

FRENCH PREMIER
DECLARES PEACE
OFFER IS TRAP

Briand Denounces German Offer—
Asks Increased Power to Carry on
War—Declares Past Eight Months
a Victory for France—German
Home Army Indication of Distress.

PARIS, Dec. 14.—Premier Briand accompanied his denunciation of the German peace offer as a trap with an announcement that he would ask for increased power with which to carry on the war, according to full reports of his speech before the chamber of deputies today. At the same time the premier promised that the government would not undertake any scheme of national mobilization such as that involved in the German home army plan.

"Evidently," said the premier, "recent developments are serious, but it is necessary to recall what happened in 1916. After eight months it is not a German, but a French, victory which in truth has been inscribed on French flags."

Signs of Distress.
The premier referred to the French success at Verdun and the gains made on the Somme and derided Germany for its claim of victory when it was taking such measures as what he termed the militarizing of the entire population. The chamber applauded unanimously when he affirmed that the war government of France would not follow the policy of Germany. He asked, however, for power to regulate all questions concerning the national defense including the possibility of requisition, but said that if the latter step was considered necessary it would not be carried out inconsiderately. The chamber applauded when he announced the government would ask for the suppression of the liquor traffic throughout France.

Premier Briand expressed the certainty that some of the measures taken by Germany have behind them the object of intensifying the war next spring when, he said, she will have stronger armies to face. He warned France to be prepared for these efforts and to have confidence in the final outcome. Then he turned to a discussion of the German peace proposal.

Talks of Peace Effort.
"It is after having proclaimed its victory," he said, "while at the same time making new efforts to gain it that Germany sends us certain words, which I am not unable to explain. You have read the address delivered by Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the chancellor of the German empire. I have not the text and therefore I cannot give an official opinion, but it is improbable that in the present circumstances those who are asked to intervene will accept a task which might well disturb confidence here. I will make known officially the precise concentrated opinion of the allies, but I must now warn my country against a possible poisoning of opinion. When a country armed to the teeth, mobilizes its entire civil population at the risk of ruining its commerce and disorganizing the homes of which it is so proud, when its factories are working overtime to increase its war materials and when it takes, in disregard of the law of nations, the people of an invaded country and obliges them to work for it, if at that moment I do not cry out to my country: 'Look out, take care,' I would be entirely culpable. What comes from yonder as a proposition to negotiate peace is made at a time when Belgium is invaded, Serbia is invaded, ten departments of France are invaded."

Deputy Andre LeFevre here interrupted saying, "and crimes unpunished." Premier Briand resumed:

To Deceive Neutrals.
"It is a redoubtable moment and I cannot call your attention too much to the facts. What do we see in this address? It is the same cry to deceive neutrals or the clairvoyance of the German people—it was not we who desired this horrible war. It was imposed on us. I want to answer for the hundredth time, 'no, you were the aggressors and whatever you say, the facts are there to prove it. The blood is on your heads and not on ours.'"

"Now, coming to the bottom of things, I have the right to denounce this maneuver, this gross trap. We want, it is said by our enemies, to give our people all the means to prosper that they can desire. Others are offered an arms consent not to annihilate them. After the Marne, after Verdun, France resisting firmly, is offered this. Such a document must be thoroughly mediated upon to see toward what objects it tends."

There was loud applause at these words and Deputy Thierry-Cases shouted, "The country thinks as you

MORGAN WIDOW IS
REPORTED DYING



Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan

Mrs. Morgan, widow of the late banker, who was one of the world's richest men, is reported critically ill at her summer home at Highland Falls, N. Y.

Mrs. Morgan is known as a quiet, modest grand old woman who abhors publicity. She was Miss Frances Louise Tracy of New York and became the second wife of Morgan in 1865. She has four children and eleven grandchildren. The children are: Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee, J. P. Morgan, Mrs. William P. Hamilton and Anne Morgan. Mrs. Morgan could never endure an active social life and remained in deepest seclusion since her marriage.

do." Premier Briand then concluded: "From this rostrum I must say that there is a maneuver to separate the allies, disturb the conscience and demoralize the people of the French republic. In circumstances such as these, one will not do less than the convention."

SENATE PASSES
LITERARY TEST
FOR IMMIGRATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The immigration bill containing the restrictive literary test for admission of aliens which has caused three presidents to veto such a measure, was passed by the senate today, 64 to 7. The bill so amended in the senate now goes to conference. It passed the house last session.

The senate reconsidered the clause designed to exclude anarchists who teach destruction of property as a propaganda. An amendment by Senator Hardwick of the committee, permitting entry of persons who advocate of teach destruction of property "in war, insurrection or revolution," but not otherwise, was adopted.

Three republicans, Brandegee, Colt and DuPont, and four democrats, Hastings, Martine, Phelan and Root, voted against the bill. Senators Smith of South Carolina, Hardwick and Lodge were appointed on the conference committee.

Authoritative statements have been made that President Wilson intends to veto the bill a second time because of a literary test. In this event an effort will be made to pass the bill over the veto, two-thirds majority in each house being required. The bill passed the house last April by a vote of 302 to 87, more than a two-thirds majority and the senate vote today, if repeated, would be sufficient to override an executive veto.

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PRESS OF FRANCE
DISAPPOINTED OVER
NEW MINISTRY

PARIS, Dec. 14.—The disappointment shown by the press over the new administration is emphasized in the comment on yesterday's sitting of the chamber of deputies. Even Premier Briand's sensational announcement of his intention to prohibit by decree the sale of spirituous liquor passed almost unnoticed. The steady supporters of the premier, such as the Figaro, are but lukewarm in their appreciation. Alfred Capus, editor of the Figaro, writes:

"Premier Briand faced his adversaries with rare authority on the question of the German peace proposal, which dominates the hour. His sincerity and eloquence wrang from the assembly unanimous applause. Neither is it possible to contest the value of the proposed reforms—especially that concerning alcohol—which the government has engaged to carry out in the shortest possible time. We do not believe in his will and energy," say the opponents of Briand. It is for him to answer them tomorrow by acts and decisions and by prompt and irresistible vigor to show that he is truly master of the situation. With a large minority

parliamentary existence is certainly difficult, but nothing is easy nowadays. The task of governing in this tempest and amid these obstacles is worthy of the premier. 'Make of an obstacle a medium even of thy nation,' proclaimed the wisdom of the ancients. This should be the device of every Frenchman today, particularly those who lead in the nation's council."

In the senate today the new ministry will have to face another onslaught. This time Georges Clemenceau, who characterizes the new government as an attempt to amend a broken-down engine by putting on a new pair of tires; Henri Berenger and Adrien Gaudin de Villaine and others intend to interpellate the government on the general situation. If Premier Briand accepts the debate the senate will go into secret sitting, for which all preparations have been made. It will not, however, be as long a one as the chamber held, as the senate is unanimously of the opinion that the sitting should not last more than three or four hours.

REICHSTAG TO MEET
AGAIN IN JANUARY

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 14.—The Berlin Tageblatt says that the next session of the reichstag will take place about the middle of January, unless important events necessitate an earlier convocation.

Mrs. C. M. Thomas will leave in a few days for a visit with friends and relatives in Iowa, her old home.

AMERICAN PAYS
DEATH PENALTY
FOR AIDING VILLA

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 14.—An American citizen named Alfonso Leiva, formerly of Brownsville, Tex., was executed in Juarez by the military on October 21, according to a report brought here today by an American who was released last night from the Juarez jail after being held several weeks on a minor charge.

Leiva was a former Villa lieutenant colonel who was granted amnesty by the Carranza government and was afterward arrested in Juarez by Carranza officers, the American said.

Leiva, according to this American, who was in jail with him prior to the Villa officer's execution, asked that a letter be sent to his aged mother in Brownsville, Tex., telling of his fate. According to this American who made a full report of the execution to the United States government agents here today, an effort was made by Leiva to secure a pardon because of his nationality, but the Carranza officers informed him he had forfeited his citizenship when he joined Villa.

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VILLA STARTS TO
ATTACK TORREON
WITH MAIN BAND

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 14.—Francisco Villa and his main band have started south toward Torreon, the metropolis of Coahuila, according to private information received here in letters from Chihuahua City by prominent foreign refugees. Leaving a safe force to protect his caches of ammunition in western Chihuahua and his base hospital at Guerrero, Chihuahua, Villa was reported to have moved south and east through Satevo toward Torreon. A report was also received here that Santa Rosalia and Jimenez had been re-occupied by Villa forces, but was unconfirmed.

Reports of fighting south of Chihuahua City, in the vicinity of Bachimba pass, continue to reach the border and are admitted as possibilities by Carranza officers in Juarez. This fighting, however, consists of skirmishes between small bands of Villa's men and General Murguia's outposts and scouting parties, the Carranza officers say.

Christmas Cards, Handicraft Shop.

FEWER APPLES NOW IN
STORAGE THAN YEAR AGO

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—Reports on December 1 from 450 storages show that their rooms contain 2,603,584 barrels and 3,913,290 boxes of apples. Holdings reported from 367 storages showed 2,421,954 barrels and 3,744,162 boxes on December 1, as compared with 4,213,203 barrels and 3,684,557 boxes on the same date a year ago, a difference of 52.6 per cent. The barreled apple holdings show a decrease of 42.5 per cent and the boxed apples an increase of 1.6 per cent, as compared with those of last year.

The holdings have increased 9 per cent since November 15, as compared with an increase of 9 per cent during the same period last year.

Inasmuch as some of the cold storage firms have not reported their holdings, this report is not quantitatively complete.

MISCHA ELMAN, VIOLINIST,
INJURED IN TAXI CLASH

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Mischa Elman, noted violinist, was injured, although not seriously, today, when a taxicab in which he was riding collided with a street car. Elman's hands escaped injury.

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XMAS SALES

BUY USEFUL GIFTS AT THE CLOSING OUT SALE AND SAVE MONEY

FURS! FURS!
At Prices You Will Not be Able Ever to Match Again. All Reliable Makes, Gordon Ferguson, Annis Quality

- \$8.50 Russian Mink Muff \$4.98
 - \$12.00 River Mink Muff \$8.50
 - \$10.00 River Mink Barrel Muff \$5.98
 - \$19.50 River Mink Saddle Muff \$9.98
 - \$18.50 Jap Mink Pillow Muff \$9.98
 - \$16.50 Black Opposum Muff \$9.98
 - \$39.00 Nippon Mink Muff, large \$22.50
 - \$50.00 Nippon Mink Muff, large \$27.50
 - \$87.50 Nippon Mink Set \$46.50
 - \$35.00 Black China Wolf Set \$22.50
 - \$57.50 Black Russian Wolf Set \$35.00
 - Children's Muffs \$2.98, \$3.98 and \$5.98
 - Children's Sets \$1.98, \$3.69 up to \$8.98
- This is only a small portion of Furs carried in stock and a big saving on every piece.

\$40 TAILORED SUITS \$14
Choice of the entire stock of Tailored Suits. This stock cannot last long at this price, actual values up to \$40, closing out price \$14

Umbrellas for Xmas Gifts
Ladies' and Gentlemen's Umbrellas at the closing out sale at a decided saving—
\$1.25 Umbrellas 89¢
\$1.50 Umbrellas 98¢
\$2.00 and \$2.25 Umbrellas \$1.49
\$3.50 and \$4.00 Umbrellas \$2.49
Up to \$12.00 Umbrellas \$2.98

Useful Gifts for the Girl
\$1.50 and \$1.75 Wash Dresses 98¢
\$3.75 Serge Dresses, sizes 6-8 \$1.98
\$9.50 Jack Tar Serge Dresses \$5.98
Dolls 49¢, 79¢, 98¢ up to \$10.00
95¢ Umbrellas 69¢

USEFUL GIFTS
Up to 75¢ Hat Pins 19¢
Up to \$1.00 Hat Pins 39¢
\$3.50 Wrist Watches \$1.98
Up to 50¢ Jewelry Novelties 10¢
Up to 50¢ Combs and Barretts 10¢
Up to 75¢ Combs and Barretts 19¢

MILLINERY
At unheard of prices. I have sold hats for many years, but never at these little prices

- Up to \$3.50 Untrimmed Hats \$1.00
- Up to \$8.50 Untrimmed Hats \$1.98
- Up to \$3.50 Children's Hats and Tams 98¢
- Up to \$1.25 Boys' Little Fellows' Hats 39¢
- Up to \$7.00 Trimmed Hats \$1.00
- Up to \$15.00 Trimmed Hats \$3.98

SILK WAISTS FOR XMAS GIFTS
A handsome line of Waists to choose from in Silk Crepes, Georgettes, Taffetas, Nets and Laees, some values up to \$15.00, closing-out sale \$3.98

Silk Petticoats for Xmas Gifts
At closing Out Prices \$2.98, \$3.39 and \$4.69

Bath Robes for Xmas Gifts
\$3.50 Children's Bath Robes \$2.49
\$6.00 Ladies' Bath Robes \$3.98
\$7.50 Ladies' and Gents' Bath Robes \$4.98
\$14.50 Padded Silk Robes \$8.98
\$21.50 Japanese Silk Emb. Kimona \$13.98

SILK GLOVES FOR XMAS GIFTS
\$1.25 Niagara Maid Long Silk Gloves 89¢
\$1.75 Niagara Maid Long Silk Gloves \$1.39
65¢ Niagara Maid Short Silk Gloves 44¢
\$1.00 Niagara Maid Short Silk Gloves 69¢

Silk Underwear for Xmas Gifts
\$4.00 Niagara Maid Envelope Chemise \$3.19
\$2.75 Niagara Maid Emb. Vests \$1.98
\$9.50 Niagara Maid Union Suits \$5.98
\$5.00 Niagara Maid Union Suits \$3.39
Up to 65¢ Ribbons 29¢ Up to 45¢ Ribbons 19¢
Up to \$1.25 Ribbons 39¢

USEFUL GIFTS
Doll's Hats 39¢
Silks and Velvets for fancy work, up to \$2 values, yd. 98¢
75¢ Jap Silk, yard 39¢
Christmas Boxes 4¢ and 8¢
Up to \$3.50 Back Combs 98¢
Hand Bags, Beaded Bags, all at closing-out prices.

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