

BERLIN PROPOSES PEACE CONFERENCE AT ONCE

GERMANS TAKE 5500 RUSSIANS

Capture Strongly Fortified Village of Filipesti, in Rumania

BATTLE IN WALLACHIA

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—The capture of 5500 Russian prisoners in the Rumanian theatre of war was announced by the German War Office today.



CHARLES S. WALTON

CHARLES S. WALTON, FRIEND OF POOR, DIES

Leather Company President Stricken Suddenly in Midst of Family at St. Davids

FRIEND OF ALL CHILDREN

Following a Christmas reunion with his family, Charles S. Walton, president of the leather firm of England, Walton & Co., one of the most widely known business men of Philadelphia, died today at Walmarthon, his palatial home at St. Davids.

SOLDIERS HOPE TO BE HOME NEXT CHRISTMAS

By HENRY WOOD WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN ALSACE LORRAINE, Dec. 25 (via Belfast and Paris).—France's soldiers celebrated Christmas with the absolute conviction they will spend December 25, 1917, at home.

CROSSING GUARD GONE, ENGINE KILLS FRIENDS

Train Hits Girl, Brother and Fiance Returning From Christmas Party

A woman and two men were killed yesterday at the Ford street crossing of the Reading Railway in Norristown.

NO CHRISTMAS TRUCE ON BRITISH FRONT

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Dec. 25.

THE WEATHER

FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Increasing cloudiness tonight, followed by snow in the early morning and on Wednesday; lowest tonight about 25 degrees; warmer Wednesday; increasing easterly winds.

THE FIRST PICTURES

of the "GERMAN VILLAGE" at League Island appear on the PICTORIAL PAGE OF TODAY'S Evening Ledger

REPLIES TO WILSON'S NOTE, BUT FAILS TO NAME SPECIFIC TERMS REQUESTED BY U. S.

Expresses Readiness to Cooperate in Formation of League of Nations, But Says War Settlement Must Come First

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL AND GERMANY'S ACCEPTANCE

President Wilson suggested: "An immediate opportunity for a comparison of views as to terms which must precede those ultimate arrangements for the peace of the world."

Germany today proposed a meeting of delegates of belligerents in her answer to President Wilson's peace note.

Her formal reply to the American peace suggestion was made in a note handed to United States Ambassador Gerard at Berlin and at the same time to the American diplomatic representatives at the capitals of the other Central Powers—Vienna, Sofia and Constantinople.

The note also hints that the "great work of the prevention of future wars can be begun only after the end of the present struggle of nations" and declares "when this moment shall have come" Germany will be "ready with pleasure to collaborate entirely with the United States at this exalted task."

The German note holds the "most appropriate road to reach the desired result" is an immediate meeting "of delegates of belligerent States at a neutral place."

The text of the note reads: "The high-minded suggestion made by the President of the United States of America in order to create a basis for the establishment of lasting peace has been received and considered by the Imperial Government in the friendly spirit which was expressed in the President's communication."

"The President points out that which he has at heart and leaves open the choice of the road.

"To the Imperial Government the immediate exchange of views seems the most appropriate road in order to reach the desired result.

"It, therefore, begs, in the sense of its declaration made on December 12, which offered its hand for peace negotiations, to propose immediate meeting of delegates of the belligerent States at a neutral place.

"Also the Imperial Government is of the opinion that the great work of prevention of future wars can be begun only after the end of the present struggle of nations.

"It will (namely, the German Government will) when this moment shall have come be ready with pleasure to collaborate entirely with the United States at this exalted task."

The answer closes with the usual terms of international politeness.

The text, as transmitted over Sayville wireless by the official press bureau in Berlin, does not contain any peace terms. Whether this is the entire text of the note was not made clear in the wireless dispatch.

BERLIN NAMES PEACE TERMS IN NOTE TO POPE AND NEUTRALS, ROME HEARS

ROME, Dec. 26.—No official comment was obtainable here today either from the Vatican or the court as to the report or as to the official view on the peace suggestions contained in President Wilson's note.

AUSTRIAN DESTROYERS ROUTED BY THE ALLIES

Vienna, However, Reports Entente Warcraft Were Hit During Fight in Otranto Channel

ROME, Dec. 25.—An attempt by Austrian men-of-war to sink Italian patrol ships in Otranto Channel on the night of December 23 was frustrated by French and Italian warships, says an Admiralty statement made public today.

Los Angeles Has a Few Snowflakes

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 26.—Bright traces of snow were noted at infrequent intervals here today, but melted upon reaching the pavement.

THE FIRST PICTURES

of the "GERMAN VILLAGE" at League Island appear on the PICTORIAL PAGE OF TODAY'S Evening Ledger

QUICK NEWS

ANDREW FLETCHER HEADS AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVE

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Andrew Fletcher, a member of the executive committee of the American Locomotive Company, has been elected president of the company, to take effect January 1, 1917.

FLIGHT FROM ATLANTIC CITY TO OLD POINT COMFORT

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Dec. 26.—M. E. J. Jackwith arrived at Old Point Comfort at noon today from Atlantic City in a Curtiss flying boat.

CITY MAKES HUGE PAYMENT ON INTEREST AND BONDS

City Treasurer McCoach today paid to the Farmers and Mechanics' National Bank, the city's fiscal agent, \$2,469,821.12 for six months' interest on outstanding municipal bonds and \$1,793,800, the principal of bonds maturing December 21, 1916.

BURGLAR GETS CASH AND GEMS LEFT BY SANTA

A burglar forced his way into two houses where Santa Claus had left jewelry and money in stockings hung by the fireplace, removed the articles and departed unobserved.

COLEMAN TO CONTEST CONGRESS SEAT

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 26.—Congressman William H. Coleman today served notice in the Court of Common Pleas that he will contest the election of M. Clyde Kelly to succeed him in the Thirtieth District.

U. S. SENDS BRITISH ARABIA CHARGE TO BERLIN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Although it had been planned to await the stories of survivors, the State Department forwarded to Berlin the British Admiralty's denial that the P. and O. liner Arabia, sunk by a German submarine without warning, was in the Government service.

LUMINOUS HATS LATEST WAR DEVICE IN LONDON

LONDON, Dec. 26.—Luminous hats for men and women have been introduced in London for wear in the darkened streets at night.

AUSTRALIAN LOAN WILL BEAR 4-1-2 PER CENT INTEREST

LONDON, Dec. 26.—A news agency dispatch from Melbourne says that the interest rate upon the new \$90,000,000 Australian war loan will be four and one-half per cent. Subscriptions will close on February 1, 1917.

SKATERS FLOCK TO PARK AND OTHER LAKES

There is skating today on Hunting Park Lake, Concourse and Gustine Lakes in Fairmount Park and many of the suburban lakes and ponds.

THIEF RETURNS \$5000 GEMS AS CHRISTMAS GIFT

ALTOONA, Pa., Dec. 26.—Five thousand dollars' worth of diamonds set in rings and brooches, stolen from the mansion of Patrick W. Finn at Ant Hills November 10, were found done up in a little box tied with red ribbon on the doorknob of the Finn home Christmas morning when the family returned from mass.

SCRANTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STRIKE FOR HOLIDAY

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 26.—Because they were refused the usual Christmas holidays two thousand students of Central and Technical High Schools struck here today and refused to attend classes.

BRAKEMAN'S HEAD CRUSHED PASSING UNDER BRIDGE

While riding on the top of a freight car, Elmer Matchener, twenty-three years old, of 2439 East Norris street, a Reading Railway brakeman, was instantly killed when his head was struck by the framework of a bridge over the tracks early today.

BREAD FAMINE MENACE IN BUENOS AIRES

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 26.—Fear of a bread famine increased here today when there were additions to the ranks of striking bakers.

NEW INSANITY EVIDENCE IN WAITE CASE

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—That Dr. Arthur W. Waite, awaiting death at Sing Sing for the murder of his wealthy father-in-law, John E. Peck, of Grand Rapids, Mich., had confessed to his brother, Frank Waite, that he had secreted a bottle containing poison in Frank Waite's home shortly before his arrest was disclosed in a statement issued here by the condemned man's brother.

ROADS WORK TO RELIEVE FREIGHT CONGESTION

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—A committee of railway officials is to establish an office in Detroit with a view to eliminating the congestion there arising out of the car shortage situation, it was announced by the American Railway Association.

BRITISH DESTROYERS COLLIDE AND SINK; 55 LOST

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The Admiralty announces that two destroyers were sunk in a collision in the North Sea on December 21 during very bad weather.

GOVERNOR CANCELS SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

HARRISBURG, Dec. 26.—It was announced for the Governor and Mrs. Brumbaugh that social engagements at the Executive Mansion had been canceled for the week owing to the death of the Governor's father, George B. Brumbaugh, at Markleburg, Huntington County.

U. S. SHIPS SPEED TO SINKING CRAFT

Maryland, Which Wirelessly Distress, May Have Foundered in Storm

CREW'S FATE UNKNOWN

Heavy Seas Add to Peril of Rescue Parties Off Newport

NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 26.—The steamship Maryland, which early today wirelessly called in distress about 100 miles southeast of here, is believed to have gone down.

Revenue cutters and vessels which started at once for the Maryland's position have not reported, but the Maryland's wireless has been stilled ever since the first call.

There is a bad sea running to the east and a cold north gale, which strengthened the belief here that the Maryland could not survive.

While it is not definitely certain, it is believed that the Maryland is the 1881-ton vessel belonging to the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad Company, which sailed from Philadelphia on Saturday with a general cargo for London.

So serious does the Coast Guard Service consider the condition of the Maryland that the cutter Graham has been added to those already on the way to help, making four Government boats speeding to the Maryland's rescue.

A British vessel of 2963 tons, the Maryland, built in Glasgow, cleared the port of Philadelphia December 20 with a cargo of merchandise.

A French steamship, the name of which could not be learned, was sighted today by coast guard lookouts here flying signals of distress three miles off Gayhead.

A British vessel of 2963 tons, the Maryland, built in Glasgow, cleared the port of Philadelphia December 20 with a cargo of merchandise.

It is believed that the Maryland is the 1881-ton vessel belonging to the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad Company, which sailed from Philadelphia on Saturday with a general cargo for London.

MEXICAN "SHOWDOWN" TODAY, DEMAND OF U. S.

Carranza Must Sign or Refuse to Accept Protocol Already Framed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—The United States is tired of the status quo in Mexico.

Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane, who is chairman of the American-Mexican commission, said today the Administration was tired of fruitless discussion with the Mexican representatives.

The veil of secrecy which surrounded much of the recent negotiations in Philadelphia is now lifted.

Whether the Mexican situation would reach a sharper crisis today than any in years hinged on one demand by Carranza.

His modification of the protocol, rejected by the American members of the commission at Philadelphia last week, was in the main the insertion of an agreement that Mexico be factually recognized as the right to cross into American territory in pursuit of bandits.

General Carranza was displeased likewise with the arrangement in the protocol agreed upon at Atlantic City, which left uncertain the date for the withdrawal of the Porfirian column.

Victim of Crime at Chester Was Isaac Taylor, of Pittsburgh

CHESTER, Pa., Dec. 26.—The body of the man found murdered on East Ninth street bridge here early Sunday morning with a gunshot wound in the back, was identified at noon today as Isaac Taylor, a resident of Pittsburgh.

Taylor was employed at the Hamilton Arms Company plant and located in Liberty street.

BRITISH DESTROYERS COLLIDE AND SINK; 55 LOST

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The Admiralty announces that two destroyers were sunk in a collision in the North Sea on December 21 during very bad weather.

GOVERNOR CANCELS SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

HARRISBURG, Dec. 26.—It was announced for the Governor and Mrs. Brumbaugh that social engagements at the Executive Mansion had been canceled for the week owing to the death of the Governor's father, George B. Brumbaugh, at Markleburg, Huntington County.