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The Daily Gate City.

THE WEATHER
Snow and colder. Local temp—7 p. m. 37; 7 a. m. 30.

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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

CHRISTMAS TREES SPARKLE AND HEARTS ARE HAPPY

The Greatest of All Holidays Comes Tomorrow and is Being Ushered in This Evening in Proper Fashion.

INTERESTING STORIES OF THE DAY

President Wilson Will be Away from Home on Honeymoon, but has not Overlooked His Little Friends.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—There was the shrill alarm of an automobile horn. Children at play today in front of their homes along Washington road, near the Washington Country club, in Virginia, paused in their games. Other children in the houses came running out. They knew that horn well.

And as fifty tots ranging in age from three years to twelve, ran delightedly out to the curb, a big white house limousine, loaded to "the guards" with toys of all kinds, and candy and fruit of every description, wheeled up. Packages were handed to each, and I. N. Hoover, white house head usher, added: "Merry Christmas" to all.

It was the president's Christmas remembrance to some of his little friends.

The children are those who always run out and greet the president when he is on his way to the Washington Country club. They know the automobile horn of the white house car and the president always has it blown when he approaches the row of houses along Washington road where his little friends live.

Back in the white house today, two other little youngsters play, unmindful of the preparations that are going forward to make their Christmas a happy one. They are the president's grandchildren, Miss Ellen McAdoo, aged eleven months, and Master Francis Sayre, who has passed the commanding age of one year.

Tomorrow morning they will awaken to find a great Christmas tree awaiting them in the library on the second floor of the white house. It will sparkle with many beautifully colored lights and the boughs will stoop with mysterious packages which Santa Claus has left. It will be the first Christmas these youngsters have spent together in their grandfather's big house.

"Granddaddy" himself will not be there. He is honeymooning in the mountains of Virginia, but there will be presents and good wishes from him.

Miss Ellen and Master Francis will act as hosts to Josephine Conthran, of Philadelphia, grand niece of the president, who is here with her mother, Mrs. Anne Cothran. And the other guests of the youngsters at the Christmas celebration will be their respective mothers and fathers, Mr. and Mrs. William G. McAdoo, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Sayre, Miss Margaret Wilson, Miss Helen Woodrow Bones and Prof. Herbert Axson, brother of the former Mrs. Wilson, and the Misses Nona and Sallie McAdoo.

Christmas dinner at the white house will be in the state dining room in the evening.

Today all the employes in the white house and the executive offices are bearing home a large turkey, the Christmas gift of the president. Alone with his bride in Hot Springs, Va., the president will spend his Christmas without ceremony, or guests.

Real Christmas Weather.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 24.—Snow during the night transformed every bush and tree into a white Christmas tree, and brought shouts of joy from thousands of kiddies this morning, for it meant a real Christmas.

Tree for Mended Hearts.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—A Christmas tree for mended hearts brought rejoicing to a thousand Chicagoans today. Judge Jacob Hopkins of the court of domestic relations, whose task is to prevent divorces, invited the couples he had kept from separation to a celebration in his court room.

Policies as Presents.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—Free life insurance was the Consumers company's gift to its 5,000 employes today. Each employe who has worked for the concern one year will be insured for the amount of his annual salary up to $2,000.

In Army and Navy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Every ship in the U. S. navy and every army post and camp wherever located showed real signs of Christmas today. A week ago the suggestion was made

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A GREAT PACK OF GOLD ON BACK OF SANTA CLAUS

How Wall Street Celebrated its Prosperity Around Christmas Tree.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Santa Claus drew rein in the financial district today and Wall street broke into one of the wildest prosperity celebrations in its history.

"High Jinks" on the floor of the New York stock exchange, on the "curb" and on the consolidated stock exchange, marked the advent of Christmas.

Employes of the stock exchanges, armed with noise-making devices, added to the bedlam when $25,000 in gold was distributed to them from a pool collected by the members.

Hundreds of other employes of financial institutions, nearly all of them rewarded by Christmas gratuities, thronged the street, joining in the celebration.

In the financial district was a gala spot. The Christmas tree on the consolidated exchange was the center of a "prosperity frolic." More than a thousand brokers joined hands and danced about the tree and the tunes of a regimental band were drowned by the din of shouting voices, horns and whistles. Street venders barked and made bold with millionaires and curb brokers wig-waging their orders while locked in one another's gleeful embraces in a mad version of the one-step.

"War millionaires," those whose riches as yet are only a few months old, remembered the most lowly of stock exchange workers. Scrub women, their tired, wrinkled faces wreathed in smiles, stood in line, mops in hand and surveyed the antics of the crowd on the floor while a committee gave them presents from the huge tree.

J. P. Morgan and company is reported to have given their employes twenty per cent of their annual salaries as a Christmas gift. Scores of houses gave as much as ten per cent, and one concern, the Central Trust company, distributed fifty per cent of the annual payroll.

Prosperity gripped New York in other quarters, too. Lawyers gave their clerks substantial remembrances and many a pretty stenographer carried home a month's salary at noon.

Department stores were jammed with last minute shoppers and clerks worked in relays to care for the rush. Around the entrances thousands edged and twisted to get in and others paid subway fares to enter some stores through the sub-street doors. The stores have sold millions in merchandise in the last two weeks alone and today's rush was to boost the figure appreciably.

All railroads reported exceedingly heavy traffic.

BALKANS

[By Henry Wood, United Press Staff Correspondent.]
ROME, Dec. 24.—A battle has been raging for three days between the Serbs and Bulgars in the Albanian mountains near Elbassan, the Serbian Prince Alexis Karageorgevich reported on his arrival here today.

"Our men are fighting splendidly," he said. "They have stopped every enemy charge and are conducting themselves as confidently as though they were carrying the campaign into Bulgaria.

"Though they suffer from lack of food, the spirit of our soldiers has not been broken. As my wife and I made our way across Albania to the coast, the songs of Serbian soldiers rose from every bivouac. They would die to the last man before accepting the Teutonic yoke. They await only the signal from their allies for a combined offensive."

The Serbs now hold a line extending roughly across the Albanian mountains from Scutari to Saint Giovanni Di Medua, thence to Durazzo, Tirana, Schiar, Elbassan, Fieri and Valona, where the Serbian right wing forms a junction with the Italian forces.

The army is not idle when there is no fighting to be done, said the Serbian prince. They have transformed large areas of the Albanian wilderness into well-roaded countries with highways connecting the large towns.

GRANTED FURLOUGHS.

ATHENS, Dec. 24.—The Greek government today granted furloughs for one month to fifteen per cent of all classes of reserves.

The official announcement was a surprise, in view of persistent rumors that the Bulgar-Austro-German invasion is about to begin. In some quarters it was taken to mean that Germany has given definite assurances that no troops of the central empires will cross the Greek frontier for at least another month. By others it was interpretated as a step in the

(Continued on page 6.)

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
AMSTERDAM, Dec. 24.—Authoritative information regarding the kaiser's illness was lacking today. It was recalled, however, that at the same time last year the kaiser was ill and that sensational reports of his condition were circulated. Within a few days he was able to be out of doors and left for the front on December 20.

THE KAISER'S SICKNESS.

ZURICH, Dec. 24.—Reports from German sources today said that the kaiser is suffering from a recurrence of the trouble reported to have affected him last year, cancer of the throat.

TURKEY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
CAIRO, Dec. 24.—Serious outbreaks by strong Arab forces operating in Tripoli and Egypt have forced the British to evacuate the frontier post of Sellum, on the Egyptian-Tripoli border, it was admitted today.

First reports received here gave the impression that only a minor clash occurred. In view of later dispatches, it is believed that Turkish agents are stirring up revolts in both Egypt and Tripoli, possibly preparatory to a Turco-German advance toward the Suez canal.

A German submarine, according to dispatches received here, participated in the fighting. The British coast guard with a garrison of about sixty Egyptian troops, was surprised by a large force of Arabs who approached from the southeast. Simultaneously the submarine drew in close to shore and began shelling the British troops. They fell back upon Mersa Matrous, after losing twenty men. Reinforcements are being sent to Mersa.

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
LONDON, Dec. 24.—Total British casualties from the beginning of the war to December 9 are 528,327, it was officially announced today. They are divided as follows:

Killed, 119,923; wounded, 338,758; missing, 69,546.

Bloodhounds on the Trail.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
CALVIN, Okla., Dec. 24.—Sheriff Eoff and a posse with bloodhounds today were pursuing three yeggs who bound the watchman at the local postoffice and dynamited the safe at 2:00 o'clock this morning. The robbers got about $125 in cash and a quantity of stamps.

Two charges of dynamite were exploded, awakening a number of citizens. The pursuit did not begin, however, until the sheriff arrived from Holdenville an hour later. Reports sent out that a battle between the yeggs and citizens had taken place, were erroneous.

The fugitives have reached the hills in the vicinity of Stuart and it is believed their chances for escape are good.

One Killed in Wreck.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
GALENA, Kan., Dec. 24.—One person was killed and twenty-eight others injured when a south bound Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf passenger train crashed into the rear Pullman of a Frisco passenger standing in front of the depot here. A blinding snow storm made it impossible for the engineer of the Gulf train to see the standing Frisco.

The injured are being taken care of in local hospitals.

RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
PETROGRAD, Dec. 24.—Premier Sazonoff, in a speech before the Duma today, reaffirmed the determination of Russia to carry on the war to a successful conclusion.

"The latest peace rumors are senseless," the premier declared. "The entente powers present a firm front against the enemy.

"On every front victory draws nearer. In Persia, the Russian armies have captured Hamadan and Kum. Their successes have ended the German attempts to stir up trouble in that quarter. In Greece the relations between the government and the entente powers is well defined, following the fortification of Salonika."

The budget committee of the duma adopted resolutions declaring no peace possible until Germany's power is broken and asserting as a necessary guarantee in any peace agreement the consolidation of Russian influence in Persia.

TWO TURKS ARE SUNK.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Some dispatches, unconfirmed from other sources, today reported that the Turkish cruiser Midirli, formerly the German Breslau, has been sunk and the Turkish dreadnought Sulten Selim, formerly the German Goeben, damaged in a naval battle in the Black sea.

The Goeben, a 23,000 ton battle cruiser, and the Breslau, displacing 4,550 tons, eluded hostile warships attempting to trap them in the Mediterranean at the outbreak of the war and steamed through the Dardanelles into the Black sea. They were then sold to Turkey and renamed.

The Goeben normally carries a crew of about 1,100 men. Ten eleven inch guns and twelve six inch comprise her principal armament. She was built in 1911.

The Breslau carries about 370 men. She is provided with twelve 4.1 inch guns. She was built in 1911.

Both the Goeben and Breslau have been reported at different times to have been sunk or damaged in naval fights with the Russian Black sea fleet.

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
ZURICH, Dec. 24.—The most violent artillery battle that has occurred in Alsace since the beginning of the war is accompanying the infantry struggle on the slopes of Hartmannswellerkopf.

Reports brought here today from Swiss frontier towns said shells are falling at the rate of forty to eighty a minute. The French and German losses in five days fighting on the

(Continued on page 6.)

EMBARGO ON RED CROSS IS ENGLAND'S STRANGE ACTION

American Officials Amazed at New British Policy Which Certainly Appears to Need Some Explanation.

A PROTEST IS BEING CONSIDERED

Mail From Germany Enroute to United States, is Seized and Held Up by British Authorities.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Violations of humanitarian, if not legal, rights, were charged against England today. British action in placing an embargo on Red Cross supplies to the allies' foes and seizing Austro-German mails to America from the Holland-American liner Rotterdam were declared indefensible by officials today.

Inquiry practically amounting to protest against both new British policies, was under consideration by the state department.

Amazement was expressed by both officials and Red Cross heads regarding the embargo on hospital supplies. While this government has assented in principle to exclusion of rubber hospital supplies which might be used in making munitions, suspension of shipment of all medical and surgical supplies is declared unprecedented. Representations paving the way for negotiations to modify the British embargo have already been made to the London foreign office. More vigorous and insistent communications are expected to follow. The state department is frankly puzzled regarding the British order. It is asking the London foreign office to cite reasons and precedents for its embargo.

The broad humanitarian task of caring for wounded and dying is the agency upon which Red Cross and other officials rely for modification of the British regarding the seizure at Falmouth of Austro-German mail destined for this country. Officials are also at a loss to explain the British attitude. Whether England intends to make such seizures a general practice or merely suspected the particular mail cargo of the steamer Rotterdam, has not been divulged.

Postal conventions, according to officials, leave the question of mail immunity hazy. They do not have the binding force of treaties. They apply principally to first class mail only, and not to parcel post. But what possible benefit England can derive from seizing "enemy" mail bound to this country, is a mystery to officials.

Embassy Denies Report.

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.

The embassy has been conducting negotiations with the American Red Cross headquarters at Washington during the past week regarding hospital shipments and the results have been referred to the French and British foreign offices. No action has yet been taken either from there or from the embassay, it was stated.

It is understood that the Red Cross supplies will be permitted to go into Germany with possibly some slight conditions attached.

Austria Preparing Reply.

GENEVA, Dec. 24.—Austria's reply to the second American note is already under preparation, according to Vienna advices today. A rough draft was prepared yesterday and was to be submitted to a conference of ministers today.

It is rumored in Vienna that Austria will not, in her next communication, entirely comply with the American demand for disavowal and punishment of the submarine commander, but will present a more detailed statement concerning the sinking of the Ancona.

May Investigate This.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Greater Japanese participation in the land operations of the world war as a result of the sinking of the Yasaka Maru by a German or Austrian submarine, loomed up today as one of the complications arising from the latest submarine controversy.

"I do not believe the sinking of the Yasaka Maru alone will force Japan into the war on the land side," said Hirosha Saito, attache of the Japanese embassy, today, "but if it develops that this is part of a general program of submarine attacks on Japanese shipping, then the Japanese government certainly will act."

Secretary Lansing indicated today that if an official report is not received shortly on the torpedoing of the liner Yasaka Maru, an inquiry will be made to Ambassador Page at Rome, nearest the scene.

The fact that one American, W. J. Leigh, was aboard the Japanese vessel, is the basis for any action which this government may decide upon.

Officials did not regard the attack upon the Yasaka Maru as complicating negotiations with Austria over the Ancona incident. Until it is determined whether the Japanese vessel was armed or not and this is brought officially to attention, action will be suspended.

Note Is Favorable.

BERLIN (via wireless) Dec. 24.—The last American note to Austria does not make a diplomatic rupture inevitable, but is favorable in tone, said the Cologne Gazette today. The Gazette pointed out that English forecasts of the contents of the note were not borne out. English news agencies, it is alleged, were deliberately trying to create ill feeling between the central powers and the United States.

—Read The Daily Gate City.

Santa Claus is All Ready For His Big Trip Tonight

[United Press Correspondence.]
AT THE NORTH POLE, Dec. 24. (Via wireless.)—Santa Claus was just coming out of the big silver barn where some of the Santa Claus children were putting a final gloss on the sleek brown coats of the hundred handsome reindeer in their roomy ivory stalls when the United Press man met him.

"Hello, there," said Santa, as he sat down in a big snow chair and went on polishing the armful of spun-gold harness he carried. "I'm glad to see you, although I am sort of busy. You see, I'll have to work pretty fast tonight if I'm going to get around to all the little boys and girls in the world. What can I do for you?"

The reporter was surprised to find such a cheerful, busy, wonderful scene here at the north pole, where everything is just a bleak, dreary field of snow and ice and leaden sky 364 of the 365 days in the year, and he couldn't answer at once, he was so busy looking around at the mountains of presents everywhere. He was most of all interested in the little Santa Claus children, hundreds and hundreds of them, all looking like little pictures of their daddy, hopping and skipping busily about among the millions of dolls and hobby horses and toys and games and candy and everything imaginable, putting the proper name tags on every one—and he really didn't see how they could do it. Then the gigantic silver barn, bigger than all the ordinary barns in the world put together, glittering there in the snowfields. It has to be that big you know, to hold Santa's big steel sleigh. The reporter could see part of the sleigh through one of the purple barn doors and it was so big that—why, just one of the hundredes of rivets that held it together was three times as long as four ten-year-old boys standing on top of each other's shoulders. And although it was the middle of winter at the north pole, it wasn't so very cold. The reporter asked Santa Claus about this. Santa laughed and called out in his great, gruff, hearty voice:

"Boreas! Oh, Boreas! Come here and tell this boy why it isn't cold at the north pole today." And from somewhere 'way off there was the most terrific whistling and shrieking you ever heard and suddenly, down from the leaden sky dropped the biggest, fiercest looking old man in flowing white robes that the reporter ever had seen.

"This is my friend Boreas, The North Wind," said Santa Claus. "How do you do" shrieked Boreas; and say! maybe his breath wasn't cold! "Didn't you know that I always have it warm enough for Santa Claus to do his day's work up here once a year? Didn't you know that I do that for him because he takes presents and messages for me to my children, the South Breeze, the East Wind and the Warm Spring Zephyr. I haven't seen them for hundreds of years and if it wasn't for old Santa I don't know what I'd do. What I do for him is little enough." And without another word the fierce old man went roaring and howling back into the sky, looking fiercer than ever.

"I certainly am glad," said Santa, "to see so many places in the United States having municipal Christmas trees for the rich and poor little boys and girls together. I have always done my best to get around to every single one of the little tads, but some times I haven't altogether succeeded and I want to tell you that these municipal Christmases help me a mighty lot. I wish you'd mention this in your story and let those who haven't done it know how much I would like to have them do it."

"What about the little war orphans in Europe?" Santa was asked.

"I am going to do my level best to remember every one of them," said Santa very seriously, and the reporter thought he saw something that wasn't a frost crystal glisten on the old man's snowy beard. "And that reminds me," he went on, "that I mustn't sit here talking to you any longer. I've got the biggest night's work ahead of me that I have ever known and I'm sure you'll excuse me. Tell the world hello for me and say that I will miss no chimney top in the world if I can help it, even down to the little sheet iron chimneys in the trenches and those out on the gipsy trail."

DID YOU SHOP EARLY ?

TOY WORLD ON THIS CHRISTMAS IS ONE OF SOLDIERS AND GUNS

Even the Girls' Dolls in Germany Are Dressed as Red Cross Nurses.

[By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Staff Correspondent]
BERLIN (via Amsterdam) Dec. 24.—Millions of tiny Christmas trees with lighted candles will cast a ribbon of light along the tops of the German trenches from France to Poland and into Serbia tonight.

The last of the Christmas trees went forward to the trenches today. They are tiny branches, fixed to the top of Christmas packages, each carrying its tiny candle. With each package went the suggestion from the Berlin shop-keepers that the candles be lighted on Christmas eve after the contents had been removed. They were made small enough to be carried through the post.

The boys and girls whose daddies are in the trenches will have a big Christmas, too, in spite of the war. The toy shops of Berlin were nearly empty today. Tomorrow morning the German boys will find toy soldiers, spick and span in field gray uniforms with helmets, 42 centimetre guns that shoot shells filled with candy; little submarines that actually dive under the water's surface; battleships, swords and military trains. The shops even displayed miniature battle grounds with trenches and French and German soldiers so the little would-be Von Hindenburgs and Von Klucks can have a toyland war game all their own.

One of the biggest shops showed a military toy railroad with whole trains carrying soldiers and guns to the front and auto trucks ready to unload them upon their arrival.

There will be few "peace toys," and "peace dolls" for the boys and girls of Germany this Christmas. Even the dolls the little girls will get are dressed like Red Cross nurses so they can go out and help brother's little toy soldiers when they are wounded