

STATES AMERICA'S PROGRAM OF WAR AND PEACE

PRESIDENT APPEARS BEFORE CONGRESS AND MAKES A NOTABLE ADDRESS

Mr. Wilson's Presentation in Definite Terms of America's War Aims Was Entirely Unexpected by Congress and the People—Not Till Wrongs Are Righted Will This Country Lay Down Its Arms—Safety of Peace Loving People Must Be Assured—Indorses Lloyd George's Statement of Britain's War Aims.

(By International News Service.)

THE CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—The President suddenly appeared before Congress today to discuss the serious international situation. His visit was entirely unexpected. The President told Congress that an open and free consideration of covenants is the only way a permanent peace can be secured. He stated specifically and emphatically that the peace aims, so far as the United States is concerned, must be for the benefit of the Russian people. He declared against a private understanding and pleaded for absolute freedom of the seas, the removal of all barriers and the establishment of trade agreements, reducing national armaments, an impartial adjustment of all colonial claims based on strict observance of the interests and evolution of all occupied territory and freedom for Russia in settling her own affairs; the evacuation and restoration of Poland and of French territory, including Alsace-Lorraine; the readjustment of frontiers and autonomy for the people of Austria, Hungary, Roumania and Montenegro; that Serbia be given free access to the sea; the relation of the Balkan states to be restored along historic lines; the Turkish portion of the Ottoman empire to remain as at present, but other nationalities assured "undoubted security and opportunity for autonomous freedom to all nations both small and great."

Washington.—America's program of war and peace, with definite terms upon which the nations great and small fighting together against German world domination are ready to lay down their arms, was given to the world by President Wilson through an address in Congress in joint session.

For this program, based upon the righting of wrongs and the safety of peace-loving peoples desiring to live their own lives, the President committed the United States to fight and continue to fight until it is achieved. Thus he pledged the country to the allied policy of no-separate peace. "We cannot be separated in interest or divided in purpose," he said. "We stand together to the end."

The speech, heard by Congress at an hour's notice and accepted with a wave of approval that brought together virtually every element of both houses, was delivered as a direct response to the German challenge in the negotiations with the Russians at Brest-Litovsk. It followed closely and approved the address of the British premier, but was far more specific in statement of terms, robbing of force in advance any German peace drive designed to confuse the entente and American governments and their people, while at the same time presenting the foundation for genuine negotiations whenever the central powers are ready to talk of a just peace.

Fourteen Concrete Proposals.

Fourteen concrete proposals laid down by the President began with the declaration that the days of private international understandings are gone and that covenants of peace must be reached in the open. Briefly summarized, the other points were:

Absolute freedom of the seas in peace or war except as they may be closed by international action; removal of economic barriers among nations associating themselves to maintain peace; guarantee of the reduction of armaments to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety; impartial adjustment of colonial claims, based upon the principle that the peoples concerned have equal rights with the governments; evacuation of all Russian territory and opportunity for Russia's political development; evacuation of French territory and fighting of the Alsace-Lorraine wrong; readjustment of Italy's frontiers along recognizable lines of nationality; free opportunity for autonomous development of the peoples of Austria-Hungary; evacuation of Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro and guarantee for all the Balkan states; sovereignty for Turkey's portion of the Ottoman empire and autonomy for other nationalities; an independent Poland with access to the sea; and general association of nations for mutual guarantee of independence and territorial integrity to large and small states alike.

A notable feature of the address was the sympathetic attitude of the President toward the Russian representatives who deal with the German at the peace conference—the bolsheviks, often execrated for their defection from the entente and for permitting themselves to be drawn into the Teutonic peace trap. The Russians, he said, presenting a perfectly clear statement of the principles upon which they would be willing to conclude peace, were sincere and in earnest, and when they found that the actual German terms of settlement came from the military leaders who had not thought but to keep what they had taken, the negotiations were broken off.

Upon the question of whether the Russians and the world are to listen to the military and imperialistic minority which so far has dominated the Teutonic policy, or to the liberal leaders and parties who speak the spirit and intentions of the resolutions adopted by the German reichstag last July, the President declared, must depend the peace of the world. This was in line with his previous declaration that the word of the present rulers of Germany could not be taken for anything worth while, but he took care to disclaim any intention to suggest a change in German institutions.

Everywhere in Washington it was agreed that the President had made a great address and had given expression to the views of the American people as a whole. The difference of opinion was as to whether it was a peace or a war speech.

In most quarters, however, there was no such optimism and the speech was looked upon as a great war document—clearing the atmosphere for the governments and peoples fighting Germany, heartening the disorganized Russians and furnishing a light for the German peoples themselves when they want to see it.

(By International News Service.) WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Officials here declare that in his address to Congress today President Wilson was speaking for all Germany's enemies. As the message was being read the cables carried the words to the farthest ends of the earth, even direct to Germany. The United States authorities closed all cables at 12.30 o'clock to clear the way for the President's address. Except Colonel House, no person other than the president had any inkling of the substance of his special message, until it was delivered.

The outstanding purpose of the address seemed to be especially to arouse Russia to an actual overpowering desire, along with the other allies, to get a square deal in the pending peace parley, to make sure that the policy of the freedom of all nations should be thoroughly understood by the German people themselves at this critical time in Germany, and to show conclusively that it is Germany who is prolonging the war.

The President in his address expressly demands the evacuation of the Teutonic powers of all Russian territory, and the granting to Russia of an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for an independent determination of her own political development and national policy.

He declared that Russia should be assured a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing, and should be given assistance of every kind she may need and may herself desire.

PEACE DEMONSTRATIONS IN GERMAN CITIES

(By International News Service.)

GENEVA, Jan. 9.—Peace negotiation demonstrations took place in Germany when the news was received that the Russo-German peace negotiations had failed, states a dispatch from the German frontier today. Crowds marched through the streets of Berlin, Essen and Leipzig shouting, "We want peace."

PEACE CONFERENCE AGAIN IN SESSION

(By International News Service.)

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 9.—The peace envoys at Brest-Litovsk held informal discussions yesterday and decided to sit formally today. The German delegates have been instructed to notify the Bolsheviki delegates that Germany will not evacuate any territory until the Russian army has been demobilized.

TODAY'S COTTON MARKET.

(By International News Service.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The cotton market opened with January contracts selling at 32.10 and May contracts at 31.35.

ANNUAL MEETINGS ON GAS RATE IS INCREASED

1917 WAS BEST BUSINESS YEAR YET

Local National Banks Make Splendid Showing for Year—Deposits Showed Big Increases—Cotton Mills Had Splendid Year Also—Many Meetings Being Held This Week.

January is the month of annual meetings of banks, cotton mills and corporations of other kinds; at least a majority of them have such meetings, although a few come at various times during the year. Practically all of the national banks hold their meetings on the second Tuesday in January, this date being fixed by the Treasury Department which has supervision over them.

The year which has just closed has been a record-breaking one in practically all lines of business. This is reflected in the bank deposits and in the dividends which have been paid and are to be paid soon. In the opinion of the bankers and business men in all lines the coming year holds out promise of being, if not as good as the one just past, certainly a most splendid one.

The First National Bank stockholders met at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon with Mr. E. N. Hahn presiding. All of the old directors were re-elected. They are L. L. Jenkins, J. Lee Robinson, R. R. Ray, T. L. Craig, J. O. White, J. K. Dixon, O. F. Mason, S. N. Boyce, L. F. Groves, S. M. Robinson, W. J. Clifford, B. H. Parker, S. A. Robinson, J. H. Separk and Fred L. Smyre.

The reports of the officers showed that the bank had experienced the best year in its history. A comparison of deposits on December 31st, 1917, and December 31st, 1916, will give some idea of the increase in business. On December 31st, two years ago the bank's deposits totaled \$777,226.85 and on December 31st, 1917, they totaled \$1,773,338.02. Following the meeting of the stockholders the directors met and re-elected all of the old officers, as follows: L. L. Jenkins, president; J. Lee Robinson, active vice-president; R. R. Ray, vice-president; S. N. Boyce, cashier; M. T. Wilson, assistant cashier.

"Nineteen hundred and seventeen was one of the most satisfactory years in the history of our bank," said Mr. A. G. Myers, acting vice-president of the Citizens National Bank this morning. On Dec. 31 this bank had deposits aggregating \$1,451,442.71 as against \$862,364.58 on December 31, 1916, and \$543,836.01 on December 31, 1915. The annual meeting of the stockholders of this bank was held yesterday morning at 11 o'clock and was followed immediately by the annual meeting of the directors. The stockholders elected the following directors for the coming year, namely: Andrew E. Moore, H. M. Cleveland, C. B. Armstrong, W. T. Rankin, D. E. Rhyne, Wm. D. Anderson, D. M. Jones and A. G. Myers. All of the old officers were re-elected as follows, namely: A. E. Moore, president; A. G. Myers, acting vice-president; C. B. Armstrong, vice-president; W. H. Adams, cashier; John A. Hunter, Jr., assistant cashier. The regular semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent was paid.

The National Realty Company's annual meeting was held yesterday morning at the offices in the First National Bank building. The stockholders re-elected all of the old directors, namely: T. L. Craig, O. F. Mason, J. O. White, J. Lee Robinson and S. N. Boyce. The directors in turn re-elected all of the old officers, namely: J. Lee Robinson, president; J. O. White, vice-president, and J. S. Boyce, secretary and treasurer. The reports of the officers showed the past year to have been a good one for the company.

The Groves Mill's annual meetings were held in the company's offices yesterday afternoon. L. L. Jenkins, E. R. Marshall and L. F. Groves were re-elected as directors. They in turn re-elected all of the old officers. Tomorrow the annual meetings of the Arlington and Flint Mills will be held. The Trenton Mill will hold its annual meeting this afternoon.

VON HERTLING STATES GERMANY'S PEACE TERMS

(By International News Service.)

PARIS, Jan. 9.—The German Chancellor, von Hertling, has announced the following peace terms, according to a dispatch from Zurich: An international tribunal for arbitration.

The return to Germany of her colonies.

The political independence of Turkey to be re-established.

Belgium to be restored to autonomy.

The occupied portions of France to be given the right to select their further allegiance.

BRITISH POSITION PENETRATED (By International News Service.)

LONDON, Jan. 9.—The Germans last night succeeded in penetrating to the British advanced post north of the Ypres railway. They were later driven back, the war office announces. There were artillery duels in this section.

On Recommendation of Committee Which Investigated Costs of Material and Operation City Council Grants Local Gas Company's Request for Increase in Price—Increase Lasts for Twelve Months—Persons Under Twenty-One Barred from Bowling Alleys.

Perhaps the most important action of the city council at last night's monthly meeting was the passage of an ordinance granting the Gastonia & Suburban Gas Company permission to raise the price of gas from \$1.40 per 1,000 cubic feet to \$1.75, the increase being permitted for a period of 12 months. The new rate is subject to a 5 per cent discount if bill is paid before the tenth of the month. At the end of the twelve months this increase is automatically terminated unless the gas company appears at least two months prior to the date of its expiration and shows the council that conditions have not changed and that there is absolute necessity that the rate be continued in force for another definite period.

This action was taken on the strength of a report made by a committee from the council, of which Councilman Arthur K. Winget was chairman, appointed two months ago to thoroughly investigate the situation. This committee went into an exhaustive investigation of the cost of materials used in the manufacture of gas, the cost of operation of the plant, overhead expenses and all items entering into the production of gas in Gastonia and were thoroughly satisfied that the request was a just one. The committee recommended that the increase be made for a definite period, however, and this was done. In making their investigations the committee had access to all the books, invoices and other records of the company. It did not, however, confine its researches to these sources but made independent investigations which showed similar conditions existing in other sections of the country. In fact a very large number of towns have already taken similar action. Mr. J. W. Timberlake, managing director of the company, assured the city officials that the company would maintain its record of efficiency and would at all times use its utmost endeavors to take care of the people's wants in the gas line.

The ordinance specifies that the company shall charge a minimum of fifty cents for service, the company having agreed to this in view of the increase in rate granted. This has heretofore been \$1. The new rate goes into effect February 1st.

Henceforth no person under 21 years of age will be allowed to enter a bowling alley in the city of Gastonia. An ordinance to this effect was passed by the city council at its regular monthly meeting for January at the city hall last night. A year or more ago a similar ordinance was passed relative to pool rooms. As a result of this and other restrictions placed on them at the same time, pool rooms disappeared from the uptown section. The enforcement of the new bowling alley ordinance will prevent the foregathering of many young boys who idle away many hours in these places.

The matter of limiting the parking space for automobiles on each side of the street in the business section of the city to nine feet was discussed and it is probable that action on this matter will be taken by the council at an early date. The ordinance on this subject in force at Rock Hill, S. C., was presented as a model. It has been in operation there for some time and is found to be most satisfactory. Councilman Winget and Chief of Police Carroll spent yesterday in Rock Hill investigating this proposition and recommend its adoption.

No other business of special importance was transacted.

MOMENTOUS UPHEAVAL GOING ON IN GERMANY

(By International News Service.)

THE HAGUE, Jan. 9.—Momentous conferences are taking place in Germany to allay the crisis brought about by the failure of the government to negotiate peace on a basis of no indemnities or annexations, according to information reaching diplomatic circles here.

Powerful pressure is being brought to bear on the Kaiser to force him to make a definite statement in support of his militaristic war aims. While the militarists are calling for "strong peace," the socialists are increasing the agitation for democratic concessions and the situation is acute. A military dictatorship seems to be certain.

—Mr. H. P. Stowe is a business visitor to Spartanburg, S. C., today.

—Mr. R. Lee Jenkins, of Charlotte, is here today.

—Mrs. R. W. Langford and children returned yesterday from a visit to relatives at Atlanta, Ga.

NEWS OF THE COUNTY

LATEST FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

LUCIA LOCALS.

Correspondence of The Gazette. LUCIA, Jan. 8.—Mr. Wm. Black, an aged citizen of Lucia, passed away last night about 12 o'clock, after a few days illness. Mr. Black was about 74 years of age. He had lived in this community all of his life. He has been a faithful member of the Methodist church from boyhood. He was married to Miss Mary Connell, who preceded him to the grave about 18 months ago. To this union were born three children, all of whom are living. They are Messrs. U. L. and S. V. Black and Mrs. W. I. Beatty. He has nine grand children living. He is also survived by two brothers and two sisters, Mr. Samuel Black, of Lucia, and Mr. Sidney Black, of Stanley, Mrs. J. F. Allen and Mrs. R. Hart, of Lucia. He has made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Beatty, since the death of his wife. He will be laid to rest in the Snow Hill cemetery tomorrow at 11 o'clock. Rev. J. A. Sharp, his pastor, will conduct the funeral services.

NEWS FROM ALEXIS.

Correspondence of The Gazette. ALEXIS, Jan. 7.—The Alexis graded school resumed work this morning with a very good attendance. All the teachers were present for the re-opening of school. Professor D. T. Ferrell and sister, Miss May Agnes Ferrell, came back to Alexis Sunday morning. Miss Edna Roberts came in from Cherryville Saturday, while Miss Edna Black from Lucia came Sunday afternoon. All the teachers were in very high school spirits; therefore the schoolwork moved very nicely for the first day after the Christmas recess.

Mr. Carl Stroup was a business visitor in Gastonia today.

Mr. E. E. McAllister, a student of Alexis graded school, returned from Gastonia to Alexis today to resume work again in the graded school here.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Abernethy, who have been spending Christmas with relatives and friends here, returned to Spencer Mountain today.

On next Friday night, January 11, the Antonion Literary Society of Alexis will debate the following subject: "Resolved, That the world is growing morally worse." This question promises to be very interesting and therefore all boys and men of the community are invited to come out Friday night.

The people of Alexis are more fortunate than some people are at other places as regards the oil and fuel question. It is, however, true that oil is somewhat scarce here although the stores reported that they had a supply today. Everybody has a plenty of wood thus far, and there is no reason why the supply should be exhausted for sometime to come yet.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

ALEXIS, Route 1, Jan. 7.—Mr. D. T. Ferrell spent Christmas at home in Durham. He returned Monday to take up his school this week.

Mr. C. W. Abernethy spent Saturday in Gastonia.

Mr. Carl Stroup was the guest of Mr. Guss Moore Sunday.

Miss Edna Roberts returned here Saturday to resume her work as teacher at the Alexis school.

Mrs. J. W. Abernethy gave the young people of this place a New Year party. Many enjoyable games were played, and everybody reported a nice time.

Mr. D. T. Ferrell spent Sunday in Gastonia as the guest of Mr. J. H. Dickson.

Mr. J. W. Abernethy made a business trip to Dallas Saturday.

Mr. J. V. Stroup spent Saturday in Stanley on business.

Miss Virginia Moore, principal of Zion school, spent the holidays here, returning to resume her work Wednesday.

Rev. W. W. Rimm will fill his regular appointment next Sunday at 11 o'clock. Everybody is invited to attend.

Dallas Dots.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

DALLAS, Jan. 8.—Prof. J. B. Henson has announced that up to the present time he has sold about \$95 worth of Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps. Some of these have been bought by the school children but a larger part by the town people. Prof. Henson hopes to sell stamps to every pupil of the Farm Life school. This, however, does not mean for the citizens of the town to stand back.

For the past few weeks the registered men of Dallas have received their fateful "Questionnaires". Messrs. E. L. Houser, E. M. Rhynes and R. S. Lewis have been very good to these men in aiding in answering the questions.

Mrs. L. M. Hoffman left Monday, December 31st, for St. Petersburg, Florida. Mrs. Hoffman was accompanied by her son, Dr. E. J. Hoffman, and Miss Sara Grayson, a trained nurse from Pittsburg, Pa.

Lieutenant Richard Cornwell and Lieutenant Colliers, of Camp Greene, spent Tuesday at the home of Mr. C. C. Cornwell.

Earl Rhyne, who is in the Medical Corps, at Camp Lee, is at home for a short stay.

Bert Rudisill, of Camp Jackson, spent Sunday and Monday morning in Dallas.

Mr. Frank Carpenter, who recent-

ly lived in Stanley, has moved to Dallas. It is hoped that he and family will like this place.

The Farm Life School opened a gain Monday morning, January 7th. Everything was in fine condition. All the students came back.

During the latter part of last week the people of Dallas were surprised to find that a Provost Guard had been stationed here. This guard arrested a man by the name of Fred Frye, who had deserted from Camp Greene. The guard told his name to be Davis and Nat Owens. At this the people here became somewhat suspicious. Later Owens extended the pass of a soldier from Camp Jackson, who had come home on a visit. Then some of the citizens of Dallas telephoned to Charlotte to see if he had authority to do this. The recruiting station replied in the negative.

Saturday night two more soldiers came to Dallas and conferred with Owens.

On Monday, Owens went to High Shoals to round up deserters which he said were there. Monday night, Deputy-Sheriff G. V. Lhor, telephoned to Charlotte asking if they had stationed a guard here. They replied they had not. It was also found that they had only two officers, one of which was a plain clothes man, and the other an officer. Owens was no officer. The recruiting station there gave Deputy Lhor permission to arrest Owens. Lhor went to High Shoals soon Tuesday to arrest him.

It is thought by the people here that this Owens may be working with a gang of thieves or is himself a deserter. He may, however, be a Provost Guard.

McAdenville Matters.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

McADENVILLE, Jan. 7.—Mrs. John Glover died at her father's home in McAdenville last Saturday morning at two o'clock. They have been living at Belmont for over a year and she has been in failing health a long time. She was a member of the Baptist church and a good christian woman. She was brought home to her father's, Mr. Lane Austin's, to spend Christmas, and became worse until the end came. The remains were buried at Sandy Plains cemetery Sunday evening. Rev. Mr. Mace, pastor of the East Baptist church of Belmont, her pastor, and Rev. Mr. Rush Padgett preached her funeral Sunday at eleven o'clock.

The ice freezing on the rocks has made it very difficult to run the mills full time during the bitter cold weather.

Mr. J. L. Webb returned home from Georgia last Wednesday, the 2nd.

On December 27th, Miss Rosie Philmon died at 8 o'clock, and her brother-in-law, Mr. J. E. Hovis, died at 11 o'clock the same day, only three hours apart. They were buried in separate coffins but in the same grave. Revs. Bell and Padgett officiating. They were laid to rest in the Ebenezer cemetery the 28th. Mr. Jacob Philmon and family wish to thank the people of McAdenville for their helping hand in their bereavement.

Lieut. Ralph Ray, of Camp Sevier, is spending a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Ray.

Mr. John Bush is in the Gastonia hospital undergoing an operation. Friends are very anxious about his recovery.

Mr. Dan Moore, of Bolling Springs, and Miss Blanche Bridges, of Lattimore, were married at the home of Rev. Rush Padgett, on the 3rd, Rev. Mr. Padgett officiating.

Rev. J. N. Roberts, an ex-Confederate soldier, has been very ill for several days, but is improving now.

Rev. Rush Padgett visited the sick at the Gastonia hospital Monday.

LORAY LOCALS.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

WEST GASTONIA, Jan. 8.—Alfred Lee, the two-months-old infant of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse H. Ward, was found dead in bed Saturday morning. The probable cause has not been ascertained. The parents have the sympathy of a host of friends.

The many friends of Mr. Will H. Brannon will sympathize with him in the death of his sister, Mrs. Euretta West, who died at Mayworth Monday night. Death was due to Bright's disease.

We are glad to see Mr. A. C. Little on the streets again, after being confined to his home for several days with grip.

Mr. G. W. Taylor has returned to Hopewell, Va., after spending the holidays with homefolks.

Mr. R. H. Walker has resigned his position at the Loray to accept a similar one with Baldwin Mill, Chester, S. C. He will move his family this week.

Miss Lola Bradley has returned home after spending the holidays with relatives at Olin.

Mr. Joe Gamble, who lives about three miles west of the Loray, is critically ill with pneumonia.

—Mrs. T. M. Lattimore, of Shelby, is visiting Mrs. T. A. Wilkins and Mrs. J. S. Wray.

—United States Deputy Marshal E. S. Williams, of Charlotte, was a business visitor in town yesterday.

—Mrs. J. Holland Morrow and little son, J. H., Jr., have returned from a visit to relatives in South Carolina and a trip to Florida.

—Messrs. Everett McAvery, G. R. Rhyne, Jr., Guy Terrell, Walter Warren, Leland and Albert Alexander and Earle Thomason, all of Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C., are here visiting homefolks.