

News Without Bias Views Without Prejudice

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IT ALL DEPENDS ON GERMANY

OFFICIALS AT WASHINGTON BELIEVE PEACE NOT POSTPONED BY ALLIES RECENT DECLARATION

Washington, Jan. 1.—The life or death of the present peace movement rest wholly on Germany.

This is known positively to be the belief of Washington officials.

Furthermore, while administration officials believe that the Entente Allies lifted the loophole for Germany to prove the sincerity of her original peace proposals, they think that in reality peace negotiations are little farther off than at the start of the movement.

That Germany may do this in confidence is deemed possible by officials here for the following reasons:

First: The conviction that if peace does not come Germany and the United States will be drawn to the verge of a head-on collision—German activities.

Second, the fear that the German people, already restive, will demand greater representation in their government and either more vigorous pursuit of the war or more determined efforts for peace.

The danger of a break with Germany is no secret but whether this will influence Germany in her next step remains to be seen.

The hint to neutrals that "the time is opportune to act" for peace was conveyed to neutral capitals by American diplomats abroad at the suggestion of this government.

Neutrals say that Germany learned in advance that Wilson was to send peace notes to belligerents and therefore hurried her dispatch of peace proposals in order to make it appear that the President was backing German peace plans.

What It Costs To Feed Rats

(By United Press)

Chicago, Jan. 1.—It cost the United States \$65,000,000 a year to feed the rats in this country, according to Health Commissioner Robertson today. This is for food consumed by the rodents and does not include general destructiveness which amounts to big figures.

INSTALL OFFICERS TONIGHT

Tainia Encampment number 8 will install the following Officers to night: H. G. Godfrey, C. P., E. N. Belknap, H. P. Chas. Rau's S. W., P. T. Winslow, J. W., Wesley Williams, F. S., H. T. Greenleaf Jr., R. S., J. W. Johnson Treas. All members are invited and urged to be present at 7:30 at the Odd Fellows Hall on Road Street.

CITIZENS BANK OF ELIZABETH CITY Elizabeth City, N. C.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Citizens Bank of Elizabeth City will be held in their banking house on Tuesday Jan. 9, 1917, from 2 to 3 o'clock P. M. for the election of directors and the consideration of such other business as may come before them.

Henry Raper Died Sudynia

Richard Henry Raper, one of Elizabeth City's best known citizens, died Sunday night at five minutes after ten o'clock at his home on East Burgess street.

Henry Raper was forty-six years old. He had been failing in health for the last three years, and last August, when the attack came on which ended in his death, he resigned from his office as deputy sheriff and gave up his active life entirely. He was entirely unconscious for about twenty-four hours before the end came.

The funeral will be held at the home Tuesday afternoon at half past two o'clock, and interment will follow in Hollywood cemetery. The service will be conducted by Rev. I. N. Loftin, Rev. C. B. Culbreth and Rev. Rufus Bradley.

A native of this county and a member of one of its oldest families, Mr. Raper married in 1893 Miss Mary B. Cartwright, also of Pasquotank. Eight children survive this union:—four boys, Eugene Otis, Delmar and Julian; and four girls, Margaret, Frances, Mary and Eleanor. Besides his wife and children—Mr. Raper is survived by a daughter, Will Raper of Panama City and a half brother, John A. Harris, of this county. The two oldest boys, Eugene from Hopewell, Virginia, and Cile from Lake Falls, Florida, are expected to reach home in time for the funeral.

Mr. Raper was a member of New-begun Methodist church, an Odd Fellow, a member of the Junior Order and of Elizabeth City B. P. O. Elks. He was also an active member of the fire company and for a number of years was chief of the department. When he resigned last August he had been deputy sheriff for thirteen years.

BELGIAN ARMY READY FOR WINTER

SAFE FROM INFANTRY ATTACKS SOLDIERS IN BETTER QUARTERS THAN DURING PREVIOUS COLD SEASONS

(By CARL W. ACKERMAN)

United Press Staff Correspondent BERLIN, Dec. 30.—(By Mail.)—Germany is as ready for peace as she is for war. Her record of 1190 justifies either. She begins the year 1917 with her lines on the western front unbroken after England's and France's supreme efforts and this despite the fact that her armies have swept victorious over three-fourths of Rumania.

Foremost of the year's events in Germany was the proffer of peace by the Imperial Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg. German public opinion applauds that sentiment which urged this magnanimous tender. The Chancellor's speech in the Reichstag and his note to Germany's enemies aptly summarized the view of the German people.

In the German view, it is now entirely a matter for the Allies to decide—whether they desire to make peace, or continue fighting. Germany wants peace—but her united public opinion, her uncrushed army and navy are ready to fight on.

As a matter of fact, Germany today is passing through a transition period in her internal affairs. Because the world at large has been so interested in purely war affairs, it has overlooked perhaps the most important movement in Germany since 1914. That development is the movement of the nation to changing conditions. Ready to be changed and

WOULD ABOLISH THE CHAINGANG

Representative E. S. Scott of this county was before the Board of County Commissioners this morning to ask whether that body had any legislation to suggest for enactment at the coming session of the legislature. Attention was called to the fact that a petition is being circulated to abolish the chain-gang and highway commission, and leave the management of the county roads in the hands of the commissioners. The board took no action however.

SPECIAL VENTURES

At the meeting presiding Judge F. A. ... of two ... were drawn from ... morning, for service ... of superior court began ... this morning. This ... to fill the jury ... any reason a full jury ... from the regular list. The special venire is as follows: E. W. Cox, Joseph Temple, Nathan Trueblood, T. H. Parsons, G. W. Harris, T. S. Harris, C. V. Billard, S. N. ... D. S. Hooper, W. C. Richardson, Isiah Brickhouse, S. K. Simpson, C. F. Horner, Elmer Stokely, I. W. Williams, W. C. James, John W. Johnson, (Dyar Street) L. W. Eland, F. L. Davis, J. A. Coale, G. A. Tuttle, G. G. Fearing.

TWO HOUSES FOR RENT

One 7 room and one 6 room. Brand new on Queen Street. Apply to Mrs. I. N. Loftin, Phone 142.

not see its development.

Repeatedly the Danes and the Dutch and other neutrals ask "When will the revolution begin?"—believing that changing conditions can only be brought about by force, and not being aware that the only revolution is a renaissance or rebirth.

That rebirth is already under way. Everyone from the Chancellor down to the laborer is playing a role.

The Chancellor in the Reichstag sounded the keynote to the movement when he said: "There must be free opportunity for all capable people."

In other words the new movement is a universal change by the people, the Reichstag and the government to the people by franchise and through the Reichstag more of a voice in the nation's affairs.

The socialists have been saying—"We want more authority." And the government instead of extending a deaf ear is listening to all suggestions. Through the Chancellor the government is showing a spirit of willingness to get together.

Thus, the Neuorientierung is making such headway that from present indications Germany's rebirth will be a peaceful readjustment to new conditions.

In three ways this new movement has been manifest—First, the Reichstag; second, in the press; third, the relations between Royalty and the commoners.

So far it is almost impossible to say exactly what the Reichstag is grasping for. Almost a year ago radicals said that when the war came to an end the ministers must be thereafter responsible to the Reichstag—but in the Neuorientierung this has been undebated.

Various propositions have been advanced in measures introduced in the Reichstag. The National Liberals called recently for formation of a special committee to advise with the government on foreign affairs. Another member suggested a parliamentary undersecretary of state, responsible to the Reichstag.

And even today, although the ... does not seem military, ... the ... and

READY FOR WAR OR FOR PEACE

PEACEFUL POLITICAL REVOLUTION IN GERMANY ADAPTS HER PEOPLE TO CHANGING CONDITIONS

By HENRY WOOD (United Press Staff Correspondent)

With King Albert's Army in Belgium, December 15. (By Mail).—Behind barriers of water that are more impassable than the strongest barbed wire entanglements, the Belgian army is holding its part of the western-battle front, and training and waiting for the day when more of Belgium can be wrested from the enemy.

The Belgian army which now holds all of Belgium not in German hands, is situated in perhaps the most unique fighting position of any of the belligerent forces. It is out of fighting touch with the enemy, except by artillery firing. For the most part the Germans are a mile distant—and intervening, in place of No Man's Land, is No Man's Water. The Belgian system of "inundation defenses" through the ... the Yser canal and various inundated districts puts a unique barrier between the two forces.

Thanks in part to the Allies' help and in part to Belgium's own indomitable spirit and the industry of her people, King Albert's army will not be obliged to suffer this winter the hardships and privations that fell to its lot during the first two winters of the war.

The Belgian army has been completely re-equipped and outfitted. In part the equipment has been furnished by the Allies, yet a goodly portion is due to the Belgians themselves. They have established numerous factories not only on the remnant of Belgian soil still left to them, but also in France.

These factories not only supply the troops, but give employment to thousands of Belgian refugees.

Thanks to the efficiency of their water barriers, the Belgians are not subject to German infantry attacks. They have to withstand only artillery firing—and they are now equipped to give an adequate answer to that sort of combat. They have constructed dugouts and other shelters, and with their new equipment, the army will be able to keep reasonably warm, dry and comfortable, while manning the dykes along which their first line of defenses run.

The Belgians are perfecting their army. The cavalry has been entirely remounted—almost without exception on American horses bought largely in Texas. That portion of Belgium which remains in possession of the Belgian Army doesn't offer satisfactory grounds for cavalry drill. Therefore the various Belgian cavalry divisions take turns in drilling on French cavalry grounds, keeping up to the highest standard of efficiency while waiting for the time when they can participate in the redemption of Belgian soil.

The artillery branch has likewise been developed to a point where the Belgians can boast of perhaps the most formidable artillery strength of any army of its size in the world. The present war having demonstrated the supreme role which artillery plays, the Allies have seen to it that the Belgian army is equipped in the fullest possible manner. To their original field artillery, the Belgians themselves were able to add a number of batteries from Portuguese factories and France and England have added all their types of heavy artillery.

No small contribution was also made to the Belgian artillery by the Germans themselves. When as a last resource in the fighting of 1914 the Belgians opened the flood gates ...

WHAT CONGRESS HAS ACCOMPLISHED

Washington, Jan. 1.—The short session of the Sixty Fourth Congress is on the last lap of a whirlwind race. Following is a review on what has been accomplished and something of what remains to be done.

These, measured by public interest, are the most important legislative tasks accomplished by the Sixty Fourth Congress.

The Army and Navy bills carrying appropriations of gigantic sums, a long step toward preparedness.

Establishment of Federal reserve banks to eliminate danger of financial panics.

Purchase of Danish West Indies, at a cost of \$25,000,000 another stride towards preparedness.

Federal Farm Loan Act, of great interest to farmers and intended to aid them in securing necessary capital at a fair rate of interest.

Federal Good Roads Law, providing \$75,000,000 to be used in improving National highways.

Federal Good Roads Law, provides "between" in matters, between the public and corporations.

Workmen's Compensation; Ship Purchase Act, a movement toward a real merchant marine; Child labor law.

Railway legislation looms up as the biggest piece of unfinished business. Struacious efforts are being made to rush the railway program through during the present short session of Congress.

The corrupt practice bill, providing for publicity of campaign funds, is another important bill up for a speedy consideration.

The Judship bill, which would relieve from service judges reaching the age of 70 after ten years' services, and who by reason of physical disability are unable properly to discharge their duties, also is set for early hearing.

The fate of the immigration bill, with the literacy test attached, which was recently passed by the Senate, is hard to predict. President Wilson vetoed a similar bill. It is rumored an effort will be made to pass the bill over another possible veto.

Woman suffrage and national prohibition have been reported by the House committee but it is impossible to say when either bill will reach a vote.

Other important measures due for early consideration are: the water-power bill, having to do with the leasing of power sites on inland waterways; the flood prevention bill carrying appropriations of millions for flood prevention along the Mississippi and Sacramento rivers, and the Webb export bill, which would permit combination of American exports for participation in foreign trade in an effort to meet competition at the end of European hostilities.

The line-up of Republicans and Democrats in the Senate will be entirely altered in the 66th Congress, Democrats losing one and reducing their working majority to 17.

The line-up of the House is still in doubt. The result of the fight being made in North Carolina by Brit, Republican and Weaver, Democrat, may decide the question of the majority.

Since that time the perfection of the Belgian "inundation defenses" has made it possible for the army to let off sufficient of the water to permit recovery of nearly all of this German artillery. It has been repaired and a great deal of it is now effectively serving for Belgium.

If the Allies have been generous in helping Belgium, the Belgian army has likewise been as generous to its fighting comrades. Since the "water barriers" prevented close contact with the enemy, Belgian ...

HOW TO KEEP BOYS ON FARM

MEMBER OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SAYS BUSINESS MEN SHOULD GIVE FARMERS SQUARE DEAL.

By CARL VROGMAN (Assistant Secretary of Agriculture) (Written for the United Press)

Washington, Jan. 1.—A popular magazine some months ago sent a letter to all our Senators and Congressmen asking them what, in their opinion, would help most to keep the boys on the farm. A certain ... for noted for terseness of speech, and horse sense, wrote, at the bottom of the page an answer of five words, which I commend to all American citizens as being adapted to solve more agricultural problems than this one. The Senator's reply was: "Make farming profitable, by God!"

The prosperity of the farmer is to the business world what soil fertility is to the agricultural world. The fundamental basis of all material success, many business men have made the mistake of thinking they could get rich by skinning the farmer. The only way that the farmer can make a permanent success of farming is to keep up the fertility of the soil, and the only way that the business world can be permanently successful is to insure the continued prosperity of the farmer.

The use of the legume crops has been advocated ever since the days of the Roman Empire and probably long before that, because they were not only paying crops, but had the added advantage of gathering from the air and depositing in the soil more nitrogen than they exported. The legume should be the model for every intelligent business man in his dealings with the farmer.

When a banker loans a farmer money, he should loan it to him at a rate of interest and for the kind of investment that will enable the farmer not only to pay back his loan, but to gain for himself a margin of profit. The railway manager who makes rates for the farmer for shipping fertilizer, and other merchandise to the farmer, and for shipping the farmer's produce to market, should make a rate that will leave the farmer a margin of profit. The middlemen who handle the farmer's produce should endeavor to get him such prices and should charge him only such commissions as will leave the farmer a margin of profit. In the long run, it is the only way that the banks, the railroads and the commission men can insure their own profits.

If the leaders of the business world will lay this lesson to heart, by New Year's day throughout this country they will take the legume as their model, and the words "Leave the farmer a profit" their motto. It will do more to increase production and reduce the high cost of living, it will do more to create an invincible national efficiency and to push forward the work of national preparedness, than any other single step that can be taken.

LAYING SIDEWALK

The County Convicts are laying the sidewalk from the city limits to the State Normal School and the work is about two thirds finished. The distance is about seven tenths of a mile.

SHADOW PARTY JENNINGS SCHOOL

A Shadow Party will be ...