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# WILSON AGREES TO DISCUSS ARMISTICE WITH ALLIES AND ARMY COMMANDERS

## NO PEACE NOW OR LATER WITH KAISER AND WAR LORDS IS U. S. ANSWER

Accepting German Peace Offer In Good Faith Wilson Takes Up Armistice With Allies and Military Leaders But Demands Restrictions to Render Hun Powerless to Renew Hostilities—Doubtful of Popular Control in Germany—Until Such Control Is Assured Fighting Must Continue Until Unconditional Surrender By German Forces.

(Special to Mail Tribune.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., 9:44 a. m., Oct. 24.—The text of the president's reply follows:

From the secretary of state to the charge d'affaires, A. L., in charge of German interests in the United States.

"Department of State, Oct. 23, 1918.

"Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 22nd, transmitting a communication under date of the 20th, from the German government, and to advise you that the president has instructed me to reply thereto as follows:

"Having received the solemn and explicit assurance for the German government that it unreservedly accepts the terms of peace laid down in his address to the congress of the United States on the 8th of January, 1918, and the principles of settlement enunciated in his subsequent addresses, particularly the address of the 27th of September, and that it desires to discuss the details of the application and that this wish and purpose emanated, not from those who have hitherto dictated German policy and conducted the present war on Germany's behalf, but from ministers who speak for the majority of the reichstag and for an overwhelming majority of the German peoples; and having received also the explicit promise of the present German government that the humane rules of civilized warfare will be observed both on land and sea by the German armed forces, the president of the United States feels that he cannot decline to take up with the governments with which the government of the United States is associated the question of an armistice.

"He deems it his duty to say again, however, that the only armistice he would feel justified in submitting for consideration would be one which should leave the United States and the powers associated with her in a position to enforce any arrangement that may be entered into and to make a renewal of hostilities on the part of Germany impossible.

Up to Allies

"The president has, therefore, transmitted his correspondence with the present German authorities to the governments with which the government of the United States is associated as a belligerent, with the suggestion that, if these governments are disposed to effect peace upon the terms and principles indicated, their military advisers and the military advisers of the United States be asked to submit to the governments associated against Germany the necessary terms of such an armistice as will fully protect the interests of the people involved and insure to the associated governments the unrestricted power to safeguard and enforce the details of the peace to which the German government has agreed, provided they deem such an armistice possible from the military point of view. Should such terms of armistice be suggested, their acceptance by Germany will afford the best concrete evidence of her unequivocal acceptance of the terms and principles of peace from which the whole action proceeds.

Skeptical of Government

"The president would deem himself lacking in candor did he not point out in the frankest possible terms the reason why extraordinary safeguards must be demanded. Significant and important as the constitutional changes seem to be which are spoken of by the German foreign secretary in his note of the 20th of October, it does not appear that the principle of a government responsible to the German people has yet been fully worked out or that any guarantees either exist or are in contemplation that the allocations of principle and of practice now partially agreed upon will be permanent. Moreover, it does not appear that the heart of the present difficulty has been reached. It may be that future wars will be brought under the control of the German people but the present war has not been, and it is with the present war that we are dealing. It is evident that the German people have no means of commanding the acquiescence of the military authorities of the empire in the popular will, that the power of the king of Prussia to control the policy of the empire is unimpaired, that the determining initiative still remains with those who have hitherto been the masters of Germany. Feeling that the whole peace of the world depends now on plain speaking and straight forward action, the president deems it his duty to say without any attempt to soften what may seem harsh words that the nations of the world do not and cannot trust the word of those who have hitherto been masters of German policy and point out once more that in concluding peace and attempting to undo the infinite injuries and injustices of this war the government of the United States cannot deal with any but veritable representatives of the German people who have been assured of a genuine constitutional standing as the real rulers of Germany.

Alternative Is Surrender

If it must deal with the military masters and the monarchial autocrats (Continued on Page Three.)

## NATIONAL PROHI BILL MEETS A DEADLOCK

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—House and senate conferees on the emergency agricultural appropriation bill with its amendments for national war-time prohibition, failed to break their deadlock on the rent-profit-sharing section today and decided to report a disagreement.

## R. R. WORKERS RENEW OVERTIME DEMAND

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—The four leading railway brotherhoods have renewed their request for time and a half pay for overtime work, and are now pressing this issue before the railroad administration's board of railroad wages and working conditions.

## HAIG DRIVES ON MAUBEUGE AND MONS DEFENSES

Unless Allied Advance Is Held Up Today Extended Retreat By Germans Necessary—French Make Gains South of Oise—Repel Counter-Attacks.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS, Oct. 24.—Field Marshal Haig's Third and Fourth armies, having smashed thru the outer defenses of the strategically important German line south of Valenciennes, continue successfully to hammer their way toward Maubeuge and Mons.

Today's attack started from the new front gained Wednesday which resulted in an advance of between three and four miles on a front of fifteen miles. The enemy is retreating stubbornly but the British are forging ahead, capturing villages and other important points.

Maubeuge Pivot Taken

West of Maubeuge the British have taken the village of Beaudignies, one and one-half miles southwest of Le Queaunoy, the most important stronghold defending Maubeuge on the west. In the same region they have crossed the natural barrier of the Escaillon river and rapidly are placing Valenciennes in a pocket.

Apparently the British are not desirous of taking Valenciennes by fighting the Germans in the streets of the town, but prefer to outflank. The town is now partly surrounded and the menace to it has been increased by the advance on the south and the capture of the entire Raimies forest to the north.

Big Retreat Impends

The British thrust undoubtedly has badly shaken the German defenses south of Valenciennes which are so important to the security of the German line northward to the Dutch border and south and east to the Meuse. Unless the enemy can hold the British attacks today it would seem they would have to continue their retreat in Belgium and also give up ground south and east of the Oise.

While the British are attacking north of the Sambre canal to the Scheldt, the French have begun an offensive south of the Oise. The Sambre canal has been crossed east of Grand Verly and the French have maintained their gains against strong German counter-attacks. Between the Serre and the Oise and farther east the French maintain their pressure and have gained ground south of Mont Cornet.

Counter-Attacks Fail

Infantry fighting has died down east of the Aisne in the region of Vouziers, the Germans having failed in strong efforts Tuesday and Wednesday to dislodge the French from important front positions. General Gouraud now commands the important defenses north and south of the great forest of Boull, north of the Argonne.

## MERCY! HOW THE HAPSBURGS HAVE CHANGED OF LATE

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 24.—Baron von Hussarek, the Austrian premier, in discussing President Wilson's reply to Austria in the house of lords in Vienna Tuesday, said Austria was able to endorse the president's peace program without forsaking deep-rooted convictions. He declared it was a historic and fundamental idea of the Hapsburg monarchy that all its peoples should have equal rights. He did not think the president's reply would result in a breaking off of exchanges.

## WILSON AND ALLIES HAVE FINAL WORD

President Proposes All Military Terms Be Submitted to War Council of Civil Leaders for Final Ratification—Probable Terms of Military Include Occupation of Metz Fortress, Surrender of Submarines.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—Discussion centered here today on the probable terms of armistice which may be formulated by the allied and American military advisers after the allied governments have considered the German proposals transmitted by President Wilson. It was generally assumed by army officers that the president already had ascertained the willingness of the allied governments to submit the matter to the military men.

Fortresses to Be Held

It will be the mission of the military advisers to translate general principles into concrete terms of fortresses to be occupied, submarine bases to be placed under guard, munition plants to be dismantled and strategic rail lines to be secured against German use. Since an armistice on allied terms means an end of the war, attention also must be given to demobilization of the German army. In itself a long process since the great force could not be turned back to civil life overnight.

Terms Up to Wilson

The president proposes that the terms to be drawn up by these military and naval agencies are to be submitted to the respective governments associated against Germany for ratification. The supreme war council, composed of the premiers of the allies and of President Wilson, probably would pass upon the program.

To make certain that the U-boat fleets are put out of action by any terms except the surrender of the submarines themselves appears difficult. Occupation of Helgoland might bottle up both the submarines and the German high seas fleet so far as the North sea outlets are concerned, but there is another gateway, via the Kiel canal and the Skagerrack, passing between neutral waters.

Occupation of Metz

Ashore it is regarded as obvious that occupation of Metz-Thionville fortress would be essential. It is regarded as probable that the Germans would stipulate that American troops take over the fortress until final disposition of Alsace-Lorraine is determined.

(Continued on Page Three.)

## ORDER ORANGE PROFITS REDUCED BY RETAILER

NEW YORK, Oct. 24.—Spurred by reports that fruit dealers have charged exorbitant prices for lemons and oranges, recommended by physicians for sufferers from Spanish influenza, the federal food board announced today that retailers' profits must be limited hereafter to two cents on small and three cents on large oranges. A schedule of profits for lemons and other fruits will be fixed soon.

## GERMAN PAPER DENIES PROMISES BEING FULFILLED

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 24.—Denial that Germany has ordered the cessation of all destructions whatsoever on the western front is made by the semi-official North German Gazette of Berlin. The newspaper also denies newspaper reports from outside Germany that German submarines have been recalled on their bases.

## YANKS DRIVE ON NORTH OF VERDUN DOWN 15 PLANES

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 24.—(By the Associated Press.)—American patrols early today penetrated deeply into the German lines in the region of Grandpre and north of Verdun. The enemy has been using his artillery and machine guns freely along the entire front.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—Continued progress by the Americans on the battle front north of Verdun was reported today by General Pershing. Enemy positions east of the Meuse were penetrated yesterday and east of the Meuse Bantheville was completely occupied and the American line established on a ridge northwest of the village.

Fifteen enemy airplanes and one observation balloon were shot down in the course of many combats in which three American balloons were destroyed and six planes failed to return.

The bright moonlight last night enabled American aviators to bomb a large area behind the German lines. One of the American bombing squadrons dropped 3,077 kilograms of bombs on the Bois de Barrecoire and the Bois de Folle. German aviators dropped bombs on towns behind the American lines occupied only by civilians and without great military value.

## CHAMBERLAIN IS LEERY OF NOTES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman of the senate military committee, in a statement today, commenting on the president's note to Germany, said: "The president's note may fairly be construed as a diplomatic demand for unconditional surrender, leaving to the military authorities of the allies entirely the adjustment of the methods. 'I have sometimes thought there ought to be an end of notes passing between Germany and the allied powers. Their effect is to withdraw the attention of the people of the allied countries from the battlefield.'"

## GERMANS CLING TO BANK OF SCHELDT

CANADIAN HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Wednesday, Oct. 23.—(Canadian Press.)—British armorial attached to the Canadian forces holding the line north of Valenciennes report that Valenciennes has been evacuated by German soldiers except for posts at a few points in the city. The Germans, however, are clinging obstinately to the east bank of the Scheldt canal north of Valenciennes. Villages left behind by the Germans are intact although they have been systematically sacked and looted. All bridges have been destroyed.

## M'ADOO IS OVER RULED BY I. C. COMMISSION

Interstate Commerce Commission Asserts Its Authority to Alter Freight Rates Initiated By Director General in Portland Willamette Valley Lumber Rate Case.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—The interstate commerce commission today asserted its authority to alter railroad freight rates initiated by Director General McAdoo, even without affirmative showing that they are wrong, and announced that the railroad administration's assumption that such rates are presumed to be right and just is incorrect.

The pronouncement was in a decision written by Commissioner McChord, finding for the complainants in the case of the Willamette Valley Lumbermen's association against the Southern Pacific and others.

Portland Had Advantage

The complainants operate logging and lumber mills in the Willamette valley in Oregon, selling their products in Montana, Wyoming, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan and western Canada. Mills in the vicinity of Portland, Oregon, and on the Pacific coast, manufacturing the same kind and grades of lumber have access to the same markets at a thru joint rate materially lower than the combination of rates quoted from Willamette valley mills which have to pay local rates to Portland then the Pacific coast group rate.

Railroads Overruled

Efforts to obtain joint thru rates failed. It was complained, because participating carriers were unwilling to forego extra profits and also wished to favor coast mills established on their own lines. The recent general increase of 25 percent in freight rates increased the difficulties of the Willamette valley mills. The railroad contention was that the rates with the 25 per cent increase became rates initiated by the director-general and therefore should not be disturbed.

The commission holds that such discrimination in favor of shippers on their own lines by carriers is unlawful and the railroad defendants are ordered to establish joint thru rates from Willamette valley mills to territories taking a forty-cent rate from Portland which should not exceed the rates from the coast group, including Portland.

## JAPAN SEEKS TO HOLD CHINA IN TERMS OF PEACE

PEKING, Tuesday, Oct. 22.—(By Associated Press.) Newspapers here print long editorials on the report that Japan has attached conditions to the return of the Boxer indemnity. It is said that it is required that China shall frame a schedule of subjects to be submitted to the peace conference under Japanese guidance and that the Chinese and Japanese delegates to the conference cooperate under the latter's guidance concerning matters of policy.

It is also said that Japan asks that China will not contract loans with other powers during the war and also will allow free export of minerals and cotton to Japan. Inquiry has failed to substantiate these reports but there are indications that there is good basis for them.

## MAJOR FARWELL OF SEATTLE KILLED IN ACTION ON FRONT

SEATTLE, Oct. 24.—Major George B. Farwell, Seattle, 361st infantry, was killed in action in France October 2, according to a cable received here from his wife. Farwell's father is a local attorney.

## BRITISH TAKE 6000 HUNS IN NEW DRIVE

Haig's Troops Capture Virtually Whole Canal Bank North of Valenciennes—Germans Flood Land in Futile Effort to Halt Progress—Cross Escaillon River and Capture Three Villages—Many Civilians Are Killed By German Shells.

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Oct. 24.—(By the Associated Press, 4:30 a. m.)—The British have taken more than 6,000 prisoners and many guns in their new attack, begun yesterday morning on the front below Valenciennes.

LONDON, Oct. 24.—Sharp fighting continued in to a late hour yesterday evening on the battlefront south of Valenciennes where the British attacked yesterday morning, says today's war office announcement.

WITH THE ALLIED FORCES IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Wednesday, Oct. 23.—(By the Associated Press.)—British troops have reached virtually the whole canal bank northeast of Valenciennes. The Germans have broken down the banks and opened the sluice gates northeast and southwest of the city and have flooded vast stretches of the country in an effort to delay the British advance.

The British however, have fought their way into the city from the west and there have been sharp encounters in the streets between patrols. Fire from the German artillery has been generally weak, if being strong only on villages and towns in this vicinity. Many civilians are still in these places. Heavy shells dropped with regularity for several hours today into Denain, which is full of civilians. Without doubt many were killed and wounded and the same condition is probably true in other towns.

Valenciennes still contains many civilians.

The British have crossed the Escaillon river and have captured the villages of Neuville, Sulesbuis and Beaudignies. A German counter-attack along the front between the Sambre-Elbe canal and the Scheldt.

The Raimies forest, north of Valenciennes, has been occupied by the British north of the forest, the British have captured the villages of Thiers, Haute Rive and Thun.

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Oct. 24.—(By Associated Press, 4:30 a. m.)—At Ecuartin also there was desperate fighting. British machine guns from behind cover sprinkled a hail of bullets over the town. They then advanced and found the town a shambles. Over all the place there were dead Germans.

The enemy continues to shell all the larger towns within range, notwithstanding the fact that there are thousands of civilians in them. In addition to Denain, where there are several thousand persons, mostly women and children, the Germans

## 2,000 INFLUENZA VICTIMS UNBURIED

NEW YORK, Oct. 24.—An appeal made made to the mayor today by Queensborough for city workers to be sent as grave diggers to inter the bodies of 2,000 persons, mostly victims of the epidemic, which remain unburied in cemeteries. The borough president stated that 60 per cent of the cemeteries in the Greater City were in Queens and that in some cases relatives and neighbors of those who had died have dug the grave.