



U. S. HOPES TO BECOME CLEARING HOUSE FOR VIEWS AND PEACE TERMS

Attention Turns to Reception of Note in Foreign Capitals; Wilson Counts on Frank Reply

DANGER BELIEVED TO BE REMOVED BY ACTION

Explained President Seeks Actual Details of General Program Marked Out by Official Spokesmen

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—With the purposes of President Wilson's note to belligerents clarified by official statements on the subject, the attention of the United States has turned to the reception of the note in the foreign capitals.

Diplomats here are eagerly watching for indications of whether the European neutrals will follow the lead of the United States and make a similar appeal to the warring powers.

There is growing feeling that the United States hopes to become the clearing house for views and possibly for terms of the belligerents. Several of the diplomats have advised their governments to that effect in order to guide them in their replies.

Surprise at the fast growing significance of the President's move was expressed on all sides, where it was

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Five Are Believed Dead in Fire Which Destroys Kansas Masonic Home

Wichita, Kans., Dec. 22.—At least five persons are believed to have lost their lives and several are suffering from injuries as the result of a fire that destroyed the main building of the Kansas Masonic Home here early today. In addition scores of old men and women and children suffered from the effects of smoke or from exposure in a temperature of eight above zero.

Several, made unconscious by smoke or overcome by cold as they fled from the burning structure in their night clothes, were taken to hospitals.

Two bodies so burned that identification seemed impossible were taken from the ruins before noon.

The home was the property of the Masonic lodge of Kansas. The chapel, valued at \$10,000 and the hospital, valued at \$9,000 were the only buildings saved. The loss was estimated at \$250,000. The fire started in the boiler room and had gained great headway before being discovered by a passerby.

THE WEATHER

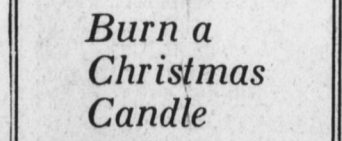
For Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair and much colder to-night, with lowest temperature about 10 degrees; Saturday fair, continued cold.

For Eastern Pennsylvania: Fair, much colder to-night, with a cold wave Saturday night and cold; strong northwesterly winds diminishing by Saturday morning.

River The Susquehanna river and all its branches will fall slowly or remain stationary, except local rises may occur due to ice. The quantity of ice will increase in all streams during the next forty-eight hours. A stage of about 5.8 feet is indicated for Harrisburg Saturday morning.

Temperature: 8 a. m., 34. Sun: Rises, 7:24 a. m.; sets, 4:44 p. m. Moon: New moon, Sunday, 1:30 a. m. River Stage: 3.8 feet above low-water mark.

Yesterday's Weather Highest temperature, 39. Lowest temperature, 29. Mean temperature, 34. Normal temperature, 32.



Burn a Christmas Candle A single taper burning from the window on Christmas Eve with charming simplicity radiates Good Will and Welcome and honor to the Christ Child.

COLD WAVE WITH HIGH WINDS TO BE HERE TONIGHT

Mercury Will Fall to 10 Degrees With 30-Mile Hour Gale Blowing

LAST OVER CHRISTMAS

Nearly an Inch of Rain This Morning; Skating at Wildwood Likely

Another cold wave with a drop in temperature of at least twenty degrees and high winds exceeding thirty miles an hour in velocity will reach Harrisburg to-night, according to Forecaster E. R. Demain. The cold weather will continue probably until late Christmas Day and may be followed by snow.

More than three-quarters of an inch of rain fell during the night, beginning after 2 o'clock. Much of the snow on the downtown streets melted, but in the outskirts in exposed places the ground is still covered. With the exception of delays in trolley service early to-day, little trouble was reported as a result of the storm. Telegraph and telephone companies experienced no difficulty with line trouble, as the warm weather kept the rain from freezing.

The mercury will drop to 10 degrees to-night and present indications will not go above 20 to-morrow. Northwest winds, decreasing in velocity by to-morrow morning, will add to the cold, according to forecasts.

No more snow is expected before Christmas. Forecaster Demain said that although a positive weather pre-

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Powerful Liquor Interests of France Are Fighting Ban Tooth and Nail

Paris, Dec. 21.—Premier Briand's proposal to suppress the manufacture and sale of spirits which is generally approved by the public is being fought tooth and nail by the powerful liquor trade interests. The National Wine and Spirit Trade Association at a special meeting has passed a resolution strongly condemning the premier's proposal. Among the arguments advanced at the meeting was that the measure dissolves the sacred union of the country before the foe by attacking one class of citizens, that it is a violation of the right of every citizen to trade and that it amounts to expropriation. It was also urged that those affected would be entitled by law to compensation.

Punitive Force in Mexico Will Have Monster Tree For Xmas Celebration

Field Headquarters, Mexico, Dec. 22.—Except for decorating the great Christmas tree, preparations were completed here to-day and the program arranged for one of the most elaborate Christmas celebrations the American army ever had outside the United States. Organizations will be relieved from all except necessary work beginning to-morrow so that the expedition will have three days of freedom from duties. Thousands of presents from Red Cross and anonymous senders have arrived and it is expected no soldier in the expedition will be overlooked on Christmas evening.

Details have been chosen from various regiments to decorate the Christmas tree and twenty-four members of the twenty-fourth infantry have been assigned to the task of barbecuing two hogs. A chorus of 400 which will sing carols and patriotic songs is rehearsing daily.

The pine tree, which will be illuminated in place, and with the flaps at its top, will extend eighty-five feet into the air. The tree was brought thirty-five miles from a virgin forest east of the city by motor trucks, eighteen of which were used to carry Christmas greens to camp.

NEWLYWEDS, LET WHISKY ALONE, SAYS DELAWARE MAN

Georgetown, Del., Dec. 22.—Mr. and Mrs. George Hatfield, of this place, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home last evening. During their married life Mr. Hatfield has never been ill one day, due, he says, to the fact that in that time he has never tasted a drop of liquor, notwithstanding the fact that before his marriage he occasionally drank some. His advice to young couples is to start married life with whisky banished from their homes.

MRS. CHARLES D. CADWALLADER Mrs. Charles D. Cadwallader, of Philadelphia, known to many of the older residents as Jennie Wallace, died at her home in that city last evening of pneumonia. Mrs. Samuel J. M. McCarrall of this city, is a sister, and Thomas L. Wallace of Pine Street, is a brother. Judge and Mrs. McCarrall and Mrs. Anne Wallace McClain will attend the funeral services, held to-morrow from the Cadwallader home.

FIND PROMOTERS GUILTY

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 22.—In the United States District Court to-day a jury found a verdict of guilty in the case of Charles S. Miller and Raymond McCune, who were tried on the charge of using the mails to promote a scheme to defraud in connection with a Peruvian gold mining proposition. A recommendation of mercy was made in the case of Miller. The case has been on trial for more than three weeks and the jury was out all of last night.

2c TURKEY OR WE EAT BEEF, IS SLOGAN

Altoona, Pa., Dec. 22.—"Turkeys for twenty-five cents a pound, or we eat beef for Christmas." This is the slogan adopted here by thousands of Pennsylvania Railroad shoppers to bring down the price of turkeys.

WHO SAYS THERE'S NO SANTA CLAUS?



CHRISTMAS TREES GIVEN TO LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS BY HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH SANTA

Who says "there ain't no Santa Claus?"

If you are among the foolish skeptics who insist that Old Saint Nick is naught but a myth; that there is no such thing as his reindeer and his pack; that he comes from out of a rich man's purse and not from the mysterious land where pine trees moan in the cold moonlight—if you are one of these poor misguided individuals, you ought to drop into the Telegraph editorial offices these days.

For right in the middle of the big room, with the reporters and editors and jingling telephones, is a great, big, fat Santa Claus—who has stopped writing tales of football and baseball field for a season—handing out Christmas trees to poor little children sent in by John Yates, secretary of the Associated Aid Societies.

Each tiny edger, as he opens the office door with a wondering look on his pinched little face, hands Santa a postcard which says Mr. Yates has

arranged with the Harrisburg Telegraph to give a Christmas tree and an envelope of trimmings to the bearer.

And more than a hundred of them have come—Tiny Tims with mighty little between them and the winter wind hobbie in on legs that never wobble; straight; shiny-faced and shiny-eyed rascals who know that Santa likes "cullud" boys and girls "same as white"; now and then a rosy-cheeked, healthy looking youngster, who makes Old Saint Nick blink his eyes and wonder at the stuff that must be in them to live and grow so strong, despite the dirt and squalor of their lot.

And as each receives one of the little Canadian spruce trees brought from a spot somewhere in a corner of the British empire by feet-footed reindeer, a look come into each little face that more than repays the efforts of the Telegraph and Mr. Yates to see that Santa does not forget.

Completing Arrangements to Jewelry Buried in Reading Finds Owner in Tennessee

Budapest, via London, Dec. 22.—The Hungarian parliament has completed arrangements for the coronation of King Charles by electing Count Tisza as paladin. The paladin is the functionary who places the crown on the king's head.

The work of decorating the streets has already started and despite the war it is intended to make the coronation an elaborate affair. King Charles will arrive at Budapest on December 27 and the coronation will take place on December 30.

TEPPER JURY STILL OUT

Buffalo, Dec. 22.—More than twenty hours' deliberation had failed to bring agreement among the 12 men considering the evidence against John Edward Tepper alleged matricide when Justice Charles B. Wheeler appeared in court to-day and he was informed that there was no immediate prospect of a report.

Reading, Pa., Dec. 22.—Last October jewelry and silver worth \$500 were found buried in a field at Wyomissing, Pa. The jewelry, which included bracelets, watches, stickpins and other articles.

Irvin F. Impink, of Wyomissing, started investigation. The word "Cast-ner" was on some of the jewelry, and when Impink read in a Philadelphia paper an account of an accident in which Catharine Castner had been killed by an automobile truck he corresponded with the father of the child, Samuel J. Castner, who said the jewelry did not belong to him.

A close examination disclosed the word "Tennessee" on the jewelry, and new interest was created, as Mr. Castner had relatives residing in that State. Impink then wrote to Mrs. Catharine Castner, and received a letter from her in which she described the articles. They were sent to her.

QUEEN OF THE MUMMERS AND HER CAPTAIN



MISS MARY P. BACKENSTOSS



MISS VIRGINIA P. EISENBERGER

Miss Mary P. Backenstoss has been named as Queen of the Mummies. She will appear in the New Year's Day parade attended by guards and fairies. Harry O. Beck, master of properties at the Majestic theater, is arranging a handsome float in which the Queen will ride.

Members of the Girls' Club will act as fairies and guards and the latter will have as their captain Miss Virginia P. Eisenberger. The guards are now being drilled, and the fairies trained for their duties. The Queen and her escort will lead the big procession.

BRITISH START DELAYED MARCH TOWARD BAGDAD

Push Close to Kut-el-Amara on the Tigris; Capture El Arish in Egypt

PROTECT SUEZ CANAL

Military Operations Transferred to South Where Weather Is Favorable

While winter weather is causing military operations on most of the fighting fronts to lack features of interest, considerable activity is developing in sectors far enough south to admit of energetic campaigning.

On the Tigris, the British after a long period of quiet, having recently pushed forward close to Kut-el-Amara on the south and are continuing to attack the Turkish forces in that region, evidently in the hope of resuming their long delayed march toward Bagdad.

Take Town in Egypt Now another field of activity is demanding attention, with to-day's announcement from London that British forces have captured El Arish, in Egypt, on the Mediterranean, 90 miles east of the Suez canal.

Little has been heard from the

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HONORS SOMME LEADER

Berlin, Dec. 22 (via London).—Emperor William has conferred the oak leaves of the Order Pour le Merite on the Somme leader, Rupprecht of Bavaria, commander of the German forces on the Somme front, it was officially announced to-day. With the decoration the emperor sent an autographed letter in which he said: "Under the splendid leadership of your royal highness the Franco-British attacks have been arrested and the battle on the Somme won for us. Only this made our destructive blows in Rumania possible." The emperor has conferred the same distinction upon Lieutenant-General von Kuhl, attached to the staff of the Bavarian crown prince.

KILL ESCAPED PRISONERS

Peking, China, Dec. 22.—Three German army officers, a captain and two lieutenants, who escaped from a Siberian prison camp, have been killed in Mongolia by Russian soldiers according to the Chinese Foreign Office.

SPROUL ENTERS GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN TODAY

Announcement Made in Delaware County; Democrats Boosting McCormick

The Telegraph to-day received a special dispatch from Philadelphia to the effect that Senator William C. Sproul, of Chester, had announced his candidacy for Governor in 1918 at a meeting of Republican workers of his county and that Democratic State leaders and national officials had launched a boom for Vance C. McCormick for the Democratic nomination.

The dispatch is as follows: "Senator William C. Sproul, of Delaware county has formally announced his candidacy for Governor to succeed Martin G. Brumbaugh. This announcement was received in political circles almost simultaneously with the announcement of President Wilson's Pennsylvania leaders, who launched a definite gubernatorial boom for Vance C. McCormick, chairman of the Democratic National committee.

Mr. Sproul's announcement was made at a meeting of the Republicans of Ridley township, who were the guests of James F. Dougherty, of Liperville, and was the most unique announcement of a gubernatorial candidacy in the history of the State.

Senator Sproul was surrounded by a complete vaudeville show when he made his announcement. Conjurers, strong men, singers and clog dancers appeared on the platform before he "accepted" the nomination to lead the fight against the Vore-Brumbaugh-Magee forces in 1918, and after he had delivered his speech in which he declared war within the Republican party on behalf of the "stalwarts" the Republicans of Ridley township feasted on possum, coon and rabbit.

GIRL MARRIED, DIVORCED, REWEDS AT THE AGE OF 16

Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 22.—Married at 15, divorced at 16, and now married at the second time at 16, is the experience of a young girl of this city. She applied for her second license yesterday, giving 16 as her age, and when the marriage license clerk expressed surprise that one so young should apply for a license the pretty young applicant informed him that this was her second matrimonial venture.

She became the bride of Frank B. Hill, age 24.

3-CENT PAPER MAY GO UP

London, Dec. 22.—The Times, which recently raised its price from 2 to 3 cents, has notified its readers that there will probably be a further increase owing to the restrictions on the importation of paper and paper-making materials and the shortage of labor. It announces that it intends to maintain the present size and advises the revival of the old custom by which news agents arranged that each day's copy of the paper should be shared by several London households and finally mailed to the provinces or abroad.

ALTOONA PAPERS GO UP

Altoona, Pa., Dec. 22.—The Morning Tribune and the morning Times as well as the evening Mirror, all the daily newspapers in Altoona, to-day announced that beginning January 1 the price will be two cents per copy or 40 cents a month.

\$400,000 FIRE AT ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 22.—Fire here to-day in a seven-story building occupied by the Atlantic Tea Company, caused damage estimated at \$400,000.

CAN WIN \$10 FOR ONE HUG

Pottsville, Pa., Dec. 22.—Mayor Mortimer has offered \$10 to any woman who will catch the young man who is hugging women all over the city.

SCHWAB TO GIVE PLANTS TO U. S. IN CASE OF WAR

No Strings Attached to Offer of Bethlehem Steel, Greater Than Krupp Works

MILLION ROUNDS A MONTH

Great Steel King Pledges Concern to Government at Own Price; Welcomes Peace

New York, Dec. 22.—The Bethlehem Steel plant, now fifty per cent greater than the great Krupp works at Essen, will be turned over to the United States government the moment that it is needed, and without any strings attached, according to Charles M. Schwab, head of the great plant at Bethlehem, made this pledge to a dinner table full of distinguished publicists at the Lotus Club and declared that the concern now has a capacity of 1,000,000 rounds of heavy ammunition a month.

"This," he declared, "I feel to be a great national asset for the government. In the event the time comes that it is needed, it will be placed at the disposal of the government to be used as the government sees fit, and the government itself shall name the price to be paid for the material produced."

Mr. Schwab said he did not "fear" the effect of peace on America's business.

"I am an optimist," he said. "Some see disaster in peace coming but I look on peace as a blessing. What we want is a conclusive peace and not one that merely presages another war."

NICE JOB FOR CARPENTER

Named as Stenographer for Assembly in Jersey

Trenton, Dec. 22.—In the allotment of legislative jobs the Republican Steering committee of the Assembly gave, among some others, a stenographer to Mercer county. The three Assemblymen agreed upon the appointment of George Poinsett for the place. Poinsett, it developed, is a carpenter by trade and occupation, and while he can run a typewriter, it is said he cannot possibly "stenog."

When this fact was called to the attention of the delegation they attempted that Poinsett might lose the job, but there are precedents by which he could hold on to it. It pays \$600 for the session, with not very much to do even for a stenographer.

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE NAMED

Harrisburg.—The Democratic state headquarters to-day announced the following committee appointed by State Chairman Guffey to draft legislation on the part of the Democratic party: E. Lowry Humes, Meadville; Roland S. Morris, Philadelphia; E. C. Higbee, Uniontown; W. T. Creasy, Catawissa; Senators S. S. Leiby, Perry; W. W. Hindman, Clarion; Representatives W. T. Sarig, Berks; J. W. Cannon, Mercer, and Ira T. Erdman, Lehigh.

AMERICAN EXPRESS ANNOUNCES BONUSES

New York, Dec. 22.—The American Express Company to-day announced a bonus of one month's salary, payable in quarterly installments, to all employees who have been one year or longer in its service and who receive \$2,000 or less annually. It is estimated that the award will total about \$1,250,000 and that 12,000 employees will benefit.

ARMY DEFICIENCY OF \$28,400,000

Washington, Dec. 22.—A deficiency appropriation of \$28,400,000 for the army on account of Mexican border service was submitted to the House to-day by Secretary Baker.

WILSON NOMINATES SHIPPING BOARD

Washington, Dec. 22.—President Wilson to-day nominated the following to be members of the government shipping board: William Denman, of San Francisco; Bernard N. Baker, of Baltimore; John A. Donald, of New York; John Barber White, of Kansas City, Mo., and Theodore Brent of New Orleans.

MARKET CLOSING STRONG

New York, Dec. 22.—Wall Street.—The market crept slowly upward in the last hour. The closing was strong. Rallies of 3 to 10 points with 26 for Bethlehem Steel, which restored many stocks to prices of the midweek and placed others over that level, featured to-day's rebound from the depression of the preceding session. Total sales were estimated at 1,700,000 shares.

VILLA OPENS ATTACK ON TORREON

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 22.—Francisco Villa's forces began an attack on Torreon this morning, according to unconfirmed reports received here to-day. The battle was said to be in progress at noon.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Otis Patterson and Novelle Harrison, Steelton. Albert Cohen and Rosa Lipman, city. Irvin Monroe Fernald, Steelton, and Florida Virginia Schoppert, city.