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KING PROROGUES PARLIAMENT INDICATING ENGLAND IN NO MOOD TO CONSIDER PEACE PROPOSALS

Feeling in England Is Intensely Bitter Over President Wilson's Peace Proposal—Bonar Law Outlines Government's Position in House of Commons and Is Generally Applauded by Press of Empire—Intervention by United States Is Feared by Allies

London, Dec. 22.—Proroguing parliament today until February 7, King George added the weight of his words to the allies' stern rejection of a German peace proposal. "The vigorous prosecution of the war must be our single endeavor," he declared, "until we have vindicated the rights so ruthlessly violated by our enemies and established the security of Europe on a sound foundation. King George thanked the house of commons for its "unstinted loyalty" in providing funds to cover the burdens of the war. "In this sacred cause," the king declared, "I am assured of the united support of all my peoples. I pray God may give us his blessing." "My government," the king continued, after summarizing the nation's aims in the war, "was reconstructed with the sole object of furthering those aims unaltered and unimpaird. "I am confident," the king's address continued, "that however long the struggle may be, my army and my navy, with those of my faithful allies, aided by subjects throughout the empire will achieve victorious consummation of the aims for which I entered the war." King George was not present in person before the house of lords, and his prorogation address was read there by the lord chancellor. In the house of commons the king's address proroguing parliament was read by Speaker Lowther.

By Ed L. Keen. (United Press Staff Correspondent.) London, Dec. 22.—The more England digests President Wilson's peace note, the more bitter it feels. That was the conclusion to be drawn from newspaper editorials in the afternoon papers which went even farther than those of the morning editions in denunciation of the American proposal. "The afternoon press was a unit in its re-enthusiasm. This bitterness was particularly manifested against Wilson's assertion that the objects for which all belligerents were striving were nearly the same. "It is singular indeed," the Evening Standard declared, "that a statesman of Wilson's perspicacity can labor under the delusion that any move of his toward peace would be welcomed by the allies. The whole facts of the situation should warn him that intervention is not desired." "We sincerely hope President Wilson is not ill," the Globe commented, "but we have grave doubts of his physical well-being." "Our feelings against outside action to stop the war before the essential objects have been attained are only what President Wilson's great predecessor felt when threatened with European intervention in the middle of the civil war," declared the Westminster Gazette. "But if President Wilson has knowledge, hitherto denied us, that the enemy is willing to acknowledge our statements, he well knows we would be the last to reject his good offices." The favorite remarks with which the Wilson note has been greeted were that it was "ill timed," "inopportune," "doubtless well intentioned but ill advised" and "deplorable blunder." Few question the motives or the spirit which impelled the note, but most of the editorials point out that it was unskillfully conceived and tactlessly worded—especially in its references to "small nations." This it is contended, conveyed the impression that the allies were equally guilty with the central powers in this respect. What Bonar Law Says Entire appreciation was voiced through the press and by the public in the emphatic utterances of Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law, in remarks last night regarding peace. His statement was construed as a direct answer to America. "It is all very well to say 'let us

British Army Keeps Busy Plugging Away on West Front

By William Phillips Simms (United Press Staff Correspondent.) With the British armies in the field, Dec. 19.—(Delayed)—While the French are rolling back the German advance, the British army is not idle. Through the heavy snow and driving rain with a cold tang in the air reminiscent of Christmas, the British army is plugging away in perfect accord with the doughty heroes defending the historic citadel of Verdun. If the news from this end of the line at present isn't very sensational, it is because the allied plans decree it so. No one need doubt that absolute unity of action exists along this front, from the salt water to the Swiss mountains. After the latest victory at Verdun the British army straightened for a moment to applaud its brothers in arms—and then beat back to its task. That the British do not intend that the enemy shall have any more rest until the end of the war is apparent. Visits to back areas give this impression as distinctly as those to the front lines. There is a vast war plant there buzzing like a great, busy mill. In the trenches powerful mortars are plugging away continually, methodically lobbing over sinister bombs from the size and shape of a wine bottle to those of a football—almost keg-size.

English Fail to Grasp President Wilson's Motive in Sending Peace Proposal

By Ed L. Keen. (United Press Staff Correspondent.) London, Dec. 22.—British official circles refuse to believe that America, in the note by President Wilson, is asking the allies to give up all principles and retract all official utterances regarding the war's aims that have been so emphatically announced heretofore. American correspondents tonight met pained wonderment everywhere among the government authorities over the peace note. In some quarters confidence was expressed that President Wilson was aiming primarily to impress upon Germany that the United States may be forced eventually to enter the war on the side of the allies, unless Germany needs to the allies' demands. But as a rule, utter inability to understand the motives behind the president's note were apparent. The Evening News' head to the text of the Wilson note was the triple negative, in big type, "No! No! No!" with the further exclamation "This is Britain's Answer, Given Without Hesitation to President Wilson's Surprising Note." "President Wilson's zeal for humanity has evoked a step which will create the bitterest resentment of all those who fighting, working and dying for the very principles he has at heart," declared the Pall Mall Gazette.

WAR BULLETIN

London, Dec. 22.—After two years occupation by the enemy British forces have taken El-Arish, according to a war office announcement today. El-Arish is a fortified Egyptian town, on the Palestine border at the mouth of the River Wady-el-Arish (or "River of Egypt") on the Mediterranean sea. The war office said the Egyptian city had been taken by the British troops yesterday. Cannonading in West. Paris, Dec. 22.—Violent cannonading last night in the region of Louvain, north of Verdun, was reported in today's official statement. Elsewhere along the western front it was quiet. The statement also detailed an artillery duel yesterday north of Monastir, which is still continuing today. Patrol engagements on the Struma front were also reported. Bulgarian Wiped Out. Petrograd, Dec. 22.—The greater part of a Bulgarian detachment advancing eastward to Lake Babadag from Enisul (in Dobruja) was forced into Lake Izbolta and many were drowned, today's official statement declared. The Russian troops took 115 prisoners.

TORREON ATTACKED BY VILLA'S FORCES

Only News of Attack Comes in Brief Bulletin to El Paso El Paso, Texas, Dec. 22.—Villa's forces attacked Torreon at 4 o'clock this morning and a battle for possession of the city was raging at daybreak today. This information reached here by wire to Mexican government officials. The only news of the attack was a brief bulletin sent out of Torreon to Chihuahua City by the government wire less as the assault started. The message reached El Paso by land wires. Early yesterday Villistas captured Benjilillo, about thirty miles north of Torreon. There the garrison had fled to the latter city. Torreon is the railway key to northern Mexico, many lines converging at this point. In possession of Villa, the bandit chief could dominate the railroads leading to the northeastern border. The population of Torreon is about 40,000. Villa with 5,000 troops was reported yesterday as approaching Torreon and driving back government troops sent north to oppose his advance. Military observers here point out that Villa should have little difficulty in taking Torreon, as the garrison there was weakened when General Murgua marched northward to the aid of Chihuahua City. There are over 800 independent competing railroads in Uncle Sam's land. The express companies still use dog sledges in parts of Alaska.

CAR SHORTAGE CAUSED IT

Washington, Dec. 22.—Adjustment of the nation-wide car shortage—declare by federal authorities to be largely responsible for the present high cost of living—is being hindered by refusal of eight railroads to cooperate with the American Railway association, according to a statement of the association today.

INTERSTATE BRIDGE COMPLETE

Vancouver, Wash., Dec. 22.—With only a light breeze to make the operation difficult, the last span of the interstate bridge between Oregon and Washington was towed into the Columbia river today to be floated into place. The work will probably take all day. If the wind becomes strong, bridge engineers may halt the job and attempt it again tomorrow.

GERMAN CONSUL ADMITS PURCHASE OF CONTRABAND

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—Franz Bopp, German consul general here, admitted on the witness stand today that he had purchased contraband of war for the German government and that he had spent "a great deal of money" in such purchases during the months succeeding the declaration of war. He made these statements in cross-examination by United States District Attorney Preston during the trial of himself and associates on charge of neutrality violations. When Bopp admitted having purchased rubber and nickel in large quantities, Preston inquired that these two products are both munitions of war, but Bopp denied this. The district attorney questioned Bopp at length regarding the so-called "secret fund" said to have been placed at the disposal of the consulate by the Berlin government. This fund is said to have amounted to \$100,000. Bopp said he used "a great deal" of money, but would not specify the total. Bopp said that he personally was in charge of this fund and that he made reports regarding disbursements directed to the Berlin government, sending all vouchers, etc., there. For this reason, he could not detail the disbursements, as he had not kept any records for himself. "What expense, need or desire did you have for \$100,000 in March 1915?" Preston asked. "That has nothing to do with this case," was Bopp's peevish answer. "Asked who had requested the so-called 'secret fund' from the German government, Bopp replied merely: 'Ask Von Schenck.'" (The vice consul). Bopp finally stated, however, that he needed such a fund to make extensive purchases of rubber and nickel. When asked direct whether he had purchased "munitions of war," he said he had not and refused to admit that rubber and nickel are munitions. "What else did you purchase?" Preston asked. "I will not tell," said the witness. Bopp was questioned at length regarding the employment of C. C. Crowley as consulate agent and he repeated the testimony given earlier in the week by Vice Consul Von Schenck. He spoke with a good deal of contempt of the bomb model which Von Schenck had purchased from Johannes VanKoolbergen for \$25. Bopp said the bomb had lain around the consulate for a long time "and we occasionally took it up and played with it."

Testifies That He Expended Large Sum For German Government

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Will Not Flatly Reject

Washington, Dec. 22.—For the same reasons that Great Britain and her allies did not flatly reject the peace proposals of the Teutonic powers, they will not flatly reject the suggestions made by President Wilson in his peace messages, was the expressed belief of some entente diplomats here today. This opinion was voiced to a United Press correspondent in intimate and confidential talks at two of the most important entente embassies in Washington. "At these embassies two reasons were given for the above opinion: "To show officially and formally 'any regret' over the president's peace suggestions by flatly refusing his request for specific terms would be playing directly into Germany's plans, since Germany then would have opportunity to reiterate or repeated protestations that the entente allies are responsible for prolonging the war. "Such a flat refusal would tend to weaken what sympathy there is now in the United States for the entente ally cause. "These allied diplomats did not hesitate to admit 'ehghin' over the president's suggestion that specification of the entente allies is necessary. They said allied speakers have been specifying their objectives for two years and a half and that they ought to be apparent to all students of the war. It was this phase of the president's note—which seemed to cause more regret than bitterness—which was particularly emphasized by the diplomats.

SOUTHERN DIPLOMATS MUM

By Charles F. Stewart (United Press Staff Correspondent.) Buenos Aires, Dec. 22.—The first statement of the American Secretary of State Lansing, caused officialdom here to close up clam-like. His subsequent modification failed to restore talkativeness. Officials evidently considered the situation too delicate to discuss. Neither the Wilson note nor the Lansing statements have yet materially affected South American markets. A majority of the traders do not expect any speedy results from either. "Press comment is typical of this view. Editorials agree that the note is 'valuable and sensible and expresses the sentiments of belligerent peoples as well as neutrals.' The newspapers agree that the ding-

Fourth Member of Alleged Bank Robber Gang Arrested in Seattle

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 22.—Albert Wolf, married, a real estate man, was arrested at his home in Rainier Valley, near the Taylor mill, by detectives at six o'clock this morning, as the fourth member of the gang of bank robbers implicated in the confession of Oscar Lowe, one of the alleged Bethell bandits, a few hours earlier. Other arrests are expected today. El Hagen, a suspended patrolman, has uncovered operations of the alleged bandit robbers and was instrumental in rounding them up early today. Oscar Lowe, age 27, a blacksmith, arrested in Tacoma by Hagen and Detective Cochran, at the Park hotel there has admitted being one of the three auto bandits who took \$2,750 from the Bethell State Bank, December 6, according to the police, and made confessions revealing the names of the others connected with a series of daring crimes in the northwest. Hagen worked up the case, and arrested A. J. Rounds, who recently purchased a blacksmith shop at Auburn, Thursday afternoon. At 3 o'clock this morning Hagen and Acting Captain of Detectives Kent, arrested Walter McDonald, a longshoreman, at his home here. These two men and Wolf have refused to admit any part in the robberies, but Lowe, the youngest of the prisoners, has implicated them, according to detectives who worked all night on the case. Wolf is not believed to have had an active part in the Bethell bank robbery but was a planner for the others who have operated for more than a year, in the vicinity of Seattle and Tacoma, according to detectives today.

Abe Martin
CIGARS
CASH OR DICE

Statements of Lansing Are Transmitted Abroad; Allies Will Reject Peace

By Carl D. Groat (United Press Staff Correspondent.) Washington, Dec. 22.—Secretary of State Lansing's two statements of yesterday, in interpretation of President Wilson's peace note, were forwarded today to American diplomats abroad. The evident purpose in thus transmitting the statements, was that there might be no misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the text abroad. The diplomats will be free to inform foreign offices of these official texts and it is felt that the second statement will serve to correct any misconstruction which might be placed upon the first. Dispatch of the two notes will probably obviate the necessity for a supplemental note, which Lansing said he would send if his first "verge of war" remarks were misinterpreted. The fact that the texts are forwarded to the diplomats will enable them to present to the European courts as the official attitude of this government the idea that the United States regards transgressions on its rights as increasingly grave, but as thus far causing no consideration of a change in the neutrality policy.

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Butter and Cheese Makers Come to Salem

The seventh annual convention of the Oregon Butter and Cheese makers association will meet in Salem December 28 and 29. The dairymen of the county will meet on the 29th. The meetings will be held in the auditorium of the Commercial club. Addresses will be made by W. K. Newell, president of the Oregon Dairymen's association, on "Value of Improved Breeding." W. K. Hanerman is on the program for an address on "Results of Cow Testing Work." E. V. Ellington, assistant director of the western dairy division, who lives in Salt Lake city, will speak on "The Work of Dairy Division for the Product."

OFFICIALS EXPECT MOVE FOR PEACE BY BELLIGERENTS

Resentment On Part of Allied Nations Is Calming Down HOPE THAT PROPOSALS MET RESPONSIVE CHORD Secretary Lansing's Two Statements of Yesterday Mystify Diplomats

By Robert J. Bender. (United Press Staff Correspondent.) Washington, Dec. 22.—Recovering slowly from the dizzy whirl of yesterday's history making developments, government officials and foreign diplomats here today looked to the foreign office of the belligerent nations for the next peace move.

As outlined in early reports strong exception was at first taken to President Wilson's overtures in both English and Canadian press. The outspoken expression, seemingly today has been toned down, the move now being called merely "inopportune." The attitude of allied diplomats here also shows a trend in the same direction.

The administration believes, however, this feeling is not sufficient to cast any real gloom over the situation. It appears the same surprise and wonderment was occasioned in Europe by the president's overtures as were manifest here when his move became known. The first wonderment over, the president believes the warriors will feel far more inclined at least seriously and carefully to consider his suggestions.

Accurate sounding of the allied government's attitude cannot be definitely known for several days at least. This government is meanwhile convinced that when this accurate sounding is taken, it may show the proposals struck a responsive chord.

What Did Lansing Mean? After struggling with attempts to fathom just what lay behind Secretary Lansing's two announcements yesterday—one qualifying the other so as practically to discount some of its apparent meaning—officials and diplomats here reached the following conclusion today.

President Wilson has made his first step in a more vigorous course determined upon to maintain American rights during the war. He has warned both sides that in the event of any heretofore and final desperate effort to win—should present peace overtures collapse—America must not be made to suffer.

The move was prompted primarily to bring peace before further blows may be struck at the structure of international law. It was made not only in the interests of the United States but was influenced by the appeals from all neutrals to this country for some strong positive stand.

The United States government is determined to remain out of the war if possible, but warns the danger of unrestricted activities by belligerents should the strife continue. So far its attitude on neutrality is concerned, President Wilson has not changed.

He has not switched from his strong conviction that the country does not want war if peace can be maintained with honor. He will use every human means possible to keep the country aloof from the struggle.

But he sees in the possible failure of present peace negotiations acute danger from the influence of an embittered people. This government's view has been that should the allies refuse to discuss peace with Germany, the German people will be convinced England's purpose is to destroy. So influenced, the German public, it is feared, will even more strongly support the very government England is bent upon disintegrating and will demand more ruthless, more unrestricted and more determined pursuit of the war, on the sea particularly. This would endanger America.

THE WEATHER
BRING ON YOUR XMAS

Oregon: Tonight and Saturday rain west, portion; increasing winds, mostly southerly, with rain or snow east moderate to fresh gale along the coast.