

ENTENTE NATIONS REJECT PROPOSAL

Note From Central Powers Is Declared to Be Merely "War Maneuver."

BLAME PUT ON GERMANY

Proffer Called Empty and Insincere. Focus Accused of Attempting to Impose German Peace and to Influence Neutrals.

(Continued From First Page.)

as did Great Britain, France and Russia. A peace concluded upon the German idea would only be to increase the advantage of the central powers, says the note, while disasters caused by the war demand penalties, reparation and guarantees.

Calculated Attempt Seen.

The German overtures are described as a calculated attempt to influence the future course of the war and to end it by imposing a German peace. The overtures also are said to have the effect of intimidating neutral public opinion, as well as to stiffen opinion in the central powers, "worn out by economic pressure and crushed by the supreme effort which has been imposed upon their inhabitants."

"Finally," it is asserted, "these overtures attempt to justify in advance in the eyes of the world a new series of crimes—submarine warfare, deportations, forced labor and forced enlistment of the inhabitants against their own countries and violations of neutrality."

The text of the note follows: "The allied governments of Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Portugal, Roumania, Russia and Serbia, united for the defense of liberty of their peoples and faithful to engagements taken not to lay down their arms separately, however resolved to reply collectively to the pretended propositions of peace which were addressed to them on behalf of the enemy governments through the intermediary of the United States, Spain, Switzerland and Holland."

Blame for War Replanted.

"Before making any reply, the allied powers desire particularly to protest against the two essential assertions of the note of the enemy powers that pretend to throw upon the allies responsibility for the war and proclaim the victory of the central powers."

"The allied governments cannot admit an affirmation doubly inexact and which suffices to render sterile all tentative negotiation. The allied nations have sustained for 20 months a war they did everything to avoid. They have shown by their acts their attachment to peace. That attachment is as strong today as it was in 1914. But it is not upon the word of Germany, after the violation of its engagements, that the peace broken by her may be based."

Suggestion Not Peace Offer.

"A mere suggestion, without a statement of terms, that negotiations should be opened, is not an offer of peace. The putting forward by the imperial government of a sham proposal lacking all substance and precision would appear to be less an offer of peace than a war maneuver. It is founded on calculated misinterpretation of the character of the struggle in the past, the present and the future."

Austria Taken to Task.

"At the Hague conference it was a German delegate who rejected all proposals for disarmament. In July, 1914, it was Austria-Hungary who, after having addressed to Belgium an unprecedented ultimatum, declared war upon her in spite of the satisfaction which had been accorded at once."

Reparation Said to Be Needed.

"At the present moment these sham offers on the part of Germany rest on the 'war map' of Europe alone, which represents nothing more than a superficial and passing phase of the situation and not the real strength of the belligerents. A peace concluded upon these terms would be only to the advantage of the aggressor, who, after two years that they could never attain it."

"As for the future the disasters caused by the German declaration of war and the innumerable outrages committed by Germany and her allies against both belligerents and neutrals, demand penalties, reparation and guarantees. Germany avoids mention of any of these."

"In reality these overtures made by the central powers are nothing more than a calculated attempt to influence the future course of war and to end it by imposing a German peace. The object of these overtures is to create dissension in public opinion in the allied countries. But that public opinion has, in spite of all the sacrifices endured by the allies, already given its answer with admirable firmness and has denounced the empty pretense of the declaration of the enemy powers."

"They have the further object of stiffening public opinion in Germany and in the countries allied to her—and all severely tried by the losses worn out by economic pressure and crushed by the supreme effort which has been imposed upon their inhabitants."

New Crimes Charge.

"They endeavor to deceive and intimidate public opinion in neutral countries, whose inhabitants have long since made up their minds where the initial responsibilities lie and are far too enlightened to favor the designs of Germany by abandoning the defense of human freedom."

"Finally, these overtures attempt to justify in advance in the eyes of the world a new series of crimes—submarine warfare, deportations, forced labor and forced enlistment of the inhabitants against their own countries and violations of neutrality."

"Fully conscious of the gravity of this moment, but equally conscious of

its requirements, the allied governments, closely united to one another and in perfect sympathy with their peoples, refuse to consider a proposal which is empty and insincere. "Once again the allies declare that no peace is possible so long as they have not secured reparation for violated rights and liberties, the recognition of the principle of nationality and of the free existence of small states; so long as they have not brought about a settlement calculated to end once and for all forces which have constituted a perpetual menace to the nations and to afford the only effective guarantee for the future security of the world."

Belgian Case Recited.

"In conclusion, the allied powers think it necessary to put forward the following considerations, which show the special situation of Belgium after two and a half years of war. In view of international treaties signed by five great European powers, of whom Germany was one, Belgium enjoyed before the war a special status, rendering her territory inviolable and placing her, under guarantees of the allies, outside all European conflicts. She was, however, in spite of these treaties, the first to suffer the aggression of Germany. For this reason the Belgian government thinks it necessary to define the aims which Belgium has never ceased to pursue while fighting side by side with the central powers for right and justice."

"Belgium always has scrupulously fulfilled the duties which neutrality imposed upon her. She has taken up arms to defend her independence and her neutrality violated by Germany and to show the world she remains faithful to her international obligations."

"On the 4th of August, 1914, in the Heligoland, the German Chancellor admitted that this aggression constituted an injustice contrary to the laws of nations and pledged himself in the name of Germany to repair it. During two and a half years this injustice has been cruelly aggravated by the proceedings of the occupying forces, which have exhausted the resources of the country, ruined its industries, devastated its towns and villages, and have been responsible for innumerable massacres, executions and imprisonments."

"At this very moment, while Germany is proclaiming peace and humanity to the world, she is deporting Belgian citizens by thousands and reducing them to slavery."

"Belgium, before the war, asked for nothing but to live in harmony with her neighbors. Her King and her government have but one aim—the reestablishment of peace and justice. But they only desire peace which would assure to their country legitimate reparation, guarantees and safeguards for the future."

PROPOSAL CALLED "ILLUSORY"

Joint Reply of Entente Allies Is Issued in All Capitals.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The joint reply of the entente allies to the German peace proposal was issued today in the form of an official communication giving the text of the note. The reply characterizes the German proposal as "illusory," declaring that "a mere suggestion, without a statement of terms that negotiations should be opened, is not an offer of peace."

After analyzing Germany's motives in proposing peace negotiations, the note says: "Fully conscious of the gravity of this moment but equally conscious of its requirements, the allied governments, closely united to one another and in perfect sympathy with their peoples, refuse to consider a proposal which is empty and insincere."

"Once again the allies declare that no peace is possible so long as they have not secured reparation for violated rights and liberties, the recognition of the principle of nationality and of the free existence of small states; so long as they have not brought about a settlement calculated to end once and for all forces which have constituted a perpetual menace to the nations and to afford the only effective guarantee for the future security of the world."

Highlights in Allies' Reply.

A MERE suggestion, without a statement of terms, that negotiations should be opened, is not an offer of peace.

The disasters caused by the German declaration of war and the innumerable outrages committed by Germany and her allies against both belligerents and neutrals, demand penalties, reparation and guarantees.

In reality these overtures made by the central powers are nothing more than a calculated attempt to influence the future course of war and to end it by imposing a German peace.

These overtures attempt to justify a new series of crimes—submarine warfare, deportations, forced labor and forced enlistment of the inhabitants against their own countries and violations of neutrality.

Fully conscious of the gravity of this moment, but equally conscious of its requirements, the allied governments, closely united to one another and in perfect sympathy with their peoples, refuse to consider a proposal which is empty and insincere.

Once again, the allies declare that no peace is possible so long as they have not secured reparation for violated rights and liberties, the recognition of the principle of nationality and of the free existence of small states.

Oregon City Lodge to Build. OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—The building committee of the Moose Lodge today let a contract to A. J. Fisher for the construction of a two-story, 66 by 90-foot frame lodge building at Eleventh and Main streets. The plans provide for three store-rooms, facing Main street, on the first floor and modern lodge rooms upstairs. The cost of the building was not made public, but the total investment, including building, ground and furnishings will be between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Judgment in the sum of \$6125.04 is asked by H. M. Johnson in a suit filed in the Circuit Court yesterday against A. Meyers, C. J. Lundquist and Theodore Brugger, doing business under the name of the Gresham Wood Company. Mr. Johnson says that he was induced by false representations to enter into a contract with the Gresham Wood Company to transport 3761 cords of wood and that as a result of being compelled to fulfill the contract he lost large sums of money.

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

M. Sichel
Mens Furnisher & Hatter
331 WASHINGTON STREET

PEACE IS OPPOSED

Leading American Churchmen Think Move Is Premature.

DECISIVE VICTORY FAVORED

Movement Against Agreement at This Time Launched in Philadelphia and Campaign Is to Be Spread Broadcast.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 30.—Leading churchmen of the United States, led, it is said, by church authorities of this city, have launched a movement in opposition to the acceptance of a premature peace agreement by the warring nations of Europe.

Details of the movement, according to an announcement by George Wharton Pepper, of this city, a prominent Episcopalian layman, will be made public in a statement to be given out in Washington tomorrow. The movement is said to be in the nature of a counter drive against the pacifist propaganda conducted by the Church Peace Union, organized by Andrew Carnegie.

The statement will be signed by churchmen of various faiths, including several bishops, it is said. The movement was first discussed at a meeting in the office of Mr. Pepper Thursday, and was attended by Bishop Joseph F. Berry, of the Methodist Episcopal Church; William T. Ellis and others.

A majority of those present approved the movement and leading churchmen all over the country were communicated with by telegraph and telephone and their signatures to the document were obtained. It will be sent broadcast over the country, and it is the expectation of the originators that it will gain strength daily.

"The main object of the movement is to call attention to the fact that peace founded upon expediency would not be of permanent benefit to the world," said Bishop Berry today. "There are certain great moral principles involved in the world war, and if it were to end now they would not be definitely settled."

RUNAWAY GIRL IS BRIDE

GWENDOLYN STEWART, OF SEATTLE, WEDS THEATER USHER.

Young Woman Calls at Police Station at San Francisco to Correct Impression Concerning Flight.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—(Special.)—Because she saw a news item which said that her mother in Seattle had reported her as a runaway girl to the police of the Pacific Coast cities, pretty Gwendolyn Stewart, 17 years old, visited police headquarters today and talked to Mrs. Katherine Eisenhart, policewoman.

Miss Stewart was not alone. Nor is she a miss any longer. She was accompanied by Lawrence C. Bailey, 21 years old, an usher at a Market street theater. Bailey and Miss Stewart were married Wednesday in this city.

According to Miss Stewart, she left her home at 121 Marion street, Seattle, on November 17 last, when she had a misunderstanding with her parents. She came to this city, secured employment, and, while attending the theater one evening, met young Bailey, whom she had known several years ago. Bailey proposed and the marriage was performed.

"Just what it understood," said the new Mrs. Bailey to Mrs. Eisenhart, "that I am married and not a runaway girl."

ROBBER HAS CONSUMPTION

Two Who Held Up Astoria Man Are Caught and Confess.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—The two men who held up and robbed James Lovell and his housekeeper at the point of revolvers last night, were arrested today by Chief of Police Houghton. Both have confessed their guilt, and have been committed to the County Jail in default of \$2000 bail each to await the action of the Circuit Court grand jury.

The men gave their names as Harry Trevelyan and George Demant, tramp painters, who arrived here from Portland last Wednesday. Trevelyan, who is suffering from consumption, says he committed the crime because he was sick and broke.

\$6135 SUIT CHARGES FRAUD

H. M. Johnson Files Action Against Three in Gresham Wood Co.

Judgment in the sum of \$6125.04 is asked by H. M. Johnson in a suit filed in the Circuit Court yesterday against A. Meyers, C. J. Lundquist and Theodore Brugger, doing business under the name of the Gresham Wood Company. Mr. Johnson says that he was induced by false representations to enter into a contract with the Gresham Wood Company to transport 3761 cords of wood and that as a result of being compelled to fulfill the contract he lost large sums of money.

FOR every one, no matter what his faith or flag, I wish happiness and prosperity throughout the whole new year.

For all the citizens of your Portland and my Portland, I wish renewed devotion to the highest civic and business ideals, to the end that our city may abundantly sustain a cheerful and a thriving people.

Ben Selling

FARMERS DISCUSS WORK

CROOK AND DESCHUTES COUNTIES REPRESENTED IN MEETING.

One Member of Council Travels 50 Miles to Railway, so as to Attend Session.

REDMOND, Or., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—Perhaps what has been the best representative meeting of the entire Crook and Deschutes counties in Central Oregon was held at Redmond when 40 farmers and their wives, of the County Agricultural Council, sat down to luncheon given by the domestic science department of the high school. One member of the council residing 50 miles from the nearest railway point traveled two days to attend the conference. The occasion was the annual meeting of the County Agricultural Council, a union of all the 24 farmers' organizations in the county, which looks after

the best agricultural interests of the farmers with the assistance of a County Agricultural Agent.

The council adopted a motion endorsing the work of the biological survey for the assistance, through its agent, R. A. Ward, in campaigning against the jackrabbits with the help of the County Agent. The council also asked assistance for a campaign against sage rats.

The irrigation question before the people of Central Oregon also was considered.

LINN BEATS LEAP YEAR

Marriages Are 34 Fewer Than Recorded for 1915 in County.

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—Although the year 1916 is leap year, the records show that there were 34 fewer marriages in Linn County during the year than were performed the year before. The total was 202, while in 1915 the number was 236.

County Judge D. B. McKnight proved the most popular, tying the knot for 52 couples. Other records are: Rev. G. H. Young, 25; Rev. F. H. Gesebracht, 9; Rev. D. Lloyd Morgan, 9; Rev. James Moore, 5; Rev. C. E. Gibson, 4; Rev. M. Howard Fagan, Rev. W. F. White, 6; Rev. Arthur Lane, 4; Judge Percy R. Kelly, 3; Judge L. W. Swann, 3, and Judge G. F. Skipworth, 1.

Miss Alice L. Burroughs Engaged. Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Thayer, 6203 Twen-

Aronson's January Sale—Diamonds and Silverware

Portland didn't spend all her money before Christmas—by no means!

A gentleman came in this week and asked Rueff if Aronson was still selling diamonds at a discount. Being assured that he was, he said he wanted to invest \$100 in one.

When he saw the exhibit and the prices, he dug down and pulled out a "roll" that was good for the eyesight. And his diamond investment ran into hundreds!

Another gentleman in British Columbia wrote to Aronson to send one of his advertised diamonds to his bank for approval. Aronson did it, and back came a draft for the price—and that ran into three figures, too!

Then there's that chap Cupid; this cold weather seems only to warm him up. The young fellows have simply been coming in shoals, looking for engagement rings; sort of backing each other up, you know. The record at the County Clerk's office tells the story.

There's no gainsaying the fact that Aronson's doing the diamond business of Portland. Look at these:

- \$25 solitaire diamond rings for \$17.65.
- \$50 solitaire diamond rings for \$36.85.
- \$75 solitaire diamond rings for \$52.50.
- \$100 solitaire diamond rings for \$69.65.
- \$400 cluster diamond rings for \$296.50.
- \$20 diamond lavallieres \$15.00.
- \$75 diamond lavallieres \$56.50.
- \$200 diamond lavallieres \$148.50.
- \$100 genuine cameo brooches, \$10.85.
- \$100 diamond-mounted bracelets, \$73.50.

Deep January Reductions Throughout the Store.

ARONSON'S

Jewelers, Goldsmiths, Opticians. Washington at Broadway.

TODAY TOMORROW and TUESDAY



TODAY TOMORROW and TUESDAY

FIVE PILGRIM GIRLS

Versatile Musicians and Singers

SIEBERT LINDLEY & CO.

Comedy Skit, "A Fool and His Money"

GRACE SISTERS

Classy Singers and Dancers

Mlle. ARMENTA

Slack-Wire Artist

RED FEATHER PHOTOPLAY

"POLLY PUT THE KETTLE ON"

A Romantic Drama of Tears and Smiles
Featuring DOUGLAS GERRARD and Excellent Cast



EXTRA! ADDED ATTRACTION

"The Purple Mask"

EVERY MONDAY and TUESDAY ONLY

The Most Thrilling Mystery Serial Ever Released

A Moving-Picture Drama That Will Enthral You With Its Swift Action, Grip You With Deeds of Daring and Awe You With Mystery



LET NOTHING INTERFERE WITH YOUR SEEING THIS FIRST EPISODE and REMEMBER it begins next Monday and Tuesday, January 1 and 2, and on Monday and Tuesday of each week following a new episode will be shown.