

TEUTON RULER'S NOTE PLAN TO DIVIDE ALLIES

Hon. A. J. Balfour Says Letter to Sixtus Part of Clever Scheme.

OPEN TO FAIR OFFER

Allies Always Ready to Talk of an Honorable Peace.

London, Cable.—The British Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Arthur J. Balfour, in giving explanations in the House of Commons today in connection with Emperor Charles' letter to Prince Sixtus of Bourbon, recently made public by the president of the French Republic, declared that no effort at conversations has ever been made by the Central Powers in the interests of a fair and honorable peace, and he added:

"If any representative of any belligerent country desires seriously to lay before us any proposals, we are ready to listen to them."

The letter in question had been examined by a committee of the French Chamber, said Mr. Balfour, and the conclusion reached was that it did not provide an adequate or satisfactory basis for an honorable peace.

Mr. Balfour, in his explanations, was replying to questions in regard to the right Hon. Walter Runciman, former President of the Board of Trade, who asked whether, when Emperor Charles' letter was communicated to the French Government, and by the French Government to the British Prime Minister, it was communicated to any other of the allies; had the American Government any information as to what was passing; did the Prime Minister inform the Foreign Office at the time of the fact that the communication had been shown to him? Why were the negotiations stopped; was it on purely territorial grounds; was it because the demand was made in France, not only for Alsace-Lorraine, but for the 1814 line, or even the 1792 line?

WAS THEN IN AMERICA.

Mr. Balfour explained that he had no secrets from President Wilson. He was in America at the time, and had not gone very thoroughly into the matter. The letter, however, had been conveyed by Prince Sixtus to President Poincaré and the French Premier under seal of the strictest secrecy, only the British Sovereign and Premier were to see it. Therefore it was not communicated to the President of the United States, and the American Government was at the time no better informed of the facts regarding the letter than he was himself.

The Foreign Secretary said he did not think it would be possible for the United States and Great Britain to carry on the great work in which they were engaged, or to deal with the complicated day-to-day problems without complete confidence. So far as he was concerned, complete confidence would always be given.

The American Government, said Mr. Balfour, was at the time no better informed of the facts regarding the letter of Emperor Charles than he himself was, but if anyone supposed that on that account any want of confidence in the American Government had been shown he was under a complete delusion.

There was no one more desirous than the British Government, he continued, that the war should be brought to an honorable termination. If any method could be shown the Government whereby that would be accomplished it would, of course, be accepted. He added, however, that no effort at conversations which had been made by the Central Powers had ever been made in the interests of fair and honorable peace; to the contrary, they had been put forward in order to divide the allies.

WANT OLD ALSACE-LORRAINE.

Referring to the statement made by Walter Runciman, formerly president of the Board of Trade, that France had asked for a bigger Alsace-Lorraine than that of 1870, Mr. Balfour said there was no question of this bigger Alsace-Lorraine being the war aim of the allies.

"If any representative of any belligerent country," the Foreign Minister then declared, "desires seriously to lay before us any proposals we are ready to listen to them."

Mr. Balfour said the conversations which Gaston Doumergue, formerly French Premier and Foreign Minister, had with the Russian Emperor in 1916 regarding a bigger Alsace-Lorraine, which France would demand, were not known to Great Britain until very much later. They had no international bearing, he said; did not pledge Great Britain, and the British Government never gave the last encouragement to any such notion.

NOY FIXED POLICY.

Mr. Balfour said an extended Alsace-Lorraine was not a subject which should ever be contemplated seriously, and he did not think it ever was a fixed part of the foreign policy of the French Government for any length of time.

The Foreign Minister also said the purport of the Austrian Emperor's letter were not interfered with by the demand of France for an extension of territory beyond her boundaries of 1870.

Mr. Balfour said there was no evidence now or at any time that German Government circles contemplated the possibility of "what we should regard as a reasonable peace—a peace which would secure the freedom of the world and freedom for those who are in danger of German domination."

Mr. Balfour, in replying to questions

by the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, former President of the Board of Trade, regarding Emperor Charles' letter said that Mr. Runciman put questions to him on the subject which naturally excited a great deal of interest here and abroad.

AIMED AT DIVISION.

"The course taken by the British Government with regard to the Stockholm conference," he continued, "had no connection, near or remote, with Emperor Charles' letter to Prince Sixtus, or with the negotiations or conversations resulting therefrom. They were treated as wholly separate and absolutely unconnected subjects."

"We do not know, and will only know when the secrets of the archives of Europe are opened to the world, what were the motives which influenced Emperor Charles and the German Emperor in these various transactions. Perhaps we will never know what the motives were which actuated Count Czernin, Charles and the German Emperor. I am inclined to think that it was part of a peace offensive, by which I mean proposals initiated by one party which did not desire peace, but which desired to divide its opponents."

EXPOSED ENEMY MOTIVES.

"The falsehood exposed by Premier Clemenceau was that the whole war was being conducted in order that France might obtain Alsace-Lorraine and Italy should have nothing. When we are dealing with

SMOKE TACKETTS T & B CUT

people so cynical as the Central Powers, some kind of counter-attack is almost obligatory. Therefore the counter-attack delivered by Mr. Clemenceau appears to have been thoroughly effective, in the sense that it exposed in the clearest manner the motives animating Central European diplomacy.

"No effort at conversations made by the Central Powers has ever been made in the interest of a fair and honorable peace, but in order to divide the allies. There is no evidence now or at any time that the German Government contemplated the possibility of what we should regard as a reasonable peace—a peace which would secure the freedom of the world, the freedom of those who are in danger of German domination."

NOT SATISFACTORY.

"This question has been examined, and no doubt, with fuller knowledge of the facts than I can state to the House, by a committee of the French Chamber. The British have not the machinery for the sort of investigation conducted by the French. The French have the machinery and used it freely, and the conclusion reached was that the Emperor Charles' letter did not provide an adequate or satisfactory basis for an honorable peace."

"It might be said that other motives than judicial consideration of historical facts animated the verdict. It there existed any prejudices at all, these would surely have been in favor of a peace which would give the French Alsace-Lorraine, because the suggestion was that Charles should make a proposal, which could have afterwards been imposed on Germany, by which the war should come to an end and France should claim Alsace-Lorraine."

WANT HONORABLE END.

The secretary said that if the proposal really contained the seeds of an honorable peace, the committee of the French Chamber would surely have expressed regret that the opportunity had been thrown away by the French Government or the French Premier. No one, he added, was more desirous than the British Government that the war should be brought to an honorable conclusion, and if any method whereby that would be accomplished were shown the Government, it would be accepted.

"But," he went on, "we are fighting as one among many allies against the Central Powers, who never at any time, and now less than ever, have had the least intention of meeting our wishes—I am talking about our legitimate wishes, and I mean wishes on which the whole House and the whole country are entirely in agreement. These great aims of ours can only be obtained by absolute loyalty between the allies."

Former Premier Asquith, who followed Mr. Balfour, said that while in his judgment there had not been, and could not be any contraction, so there should not be any expansion of the clear aims and purposes for which Great Britain had entered and was prosecuting the war, and desiring to bring it to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Asquith said he desired to record the satisfaction he felt at the instructive and opportune statement made by Mr. Balfour. It is a satisfaction to the world at large, he said, that the British Government has closed its door on any overtures and approaches toward an honorable peace. "To whatever quarter," said Mr. Asquith, "be it with adequate authority and in real good faith an appeal is made, if it is based on substantial considerations, it will not be made to deaf ears. The whole House is glad of the assurance that not only matters of this kind, but in all matters, we have kept no secrets from President Wilson. We could not carry on a struggle of this kind without complete mutual confidence."

With regard to the supposed claim of France in the line of 1814, Mr. Asquith said the allegation that President Poincaré put forward this demand was totally without foundation so far as Mr. Balfour knew. He regarded with still more satisfaction Mr. Balfour's declaration that this had never been one of the aims of the British Government, and so far as he knew it had not been, and was not the settled policy of the French Government.

"Is that right?" he asked the Secretary, and Mr. Balfour replied, "I think so."

Mr. Asquith said he was extremely glad, and he thought the world would be, to hear it.

KAISER GLOATS ON FRENCH RUIN

Tells of the Good Fortune of the Fatherland

And Boasts of Certainty of Victory.

Amsterdam Cable.—The German Emperor a few days ago addressing the Town Council of Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) said, according to a Berlin despatch:

"I am glad to be able to salute you gentlemen. In the west I inspected half of devastated France. There only one obtains the right impression of the awful fate that has been spared the Fatherland. Whoever should grow faint-hearted ought to come to the front and see the devastation, then he would cease to lament his fate and be satisfied with his lot and bear patiently the hardships and privations of war's horrors."

"The offensive goes well ahead. Already 600,000 English have been put hors de combat and 1,800 guns have been captured. Everywhere the French must help. Our opponents have had a bad time. They deserved nothing else. Our task in the west will be accomplished, but we must be patient. We cannot settle in a day armies of millions."

"We shall obtain our aim. Difficult tasks are before us, but to deal with these we have efficient workers."

"We have gone ahead in the Crimea also. The first trains with foodstuffs have arrived at Berlin from Ukraine. Improving the food supply, Sebastopol has been captured and a big richly-laden fleet there. We shall revive the Black Sea traffic."

"The position, therefore, is good. I am delighted with the patriotism prevailing in Aachen, on the Emperor's frontier. The spirit of the troops is excellent. There are many Rhinelanders and many Aacheners among them. I believe it is now time to abolish all that is foreign. We must cease to talk French. Let us, rather, talk low German."

No matter how deep-rooted the corn or wheat may be, it must yield to Hollo-way's Corn Cure if used as directed.

ACCIDENT AT CONIAGAS.

Coniag Report.—Three men engaged in repairing a tube mill at the Coniagas mine yesterday were the victims of an unusual accident. Two of the men were inside the mill, which is a revolving steel cylinder about twenty-five feet long and six feet in diameter, engaged in drilling a hole when a workman started the motor which drives the machine. Another workman named Hatt was just entering the manhole in the mill at the time, with the result that he was severely injured, and it is not thought that he will recover. The two men inside the mill escaped with a bad shaking up.

BLACK SEA FLEET IN ENEMY HANDS

3 Battleships, 5 Cruisers, Many Small Craft.

Larger Vessels Mostly Out of Business.

Amsterdam Cable.—The Berliner Tageblatt's special commissioner to Ukraine, Leonard Adel, in a telegram dated at Odessa, May 2, gives the following particulars concerning the capture of the Russian Black Sea fleet:

"When the Germans entered Sebastopol, the Seaford Executive Commission placed the fleet at the disposal of the Ukrainian People's Republic. It was found afterwards, however, that the bunkers of the ships were empty and that majority of the vessels had been so neglected that only the battleship Volga and the cruiser Pamyat Merkuria were in servicable condition."

"The remainder of the fleet consisted of the battleship Rostislav, the cruiser Potemkin and a number of torpedo boats and submarines, and 20 transports. The protected motor-boat flotilla already had been seized at Odessa, as had been the new war vessels on the slips. The latter consisted of a dreadnought of 23,000 tons of the 1911 class, two protected cruisers of 7,600 tons each, and two unprotected cruisers."

"At Sebastopol the Bolsheviks shot 45 notables, including Rear Admirals Sach and Lvoff, and four captains and two colonels. The Bolsheviks had demanded 20,000,000 rubles from the city of Odessa and ten million rubles from Sebastopol, but the wholesale execution of the leading citizens of these two places was prevented by the timely arrival of the German troops."

FRENCH TRAITOR GOES TO DEATH

Sentence Passed On Director of Pro-Hun Sheet.

Terms in Prison for Other Conspirators.

Paris Cable.—M. Duval, who was director of the suppressed Germanophile newspaper, Bonnet Rouge, was condemned to death to-day by court-martial for treason.

M. Marrion, assistant manager of Bonnet Rouge, received ten years imprisonment at hard labor.

Goldaky was sentenced to eight years at hard labor and military degradation.

M. Jouca, a reporter on the Bonnet Rouge, was given five years at hard labor.

M. Vercaisson was sentenced to two years in prison and fined 5,000 francs, with sentence suspended.

Jean Peymarie, former director of the Ministry of Interior, was given two years in prison and fined 1,000 francs.

M. Duval, with great fortitude, heard Col. Voyer read the death sentence. He then said:

"The judgment of man often is erroneous. Posterity will judge whether I am guilty of treason."

Before the verdict was reached, M. Duval, in an impassioned speech, had declared that none of the accused was in any way an accomplice of his. He declared he was ready to face any verdict serenely.

Could Hardly Live for Asthma.

Writes one man who, after years of suffering, has found complete relief through Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy. Now he knows how needless has been his suffering. This matchless remedy gives sure help to all afflicted with asthma. Inhaled as smoke or vapor it brings the help so long needed. Every dealer has it or can get it for you from his wholesaler.

TONS OF BOMBS UPON THE HUNS

British Fliers Again Raid Their Gun Plants.

Nine Foe Planes Downed On Tuesday.

London Cable.—The official statement on aerial operations issued Wednesday night says:

"In the air fighting Tuesday six hostile machines were brought down and one was driven down out of control; one was shot down by anti-aircraft gunfire and one by infantry fire. Two of our machines are missing.

"Bombing continued actively during the night. Twelve tons were dropped on the railway stations at Lille, Meun, Chaully and Fosse, on billets at Ba-paume and on the docks at Bruges. All our machines returned.

"On Wednesday a successful raid was made on railway stations and docks at Thionville. Twenty-four heavy bombs were dropped. Bombs were also dropped on the railway sheds and track, and the factories of the Carlsruhe factory, alongside the railway, were hit four times. All our machines returned safely in spite of the heavy anti-aircraft gunfire."

STEAMER BUILT IN 37 DAYS.

Philadelphia Report.—Completed and ready for her cargo, the steamship "Cassino," built by the New York Shipbuilding Co., in record time, was today transferred over to the United States Shipping Board in this city. This thirty-seven days after the keel was laid the steel ship, of 3,385 tons gross weight, was prepared to sail across the sea.

CLEARED CANYON WITH BAYONETS

Italians Drove Three Jaeger Columns Out, And Firmly Re-established the Lines.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy.

Cable-Enemy groups continue their attempts to approach Mount Corvo and reopen the line of advances through the Val Arsa, but were repeatedly repelled by the Italian batteries.

The details of the capture of the mountain by the Italians show that the fighting, although carried out by small groups, was very blood.

A battalion of Austrian Jaeger troops advanced in three columns. One succeeded in gaining a foothold in the cleared canyon, but a bayonet charge directed the operation until the crest of Monte Corvo was taken.

While a royal brigade was drawn up this morning for review, on receiving the medal of valor, a fleet of Austrian planes made an audacious appearance, flying over the field. The flight maintained perfect steadiness, and the ceremony continued while the intruders wheeled overhead, until driven off, without having done any damage.

HUN NOBLES PAY.

Upper Classes Lose Heavily in Battle.

Amsterdam Cable says—The gaps torn in the ranks of the German nobility by the war are emphasized in the current issue of the German Adeiblatt, a periodical devoted to genealogical research. It enumerates among the killed 270 counts, of whom seven belonged to the House of Hohenzollern, and seven others to the House of Plinck Von Finkenstein, and 623 barons, of whom thirteen were of the House of Wangelheim.

In addition to the foregoing, the Old Nobility, as it is known, has lost 843 members, while what is classed as the later nobility has suffered 836 losses, the largest being those of the family of Stenweid, 22 members, and Von Armin 21.

The Oil for the Farmer—A bottle of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil in the farm house will save many a journey for the doctor. It is not only good for the children when taken with colds and croup, and for the mature who suffer from pains and aches, but there are directions for its use on sick cattle. There should always be a bottle of it in the house.

FRENCH AGAIN HOLD HILL 44

Storm and Retake Important High Ground.

Artillery Busy at Both Ends of Front.

With the British Army in France, Cable-Hard fighting continued today in the neighborhood of Hill 44, north of Iwemmel, which was storm and retaken yesterday by French troops.

This much disputed elevation has changed hands so far many a time, but the French were still holding the Germans off at a check this afternoon.

Thus this little rising ground, from the waterlogged Flemish plain about it had suddenly come to occupy an important place in the annals of the fighting in this section of the front, although it had never been before dignified with a name other than that contained in the figures indicating its height.

Its value lies in the fact that it dominates considerably the terrain, and for this reason it has been a thorn in the flesh of the ambitious Germans. It is believed that they want it to facilitate their next attack in this region, which bids fair to come before long.

A renewal of the German offensive on a big scale was so far not anticipated. The only change in the position in the hostile artillery fire at numerous points from the northern to the southern end of the battlefield, and a break in the present lull may be expected at any time.

BRITISH REPORT.

London Cable—Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters in France Wednesday night says: "There was local fighting in which the French troops captured several prisoners and successfully advanced their line early in the morning in the sector north of Kemmel village."

"Elsewhere there was nothing beyond artillery activity on both sides on the battle front."

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris Cable—The War Office announcement Wednesday night says: "There was great activity on the part of both armies in the region north of the Aisne. A raid attempted by the enemy against our trenches southeast of Juvincourt was without result."

"Two German airplanes were brought down on May 12, and two others on May 14. On the night of May 14 one of our groups bombed the railway station at Chatelet-sur-Ourthe (Ardennes), on which seven thousand kilos of projectiles were dropped. The same night German aviators bombed the neighborhood of Dunkirk, but the damage was slight and there were no casualties."



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