

ALLIES EXPECTED TO GIVE IDENTICAL NEGATIVE REPLIES

Bad Faith of Germany Exposed by Her Separate Offer Made to Belgium; Press Comment.

NEWS ALONE IS FAVORABLE

All Other London Newspapers Eager to Reject Any Idea That Allies Stop War on Germany.

London, Sept. 15.—(I. N. S.)—“Identical negative replies” from the allied nations to the Vienna peace proposal is likely, it was learned this afternoon.

The allied attitude, in shaping any reply, is to be that Austria-Germany, rather than war, is the only alternative.

There is no doubt here that the Austro-Hungarian proposals originated in Germany.

All dispatches received here show a generally unfavorable reception to the note and reveal the importance attached to American views in both this country and France.

Newspapers cite President Wilson's 14 “peace principles” and Premier Lloyd George's Manchester speech as a new basis for the Vienna proposal.

Wilson Recognized as Leader The great place taken by President Wilson in world leadership was emphasized today by press comment on the Austro-Hungarian peace note.

What benefit Austria might have obtained from the proposal undoubtedly has been lessened by publication of Germany's effort at a separate peace with Belgium which is self evident of the Hun's bad faith.

Germany put forth the following terms: “Belgium to remain neutral until the end of the war; reconstruction of Belgium and political and economic independence of her after the war; reestablishment of German Belgian commercial relations existing before the war; Belgium to aid by moral suasion in restoring of German colonies; the Flemish question to be considered and the Flemish minority, which aided the German invaders, to go unpunished.”

Labor party leaders regard Austria's proposal as virtual acceptance of the party's suggestion for an informal conference regarding peace.

The London morning papers commented on Austria's proposal as follows: “Express—‘The proposal brings peace no nearer. It is true that all peoples long for a speedy end to the struggle, but the allies have stated their preliminary conditions. They are: Withdrawal from Belgium and France; abrogation of the Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest treaties, etc. There is not the faintest suggestion that the central powers will agree to these conditions. It is just an invitation to a secret conference at which bargains can be struck and the destruction of militarism prevented. Hindenburg wants time to pull his armies together. Negotiations mean a practical armistice. Germany's note to Belgium is another Brest-Litovsk scheme.’”

Seek to Embarrass Entente Chronicle—“Two motives inspire the note—first, the desire to embarrass the entente by throwing upon it the odium of continuing the war. Second, a genuine longing for peace. Berlin and Vienna now realize that the longer the war continues the more they are bound to lose. But the entente are not going to be fooled with an unreal peace. It would be foolish to expect good results from a conference until Berlin and Vienna have changed their methods of negotiations. In Wilson's language ‘no general peace, no peace worth the infinite sacrifices of the years of tragic suffering can be achieved under the old method of barter and concession.’”

The Times—“Germany is employing Austria to shun peace proposals and cover up her efforts to gain time while Hindenburg organizes his forces. It is one of the oldest and subtlest tricks of diplomacy. What the central powers really hope for is to bring the proposals so that they can again present to their disheartened peoples their reasons for continuing the war. They also hope to break the entente's solid front.”

The Post—“The Austrian note, dictated by Germany, is the first definite peace overture from Germany. But to raise now would be to throw away the fruits of four years of war, to dismiss forever all hope of victory and to betray civilization. The note says that the atmosphere no longer excludes discussion of peace. That may be true of Austria. It certainly is not true of Great Britain.”

Disposed of in Advance Daily Mail—“The note is disposed of in advance by President Wilson's declaration that ‘open covenants of peace must be openly arrived at.’ Behind the Manchester Guardian note and the German note to Belgium is Hindenburg's desperate desire to gain time for the reorganization of his shattered troops.”

Manchester Guardian—“It would be a monstrous flout if the proposal, as such, should be flouted as heretofore. It would also be unwarranted to lay down definite military ends as a pre-requisite to any discussion. On the other hand, we fear peace will be delayed if we enter confidential discussions without some suggestion of the enemy's approach to our well known proposals. We think the allies should require an expression relative to the lines laid down by Wilson and Lloyd George. Let us, above all things, avoid replying in such terms as to give the waverers fresh resolution.”

The Daily News favors Austria's proposal for a conference declaring: ‘Only an informal discussion can prove whether discussions at this time can lead the way to nearer peace. Austria's dominating motive hardly can be doubted. There is no doubt that her more than any other belligerent an early peace is imperative. Such a conference would not compromise the allies' fundamental principles. On the other hand, there is more than a remote prospect that a discussion that might leave Germany obdurate might be different in the case of Turkey, Bulgaria and Austria. The allies have everything to gain and nothing to lose by discussion.’”

French Make Comment Paris, Sept. 15.—(I. N. S.)—Slight credence is given here to the sincerity of the Austro-Hungarian peace note, appealing for a general conference of belligerents. Nevertheless the offer is attributed to growing knowledge on the part of the Teutonic peoples of the hopelessness of the military situation

and a desire by the leaders of the central powers to save what is possible. The attitude of the French toward the central powers' offer might be summarized as follows: “One Austrian-Hungarian premier was asked out for less than this. ‘How much less credence should be given a statement by anonymous propaganda?’

“One way for the central powers to begin peace proposals is for us to hear from them. ‘We surrender.’

“Scores of French people, of all classes, who discussed the offer in the past 18 days, expressed the belief that another year of war would bring them to the point where they would go on fighting if they still remember 1870.

“French leaders realize that one effect of the peace drive in the central powers was to buoy up the morale of the people.”

German Comment Characteristic Amsterdam, Sept. 15.—(U. P.)—The German press seeks to give the impression that it is not wholeheartedly in favor of the Austrian peace note.

The Berliner Neueste Nachrichten says that the German press is not in favor of the Boersen Zeitung thinks there is little hope of its success.

The Post fears the allies will interpret the note as a sign of weakness. The Vorwaerts warns against “over-optimism,” but says the “widest circles of the German people will welcome the note.”

The Kreuz Zeitung fears the note is futile and may lead to results opposite from those desired.

The Reich Zeitung anticipates the proposal will mean declaration of the bankruptcy of the official policy.

Austrian Note to Be ANSWERED PROMPTLY (Continued From Page One)

was obtainable either at the state department or the White House. Officials said that international courtesy demanded that they remain mute until the note actually was delivered. However, other officials, who believe that the reply should be immediate, pointed out that there was no reason why, if he so desired, Secretary Lansing should not immediately communicate this government's position to the Swedish minister for transmission back to Vienna via Stockholm.

It is expected here that in rejecting the Austrian suggestion President Wilson will take occasion to make it clear for months, the terms upon which the entente and the United States will make peace. Until these terms are accepted, and the central powers show their good faith by announcing their readiness to withdraw from all invaded territory and to make the reparations which the president has declared must be part of lasting peace, nothing but a waste of time would be gained by holding such a conference as is proposed by the Austro-Hungarian government.

Pushed by Germany It is considered certain here today that the peace drive of the central powers—for officials are completely convinced that the Austrian offer was pushed by Germany—will not end with the rejection of the present suggestion. The central empires are in a precarious condition both military and economic. The Gray's discontent is reported from every part of Germany and Austria.

The morale of the dual armies is low and is steadily being further shattered. The constant pounding of the mighty allied triphammer on the western battle line is shaking the very foundations of the two countries. Because of this, the aid he said today that continuing use of peace offers are certain some time to come. However, until the minimum terms of the entente, as already voiced in the public utterances of President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George and Clemenceau are accepted by the central powers, all such suggestions will fall upon deaf ears.

Messages Flood White House Officials take occasion to point out today that the demand that the allies' suggestions be rejected immediately and emphatically was almost unanimous in every section of the country.

Messages from the United States as reported to have suggested any consideration whatever of the Austrian offer. Messages to the White House, to leaders in the senate and House, to cabinet officers, all echoed the single sentiment that the offer should be rejected in such a manner that no doubt would be left that the United States was in the war to a finish and nothing less than a complete surrender by the forces of autocracy will satisfy this nation.

Officials, after carefully examining the unofficial cabled text of the Austrian offer, called attention to the very different language which was used throughout. It was pointed out that Austria seemed very desirous of placing all of the onus for continuing the war on the allies and tried in every way to juggle the language so that it would appear as though Austria was ready to make material concessions which in reality she was not doing.

It was certain that in the reply which the United States will make to this note the hypocrisy will be stripped from the Austrian offer and responsibility for continuing the war until the world has been made safe for democracy will be accepted by President Wilson.

The state department, curiously enough, today was in receipt of dispatches from a neutral country, which stated that diplomats there warned that Germany was launching a most desperate peace offensive. Other dispatches called attention to the fact that the German newspapers have practically ceased editorial discussion of the military situation and that semi-official agencies for failure of the army to keep advancing now are missing.

Some doubt had been expressed Sunday as to whether the Austrian proposal might not revive pacifist sentiment in this country. This doubt has been more than set at rest. All of the information obtainable here today is that not only is the country a unit in demanding that there be no peace by negotiation, but it is held that even to give consideration to the Austrian suggestion would be an insult to the army and navy which is covering itself with glory. That the men fighting in France and elsewhere and the relatives of those whose names are on the “roll of honor” would never countenance any peace that does not crush for all time the German military machine is shown absolutely by the messages reaching here from every section of the country.

Austria Sending Note TO ALL BELLIGERENTS Amsterdam, Sept. 15.—An official communication telegraphed from Vienna extends an invitation to all belligerents to enter into non-binding discussions at some neutral meeting place for an exchange of views regarding possibilities

NEW YORK TIMES ONLY PAPER THAT FAVORS PROPOSAL

Urges Allies to Accept Austrian Plan for Peace Discussion; Warns Militarism Must End.

ALL OTHERS OPPOSE SCHEME

“Do We Believe What We Say About This German Thing?” Inquires New York Tribune.

New York, Sept. 15.—(U. P.)—New York Times, in an editorial today, urged that the allies accept the Austrian proposal for an “informal discussion” looking toward peace. The newspaper, however, declared peace conditions must throttle German militarism and insure that the allies accept the proposal.

Pointing out that the peace offer comes from the quarter where for three years the allies have felt it would come, the Times said:

“It comes in a form which the allies may honorably accept in the confident belief that it will lead to the end of the war.”

“The custom and practice of nations,” the editorial continued, “demands that this invitation to enter upon the preliminary steps of peace deserve the most respectful and sympathetic consideration by the governments to which it is addressed.”

“For the actual and moving cause of the proposals must look to the battle fields of France. The French, British and American troops, under command of Marshal Foch, the advancing and victorious legions directed by Haig, Eriehain and Pershing, have brought about this complete change in the minds and in the attitude toward the war of Vienna and the rest of Europe.”

The refugee current that began to bear the Germans back from the Marne on July 18 and has never ceased its irresistible sweep eastward by Haig, Eriehain and Pershing, has brought about this complete change in the minds and in the attitude toward the war of Vienna and the rest of Europe.

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upon their interpretation and their application to individual concrete war and peace questions.

“To an unprejudiced observer there can be no doubt that in all the belligerent states, without exception, the desire for a peace of understanding has been enormously strengthened; that the conviction is increasingly spreading that the further continuance of bloody struggle must transform Europe into ruins and into a state of exhaustion that will mar its development for decades to come—and this without any guarantee of thereby bringing about that decision by arms which has been vainly striven after by both sides in four years filled with enormous sacrifices, sufferings and exertions.

“If an attempt is made to see whether the basis exists for an understanding calculated to deliver Europe from the catastrophe of the suicidal continuation of the struggle, then, in any case, a method should be chosen which renders possible a direct, verbal discussion between the representatives of the governments and only between them.

Cautious Process Advised Opposing conceptions of individual belligerent states, would likewise have to form the subject of such a discussion for mutual enlightenment, as well as the general principles that shall serve as the basis for peace and the future relations of the states to one another and regarding which, in the first place, an accord can be sought with a prospect of success.

“As soon as an agreement were reached on the fundamental principles, an attempt would have to be made in the course of the discussions concretely to apply them to individual peace questions and thereby bring about their solution.

“We venture to hope that there will be no objection on the part of any belligerent state to such an exchange of views. The war activities would experience no interruption. The discussions, too, would only go so far as was considered by the participants to offer a prospect of success.

“No disadvantages would arise therefrom for the states represented. Far from harming, such an exchange of views could only be useful to the cause of peace.

Some Possibilities Cited “What did not succeed the first time can be repeated and perhaps it has already at least contributed to the clarification of views.

“Mountains of old misunderstandings might be removed and many new things perceived. Streams of pent-up human kindness would be released in the warmth of which everything essential would remain and on the other hand much that is antagonistic, to which excessive importance is still attributed, would disappear.

“According to our conviction, all the belligerents jointly owe to humanity the examination whether now, after so many years of a costly but undecided

struggle, the entire course of which points to an understanding, it is possible to make an end to the terrible grapple.

“The royal and imperial government would like, therefore, to propose to the government of all the belligerent states to send delegates to a confidential and unbinding discussion on the basic principles for the conclusion of peace, in a place in a neutral country and, at a near date that would yet have to be agreed upon—delegates who were charged to make known to one another the conception of their governments regarding these principles and to receive analogous communications, as well as to request and give frank and candid explanations on all those points which need to be precisely defined.”

Note Handed to Allies Amsterdam, Sept. 15.—(U. P.)—The Austro-Hungarian minister to Switzerland handed the Austrian peace note to an allied representative in Bern at 1 p. m. Sunday, according to the Vossische-Zeitung.

London, Sept. 15.—(U. P.)—The Swedish minister has received the Austrian peace note and will deliver it to the British foreign office today.

Helena, Mont., Sept. 15.—(U. P.)—W. F. Dunn, manager, and Leo Daly, advertising man for the Butte Bulletin, a labor publication, were under arrest here today, charged with sedition because of the publication of an editorial attacking the authority of the State Council of Defense.

The Bulletin was recently prevented from becoming a daily paper by the order of the war industries board prohibiting the starting of new dailies during the war.

Federal officers in Butte arrested 40 other men as alleged slackers and I. W. W. Daly and Dunn were brought to Helena from Butte following their arrest.

Fire Destroys Ammunition Port Bliss, Texas, Sept. 15.—(I. N. S.)—Fire which is believed to have been started simultaneously in three buildings here last night destroyed thousands of dollars worth of ammunition and clothing.

Mexican Collector Dies El Paso, Texas, Sept. 15.—(I. N. S.)—Francisco Acosta, newly appointed customs collector at the Mexican port, Agua Prieta, Sonora, is dead here of heart failure. He was en route to his new post from Mexico City. The body will be sent back to the Mexican capital.

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SERBIANS CAPTURE THREE MOUNTAINS

Offensive Is Renewed in Cooperation With French; Bulgarian Line Pierced.

Meeting to Take Up Railroad Scale Matter Proposed

Salem, Sept. 15.—L. C. Gilman, district director for the railroad administration, suggests that a conference be held between railroad officials, the state public service commission of Oregon and Washington and a representative of the railroad administration to consider complaints presented relative to railroad track scales. This suggestion is contained in a letter sent to all railroads, a copy of which was received today by the public service commission.

The Oregon commission has been insisting that railroad scales at terminal points were being overworked because railroads insist on re-weighting cars, which already have been weighed on scales tested by the commission.

Gas Change Plea Withdrawn Salem, Sept. 15.—The Portland Gas & Coke company today requested the public service commission to dismiss its application for a decrease in the standard of gas, which it filed with the commission about a year ago. The company gives as its reasons that the government is now taking up the question of fixing a standard for gas, and also that operating conditions have changed since the application was filed.

30,000 Mines Strike Pottsville, Pa., Sept. 15.—(U. P.)—In the face of the order and importunities of the United Mine Workers about 20,000 mine workers in the ninth district went on strike this morning because the government has not granted them the increase in wages that they demanded.

Italians Take Prisoners Rome, Sept. 15.—Nearly 300 prisoners were taken by the Italians in a successful attack on the Austrian positions at Grovelia, south of Corcia, in the Brenna valley. All the enemy's defenses in the sector attacked were captured, with many machine guns and great quantities of material, the war office announced today. The assault took place yesterday morning.

In the Concalchi and Posina sectors, Austrian detachments attempting to attack the Italian positions, were beaten off with heavy losses.

Five Austrian airplanes were brought down by Italian fliers Sunday.

Amsterdam, Sept. 15.—Italian troops have begun another drive against the Austro-Hungarians, according to a dispatch from Vienna Saturday, quoting the official representative of the Austrian war office.

The Austrian war office report said: “The enemy was repulsed east of the Brenna and in the sector of Monte Poliarolo.

“Italian attempts to cross the Piave river in the Soudona region were repulsed.

“In Albania (Balkan front), north of Fojane, we captured some farms.

“Groum was gained in the Tomar mountains.”

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