

Germany Offers To Discuss Peace With Entente Powers Strength, Not Weakness, Prompts Offer

"WE ARE READY FOR FIGHTING AND READY FOR PEACE" DECLARES THE CHANCELLOR IN ANNOUNCING THE STEP TAKEN IN REICHSTAG SPEECH

"If The Offer Falls Upon Deaf Ears in the Entente Countries, The Responsibility of The Terrors That a Further Prolongation of the Struggle are Bound to Bring is Solely That of Germany's Enemies"—Frequently Hints, in Speech, That Huge Military Strokes Are Planned by Central Powers in Event Offer is Rejected—Spain, The United States and Switzerland Selected For The Transmission of Proposal to Allied Nations.

NO TERMS MENTIONED IN SPEECH OR IN THE NOTE TO ALLIES--MERELY OFFER TO DISCUSS

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—Germany today offered peace to the Allies.

The Imperial Chancellor Dr. Von Bethmann Hollweg, speaking for the German Empire and its allies, announced in the Reichstag that he had given to the diplomatic representatives of Spain, the United States and Switzerland, a joint note addressed to Germany's enemies, proposing to them to enter into peace negotiations.

The Chancellor did not announce the terms upon which Germany and her allies will make peace. Nor are they contained in the note he handed to the three neutral diplomats for transmission to the Entente powers. The only reference he made to them was that they had the object of "guaranteeing the existence, honor and liberty of evolution" for nations extending the offer and "our according to their firm belief, an appropriate basis for the establishment of everlasting peace."

This reference is contained in the note addressed to the Allies. The representatives of Spain, the United States and Switzerland were selected for the transmission because these countries represent the Entente interests in Germany and the countries of her allies.

Throughout the Chancellor's speech and in the note to the Entente, emphasis is laid upon these chief points:

That the peace move is made "in full harmony" with each of Germany's allies.

That "not weakness, but strength coupled with solicitude for civilization and humanity prompt the offer of peace."

That "if the offer falls upon deaf ears in the Entente countries, the responsibility of the terrors that a further prolongation of the struggle are bound to bring is solely that of Germany's enemies. The German empire, he declared, declines every responsibility for this, before humanity and history."

His closing words were:

"We are ready for fighting and ready for peace."

Frequent hints at huge military strokes planned by the Central powers in the event their offer is rejected, marked the Chancellor's speech. After telling of the successful campaign in Roumania, he added:

"And Hindenberg does not rest, the military operations progress."

Especial stress was laid by Chancellor upon the absolute unity of the German people and the people of her allies.

CARRANZA HAS REFUSED TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL

Information Reaching Washington Shows First Chief is Defiant.

SECRETARY LANE IS SILENT ON SUBJECT

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Information reached here late today that despite earlier information reaching members of the American Joint Commission, General Carranza has refused to sign the protocol drawn up by the commission at Atlantic City.

Secretary of the Interior Lane, chairman of the American section of the committee would make no comment on that information, but announced that a meeting preliminary to the regular resumption of conferences by the commission would be held in Philadelphia December 18.

FIRST LAW SCHOOL OF SOUTH ADMITS WOMEN

MACON, GA., Dec. 12.—The Mercer Law School, of this city, which is believed to be the first college in the South to take such action, will in the future admit women. Under the charter of the school and a recent action of the general assembly, permitting women to practice law, diplomas of the Mercer Law School will admit female graduates to practice in the State and United States Courts in Georgia.

PUPILS TO PRESENT PLAY FRIDAY NIGHT

"Christmas With The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe," at Auditorium.

A beautiful and enjoyable musical play entitled "Christmas with the old woman who lived in the shoe," will be rendered by the pupils of the graded school in Griffin auditorium on Friday evening December 15th at 8 o'clock. This will be a pretty play with good action and catchy music throughout and can be thoroughly enjoyed by old and young alike.

Tickets will be on sale by the children on and after Wednesday at 25 and 15 cents.

The public is invited to be present and are assured that all who attend will pass a pleasant evening.

REV. MR. CADE TO GO TO EDENTON

Friends Pleased to Know He Is Promoted, but Regret His Departure.

In the assignments made at the annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Rev. W. A. Cade, who has had as his field, Riverside and Bridgeton churches for the past year, was transferred to Edenton station which is said to be a larger field than the one he has occupied here.

Mr. Cade was junior pastor of Centenary Methodist church here for two years previous to his appointment to the pastorate of the Bridgeton and Riverside churches, and during his stay here, he as well as Mrs. Cade, has made a host of friends who regret that he has been removed.

Scales of Peace Or Wa. Been Placed in President's Hands



CAROLINA BOYS SEE LITTLE HOPE RETURNING SOON

Place No Credence in Rumors—Differ With Sergt. Mitchell As to Camp Life.

FIERCE SAND STORM HITS SOLDIERS CAMP

(By Sergt. W. M. Pugh)

CAMP STEWART, TEXAS, Dec. 12.—We were visited Sunday and Wednesday by one of the worst sand storms that we have seen during our sojourn down here. The Second Regiment went on a short hike in heavy marching order Wednesday and on their return had field inspection.

Will Wooten, Colored, Expected To Recover From Injury.

Will Wooten, colored, fell from the roof of the building adjoining Mrs. J. H. Hardy's store on George street yesterday afternoon and fractured his skull. Dr. Raymond Pollock was summoned and gave the necessary medical attention. After being removed to his home a piece of his skull was removed. While it was impossible to say positively, but it is not thought that the wound will prove fatal.

Wooten was engaged in making repairs to the roof of the building, which was two stories high, when his foot slipped.

MR. ORRIN A. GARDNER TO VISIT NEW BERN

Parole Officer of Lyman and Shirley School to Spend Several Weeks Here.

Mr. William F. Ward has received a letter from Mr. Orrin A. Gardner, of Touisset, Massachusetts, in which Mr. Gardner stated he would arrive in New Bern about the first of the year, and would remain here for several weeks.

Mr. Gardner is Parole Officer for the Lyman and Shirley school of Massachusetts, and a prominent citizen of that State. Knowledge of the excellent fishing and hunting parades in the vicinity of New Bern, and having friends in the city, has, from inference in his letter to Mr. Ward, influenced him to spend his vacation here.

PAPER MAKERS AND PUBLISHERS WILL ARBITRATE

Hope to Find Some Way of Cutting Prices and Supplying Demand.

H. B. VARNER MAKES CHARGE OF COMBINE

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Under the auspices of the Federal Trade Commission newspaper publishers, news print paper manufacturers and jobbers have today entered into an agreement to arbitrate their differences and attempt to devise a system under which there can be a fair distribution of the supply of paper. Representatives of each branch of the producing and consuming sides of the interests will hold conferences at Washington on Friday and formulate tentative plans. On Saturday a committee composed of representatives from each group will meet with the Federal Trade Commission and the tentative plan will be whipped into shape with the results, in the opinion of the commission, that an arrangement for uninterrupted supply for all publishers will be arrived at in less than thirty days.

FRACTURES SKULL IN FALL FROM ROOF

Will Wooten, Colored, Expected To Recover From Injury.

Will Wooten, colored, fell from the roof of the building adjoining Mrs. J. H. Hardy's store on George street yesterday afternoon and fractured his skull. Dr. Raymond Pollock was summoned and gave the necessary medical attention. After being removed to his home a piece of his skull was removed. While it was impossible to say positively, but it is not thought that the wound will prove fatal.

Wooten was engaged in making repairs to the roof of the building, which was two stories high, when his foot slipped.

PRESIDENT WILSON PLANS TO TAKE LEAD IN MOVE TO END THE GREAT WAR—WILL SEND NOTE TO EACH OF THE NATIONS URGING ARMISTICE

German Offer Furnishes Chief Executive of United States The Opportunity Which He Has Been Seeking for Months—Reported Terms Dismissed as Pure Speculation—No Event Since Declaration of War in 1914 Has Stirred Washington so Profoundly as The News of Germany's Willingness to Talk Peace—Recalled That Lord Derby, Member of British Government, Has Just Stated "The Allies Are Ready to Listen to Proposals."

ALLIED SYMPATHIZERS CALL OFFER CLEVER ATTEMPT TO SHIFT THE RESPONSIBILITIES

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—The scales of peace or war have been placed in the hands of President Wilson, according to the belief in German circles here. In these quarters tonight it is thought these scales are so evenly balanced that they will tip to that side on which the President throws the weight of his influence.

H. B. Varner, a publisher, of Lexington, N. C., says that he is convinced that the paper manufacturers are in a combine to control prices. He declared that he had written to all paper companies for quotations and that he had received replies evidently dictated by the same man. Asked for the letters he said they had been turned over to the Department of Justice. Mr. Varner said that unless prices dropped many American newspapers will have to suspend publication.

Earlier reports indicating that Germany had officially indicated her willingness to make peace on a basis of the restoration of Belgium and northern France, and a guarantee of the independence of Poland and Lithuania, leaving the status of the Balkans to be determined by the conference, were dismissed at the German embassy as pure speculation.

The belief at the Embassy was that the German Chancellor has purposely omitted any definition of the terms in order to make it easier for the Allies to accept the offer. The belief was expressed that if the Allies will agree merely to discuss the terms, a basis of settlement can be arranged and the war will come to an end.

Germany's action was carefully timed. It was pointed out tonight that it came shortly after the speech of Lord Derby, who is still a member of the British government, in which he declared that the Allies were ready to listen to proposals. In view of that speech it was said, the Allies could not now refuse with any good grace to listen to a formal offer such as that which is now on its way to President Wilson to be transmitted to Great Britain, France, Russia, Belgium, Serbia, Roumania, and Japan.

In the highest quarters it was declared that if the proposal of the Central Powers is not accepted it will be at least a year before there is another proposal.

In allied quarters it was intimated that the proposal was a clever attempt to place the responsibility for the continuance of the war upon Germany's enemies. It was said that if the proposals were not accepted Germany would then have an excuse for adopting more drastic methods, especially with regard to the use of her submarines.

There is good authority for saying that it is true if the offer is spurned Germany will resume the war with greater violence than before. The Germans will attempt to cut off the English food supply by the use of submarines.

ESCAPED FROM STATE SCHOOL, RECAPTURED

Bessie Messer, 18, Boards Norfolk Southern Train, But is Stopped at LaGrange.

KINSTON, Dec. 12.—Bessie Messer, 18, an inmate of the Caswell Training School near here, boarded a Norfolk Southern train at Parrott's Station, a short distance from the school, Tuesday morning, and rode to LaGrange on the first lap of a journey to her home, said to be up-State. Her plan met with disaster there. The authorities at the school located her and notified the LaGrange police. Bessie Messer is of the highest class of mentally deficient inmates of the State institution. She is rather good-looking and appears to be perfectly normal at first sight. She escaped from the school Monday night in the woods near the school, a cold, driving rain prevailing during the night.

REMEMBER THE POOR CAPT. EGMOND ASKS

Requests Citizens to Contribute Liberally for Happiness of Poor Families.

Captain L. Van Egmond, of the local branch of the Salvation Army requests the public to bear in mind the poor of the city and assist him in making Christmas pleasant for them. Following his usual custom, Captain Van Egmond will distribute baskets containing provisions to many of the poor families on Christmas Eve.

A number of receptacles have been placed at different places about the city and all who will are requested to drop a small amount of money in them which will be used in purchasing Christmas dinners. Captain Van Egmond will also receive old clothing and distribute it among those in need, and anyone who desires to donate garments are requested to notify him.

METHODIST BAZAAR TO BE HELD TODAY

Delicious Refreshments To Be Served in Basement of the Church.

The annual Methodist Bazaar will be held today in the basement of the Centenary church.

This is an event that is looked forward to each year with much pleasure. Many rare and useful things will be on sale.

Delicious refreshments will be served, consisting of salads, oysters, ice creams, ices, candies, etc.

The entire proceeds from this bazaar is devoted to the uses of the church, and in addition to helping a good cause, you get the full value of the money you spend here.

RETURNED SOLDIER GETS BACK PAY

Tale of Wall Street's Generosity Leaks Out—Man Lost Limb in First Battle.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Here is a tale of Wall Street generosity which became known today. When the Stock Exchange was closed and business was nil, an employe of a big brokerage firm decided to enlist. His firm bought him transportation, wished him luck and beard little more of him until he limped into their office a few days ago with one leg gone, lost in his first engagement.

He applied for his old position, which was promptly given to him, and was warmly welcomed when he