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PRESIDENT WILSON MAKES AN APPEAL TO WARRING NATIONS

Asks Them to Make Known Their Terms Upon Which Peace Negotiations Could Proceed.

ACTION A BIG SURPRISE.

Had Been Supposed That He Would Not Make Any Move At This Time.

IMPROVES PROSPECTS FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

Diplomatists Believe Mr. Wilson Must Have Some Information Not Appearing on the Surface or He Would Not Have Made the Proposal at This Time.

(Washington Dispatch, 20th.)

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."

Development A Surprise.

This latest development in the rapidly moving world events toward a discussion of peace was not permitted to become known until tonight when the notes were well on their way to the American Ambassadors in the belligerent capitals, and probably already in the hands of some of them.

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 and that certainly in view of the speech of Premier Lloyd-George and the announcements in Russia, France and Italy, further action by neutrals would depend upon the next careful and delicate moves in the great diplomatic spectacle before the belligerents themselves.

Improves Prospects.

The whole tenor of official opinion throughout Washington when the President's action became known was that it immeasurably improved the prospects for some sort of exchanges looking toward an approach to peace discussions between the belligerents, without impairing the position of the United States should they finally be unable to find a ground on which to approach one another.

At the White House no statement whatever could be obtained as to whether any of the powers had intimated how they would receive the note and there was every indication that the same careful secrecy which prevented even anything whatever becoming known about the President's action until it had been taken, would surround any of the succeeding moves.

Nothing On Surface.

Nowhere on the surface appears any indication of the history making events which diplomatists generally

are convinced must have transpired since the German allies brought forth their proposals to dispel the generally prevalent belief that such an action on the part of President Wilson would be acceptable to the entente powers.

British Embassy officials declared they were utterly taken by surprise, were wholly unable to explain it, and emphatic in their statement that no exchanges whatever had passed through the Embassy here as a preliminary.

The hope of the German powers that President Wilson would intercede in some way has long been well known and has been conveyed in various ways to the White House. The attitude of the entente allies as expressed by their statesmen and certainly until recently, in official advices to the American government has been that a peace offer by the United States would be considered almost the next thing to unfriendly.

All that, however, was before the German allies brought forward their proposals for discussion of peace. President Wilson specifically says in the notes he is somewhat embarrassed in making the suggestion at this particular time "because it may now seem to have been prompted by a desire to play a part in connection with the recent overtures of the Central Powers."

No Influence.

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."

Diplomatists consider it incredible that the President would bring forward such a proposal at such a time unless he had reason to believe it would receive respectful consideration at the hands of all the belligerents and above all would prejudice the position of the United States as a possible mediator.

SLAYERS DIE AT SING SING.

Charles Kumrow, Twenty, and Stanley J. Millstein, Nineteen, Meet Death Earlier, as Requested.

Sing Sing, N. Y., Dec. 21.—Stanley J. Millstein, nineteen, and Charles Kumrow, twenty, were put to death in the electric chair in the Death House this morning, having petitioned Warden Moyer that he execute the death sentences upon them to-day instead of waiting until the end of the week. They did that in consideration for their relatives and their companions in the Death House, saying that their deaths on Friday would only add to the gloom of Christmas.

Warden Moyer attended both executions, explaining that he did not desire to do so, but that the law specially stated that the Warden should be present.

Kumrow, who killed a tug boat captain in Buffalo, went to his death without knowing that his father, after riding all night in a day car from Buffalo, was in the prison. Kumrow believed his family and friends had deserted him. When his father arrived, half an hour before the time set for the death, he carried a letter from the boy's old schoolmates.

Prison-attendants, however, would not let the father see his son, and did not tell the boy his father had arrived. They believed a meeting would have unnerved Kumrow and caused a death house scene such as the attendants wished to avoid.

Millstein, who shot and killed a policeman in Utica, and Kumrow both went to their deaths bravely. Efforts of the Humanitarian Cult to save Millstein failed.

Koochiching is the name of one of Minnesota's counties.

PEACE PARLEYS OPPOSED.

Lloyd-George Says Complete Reparation Essential.

MR. ASQUITH WITH PREMIER.

Peace Conference in Absence of Terms Would Be Putting Heads of Allies in a German Noose.

An Associated Press dispatch from London to Wednesday's daily papers says:

The announcement in the House of Commons today by David Lloyd-George, the new Prime Minister, that the first act of his administration was the rejection of the proposal of the Central Powers for a peace conference constituted one of the most momentous scenes which the oldest parliamentary veterans had never witnessed.

The new Premier declared that before the allies could give favorable consideration to such an invitation, they must know that Germany was prepared to accede to the allies' terms, giving "complete restitution, full reparations and effectual guarantees" and to enter a conference upon the invitation of Germany, proclaiming herself victorious, without any knowledge of her proposals would be putting our heads into a noose with the end of the rope in German's hands."

Mr. Lloyd-George asserted that at the moment Germany was penning the note, assuring her convictions as to the rights of other nations, she was dragging Belgians into slavery. He announced that the note presented through Washington contained no proposals of terms, but was a paraphrase of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech, and that the allies had separately concluded to reject it, although they had informally exchanged views, and would within a few days present a joint reply.

Mr. Asquith, the former Premier, seconded Mr. Lloyd-George's decision with even stronger words, and almost at the same moment Earl Curzon was informing Lords that the government would enter no conference that did not guarantee for Europe the free and independent existence of nations, great and small. The Marquis of Creve affirmed the approval of the members of the late government.

The day was a doubly important one for the commons because the new Premier unfolded his program for wide-reaching war measures and Mr. Asquith closed the last chapter as his nine years of leadership with an accounting of his war stewardship.

The principal feature of Mr. Lloyd-George's program is a measure for national service, matching Germany's latest scheme whereby every citizen will be liable for enrollment, to perform work for which the authorities consider him best equipped.

Arthur Neville Chamberlain, Mayor of Birmingham, and a member of the famous family, will be director of the National service with civil and military directors responsible to him.

COTTON GINNER'S REPORT.

Number of Bales Ginned to December 13 Reaches 10,845,989.

Cotton ginned prior to December 13th amounted to 10,845,989 running bales, including 183,403 round bales and 110,448 bales of Sea Island, the Census Bureau announced Wednesday.

Last year to December 13th, ginnings amounted to 10,306,309 bales, or 93.10 per cent of the entire crop, and in 1914 they were 13,972,229 bales, or 87.8 per cent of the crop.

Ginnings by States follows: Alabama, 531,076; Arkansas, 1,045,582; California, 23,671; Florida, 49,343; Georgia, 1,780,499; Louisiana, 432,822; Mississippi, 763,283; Missouri, 54,276; North Carolina, 618,946; Oklahoma, 782,813; South Carolina, 894,090; Tennessee, 348,656; Texas, 3,485,526; Virginia, 25,333. All other States, 10,073.

Sea Island ginning by States: Florida, 34,728; Georgia, 73,395; South Carolina, 2,325.

Boston Remains Wet.

The election held in Boston Tuesday was won by the license advocates. For license 53,459 votes were cast. Against license the vote was 29,997. North Adams, Mass., went dry for the first time in 29 years.

A recess for carrying a nail set features a new hammer handle.

AT THE CAPITAL OF BANNER.

Fire Starts in Dwelling of Mr. Alonzo Parrish. Benson School Stops for the Holidays. Mrs. O. A. Barbour Hostess of John Charles McNeill Club. The Air, Men and Mules Filled With the Christmas Spirit. Personal Items of Interest.

Benson, Dec. 21.—Messrs. C. F. Neighbors and Ezra Parker were visitors to Smithfield Tuesday.

Mr. C. L. Weeks came home last night from Angier, where he has been employed for several months.

Mrs. W. O. Rackley left today for Mount Olive, where she will spend the holidays with relatives.

Mr. L. A. Parrish, of Elevation, was here today on his way from Fayetteville, where he has been to see Mr. John Parnell, who is in the hospital there.

Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Stanford will leave to-morrow for Northampton County, where they will spend several days with relatives.

Mrs. J. R. Barbour and son, J. R., Jr., and Miss Annette Gordon left today for Hamlet where they will spend several days with Capt. and Mrs. J. R. Gordon.

A baby boy was born last Saturday morning to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ryals.

Mr. Hunter Creech, of Smithfield, was here Sunday afternoon for a short while with friends.

The Christmas Tree at the Methodist church last night was quite a success, judging from the gladness it brought to the many children who received presents.

Mr. S. A. Lassiter, of Elevation township, was here Sunday on a visit to his daughter, Mrs. Harvey Ryals.

Mr. L. C. Barbour and Dalton Lee, of Four Oaks, were in the city Tuesday for a short while.

Miss Stella Creech, who has been attending the State Normal College, came home today to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Willis Creech.

Miss Virgie Warren and Cleo Baucum, of Dunn, were here last night the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Whittenton.

Mr. J. R. Barbour spent Saturday and Sunday in Washington, N. C.

Mrs. Jesse McLamb and little daughter left Sunday for Clayton, where they will spend the Christmas times with relatives.

Mr. John Parnell was taken to the Highsmith Hospital at Fayetteville Monday for an operation. He is getting on nicely and hopes to be out again soon.

Miss Vara Beasley, of Buie's Creek, is here on a visit to relatives and friends.

Misses Alta and Vada Boone are home from Oxford College to spend the holidays.

Miss Oneita Witcher, of Danville, Va., left for her home yesterday, after visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claud Canada for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Brosia Porter visited relatives at Princeton the first of the week.

Mr. Heber Creech, of Smithfield, was here Sunday at the home of his sister, Mrs. J. H. Rose.

Mr. Walter Massengill, of Elon College, spent Sunday in town with his father and other relatives.

Mr. A. R. Evitt, of Norfolk, was here Tuesday on a short visit to friends and on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Stephenson, of Smithfield, were here Sunday with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Matthews, of Dillon, S. C., were here Sunday with relatives spending the day.

The Benson school closed yesterday for the holidays and all the teachers left for their respective homes. Prof. Fitzgerald goes to Whitsett, Miss Annie Laurie Wicker to Elon College; Miss Myrtle Ashcraft to Wadesboro; Miss Florence Dixon to Raeford; Miss Lena Harwood to Mathews; Miss Mabel Kerfees to Cooleemee; Miss Mary Bishop to Roxabel; Miss Somer to Mr. Airy and Miss Pearce to Colerain, N. C. The school will open on January 2nd, after the holidays are over.

Quite a large crowd of people responded to the Benson fire alarm yesterday afternoon when the residence of Mr. Alonzo Parrish caught on fire. But for the timely arrival of aid the building would have been consumed by the flames. However, very little damage was done as the early discovery of fire brought a sufficient force to extinguish it.

Messrs. Chas. Johnson and Oscar

Johnson returned this morning from Richmond, where they had been to see their brother, Mr. Bradley Johnson, who has been quite sick for several weeks with malarial fever. They report his condition somewhat improved, and hope that he will soon be able to be out again.

The John Chas. McNeill Book Club met with Mrs. O. A. Barbour Tuesday afternoon of this week. After the roll-call and minutes, business was quickly disposed of and then the members got out their sewing and chatted pleasantly around the open fire. While the others continued their sewing, the hostess read Van Dyke's "Story of the Other Wise Man" which was greatly enjoyed. After delightful refreshments which were very suggestive of the Christmas season, the President of the Club presented each member with a Christmas gift containing an original verse which was read aloud by each member. The President was in turn presented with a huge Christmas box by the members of the Club.

Christmas seems to be in the air here, and everyone is either getting ready to receive company or taking a trip. Many people are coming in daily to spend the holidays here, and quite as many are leaving each day for other places to spend a few days. The very air seems impregnated with the good cheer of the season, as evidenced this morning by a four-legged animal commonly known as a mule. The mule, which belonged to Mr. Willie Beasley, seemed to feel the Christmas spirit and took a chase down Main Street at full speed with a buggy following closely at his heels. Many people on the street not knowing that the mule was only feeling good and enjoying the spirit of the season, took hasty retreat for store doors and other places of safety to avoid being run over by said animal, which was finally rounded up in the Southern portion of the city, none the worse for his little Christmas escapade.

A RANGE BACK EXPLODES.

Little Child Blown From Aunt's Arms and Killed.

Nancy Shelton Wagner, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wagner, of Newton, N. C., was almost instantly killed when the frozen water back in a range at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wagner exploded a few moments after a fire had been built in the fire-box Tuesday morning. Mrs. Clyde Wagner, the child's aunt, was holding her in her arms, and the explosion literally blew the girl out of her aunt's arms, through an open doorway and into an adjoining room. Flying metals crushed her skull and broke her arms. Mrs. Wagner herself escaped without injury but was stunned. The range was wrecked completely, a kitchen cabinet was broken up and a door blown from its hinges. Windows were smashed and the entire kitchen made to look as if a tornado had hit it.

Dr. W. H. Moore Passes.

Rev. Dr. W. H. Moore died at Rockingham Tuesday night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. LeGrand Everett, at the age of 78. Dr. Moore was one of the most prominent men of the Methodist conference, having served as presiding elder for more than 25 years, in the most prominent districts in the State, and was held in high esteem by all those who knew him. He was a Confederate veteran, having served the entire four years of the war.

EDITORIAL WRITER IS DEAD.

Robert E. Gonzales, Serving With South Carolina Troops on Border, Victim of Pneumonia.

El Paso, Dec. 20.—Sergeant Robert E. Gonzales, of the machine gun company, second South Carolina infantry, son of W. E. Gonzales, United States minister to Cuba, died at the base hospital last night of pneumonia after an illness of four days.

Minister Gonzales is en route from Havana to El Paso. A military funeral will be held. Sergeant Gonzales' death was the eighth from pneumonia to be reported here among the guard and the regular army during the past eight days.

Male and female slaves were sold publicly in the fairs of England during the fourteenth century.

AWFUL COST TO ALLIES.

Losses of French and British 5,100,000 Men.

GERMANY GIVES THE FIGURES.

Estimate Loss of 800,000 Men on Scramble Front Up to End of November Since First of July.

The losses of the French army to date have been 3,800,000 and of the British 1,300,000, according to competent military authority, says an Overseas News Agency statement from Berlin. On the same authority the French losses on the Somme up to the end of November are estimated at not less than 250,000 and those of the British at 550,000.

The statement says: "The total French losses since the beginning of the war have been 3,800,000 and the British losses 1,300,000, or altogether 5,100,000. These figures are based on most reliable data. They do not include the losses of the colored troops of both the French and British armies, but, as these colored auxiliary troops are always used as possible in great attacks, the total of French and British losses probably is several hundred thousand higher.

"In the engagements of the Somme since July 1, 140 French and British divisions have been employed. These were drawn from all parts of the front from the ocean to Switzerland. The majority of these divisions, after short rests, returned twice or even three or four times to the front.

"The French losses on the Somme up to the end of November are estimated as at least 250,000 and the British at 550,000 men. Thus the total of French and British losses on the Somme are conservatively estimated as at least 800,000 men. They, therefore, exceed considerably the German losses as estimated by Germany's enemies at 690,000 men. As a matter of fact, the German losses were much less than 500,000 men. At the same time it must be taken into consideration that about 76 per cent of all the German wounded, after a short time, are able to return to the front, thanks to the excellent medical care they receive and the high standing of German surgery."

GOVERNOR GRANTS PARDONS.

No Further Applications, However Will Be Considered by Him. Eighteen Pardons and One Commutation.

(News and Observer, 21st.)
Announcing nineteen pardons and commutations, Governor Locke Craig yesterday declared that all further applications for pardon during the remaining days of his administration will be continued for consideration of the next Governor. With these men released, there are now in the State Prison about nine hundred and two hundred more are located in the various counties.

The Governor, in handing down the biggest batch of pardons and commutations at any one time during his administration, regretted that he could not feel warranted in granting more of petitions, all of which, he said, he had carefully considered. Several of the pardons granted are for long term prisoners who have faithfully served for many years. Others are for prisoners whose terms would have expired shortly after the holidays, but most of them are prisoners guilty of minor offenses whose terms have about expired. In all there were eighteen pardons and one commutation. In each case, Governor Craig made a full statement for his reasons, and in most of them made the pardon conditional upon good behavior.

The total number of years to which the pardoned men were sentenced is 126 and, according to the time of their conviction, over half of this number of years has been served already. Seven were convicted of murder in the second degree and the other offenses ranged the list of house burning, illegal possession of liquor, illicit distilling, forgery, retailing, car breaking, carrying concealed weapons.

Congress may investigate the high cost of living, but the beginning point to reduce the expenses will have to be with each individual and in each home. We may investigate and agitate, but unless we decapitate some of our appetites the high cost of living will keep up.