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**Jeer At Germany's Talk of Peace**

New York, Dec. 4.—A cable from London, this morning, to the Herald, says.

The official German wireless announcement that the imperial chancellor will permit the Socialists in the Reichstag to interpellate the government on possible terms of peace, is received here with contempt, which is intensified by the fact that Berlin's balloon d'essai is loosed at the moment when Mr. Henry Ford's modern Noah's ark leaves New York in what the allies regard as an imprudent impudent attempt to place the allied powers in a false position. Every newspaper in London this morning jeers at Germany's talk of peace at the moment when Britain is now fully supplied with 3,000,000 men, munitions and money, and is ready to fight to the only possible end of the war—victory for the free men of Europe.

**Plots Against Munitions Plants**

Washington, D. C., Dec. 1.—Federal and county officers today were investigating a "confession," which they say was made to them in the office of Prosecuting Attorney Cyrus Locher late yesterday by Dr. E. W. Ritter, in which he is claimed to have told of having knowledge of plots against munitions plants in the United States.

Ritter was arrested on a charge of passing a worthless cheque for \$50 on Miss Clare Darby. He is being held in \$5,000 bail, until the story federal officials say he told, can be proved.

Among the items in Ritter's alleged confession was the claim that his real name is Emerich W. Ritter von Reittaghe, son of a former Austrian count, and a former officer in both the Austrian and German navies. To-day, however, Ritter denied to newspaper men that he is the son of a count.

Ritter claims he is the inventor of "liquid fire," officers say, and that he has been experimenting extensively with it in the local gas fields.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 1.—Although a searching investigation into the disaster was started by officials of the Dupont Powder Company immediately after the explosion which caused the death of thirty-one workmen and the serious injury of six others in the company's upper Hagley yards yesterday, nothing of a tangible nature had been discovered up to an early hour today. Every employee who was near the building that was destroyed, was put through a thorough

examination, but without throwing any light on the mystery.

Not one of the twenty-six men who were in the Pelet Pack House escaped and there is now only a big hole in the ground where the building stood. The investigators admit that there is but little possibility of the responsibility ever being placed, and company officials while declaring that nothing would be left undone to determine the cause of the explosion, stated that they were without a thread upon which to base their hopes that its origin will ever be obtained.

Reports that notices had been found nailed to trees and fences leading to the Dupont plants at Upper Hagley and at Carney's Point, warning employees of Teutonic origin that they would imperil their lives by continuing to work at either place were receiving the attention of the big force of detectives working on the case today. These reports were discredited by the investigators and officials of the company alike, but in order to leave no stone unturned it was decided to run down every clue.

**German Socialists Want To Know the Government's Plans in Regard to Peace**

London, Dec. 1.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Copenhagen says:—

London Scheidemann, Socialist leader of the German Reichstag, next week will ask Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the imperial chancellor, according to news received here from Berlin, if the chancellor is willing to give information as to the condition on which he would be ready to begin peace negotiations.

"It was proposed that more pertinent questions should be put to the chancellor, but a majority of the Socialists agreed upon the question as given above."

Berlin (via London, Dec. 2.—The Von Warte, the organ of the Social-Democratic party, announces that the Social-Democrats in the Reichstag have determined to propose foreign interpellation in a body at the session.

"In the imperial council ready to give information as to the conditions under which he would be willing to enter into peace negotiations?"

"Herr Scheidemann, the leader of the party, will put the question and Herr Landsberg has been chosen to lead the debate. A most detailed and searching inquiry as to the government's attitude regarding peace was defeated by the Social-Democrats by a vote of 58 to 45.

The Vorwaerte, in commenting on the subject, says.

"What we demand is a definite expression on the Social-Democracy's peace demands, and a clear answer from the government."

Amsterdam (via London), Dec. 2.—The Berliner Lokal Anzeiger, a copy of which has been received here, says that Dr. Karl Liebknecht, one of the Socialist leaders, sent ten interpellations to the Reichstag, of which three were censured by the Reichstag.

"He wants to know," says the newspaper, "whether the government is prepared to enter immediately into peace negotiations, whether the government will lay before the nation the history of

the entry in Luxemburg and Belgium, whether the government will abandon secret diplomacy in favor of lasting control by the public, and whether it will check economical distress among the great masses of the people, and seriously begin, in the course of the present session of the Reichstag, a reorganization of its internal policy."

Winston Churchill, former head of the British Admiralty, has resigned from the coalition Government, to accept active service in the field. He said in his letter of resignation that he did not care to accept general responsibility for the management of the war, while a small committee of the Government had actual control.

**Ford "Peace Ship" May Be Searched**

London, Dec. 2.—Henry Ford is fast coming to be considered the greatest humorist in the world by certain prominent Englishmen. In conversation with a leading member of the American colony here, a British Cabinet Minister declared:—"In the intervals when I am able to stop laughing at Mr. Ford's project I feel that there is a chance that his remarkable excursion may do some good. Late reports indicate that Germany is anxious for peace, and will be glad to seize any opportunity for a settlement while the military situation remains as it is. Of course, peace under existing conditions is not to be thought of, and I believe that the voyage of Mr. Ford's peace ship will make the proposition so ridiculous that peace talk will become more unpopular than ever in England."

American business men in London are heartily tired of discussing the Ford venture, and some are even considering sending a petition to President Wilson urging him to use all his influence to stop the departure of the party. Every business deal in which an American figure is prefaced his remarks referring to Ford's step until the matter has become a nuisance.

If the peace party actually sails interest will be centred on the attitude of the British authorities. It is considered likely that the ship will be brought into a British port for search. On the whole, while the authorities refuse to comment on the matter openly, it is safe to say they do not regard the trip very seriously. As one said: "I think Mr. Ford deserves a medal for injecting a little comedy into this awful tragedy we are going through. He is putting some money into circulation and, as far as I can see, is doing no one any harm. Of course he will see the futility of the scheme as soon as he arrives on this side of the water."

**The War News.**

(St. John Globe).

Although the news from Europe in recent days tells little of the fighting on the different fronts, it throws many side-lights on conditions in the different countries. These have a particular interest because of the growing impression and belief that they are preliminary to an important peace propaganda. From the Entente nations there comes not one word that can be interpreted as expressing a willingness for peace on any terms other than those victory will give. An English M. P. who wrote for a New York paper an article favoring peace has been requested by his angry constituents to resign, while "shoot him" was the demand of many of those who took part in the great indignation meeting United and determined, the people of Great Britain are making war plans for victory, and are thinking not of peace. France, Russia and Italy stand firm with Britain in their determination to carry the war to a successful conclusion. In none of these countries is there any peace talk. They know what peace now could mean on the best terms Germany dare offer, and will have none of it. Official Germany knows there is no Entente thought of peace, but official Germany is powerless to stop German peace demands because they voice a growing popular opinion. Papers have been suppressed and socialist advocates have been im-

posed, but still the papers and the people talk peace and demand that an end be put to the war. Still there are food riots and still the cry of the women and children is heard for more. No longer is the peace movement interpreted as a Teutonic plan of campaign. More and more the world is becoming convinced that Germany is really in distress over the food problem and the growing unrest. That these are dissatisfaction in Austria-Hungary over the increasing weight of Germany's hand in the government, civil as well as military, is also a plain inference from the news of the week. A new item is the announcement of G. Ward Price, a New York American correspondent in Salonica, that "in Bulgaria the intelligent classes feel they have been made a catspaw of by Germany in the perilous adventure. Much greater help was expected from the Germans. It had been hoped that the price of victory against the Serbs would be limited to about 10,000 casualties, but Bulgarian reports place them as high as 100,000.

Rigid martial law prevails throughout Bulgaria, repressing all news of war except the official statements. Relatives are not allowed to see the wounded or to receive news from them. No one is permitted to leave a town without permit. It is believed the peasants will not fight against the Russians, and that if a Russian landing on the Danube bank is made the Mohammedan Bulgarians will be used to bring about a religious war. In Constantinople the casualties at the Dardanelles are estimated at 200,000.

As the New York American is far from friendly to the Allied cause, it may be assumed that the correspondent does not minimize the facts. It may be some time yet before this unrest expresses itself in more determined form, but sooner or later official Germany will find the friends at home as dangerous enemies as these in the steadily tightening ring of steel seeking to close Germany's only open road, that to Constantinople.

**Bernstorff's Modest Request**

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—Count von Bernstorff to-day presented to the State department a communication asking for the reasons for the request for the withdrawal of Captain Boy-Ed and Captain von Papen, the German naval and military attaches, respectively.

It was stated authoritatively, though not in the communication, that the ambassador would under no consideration ask the United States to get safe conducts for the attaches. The German government was represented as considering it is incumbent upon the United States to return the attaches in safety to German territory and bring their successors here.

**Peace Rowd's Trouble Starts**

New York, Dec. 6.—Two stow aways, Jacob Greneburg, of this city, and Alop Bach, a native Finland, were found aboard the Ford peace ship, the O-car II, several hours after she left port Saturday, according to wireless message received here. Greneburg, a messenger, who got aboard by the ruse of delivering a fake telegram to one of the passengers, has been made ship's messenger, while Bach has been set to work peeling potatoes.

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