Fifteen of the foremost menand women both here and abroad tell how they explain the paradox of the great war and the Christmas spirit, in a notable symposium in this week's issue of



GANG FOREMAN SLAIN BY NEGRO LABORERS

Halted Workmen Stealing Coal in Cumberland-Slayers Said They Were Freezing

HARRISBURG, Dec. 20.—William Ury, white, a foreman for the Cumberland Val-ley Railroad Company in charge of a gang of laborers on a line being constructed near Newville, Cumberland County, was murder ed by three Southern negroes last night from the contractor's supply. The negroes crushed Ury's head with a shovel. They have been arrested by the Cumberland County authorities and are in the jall at

The regoes declared they were freezing in their shacks and wanted the coal to keep

TAGS WORTH \$500,000 SENT TO AUTO OWNERS

First Batch of License Plates, Made by Prisoners, Shipped From State Capitol

HARRISBURG, Dec. 20.—Almost 2000 macks of mall were carted from the Capitol to the postoffice today, in addition to the usual daily output. They contained some 40,000 pairs of automobile license tage—chocolate brown tags for 1917.

Half a hundred clerks and others in the superpulse division of the State Highway

automobile division of the State Highway Department have been busy for sixty days preparing the tags against starting ship-ment today.

Total receipts for next year's tags are approximately \$500,000. By January 1 the \$1,000,000 mark may be reached. Thousands of dollars are received daily. State officials have communicated with local officials everywhere, stating that no machine may be operated after midnight of December 31 without one of the new tags.

The new tags were made at the Huntingdon Reformatory under contract with the Prison Labor Commission. License No. 1 will go to the Governor for his official car.

CHURCH AND RESIDENCE DESTROYED BY FLAMES

Fire at Highspire, Pa., Believed to Have Been Stared by Incendiary

HARRISBURG, Dec. 20 .- Fire believed to have been of incendiary origin at High-spire early this morning destroyed the home of Samuel Orris and St. Peter's Lutheran partly covered by insurance.

Many other homes in the vicinity and Many other homes in the vicinity and the berough schoolhouse were threatened for a time because of a lack of water supply. Two Stociton and three Harrisburg live companies were called to aid in fighting the flames. To fight the blaze a line of hose had to be stretched more than 1000 feet from a creek in the lower end of the town. To reach water the firemen had out through four inches of we and then

the town. To reach water the firemen had to cut through four inches of its and then showel out the mud and slush to keep the pumping engine from clogging.

The St. Peter's Church loss is \$10,000 and \$5500 of this is covered by insurance. The church trustees will meet tonight to consider rebuilding plans.

Samuel Orris first discovered the flames, which started under the kitchen porch. The officials are positive the blaze was started by an incendiary.

ITALIAN GUNS ACTIVE

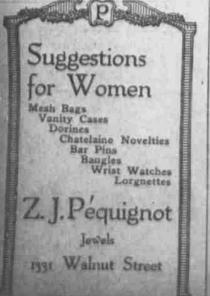
Austrian Columns Shelled Heavily While on March

ROME, Dec. 20 .- The Italian War Office has issued the following statement tary operations:

In the Trentino there were the usual artillery actions, which were particularly heavy in the area of the upper Astigo Valley, where our batteries effectively shelled an enemy column on the march.

the march.
On the Julian front there were only artillery due's. Our batteries shelled enemy intrenchments on Monte Cucco, on the Middle Ironso, and the railway station of Voiciadraga and Ovoiadraga, southast of Gorisia, and dispersed enemy troops on the march on the Carso.

Glass Workers Scarce in South Jersey MILLVILLE N. J., Dec. 20.—Lamp glass workers are in great demand at the various glass plants in South Jersey, and while the manufacturers have many orders for this grads of ware, they are unable to secure enough hands to run their plants to full capacity.



SONNINO RIAFFERMA LA SALDEZZA DELL'INTESA

Ripete con Briand Che la Mossa Tedesca E' Una Trappola Tesa agli Alleati-

PROPOSTE NON SINCERE

Applausi Entusiastici Accolgono il Discorso del Ministro degli Esteri Italiano nella Camera

ROMA, 28 Dicembrs.

Parlando davanti alla Camera dei Deputati lunedi', il ministro degli Esteri, on.
Sonnino, dissa che parecchie ordini del
giorno erano stati presentati circa le proposte di pace da parte della Germania e
dei suoi alleati. Cio lasciava supporre cho oloro che il avevano presentati avessero in nente che il governo avesse di gia' o stesse er avere basi concrete su cui le trattative di ce dovrebbero svolgersi.

"Come vi dissi sabato," continuo' il mincome vi dissi santo, continuo i rain-istro degli Esteri, "questa supposizione non corrisponde ni fatti. Nella nota del namico non vi e' alcuna indicazione circa le basi per le trattative, ed jo stesso non ho alcuna informazione in reguardo alle eventuali con-dizioni di pace, ad eccezione della nota che jo ebbi l'onore di leggere alla Camera.

che ja abbi l'onore di leggere alla Camera"Se proposto concrete dovessero essere
fatto in avvenire, le prenderemo in considerazione e discuteremo sui da fare, ma
non sarebbe pratico ne' decente discutere
la quistione oggi. Inoltre bisogna mettersi
bene in mente che nessuno degli alleati
dell'intesa potrebbe prenders in considerazione qualsiasi condizione di pace che potesse per ipotesi essergii eventualmente
offerra in forma separata. offerta in forma separata.

"Nell'Interesse pubblico e per rispetto al nestri alleati non posso comunicarvi alcur che di clo' che sara' contenuto nella ri sposta che noi darento alla nota delle quat ro potenze nemiche. La risposta sara pub-ifcata non appena sara concretata. PER LA PACE DUREVOLE

"Not tutti desideriamo la pace, ma una "Not tutti desideriamo la pace, ma una pace durevole. Ora noi pensiamo che per ottenere questa pace durevole sia necessaria una soluzione delle quistioni internazionali non semplicamente basata sulla solidarieta, ma su di un perfetto equilibrio tra gli stati, sui rispetto del principio di nazionalita, sulle regole dettate dai diritto internazionale e dalle ragioni di umanita, e di civito." e di civilta'.

"Se noi el fossimo trovati in presenza di proposte genuine con basi di tal natura da proposte genuine con nami tat natura da sodisfure i postulati generali della civilta; e della giustizia, a cui ho appena ora ac-cennato, nessuno avvebbe patuto rigettarie costi, ex abrupto. Ma non vi e' niente neila nota del nemico clis mostri anche lonfanamente una intenzione simile, ed anzi v sono molte ragioni che lasciano credere i contrario.

"Io non vogilo unare un linguaggio esag-erato, ma l'accento di ergoglio e la mancan-za di sincerita" che caratterizzano il preamga di sincerità che curatterizzano il presmi-bio della nota del nemico, certamente non lasciano supporre che queste misteriose condizioni di pace che le polenza centrali dicono di avere intenzione di esporre più tardi, 'allo scopo di garantire l'onore. L'es-istenza ed il libero sviluppo dei loro popoli, contituizcano una risposta ai postulati che noi abbiamo esposto."

Il ministro Sonnino esorto quindi i de-putati, con le parole usate da Briand, a non permettere che la mossa delle potenze centrali "avveleni la mente del popolo" ed a non fare il giuoco dei nemico abbandonandosi ad intempestive munifestazioni che possono seminare la discordia e lo scoramento. Il ministro il esorto a non votare alcun ordine dei giorno che potesse anche icitanamente lasciar supporre che l'at-teggiamiento dell'Italia fosse anche in mini-ma parte diverso da quello del suoi alleati. Cost', tra applausi entusiastici, la Camera voto' l'ordine del giorno puro a semplice esprimente fiducia nel governo ed ordinant che il discorso del ministro degli Ester fosse affisso in ogni comune del regno L'ordine del giorno raccolse 276 voti fav-orevoli e 40 cantrarii. Il discorso del ministro Sonnino fu apesso

Il discorso dei ministro Sonnino fu spesso interrotto da appiansi, specialments quando egli affermo' che cra sun opinione che la mossa dello potenze centrali era un trappola per gli alleati, trappola nella quale essi non sarebbero caduti, e riaffermo' solennemente l'incrollabile solidarieta' degli alleati dell'intesa solidarieta' che si sarebbe presto munifesfata nella risposta identica che essi avrebbero data alle potenze centrali.

SULLA FRONTE ITALIANA leri sera il Ministero della Guerra pub-blicava il seguente rapporto del generale Cadorna circa la situazione alla' fronte italo-austriaca:

Sulla fronte del Trentino si sono ayute le solite azioni di artiglieria che sono state particolarmente violente nella zona dell'alta valle dell'Astico dova le matre batterie hanno cannoneggiato efficacemente una colonna nemica in marcia.

mica in marcia.

Sulla fronte delle Alpi titulie at sono

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Mein 9 S. 15th-10 S. Broad

avuti soltanto duslli di artigiteria. Le nostre batterie hanno bombardato trin-ceramenti nemici sui Monte Cucco, nel Medio Isonzo e la stazioni ferroviarie di Volciadraga ed Ovoiadraga, a sud-est di Gorisia, ed hanno disperso truppe nemiohe in marcia sui Carso. Aeropiani nemio; hanno lasciato ce-

ders bombe nell'alfa valle del Corde-vole e su Auronzo, dove uno del nostri ospedali fu colpito ed alcuni pazienti furono feriti. Il danno materiale e' stato lieve.

Mackensen Wins Fortified Line

Centinued from Page One wondering where the next blow will be

The Rumanian advance has now about doubled the distance between General Sar-rait's forces in Macedonia and the original Rumanian front, thus, it is believed, avert-ing all danger that these forces might ef-fect a jenetration to the Rumanian theatre for the relief of Rumania. This advance for the relief of Rumania. This advance now seriously threatens the line of the Sereth, in Moldavia, according to the German military authorities. The line in question is along a forty-mile front, which was long ago fortified, and is believed now to be stronger than at the time of its Iginal preparation.

The Rumanian petroleum wells in the district occupied by the Teutonic troops have been found so little damaged, the report states, that oil stready is being produced es fast as it can be transported with the aid of the Rumanians who have remained on the ground and are willing to work.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 20.—The Russian War Office has issued the following: "On the Itumasian front two enemy squadrons with a battery of horse artillery deployed in the region of the village of Batogu (midway between Buzeu and the Danube), west of Vizuru, but retired in disorder under the fire of our artillery. Two ery and abandoned by the enemy."

FRENCH HALT TEUTON ASSAULT ON SOMME

PARIS, Dec. 20 .- A raid was undertaken by German troops Monday night on the Somme front north of Chilly. One German detachment was successful in penetrating a unit of the advanced French trenches but was immediately driven

On the Verdun front active artillery fighting occurred in the region of Louve-mont and Chambrettes.

HERLIN, Dec. 20.—Army headquarters as issued the following:

On the east bank of the Meuse yesterday afternoon the artillery engage-ment increased in intensity. The French attacked Fossus Wood, Cham-bretten, which lies before our position. It remained in their hands after hand-tohand fighting. At all other places on the front of the attack they were repulsed. Northwest and north or Rhelms

French detachments, advancing upon our trenches after strong artillery preparation, were repulsed. Although the German military authorities are making no effort to belittle the recent French gains in the neighborhood of Ver-dun, and look for more attacks in the near future, they maintain that the results at-tained are small and have no effect on the general military situation. They do not be-lieve the anticipated future affacks wfil necessitate any transfer of troops from the east to the west, since ample reserves are

HINTS AT FAVORABLE **OUTCOME WITH MEXICO**

Commission, Cheerful After

An early solution of the problems at le-sue between the United States and Mexican Governments was intimated today by Frof. L.S. Howe, secretary of the American Com-mission, which last night wound up a joint

ptimistic ring. pptimistic ring.

From other sources it was learned that
f First Chief Carranga does not sign the
protocol agreed upon at the Atlantic City
conferences, the negotiations of the joint
commissions of America and Mexico will

ommissions of America and abruptly.

This attitude of the United States was communicated in a terse ultimatum of 452 words, which had been drawn by Secretary eral Gonzales, commander of the Juarez garrison, today appealed to the El Paso garrison, today appeared to the E Faso, civil authorities, alleging that Commduran looted the Juarez treasury before fleeing to El Paso. He declared further that he would refuse to return deserters from the American army who sought refuge in

the facto troverances, has built the end of the year to give his reply.

The United States, according to those who know, has become wearled of the manana, policy and tactics adopted by arranza and has determined on a rigorous

for the First Chief, was asked last night if an ultimatum had been decided upon He hesitated for a moment and replied; I can neither affirm nor deny any such statements as that at this time.

shief obstacle to an agreement seemed to be the disposition of General Pershing's forces. Carranga, it is said, holds that the presence of the American troops is a source of the American troops is a source of strength to the bandits, who sir up the seons against the de facto government by sinting to the "invaders." The ultimatum, o it is inferred, declares that the United states alone is to be the judge of the time when Pershing shall be ordered to with

suddenness that is hardly compatible with the Latin-American idea of speed. Senor Pani had laid before the joint commission on Monday the oral rejection by Carranza

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Secretary Lane invited the co

Professor Rowe, of American Adjournment

BELL REFUSES TO GIVE session with the Mexican representatives with an indefinite adjournment. Professor Rows would not say what this solution would be, but his words had an

words, which had been drawn by Secretary Lane, ratified by his colleagues. Judge Gray and John H. Mott, and, it is said, ap-proved by the President. The head of the de facto Government has until the end of

Luis Cabrera, who is the chief spokesman

such statements as that at this time. You will have to wait until Carranga has answered.
From another official source, however, it was learned that the message to Carranga was virtually an ultimatum. It indicated to the First Chief that with his refusal to accept the protocol the negotiations would be stopped automatically.

This same informant disclosed that the plant obstacle to an arrecement second to

traw.

The feeling obtains that having roade formal protest against its object-onable proisions, the de facto leader will plead to
its people that he is face to face with a
situation in which might is right. Thus,
with a protest for political reasons, he will
ign the agreement.

Negotiations reached the climax with
independent that it hardly second to
its content of the climax with
independent that it hardly second.

The Christmas Gift BRITTON PUBLISHING CO., N.Y. and the reason by the First Chief for his refusal to ratify the protocol. 400 CHILDREN IN PANIC

manner

matum also will be sent today.

General Gonzales's revolt against General Murguis and his refusal to surrende

his command threatened serious conse-quences today. General Communan has sent scores of telegrams to General Dire-gon, urging that he send a force to depose

Contains. Contains appeared to have the upper hand. He was in position to cut off Murgula's supplies at Chihuahua City and

coatesville to Have Mummers Parade

COATESVILLE, Pa., Dec. 20 .- Coates-

lle is to have a mummers' parade, March-

ng ciuls from all over the county will sarticipate for cash and other prizes. The hamber of Commerce has donated liberally to the success of the demonstration. The

hamber also has arranged for a community

at the same time to desert to Villa

Boiler Explodes in Pittsburgh Junction

Secretary Lane increase to commission-res to meet in a secret session late Monday light. At that conference Senor Pani was equented to put into writing the nature of larranza, objections to the protocol, and o outline at length the reason for the First School-Pupils Escape WILKES BARRE, Pa., Dec. 10 .- When a boiler exploded in the engine room in the basement of the Jefferson Public School, The message will be coded tonight and wired to Queretaro to the American representative, who will transmit it to Carransa. The official letter containing the at Pittston Junction, 600 children be-came panic-stricken. Only heroic efforts of the teachers saved the pupils from in-jury and perhaps death. Classes were marched from the building in an orderly

Sent to Prison for Threats

UP DESERTING MEXICAN BELLEPONTE, Ps., Dec. 29.—Announcement has been made that the Superior Court has confirmed the verdict and sentence of the Center County Court in the case of B. Paul Swartz, convicted of attempted extortion by threats to burn a barn. He must serve not less than ten nor more than fifteen years in prison. He has EL, PASO, Tex.. Dec. 20. — Ill-feeling toward Americans increased in Juarez to-lay as the result of General Bell's refusal to turn over to the Carranza commander leneral Comaduran, who deserted and fled Americans were advised not visit the Mexican city until the situation been in jail for six months. Having failed to move General Bell, Gen

BUGBEE MAY BE COMPTROLLED

Republican Chairman Announces, Candidacy-Edge Backs Him

TRENTON, Dec. 20.—Newton A. R. Maybee, chalcman of the Republican State one mittee, has formally announced his canadacy for the office of State Comptroller of New Jersey, to succeed Edward I. Edwards. Democrat, whose term will expire early in February. The Comptrollerable pays 1800 a year for a term of three years.

a year for a term of the piece of the term of the Bugbee will get the piece. Governor-size Walter E. Edge thinks Bugbes should have the post in recognition of his services to the Republican party.

Meningitis Attacks Guardsmen Et. PASO, Tex., Dec. 10.—Four com-panies of the Georgia Infantry Brigade have been quarantined because of the discovery of four cases of spinal meningitis among

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