

GERMAN WILLING TO DISCUSS DISARMING AND WORLD PEACE

SENTIMENT IN ENGLAND TAKES A DECIDED CHANGE

Feeling Now Is That the Allies Should Consider the Offer, and Make a Statement of Terms That Would Be Satisfactory to Them—Germany's Willingness To Consider Disarmament and World Peace Causes Change

By Robert J. Bender,
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Washington, Dec. 15.—For nearly two hours today President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing considered the question of supplementing the forwarding of the German peace proposals to allied capitals with some suggestions from this government.

At the conclusion of the conference neither the president nor Secretary Lansing would throw any light upon what, if any, decision was reached.

"I have nothing to say now. There is no announcement to be made at present. There is no conclusion to discussion," summed up Lansing's reply to inquiries from newspapermen.

It was indicated after the conference that the state department at least has little on which to work in the way of expressions of public sentiment in this country, except as voiced in the newspapers.

In the past the department has been flooded with telegrams, giving individual views of what ought to be done, but in this instance none has come.

Cabinet Takes It Up.
Washington, Dec. 15.—The whole subject of peace and the part America can play, if any, will undoubtedly be threshed out in this afternoon's cabinet session.

Confidential information from Secretary Grew of the American Embassy in Berlin, dispatched with Germany's proposals, is scheduled for presentation to the members along with consideration of past official reports and recent unofficial versions of foreign attitude toward peace.

The state department was reliably understood to be collecting this information all its past information bearing on the subject of peace. This, taken with news messages, indicated a sentiment on the part of the state department to yield up the struggle to diplomacy at this moment.

World Discuss Points.
Meanwhile, German official hints here pointed to a willingness to talk at least a partial disarmament and likewise a willingness for introduction of a world guaranty of peace.

The administration now feels that there may be instructive discussion of the peace proposals among the allies, but has had no reason to believe that the present proposals themselves will at once point the way to peace.

Petrograd's semi-official statement that Germany is shedding her own people and trying to cast the responsibility for continuance of the war elsewhere, is regarded as a general allied viewpoint.

In these circumstances President Wilson and his advisers are admittedly still puzzled to know just what attitude and what action, if any, to take.

It was expected that the cabinet session would serve to clear the official atmosphere and that it might be productive of some definite information to the public as to what this government proposes to do.

English Feeling Changes.
By Ed L. Keen.
(United Press staff correspondent.)
London, Dec. 15.—A steady increase in sentiment that the allies in refusing German peace plans should set forth their own terms of peace, was manifest here today. Notwithstanding the continued illness of Premier Lloyd George, it is known that the allies, through the foreign office, have already begun an informal exchange of views on Von Bethmann-Hollweg's proposals.

There are three views entertained as to the course which the allies should adopt in answering the German note, based on the realization that the entire powers must carefully avoid the pitfalls of the Teutonic nations. Three plans are:

First—A blunt rejection of the note. The advocates of this course are convinced that this will be the only way in which to prevent the situation being maneuvered to advantage by Germany. Opponents of the plan hold, on the other hand, that it would be a serious mistake not to meet the issues raised by Von Bethmann-Hollweg.

Second—That Germany name her terms on the assumption that these terms yet to be made known officially, really may be worth considering and might be considered without damage to allied prestige.

Third—That the allies do not ask Germany's terms, but detail their own sentiments as to peace; their terms and conditions.

Suggestions made in the press of neutral nations and particularly development of such an idea in the United States has aided in developing sentiment for this third course. Moreover, it is seen by the news from Germany, that the government did not expect a favorable response to its proffer; therefore England regards the main purpose of Von Bethmann-Hollweg's proposals as manifestly two-fold, to impress neutrals and the German public. Advocates of the policy of the allies listing their terms argue that in such a situation as presented now, the entente have a splendid opportunity to put before the outside world as well as the people of Germany—who they have always believed generally ignorant of the real issues of the war—a clearcut, definite united pronouncement of the allies' aims and purposes.

There was every indication today that the allies will adopt their course. It is fully expected that Lloyd George will be sufficiently recovered from his illness on Tuesday to give in a speech before the house of commons a more or less positive statement of the allies' position.

By Carl W. Ackerman
(United Press staff correspondent)
Berlin, Dec. 15.—Germany expressed a willingness to enter peace negotiations because she is now fully victorious. Kaiser Wilhelm told German troops in Alsace, in an address.

"We proposed to mediate to the enemy," the Kaiser was quoted as saying.

(Continued on page two.)

SEATTLE WOMEN'S BOYCOTT
Seattle, Wash., Dec. 15.—Boycott on potatoes, butter and eggs has been started by Seattle women members of the Homekeepers' club, it was announced today. They held three mass meetings to discuss ways of reducing the high cost of living before they took action. There about 1,000 women members of the club and they intend to work among their neighbors. The resolutions rule against potatoes costing more than 1 1/2 cents a pound; butter over 40 cents a pound; fresh eggs over 45 cents a dozen and storage eggs over 35 cents a dozen.

**STOCK MARKET HARD
HIT BY GERMAN OFFER
PRICES HUNT CELLAR**

**War Brides Worst Hurt But
Whole List Feels
the Jolt**

New York, Dec. 15.—The fourth day of panicky dumping of stocks on the stock exchange, which was started on Tuesday by Germany's announcement of peace proposals, saw new low levels established this afternoon.

United States Steel, which has felt the force of the pounding hour after hour since the initial upset, was quoted at 109 1/8 at one time today and that figure showed a loss of \$20 a share from the high record price established recently.

The mad scramble to unload has resulted in four days trading averaging two and a quarter million shares or more. At noon today 1,200,000 shares had been dumped on the exchange floor, a large part of it on orders from business men of the country who had played the bull side consistently through two months of the greatest bull market Wall street has known since 1907.

Reassuring statements that no brokerage houses have been weakened or endangered by the near-panic which has seized the country's speculators have been issued during the past 24 hours.

The extent to which fortunes have been made or wiped out by the 2,000,000 share market is yet a matter of guess. Country traders suffered in the first crash and hundreds, perhaps thousands, saw their speculative nest eggs wiped off the boards. Professional traders, in many instances, had sold short and coined money on Tuesday. Since then the market has been whipsawed this way and that, leaving amateur dabblers and professional speculators without preference.

Yesterday a man died of heart failure in a broker's office while reading the ticker. Today it was reported that one brokerage firm declared a bonus, only to have their employees nipped of their Christmas presents, with which they had taken flyers in the market.

Two million four hundred thousand shares Tuesday, 1,780,000 shares Wednesday, 2,500,000 shares yesterday and an outlook for a two and a half million day today tells the story of the rush to unload.

The loss in the four day bear market

(Continued on page two.)

PANIC HITS WHEAT GAMBLERS' PRICES ARE TORPEDOED

While Pit Howled Price Dropped 9 Cents In Few Minutes

DROP SINCE SATURDAY
IS EIGHTEEN CENTS
Sales Enormous and Market Closed 11 Cents Below Opening

Chicago, Dec. 15.—After a rally just before noon, wheat again started down and fell as much as five points before the close at 1:15 p. m. December closed at \$1.42 1/2, 11 points below yesterday's close and 4 1/2 below today's opening. May closed at \$1.55 1/2, 11 1/2 below yesterday's close, and 7 1/2 below the opening. July was \$1.32 1/4, 10 3/8 below yesterday's close, and 6 1/4 under the opening.

Peace Talk Caused It.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—Grain took a big tumble today when news that Germany is willing to consider proposals for the limitation of armament frightened speculators into turning loose heavy holdings.

Wheat fell heavily when the market opened, losing as much as nine cents shortly after trading began, in a tumultuous pit. Before noon the market recovered a little of its losses and December was \$1.47 1/2 up, 1 1/2 above today's opening and six cents below last night's close; May was \$1.58 1/4, down 1 1/4 below today's opening and 8 1/2 below yesterday's close; July was \$1.38 1/8, down 3 3/8 below today's opening, and 6 1/2 below yesterday's close. The market was still very weak and nervous. During the morning transactions were enormous and price changes quick and heavy.

Below is a comparison with wheat prices last Saturday and at noon today:

Month	Saturday	Today	Off.
December	1.65 1/2	1.47 1/2	18
May	1.77 1/2	1.58 1/4	19 1/4
July	1.49 3/4	1.36 1/8	13 5/8

Corn followed wheat in the early drop, but later recovered and at noon today December was at 88 5/8, up 1 5/8 above today's opening and 3 1/4 below yesterday's close; May 89 3/8, up 3 3/8 over today's opening and down 1 3/4 below yesterday's close; July 89 1/4, up 7 3/8 above today's opening and 1 1/2 below yesterday's close.

Oats showed heavy fluctuations for that commodity, losing more than two points at the opening. Later recovery left December at 48 1/2 at noon, up one over the day's opening and 1 3/4 below yesterday's close; May at 51 5/8, down 3 3/8 below today's opening, and 1 7/8 below yesterday's opening and 1 3/8 below yesterday's close.

Provisions were higher than at today's opening.

GRANT SAFE CONDUCT
London, Dec. 15.—According to the request of the United States, the allies have consented to grant Count Tarnowski, the newly appointed Austro-Hungarian ambassador to Washington, safe conduct to America. Count Tarnowski was appointed ambassador to the United States to succeed the Count Dumba, who returned to Vienna because he was no longer persona grata to America. The United States made known its displeasure at Dumba's action and he was recalled. When Tarnowski was appointed his successor several weeks ago, the allies refused him safe conduct, first on the ground that his entourage was entirely too large to be bona fide.

America made formal request for Tarnowski's safe passage. It remained unanswered and second request was recently made of England.

ONE OF SUBMARINE'S CREW TELLS GRAPHIC STORY OF EXPERIENCE

That Crew Was Saved Due to Heroic Act of Life Guard Swinn

Eureka, Cal., Dec. 15.—The exact causes of the wreck of the United States submarine H-3, which stranded in the breakers of Humboldt bay, will not be known until an official investigation is begun by the navy department.

Lieutenant H. R. Bogush and Lieutenant Eric F. Zeemke, officers of the diver, and Lieutenant Commander Howe commanding the submarine flotilla, absolutely refused today to discuss for newspapermen the details of the mishap.

One of the members of the rescued crew, however, gave the United Press a graphic story of the experience.

"We knew that we were in the vicinity of Eureka but we could see only a short distance from the boat," he said. "The fog was very dense and we moved slowly, even though we thought our ship well out from shore."

"Suddenly there came a scraping, followed by a heavy bump which threw us all to the floor of the boat. By the time we found out the trouble, the vessel began to careen. It rolled tremendously, making it impossible for us to stand or to make deck. It seemed that every moment the craft would turn turtle, so fearfully did she roll and pitch."

"We lashed ourselves to the nearest objects on the vessel. Finally, after the tossing ceased somewhat, we made deck and signaled to shore, but could accomplish little because of the tremendous roll which was so heavy that the periscope touched the water frequently. Our wireless apparatus was useless and our efforts to signal with the whistle proved ineffective."

Swinn was a hero.

"Finally, as the fog lifted, one of the boys got on deck and announced that he could see people on shore and that they seemed to be signaling to us to keep up our courage. Then the fearful rocking began again and we had to get under deck. Ultimately this rolling in the surf brought water into the interior, flooding the batteries and generating chlorine gas."

"We saw at once that we would have to do something quickly or be asphyxiated. So we loosened ourselves and made our way to the conning tower, where we huddled together in the cold. For several hours we waited there, not daring to venture on the slippery deck. Then we learned that life guards had shot a line aboard but we couldn't make it fast. Finally the life guards sent a boat and a surfman—that man Swinn—did about the bravest thing I ever saw when he stuck to the job and made that line fast in spite of the danger to himself. I take my hat off to that man."

"After he had got through with his work it was easy to get all hands ashore. Lieutenant Bogush was the last man to leave the ship."

Lieutenant Bogush today paid a high tribute to the courage and discipline of his men.

"If it hadn't been for the splendid courage and discipline of the men we wouldn't all have been rescued. At all times they showed perfect discipline under most trying circumstances and in the face of the gravest danger. It was an honor to command such a body of men."

Work of salvaging the vessel proceeded rapidly today.

Take Russian Trenches.
Berlin, via Sayville wireless, Dec. 15.—German forces entered Russian trenches north of the railroad from Malozov to Tarnopol and brought back 90 prisoners, today's official statement asserted.

Gerge is Better.
London, Dec. 15.—Premier Lloyd George was much better today, his illness having subsided. His physicians indicated he would be able to speak in commons Tuesday.

ESTIMATES SHOW MOST CROPS ARE UP TO AVERAGE

Wheat Is Only 88,359,000 Bushels Below Crop's Five Year Average
CORN NOT MUCH SHORT
SPUDS 30 PER CENT SHY
Oats, Apples and Hay Are in Excess—Cotton One-Fourth Off

Washington, Dec. 15.—The total estimated production of wheat in the United States during 1916 was 439,866,000 bushels for 1915 and 738,225,000 for a five year average, the United States bureau of estimates reported today.

The total production of corn during the year was 2,583,241,000 bushels against 2,994,793,000 bushels for 1915 and 2,732,457,000 bushels for a five year average.

Total production of cotton during 1916, according to latest estimates, was 11,511,000 bales against 11,191,820 in 1915, and 14,259,000 bales for a five year average.

Total production of tobacco was 1,150,622,000 pounds against 1,062,237,000 pounds and 991,958,000 as a five year average.

The total production of winter wheat was 481,744,000 bushels, and of spring wheat 158,142,000 bushels.

The total production of oats 1,551,992,000 bushels against 1,549,030,000 bushels for 1915 and 1,157,961,000 bushels as a five year average.

Total production of barley was 180,927,900 bushels against 228,801,000 in 1915, and 186,208,000 as a five year average.

Total production of rye was 47,883,000 bushels against 54,050,000 bushels in 1915 and 37,568,000 for a five year average.

Total production of buckwheat was 11,840,000 bushels against 15,056,000 bushels in 1915 and 17,022,000 bushels for a five year average.

The total production of tame hay was 89,991,000 tons against 85,920,000 tons in 1915 and 66,234,000 for a five year average; of wild hay 19,795,000 tons against 21,343,000 tons for 1915.

Total production of apples was 67,695,000 barrels against 76,670,000 barrels in 1915 and 65,969,000 for a five year average.

Total production of potatoes was 253,437,000 bushels against 359,721,000 bushels in 1915 and 369,772,000 for a five year average.

Total production of oranges was 23,835,000 boxes against 21,220,000 boxes in 1915.

Additional Reply To American Protest Received

Berlin, via Sayville wireless, Dec. 15.—An additional portion of the German reply to the American protest over deportation of Belgian workmen was made public here today. It said the Belgian unemployed had been sent from central receiving places in Halle, Tarnopol, Gube, Kassel, Meschede, Muenster Soltan and Wittenberg.

"Of course," the note said, "occupations to which a hostile population, according to international law, cannot be coerced are excluded."

"If the American government attaches importance to this matter, it will be a pleasure to admit a member of the embassy in Berlin to obtain information about conditions under which these persons live by a personal visit."

"The German government highly deprecates that both the slandering press campaign of her enemies' and the conditions explained above have been completely distorted in the United States. The German government, likewise, not the least in the interest of the Belgian population—would greatly deplore it if by these distortions the highly beneficial action of the relief committee should be hampered and asks a way in which they may be continued."

THE WEATHER

Oregon: Tonight and Saturday fair; winds mostly southerly.

Abe Martin

Men may be lookin' further ahead these days, but not as high. Who remembers when a feller used to whisper when he ordered a plate o' beans?