WILSON REJECTS POPE BENEDICT'S PLEA FOR PEACE

States There Can Never Be A Lasting Peace As Long As Germany Is Ruled By Autocratic Despot

MILITARISM MUST BE CRUSHED

President Says That Peace Must Be Backed Up By The Word And Will Of All Peoples Of German Empire

Washington—Pope Benedict's plea for peace has been rejected by President Wilson.

In a note signed by Robert Lansing, secretary of state, and made public here Tuesday, the president says that, while every heart not hardened by the terrible war must be touched by the moving appeal of his Holiness, it would be folly to take the path of peace he points out if it does not in fact lead to the goal he proposes.

To deal with such a power as the present ruler of Germany upon Pope Benedict's plan, declared the president, would involve a recuperation of the world domination of that power now balked, but not defeated, after sweeping a continent with the blood of innocent women and children and the helpless poor as well as of soldiers.

Peace Based on Faith.

Permanent peace must be based upon the faith of all the peoples and upon justice and fairness and the common rights of mankind, he adds, and "we cannot take the word of the present rulers of Germany as a guarantee of anything that is to endure, unless explicitly supported by such conclusive evidence of the will and purpose of the German people themselves as the other peoples of the world would be justified in accepting."

The text of the president's note follows:

"August 27, 1917.

"To His Holiness, Benedictus XV, Pope

"In acknowledgment of the communication of Your Holiness to the belligerent peoples, dated August 1, 1917, the president of the United States requests me to transmit the following reply:

Peace Must Bring Aspirations.

"Every heart that has not been blinded and hardened by this terrible war must be touched by this moving appeal of His Holiness the Pope, must feel the dignity and force of the humane and generous motives which prompted it, and must fervently wish that we might take the path of peace he so persuasively points out. But it would be folly to take it if it does not in fact lead to the goal he proposes. Our response must be based upon the stern facts and nothing else. It is not a mere cessation of arms he desires; it is a stable and enduring peace.

"This agony must not be gone through with again, and it must be a matter of very sober judgment what will insure us against it.

"His Holiness in substance proposes that we return to the status quo ante bellum, and that then there be a general condonation, disarmament, and a concert of nations, based upon an acceptance of the principle of arbitration; that by a similar concert, freedom of the seas be established; and that the territorial claims of France and Italy, the perplexing problems of the Balkan states, and the restitution of Poland be left to such conciliatory adjustments as may be possible in the new temper of such a peace, due regard being paid to the aspirations of the peoples whose political fortunes and affiliations will be involved.

Basis For Settlement Needed.

"It is manifest that no part of this program can be successfully carried out unless the restitution of the status quo ante bellum furnishes a firm and satisfactory basis for it.

"The object of this war is to deliver the free peoples of the world from the menace and the actual power of a vast military establishment controlled by an irresponsible government which, having secretly planned to dominate the world, proceeded to carry the plan out without regard either to the sacred obligations of treaty or the long established practices and long cherished principles of international action and honor; which chose its own time for the war, delivered its blow fiercely and suddenly; stopped at no barrier either of law or of mercy; swept a whole continent within the tide of blood, not the blood of soldiers only, but the blood of innocent women and children also, and of the helpless poor—and now stands, balked but not defeated, the enemy of four-fifths of the world.

Blames German Master.

This power is not the German people. It is the ruthless master of the German people. It is no business of ours how that great people came under its control or submitted with temporary zest to the domination of its purposes; but it is our business to see to it that the history of the rest of the world is no longer left to its handling.

Americans Have Endured Wrongs.

"Responsible statesmen must now everywhere see if they never saw before, that no peace can rest securely upon political or economic restrictions meant to benefit some nations and cripple or embarrass others upon vindictive action of any sort, or any kind of revenge or deliberate injury. The American people have suffered intolerable wrongs at the hands of the imperial German government, but they desire no reprisal upon the German people, who have themselves suffered all things in this war, which they did not choose. They believe that peace should rest upon the rights of peoples, not the rights of governments—the rights of peoples, great or small, weak or powerful—their EQUAL right to freedom and security and self-government and to a participation upon fair terms in the economic opportunities of the world—the German people of course included, if they will accept equality and not seek domination.

Justice Need of Enduring Peace.

"The purposes of the United States in this war are known to the whole world—to every people to whom the truth has been permitted to come. They do not need to be stated again. We seek no material advantage of any kind. We believe that the intolerable wrongs done in this war by the furious and brutal power of the imperial German government ought to be repaired, but not at the expense of the sovereignty of any people—rather a vindication of the sovereignty both of those that are weak and those that are strong. Punitive damages, the dismemberment of empires, the establishment of selfish and exclusive economic leagues, we deem inexpedient and in the end worse than futile, no proper basis for a peace of any kind, least of all for an enduring peace. That must be based upon justice and fairness and the common rights of mankind.

Cannot Trust German Rulers.

"We cannot take the word of the present rulers of Germany as a guarantee of anything that is to endure, unless explicitly supported by such conclusive evidence of the will and purpose of the German people themselves as the other peoples of the world would be justified in accepting. Without such guarantees, treaties of settlement, agreements for disarmament, covenants to set up arbitration in the place of force, territorial adjustments, reconstitutions of small nations, if made with the German government, no man, no nation could now depend on. We must await some new evidence of the purposes of the great peoples of the Central Powers. God grant it may be given soon and in a way to restore the confidence of all peoples everywhere in the faith of nations and the possibility of a covenanted peace.

"ROBERT LANSING,
"Secretary of State of the United States of America."

WILSON SPEAKS FOR ALLIES

Appears to Have Been Elected Spokesman for Entente Nations.

Washington—President Wilson's rejection of the Pope's peace proposals is regarded here as the high water mark of the war. Furthermore, it is indicative of the virtual selection of the president by the Allies as their spokesman.

There appears to be no doubt that the United States was selected to make answer before the world, in advance of all the others.

It is regarded probable that the Entente nations will in large measure adopt the president's reasoning for their own and send notes of indorsement.

Students of diplomacy see in his denunciation of the military autocracy a fresh appeal to the war-ridden German people to throw off their military masters and join democracy with a government fit to deal with the remainder of the world.

The feature that is certain to fix public attention is the cold determination not even to permit the subject of peace negotiations to be broached so long as the evil and dominating forces of autocracy and militarism control the Central Powers.

For this reason the president was not to be led into any discussion of the peace conditions detailed by Pope Benedict, though that field was made alluring by the pontiff's adoption of some of the proposals laid down by President Wilson himself in early utterances.

On the other hand, there was no effort to evade responsibility for an expression of view as to the bases of sound and enduring peace, for the president's response in its concluding paragraphs restates the purposes for which America entered the great war.

As one official expressed it, the president's response, reflecting as it does the view of Entente Allies, sounds the doom of Prussian militarism and military domination of peoples. That this can and should be accomplished without the destruction of the German people is one of the striking expressions in the president's note. He expressly disclaims any intent to seek punitive damages and the dismemberment of empires, or even the punishment of the Central Powers after the war by gigantic economic combinations against them.

This shaft is aimed straight over the heads of the army-controlled German foreign office at the understanding and appreciation of the German people.

SOLDIERS' CAMPS CLOSE BARS

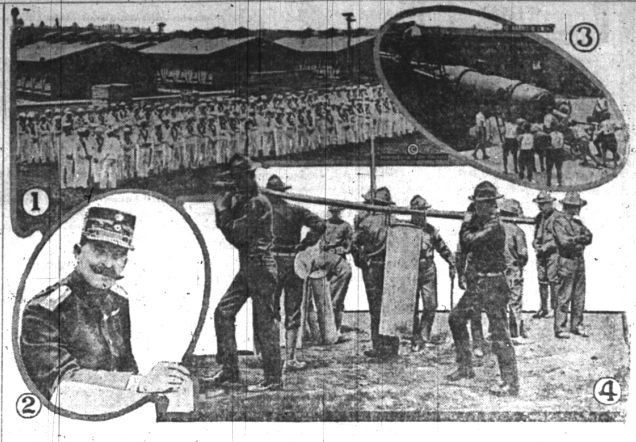
Several in Wayne County Must Quit On Government Order.

Detroit—Saloons within one-half mile of Fort Wayne and the state fair grounds mobilization camp will be closed by the enforcement of federal law regulating military establishments.

The law, approved May 18 and amplified in June by President Wilson, provides that no liquor shall be sold or given to any person within one-half mile of military camps in cities or towns, or five miles outside of cities and towns.

This law is now being violated, according to federal officers who are preparing to enforce it. Proprietors of barrooms near military camps in Detroit have been notified of the law and if they fail to obey it, prosecutions by the government will follow.

Saloons within five miles of the two military camps in Wayne county also will be forced to quit. Tavernkeepers of Ecorse and Greenfield townships will be forced out of business.



1—Sailors lined up on the grounds of Camp Hingham, the recently opened naval training camp near Boston. 2—General Christodoulos, commander of the Greek armies that are acting in conjunction with the allies. 3—Loading a 12-inch disappearing gun in one of America's coast forts. 4—American soldiers in camp in France carrying water in huge cans.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

British, French and Italians Crush Teuton Legions at the Same Time.

FIERCEST FIGHTING OF WAR

Russia's Military, Economic and Political Troubles Are Disturbing—Pope's Peace Proposals Discussed —President Wilson Regulates the Prices of Coal in America.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Civilians far from the seat of war wondered why the allies did not deliver their smashing blows at the kaiser at the same time, giving him no opportunity to shift his troops from one front to another, instead of taking turns in hitting him. That is just what they did last week, for British, French and Italians all began offensives that developed into the most furious battles of the war so far. The Anglo-French forces near the Belgian coast vigorously renewed the attacks begun the previous week and pushed forward. The British hurled themselves against the defenses of Lens and forced their way further into the outskirts of that coal center, repulsing all counter-attacks. General Petain's men attacked along the Chemin des Dames, and then delivered a series of smashes at the Germans in the Verdun sector, taking the twin summits of Dead Man's hill and other strong positions that the crown prince had held for a year and more. In Alsace there was lively fighting. At the same time the Italians were carrying on a monster offensive against the Austrians along the entire Julian, Isonzo and Carso fronts, from Tiava to the sea. The Austrian defenses were leveled by a terrific artillery fire, new crossings of the Isonzo were forced, and Cadorna's troops advanced considerably on their way to Trieste despite the difficulties of the terrain.

Wednesday the British again attacked fiercely in the Ypres region and after a bloody combat succeeded in taking important positions along the Ypres-Menin road. A little further north, in the blood-soaked Langemarck-Frezenberg sector, they hit the enemy hard in an effort to take the ridge, known as Hill 35, where the Irish made a gallant but losing fight the week before.

Germans Resist Stoutly.

The Germans have massed immense numbers of troops at the points of attack and are resisting desperately and making almost continuous counter-attacks, but up to the time of writing they had been unable to regain any of the lost ground.

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German Poison Gas in America.

The poison gases emitted by the pro-German press and all the other traitorous agencies in America are not growing noticeably less in amount of virulence, but Uncle Sam is beginning to apply the antidote with considerable vigor. In many cities "soap box" orators are being gathered in by federal agents and several more rabid papers have been denied the use of the mails. The German-American press of the large cities is still too clever to subject itself to that penalty, but if it keeps on its present course doubtless some means will be found to suppress it. Regretfully it must be said that a disgracefully large proportion of the Germans in America—naturalized or not—is proving disloyal to the land of their adoption. This is shown by such instances as the annual picnic of the Schwabenverein in Chicago, where for several days the assembled Germans occupied themselves in denouncing America's entry into the war, abusing the president, sneering at our armed forces and making fun of the draft and the National army. The same thing is going on all over the land, where Teutons get together, but they are preparing to reap a harvest of woe for themselves, for the men of the department of justice are cognizant of their words and acts. It is comforting to believe that the great mass of German Americans are truly loyal, but thousands of the more ignorant are led into disloyalty by the falsehoods of German secret agents and by the utterances of the La Follettes, the Reeds, the Massons and the William Hale Thompsons for whom all native-born Americans blush.

Former Ambassador Gerard, Secretary of Commerce Redfield, and other prominent men found opportunity last week to denounce bitterly the cowardly, treacherous pro-Germans and pusillanimous pacifists, who are doing all they can to make the world unsafe for democracy.

The threat of the I. W. W. to tie up the industries of the West, including the harvest, if their leaders were not released, was met promptly by the arrest of a lot more of the gang, and the great strike fizzled out miserably. No sooner was this trouble passed than the machinists and boilermakers, employed in the Atlantic coast shipyards, were called on to quit. This of course could put a stop to vast amounts of government naval work, and the United States mediators got busy at once. Several thousand men stopped work, but most of them either pledged Secretary Daniels that they would not quit, or delayed action until a vote could be taken.

President Cuts Coal Prices.

Having started Mr. Hoover well on the food conservation campaign, President Wilson last week turned to the almost equally pressing coal problem, which for several weeks had been exercising the wits of various state administrations. Having studied the production cost figures supplied him by the trade commission, the president issued an executive order fixing a tentative scale of prices for bituminous coal at the mines in nearly all coal producing districts of the country. These prices in some instances are more than $1 a ton below the voluntary prices fixed at the conference last June. The scale is subject to change when a method of administering the fuel supplies of the country has been determined and put into operation.

Later in the week the president named Dr. Harry Garfield fuel administrator, fixed anthracite prices for producers and jobbers and set a limit on profits to be made by bituminous wholesalers.

The senate spent most of the week in consideration of the revenue bill. Among other things it increased the finance committee's income tax provisions by a total return to the treasury of $73,000,000, adopting unanimously the Gerry amendment, which adds $40,000,000 to the returns from income taxes on million and over.

Japan's Mission in Washington.

The imperial Japanese mission was formally received in Washington by Secretary Lansing and other government officials on Wednesday. Its head, Viscount Ishii, made it clear that the mission has come not on a commercial or political errand, but to decide on how the two nations can best cooperate, in both a military and an economic sense, in carrying on the war.

The neutral countries of Europe—so-called, though no country there is any longer really neutral—are still trying to get around the American embargo that is so painful to their pocketbooks and their stomachs; but the indications are that unless they quit supplying Germany with foodstuffs their suffering will only increase. Switzerland and Holland, which depend on Germany for coal, have contracted to lend the kaiser large sums in return for the privilege of continuing to buy their fuel from his country.

Hungary took a real step toward democratization and freedom from German and Austrian influence in the appointment of Dr. Alexander Wekerle as Hungarian premier, to succeed Esterhazy. The new premier is popular, Democratic, a financial genius and is known to be no friend of Germany. The new nationalist movement in Hungary has attained great strength, and it is said King Charles is in complete harmony with the desires of the nation.

German aviators distinguished themselves last week by another raid on English coast towns in which 11 persons were killed, and by deliberately bombing two French hospitals behind the Verdun lines and then shooting down the doctors and nurses who were trying to rescue the wounded soldiers from the resulting conflagration. It would seem that the chivalry of aviators is one-sided.

Negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States infantry, stationed at Houston, Tex., as guards during the construction of Camp Logan, started a serious race riot, in which a dozen white civilians, police officers and National Guardsmen, and a number of negroes were killed, and more than a score wounded. Among the dead was Capt. J. W. Mattes Battery A, Second Illinois field artillery, who was trying to restore order.

READY TO FIX WHEAT PRICES

Food Administration Expects to Pay More Than $2 a Bushel for the Crop of 1917.

The price paid by the food administration for the portion it buys of the 1917 wheat crop probably will exceed $2 a bushel, it is learned.

In recommending a price the committee will take into consideration the fact that the producer must receive enough to stimulate production next year and at the same time will consider carefully war conditions and the rights of the consumer. In passing the food control bill congress set an arbitrary price of $2 on the 1918 wheat crop.

The hope of the food administration is that the government price fixed will obtain in all private transactions throughout the year, and it is ready to buy up the entire crop for distribution if prices cannot be stabilized by the mere fixing of a food administration price.

A conference of recently appointed federal food commissioners for various states was held recently. The commissioners were addressed by Food Administrator Hoover, who explained what was expected in the way of cooperation from the representatives of the states.

Dr. Ray Lyman Wilber, in charge of the food conservation work under the food administrator, explained briefly the plan to enroll the support of all the women of the country in the policies of the food administration.

Michigan Happenings

Chief.—Mrs. Harvey Days, of East Lake, drove her pony from Springfield, Mo., to this city, a distance of 1,000 miles.

Petoskey—Gerald Martin Conway, 11, had his head crushed when he stepped in front of an automobile on a downtown street.

Port Huron—Orders from England cancelling munition contracts caused the dismissal of 400 employes of the Mueller Co., Sarnia.

Battle Creek—Brainard T. Skinner, manufacturer, ex-banker, former alderman and president of the school board here, is dead. He was 70 years old. The death of his son, William, who was killed, hastened his death.

Mason—The Mason booster club has not allowed war conditions to make any difference in their plans for a street fair this fall. There will be displays of livestock, grain and vegetables. Business men have pledged $1,000 for cash prizes.

Anchorville.—Fire destroyed the Catholic church, parochial school, rectory and sisters' home here. The damage is estimated at $100,000. The cause is unknown. The rectory and school, which had not yet been completed, were of brick construction. The other buildings were frame.

Royal Oak—The township library board will undertake the task of gathering books and magazines for the soldiers abroad and in camp. Any citizen who has any books and magazines they have no further use of can leave them at the library and they will be forwarded to the boys.

Traverse City—Mrs. Joseph Oberlin, of this city, lost two fingers of her right hand at Cadillac in a peculiar accident. When leaving the home of C. F. Williams, a lumberman, she slipped on the steps. She caught the doorway for support and the door closed upon her hand, making amputation of the fingers necessary.

Muskegon—Public speaking has been prohibited on the public square. Proderman utterances were made there.

Grand Rapids—Dr. Charles A. Row, dentist at White Cloud, has filed suit for $50,000 damages against the Pere Marquette railroad, claiming personal injury in an accident at Englishville last December.

Petoskey—Mrs. E. H. Bingham and son, Murray, of Detroit, were serious injured in an auto wreck near Charlevoix. The mother has serious internal injuries. Their auto struck a road repair outfit.

Flint—Guy Green, factory employe, who took a job on the farm to help out a temporary shortage of farm help, lost two fingers when he was cleaning the knives of a mowing machine and the horses started.

Traverse City—A complete soaking, inside and out, failed to drown Paddy Larkin. Intoxicated, he pumped in the Boardman river, then hid, for fear of arrest, and watch 100 men drag the river for his body.

Marshall.—Frank Mahrl reports the largest yield of wheat raised in southern Michigan in years. He got 418 bushels from nine acres and sold it in Tekonsha for $2.02 a bushel. It was of the Elarado variety.

Traverse City—What is to be the biggest gathering of Odd Fellows that ever took place in this part of the state, will be the first annual picnic and outing of an organization of the orders in Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Antrim, Benzie, Kalkaska, Charlevoix and Wexford counties Labor day at Elk Rapids. On the program will be speeches by Grand lodge and encampment officers.

Bay City.—William H. Stickle, 69 years old, is dead as a result of injuries he received when he was run down by an automobile driven by Alfred Anderson, of Kawkawlin. Stickle, who was on a bicycle became confused and ran in the path of the machine. He was a retired farmer and formerly a prominent horseman. He was also a deputy sheriff. Anderson was exonerated from blame.

Port Huron—The Michigan Bean company has announced it will start construction of a huge warehouse and office building here at once.

Traverse City—Only men accepted for national army service will comprise a ball team here to play a similar outfit from Mancelona Labor Day.

Jackson—William Fahnestock, from Allegan county, on a sentence of five years for bigamy, met instant death at the prison when he fell from a scaffolding 35 feet high.

Sandusky—Threshers have raised rates three cents for handling oats and barley, four cents for wheat and rye, five cents for peas and buckwheat and eight cents for beans.

Traverse City—Fifty insane patients have been transferred to the state hospital here from Kalamazoo where the hospital is overcrowded.

Port Huron.—Miss Grace Bozo, 19 years old, is the first woman truck driver here. She is driving for the Morton Salt Co. The heaviest package she will have to handle weighs 150 pounds.

Cadillac—Three sons from one family in the military service of the country is the best record that has yet been made from this city. These young men are the sons of Mrs. J. H. Plett. Walter Plett was included in the army call at Grand Rapids, George enlisted at Ionia, while Thomas, the youngest son, was called from this city.

Bay City—Oliver Bukowski, 23 years old, was fatally injured when his auto going at a high rate of speed struck a rut and turned over twice in the ditch on Tuscola road, five miles south of here. He was caught beneath the wreck and was unconscious when farmers dug him out. Bukowski had been called for the army and was returning home after having his exemption claim denied by the board. He is a son of Jacob Bukowski, well known Merritt township farmer.

COMFORT KITS FOR STATE SOLDIERS

RED CROSS SOCIETY PREPARES TO SUPPLY EVERY MAN FROM MICHIGAN.

MANY BRING THEM FROM HOME

Aim Is to Equip the Lonely Ones Who Have No Friends to Look After Their Comfort.

Lansing.

When the boys from Michigan are called for service in the national army the American Red Cross will be preparing to see that each of them is equipped with a comfort kit.

The boys who leave behind them many relatives and particularly many women folks, no doubt will be well outfitted but there will be hundreds to go who will depend largely upon the volunteer work of some women whose generosity will extend beyond the comfort of her own kin and reach the men who are alone in the world.

The Red Cross has furnished or will furnish practically all of the national guard, ambulance companies and other military units of Michigan men with this kit, in addition to equipping the men drawn in the selective army.

Draft Law Not Understood.

Ignorance of the law promises to cost the United States a large sum of money in the operation of the draft, particularly in cities like Detroit, where there is a heavy foreign population.

The cases of several heads of large families who failed to claim exemption, through ignorance of the law, have been taken up with the war department by Detroit District Boards. These men, when they received their notice of certification, came to the board each at the head of a brood of small children.

The draft law provides that where no claim for exemption is filed within the specified time the man must answer the call to camp.

Under the circumstances there remains nothing for the board to do but send these men to camp, and afterwards they probably will be sent home. But such procedure, occupying at least a month, will cause much privation to many families.

When these men are called, the government will have to pay their fares to camp, feed them, house them, and probably return them to their homes. To the men it means the loss of their positions and the consequent suffering that will follow for their wives and children.

State Has Spent $319,210 for War.

Michigan's war preparations have so far cost the state $319,210.01. The legislature placed $5,000,000 at the disposal of the war board.

The important items follow: War preparations board, $4,458; food preparedness board, $27,208; Michigan state troops, $112,754; state naval brigade, $4,869; Michigan national guard, $63,414; drayling military reservation, $49,901; home guards, $2,812; dependents' relief, $6,035; registration and draft boards, $2,635; Selfridge aviation field road, $40,049; women's war committee, $628; Battle Creek cantonment road, $367.

Of these amounts, it is expected that eventually the state will be reimbursed by the federal government for expenditures on the naval brigade and national guard, which went for equipment the federal government did not have; on the military reservation and for the draft and registration boards.

Price of Red Rock Wheat Cut.

The association of farmers who have control of the Red Rock wheat and the rosen rye raised in Michigan this year, and which is wanted for seed for next year, have agreed to a distinct drop in prices.

Red Rock wheat was dropped from $4 a bushel to $3.25 for the certified and $2.75 for the uncertified quality. Rosen rye will be sold at market price.

Another U-Boat Killer.

Theodore Heiss, of Troy township, Newaygo county, has been granted a patent on a device to be used against submarines. It is effective within a range of 50 feet in any direction from the central mine and it has another advantage of allowing surface shipping to pass uninterrupted.

Phosphate Would Aid Wheat.

Inspection of wheat fields in all parts of the state has revealed that most Michigan soils are deficient in phosporus, Dr. M. M. Cool, of the M. A. C., reports. Deficiency in phosphorus is noticeable by the fact that heads of wheat are not filled as they should be. This element can be supplied in the shape of acid phosphate and raw rock phosphate fertilizers.

To Safeguard Soldiers' Morals.

Mayor Sparks and Health Officer Parnell, of Jackson, have called a conference of mayors and health officers of all the cities of the state, to meet in Jackson, September 12, in the hope of strictly segregating the red light district in cities and towns which can be reached from the national army cantonment at Battle Creek.

New Aeroplane Company.

Articles of association for the Michigan Aircraft Co., at Grand Rapids, capitalized at $25,000, have been filed.

Cucumbers Thrive in Michigan.

Michigan raises more cucumbers than any other state in the union. Figures of the U. S. census department show an acreage of 7,661, with New York second with 3,350 acres. Ohio ranks fifth in strawberry acreage with 3,951 acres reported, while Maryland led, with 14,303 acres.