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SEPARATE PEACE PLAN REPUDIATED

Ambassador Bakhmetieff, Head of Russian Mission Declares That Russian People Themselves Oppose Separate Peace With Germany—Russia Will Not Fall to Be Worthy Partner in League of Honor—Perpetuation of Democracy Aim.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Ambassador Bakhmetieff, head of the Russian mission, emphatically declared in his address today before congress, assembled in the hall of the house, that the Russian people themselves oppose a separate peace with Germany.

The ambassador's declaration came at the end of the most remarkable and demonstrative reception yet given any of the foreign missions in either house of congress, shouts and cheers came from floor and galleries. Members of congress who on previous visits of missions have applauded or remained quietly in their seats, cheered loudly. The men, women and children in the galleries caught the sweeping wave of patriotism, shouting and waving handkerchiefs. The applause and cheering were renewed when the ambassador added:

"Rumors of a separate peace are without foundation in fact. Russia's endeavor is for a lasting peace between democratic nations. Triumph of the German autocracy would render such peace impossible. Russia will not fall to be a worthy partner in the league of honor."

Supporting Government.

Several minutes cheering greeted Ambassador Bakhmetieff. Speaking in English, he told of the acts of the old government which led up to its overthrow. His words were listened to in intense silence, but when he began to relate how the Russian people were standing by the new government and how anxious they were to take their place among the free nations of the world, the wildest applause interrupted him.

"There are now being firmly established and deeply embedded in the minds of the nation principles that power is reposed and springs from and only from the people," he said. "To effectuate these principles and to enact appropriate fundamental laws is going to be the main function of the constitutional assembly which is to be convoked as promptly as possible."

"Reposing confidence in such rule, the Russian people are rendering to the new authorities their support. The people are realizing more and more that for the sake of further freedom law must be maintained and manifestation of anarchy suppressed."

Cabinet Supported.

"The last resolutions which have been framed by the council of workmen, the congress of peasants and other democratic organizations render the best proof of the general understanding of the necessity of creating strong power. The coalitionary character of the new cabinet which includes eminent socialist leaders and represents all the vital elements of the nation, therefore enjoying its full support is most effectively securing the unity and power of the central government, the lack of which was so keenly felt during the first two months after the revolution."

"As to foreign policy, with all emphasis, may I state that Russia rejects any idea of separate peace. I am aware that rumors were circulated in this country that a separate peace

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UKRAINE, RUSSIA DISTRICT TO REVOLT

LONDON, June 23.—Renter's Petrograd correspondent reports that the Ukraine military conference has called on the Ukraine national assembly to cease its relations with the Russian provisional government and proceed immediately to effect an independent organization of the Ukraine.

GERMANS FAIL TO BREAK FRENCH LINES ON AISNE

Continuing Offensive, Crown Prince Makes Repeated Attacks in Effort to Forestall French Offensive Against Laon But Meets With Slight Success—Gains Not Held.

PARIS, June 23.—Continuing their offensive on the Aisne front, the Germans last night made repeated attacks in the region of Vanxhallen and southeast of Filaine. They also multiplied their efforts against the French positions north of Froidmont, where they failed yesterday. Today's official statement says the Germans made considerable sacrifices without gaining the slightest advantage.

Heavy attacks by the German are continuing along the Aisne front, with the fighting at times assuming almost the proportions of a general engagement.

Effort a Failure.

No substantial successes have attended the crown prince's efforts. The latest bulletins from the front, indeed, indicate the fighting to be turning more favorably for the French, whose artillery is proving that it has lost none of its effectiveness in breaking up attacks.

The crown prince's primary purpose, apparently is to forestall the renewal of the French offensive movement which was expected in this important sector, southwest and south of the fortress of Laon, the German key position, which would be seriously menaced by any further French advance. So far as appears, General Petain has lost none of his commanding positions, while the Germans have sacrificed heavily for such small gains as they have been able to effect.

German Plan.

The plan of the Germans seems to be to launch heavy forces on comparatively narrow fronts in the area under attack. They penetrated a salient in the French line yesterday on the Chemin-Des-Dames in the neighborhood of Epine-De-Cheerney on such an attack. Last night they tried to debouch from the ground thus gained but found all their efforts to the west and near Chevreux and other points to the east were likewise futile.

WILSON FAVORS AIRSHIP PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Unqualified approval of the great airplane program for which congress will be asked to provide an initial appropriation of \$600,000,000, is given by President Wilson in a letter to Secretary Baker, made public today by the war department. The president wrote: "I have your letter yesterday about the production of aircraft and the training of men to operate them and want to say I am entirely willing to back up such a program as you suggest. I hope that you will present it in the strongest possible way to the proper committees of the congress."

A bill to authorize the program will be introduced in congress next week. It will propose the construction of 35,000 aeroplanes and the training of many thousand flyers.

THOUSAND SLAIN MUNITION EXPLOSION

AMSTERDAM, June 23.—More than 1000 persons were killed or injured or are missing in consequence of an explosion in munitions factories at Bloewig, according to an announcement made in the lower house of the Austrian parliament by the minister of defense as forwarded in a dispatch from Vienna.

The casualties were given by the minister as follows: Dead 136; missing 170; wounded 625. Of the wounded, 529 received only slight injuries. The minister said the explosion was probably due to lack of caution on the part of men employed in a trench mortar workshop.

RUSSIAN ARMY SWEARS FEALTY TO GOVERNMENT

Brasloff's Popularity Restores Morale and Loyalty of Soldiers—Situation Shows Marked Improvement as All Classes Rally to Support of Provisional Ministry.

LONDON, June 23.—The Times correspondent at Russian headquarters cites General Brasloff in support of his own observation for the assertion that a marked improvement has occurred in the morale of the Russian army in the last six weeks. He says that desertion has practically ceased and that the soldiers are becoming fully conscious of their duty to the country.

The personal magnetism of General Brasloff and the prestige of his past victories are said to have worked miracles in restoring the spirit of the army. The correspondent says that whenever the summons comes for an advance, it will be loyally responded to.

Situation Improves.

In spite of the disorders at Sebastopol and anarchists threats here, there are indications of a marked improvement in the situation with a growing support of the government and a growing animosity against the forces which make for disintegration in the army.

The resolution passed on Thursday by the Pan-Russian congress of councils of deputies is regarded as a signal defeat for the extremists and pacifists, the motion supporting the provisional government being passed by a majority of more than four to one. A further significant resolution admits that the transfer of all power to the democracy would weaken the revolution. This is the democracy's own admission that it needs the knowledge and experience of the educated classes.

Repudiates Separate Peace.

By declaring for the speedy attainment of "a general peace" and at the same time for "an increase in the fighting capacity of the army," congress tacitly repudiated the program of a separate peace. Equally important was the unanimous vote of the peasants congress, representing 130,000,000 people, approving the expulsion of the German pacifist agent, Robert Grimm, and inviting volunteers to enter the army and strengthen it by their example.

Speeches of similar tenor in the Cossack congress were still more emphatic, so much so that the extremist anarchist organizations today speak of the resurrection of the Nagalka, the Cossack whip formerly used for suppressing disturbances. A representative of the Amur Cossacks declared that 8,000,000 Cossacks were ready to fight in support of the revolution.

STORMING BATTALIONS IN RUSSIAN ARMY

PETROGRAD, June 22.—One of the most favorable features of the situation on the front is the formation of "storming battalions," which are newly created army units composed of soldiers who favor a policy of active fighting. Soldiers who wish to fight are transferred to battalions composed entirely of men holding this view. These men receive red and black arm bands to distinguish them from others.

The idea is said to be spreading like wildfire.

CHIEF FORESTER GRAVES COMMISSIONED MAYOR

PARIS, June 23.—Among the latest reinforcements to the American military mission is Major Harry Solon Graves, chief forester of the United States, who was commissioned a major in the reserves when he volunteered to investigate forestry conditions in France. Major Graves will investigate the feasibility of bringing over a regiment of American woodsmen to aid in the conservation of French forests, if such assistance should be necessary.

HELMET TO REPLACE CROWN OF THORNS



Anton Lang, famed as "Christus" in the Oberammergau passion play, has been called to the colors in Germany. Known to the world as wearer of a crown of thorns, he now will don the steel helmet and face bullets.

CONFIRM SINKING OF SUBMARINE BY AMERICAN SHIP

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Confirmation of the sinking of a German submarine by the navy gunner crew of an armed American merchantman, mentioned in yesterday's dispatches, was received by the navy department today, in a report from Chief Boatswain's Mate O. J. Gullickson, commanding the gunners.

The report was made public by Secretary Daniels immediately upon its receipt. After describing the unsuccessful attempt to torpedo the steamer, the report said:

"A periscope was sighted off the starboard beam and fire was immediately commenced from the forward guns at about two thousand yards range. The ship was headed toward the periscope. All shots were falling very close to the periscope. Suddenly a shot from the forward gun hit just in front of the periscope, making the submarine submerge and a light blue smoke came up from the stern of the submarine. The periscope appeared again at a range of about six hundred yards, when a shot from the after gun hit it squarely on the water line, making small bits of steel fly and causing commotion of bubbles in the water. Apparently the submarine was either sunk or badly damaged, as nothing further was seen of it."

ENGLEWOOD RAISES 5 TIMES ALLOTMENT

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Englewood, N. J., a residential community near New York City, has collected more than five times its apportionment for the hundred million dollar Red Cross mercy fund and stands first in a list of honor cities issued today by the Red Cross campaign headquarters.

Flint, Mich., was second in the list, San Jose, Calif., third, all having raised more than twice their quota. New York City with \$33,647,000 of the entire country's \$77,000,000, collected to date, is thirty-fifth, having raised 84 percent of its \$40,000,000 apportionment.

FAIR WEATHER FOR COMING WEEK

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Weather conditions for the week beginning Sunday, issued by the weather bureau today follow: Pacific state—Generally fair, temperature normal.

DRYS VICTORIOUS IN HOUSE FIGHT FOR PROHIBITION

Barkley's Amendment to Food Control Bill Which Prohibits Use of Food, Food Material or Feeds for Production of Beverages During War Adopted by the House.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Representative Barkley's amendment to the food control bill which would prohibit the use of food, food material or feeds for the production of alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages during the war was adopted by the house 132 to 114.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Prohibitionists were defeated today in the first legislative brush on the dry section of the food control bill when Representative Hamlin of Missouri, acting as chairman of the committee of the whole, sustained a point of order against an amendment by Representative Webb, designed to give the president power to take over liquor for re-distillation.

Consideration of the prohibition section of the food control bill began immediately after rejection, by a vote of 125 to 33 of the Meeker amendment to strike out the price fixing section of the bill.

The contest was over the question whether the section of the bill authorizing the president to limit, regulate or reduce the supply of food materials or feeds used in making alcoholic liquors shall be changed. Prohibitionists were determined to secure if possible the solution of a stronger "dry" provision, and their forces were lined up for the fray.

Most of them favor absolute prohibition of the use of grain for beverage purposes during the war, but are divided over the various pending proposals to accomplish this.

Consideration of the food bill continued in the senate today while the leaders held further informal conferences in an effort to reach an agreement on disputed points in the measure.

IMPORTS BREAK ALL PAST RECORDS

WASHINGTON, June 23.—American imports totalling \$281,000,000 reached the highest total of any month in the history of American commerce. Exports of \$551,000,000 showed a gain of \$21,000,000 over April.

Both imports and exports for the twelve months ending with May set new yearly records, imports being valued at \$2,600,000,000 and exports at \$6,183,000,000.

Seventy-one percent of the merchandise entering in May came free of duty. For the twelve month period the percentage was 69.3. Gold exports in May valued at \$58,000,000 were \$6,000,000 greater than imports. Net gold imports for the twelve months were valued at \$776,000,000.

RED CROSS MISSION TO BE SENT FRANCE

WASHINGTON, June 23.—The Red Cross will send an American commission to Russia to work along and behind the battle front, in the same way a similar commission is to operate in France and Belgium. In that way ambulances and other relief for the Russian army will be supplied.

BANK CALL TO BE ISSUED MONDAY

WASHINGTON, June 23.—The comptroller of the currency announced today that a call for reports on condition of national banks will be issued within 48 hours. These are the last reports to be made, computing reserves under the federal reserve act before its recent amendment.

WEST IN THIRD PLACE IN DRIVE OF RED CROSS

Clear Margin Over New England—More Than 80 Millions at Headquarters—Monday Pershing Day—When Appeal Will be Sent From France—Campaign Into Next Week

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Third place in yesterday's contributions to the great drive of the Red Cross for a hundred million humanity saving dollars was won by the western states with a clear margin of \$210,000 over New England and only \$114,000 less than the middle Atlantic section. But in total contributions to date the west is still fourth, with only \$82,000 needed to overtake her New England rivals.

More than \$57,500,000 had been received in contributions at headquarters up to noon today and new pledges were being received by the thousand.

While Monday is supposed to close the formal campaign, scores of cities are refusing to quit on that date but will continue the campaign next week.

Monday will be Pershing day. In announcing the day the directors said:

"This Red Cross money goes straight to help our gallant boys. The appeal must go straight to the heart of every lover of his country. Twenty millions yet needed to complete the hundred million funds. We dare not fail in this, the greatest humanitarian opportunity in history."

ARMY DRAFTING LIKELY TO BE DONE AT WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Regulations for drafting the new national army now awaiting President Wilson's approval, contain provision for every step in the great undertaking except the actual method of the draft itself.

No official announcement has been made and official confirmation is being withheld but it has been stated that the federal government itself will do the drafting, probably here in Washington so there will be no opportunity for local favoritisms, political or otherwise.

As the regulations stand now, every registered man bears a number. The numbers will be forwarded to Washington and the drawing will be entirely by number. The identity of the numbered men will be unknown to those in charge of the draft machinery and can be established only by comparing a number with a printed list of the man's home district.

The question of exemptions will go before the local boards. If a man is exempted the man bearing the number which was drawn next in order will take his place and so on until the first increment of 625,000 has been assembled. The others will be called as the need develops. It is hoped to have all the men in training by September 1.

GOVERNMENT TO SEIZE OIL AND COAL

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Secretary Daniels told the senate land committee today that within a short time the government must commandeer oil and coal supplies unless it can otherwise insure its supply and fix prices. Mr. Daniels urged legislation to develop new oil fields, but protested against the opening of the naval reserves in California and Wyoming.

"Whatever you do, if this navy reserve land must be opened, have it opened by the government or some other agency, but not by men who hold title to it by fraud," he declared. Pointing out the needs for oil in the war, he said the whole question had become whether the needs of "California are superior to those of the nation."

SLAYER OF RUTH CRUGER CONFESSES

Alfredo Cocchi, Fugitive New York Motorcycle Dealer, Under Arrest in Italy, Abandons Pretense of Innocence or Murder and Admits Guilt—Jealousy Was Motive—Became Furious When She Rebuffs Persistent Attentions—Signs Confession.

(By Associated Press.)

BOLOGNA, June 23.—Alfredo Cocchi, the fugitive New York motorcycle dealer, abandoned today his pretense of innocence of the murder of Ruth Cruger and confessed his guilt. Jealousy was his motive. He was unable, he declared, to win her love, and became furious when she rebuffed his persistent attentions.

The admissions of the young Italian, whose escape the New York police failed to prevent, were made in tears after searching interrogation by Judge Zucconi broke down Cocchi's reserve. Prior to this examination Cocchi had coolly and insistently maintained he had known Miss Cruger only two days before her disappearance in February, when she went to his shop to have her skates sharpened, and had declared his conduct toward her was entirely correct.

Under Judge Zucconi's searching questions today, however, Cocchi finally burst into tears. He became so agitated as his confession fell haltingly from his lips that the persons surrounding him believed he was about to have an epileptic fit.

Tells Complete Story.

He was granted time to recover and then resumed the story of how the 18-year old Wadleigh high school graduate met death at his hands in the building where her body was recently unearthed from the cellar.

After making up his mind to tell the truth Cocchi talked freely and without reserve, gave full details of his crime, including the burial of Miss Cruger's body. After the confession had been completed the judge directed the clerk to read to Cocchi the written report of his deposition. The prisoner said it was correct and later signed it.

On returning to his cell Cocchi said to the prison attendants: "At last I feel relieved. I have freed myself from a night mare which tortured my conscience. Now I have told everything and I am ready to suffer any penalty."

Plan to Extradite.

NEW YORK, June 23.—With the announcement from Italy that Alfredo Cocchi had confessed to the murder of Ruth Cruger, police efforts here turned today to the problem of having the motorcycle dealer brought back to New York to face trial.

District Attorney Swann announced that he had conferred personally here last night with Frank L. Polk, counselor of the state department, and was assured the United States would exert every energy to have Cocchi returned to this country.

The authorities are working on the theory that Cocchi had accomplices, both in the commission of the crime and in connection with his escape from this country after eluding investigators.

Killed by Blow and Stab.

Ruth Cruger's mutilated body was

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POLICE SEIZE WOMEN'S BANNER

WASHINGTON, June 23.—The police quickly blocked another attempt today by suffragists to display a banner in front of the White House gates. Mrs. Lawrence Lewis of Philadelphia and Miss Gladys Greiner of Baltimore, who carried the banner, were arrested before they had it entirely unfurled, by a police matron, and taken to headquarters in a waiting police automobile.

The banner carried a quotation of one of President Wilson's books.