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PEACE SOP OFFERED BY GERMANY

Chancellor Hollweg Declares Germany Never Desired War Against the United States and Does Not Desire It Today—If U-Boats Are Cause of Conflict, America Is to Blame—Electoral Reforms Advocated for German People.

BERLIN, March 29.—Germany never had the slightest intention of attacking the United States of America and does not have such intentions now. It never desired war against the United States of America and does not desire it today, was the declaration of the German imperial chancellor today, in a speech in the reichstag.

The chancellor made important declarations concerning Germany's policy toward the United States and Russia.

America to Blame.
"How did these things develop?" asked the chancellor in speaking of the relations with the United States. He then proceeded to answer the question by reviewing the causes which led up to the German use of submarines in unrestricted warfare.

Declaring that Germany had undertaken unrestricted submarine warfare for its defense, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg said:

"If the American nation considers this a cause for which to declare war against the German nation with which it has lived in peace for more than 100 years, if this warrants an increase of bloodshed, we shall not have to bear the burden of responsibility for it."

Internal Reforms.

LONDON, March 29.—Information direct from Germany in the hands of the Associated Press asserts that Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, imperial chancellor, in his coming speech will not only offer a large measure of electoral reforms, but also a possible modification of the submarine campaign in an eleventh hour attempt to stave off war with the United States.

The German government is greatly stirred by the revolution in Russia, especially in regard to its effect on American public opinion and believes, according to the information at hand, that internal reform in Germany will do more to soften the animosity of the American people than anything else could.

Cabinet is Scared.

The Berlin cabinet in preparation for the speech, is declared to have been holding frequent conferences with extremists against the German socialists, who, however, are reported not greatly impressed by the promises made, some of their leaders having frankly told the government's spokesman that Germany can expect no more from the present regime than Russia could have gained by retaining the overthrown dynasty.

The report makes the clear asser-

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RELIEF WORKERS TO BE HELD IN GERMANY

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Officials of the state department today confirmed reports that American relief workers withdrawn from Belgium and northern France will be taken to Germany and submitted to a short "new quarantine." This procedure was agreed to a long time ago when it seemed probable that the Americans would have to leave. Officials here, therefore, regard it as entirely correct.

Seven members of the commission, who have been working at the French front will go to Baden, Germany, for two weeks under full freedom of movement. The forty or so workers in Belgium will assemble for a similar period at any city agreed upon by them. Minister Brand Whitlock will not be detained in any way, but will proceed immediately to his post at Havre, France, the temporary Belgian capital.

BRYAN URGES REFERENDUM ON WAR QUESTION

Commoner Addresses Appeal to Congress Urging Application of So-Called Bryan Peace Plan, Which Provides for Investigation of Disputes by International Tribunals.

MIAMI, Fla., March 29.—William J. Bryan today addressed an appeal to the senate and house of representatives, urging that an attempt be made to secure the suspension of Germany's ruthless submarine campaign through the application of the so-called Bryan peace plan which provides for an investigation of all disputes by an international tribunal before resort to war.

Mr. Bryan asked that congress also consult the wishes of the people through a referendum if it concludes that nothing but war will satisfy the nation's honor. Mr. Bryan's appeal to congress follows:

Bryan's Appeal.

"Exercising the citizen's right of petition, I appeal to you. The dispute with Germany has passed beyond the domain of diplomacy and some advise settlement by the sword. The metropolitan press, which tried to prevent the re-election of the president and failed, undismayed by a popular verdict of more than one-half million now seeks to lash the country into a fury and urges the government to take part in the European conflict.

"To you, and to you only, is given constitutional authority to declare war—war which in this case may mean the signing of the death warrant of thousands, even millions of your countrymen and the laying of grievous burdens upon future generations. Before you take this blood upon your hands, consider, I pray you, first that the wrongs which you would punish, cruel and unjustifiable as they are, are not intended primarily against this country, but are acts of desperation directed against other nations with which the offenders are at war.

No Invasion Threatened.

"Second, that our land is not threatened with invasion, but that we are asked to go 3000 miles for a chance to fight.

"Third, that we have not the excuse for going to war that the European nations had. They had no machinery for peace. We have a peace plan offered by this nation to the world and now embodied in thirty treaties with three-quarters of the population on the globe. The plan has the endorsement of the president, the commendation of the senate and the approval of the people at the polls. It provides for investigation of all disputes by an international tribunal before resort to war."

No German Treaty

"Fortunately these treaties compel us to employ the plan with Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia before going to war with them. Germany, formally approved the plan, although no treaty has been concluded with her. Shall we repudiate our own plan the first time we have an opportunity to employ it? If, as the president recently declared, the American people do not want war, isn't it worth while to try the peace plan before

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BRITISH DEFEAT 20,000 TURKS NEAR PALESTINE

English Advance 15 Miles Along the Southern Palestine Coast to Near Gaza—French Capture Important Munitions Depot—Germans Now Entrenched Along West Front.

LONDON, March 29.—The British army in Palestine has defeated a Turkish army of 20,000 men, capturing 900 men including the entire divisional staff of the Fifty-third Turkish division.

The official statement says that British troops have advanced for a distance of fifteen miles along the southern Palestine coast of the Mediterranean. The British forces have pushed forward from Rafa to the Wadi Ghuzeh, a river five miles south of Gaza (Ghuzeh.) Gaza is 20 miles north of the Egyptian-Syrian boundary.

French Capture Depot.

PARIS, March 29.—An important munitions and supply depot has been captured by the French, the war office announced today. Artillery fighting continued during the night between the Somme and the Aisne and the French kept in contact every where with the German lines. Soissons was bombarded by heavy German guns.

Germans Entrenched.

LONDON, March 29.—The Germans are now entrenched along the front over which the French and British have been advancing, according to a statement made to The Associated Press today by Major General F. B. Maurice.

German Report.

BERLIN, March 29.—French efforts to recapture the positions recently taken from them in the Champagne region were futile, army headquarters announced today. The French sustained heavy losses in these attacks.

A French attack on the German lines in the region of Hill 304 northwest of Verdun, carried out on a wide front, also failed. The British lost 55 men in prisoners in an engagement near Croisilles.

On British Front.

LONDON, March 29.—The Germans are continuing to offer energetic resistance on the northern part of their new line in France, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France says the Germans evidently regard Croisilles as a point of great technical importance and are contesting the approach of the British to it in force, but are being hard-pressed.

The British gained considerable ground south and west of Croisilles. The Germans fell back, fighting as they withdrew and suffering heavy casualties.

ELISHA LEE MANAGER OF PENNSYLVANIA LINES

PHILADELPHIA, March 29.—Elisha Lee, assistant general manager of the Pennsylvania railroad lines east of Pittsburg, was today appointed general manager. He succeeds S. C. Long, who died several days ago.

WOMEN LEARNING TO REPAIR AND DRIVE AUTOS FOR U. S. IN CASE OF WAR



Women throughout the country have organized schools, donned bloomers and overalls, and are learning to rive and repair automobiles, so they may be ready to handle the machines for the United States in case of war. The women here shown are part of a class at the West Side Y. W. C. A., in New York.

RUSSIANS APPEAL TO TEUTON LABOR TO RESIST CROWN

PETROGRAD, March 29.—An appeal to the workmen of the German and Austrian coalition to rise against the imperial authority and to establish their freedom, says the Petrograd Telegraph agency (the Russian official news agency) was launched at a mass meeting of workmen, soldiers and deputies held today at the duma.

The appeal was directed to the proletariat of the whole world, but it specially designates the central powers, urging the workmen of these countries to "throw off the yoke of autocratic rule as the Russian people have overthrown the imperial autocrat and refuse to serve longer as an instrument in the hands of kings, capitalists and bankers."

WESTERN UNION ADOPTS 8-HOUR DAY STANDARD

Effective May 1, 1917, all commercial and traffic department employees of the Western Union Telegraph company at functional and functional branch offices will be paid on a basis of eight hours for a day's work. Same schedule will be applied in such smaller towns and non-functional branches as may be arranged. The plant department gang employees and such others whose work admits of definite hours of duty will also be paid on an eight hour basis.

PACIFISTS URGE CAMPAIGN AGAINST WAR PREPARATIONS

NEW YORK, March 29.—Prominent women in large cities throughout the country received today from the women's committee of the emergency peace federation telegrams urging them to hold meetings and raise funds to support the peace demonstration to be made in Washington at the opening of congress April 2.

"The Women of America" said the messages, "can and must keep America out of war at all costs."

The peace federations has begun a campaign to raise \$200,000 for propaganda. The pacifists, especially the women have stationed missionaries at the army and navy recruiting places who urge young men not to enlist. Two of these speakers were rescued by the police yesterday from an angry crowd.

By united efforts, the appeal declares, "we can stop this awful murder which is the shame of humanity."

WHEAT FOR EXPORT BREAKS PRICE RECORD

CHICAGO, March 29.—Wheat for delivery next May today sold at \$1.97 1/2, the highest price since the beginning of the war in Europe. The locking up of the Russian supply, the Argentine failure, the short domestic supply and crop damages this spring lie at the bottom of present prices, according to crop experts. At the close yesterday May wheat sold at \$1.94 1/4 to \$1.94 1/2.

RUSSIANS UNITE ALL FACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF WAR

Masses of Nation Decide War Is no Longer Struggle Between Nations, But Between the New Spirit of Democracy and Old Spirit of Imperialism—Socialists Co-Operating.

PETROGRAD, March 29.—A declaration in support of the war has been issued by a committee of workmen, soldiers and deputies and apparently represents the sober conclusion, which the masses of the population have reached, after being swayed this way and that by the turbulent currents and cross-currents which swept through the country in the first days of the revolution. This conclusion is that liberty and victory over the Germans are inseparable and that the responsibility for plunging Europe into war rests with the Hohenzollern family and Prussian imperialistic ambitions.

Democracy vs. Imperialism.

The tendency is to regard the war no longer as a struggle between nations, but as one between the new spirit of democracy and the old spirit of imperialism. The people are eagerly desirous of peace, but are ready to devote redoubled energy to war if that is the only way of achieving it. Even the dissident voice of the extreme socialist elements, which at first openly declared itself against war and counseled the soldiers to lay down their arms has been drowned in the universal cry that the struggle must continue.

The peasants throughout the country are systematically organizing militia to replace the old police. They are also establishing new local authorities and convoking communal assemblies, which express the intention of supporting the new government and selling country products for victualing the army and people. The idea of equal rights for women is beginning to gain weight.

Workmen Assisting.

The workmen in all the factories engaged in manufacturing for the national defense have decided to renounce for the period of the war one of the fundamental items of the labor program, namely the eight-hour day, it is announced here semi-officially.

The decision was taken to augment the output of munitions.

Two members of the Russian duma have returned to Petrograd from Kronstadt, where the revolutionary movement was least organized and met with armed resistance, says a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd today.

During their stay a great meeting was held at which the deputies explained the situation to representatives of the tefle and garrison, who cheered the speeches vigorously.

The work at the port adds the message, is once more in full swing.

83 Eggs in 83 Days.

LEXINGTON, Ky., March 29.—A world's record was made here today in the international consecutive egg laying contest when Lady Walnut, White Leghorn, number 707, laid an egg. It was the eighty-third consecutive day that this hen has produced an egg. She is owned by Dr. R. I. Ireland of Louisville, Ky. The best previous record was eighty-two eggs in that many consecutive days.

SPAIN IN THROES OF REVOLUTION AGAINST THRONE

Constitutional Guarantees Suspended in All Provinces and Martial Law Proclaimed—Riots Over the Food Shortage and Political Unrest Culminate in Appeal to People.

LONDON, March 29.—The Official Gazette at Madrid published today a decree suspending constitutional guarantees in all provinces of the kingdom, Reuter's Madrid correspondent cables.

LONDON, March 29.—The Spanish government will adopt measures made necessary for the preservation of order in view of an appeal to the people which is characterized as seditious, says a Reuter dispatch from Madrid.

Seditious Appeal.

PARIS, March 29.—An "appeal to the people," which has been issued in Spain has been declared by the government to be seditious, a Havana dispatch from Madrid reports. The signers of the appeal, whose names have not been disclosed, have been arrested. The cabinet has taken the affair into its own hands and will deal with it summarily.

Internal disorders and widespread strikes in Spain have been reported at intervals during the last year. In December a general strike of 24 hours was called by the labor organizations as a protest against the increased price of food. In January rioting and incendiarism at Saragossa were reported. Last summer the railway employes struck and for a week Spain was under martial law.

No information had been received here early this afternoon in explanation of the suspension of the constitutional guarantees in Spain.

Begins Like Russia.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Frequent reports from Spain of widespread unrest because of her attitude toward the war and an almost universal shortage of food made officials at the state department receive today's announcement of the suspension of constitutional guarantees without surprise. Since the beginning of the war there has been decided internal dissension as to Spain's attitude in the war and during the last few months, especially with the sharpening of the German submarine campaign, the food shortage has aggravated the trouble.

Officials here, pointing out the similarity of the Russian revolution, which also began through political unrest, deepened by food shortage, were unwilling to predict the outcome.

Classes Pro-German.

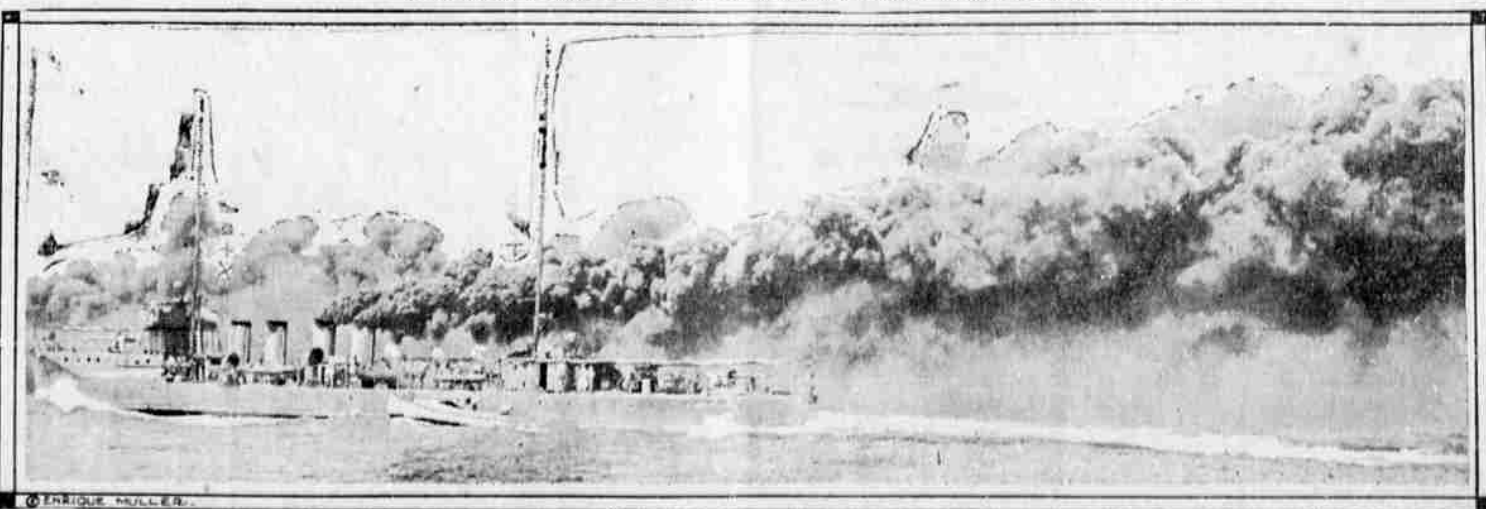
Recent reports have shown the food shortage has been felt in cities and in the country as well. Germany's ruthless submarine warfare has sunk many Spanish vessels, has tied up most of the others and virtually stopped foreign trade. As a result the country has been threatened with an industrial crisis.

A deeper cause of dissension has been Spain's war policy, the court, the clergy and the army have been reported decidedly pro-German, so that Spain has not been fully trusted by the allies. Business interests, as in many other neutral countries, and the people generally, were reported anti-German.

GERMAN RAIDER SINKS JAP WARSHIP

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 29.—A dispatch to the Canadian News from Tokio says that a German raider has sunk a Japanese warship in the southern Pacific. The names of the vessels were not disclosed.

It was officially announced in Tokio about two weeks ago that a converted German cruiser had been sighted in the Indian ocean and was being traced by Japanese and British warships after the raider had sunk a Japanese freight ship. Prior to that two British steamships were reported to have been destroyed by an armed merchantman off Colombo, Ceylon.



U. S. NAVY PERFECTS SMOKE SCREEN TO BLIND ENEMY AS SHIPS ATTACK! U. S. destroyer throwing off a screen of heavy black smoke, which completely hides its movements. The smoke screen, an American invention, utilized by the Germans in the battle of Dogger Bank, has been further perfected by the United States navy.