PEACE PROPOSALS CLEVER STROKE OF DIPLOMACY

(Continued From Page One.)

between Japan and Russia, if Japan should refuse to surrender those islands Russia would be obliged to support her.

Disarmament.

4. Nothing is said about disarmament or militarism. The hope that has buoyed democratic peoples in France and Great Britain has been the hope that the war would in some way put an end to the armed banditti style of government. These terms wouldn't do that. They would mean nothing but a truce with every nation arming itself to the teeth and incessantly expecting attack.

5. Germany would be left the dictator of the Balkans with supreme influence in the near east and a broad highway to the riches of the rest of it. With her colonies back she would become in ten years the commercial empress of the world, about which time all other nations then surviving would be driven into a new alliance against her.

6. Worst of all, nothing is done about the deep underlying economic cause of the war. Germany's ambition to have a port on the Atlantic, for instance, is neither won nor put out of the question. That means it will be up again, bristling with guns. The allies will say with reason that a peace made in this way would be a greater calamity to the world than the war itself. It would have unlimited chances of catastrophe. On the strength of the moral verdict about Serbia, Germany could, if she chose, annex Holland and get the mouths of the Rhine and the Atlantic port she wants so much. She could annex Switzerland and get the world's greatest water powers. With these alone she could override all commercial competition around the globe and be borne up to inconceivable wealth and power.

Kaiser's Master Mind.

Still, it was a master mind that made this move at this time. We have got to hand it to the kaiser. This was his devising and nobody's else. He has shown at other times a knowledge of the mental operations of other nations that seemed uncanny, but this beats them all.

Think of his knowing that a vast population in America, never understanding what the war was about, would be ready to cheer peace on any terms and failing to get it, might push over an embargo act that would paralyze Great Britain.

It was America he was playing for, and we have now to see how much he gets of it.

The allies will have to refuse the terms and the war will go on, with every speech in the reichstag beginning with: "We offered to make peace, but our enemies were wickedly determined to prolong the horrors of war."

Instead of peace, you will probably see more determined fighting, greater activity, greater expenditures, greater taxes.

There is now nothing on which the fight can be called off. Nothing has been decided so far except the tremendous advantages of a nation that carefully presses forward and the handicap of a nation that trusts to peace and popguns.

In the very nature of things, the unparalleled sacrifices of so many peoples cannot be turned off that way. In this world of ours war isn't like a scenic waterfall in a playhouse that you can turn on and turn off as you like. When you turn it on something has to be settled before you can turn it off.

A number of students of the University of California will return to Medford tonight to spend the holidays.

GREAT BRITAIN REJECTS GERMAN OFFER OF PEACE

(Continued From Page One).

on land and sea," had been liquidated by a "few pious phrases about humanity."

Premier Lloyd George announced it had been decided to give recognition to the agents of Former Premier Venizelos of Greece.

The speech of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg before the German reichstag was characterized by Mr. Lloyd George as constituting in substance a denial of the only terms upon which peace was possible.

To Consult Colonies.

Premier Lloyd George said the time had come when the dominions should be consulted more formally as to war. An imperial conference would be summoned at an early date to discuss vital questions. The premier said it was proposed to appoint a director of national service and that all industries and services would be scheduled as essential or non-essential to the war.

The premier said he was convinced the Irish question was a misunderstanding and that he hoped this misunderstanding would be removed.

Settlement of the Irish question, the premier added, would be a great war measure.

Rumanian Blunder.

Dealing with the war situation, the premier said he had to paint a stern but not gloomy picture. The Rumanian blunder was an unfortunate one, but at the worst it only prolonged the war and could not affect it. It might have a salutatory effect, he continued, in calling the attention of the allies to obvious defects of organization. To prevent the Rumanian situation from becoming worse, they had taken strong action. In Greece they were taking no risks. They had decided to recognize the agents of former Premier Venizelos.

Speaking of the western front, Mr. Lloyd George referred to the growth of the British armies there, and continued:

"I am convinced ultimate victory is sure if the nation shows the same spirit of endurance and readiness to learn as the mud-stained armies at the front."

Domestic Problems.

Turning to the more purely political of the domestic problems before the new ministry, Mr. Lloyd George said:

"We are anxious to avoid all controversial questions. The functions of the premier and leader of the house of commons have been separated because it was shown the double tasks were too much for one man. The makeup of the new cabinet is best adapted for the purpose of war. In war you want prompt decision, and the allies have suffered disaster after disaster from tardiness in decision."

The premier analyzed the German chancellor's speech and then declared emphatically:

"Without reparation peace is impossible. Moreover, what guarantee is there subterfuges will not be used in an effort to overthrow any treaties of peace whereunto we might now enter?

Purposes of War.

"We must keep a steadfast eye on the purpose for which we entered the war. We entered it to defend Europe from aggressions of the Prussian military caste. We must insist that there be the most complete guarantees against this caste ever disturbing again the peace of Europe.

"Prussia has been a bad neighbor. Now that the war has really been undertaken, it would be folly not to see to it that this swashbuckling through the streets of Europe and this disturbance of peaceful citizens was dealt with here and now as the most serious offense against the law of nations."

"We will wait until we hear what terms and guarantees there are other than those, better than those, surer than those which Germany so lightly broke. Meanwhile we shall put trust in our unbroken army rather than in broken faith."

It was ten minutes past 4 o'clock when the premier rose before the house of commons.

"I appear before the house," he began, "with the greatest responsibility which has fallen on any man as chief adviser of the crown—in the midst of the most gigantic war ever waged, on which depends the destiny of nations and humanity. The responsibilities of the government are accentuated by the declaration of the German chancellor and the note communicated through the United States. Our answer will be given in full accord with our allies."

This statement of the premier was greeted with cheers.

German Note a Paraphrase.

"The German note was a mere paraphrase of the chancellor's speech. Each of the allies has separately and independently considered the matter and arrived at the same conclusion. I am glad the first answer has been given by France and Russia. They had unquestionably the first right to speak, for the enemy is still on their soil and their sacrifices have been great. I simply stand here to give clear and definite support to the statements they have made.

"Anyone who wantonly prolongs this conflict has a crime on his soul which oceans of tears could not cleanse," the premier declared, "but anyone who abandons the struggle without attaining the object would be even more guilty. Are we likely to attain our object by accepting the German proposals? To accept the proposals would be to put our heads into a noose. Historic example causes us to regard the proposal with disquiet."

Asquith Offers Services.

Referring to the mobilization of labor, the premier said no man would be taken into the army if he were capable of rendering more useful services outside it.

Arthur Neville Chamberlain, he announced, had been appointed director general of national service.

After the premier's speech, which lasted one hour and fifty-five minutes, Former Premier Asquith, rising to reply, said his one desire was to place at the disposal of the government whatever experience he possessed.

Mr. Asquith said it must be a peace which achieved the purpose for which the war was entered on, such a peace as would be accepted gladly and that "anything short of it we are bound to repudiate."

MILITIA NEEDS TRAINING

(Continued From Page One.)

General Scott said. "It has always failed us. It is undemocratic, unreliable, inefficient and expensive."

Asked if double the pay of privates would improve the present system, General Scott said:

"If you increase the pay of the army to a point where it would produce a force of the size we must have, you will bankrupt the nation."

Baker on Compulsion

Secretary Baker told the house military committee today that he had not yet made up his mind whether universal compulsory military service or a system of selective conscription was the best method of preparation for national defense. He discussed difficulties met with in mobilization of the National Guard and various questions connected with the border service.

"Do you favor compulsory military service?" asked Representative McKellar of Tennessee.

"You will understand me in not answering yes or no to that question," replied Secretary Baker.

"The obligation to serve the country is a universal one. The question of how to bring about the anticipatory preparation for national defense is a question of policy, rather than theory. Whether universal military service, or a selective conscription is the correct answer, I do not know. The theory of a common interest in a common country is satisfied by a method of selecting soldiers that is not voluntary in character."

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Mr. and Mrs. William Von der Hellen of Eagle Point were shopping in Medford Tuesday.

Bert Nicholson of Griffin Creek was a business visitor in the city Tuesday.

J. M. Lewis of Jacksonville transacted business in Medford Tuesday afternoon.

C. R. Heckman of Central Point was a Medford visitor Tuesday.

Mary Hanley of Central Point was shopping in the city Tuesday afternoon.