quiry Into Leak of "Peace"

manic on the Stock Exchange in New York

Followed as it was by a demand from Rep.

resentative William R. Wood, of Lafayette,

Ind., for a complete investigation of an

alleged "leak in high official quarters," gossip became very free today with names

tive Wood will have powerful support for

his plan to have all of the facts made

The hold declaration by Thomas W. Law-son, one of the group of financiers who "sold the market," that his operations were due to inside information and that there

would be other and larger leaks soon has angered many officials. There was a dispo-sition on the part of Representative Wood

and the Representatives associated with him in his effort to force an investigation to have Congress compel Lawson and the

New York bankers known as the "German group" to come here and tell whether they actually had information on which to rig

It is admitted that the selling in Wall street at the beginning of the first down-ward movement was for the interest of persons who were in position to know that Germany was about to make a peace offer

There can be no complaint about this. But there had been a sharp recovery in values when France, Russia and Great Britain

indicated that they intended to reject the German proposals. At that time the Ad-ministration officials were strensously de-nying that there was to be any action taken

by the President, although his peace note, which went forward on Monday, had been

about completed.

This note was made public last Thursday morning. Its existence was made known to newspaper men in confidence on Wednesday. But Representative Wood and those associated with him insist that the selling movement, which sent values tumbling and resulted in the loss to the "lambs" of millions, began on Monday and was plainly based on information of what was to come

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the market.

about completed.

of men high in official circles.

### STATE LAWMAKERS MAY AID FIREMEN

Extension of Pittsburgh Plan by Legislative Act Is Being Discussed

GIVES TWO PLATOONS

Adoption Would Cost More Than "Every-Fourth-Day-Off"

The approaching session of the State Legisture, which opens at Harrisburg imediately after the advent of the new ar, may be called upon to consider the se of the firemen of Philadelphia. It possible that legislation will be subtited that will result in the compulsory acing of Philadelphia in the rapidly owing list of cities where the fire-fighting rue is operated under a two-platoon sys-

Basis for this possibility, in the minds of the firemen's campaign committee, is founded upon the action taken by the last Legislature, which passed an act /to promote the health and efficiency of firemen, in either of the second class, by providing for a two-platoon system for firemen in the Department of Public Safety of such

Under the application of this bit of legislation, which was approved March 30, 1915, by Governor Brumbaugh, the Pitisburgh department abolished the antiquated twenty-four-hour schedule of duty and raised that bureau to the level of a two-legion city. According to information observed ation city. According to information ob-ined by the Philadelphia firemen, the scration of the two-platoon system in itsburgh has been successful and satis-

fittiburgh has been successful and satisfactory to the men in the bureau.

The campaign now waging among the firemen of this city has not put forward a two-platoon system as one of its desired objects. The commensus of opinion, as expressed both by Chief Murphy and by many of the rank and file of the department, has generally been in effect that a schedule by which the men could enjoy every fourth day off duty would be more acceptable

an a two-platoon arrangement will seks of alternating day and night duty. Some of the more experienced firemen wever, voice the belief that a two-platoor ever, voice the belief that a two-platoon tem, arranged in twenty-four-hour shifts, on and day off alternately, would be out advantageously. These men at, for an example, to the operation of high-pressure, pumping stations, where men work in two shifts in tours of nty-four hours each, changing at 4 every afternoon.

PITTSBURGH SYSTEM

The two-plateen system in vogue at Pitts-irgh, as established by the Legislature's actment, is thus provided for in the act of Amembly creating it: Section 1. Be it enacted, etc., That The head of the Department of Public

Safety in each city of the second class shall divide the officers and members of companies of the uniformed fire force of companies of the uniformed fire force in the employ of such cities, excepting the chief engineer and assistant chief, into two bodies or platoons—one to perform day service and the other to perform night service. The hours of day service shall not exceed ten, commencing at 8 o'clock in the morning; the hours of night service shall not exceed fourteen, commencing at 8 o'clock in the afternoon. In morning; the hours of night service shall not exceed fourteen, commencing at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. In cases of riot, serious confiagration or other such emergency, the chief engineer of the bureau of fire, or the assistant chief deputy, or chief officer in charge of any fice, shall have the power to assign all the membern of the fire force to continuous duty, or to continue any member thereof on duty, if necessary. No member of either of said platooms shall be required to perform continuous day service or continuous night service for a longer consecutive period than two weeks; nor be kept on duty continuously longer than ten hours in the night platoon, or fourteen hours in the night platoon, excepting as may be necessary to equalize the hours of duty and service, and also excepting in cases of riot, serious confiagration or other much emergency, as above provided.

Sec. 3. The provisions hereof thall not repeal or affect any law or ordinance relating to salaries, vacations, sick or disability leave, or pay of members of fire departments in

tions, sick or disability leave, or pay of members of fire departments in cities to which this act applies.

of members of fire departments in cities to which this act applies.

Inclusion of cities of the first class—which means the city of Philadelphia—in this measure falled by a narrow margin in the 1915 Legislature. "Revival of the agitation for more consideration of the firemen's condition before the coming session, in view of Pittsburgh's experience under a two-plateon system. It is declared by advocates of that method, might easily end in the introduction of a similar act embracing the Philadelphia Bureau of Fire.

To adopt the two-plateon system in this city, whether as the outcome of Councilmanic action or by legislative enactment, would necessitate an increase in the number of men and a consequent expenss much greater than would result if the "fourth-day-off" plan were to be authorized.

GIVES PRATER FOR COUNCILS

GIVES PRAYER FOR COUNCILS Prayers that Councils be enlightened and an appeal for Divine help in bettering the working conditions of firemen were delivered by the Rev. Dr. A. L. Copper, of the Seventh Street Methodist Episcopal Church, at the Christmas celebration held in the news of France Coppens N.N. 22 et 281

at the Christmas celebration held in the house of Engine Company NoN. 21, at 2011 North Seventh street. Christmas carols were susg by the choir of the church.

One of the features of the celebration was the presentation of a letter of commendation from Chief Murphy to Hoseman Sam A. Fogel, the "baby" member of the company, who, on December 21, rescued five persons from a fire near his home before the arrival of theh firemen.

Members of the company distributed 100

Members of the company distributed 100 age of candy toys and sweets to the poor uldren of the neighborhood.

#### TEUTONS TO LAUNCH DRIVE AGAINST ITALY

Report From Switzerland Says German Guns Will Smash Way to Venitian Plains

ROME, Dec. 26.—A great Austro-German effensive against Italy is to be undertaken, according to information reaching here from Swizz sources. Lieutenant General Count Loigi Caderna, chief of the Italian General Italy, has taken official recognition of the report and is preparing to meet the expected attacks.

sted attacks.

Military critics differ as to the sector in high the heaviest blow will be struck.

The project of an Austro-German offence, expected to be largely directed by struck arms gume, is equal to have been fully as quite in Germany as in Austria-Hungary, in feeling of resolutions against the stan mation in Germany is said to be very

neral Cursi, one of the forement mili-experts in Italy, believes that the new side offensive may be expected at any new that the campaign of the German in Humania is apparently drawing

Man, Shot at Christman Fete, Dying LIBANON Ba, Dec. 15.—George Michael, sette six years old, of East Lebanon, is in the Grood Samaritan Hospital here is a greetest would in the abdymouting it is slieged was abot without treasuring flushing a Abrahman colouration transporter colour to a fellow country.

#### CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS GIVE WAY TO "EXCHANGERS"



#### EXCHANGE RUSH IS ON IN ALL SHOPS TODAY

It's the Spirit, Not the Gift, That Counts, and Women Try to Prove It

By M'LISS

But madame, there was a dance pro gram and a powder puff in the evening wrap that you say has never been worn." "But madame, our expert says the per-

The madame, our expert mays the perfume has been watered. You can smell for
yourself, the edor is barely perceptible and
the seal has been broken."
"But madame, when we unfolded the
blanket, a bed sork dropped out."
In a court of law the plaintiffs would
have been bowed with grief at the accumulation of evidence indisputably pointing to lation of evidence indisputably pointing to guilt. In the department stores today, known in the commercial marts as "Exchange Day," the plaintiffs stand brassy and unabashed. It is the prosecuting attorneys, the saleswomen, who are sause and apologetic. They must be firm without being offensive. It is difficult.

Has a salmon pink cut velvet evening wrap bought last Wednesday and returned this Tuesday been worn? Deponent sayeth "No." And then the saleswoman, with an investigative instinct developed ab-

with an investigative instinct developed ab-normally from long service on Exchange Days, runs her hand into the shirred inner pocket. Result a Christmas dance pro-gram and a first-aid to beauty. Deponent

"The very idea that it should even be binted that she isn't telling the truth." Curtain. Has a bottle of perfume, which bears on

that a bottle of persume, which dears on its inhel the name of a brand well known for its inhistence and which now gives forth only a faint vague memory of a smell been tampered with?

Deponent looketh absently away. Perish the thought that she would try to put anything over on a long-suffering shopkeeper. "What, the perfume watered?

Has a blue and white blanket been snuggled under which has tucked between its folds a mauve and much-worn bed sock? Deponent assumes the well-known air of njured innocence. What knows she of

Curtain. It's a great day. "You can't fool all the copie all the time." said a great man, but ask any saleswoman who are the greatest kidders on earth and she'll tell you the people who come to the shops on December 26, bearing a year's accumulation of junb to may nothing of an armful of undesirable

gifts received the day before.
"This day has come to be known as Exchange Day," the nymph at the exchange desk youcheared between harassed moments, "and, because of the rush and excitement, they try to kid you into believing that everything they bring back has just been recently bought and has scarcely been taken out of its package."

At that instant a vision in blue fox furs raved a book two inches from the nymph's ose and would not longer be denied. "Emerson's Essays," she said tersely. "I want a cigarette case for it instead." There was the woman who wanted little

baking dishes instead of the French kid gloves Santy had left her. There was an-other who preclaimed aloud that she needed cash and not a leather handbag. There was the fimid man, who ultimately made his feeble tenor heard above the mesze-soprane of a hundred wild women. and called for pajamas and shirts in place of the topaz seal ring with which he had been endowed. There was the woman who announced frankly that she hadn't come to exchange, but only to find out definitely just what her in vallere had cost.

There was—but what's the use? Hasn't it been said over and over again that it's the spirit of Christmas and not the gift that counts?

Asquith's Daughter to Wed American LONDON, Dec. 26.—Announcement of the engagement of Elizabeth Asquith, daughter of the ex-Premier, to Hugh S. Gibson, first secretary of the United States Embassy, was printed today. (A dispatch from London several days ago reported that this engagement was expected.)

London Reports Victory in Egypt LONDON, Dec. 26.—"Practical destruc-tion of the enemy's force" in the engage-ment Saturday at Maghdabah, Egypt, was announced by the War Office today. Of the enemy 1350 were taken prisoners.

Bulgars Win North of Monastir BERLIN, Dec. 26.—Northwest of Monas-tir Butgarian troops carried out success-ful patrol enterprises, the War Office an-nounced today in an official statement on Macedonian operations. Along the Tcherna River there was cannonading.

### LA GERMANIA PREPARA L'INVASIONE D'ITALIA

Navi da Guerra Austriache Tentano Invano di Affondare Unita' Italiane in Perlustrazione

DUELLI DI ARTIGLIERIA

Reparti Austriaci Ricacciati con Perdite Dopo Avere Raggiunto una Posizione Vicino Gorizia

ROMA, 26 Dicembre.

Notizie dalla Svizzera dicono che la Ger-Notizie dalla Svizzera dicono che la Ger-mania, e l'Austria stanno preparando una grande offensiva contro l'Italia, offensiva che sarebbe iniziata relativamente presto. Il generale Cadorna avrebbe avuto in-formazioni al riguardo e si preparerebbe a fronteggiare il nuevo colpo. Non si sa an-cora dove si svolgerebbe, ma sembra che ll Tesnitos surebbe di nuovo la via che gili l Trentino sarebbe di nuovo la via che gli eserciti teutonici tenterebbero per penetrare nella planura veneta.

I generale Carlo Cadorna, occupandosi ella Tribuna di queste presunte intenzioni nella Tribuna di queste presunte intenzioni della Germania e riconoscendo che la nuovo offenziva zarebbe questa volta guidata da ufficiali tedeschi e appoggiata da cannoni pure tedeschi, dice che non e' improbabile che essa si manifesti relativamente subito, non appeng i tedeschi avranno finito la compagna della Rumania. Una campagna invernale nel Trentino e' possibile, ili generale Corsi ritione, dal momnto che la campagna di Serbia si svolse pure nell'inverno.

Il Ministero della Guerra pubblicava ieri era il seguente rapporto del generale Ca-forna circa la situazione alla fronte italo-

ustriaca:

Sulla fronte tra lo Stelvio ed il lago
di Garda si sono avute azieni di artiglieria che sono state piu' violenti
che altrove nella zona del Passo dei
Tonale e nella valle di Ledro.

Sulla fronte delle Alpi Giulle una

densa nebbia ha ostacolato l'azione delle nostre artiglierie. Sotto la pro-tezione della nebbia alcuni reparti nemici riuscirono a giungere di sor-presa fino alle nostre posizioni sulla Quota 86, a sud-est di Gorizia, ma ne furono subito ricacciati e lasciarono anche un numero di prigionieri nelle

Sull'altopiano del Carso si sono avuti alcuni scontri tra piccoli reparti in ricognizione. Nella sera il nemico ha bombardato con grande violenza Monfalcone e la Quota 144, ma le sue ar-tiglierie sono state presto ridotte al slienzio dalle nostre batterie.

Da un rapporto pubblicato oggi dal Ministero della Marina risulta che nella notte del 23 corrente navi da guerra aus-triache tentarono di affondare alcune navi italiane che perlustravano il Canalie d'Otranto. Le navi austriache furono affrontate da navi da guerra italiane e franesi e dopo un breve combattimento, che ero' fu violentissimo, le unita' austriache i dicdero alla fuga.

Due cacciatorpediniere francesi ed una navi di perlustrazione furono leggermente colpite e leggermente danneggiate. Nulla si sa se le navi austriache sono state

Circola qui la voce oggi che la Ger-Circola qui la voce oggi che la Ger-mania ha consegnato al rappresentanti delle potenze neutrali, che essa aveva gia' in-caricato di recare al governi dell'Intesa le proposte di pace, una busta suggellata con-tenents le condizioni specifiche alle quali la Germania sarebbe disposta a concludere la nace. a pace. Secondo quanto si dice qui, questa busta

as pace.

Secondo quanto si dice qui, questa busta fu consegnata con intruzioni di leggerne il contenuto e trasmetterio al governi dell'Intena soltanto nel caso che questi rispondessoro alla propoeta della Germania domandando le condizioni che la Germania stessa poneva alla conciusione della pace. In caso diverso la busta doveva essere restituita alla Germania chiusa come era.

Si aggiunge che nel caso che questa nota dovesse essere sottomesse al Vaticano, il papa aveva liberta' di parire la busta e prendere visione del contenuto.

A proposito del Vaticane, il napa, parlando ieri con il segretario di Stato, cardinale Gasparri, circa la nota del presidente Wisson, diceva che essa e' un documento che mostra opesta', giustizia e previggenza da parte del presidente. Nel suo discorso al sacro collegio nella sera di Natale il papa pario' ancora della "pace giuna e duravole che metta fine agli orrori della guerra."

#### 5500 Russians Continued from Page One

Germans Capture

lighting continued in precisely the same German efforts to fraternise were discouraged by grenades and trench mortars. On one occasion the Saxons in an opposite trench lifted up over their parapet a Christmas tree, and, as the Tommies facing it remarked, "We hung oranges, apples and bonbons on it." Or, in other words, they deluged it with grenades. It was observable that the agperiment was not repeated.

Troops resting in billets at the rear began Christmas celebration with lunches, dimers and parties today. There were amateur theatricals and Christmas trees at the field Y. M. C. A. huts—the Y. M. C. A. furnishing band music and all extras. In the meanwhile those in the front trenches awaited their relief that they too might

In the front trenches the fighters, be-tween periods of watching and fighting, opened their packages from home. For the most part these were trinkets made by mothers, sweethearts or wives. But for the Tommies who had none of these there were Tommies who had none of these there were pienty of trinkets and Christmas gifts from volunteer friends hack in England. The procedure of this opening of gifts was the same all along the line—with the British Tommies, the Ansac men and the Cana-

dians.
Christmas Eve came with stars shining from a cloudless sky. But that great illumination in the East was not the star of Bethlehem—but a star shell of war, sent aloft by nervous Germans above the horrible garbage heap known as No Man's Land. Its light was sent to search out that debris for any living thing.

Presently, as night deepened, one could see far up and down the line brilliant balls, suspended high over the trenches like drifting flames at an American Fourth of July celebration.

As a Christmas decoration these pyrotechnics were beautiful, but horrible. I

State Department Will Aid Intechnica were beautiful, but horrible. It was evident all through the night that the Germans were expecting a "Christmas party," for under the star shells every fantastic wavering shadow was sufficient to tart the German machine guns purring, or to provoke the high-tensioned "ping" of a sniper's riffe.

Sunday dawned bright with the weather WASHINGTON, Dec. 25. - A situation ull of very nasty possibilities rapidly is Sunday dawned bright, with the weather leveloping as a result of last week's near

musually mild. Lazy-moving clouds were n the blue sky and as the day advanced unshine and shadow alternated. The hurch bells sang forth a Christmas reminder across the war-wrecked villages.
But out along the scrambled, barren
front trenches there was unusual activity
throughout the day with trench mortar and and grenade. There wasn't any idea of

Christmas truce.

Behind these lines of death the green dopes were reminiscent of the bluegrass valleys of Kentucky in early springtime. As a result there was developing here in increasing demand in congressional and official quarters that all of the facts be valleys of Kentucky in early springtime. It was another "green Christmas" at the front, and there was plenty of Christmas mistletoe relieving the otherwise gaunt trees, their blossoms giving a touch of color against the brilliant green heather.

In the air swarms of war planes circulated. learned to show conclusively whether there was truth or falsehood in the rumors. It is certain that when Congress resumes its sessions one week from today Representa-

while the putter of machine guns was dis-tinctly andfale when an occasional energy plane ventured for a moment to dispute the Alites' supremacy of cloudland. It was natural, with this sort of a Christman, that the thoughts of softlers dwalt more on the latest turns of war and diplomacy than on Christman dimers and parties, or even the actual war operations themselves.

better, or even the actual hemselves.

Everywhere interest was expressed in Fresident Wilson's peace move, and that interest was always backed up with the iteration and reiteration that such a move would not have been made without an intimation that it was acceptable to the

warring nations. "But why take such a step now, w England and her Allies consider their torious peace only a question of time?" the vast undercurrent of opinion.

GERMANS IN FRANCE REPUSLE FOE'S PATROLS

Repeated repulse of British patrols was reported in today's official statement de-tailing fighting activity on the western

Artillery activity has increased at some ectors of the Ypres front, on both sides

of the Canal La Busses and west of his Active artillery action Christman base on the Somme front, in the Libous reported in today's official statement

LEGION WILL DISBAND Volunteer Defense Organization Terra-Over Records to New Council

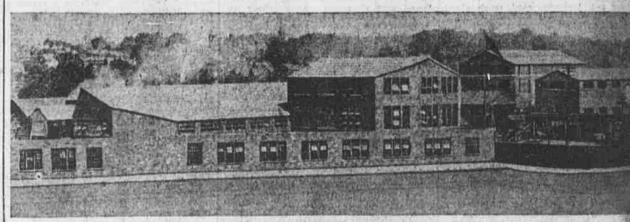
NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Acting under the direction of Secretary of War Baker, its American Legion, a civilian organization formed in February, 1916, to classify may of military and technical experience as defense measure, has turned over its records to the recently created Council of National Defense and will distroceporate. tional Defense and will disincerporate.

The American Legion mays that its 24,600 enrolled members will be "released free all obligations of promise of service or payment of dues." but that it has requested the Secretary of War, to communicate wite each member "in order that his willingness to render service, as expressed by his legion membership, can be made use of by the Generoment through the Officers' Reserve Corp. or Enlisted Men's Reserve Corps, or in such other ways as the Council for National Defense may devise."

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