

NEUTRALS DEFER PEACE

Many Prominent Men Think Entente Should Not Make Peace Impossible.

OTHERS ARE SKEPTICAL

Some Regard German Note as Too Vague and One Advises Against Acceptance—Outline of Allies' Demands Suggested.

THE HAGUE, via London, Dec. 23.—Opinions of various prominent men of Europe as to whether the peace proposals of the central powers should be accepted or rejected by the allies and their constructive suggestions for a proposed peace have been gathered by the bureau at The Hague of the Neutral Conference for continuous mediation, resulting from Henry Ford's peace movement. Among the answers received are the following:

Christian Lange, of Christiania, secretary of the Interior Parliamentary Union, expressed the hope that the entente powers would demand concrete proposals from the Teutonic allies, but at the same time be ready to state their own fundamental conditions after which, he said, opportunities would offer themselves to clear up the whole situation.

Professor Morgensterne, rector of Christiania University, expressed the fear that conditions and assumptions of the belligerents are too conflicting to hope for a speedy pacific settlement.

Military Spirit Unbroken. Hjalmar Branting, the Swedish Socialist leader, said: "Germany, by continuing the Belgian deportations, has shown the unbroken power of her military spirit. A demand for a full definition of war aims must be put forward by democratic parties on both sides as the starting point for a common movement toward peace. The establishment of international order and justice must be based on the recognition of all nations which undertake to recognize such order. Competitive armaments then will disappear and military budgets will be considerably lightened. Democratic control must be established even in foreign politics. The issues affecting directly the interests of all nations will be disposed of by extensive democratic self-government."

The entente nations would be unwise to decline unconditionally to consider peace proposals, in the opinion of Dr. Svante Arrhenius, president of the Nobel Institute of Stockholm, who also said that if they did decline they should give their motives and define their modifications in a clear and concise way. He also appealed for the free development of small nations.

Admiral Lindman, ex-Premier of Sweden, declared that the entente should not exclude the possibility of further conversations.

Acceptance Not Advised. "The proposal of the central powers should not be accepted," replied Baron A. T. Adelswaers, ex-Swedish Minister of Finance, "because it conveys no clear idea of the principal basis of the peace. The central powers do not view the point that they have been attacked and that they have established a decisive military superiority. Neither of the points has been proved and so the outlook is not promising for a just and durable peace, the object of which is to bring about a national organization of all civilized nations."

Carl Lindhagen, Socialist Mayor of Stockholm, declared that the entente judges must be uneasy with regard to peace making as proposed by Germany. The entente nations, he said, should state their terms and the central powers should state their terms. The Dutch Socialist leader, replied: "Germany could hardly contain anything other than the general declaration of readiness to begin negotiations, but the proposal should have included a declaration of intent in the spirit of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's recent speeches, to cooperate in the central powers to a national association to meet the needs of peace, including an agreement for the reduction of armament on land and sea."

German Reason Held Good. "All the world knows that, knowing its military resources, Germany has a very good reason to desire peace, and precisely that extremity which affords the best guarantee that it will be possible to induce the central powers to accept terms not based on the present war map, but taking into account the international interests of the entente and the vital interests of the small states."

M. Troelstra then expounds his theories of a federation of united states by free trade, the freedom of the seas and also the free disposal of the ports and international channels of transport and the systematic organization of export industries from which he expects a durable peace.

The offer of the central powers should be rejected, says Dr. Theodor Heusskerk, the ex-Premier of the Netherlands, as the crushing of an adversary by either side is so improbable as to mean the continuation of the war for many years.

"None can say beforehand that the proposals of the central powers are so utterly unacceptable that even counter-proposals and eventually counter-proposals are being made," says Dr. Heusskerk, who concludes by emphasizing the constant menace to neutrals of being dragged into the war and laments the fact that legitimate feelings of nationality are being poisoned by international hatred.

PRE-CHRISTMAS NEWS AND STORIES FROM EVERYWHERE

Santa Appears With Real Deer.

PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Sixteen hundred Pendleton kiddies were made happy tonight by presents of candy, nuts and popcorn at Pendleton's second annual Christmas celebration. The presents were distributed by Santa Claus, impersonated by Colonel J. H. Raley, a pioneer resident of the city.

Forty children under the direction of Miss Edith Power sang Christmas carols as they were borne through the streets on a beautiful float. Santa Claus entered from the north mounted in a sleigh drawn by two real deer. The high school cadet corps of 80 boys gave a drill on Main street, and high school girls danced folk dances. A choir of 50 voices, under the direction of His Bishop, sang to the accompaniment of a large orchestra. Among the most enjoyable features of the celebration were a reading by Miss Olive Gwinn, a student of the University of Washington, and a cornet solo by A. S. Wulter.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Celebration of Christmas began here today with a tree on the floor of the boardroom in the Stock Exchange for the employees of the Exchange and their families. There were gifts of toys, candy and books for the children. Presents also were provided by the brokers for the poor families living in the "back yard" of Wall street, one of the most densely populated districts in the city. There was no lack of cheer for the workers in the financial district themselves, for the distribution of bouquets yesterday and today was an unprecedented scale.

The combination of a Saturday half holiday with Sunday preceding the holiday sent many thousands of persons out of the city for holiday visits to friends and relatives. Trains on all railroads were literally packed with out-going travelers and those coming into the city brought almost as many visitors.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—Snowballing, tobogganing and surf bathing with the wicker chairs and the Christmas tree in the Stock Exchange in Los Angeles and vicinity today.

Fostered by city and county officials, plans have been made for a winter carnival to be held in Bear Valley, in the San Bernardino mountains, within 100 miles of Los Angeles, while programs designed to attract people to the seaside have been arranged at the various beach resorts near by.

The latest of free Christmas entertainments under the direction of the Los Angeles Playground Commission will be given Monday night at the Plaza, in the Mexican quarter of the city. A Christmas tree, Christmas carols in Spanish and music by a Mexican orchestra will be featured. The program for this entertainment, which is an annual event and usually is attended by several thousand Mexicans and other foreigners. This, with the other entertainments given by the Playground Commission at resorts in different parts of the city, formed the nearest approach to a municipal celebration here.

Plans for innumerable other Christmas entertainments were made by various civic, religious and fraternal organizations, while the poor have been remembered by the distribution among them of bulging baskets of food, packages of clothing and bedding and candy, nuts and fruit for the children.

This work was done by the school children of Los Angeles, under the direction of the Parent-Teacher Association, prepared and delivered the Christmas packages.

One of the features of the city there is sadness among several hundred children because their Santa Claus—Moses Lowenstein, a merchant—will not be able to distribute among them their Christmas tree in his front yard—as he has done for several years—clothing, shoes and other presents.

A wag with a keen sense of irony hung a gift from a lower branch of the municipal Christmas tree on Sixth street, near the Postoffice, yesterday. There it hung through rain and snow flurries yesterday afternoon. The gift hung duly reflecting the glow of the myriad bulbs of light last night. There it hung, mocking the casual eyes with memories of Christmas cheer of other days.

SPokane, Wash., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Jim Callahan, the millionaire mining man of Wallace, who recently was arrested on charges of bigamy, was kissed and made up at Wallace this afternoon, and in the presence of a large crowd of people, was taken to drop his baggage and drive to his home again. They will start for Honolulu shortly.

Callahan, one of the principal owners of the Interstate-Callahan mine. His marriage about a year ago at Los Angeles caused a sensation in the Coeur d'Alene district. He recently sued for a divorce and accused his wife of improper conduct. He also accused her of bigamy, and made her a defendant for him in general. Mrs. Callahan had filed a demurrer to the complaint.

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo., Dec. 23.—Hundreds of children here are jubilant over prospects of a Joyous Christmas celebration on Monday night. Bags of candy, fruits and toys are to be distributed by Santa Claus, who will be located in one of the principal business streets.

A large spruce tree is to be decorated with hundreds of electric lights and laden with gifts for the children. Every child in the city has been invited to drop their baggage and drive to the short programme will be carried out.

This is the third municipal Christmas celebration to be held here. A delegation of citizens called upon the mayor to have the celebration.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—John Paterson's Christmas dinner flew away when Mr. Paterson went to feed it. For two weeks Mr. Paterson had been stuffing a fine gray goose which he picked to a string in the back yard. This noon when it was season to make the last feed before the slaughter, the string had broken and the goose, after looking upon the goose with longing, it took flight and the last seen of it the goose was disappearing across the bay. City officials recently with a petition that the event be made permanent, which was agreed to.

FIELD HEADQUARTERS, Mex., Dec. 23.—Twenty-five thousand dollars would cover the cost of presents for the people of the United States who have sent to the soldiers of the punitive expedition. It was estimated today by the commanding general, General Scott, that the cost of the Christmas celebration. Nothing of significance has been displayed by the soldiers. It was said that the value of more than 100,000 packages of presents distributed averaged about \$3 each.

Although the greater part of the gifts had come from various Red Cross chapters, hundreds have come from individuals. The character of packages from single Red Cross branches are more or less familiar, but

make known their views as to the object of the war. We do not wish to judge his intention. We only wish to see this—neutrals, guided, we believe, by a concern for justice and right, helping to obtain more light. Our enemies can no longer now keep making halting statements. They must speak out clearly. We do not fear that they can trick the minds of the soldiers of the republic, who, to win back peace, have covered their country with glory.

Lobby Talk Is Skeptical. "Let our governments make known to the rest of the world that the allied peoples, always wishing for peace, are never afraid of war, are ready to accept any solution which, having repaired the injustice of former years, organize the nations for the salvation of civilization and the free development of all."

In the lobbies of the chamber, President Wilson's note was the subject of all the conversations among the Deputies, who, without exception, agreed in paying homage to the expedition, which inspired President Wilson to take his part. He gave expression unanimously to the opinion that in the future the affairs of his suggestion could not have the result he expects from it—lasting peace.

ECONOMIC WAR FEARED. NATIONAL CIVIC FEDERATION TO DISCUSS EXPECTED CLASH. Session to Consider Upheaval Likely to Come With Peace and Take Up Preparedness Plans.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Whether the present moves to end the great war prove "effective or abortive," they vividly suggest the possibility of a peace that is bound to occur in this country when peace does come, according to Ralph M. Easley, chairman of the executive council of the National Civic Federation in announcing today that the annual meeting of the federation will be held here January 22 and 23.

Subjects to be considered at the meeting of the federation will include: "The lesson from the mobilization on the Mexican border." The indifference, if not positive opposition, of the wage earners and farmers to all preparedness programs. "Will there be a flood of immigration or a flood of emigration?" "Must this country secure military efficiency, copy the paternalistic social programme of Germany?" "Can the great forces of production of labor and of finance be cemented into one big force to grapple with the oncoming problems?"

PARIS DISLIKES NOTE

Wilson Makes No Distinction, Is Complaint.

High Sentiment Admitted. Ex-Premier, However, Says It Seems Almost Blasphemous to Hear Words "The Objects Seem the Same on Both Sides."

PARIS, Dec. 23.—President Wilson's note and the statement of Secretary Lansing continue to be the sensations of the day and make headlines everywhere else in the morning papers. The President's action by no means meets with favor among the commentators, who only vary in the manner of expressing their opinion.

The principal reproach is in the words of Stephen Pichon, who, writing in the Petit Journal, says: "The note makes no distinction between the states who provoked the war and those upon whom it was forced. The belligerents, whoever they are, see themselves treated in the same manner by President Wilson. He does not remember the violation of Belgian neutrality, the capture of the Lusitania, the submarine warfare or any of the monstrous acts which revolted the conscience of his compatriots and that of the civilized world. Germany, her vicins, Belgians, Serbians or French, it is all the same."

Dignity Is Upheld. "America, on an appeal of this singular conception as an alliance. We should be lacking in the first of our duties in not holding it up as an outrage to our honor and our dignity."

George Clemenceau, ex-Premier, in his newspaper, L'Homme Enchainé, says: "The moral side of the war has escaped the President. He has not seen the same footing of all the belligerents, without asking for what reason each of them is fighting. Failing to take into consideration these important elements, he believes himself just when he speaks to all in the same terms. He has not seen that the ends of the war could be understood in the same way by both sides and consequently it would seem almost blasphemous to hear him speak the objects seem the same on both sides."

High Sentiments Credited. The main says: "The American note is certainly inspired by high sentiments. It is doubtful whether it is opportune. It comes at a moment when it is to every interest of Germany to stop out of the hostilities. It comes after the four ringing declarations of Sonnino, Pokrovsky, Briand and Lloyd George."

opinion of the Petit Journal is expressed as follows: "One may ask with President Wilson himself whether the moment for such intervention was chosen opportunely. The speeches which were delivered this afternoon by Ministers of the quadruple entente have defined the views of the allies on the problems of peace and war."

The Journal and the Gaulois think President Wilson was influenced by thought of intensification of submarine warfare and consideration of the consequences of total interruption of sea traffic if the Germans should carry out the project they are reported to have decided on and send in submarines to American waters. The President may also have been influenced, these papers say, by the increase in the cost of living in the United States.

Socialist Sees Good. The only reference to President Wilson's note at the public sitting of the Chamber of Deputies was made by Deputy Renaudel, who expressed the belief that it would compel Germany to state plainly her war aims. He said today: "The President of the United States of America asks the belligerents to

make known their views as to the object of the war. We do not wish to judge his intention. We only wish to see this—neutrals, guided, we believe, by a concern for justice and right, helping to obtain more light. Our enemies can no longer now keep making halting statements. They must speak out clearly. We do not fear that they can trick the minds of the soldiers of the republic, who, to win back peace, have covered their country with glory.

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SPEECH HEARD WEAK

Berlin Sees Recognition of Foe's Power by Premier.

Wilson Note Views Vary. Some Papers Regard President's Action With Favor, Others as Meddling and Some as Being Aimed to Aid Allies.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—(By wireless to Savigny, N. Y.)—The Overseas News Agency gives out for publication comments appearing in the evening papers on the recent speech of Lloyd George, British Prime Minister, Lloyd George's speech is the subject of all the conversations among the Deputies, who, without exception, agreed in paying homage to the expedition, which inspired President Wilson to take his part. He gave expression unanimously to the opinion that in the future the affairs of his suggestion could not have the result he expects from it—lasting peace.

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TO all my friends and customers—to everybody, everywhere—I wish with all my heart a Happy and a Merry Christmas! May America, at peace with the world, bring peace to the world.

Ben Selling The Portland's Christmas Dinner Served Monday Christmas Day 5:30 to 8; both dining-rooms. Covers, \$1.50; tables may be reserved today. Music and dancing. Miss Bess Mecker, late of Chicago, will sing. Our prize winning beef will be served all day. See the beautifully decorated Christmas tree in the lobby. See the electric-lighted municipal Christmas tree opposite the courtyard. Richard W. Childs, Manager. Elbert S. Robe, Assistant Manager.

TOledo High School pupil, won a silver cup in the stock-judging contest at the Southwest Washington fair. The cup was presented to the school Thursday. A. G. Canterbury, Lewis County Superintendent; N. B. Coffman, a Chehalis banker, and Paul Dupertuis, secretary of the Chehalis Citizens' Club, attended the presentation.

DRY STATES IMPORT LIQUOR. Express Companies Unable to Handle Big Holiday Traffic. BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 23.—The Christmas demand for liquors of various kinds for the "dry" states of Virginia, West Virginia and the Carolinas has swamped the express companies from this city which serve these sections.

CANAL WORKERS GET RISE. West Indian Laborers to Have Better Living Quarters, Too. WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—West Indian laborers at the Panama Canal, who are paid in silver and have suffered from the increased cost of living in the Canal Zone, are to have wage increases, lower rentals and improved living quarters as a result of a special investigation of their status made by a board of Zone officials appointed by Acting Governor Harding.

SHIPPING LOSSES LISTED. Only 11 Per Cent of Britain's Tonnage at Opening of War Sunk. LONDON, Dec. 23.—In the shipping paper Fair Play, Sir Norman Hill, secretary of the Liverpool Steamship

THEATRE STRAUN TODAY XMAS TUESDAY It's a Bluebird! That's Enough! The Night TO BE Happy A BEAUTIFUL SCREEN VERSION OF CHARLES DICKENS "A Christmas Carol" With RUPERT JULIAN and an Ideal Cast—A Great Lesson in Benevolence 4—WONDERFUL VAUDEVILLE ACTS—4 Deacon Jones' Quartette Comedy and Harmony. The Waynes A Bit of Classy Vaudeville. Du Fresne Sisters Clever Singers and Dancers. Emilie Michel Character Songs. COMING NEXT MONDAY AND TUESDAY EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION Grace Cunard and Francis Ford, in the Super-Serial "THE PURPLE MASK"

PENDLETON TO SEE SHOWS. Theater to Cost \$30,000 Planned for Road Attractions. PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—A \$30,000 theater for road attractions was announced today. It will be built back of the present Temple Theater with an entrance from Main street through the Temple building. The deal is contingent upon the sale of \$10,000 worth of guaranteed 6 per cent bonds, and promises already have been made for placing all of the stock with local people. The theater is to be built of concrete and will have a seating capacity of 1000. Dr. I. U. Temple is backing the proposition and James B. Welch will manage the showhouse. The Temple moving picture theater will be used for mercantile room.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER CHOSEN. NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—A Fecther, of this city, president of the State University, has been chosen to give the address to the northwint graduate class of the North Yakima High School on January 26.

BRITAIN FREES AMERICAN. Mme. Elmira Brockway Held Few Days for Fortune Telling. LONDON, Dec. 23.—Mme. Elmira Brockway, of Chicago, known as a psychic demonstrator, who was arrested three days ago in London charged with fortune telling, was released from prison today. Mme. Brockway was taken into custody by the police of London, where she recently had a round-up of persons found telling fortunes and has been made. She is 50 years old and has independent means. A son is a captain in the French army and has charge of all the ambulances of the American Red Cross on the western front. Robert P. Skinner, the American Consul-General, has interested himself in the interests of Mme. Brockway.

SILVERTON SEES SNOW; SOON MELTS. SILVERTON, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—A heavy snow began falling here early this morning and has continued throughout the forenoon, but is melting fast.

Tip to Germany Seen. Herr Bernhard refers to Secretary Lansing's statement regarding America's attitude toward Germany as a distinct tip to Germany. Yet he is convinced that America desires to avoid such a conflict, primarily for selfish reasons.

The suggestion that neutrals as well as combatants participate in the peace conference is energetically and vigorously rejected by the newspaper, which declares that this must not come to pass in any circumstance. What may come up between Germany and her foes is not the business of neutrals, it insists, and Germany has learned in addition by bitter experience that she might expect in a court in which judges were neutrals under the pre-