

Col House Gives Germany's Latest Peace Proposals

Washington March 15.—It is stated on good authority that President Wilson has been informed by Col. House of the terms upon which Germany will be prepared to negotiate for peace, in the event of victory for German arms at Verdun.

The terms Germany would consider, confirmed by high German authority are, provide:

That German colonies taken by the Entente Allies be returned to Germany.

That no indemnities be demanded by either side.

That Montenegro, Serbia and Albania be divided between Austria, Bulgaria and Greece.

That an autonomous Government be established in Poland.

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That Turkey be entirely freed of British influences.

That Germany return Belgium and those portions of French territory now in possession of the Kaiser's army.

That Russia assume possession of Persia.

That England remain as she now is, neither giving nor receiving anything.

A high German official said that both sides "ought to pretty thoroughly understand by now that there could be no demands for indemnity."

As for Germany retaining Belgium, he added, "There is no longer any thought of it by the German Government."

Regarding other terms of peace, it is the belief of the German Government, according to a report made to President Wilson by Col. House, that the only way to establish order in the Balkans is to distribute the land inhabited by the Albanians, Montenegrins and Serbians between Austria, Bulgaria and Greece.

That Greece would be given a share of the conquered territory is regarded as significant in its possible bearing upon that country's refusal to enter the war on the side of the Allies.

The demand for copper in Europe has led to a shortage in small coins. "A. the ticket windows of the subway in Paris," says the "Railway Age Gazette," "copies have been posted of the law of April 22, 1790, which states that the buyer of an article must provide the necessary change." Copper coins of any country are now, it is said, received in France as legal tender, and some cities have

issued bills in two-cent, five-cent, or ten-cent denominations. Many of the copper coins have gone to Germany through Switzerland. The Germans' shortage may be inferred from the statement that copper obtained in this way costs them eighty cents a pound.

Germans Mobilize 1 Month Before War

Boston, March 17.—Prof. Roger B. Merriam of Harvard University told the Society of Colonial Wars in Young's Hotel that year ago when he was in France, a German soldier told him he had been mobilized July 7, 1914. Prof. Merriam added that the answer was significant, if true, because it showed that German mobilization had taken place at least four weeks before war was actually declared.

He believed the present German assault on Verdun is not for a military but a political purpose and had been attempted much sooner than originally planned. He believed also that the present assault had miscarried because of the mud and the inability to transport the heavy German artillery. This was mere guesswork, he said, and might prove wrong, but from it might be drawn "hopeful conclusions for those who hope Germany is beaten."

Concerning alleged German atrocities, he said it was his belief that they had been committed by eight or ten bad regiments, officered by men who sanctioned such methods to spare the Belgians and others, but when the German found the scare did not work they dropped such tactics.

A German officer told him an American should be the last to speak about such affairs, referring Prof. Merriam supposed, to the Indians the officer adding that in German books it was taught that Sherman's "March to the sea" was a great atrocity because it was only the laying waste of a great swath of land and pillaging.

Prof. Merriam, referring to the great use of the famous "Quaker guns" in the Civil War, and all the armies are using logs and wooden sticks in the form of guns and masked by bushes to deceive the enemy.

Good Advice.

The other night at dinner a little girl surprised her mother by saying, "I'm not stuck on this bread." "Maggie," said her mother, reprovingly, "you want to cut that slang out." "That's a peach of a way of correcting a child," remarked the father. "I know replied the mother, "but I just wanted to put her wise."—Brooklyn Eagle.

Hard to Fill.

Aunt Liza's former mistress was talking to her one morning when suddenly she discovered a little pickaninny standing shyly behind his mother's skirts. "Is this your little boy, Aunt Liza?" she asked.

"Yes, Miss, dat's Prescription."

"Goodness, what a funny name Auntie, for a child! How in the world did you happen to call him that?"

"Ah simple calls him dat because Ah nas sech hand wuk gettin' him filled."

French Will Turn Tables on Germans

Paris, March 8.—An artillery Lieutenant who commanded a battery on one of the heights on the west bank of the Meuse and was wounded by a shell splinter, thus describes the recent operations in the Forges-Regneville sector:

"There is a close parallel between the latest fighting and the earlier operations east of the Meuse. The Germans advanced by exactly the same methods first concentrating their artillery fire on the exposed slopes, and then by infantry attacks proceeding along the sheltered ravine. You may have noticed the general rule that where a river bends the concave banks are always higher than the convex. This is the case with the Meuse, where the Forges-Regneville convex is dominated by the Rabant-Samogneux concave. It was a certainty that as soon as the Germans brought up their guns our advanced position would become untenable. Their infantry was sheltered by Hill 235 in the advance from the river, and by the ravine between Cote de l'Oie and Dead Man Hill, in the advance from the north. Thus they manage to force their way near to the head of this ravine, where the Bois des Corbeaux is situated, and at the same time tried to rush the Cote de l'Oie from the east, along the narrow neck which links that crest to Hill 265.

"Although I find in Paris the fairly general opinion that the new battle is likely to occur on the east bank on the same scale as the previous fighting, no one who knows the country can imagine that even the Germans' needs for a striking success would induce them to face the additional losses, which are bound to be far larger than those they have already suffered, owing to the conformation of the ground.

"From Forges Brook the ground rises to a high plateau, which is much less split by ravines running from north to south than the similar plateau across the Meuse. At the same time, there are several ravines running east and west which afford perfect cover for our guns, which are now fully equal to the Germans in number and power, and can enfilade the attacks, terribly. Numerous woods also give cover, so that we can launch unexpected infantry counter attacks in a more advantageous fashion than on the comparatively open eastern plateau.

I saw what happened to the enemy who tried to debouch from the ravine between Le Mort Homme and the Cote de l'Oie. Our trenches were hidden in the Bois des Corbeaux owing to a hill, and as the enemy struggled to pass the barbed-wire wound around the trees at the entrance to the wood, they were swept by mitrailleuse and rifle fire which slaughtered them in rows. People talk of the execution d'été by the 'seventy-fives,' which tear visible holes in the charging ranks, but though I am an artilleryman, I put faith in small arms for stopping a rush. It is the hail of bullets under which none can escape, while shellfire looks worse, but spares whole blocks of the line.

"The enemy tried seven rushes before abandoning the attempt, which must have cost them 5,000 men at that one point without gaining a yard. What is more, they cannot demolish these positions as they did at Samogneux or Bradant, because our heavy gunners know the only possible emplacements for the big guns in the ground we have abandoned, and will not be firing blindly, as they did before, the enemy advanced his artillery. Thus they can easily destroy any German battery around Samogneux that becomes obnoxious, while they themselves remain hidden, as the Germans were at first. How great an advantage this is only an artillery expert can realize."

When I asked whether the Germans might not advance along the low ground close to the river, thus turning the positions on the bluffs, my informant replied:

"It is most unlikely. In the first place the river is soed, which makes the available roadway very narrow. In the second, directly they get beyond Cumieres, they would be exposed to a tremendous concentration from all our guns across the river on Froide Terre and in the central fortifications. It is another case of the river convex, but this time the concave opposite is in our hands.

"Finally, the east and west ravines of which I spoke would enable us to launch crushing counter attacks right on the German flank. No, you can take it from me that the way to Verdun is not on the west bank of the Meuse. What the east bank means the Boches have learned already."

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SAILOR BOY SAW FLYING DUTCHMAN

Weird Ghost Steamer That Frightened Whole Crew of English Tramp on Long Voyage

Edward Montgomery, seaman's apprentice, aged 18, sat on a coil of rope, with a maulspike in his belt, gulping stumgullion from a big dinner plate. It was high noon, on the deck of the square-rigged Annie M. Reid, where she lay tied among tugs, lighters, sailing craft and steamers from the seven seas.

"Any adventures this voyage?" he was asked.

"I've seen—It!" he gasped.

"Seen what?"

"Why, the Flying Dutchman. Only, she's not like the old one you read about, that sails past at night with sails set and spray flying and not a soul aboard. She's a steamship, with two funnels, bearin' down on you in the murk of a storm.

Eddie went on: "Ever since I ran away from Hull, and shipped on the Annie, I'd been lookin' for the Dutchman. We sailed to Australia, making the 10,000 miles from Montevideo to Adelaide in 38 days. We left Australia, bound for London, and were skirting the Western Islands when one afternoon, the sky being clear, all at once a squall came on and it grew dark.

"Wilfred Denne and me and Will Langley, all 'prentices, were standing by the mizzen-top halliards when the shackle broke in the tie, and down crashed the mizzen tops' yard. Then, suddenly, while we hung to the halliards, with the deck reeling and the



EDDIE MONTGOMERY

spray flying over, we sighted a ship coming light end-down for us, on our starboard bow, with never a light set, and never a signal, though her skylight was wide open and out of it streamed a flood of queer light—sort of greenish yellow!

"Our lookout had given the alarm, and the helmsman put the wheel up a little, and our ship came into the wind as close as she dared, and the skipper was running up and down on the fo'c'sle head burning blue lights to warn her. And still she came on, never veering a point!

"That wild ship passed us so close I could s' touse a biscuit over her rail. And nobody on the lookout—not a living soul on deck or bridge—only that greenish-yellow glare from her skylights, and greenish-yellow smoke pouring out of her funnels.

"And—believe me or not, mister—there was a red bar of light low down among the black clouds in the west, where the sun was setting, and I saw that bar of red light t'rough the ship! She'd no sooner passed

than the squall went away, the sky cleared and the sea died down. Next day we caught a seven-foot shark and nailed the tail to our jibboom, and that brought us fair breezes."

The Mystery of the Ball



To amuse a number of young folks make a large ball of black and yellow strips of crepe paper, or of muslin. As you wind the ball insert all kinds of small favors, which have been wrapped in red paper—a penny for fortune—a ring for marriage—a key signifying a journey, etc. One person commencing to unwind the ball starts to tell a story and continues until a gift is revealed and then the next one takes the ball and goes on with the story until his fortune is discovered. This continues until all have found a fortune.

THE FOX AND THE FLEAS

How Sly Reynard Got Rid of His Unwelcome Guests

Once there was a fox—a sly, sly fox, with a glossy brown coat and eyes that shone like little brown beads as he sat dozing in the sun before his den among the rocks.

Willie Flea had found much comfort in Mr. Fox's sleek coat. One day Mr. Fox, finding that Willie's cousins and sisters and uncles and aunts were all taking advantage of his fine fur, decided he would once and for all get rid of the colony. So he went into his den and thought long and hard of the matter. Finally, with a sly wink he started towards the river nearby. On the way, Mr. Fox paused under a



chestnut tree and selected a twig of the chestnut tree wood. This he held tightly in his teeth and started for the river which ran deep and clear at the foot of the hill.

Willie Flea grew unhappy and frightened as Mr. Fox started to wade into the water. Step by step Mr. Fox descended the bank until his face only protruded. Then Willie Flea, seeing he must surely drown, called all his relatives, and they scooted out on the stick of wood which Mr. Fox held above the surface. It was just what Mr. Fox wanted! When Willie Flea reached the furthest point of the stick, Mr. Fox suddenly let it go, and the whole flea family including Willie tumbled into the water and drowned. Then Mr. Fox waded back to shore and sat laughing at his own cleverness, and ever afterwards that's the way all the foxes got rid of their Willie Fleas.

London Bridge has been burnt down six times.

Shakespeare's plays brought him in about \$100 a year.