce the Bolsheviks in the negotiations to discuss peace with them. They stated, however, and that they were willing to discuss peace with them also. The Germans were reported to be of the opinion that the Russian armistice would influence the other powers.

The peace conference was devoted merely to a discussion of who would be the mediator in the negotiations.

Nothing Given Out by Washington.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Russian peace offer was entirely without effect on the progress of peace negotiations between the Bolsheviks and the Central Powers, and whatever advantage the government was receiving from the American Ambassador Francis Pickens at other sources was not made public.

SERBIAN MISSION REACHES AMERICA

(By Associated Press.) An Atlantic port, Dec. 20.—A Serbian diplomatic mission to the United States arrived here today. It is headed by Dr. M. R. Vesnich, who represents Serbia at the inter-allied conference at Paris. Its members include a number of Serbian army officers and a number of Serbian civilians. The mission plans to go direct to Washington, where tomorrow Dr. Vesnich is Serbian minister to the United States. The President's appreciation of the mission is expressed in the United States and the President's attitude toward the small nations. The President will receive an autographed letter from Peter of Serbia.

SHIP INVESTIGATION WILL OPEN FRIDAY

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 20.—Investigation of the government Shipping Board and Emergency Fleet Corporation's operations under the resolution of Senator Harding which the Senate adopted, the Senate Commerce committee decided today, will begin tomorrow afternoon with Chairman Hurley as the first witness.

Other witnesses will be Vice Chairman Stevens and John A. Donald, member of the board. By resolution at its meeting today the committee called on Chairman Hurley for the following information:

An itemized statement of all contracts for both steel and wood ships with the full name of each contracting person, firm or corporation, when organized and when in operation and the place where the shipbuilding under each contract has been or is being carried on.

The number of ships constructed, where and by whom built.

Number of ships now under construction, where and by whom, and the proportion of work done.

Copies of all shipbuilding contracts.

What ships are being built in private yards for other than government account, and by whom.

WHAT PURPORTS TO BE AN OUTLINE OF GERMANY'S TERMS

Alleged Terms of the Much Advertised "Christmas Peace" Proposal

MAY BE AN OPENING WEDGE FOR DISCUSSION

Diplomats Look Upon the Suggestions With Varied Feelings, some with Hopes, Others With Curiosity

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 20.—What purports to be an outline of the Kaiser's much advertised "Christmas peace terms" has reached here through the same neutral diplomatic channels which earlier in the week received information to support intimations from abroad that a new peace offer was coming.

In the main, the terms as described, follow the lines of those said to have been written by Foreign Minister von Kuhlmann last summer. At that time they were denounced as having been written purely for political purposes. The so-called terms are said to leave the disposition of Alsace Lorraine to a plebiscite of inhabitants.

England to pay Germany for her lost African colonies and the money to be used for the rehabilitation of Belgium, Serbia, Rumania and Northern France.

Russian provinces bordering the Baltic, the Black Sea and Prussia to become independent, under a German plan.

Poland to be called an independent state under Austrian suzerainty. Disarmament, freedom of the seas, and commerce to be left to the peace conference.

Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro to retain their original boundaries, with the right of access to the sea being granted to Serbia.

Turkey to remain intact. Whether such a proposal of terms is merely another step in the German propaganda to impress the public mind that the Allies are responsible for a continuance of the war, or whether it really is a feeling for peace, is a subject for the estimate of the governments concerned.

At first glance some are inclined to regard them as the Kaiser's much advertised Christmas peace terms, probably designed to keep the German people under the illusion that they are fighting a really defensive war against foes who insist on the dismemberment of their country.

There is a very decided impression in competent quarters, however that Germany having gained great advantages in Russia might think it to her advantage to yield to the Allied demands in many other directions, which in the estimate of her own statesmen would strike a balance. This is one of the reasons why some close observers believe an offer of peace coming at this time probably has more real intentions of peace behind it than the previous ones.

No one here believes Germany's best terms would be put on the table at the first offering, and those inclined to this view think a proposal of peace now is at least an attempt to start a discussion of terms.

From what is known of the war aims of the Allied governments as expressed by their statesmen and by President Wilson, such an offering of terms as outlined in the foregoing could not be considered as the basis of a satisfactory peace, although it might contain some of the elements.

AIRMEN ACTIVE ON WESTERN FRONT

Intense Air Fighting is Reported By the British War Office

(By Associated Press.) London, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—Aviation activities by the British army air service are reported in an official statement tonight as follows:

"Good work was done in the air on Monday by Australian pilots. Two of them who were attacked by many hostile scouts when employed on artillery work succeeded in bringing down one of the enemy's machines in our lines and dispersed the remainder.

"On Tuesday a thick haze again limited flying to the northern part of the front where a great deal of artillery photographic work was done. During the day, over 150 bombs were dropped on the enemy's railway stations, siding and trenches and many rounds were fired from the air into the trenches and billets.

"Fighting in the air on this part of the front was intense all day and resulted greatly in our favor. Seven hostile machines were brought down by our airplanes and one was shot down in our lines by anti-aircraft fire and another by the fire of our infantry. Three others were driven down out of control. Three of our machines are missing."

After dark yesterday our aeroplanes bombed the St. Denis, Western, Roulers and the Wolde aerodromes and Thourout, Ledeghem, Cambrai and Meun railway stations. All of our machines returned."

HALIFAX CHILDREN LOOK TO AMERICA FOR SANTA CLAUS

Unless United States Responds There'll Be Many Empty Stockings

ONE THOUSAND IN THE HOSPITALS

Many Are Crippled or Blind and No Toys to Bring a Ray of Joy to the Little Sufferers

(By Associated Press.) Halifax, N. S., Dec. 20.—An American Santa Claus must provide toys for hundreds of blind and crippled children in hospitals here. The limited stock carried by the local dealers has been exhausted. A committee of women assigned the duty of bringing Christmas cheer to victims of the explosion and fire found today that unless shipments were received from the United States within the next few days plans for filling the stockings of destitute children could not be carried out.

Today, for the first time since the disaster crowds in the street were able to see evidences that the holiday season is approaching. But the toy shops were empty, as the stocks had been taken over by the Women's Committee for distribution Monday night. The supply is inadequate and it is for this reason that Americans are asked to help immediately.

Although no approximate estimate of those blinded by the explosion is available, it is believed the number may reach 1,000, including those who lost the sight of one or both eyes. Many of these are children and little gifts which they never will see are sadly needed.

MORE WORK OF LUXBURG SHOWN

Further Revelations to Be Made Believed of a Significant Character

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 20.—Some two score more of telegrams which passed between Count von Luxburg, German minister to Argentina, and the German foreign office will be made public today by the State Department by agreement with the Argentine government, which also will publish them simultaneously at Buenos Aires. Exposure of Count von Luxburg's "sink without trace" telegram by Secretary Lansing was what caused a rupture of diplomatic relations between Argentina and Germany.

Disclosure of more of the sensational Luxburg telegrams which are expected to bare more evidence of the German diplomat's duplicity, comes at a most interesting time, especially as it is being done by agreement with the Argentine government.

How the public mind in Argentina, already pressing President Irigoyen to go to war with Germany, will regard further exposure of German intrigue, is of no less interest to officials here than its probable effect on the general Latin-American attitude toward a so-called neutrality conference just called at Buenos Aires, to attend which Luis Cabrera, Mexico's representative, unceremoniously left the United States recently while this government was waiting to begin negotiations over food exports to Mexico.

While public sentiment for entering the war on the side of the United States and the Allies has been spreading through all Latin-American, the spurious examples of inaction have been the governments of Mexico and Argentina. The sudden visit of Cabrera at this particular time to a so-called neutrality conference in Buenos Aires excited much speculation.

Whether there can be any connection between the new Luxburg exposures and the relations between Mexico and Argentine excites much more.

WANT INCREASE ON NAVAL STORES.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 20.—The Georgia and Florida Railway today applied to the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to make increase of one half cent and one cent per 100 pounds in rates on naval stores from Georgia producing points to Brunswick and Jacksonville.

10, 142, 852 BALES OF COTTON GINNED

For the Same Period Last Year 10,838,799—North Carolina 521,473

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 20.—Cotton ginned prior to December 13 amounted to 10,142,852 running bales, exclusive of linters, and including 180,252 running bales and 83,352 bales of Sea Island, the Census Bureau today announced.

Last year to December 13 ginnings were 10,838,799 running bales, including 184,285 running bales and 110,163 bales of Sea Island.

Ginnings by States this year were: Alabama 464,661; Arizona 11,024; Arkansas 832,548; California 30,453; Florida 45,239; Georgia 1,719,504; Louisiana 580,473; Mississippi 774,606; Missouri 41,289; North Carolina 521,473; Oklahoma 860,111; South Carolina 1,111,240; Tennessee 187,146; Texas 2,943,975; Virginia 15,456; all other States 6,533.

Sea Island ginnings by States: Florida 35,177; Georgia 43,104; and South Carolina 5,071.

TRYING TO FIND REAL OWNERSHIP STOCK YARDS

The Federal Trade Commission Opened An Investigation This Morning

"HIGH FINANCE" FEATURED TODAY

Sensational Disclosures Made and More Are Promised—Inquiry May Show About Food Control Also

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 20.—Sensational disclosures of "high finance" between the Chicago packers and the stock yards and terminal railroads there—and promises of more to come—featured today's session of the Federal Trade Commission's investigation to get at some of the innermost causes of the high cost of living.

Backed with an array of facts and figures gathered by trained investigators, working under the new \$250,000 fund recently appropriated by Congress, Francis J. Heney, in charge of the investigation for the commission, began cracking one sensational after another.

Today's session had wholly to do with a big operation in which a \$2,500 clerk was the medium of forming an \$8,000,000 corporation which took the risk of the Chicago stockyards and terminal railroads being moved further west, and developed testimony to show how the packers in return, to use the language of one of the participants, got their share of "the plunder" and took their "pickings." J. Ogden Armour, it was said, got all the profits over nine per cent.

The point of the whole transaction, as brought out by today's testimony, with that phase of the packing industry to move away from Chicago; that a corporation was formed to take over the stock yards properties and assume the risk of their becoming valueless, and that as a result the enormous profits of the yards and terminal equipment was divided with the packers as an inducement to them to continue their business in Chicago.

Frank R. Pegram, treasurer of the Chicago Stock Yards Company and cashier for F. H. Prince, of Boston, testified that he held 79,990 shares of the Chicago Stock Yards Company as trustee, but that he had never had them in his possession. The stock was held, he said, subject to bearer warrants, but that he did not know where these warrants were, though he thought most of them were in the safe deposit boxes of Mr. and Mrs. Prince.

Other witnesses summoned to testify include W. M. Wadden, former treasurer for the Chicago Stock Yards Company; F. R. Hart, vice chairman of the Old Colony Trust Company; E. V. R. Thayer, president of the Chase National Bank; S. H. Sessenden, a broker; C. C. Chase, auditor of the Chicago Stock Yards and Transit Company, and J. N. Manning, an employee of Prince and Company. All of the witnesses are from Boston, except Mr. Thayer, who formerly lived in Boston, but now in New York.

CLEMSON TO HAVE LONGER HOLIDAY

(By Associated Press.) Columbia, S. C., Dec. 20.—President W. M. Riggs, of Clemson College, after a conference here today with Alan Johnston, president of the board of trustees and Governor Manning, announced that the Christmas holidays for students of the institution would be extended two weeks longer than usual, due to the coal shortage. All time lost will be made up in the summer, it was stated. It is estimated that this action will result in a saving of approximately 200 tons of coal.

ESTHER CLEVELAND ENGAGED TO MARRY

(By Associated Press.) London, Dec. 20.—The engagement is announced of Esther, daughter of Grover Cleveland, to Captain Bosanquet, of the Cold Stream Guards. Captain Bosanquet is a son of Sir Albert Bosanquet.

Miss Cleveland came to London in June of last year after having qualified as a nurse and instructor of the blind and took up work as a volunteer at St. Dunstan's Home for blind soldiers.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN HAS NOT CUT OFF BRITISH SUPPLIES

Lloyd-George's Address to Commons a Most Encouraging One

A GENERAL PEACE CONFERENCE WANTED

Germany Would Enlarge the Scope of Negotiations With Russia—Big Teuton Army on Western Front

(By Associated Press.) London, Dec. 20.—Speaking in the House of Commons today David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, said that the margin of losses at sea was narrowing. The sinkings by submarines he declared was decreasing while ship building was increasing.

The Premier said the sinking of submarines was increasing. Although the merchant tonnage was down by 20 per cent, he added, the loss had been only 6 per cent of imports over that of last year.

Regarding the military situation, Mr. Lloyd-George said it was idle to pretend that the hopes formed had been realized. This disappointment, he attributed to the Russian collapse. The Germans, the Premier said, had had only one success, which was due to surprise and this was now engaging inquiry. The Germans, he stated, had lost 100,000 prisoners, valuable positions and hundreds of guns.

Complete restoration of the territories taken by the enemy together with compensation was demanded by Premier Lloyd-George in explaining the war aims of the government.

The Premier said that if the Russian army had fulfilled the expectations of its generals, by this time the pride of the German military power would have been completely humbled.

On the whole, the British campaign had not achieved the expectations formed, he said, but there had been military successes in Palestine which would have a permanent effect on the history of the world. Jerusalem, he stated, never would be restored to the Turks.

After referring to the Italian reverses, the Premier said it would be necessary for Great Britain to make greater sacrifices to strengthen its armies in the coming year. The need would arise to increase the nation's man-power, taking some men now exempted.

The Premier's speech was delivered when adjournment for the holidays was moved in the House of Commons this afternoon. He dealt first with the problem of food. Two circumstances, he said, had contributed lately to the gravity of the situation—the failure to obtain margarine and butter from Holland and Denmark and the fact that England had been required to make sacrifices in order to supply deficiencies of her Allies. Owing to the efforts of the food controller, an improvement was visible in circumstances which had caused so much anxiety in the last few days. More tea was coming in and it was hoped by increased manufacture to improve the situation as regarded margarine shortly.

Owing to the food difficulties in Germany, the Premier went on, the physical deterioration of workmen there had been so marked that the output per man had been decreased by 33 per cent.

As for the British casualties, Mr. Lloyd-George said they had not amounted to more than one-fourth or one-fifth of the Germans. Opposed to Germany, Austria and their Allies, he asserted, were man-power and reserves more than double those which the Teutonic Allies possessed. The government, he said, would confer next week with trades unions on the man-power proposals.

The Premier said that the losses in shipping had been lighter by 100,000 tons than he had anticipated in his August estimate.

Excited jumps in the value of corn resulted from the lifting of an embargo on eastbound shipments and because of rumors that the maximum limit on prices would be raised with the approval of the Food Administration. The market advance, which was accompanied by a notable broadening out of trade, amounted at one time to 6 3-4 a bushel for May delivery as compared with yesterday's finish. Opening quotations, which ranged from 3 1/2 to 6 1-4 higher with January 1.23 1-2 to 1.27 3-4 and May 1.20 1-2 to 1.26 was followed by moderate further gains before a reaction set in. Both December and January rose to within 1-4c of the existing minimum limit. Oats duplicated the action of corn. The greatest upturn, however, was 2 1-2c.

Provisions sympathized with the strength of cereals. The resulting gains, though, were not of a swelling character.

News that the embargo which was imposed December 9 was lifted was received shortly after 10 o'clock. The board of trade ticker printed a denial from Washington that the maximum price was to be removed.

BRITISH CASUALTIES.

(By Associated Press.) London, Dec. 20.—British casualties reported in the week ending today totalled 17,976 officers and men, as follows:

Officers killed or died of wounds, 331; men, 3,181.

Officers wounded or missing, 1,039; men, 13,425.

EXCITED JUMPS IN CORN VALUES

Lifting of Embargo Boosts the Price of Corn 6 3-4 Cents a Bushel

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JUST 3 MORE DAYS LEFT TO SHOP COUNT 'EM! Friday Saturday Monday