FINANCIAL EDITION

NIGHT EXTRA

Evening Ledger

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CHRISTMAS EVE; CITY REVELS IN YULETIDE JOY

Watch and Listen, Santa Claus Will Be Here When Lights Twinkle

CHILDLAND EXPECTANT

Grown-up Land Happy, Too, in Last-Minute Rush of Gift Buying

Rain and Snow Christmas Present to Philadelphia

Rain and snow, well-wrapped in clouds.

That is the weather man's Christmas present for Philadelphia. It is coming and coming fast, the Weather Bureau announced today.

"Rain and snow over the entire eastern part of the United States," was the official statement. A big storm, centred today in Arkansas, is said to be moving eastward, bringing rain to the Middle and South Atlantic States and rain or snow to New York, New England, the Middle West and the Great Lakes region. The sky may become clear in the Mississippi Valley, but there is no hope for the South and East to have fine weather.

Hope for a clear Christmas for this city was held out until late in the morning. Early reports from the Northeast and Northwest and the absence of weather information from the Southwest encouraged Mr. Bliss to say that perhaps the storm area would not reach Philadelphia. But the official report from Washington blasted all hope.

The West will enjoy fine Christmas weather, except Washington and Oregon, where rain will prevail.

The day before Christmas!

And all through the city there is waiting and preparation for the coming of darkness and twinkling lights, and of Santa Claus, who, according to the latest wireless reports, has already passed the southernmost tip of Hudson Bay with his speeding reindeer.

Over all this flat country where Philadelphia spreads its streets there hovers expectancy like that which trembled in the air above the hills of Bethlehem 19 centuries ago. In childland the excitement is at fever heat, and even dried-up old men, with their youths far, far behind them, have caught the infectious spirit.

The most lowly toiler puts extra vigor into his efforts. He, too, is waiting for something.

From City Hall, its gray walls flanked with a riot of red and green holly and wreaths and Christmas trees, in all directions lies the spectacle of a city on the verge of Christmas. On the downtown streets express wagons, trucks, parcel post automobiles, all loaded to overflowing with parcels, dash past windows wreathed and festooned and around corners where vari-colored electric lights gleam. And in and out of the stores filters the huge army of "last-minute" shoppers, dodging the clanging trolleys, looking, scheming, staggering under bundles, and those whose shopping is done.

BUSY TIME FOR FAKIRS.

The fakirs and hawkers shout it, although the burden of their song in words is something like "Nice cards, 10 cents!" The "pardon me" of the man who bumps into a fat old lady, and the nervousness of the blushing young fellow who buys a sprig of mistletoe say plainly that Christmas is coming. The "newsie" screams it. The jostling of the throngs murmurs it.

On a small, dirty street, two women in faded green-black hurried along. The first carried a bundle of coats, newly made, with the pockets inside out, balanced on her head like the washerwoman's bundle. Behind her came an older woman, gray and bent. On her head was balanced a smaller bundle of pants, which are not as heavy as coats. The women were delivering the garments for which they were to receive a pittance.

"O hurry, mother," said the first woman. "We must get Jimmy's horn and the potatoes." There was a shining light in her eyes.

A few squares away before a department store a woman in furs stepped from

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WEATHER

It certainly is most trying.

The day before Christmas and our Christmas shopping not done! Small wonder a frown digs trenches into our brow and our eyes have that hunted look. And the worst of it is that we don't know what to get or where to begin. It is a momentous question to decide whether or not to sit down and map out a plan of campaign, or whether or not to rush out and begin buying, trusting to luck. After all, it's not so bad. Many persons haven't any money at all for Christmas presents. And if worst comes to worst, there are plenty of good wishes one can send—wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

And for pleasant Christmas weather.

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity—Increasing cloudiness tonight, probably followed by rain or snow Saturday; not much change in temperature; gentle variable winds becoming easterly.

LOST AND FOUND

DOG—Lost, Thursday afternoon, in West Philadelphia, Irish terrier dog; answers to name of "Pater"; name and address of owner on collar. Reward if returned to W. C. Sick, 6300 Overbrook ave., Overbrook.

DIAMOND AND PLATINUM BAR PIN lost Friday, in shopping district of Philadelphia. Reward if returned to S. MacDonald Smith, 121 Kingswood road, Ardmore.

LOST—Ladies' gold open-face bracelet watch, Waltham make, initials H. M. W. on back, Monday, December 13. Return to Ledger Central. Reward.

BANK BOOK—Lost, deposit book No. 211057, with the Western Saving Fund Society, 1000 Walnut st. Reward.

Other Classified Ads on Pages 13 and 14

CLEAR AND SWEET ABOVE THE BATTLE'S DIN

FORD ABANDONS PEACE ENTERPRISE AND SAILS FROM NORWAY FOR U. S.

Ill Health Since He Arrived in Europe Said to Be the Reason for Return Home

THE OTHERS NOT TOLD

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Henry Ford has abandoned his enterprise to "bring the boys out of the trenches by Christmas," and sailed for America today aboard the liner Bergensfjord, according to dispatches from Bergen.

The peace program will be carried out by others, who crossed from America on the Oscar II.

Mme. Rosika Schwimmer, Hungarian peace advocate, has promised to interest other leaders of the Women's International Peace Association in the movement for a neutral congress. Ford's secretary, Louis P. Lochner, remains with the peace delegates, who were due to reach Stockholm this afternoon.

Dean S. S. Marquis, of Detroit, a close friend of Ford, and a servant, are accompanying the peace leader on the return trip to America, according to Bergen dispatches. Ford decided to quit the party principally because his health has not been good since his arrival in Norway.

The Ford delegates on their way to Stockholm are ignorant of the fact that their leader and principal financial backer has turned his face toward America. It is assumed here, however, that Ford will continue to pay the expenses of the peace party and that there will be no danger of any of the delegates being stranded. The fact that Lochner, who really managed the expedition, remains with the party as Ford's personal representative apparently gives this assurance. One report from Bergen said that Ford left a check for $270,000, to defray the future expenses of the party. A committee of five, whose composition will be announced at Stockholm, will carry out the Ford program, the Bergen dispatch said.

CLEMENT NEW HEAD OF NATIONAL GUARD

Commander of Third Brigade Succeeds General Dougherty, Whose Commision Expires

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 24.—Governor Brumbaugh today announced that he had appointed Brigadier General Charles M. Clement, of Sunbury, Major General in command of the Pennsylvania National Guard, vice Major General Charles Bowman Dougherty, whose commission has expired. The appointment was made as of December 22.

General Clement, who has had a long experience in the guard and is a student of modern military conditions, has been commander of the Third Brigade of the guard and no appointment has been made to fill this vacancy. General Clement's name has been heard in connection with the appointment for some time.

The Evening Ledger will not be issued tomorrow, Christmas Day.

STETSON'S ARMY OF WORKERS GETS WEALTH OF GIFTS

Christmas and 50th Jubilee Are Observed Together

ALL RECEIVE BONUSES

Stetson Company's Gifts to Employes

Fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the company celebrated on the occasion of the annual distribution of gifts to employes.

Gifts distributed include:

3074 turkeys, in all 42,000 pounds.

4500 anniversary bronze medals, one for each employe.

Pair of gloves and pound of candy for each of 1100 girls.

70 hats.

48 watches.

50 chains.

318 shares Stetson Building and Loan Association stock, each share having a value of $200 at maturity.

Bonuses to every employe.

Shares of Stetson Company stock; present market value $400 each.

One $5000 life insurance policy.

Employes of the John B. Stetson Company assembled in the auditorium of the factory building, at 4th street and Montgomery avenue, today for the Christmas entertainment and distribution of gifts, among which were shares of stock in the company.

The celebration began at 9 o'clock. It had special significance this year because it marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the business, and a number of prominent men were invited to speak. Colonel Fred Taylor Pusey, Adjutant General, National Guard, delivered an address on the value of physical and military training to young men.

Mayor-elect Thomas B. Smith addressed the assemblage, saying that he regretted that Mayor Blankenburg was unable to attend.

"I admire and respect the splendid qualities of that man," he said. "He stands head and shoulders above the majority of the citizens of the Commonwealth. In a few days he will leave office and I will take his place. If I can accomplish one-half of what he has accomplished I shall not think my efforts have been in vain.

"In this democracy we all have a chance to rise, and any worker, no matter how humble he may be, is capable of rising to the highest gifts the nation, State or city has to give." He commented on the fact that he himself had been a messenger boy.

A letter from Mayor Blankenburg was read. "You don't know how I regret

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B. R. T. RAISES WAGES

Between 6000 and 7000 Carmen Get Christmas Gift

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A general increase of salaries for all motormen and conductors was announced today by the Brooklyn and Queens Transit Company as a Christmas gift.

Between 6000 and 7000 men are affected and the increase will amount to $250,000 a year.

BANDIT HOLDS UP OWNER IN SALOON; CLEARS CASH BOX

Masked Man Empties Register After Proving His Marksmanship to Those Present

ESCAPES AFTER FIGHT

A bareheaded, masked man walked into the saloon of Frederick P. Ruster, at the northwest corner of 6th street and Hunting Park avenue, at 1 o'clock this morning, waving an automatic revolver in each hand, and shouted:

"I've come to hold up the place."

Four men were in the saloon at the time. Involuntarily they shrank away from the weapons, but when the masked man stood stock still and made no other threatening moves they took courage.

"You're kidding," said one of them.

"I'll show you I'm not," said the bandit.

He then threw up one of the revolvers and shot the handle from an agate pitcher standing at the other end of the bar. At this display of markmanship the four patrons ran out.

The bandit vaulted over the bar, keeping Kuster covered, and grabbed $80 from the cash register. He then ran out the front door.

Richard McDonald, of 3139 North 6th street, was standing on the sidewalk. The fleeing bandit collided with him, and McDonald tried to hold him. There was a short struggle. Suddenly the hold-up man got the muzzle of one revolver against McDonald's body and pulled the trigger. The bullet struck McDonald's watch, shattering it, but fell harmlessly to the ground.

Shortly before noon police of the Germantown avenue and Lycoming street station arrested a man who was later identified by MacDonald and another witness of the robbery as the bandit who committed the crime. He was arrested at his home, 4111 North 8th street, where he is known as John Gross.

The suspect gave no battle when District Detectives Myers and Lyons and Patrolman Robert Thompson entered his room. When questioned by Lieutenant Johnson at the station he said he was a bartender out of work and denied having robbed the saloon.

Blankenburg Sends Last Christmas Greeting as Mayor

Office of the Mayor,
Philadelphia,
December 24, 1915.

To my fellow citizens:

Let us all enter unreservedly into the spirit of Christmastide. We have tried faithfully to do our duty toward the untold number of war sufferers in Europe, have contributed freely of our means, have given our time and our sympathy; now we owe something to ourselves and our own country. That debt can best be paid if we realize and appreciate the many blessings that have come to us as a city and a nation. Let us therefore draw from the Christmas festival a new lesson of life and a new power to serve others.

Rudolph Blankenburg

Mayor.

BREAK LOOMS NEARER; AUSTRIA TO REJECT NOTE

Lansing Told Vienna Not Disposed to Accept Demands of U. S.

BALKS ON PUNISHMENT

Zweidinek Informed That Washington Has Spoken Final Word on Ancona

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.

A diplomatic break with Austria may yet come. Vienna is disposed to reject the latest American demands, Baron Zweidinek, Austrian Charge, made this plain to Secretary of State Lansing today. He conferred with the Secretary for half an hour. On leaving the State Department his air of gravity was unmistakable. He refused pointblank to discuss the situation in any way.

It was learned, however, that he had asked whether this Government would be willing to debate Austria's position so far as her own submarine action was concerned, and was told frankly that under no circumstances could this Government do so.

The last word has been said, Secretary Lansing assured the diplomat, and unless Austria is willing to disavow the sinking of the Ancona and punish the submarine commander for his "wilful violation of the law of nations" and agree to pay indemnity for the loss of American lives continued friendly relations between the two governments are impossible.

The conference was on the initiative of the Austrian diplomat, who is understood to have received advices from his Government pointing out why it considered the latest American rejoinder of a character that it would be difficult to comply with. He has been told that this Government cannot, under any circumstances, debate the rules of international law and the principles of humanity which it considers involved in the Ancona case.

This word will be communicated to Vienna immediately, and then Baron Burian, the Foreign Minister, will decide what action to take.

TWO DIE, HUNDREDS ESCAPE IN WRECK ON LACKAWANNA

Rear End Collision of Flyers at Slate Ford, Pa.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 24.—Hundreds of Christmas holiday travelers narrowly escaped death or serious injury early today when the third section of a westbound Lackawanna passenger train plowed into Section 2, killing two persons, both negroes, and injuring five at Slate Ford, Pa. Section 2 had been stopped by a freight tie-up. The conductor of the stalled train said he had set torpedoes a quarter of a mile back and left a brakeman to flag the last section.

SMALLPOX STEAMSHIP APPROACHING PORT

English Vessel to Be Quarantined—Sailor Stricken With Malady

A case of smallpox was discovered today by quarantine officials on the incoming English tramp steamship George Pyman, from Barcelona, Spain. The ship was ordered to proceed up the river and cast anchor off the Gloucester immigrant station, where the crew will be interned for several weeks.

Officers and seamen of the George Pyman did not know that the sailor stricken several days ago had smallpox, but realized that he was suffering from an unusual malady. When the ship passed the Delaware Breakwater last night word was sent to have a quarantine doctor come to the ship as soon as possible to attend the man.

When it was announced that there was a case of smallpox on board many of the 12 other seamen became terror-stricken as they have been in close contact with the sick man for several days. Others who did not dread the disease so much, expressed keen disappointment at the prospect of spending their Christmas and New Year's day in confinement. The George Pyman will be fumigated at once.

DUELLI D'ARTIGLIERIA SUL FRONTE ITALIANO

Violenta Battaglia Tra Serbi e Bulgari in Territorio Albanese, ad Elbassan

Il Ministero della Guerra ha annunciato a Roma che si sono avuti sul fronte italiano soltanto duelli di artiglieria, e che le batterie italiane hanno bombardato di nuovo la stazione di Levico, in Val Sugana.

E' giunto a Roma il principe Alessandro Karageorgevic di Serbia, il quale ha detto che serbi e bulgari hanno combattuto per tre giorni nelle vicinanze di Elbassan, cioe' in territorio albanese, e che i serbi hanno respinto tutti gli attacchi dei bulgari. Notizie giunte a Roma dal Montenegro dicono pero' che quel piccolo regno e' stato quasi tutto conquistato dalle truppe austro-ungariche e che la situazione del resto dell'esercito montenegrino e' quasi disperata, tanto che la famiglia di re Nicola si troverebbe gia' ad Antivari, dove si terrebbe pronta ad imbarcarsi per l'Italia. Essa sara' alloggiata nel Palazzo Pitti a Firenze.

Da Brindisi telegrafano che due torpediniere italiane hanno catturato un piroscafo greco che aveva a bordo un carico di benzina destinato ai sottomarini austriaci e tedeschi operanti nel Mediterraneo.

(Leggere in 1 pagina le ultime e piu' dettagliate notizie sulla guerra, in italiano.)

QUICK NEWS

ARAB OUTBREAKS SERIOUS IN EGYPT

CAIRO, Dec. 24.—Serious outbreaks by strong Arab forces operating in Tripoli and Egypt have forced the British to evacuate the frontier post of Sollum, on the Egyptian-Tripoli border, it was admitted today.

BRITAIN TIGHTENS EMBARGO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—A general tightening of the embargo on exports out of Great Britain is indicated in a dispatch to the State Department today from Consul General Skinner from London.

BERNHARDT, WEAKER, REMEMBERS U. S. FRIENDS

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, growing dangerously weaker every hour, remembers her friends in America and sends them her dearest Christmas greetings. Conflicting reports have been issued from time to time as to the codition of the famous actress, but today this statement was given out from Andernos Les Baine: "Mme. Bernhardt is growing weaker. She is suffering from gangrenous bones." In her message to the American people she says: "Send my whole heart to the dear American people, but not the German portion. Vive la France! My trip to America is only postponed a short while."

CHICAGO STOCKYARDS CATTLE SCOURGE BAN LIFTED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The Department of Agriculture announced today that the Union stock yards at Chicago, formerly designated as a restricted area owing to the "foot and mouth disease," have been made a free area for the handling of stock for immediate slaughter only.

ROOSEVELT ON PROGRESSIVE BALLOT

LANSING, Mich., Dec. 24.—The name of Theodore Roosevelt will appear on the Michigan primary ballot as a candidate of the national Progressive party for President. Nominating petitions bearing the names of 200 men were filed today with the Secretary of State by Fred Holbeck, of Lansing. Michigan is the first State in which the Colonel has been nominated by Progressives. Other Roosevelt petitions are being circulated.

WATCH YOUR $10 FEDERAL RESERVE NOTES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The secret service today announced the discovery of a new counterfeit note. It is a $10 Federal reserve of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and is regarded as a poor specimen, which should easily be detected.

$525,000 GOES TODAY FOR JEWS IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Kuhn, Loeb & Co. will transmit by cable to European capitals $525,000 for the aid of suffering Jews in the warring countries. The money, which will be available for distribution in a few days, represents what has been received in cash of more than $800,000 pledged and given at the meeting on Tuesday night in Carnegie Hall.

AMERICAN WOMAN GIVES $2,000,000 TO ITALIANS

ROME, Dec. 24.—The Stefani News Agency says that Mrs. Josephine del Drago, of New York, has offered $2,000,000 to the Queen of Italy for distribution among the families of combatants and that the Queen has accepted the proffer with profound thanks.

Mrs. Josephine del Drago inherited from her husband, the late August Schmid, of New York, a large estate. Mr. Schmid was a prosperous brewer, and Mrs. del Drago is now president of the big brewery company of which her husband was the head when he died in 1889.

SWEDEN STOPS BRITISH MAIL TO RUSSIA

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—Stockholm dispatches state that 10,000 parcel post packages consigned from England to Russia have been held up by the Swedish authorities at Haparanda and 2500 have been stopped at Stockholm. They also report that the English authorities seized registered letters on board the steamship Frisia while it was bound to Europe from America.

ITALIANS SEIZE GREEK TANKER

ROME, Dec. 24.—A dispatch from Brindisi announces the capture by two Italian torpedoboats of a Greek steamship carrying oil for Austrian and German submarines in the Mediterranean.

BRITISH LOSSES 528,127 UP TO DECEMBER 9

LONDON, Dec. 24.—British casualties on all fronts up to December 9 totaled 528,127, Premier Asquith announced today.

TURKS DESTROY BRITISH AEROPLANE IN JUDEA

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 24.—The destruction of an enemy aeroplane on the Egyptian front was announced by the War Office today. Only artillery duels were reported from the Dardanelles. "Transcaucasian front: Russian attacks at Milo were repulsed. Dardanelles front: Only artillery activity on the right wing near Sedd-El-Bahr is reported. Egyptian front: A hostile aeroplane was brought down near Beersheba." Beersheeba is 40 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

BRITISH EMBASSY DENIES RED CROSS EMBARGO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The British Embassy today officially denied the report that Great Britain had declined to permit the shipment of American Red Cross supplies to Germany.

JOFFRE OUSTS 15 MORE GENERALS

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Fifteen more French generals have been relieved of active command by General Joffre in the reorganization of the military establishment. Five were retired and others placed on the reserve list.

TEUTON SWEEP OF SERBIA NEARLY COMPLETE

ROME, Dec. 24.—Conquest of Montenegro by the Teutonic troops is almost complete. The remnants of the Montenegrin army are fighting in their mountains against the Austro-Hungarian forces, but their situation has become so hopeless that arrangements are being made to evacuate Cettinje, the capital.

King Nicholas and Queen Milena will take refuge in Italy, which has offered to shelter King Peter and his Serbian court.

NEW CAMPAIGN NEAR ON RUSSIAN FRONT

LONDON, Dec. 24.—From Russia come reports that the Germans and Russians alike are making energetic preparations for new operations early in the new year. The Russian military organ, the Russky Invalid, says: "The winter campaign on the Russian front will not be confined to a war of position. Important events are likely very soon.

SLAV ADVANCE MENACES TURKS ON TIGRIS

PETROGRAD, Dec. 24.—"In Persia, on Sunday night, says an official bulletin issued last night, "we dislodged the insurgents from the region of the village of Arbarik, northwest of Hamadan. South of Hamadan we occupied Assabad Pass. On the 20th our detachment, before entering Kum, took by assault the village Save, putting the rebels to flight and capturing about 600 gendarmes mounted and afoot."

An earlier report tells of a number of successful skirmishes in the Caucasus and Persia, and announces that the Russians have occupied Binor Pass, 25 miles southwest of the town of Urumia. This puts them across the Turkish frontier about 80 miles northwest of Mosul, and a further advance in this direction will soon put them in a position to endanger the communications of the Turkish Bagdad army facing the British in Mesopotamia.

Zapp and Birsky, Montague Glass' New Characters, Discuss the Panama Canal on Page 6 of Today's Evening Ledger