GERMAN REPLY REACHES WASHINGTON; PRESIDENT WILSON AND SECRETARY LANSING HOLD MEETING OVER NOTE

Belief Held Here That German People Are Actually Taking Reins of Government and Sincerely Desire Peace On Any Terms U. S. and Allies Are Willing to Give.

REPLY SENT FROM GERMAN WIRELESS STATIONS AHEAD OF U. S. CABLE DISPATCH TO ALLIED COUNTRIES

Newspapers Throughout United States Appear to Be Solidly Alligned in An Attitude of Distrust of the Motives Behind the Note.

Washington.—Germany has replied to President Wilson with a not, which, while no one is prepared to say it will lead the president even to continue exchanges on the subjects of armistice and peace, is said almost to bring conviction here that the people of Germany actually are taking the reins of government and sincerely desire peace on any terms the United States and the Allies are willing to give.

The president was in conference with Secretary Lansing discussing the note as received by wireless. Like the reply to the president's inquiries a week ago, this note was sent out from the German wirless stations and picked up in the Allied countries many hours before the official text could move by cable.

"Tell it to Foch," is once more the consensus of opinion of the press of the United States regarding an appropriate answer to a German reply to President Wilson.

The newspapers appear to be solidly alligned in an attitude of distrust of the motives behind the note.

Germany's Reply.

London—The text of the German note follows:

"In accepting the proposal for an evacuation of occupied territories, the German government has started from the assumption that the procedure of this evacuation and of the conditions of an armistice should be left to the judgment of the military advisers and that the actual standard of power on both sides in the field has to form the basis for arrangements safeguarding and guaranteeing this standard.

"The German government suggests to the president that an opportunity should be brought about for fixing the details. It trusts that the president of the United States will approve of no demand which would be irrevocable with the honor of the German people and with opening a way to a peace of justice.

"The German government protests against the reproach of illegal and inhumane actions made against the German land and sea forces, and thereby against the German people. For the covering of a retreat destruction will always be necessary, and they are carried out insofar as is permitted by international law. The German troops are under most strict instructions to spare private property and to exercise care for the population to the best of their ability. Where transgressions occur in spite of these instructions, the guilty are being punished.

"The German government further denies that the German navy in sinking ships has ever purposely destroyed life-boats with their passengers. The German government proposes with regard to all those charges, that the facts be cleared up by neutral commissions.

"In order to avoid anything that might hamper the work of peace, the German government has caused orders to be dispatched to all submarine commanders precluding the torpedoing of passenger ships without, however, for technical reasons, being able to guarantee that these orders will reach every single submarine before its return.

"As a fundamental condition for peace, the president prescribes the destruction of every arbitrary power that can separately, secretly and of its own single choice disturb the peace of the world. To this German government replies:

"Hitherto the representation of the people in the German empire has not been endowed with an influence on the formation of the government.

"The constitution did not provide for a concurrence of representation of the people in decisions of peace and war. These conditions have just now undergone a fundamental change. A new government has been formed in complete accordance with the wishes of the representation of the people, based on equal, universal, secret, direct franchise.

"The leaders of the great parties of the reichstag are members of this government can take or continue in office without possessing the confidence of a majority of the reichstag.

"The responsibility of the chancellor of the empire to the representation of the people is being legally developed and safeguarded. The first act of the new government has been to lay before the reichstag a bill to alter the constitution of the empire, so that the consent of the representation of the people is required for decisions on war and peace.

"The permanence of the new system is, however, guaranteed not only by constitutional safeguards, but also by the unshakable determination of the German people, whose vast majority stands behind these reforms and demands their energetic continuance.

"The question of the president—with whom he and the governments associated against Germany are dealing—is, therefore, answered in a clear, unequivocal manner by the statement that the offer of peace and an armistice has come from a government which is free from any arbitrary and irresponsible influence, is supported by the approval of an overwhelming majority of the German people.

"SOLF."

U. S. Reply to Austria's Note.

Washington—The text of the note to Austria follows:

"Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the seventh instant in which you transmit a communication of the imperial and royal government of Austria-Hungary to the President. I am now instructed by the President to request you to be good enough through your government to convey to the imperial royal government the following reply:

"The President deems it his duty to say to the Austro-Hungarian government that he cannot entertain the present suggestions of that government because of certain events of utmost importance which, occurring since the delivery of his address of the eighth of January last, have necessarily altered the attitude and responsibility of th Government of the United States. Among the 14 terms of peace which the President formulated at that time occurred the following:

"X. The peoples of Austro-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of autonomous development.'

Conditions Changed.

"Since that sentence was written and uttered to the Congress of the United States the Government of the United States has recognized that a state of belligerency exists between the Czecko-Sovaks and the German and Austro-Hungarian empires and that the Czecho-Slovak national council is a de facto belligerent government clothed with proper authority to direct the military and political affairs of the Czecho-Slovaks. It has also recognized in the fullest manner the justice of the nationalistic aspirations of the Jungo-Slavs for freedom.

"The President is, therefore, no longer at liberty to accept the mere 'autonomy' of these peoples as a basis of peace, but is obliged to insist that they, and not he, shall the judges of what action on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government will satisfy their aspirations and their conception of their rights and destiny as members of the family of nations.

"Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

"ROBERT LANSING."

British Capture Ten Villages.

Paris—British armies are progressing in the region of Tournai with clocklike regularity, capturing more than 10 villages, including Nechin, Wannehain, Froidmont and Froyennes, the latter a mile northwest of Tournai. The river Selle has been crossed at several points between Haspres and Saulzoir.

Foe Forming New Line.

British Headquarters in France.—A new German line of defense from Antwerp through Namur to Sedan, which probably will be given the name of the Wotan III. line, is understood to be in course of construction. On this side of the line the Germans do not appear to have any defenses of real importance. It is considered likely the main bulk of the German armies, or rather what is left of the main bulk in this section of the front, is on its way to the Wotan III. line

Girls May Wear 'Em, Law Allows.

Lincoln, Neb.—Neither the law of God nor the law of man—at least in Nebraska—prevents women from wearing men's clothes when they are engaged in war work, Attorney-General W. E. Reed ruled. Attorney-General Reed's opinion was given to the Rev. W. B. Longpre, of Maxwell, Nebraska, who wrote Governor Keith Neville a letter saying the wearing of men's garments by women was against Bible doctrine and asking if it were contrary to state law.

MICHIGAN BREVITIES

Royal Oak—Chicken thieves are busy in Royal Oak township. Robberies are reported almost every night.

Big Rapids—The county farm agent appropriation calling for $1,000 was voted down by the Mecosta supervisors, 14 to 17.

Pontiac—The state board of corrections and charities has notified Oakland county that it must provide a better juvenile detention home here.

Traverse City—Supervisors of Newaygo and Leelanau counties have contributed $200 each to the Western Michigan Development bureau.

Pontiac—An order was issued by the Pontiac health officer requesting all funerals to be private during the influenza epidemic regardless of the cause of death.

Saginaw—Richard O'Brien drove a one-ton truck hown a 15-foot embankment into the Saginaw river. He escaped with a broken wrist. The truck is buried in the river.

Hillsdale—As the contract between Hillsdale County and the Detroit House of Correction has expired an increased of from 70 to 90 cents a day is asked for prisoners taken there.

Albion—Mayor Hoaglin and Chief of Police Hubbard have launched an active campaign to ban all pool and card playing in soft drink establishments as the first step toward making loafing in Albion unpopular.

Hastings—Addison Moore, 68 years old, who refused to stay at the County Poor Farm, obtained a shot gun and barricaded himself in a vacant dwelling. Deputy Sheriff Burd surprised Moore by climbing in a window and placed him in custody.

St. Ignace—Michael Chambers, 68 years old, lumberman and Democratic leader, died of heart failure. He served as mayor several terms and was in the 1899 Legislature. Later he was appointed on the board of the Michigan College of Mines.

Big Rapids—Captain E. W. Minier, who returned from France several weeks ago, is commanding officer and acting quartermaster in the Students' Army Training corps unit at the Cass School of Applied Science. He has 11 officers under him and about 500 students.

Niles—From the sale of old auto tires acquired from "ringing" the "silent policeman," a street intersection in the business district, the local chapter of the Red Cross realized $35. The "ringing" has been introduced within the past few months and will be continued.

Port Huron—Mrs. Jonathan Baker, whose body was found in a potato patch near her home at Jeddo, came to her death from natural causes, according to a coroner's jury Friday. Mrs. Baker and her aged husband had been separated, pending divorce suit filed by the husband.

Saginaw—War board, city officials, heads of the Board of Commerce and American Protective league representatives to enforce the work or fight rule on all from 16 to 60 years will name a director of labor slackers who will see that everyone physically fit is occupied in an essential position.

Grand Rapids—A fight has developed between the Kent county supervisors and the Grand Rapids Street Railway company over the three-cent bridge fare charged by the company at North park. The supervisors claim the bridge is now paid for and threaten to compel the company to either cut down the fare or do away with it altogether.

Houghton—Alki Monsour, a merchant, of Hancock, engaged in supplying goods to peddlers, has been adjudged a bankrupt, confessing $2,200 assets and $6,600 liabilities. His creditors, Detroit, Milwaukee and Chicago dry goods houses, became suspicious a few days ago. Under Sheriff Heikkila found $7,000 worth of goods "planted" in farm houses in Keweenaw and Baraga counties.

Gladwin—Chris Klevonite, a well-to-do farmer of Grout township, refused to listen to the soliciting committee of the fourth Liberal loan, October 14, when they called to ask him to buy bonds and drove away leaving them standing in the barnyard. That evening a vigilance committee of about 50 called upon him and he bought $500 in bonds and subscribed $25 to the Red Cross.

East Lansing—Ray M. Turner, formerly in charge of club work in Hillsdale county, has been appointed by the state board of agriculture at Michigan Agricultural college to take up the duties laid down by E. C. Lindemann, state leader of boys' and girls' clubs. As did Mr. Lindemann, Mr. Turner will have direction of the work of the 35,000 Michigan youngsters who are members of the junior gardening, canning, live stock and other clubs in the state.

Washington—Michigan now has 858,065 men registered under the draft, General Crowder announces. The various registration totals are placed as follows: June 5, 1917, 21 to 31 years, 374,316; June 5, 1918, 21 years, 25,799; August 24, 1918, 21 years, 5,178; September 12, 1918, 18 to 20 and 32 to 45, 452,771. Michigan ranks seventh among the 45 states in number of registrants, falling below Massachusetts by less than 10,000. The Massachusetts total is 868,023; New York, with a total of 2,042,224, leads the van, with Pennsylvania second.

Bay City—Charles Chambers, Pinconning farmer, paid $300 for violating sheep shipping regulations.

Ann Arbor—A contingent of 840 drafted men have arrived here to be instructed as mechanics and Signal Corps work.

East Lansing—Training of "pilots" for farm tractors will be an important course at the M. A. C. this year. The tractor school will open November 25.

Albion—Mrs. Arthur A. Smith and Mrs. W. W. Diehl, former trained nurses, have organized a number of women to care for influenza victims in the Albion College S. A. T. C.

Houghton—There were 31 deaths by accident in the mines of Houghton County during the year ending June 30, according to the annual report of Alfred James, inspector of mines.

Algonac—Angus M. Smith has been appointed a special investigator with the Emergency Fleet Corporation. His duties will take him to all yards where wooden ships are being built.

Traverse City—The annual meeting of Grand Traverse County supervisors has been postponed two weeks in order that potatoes may be harvested during the present favorable weather.

Ferndale—The election to decide on a site for a school in Campbell boulevard district has been declared void as a two-thirds majority was not obtained. Another election will be called.

Charlevoix—Schedules have been arranged for school pupils to assist farmers with harvesting in this vicinity. The Business Men's Association is also seeking to enlist a harvest army.

Hastings—When the hammer of a shotgun could not be lowered, Anthony Whitefeet, of Carlton, pounded the weapon on a log without removing the shells. He is minus two fingers.

St. Joseph—More than 200 school children are reported victims of influenza, while the gas company is crippled through the number of men in the production department who are absent.

Petoskey—Lottie McPherson, 12 years old, was shot through the right lung by Dorothy Scheidel, 16 years old, when a 22-caliber rifle with which the girls were playing was accidentally discharged.

Albion—The National Spring & Wire Co. plant has been sold to the Ventilated Mattress Co., of Chicago, and the local plant will now be used to turn out mattress springs to be used in ambulances.

Muskegon—John Castenholz, former alderman of Muskegon, will be named the third member of the country road commissioners board by the supervisors of this county, after a long fight for the position by other candidates.

Petoskey—Willie Koepka, 9 years old, and Robert Judson, 10 years old, were drowned in Lancaster Lake when a boat in which they were attempting to hoist a sail overturned. The bodies were recovered after the lake had been dynamited.

Bay City—After signing a retraction pleading his loyalty, purchasing Liberty Bonds and agreeing to dispose of his wheat at the market price, Robert Bittner, a Pinconning farmer, arrested for disloyal utterances, was released under bond of $1,000.

Houghton—Following protests from residents of the Copper Country, Gov. Sleeper has instructed Game Commissioner Baird to sell fish taken for spawning purposes to local dealers at 11 cents a pound providing they are sold at retail for 13 cents a pound.

Saginaw—Alec Sauve of Bridgeport township has been arraigned before United states Commissioner Quinn, charged with obstruction of the sale of Liberty bonds. It is alleged Sauve argued against the purchase of bonds at a patriotic meeting early this month. He demanded an examination.

Kalamazoo—A resolution asking the city commission to rename one of the city's prominent streets in honor of Colonel Joseph Westnedge was adopted unanimously by the local Rotary club. Col. Westnedge commands the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth infantry, which in the battle of Cierges won one of the most thrilling fights of the war.

Kalamazoo—Ira Van Vleet and Charles White, youths, who placed an obstruction on the Michigan Central railroad track to see what would happen when a passenger train struck it, were sentenced to Ionia state reformatory by Judge Welmer in circuit court. Van Vleet was given two to 10 years and White one to 10 years. Both are residents of Ross township.

Traverse City—Federal orders received here recently ordered the restoration of service on the Traverse City, Leelanau & Manistique Railroad. The G. R. & I will operate trains over the route until Leelanau County crops are moved. By that time it is expected Leelanau interests will buy the road which recently abandoned operations under the intention of junking its property.

Caro—Discourtesy to the flag and defying public sentiment resulted in punishment for two Mayville men. Two farmers, Bader brothers, are said to have made disparaging remarks about Old Glory for some time. A committee waited on them and asked them to show deference to the U. S. emblem. One of the brothers is alleged to have broken the flag staff and crumpled the flag. When the "course of instruction" was completed one wore his collar and one shoe, while the other retained less. Their automobiles were painted yellow.

OUR WAR EFFORTS ARE NOT ABATED

TALK OF PEACE CAUSES NO RELAXATION HERE, SAYS ASSISTANT SECRETARY CROWELL.

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES GIVEN

United States Has Gas Mask That Fully Protects the Wearer—One Concern Turns Out Hundred Hand Grenades a Minute.

(From Committee on Public Information.)

Washington.—In the midst of the discussions of peace, Assistant Secretary of War Benedict Crowell has made public statistics to demonstrate that the United States has not abated its efforts or ceased its preparations to prosecute the war to a victorious conclusion.

"A proof that there is not the slightest relaxation," said Assistant Secretary Crowell, "is found in the fact that congress has just been asked to increase by $1,700,000,000 its appropriations for heavy cannon. The enemy is being driven back and this is the best time to increase our pressure. It would be the worst time to pause. This applies to civilians as well as to the military forces. It is not the time to question when or how the end of the war will come."

Assistant Secretary Crowell said that an idea of the immensity of the supplies required by a single branch of our forces overseas, for which additional finances are necessary, is indicated by the shipment of materials from this country to France by the engineer corps up to August 31, 1918.

These shipments included 277,000 tons of rails and accessories for standard and narrow gauge track, 45,000 tons of structural steel, 7,000 tons of corrugated iron, 16,000 tons of barbed wire, 17,000 tons of metal building materials, 6,300,000 square yards of camouflage materials—wire netting, fish netting and burlap, pontoon equipment for three divisions, and 57,000 tons of lumber, ties, stringers and piles.

In addition to these supplies, large quantities of engineering materials have been purchased also in England, France and Switzerland. Assistant Secretary Crowell pointed out. The aggregate tonnage of these purchases up to June 30, 1919, he estimated at more than 600,000 tons.

Hundreds of thousands of tons of supplies are on the docks in this country waiting transportation abroad. Assistant Secretary Crowell said, but the ships to carry them are being produced. There was a very large increase in ships in September, he said.

Motor trucks must be shipped "knocked down" and distributed among different vessels, the assistant secretary explained. This is done to meet the demands of the shipping people. Locomotives are shipped in two ways—completely "set up" and "knocked down." Those that are shipped "set up" are landed and steam away under their own power.

More than 5,000 motor trucks were sent to France in September, the assistant secretary announced. The number would have been much smaller if they had been forwarded "set up."

Employees of the Single Service corporation of New York were recently commended by Maj. Gen. C. C. Williams, chief of ordnance, for having attained a production of more than 100 hand grenades a minute. The grenade manufactured by this concern is of the "offensive type," which is used by infantry when making an attack to "clean up" the enemy's trenches and other systems of defense.

The third million of grenades made by this company was shipped to France in the middle of last month, having been produced in exactly one month's time. In the week ending September 14, the plant shipped a total of more than 300,000—which was at the rate of 55,000 a day, Saturday being counted as four-sixths of a day. This record was attained notwithstanding that the plant was closed down ahead of time on September 12 to permit employees to register for the draft. The maximum production was reached Friday, September 13, when 55,200 grenades were turned out. Simple as it appears when completed, it requires twenty-five distinct operations to make a grenade.

Reports to the United States fuel administration disclose that the saving of gasoline through the discontinuance of pleasure motoring on Sunday has aggregated between 650,000 and 700,000 barrels. The requirements in France continue heavy, and it is expected further deprivations of Sunday driving may be necessary.

The United States fuel administration has announced that pending an investigation into the increase of 200 per cent in the number of coal and coke distributors, in the last seven months, no additional licenses to distribute these classes of fuel will be issued.

It is believed that many of those who engaged in the business of distributing coal and coke since the adoption of the purchasing agent's commission plan last March, have contributed neither skill nor experience to the distribution of coal in a way to insure the successful prosecution of the war.

German forces opposing the advance of the American line on the Lorraine front have brought into play every method of defense considered effective in modern warfare, and in particular they are making heavy use of poison gas. Pershing's men have been unceasingly bombarded with "mustard" shells and every effort has been made to drench American positions with deadly fumes. It is considered a tribute to the chemical warfare work in the United States that these frantic endeavors to stay the progress of the American offensive have proved utterly futile.

The American attacking forces are protected against gas by masks which actual field tests prove are twenty times more efficient than those in use by the Germans. The war department contends that there is not a single recorded case of an American soldier falling a victim to a gas attack when protected by the mask that is now being manufactured in the United States.

Every American soldier who goes to France is trained to adjust his mask with almost incredible speed. The mask is put on with just five motions of the arms and hands. The man who fails to accomplish the feat within a limit of six seconds time is left behind when his unit goes to the front. Recently, in a practice drill, one company of Americans set a record of four seconds, counting from the instant the order to don masks was given to the moment when adjustment was made by the slowest man.

American masks withstand tests that German masks cannot meet. German masks will not afford protection against a high concentration of gas. This was demonstrated recently when the British assembled a sufficiently large battery of projectors to put seventy tons of phosgene gas into the air at once, with consequences quite well known to the German general staff. There is no concentration that the American masks will not defy. This has been amply attested not only on the battlefield but in the experimental stations in this country.

The American gas mask was developed by actual manufacture. The proper authorities obtained complete information about the French and British masks, and full data as to the efficiency they demonstrated under German gas attacks. With this knowledge, an order for making several thousand masks was placed in this country. Members of the force of 300 officers and 2,000 enlisted men who are credited with the production of this means of defense showed the courage of their convictions by volunteering for experiments. From time to time they donned the masks and exposed themselves to actual gas attacks. American ingenuity suggested improvements in the original models and as a result the officers of the allied armies are unanimous that the American mask is the best on the western front.

Although a gas mask is an uncomfortable bit of gear the first few times it is worn, the soldiers soon become accustomed to the handicap on the natural method of breathing. It fits over the head like a baseball catcher's mask. A nose clip closes the nostrils and insures breathing through the mouth, by means of a tube that is connected with a canister filled with chemicals. The breath exhaled leaves the mask through a flutter valve near the chin. Air cannot reach the mouth except by passing first through the chemicals in the canister, and the most exhaustive tests show that these chemicals never fail to extract the poison.

At the end of thorough training in this country, American soldiers can wear the masks for almost an indefinite period, and can indulge in practically any form of activity while wearing them. Pershing's men—merely as a "stunt"—have played baseball and soccer while wearing the regulation American army masks. On numerous occasions the soldiers have served batteries under hurricane fire for periods of twelve hours without taking off their masks.

For the month of August waste of foodstuffs, which include bread, cooked meat, grease and bones, was reduced to three-fifths of a pound a man per day in the various camps and cantonments of the army in this country. The facts have just been made public by the conservation and reclamation division of the quartermaster corps. This figure is much lower than that for waste among the civilian population of any of the larger cities in the United States. Statistics gathered from 31 camps and cantonments show a total garbage collection of 592.1 pounds per 1,000 men a day.

In the course of the month the conservation and reclamation division repaired in the camps a total of 1,733,735 articles of wearing apparel—hats, uniforms, leggings, shoes, underwear, sweaters, blankets and the like. The dry cleaning and pressing shops cleaned and pressed 1,618,863 garments, and there were laundered 6,119,611 pieces. The revenue from reclamation was $70,567.40. The revenue from laundry work was $184,719.

Thirty thousand beds are now ready for American wounded in southern France, and American hospital units are being detailed at Nice and other points along the Riviera. Their work will cover Cannes, Menton, Beaulieu and Monte Carlo.

At Nice, hotels are undergoing conversion into hospitals. The Astoria, Majestic, Sulsse and Winter Palace, are to be devoted to this use. The leases run for a term of one year beyond the conclusion of the war. Extensive alterations are being made in most of the buildings.