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Forty-eighth Year. Daily—Thirteenth Year.

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AUTOCRACY TO GO BEFORE PEACE COMES

REQUEST FOR ARMISTICE REJECTED

President Informs Germany That Only Conditions Upon Which Armistice Can Be Granted is That Atrocities On Land and Sea Must Cease—Autocracy Must Go Before Peace Comes—Time for Armistice Will Be Put Up to Military Commanders.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—President Wilson today answered Germany's peace proffer with a note declaring there can be no peace with a German government controlled by a military autocracy and no thought of an armistice while German atrocities continue on land and sea.

The official interpretation of the note as openly expressed was "autocracy must go."

The text of the president's answer follows:

Text of Reply
"The unqualified acceptance by the present German government and by a large majority of the reichstag of the terms laid down by the president of the United States of America in his address to the congress of the United States on the eighth of January, 1918, and in his subsequent addresses justifies the president in making a frank and direct statement of his decision with regard to the communications of the German government of the eighth and twelfth of October, 1918.

Safeguards Demanded

"It must be clearly understood that the process of evacuation and the conditions of an armistice are matters which must be left to the judgment and advice of the military advisers of the government of the United States and the allied governments, and the president feels it his duty to say that no arrangements can be accepted by the government of the United States which does not provide absolutely satisfactory safeguards and guarantees of the maintenance of the present military supremacy of the armies of the United States and the allies in the field.

"He feels confident that he can safely assume that this will also be the judgment and decision of the allied governments.

"The president feels that it is also his duty to add that neither the government of the United States nor, he is quite sure, the governments with which the government of the United States is associated as belligerent, will consent to consider an armistice so long as the armed forces of Germany continue the illegal and inhuman practices which they still persist in.

Atrocities Must Cease

"At the very time that the German government approaches the government of the United States with proposals of peace its submarines are engaged in sinking passenger ships at sea and not the ships alone, but the very boats in which their passengers and crews seek to make their way to safety; and in their present enforced withdrawal from Flanders and France the German armies are pursuing a course of wanton destruction which has always been regarded as a direct violation of the rules and practices of civilized warfare. Cities and villages, if not destroyed, are being stripped of all they contain not only property but often of their very inhabitants. The nations associated against Germany cannot be expected to agree to a cessation of arms while acts of inhumanity, spoliation and desecration are being continued which they justly look upon with horror and with burning hearts.

"It is necessary, also, in order that there may be no possibility of misunderstanding that the president should very solemnly call the attention of the government of Germany to the language and plain intent of one of the terms of peace which the German government has now accepted. It is contained in the address of the president delivered at Mount Vernon on the Fourth of July last.

Autocracy Must Go

"It is as follows: 'The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can, separately, secretly and of its single choice disturb the peace of the world; or if it cannot be presently destroyed, at least its reduction

SENATE FIRM AGAINST PEACE WITH GERMANY

Lodge Introduces Resolution to Cease Communication With Germany Save for Unconditional Surrender—Thomas Stipulates Recognition of Slavonic Peoples.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—Republican Leader Lodge today introduced a resolution to declare it the sense of the senate that no further communication be had with the German government on the subject of an armistice and that no communication be had with that government except on the question of unconditional surrender.

Senator Lodge made no comment on the resolution at the time of its introduction.

Discussion of Germany's peace reply in the senate was opened today by Senator New of Indiana, republican, who declared nothing short of unconditional surrender of the German army will meet the demands of the American people.

To Safeguard Slavs

Senator Thomas of Colorado, democrat, introduced a resolution stipulating that no peace pact be entered into by the United States with Germany without a specific recognition of the rights of self government for the Slavonic and Polish peoples.

Senator Ashurst of Arizona, after conferring with President Wilson today said:

"The president will take no action that will weaken in the smallest degree the successes of the American and allied armies in the field.

"On the contrary," Senator Ashurst added, "what he will do will rather strengthen the military situation."

"This was the first statement by anybody who has talked with the president.

Our George Talks

Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman of the military committee, in a statement today opposed accepting Germany's latest note, which he said was more a suggestion of negotiations than a promise to surrender.

"I approved of the president's note to Germany," he said, "because I felt that it was a diplomatic demand for an unconditional surrender. Whether Germany's reply amounts to a promise of unconditional surrender or not, I am in doubt. There should be no doubt in my mind."

BOCHE RETREAT UNDER DIFFICULTIES

PARIS, Oct. 14.—(Havas.)—Newspapers here believe that as a result of the continuous advance of the allies, the Germans will be forced to retreat to the Lille-Memmes-Metz line.

The German retreat is being carried out with difficulty owing to the bombardment of railroads by airplanes. British troops are reported to have outflanked Bouchain and to be advancing on Denain, from which town they are only three miles distant.

American forces are advancing in the direction of Dun-sur-Meuse, in the Argonne sector, according to the Intransigent.

BUY MORE BONDS IS ANSWER TO KAISER

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 14.—With reports from all points showing that German peace endeavors are being met with a determination to "buy more bonds, the banked total of the Twelfth Federal Reserve district for the Fourth Liberty loan was said to be \$208,780,350 by Liberty Loan headquarters here today. Oregon reported 90 per cent of her quota actually in the bank.

NO PROSPECT OF ARMISTICE IN NEAR FUTURE

British Government to Resolutely Oppose Granting Germany Armistice Unless Absolute Guarantees, Both Military and Naval Are Forthcoming—Italy Also Firm.

LONDON, Oct. 12.—It is learned in authoritative quarters, says Reuter's limited, that there is no prospect of an early armistice, as the result of Germany's overtures.

While certain developments are taking place, the Central News agency says it learns, it can be said that the British government will resolutely oppose the granting of any armistice to Germany unless absolute guarantees, both military and naval are forthcoming.

Justice Should Be Stern

Lord Reading, British ambassador to the United States was summoned to a meeting of the war cabinet this morning after a conference with Premier Lloyd-George, presumably to give the cabinet his personal opinion regarding President Wilson's war views.

"Justice is merciful when there are extenuating circumstances, but when there are none it behooves justice to be stern," said Lord Reading, British ambassador to the United States, speaking in his capacity as chief justice, at the luncheon of the Serbian minister dealing with the present situation.

Premier Venizelos of Greece conferred with Foreign Secretary Balfour early this morning, afterward seeing Premier Lloyd George before the cabinet meeting.

Italy Wants Guarantees

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—An official dispatch from Rome today says while the Italian public knows the allied governments adhere in principle to President Wilson's expressed program of peace, they "have opinions of their own clearing up Wilson's principles on such radical points of national interest."

If President Wilson thinks the German reply to his inquiries makes it possible, the Italian press thinks he now will, in accord with the allies establish conditions for an armistice which should comprise all indispensable military guarantees.

\$1.10 FREIGHT RATE FIXED ON APPLES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—An emergency freight rate of \$1.10 on this season's crop of apples from points of origin in Washington, Oregon and Idaho to the east, was agreed upon today by representatives of the railway commissions of the three states, shippers and the railroad administration before the interstate commerce commission. It is agreed that proposed 25 per cent increases be established on all other fruit and some increase to apply to apples where it would put the rate above \$1.10.

STATE OF SEIGE EXISTS IN PORTUGAL

LISBON, Portugal, Oct. 14.—The Portuguese government has declared a state of siege for all Portuguese territory. The president, as commander-in-chief of the military and naval units, has taken direct command of the forces. Tranquility reigns in the country.

SERBS TAKE NISH IN NORTH DRIVE

LONDON, Oct. 14.—After enduring Nish on Saturday, Serbian forces took possession of the enemy positions north of the town, according to the Serbian official statement issued today. French cavalry have occupied the Bela Palanka.

LAON WON FROM BOCHE BY ALLIES

Great Fortified Plateau of Laon and St. Gobain Forest, Backbone of German Line in France, Captured by French as a Result of Foch's Strategy, Without the Loss Inseparable From Direct Attack—Result is Win of Entire Defensive System.

PARIS, Oct. 14.—Another victory has been added to the long trail of glory blazed by the allied armies. The Laon plateau at last has been won, crowning the Cambrai-St. Quentin and Champagne offensives.

The maneuvers so successfully elaborated by Marshal Foch enabled this great achievement to be accomplished without the loss inseparable from a direct attack.

The result is the ruin of the entire defensive system built up by the German general staff since 1914, for the cornerstone of it was the Laon plateau, on which the German line pivoted. It was to turn it that the offensives of 1915 and 1916 were carried out.

Liberation of France

It was against it that the offensive of 1917 was prematurely broken. It was from the plateau that the sixth great drive of the Germans toward Paris was started.

Its fall is the total prologue to the total liberation of France, for the progress by the British to the vicinity of Douai puts the Germans in such a position that even if they can manage for a time to cling between Bouhain and Solesmes, while they evacuate the pocket of which St. Gobain is the bottom, they will be obliged to get back along the frontier, and it is more than likely that they will not even have time for that.

Sixty-five hundred civilians were liberated when the French troops entered the city of Laon. The statement issued at the war office says that the French have passed far beyond the town on the whole front between the Oise and the Adette river.

St. Gobain Abandoned

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. Oct. 14.—German forces have abandoned Laon and the whole St. Gobain region. The French, after re-occupying Laon, have pressed on until their line now runs from the Oise river above Le Fere to the eastern end of Chemin-des-Dames.

When the Germans began to fall back out of the bag into which they were being slowly caught by the rapid advance of the allies on each side, they went with such speed that the change in the battle line in that section of the front during a few hours was astonishing. Not until the French reached the Laon-LaFere railroad did they encounter any real resistance.

Italian troops participated in the advance and are now engaged on the hills north of the Ailette river. At this particular point the German lines have been pressed back or have been withdrawn so that a sharp angle has been created.

OFFICIAL DENIAL OF KAISER'S ABDICATION ISSUED AT BERLIN

BERNE, Switzerland, Oct. 14.—The Wolff News agency of Berlin today issued an official denial of the report which had become current in Germany that Emperor William intended to abdicate.

TURKISH PEACE NOTE REACHES WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—Turkey's long delayed note asking the German and Austria that President Wilson take a hand in the restoration of peace, was received at the state department.

GERMANS STRIVE TO GAIN TIME BY PEACE DRIVE

Northcliffe Says That Foch is Driving German Armies to a Greater Sedan and Only Armistice Can Prevent Crowning Disaster to Hun Forces—Equivocation in Reply.

LONDON, Oct. 14.—"The speed of the German reply is indicative of the anxiety the Germans feel for the safety of their rapidly retreating army," said Viscount Northcliffe to an Associated Press representative today.

"At the time they were being questioned about the Lusitania they played for delay, delay, delay," he continued. "Now they are fighting to gain days, even hours. The reply consists of evasions made for the purpose of unbalancing the minds of the simple folks in allied countries and to convince the German people that the allies will not accept what is declared by them to look like a reasonable offer of peace."

Equivocation Felt

"The character of the answer shows the atmosphere of equivocation in which the German government lives and moves. Germany only declares herself to comply. She does not comply. She has not accepted the president's terms. She only says—untruthfully—that those terms have been accepted."

"In 1870 the Germans, when they had the great French army enveloped at Sedan, declined to give an armistice. Bismarck said:

"Germany desires to promote the re-establishment of peace. The best means of assuring it is to deprive France of her army."

"If my American friends will look at the maps in their newspapers today they will see that Marshal Foch is rapidly driving the Germans into a gigantic Sedan, not the Sedan of the 1870 type, for the number of retreating Germans represent hundreds as compared to tens of Marshal MacMahon's army in 1870."

Armistice Prolongs War

"If we grant an armistice we shall be providing material for a great prolongation of the war. If we leave the matter to Marshal Foch he will end the war. Bulgaria is out. Turkey is going out. Austria-Hungary is on the verge of a revolution."

The combined efforts of America, Great Britain, Italy, France and Belgium will end this struggle and put a stop to any possible recrudescence of the war."

ARTILLERY DUEL ON YANK FRONT

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 14.—(Non. By the Associated Press.) Violent artillery duels were in progress today along the greater part of the American front. Little change was made in the line, but the Germans late last night laid down barrages that were preparatory to counter-attacks of a small but vicious character.

The most determined effort made by the enemy was on the left across the River Aire between St. Juvin and St. Georges. The Germans advanced in open order and fought with a steadiness that indicated fresh troops. Within an hour however, the American artillery supporting the line of infantry with machine guns, had brought the little offensive to a halt.

TOO LOSE LIFE IN PORTO RICAN QUAKE

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Sunday, Oct. 13.—With all the bodies not yet recovered, it is probable that 100 or more persons lost their lives at Mayaguez, a seaport on the western coast of Porto Rico in last Friday's earthquake. That city is in terror as the result of a continuance of minor quakes. Many of the residents are homeless.

300 LOSE LIFE IN FOREST FIRES OF MINNESOTA

Twenty-one Towns Destroyed in Northeastern Minnesota and Death List May Reach a Thousand—Prosperous Business and Farming Country a Smouldering Ruin.

DULUTH, Minn., Oct. 14.—Twenty-one towns were destroyed, with a known death list of 298, by the fire which swept northeastern Minnesota Saturday and Sunday. The injured in Duluth hospitals total 106. The towns totally or partially destroyed are: Cloquet, Moose Lake, Kettle River, Lawler, Adolph, Munger, Five Corners, Harney, Grand Lake, Maple Grove, Twiz, Barnum, Mathews, Atkinson, French River, Clifton, Carleton, Brookston, Brevator, Pike Lake and Pine Hill.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Oct. 14.—A dispatch this afternoon from Adjutant General Rhinow at Moose Lake stated that the general forest fire situation was well in hand. No farther spread of the fires is feared and it is believed that the burned area will be cleared of bodies by night.

DULUTH, Minn., Oct. 14.—A large section of northeastern Minnesota, three days ago a busy and prosperous business and farming country—today was a smouldering ruin with hundreds of bodies of men, women and children, many of them burned beyond recognition, strewn about the countryside as the result of the disastrous forest fires which swept this territory Saturday and Sunday.

Estimates place the death list as close to 1,000 although no official figures are available. Hundreds of persons are more or less seriously burned, thousands are destitute and homeless and the property loss will run into millions of dollars. At least a dozen towns and cities were destroyed. The worst blazes were at Moose Lake, Kettle River and Cloquet.

Relief work under direction of Adjutant-General W. F. Rhinow and Governor Burnquist is progressing rapidly.

SCHWAB RAISES MILLION A MINUTE

NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—Within six minutes \$6,000,000 in Liberty bonds were subscribed here today to build six \$1,000,000 ships for the Emergency Fleet corporation, in response to an appeal by Charles M. Schwab, the corporation's director-general, at a luncheon in honor of foreign diplomats and representatives of the government.

The enthusiasm in the pledging was so great that there was no cessation in the bidding after the amount called for had been raised and \$55,000,000 had been subscribed within 38 minutes.

Within the first hour \$50,000,000 had been subscribed with the pledging still going on.

As each million of the first \$22,000,000 was subscribed, a miniature ship was launched by a mechanical device.

Commenting on the Teutonic peace proposals, Mr. Schwab said:

"It is not my purpose even to presume to comment on the message of our illustrious president, but I do not mind saying that I would like to give the Germans one damn good kick to remember this war by."

America had launched 3,000,000 gross tons of shipping during the last year, Mr. Schwab said, and 2,000,000 of this was in commission. Ships and more ships were needed, he said, and this required money and more money.

LONDON, Oct. 14.—The resignation of Prince Maximilian of Baden as German imperial chancellor is probable, according to reports from Holland today. They quote the Berlin National Zeitung as saying the chancellor's retirement is regarded in certain circles as inevitable.

BIG SMASH IN FLANDERS FOCH'S REPLY

British, Belgian and French Forces Attack on Wide Front, and Go Over Top in Direction of Ghent and Courtrai in Effort to Retake Belgian Coast and German Submarine Bases—Excellent Progress Made—Artillery Actions on Other Sections.

LONDON, Oct. 14. (5:25 p. m.)—The British, French and Belgian forces in their new drive against the German positions in Belgium have captured Roulers, the Evening News says it understands.

The newspaper says an advance of five miles has been made in Belgium by the allies. Courtrai is threatened from the north. The advance continues.

The allies have reached the town of Lendelede, four miles northwest of Courtrai, and the line runs in front of Iseghem.

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES IN FLANDERS, Oct. 14.—(By Associated Press.) British, Belgian and French forces attacked at dawn this morning on a wide front in Flanders. The allied troops are driving in the general direction of Ghent and Courtrai.

The attack seems to be generally from Comines to the northward. The troops of the three nations went over the top after a "crash" bombardment only. There was no preliminary bombardment. It undoubtedly tactically surprised the enemy.

Best Troops in Line

In the British formations were some of Great Britain's best troops and the forces of the French were of famous fighting organizations. The Germans appear prepared to retire to the Ghent line.

By the fury with which the attack was launched it is evident that the fighting armies are not paying the slightest attention to the "peace talk." They smashed forward with all the dash characterizing the recent operations.

The blow in Flanders may prove to be Marshal Foch's master stroke. If the allied progress is continued the Germans threaten a wide stretch of territory, taking in the most important part of the Belgian coast, including possibly the important German submarine bases, as well as the forces in the entire Lille salient, either will have to get out or face a second Sedan.

Excellent Progress

Reports from the advanced positions this morning indicated that the three groups of allied troops were making excellent progress in the Belgian coast salient from which the Germans have been precipitately removing war material for two weeks.

Every foot of ground gained here also deepens the Lille salient and success means that the enemy will be obliged to evacuate the region to the south as well as to the north of the front attacked. The attack would have been launched before now had the ground been ready.

The British troops drove first for the Combes-Menin railway. No tanks are reported to be participating.

The Germans are weak numerically on this front, numbering fewer than 15 divisions.

It is known partly as the result of enemy graves counted that the Germans suffered more than 100,000 casualties in the Lys salient in the last three months.

Donal Surrounded

LONDON, Oct. 14.—The British (Continued on Page Four.)

GUN ON AIRPLANE SHELLS CAMP MILLS

NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—Soldiers at Camp Mills, Long Island, received a tragic foretaste of war today when a machine gun attached to an airplane in flight accidentally went off, sending bullets among the men of a sanitary corps. One soldier was fatally wounded and two others hurt seriously.

(Continued on Page Four.)