

'IRON FIST AND SHINING SWORD TO WIN,' IS KAISER'S XMAS SPEECH TO HIS ARMY



Pope's Xmas Message to America

ROME, Dec. 24.—Pope Benedict to-day sent to the people of America through the Papal Secretary of State this Christmas message: The Holy Father sends to the people of America his cordial greetings and prays they may take to heart in this time of strife and suffering the true lessons of the Christmastide—the lessons of God's unceasing love for mankind, and the lesson of unflinching courage and sacrifice of self.

GERMANS HURLED 20,000 SHELLS AT AMERICAN TROOPS

Recently Captured Prisoner Describes the First Attack Against U. S. Soldiers.

By W. S. Forrest. WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, Dec. 24 (United Press).—Twenty thousand German shells in all were hurled at the American troops in front line trenches Nov. 3 before the German raid which brought America's first dead in action.

FRENCH AVIATORS IN 100 BATTLES WITH GERMANS

Paris Reports That Eighteen Enemy Planes Were Brought Down.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Intense aerial activity is reported by the War Office. In the course of 100 combats in the air during the last few days the French brought down eighteen German machines. The announcement follows:

"On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) the Germans made two raids against our small posts near Bezonvaux and Caurieres Wood. Their efforts were repulsed by our fire. The artillery fighting was rather vigorous on the left bank of the river in the sector of Bethincourt. On the remainder of the front the night was calm.

"On Dec. 21, 22 and 23 our pursuit aviators were very active. Our pilots engaged in 100 combats, most of them over the German lines. Eighteen German machines were brought down. Of these seventeen fell in flames or crashed to the ground and were destroyed.

"During this period our bombardment squadrons dropped 15,000 kilograms (nearly twenty tons) of projectiles on railway stations, factories, communications and other objectives behind the enemy's lines."

DE SAULLES'S FATHER DIES; HEART BROKEN, IT IS SAID

Rapidly Failed After the Killing of His Son by the Latter's Former Wife.

Major Arthur Helge De Saullès, father of John Louger De Saullès, shot and killed by his former wife, Mrs. Blanca Erzsébet De Saullès, died today at his home in South Bethlehem, Pa. Major De Saullès had been in failing health since the tragic death of his son, and finally was the elder De Saullès' victim of a broken heart.

Major De Saullès had lived both in Pennsylvania and New York, and was a frequent visitor at The Box, at Westbury, L. I., where the shooting occurred. The funeral will be held from the De Saullès home in South Bethlehem on Wednesday.

Innocently accused Major De Saullès was in a way responsible for his son's death. It was because of the expected arrival of Mrs. De Saullès at Westbury that Mrs. De Saullès was taken from his mother's home at Rodin to The Box. The scandalous case coming from the woman's side, and she released her son on the condition that he would be absent early that evening. Mrs. De Saullès was acquitted of the murder.

KAISER'S PEACE PLEA NOT NEW, WAR WORK NOT TO SLACKEN ON U. S. SIDE, SAYS BAKER

Germany Only Repeats Offer Made in Christmas Season of Last Year.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Germany's insidious Christmas peace propaganda "should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparations for war," Secretary of War Baker's weekly war summary voiced this warning to-day, pointing out that Germany now is trying to knock Italy out of the fight, while at the same time she is testing out the west front preliminary to what has been heralded as a big offensive.

He warned too that America's portion of the struggle is vast and that "our armies constitute the reserves of victory."

On the subject of Teuton peace feelers and America's task the Secretary said:

"It would appear that as a forerunner to the German offensive heralded to be launched in the west, an intensive peace propaganda is under way. Officials here see in the Russo-German gathering at Brest-Litovsk an effort by Germany to effect separate peace with Russia during the holidays for the psychological effect on other nations.

"Careful examination of the situation reveals that the enemy is again preparing to sue for peace before victory."

"The various reports of immediate peace proposals by the Germans on seemingly favorable terms should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparations for war. It is only necessary for us to recall that during the Christmas season of last year the Germans put forth very similar peace rumors.

"In considering the general military situation in its true light it must be understood that the Germans realize that within a short time our armies will form the principal body of fresh strategic reserves remaining available for action on the battlefields of Europe."

Pointing out that France and England have done a mighty task, Baker adds:

"It is our duty in looking to the future to realize that if we are to fulfill the pledge we made on entering the war, if we are to fight this war to a successful conclusion, we must assume the full responsibility that rests upon us. We are the freshest in the struggle; we have the reserve man power and the reserve mechanical power. Our armies constitute the reserves of victory."

Noting the addition of fresh Teuton forces in Italy, the Secretary said the Hun is trying to get Italy out of the war and seeking to accomplish an enveloping movement to effect the destruction of Italian and Allied forces while at the same time carrying on a "subversive propaganda. We can confidently rely on the fighting morale of the Italian people."

\$3,000,000,000 TRADE BALANCE IN FAVOR OF THE U. S.

Increase of \$140,000,000 Shown Over Period Ending at Close of November.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—America's balance of trade approximated \$3,000,000,000 at the close of November, according to figures issued to-day by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. It was an increase of \$140,000,000 over the same period last year.

During November export restrictions caused a substantial decrease in foreign trade.

During the eleven months ended with November gold imports amounted to \$535,000,000 and exports to \$467,000,000, leaving an excess of imports of \$168,000,000 in 1917, against \$399,000,000 in 1916.

Silver imports during the eleven months amounted to \$7,000,000, against \$29,000,000 a year ago, and the exports were valued at \$74,000,000 in 1917 and \$62,000,000 in 1916.

TWO KILLED IN SKIDDING CAR

Ephraim Williams, Lawyer, and Automobile Dealer Meet Death.

Ephraim Williams, for more than fifteen years a New York lawyer at No. 27 Cedar Street, member of the firm of Wilsley, Williams & Evans, was killed this morning in an automobile accident at Hopkinton, R. I. Harry C. Barber, an automobile dealer of Westbury, was also killed. The telegram announcing the deaths said the car skidded on an icy road and turned over.

At Mr. Williams' office it was said that he had probably been on his way to Boston in connection with an automobile purchase when the accident occurred. He and his wife recently went to Stenington, his old home, to spend the holidays. Mrs. Williams is understood to be there now. The Williams home in New York is at No. 114 East 84th Street.

THE EVENING WORLD Will Not Be Published To-Morrow, Tuesday, December 25th (Christmas Day)

KAISER CLAIMS VICTORIES ON EVERY BATTLE FRONT; SAYS BRITISH ARE ARROGANT

Tells Second Army the Old, Offensive Spirit Rules, and Asserts That the Creator Is the Unconditional and Avowed Ally of German Cause.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 24.—"If the enemy does not want peace, then we must bring peace to the world by the battering of our iron fist and our shining sword," Kaiser Wilhelm declared in a speech last Saturday to the Second Army somewhere on the western front.

"Despite three years of war and suffering," the Kaiser continued, "our old offensive spirit is still effective. This is shown," the German Emperor added, "by our recent great victories in Flanders and at Cambrai, where the arrogant British first felt the crushing power of our offensive blow.

"The year 1917," the Kaiser said, "has proved that the German people have in the Lord of Creation above an unconditional and avowed ally, on whom they can absolutely rely. Without Him all would have been in vain."

SAYS POWERFUL BLOWS WERE STRUCK

"It has been a year full of events for the German army and the German Fatherland. Powerful blows have been delivered and your comrades in the East have been able to bring about great decisions.

"There has been no man, no officer and no General on the whole Eastern front, wherever I have spoken to them, who has not frankly admitted that they could not have accomplished what they have if their comrades in the west had not stood to a man.

"The tactical and strategical connection between the battles on the Aisne, in the Champagne, Artois and Flanders and at Cambrai and the events in the East and in Italy is so manifest that it is useless to waste words on it.

"With a centralized direction the German army works in a centralized manner. In order that we should be able to deliver these offensive blows one portion of the army had to remain on the defensive, hard as this is for the German soldier. Such a defensive battle, however, as has been fought in 1917 is without parallel. A fraction of the German army accepted the heavy task, covering its comrades in the East unconditionally and it had the entire Anglo-French army against itself."

THINKS ALLIES AIMED AT BRUSSELS

"In long preparation the enemy had collected unheard of technical means and masses of ammunition and guns in order to make his entry into Brussels over your front, as he proudly announced. The enemy has achieved nothing.

"The most gigantic feat ever accomplished by an army and one without parallel in history was accomplished by the German army. I don't boast. It is a fact and nothing else. The admiration you have earned shall be your reward and at the same time your pride. Nothing can in any way place in the shade or surpass what you have accomplished, however great and overwhelming it may be.

"The year 1917 with its great battles has proved that the German people has in the Lord of Creation above an unconditional and avowed ally on whom it can absolutely rely. Without Him all would have been in vain.

"Every one of you had to exert every nerve to the utmost. I know that every one of you in the unparalleled drumfire did superhuman deeds. The feeling may have been frequently with you: 'If we only had something behind us; if we only had some relief.' It came as the result of the blow in the east, where it is seen that the storms of war there are at present silenced. God grant that it may be forever.

Emperor William visited the front north of Verdun on Friday, according to a Berlin despatch, and in an address to the troops thanked them warmly for their efforts.

"But for the calm and heroic warriors on the Western front," he said, "the enormous deployment of German forces in the East and in Italy never would have been possible. The fighter in the West has exposed heroically his body so that his brothers on the Dvina and the Isonzo might storm from victory to victory. The fearful battles on the

MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR ALL SOLDIERS AND SAILORS HERE, GIFTS FOR 35,000 CHILDREN

Many Entertainments and Dinners Arranged for Men in the Service.

Perhaps what most impressed holiday crowds to-day was that it is going to be the most military Christmas New York has had in half a century. The soldier and sailor boys are here in thousands, and the most ardent young admirer of Santa Claus is not happier than they.

On every hand are evidences that Father Knickerbocker is going to enjoy himself. In fact, he has already begun. This time he is not only going to look after the kiddies, but he is going to give the grown-ups—the soldiers and sailors—the best there is. Festivities are already under way and will continue until New Year's.

All fear that old Santa would be captured by the enemy was dispelled by the police of New York yesterday. He appeared in ten station houses in Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens and gladdened the hearts of more than 10,000 youngsters. To-day he is to entertain at forty other station houses and to-morrow in three.

The police never did anything more thoroughly or enthusiastically than they have looked after the poor kiddies of their precincts this year. It was not long ago that the boy of the street looked on the "cop" as his mortal enemy. He now likes him so well he wants to be one. These Christmas celebrations for the children were the idea of Commissioner Woods, who can go out of office with the knowledge that it has been a success that promises to last as long as New York has policemen and children.

Commissioner Woods and a dozen lesser officials of the department toured all the stations where parties

WILSON SUMMONS CHIEFS OF FOUR RAILROAD UNIONS

President Expected to Outline Course in Transportation Problem Thursday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—President Wilson has summoned the chiefs and legislative agents of the four railroad brotherhoods to a conference at the White House Thursday.

It is expected that the President will outline to the representatives of the railroad workers whatever action he has decided is necessary to obtain more efficient transportation in the war crisis. The new conference came as a surprise in the railroad situation. President Wilson has been studying all phases of the question and it has been understood that he intended to address Congress on the subject after the holidays. While sentiment in favor of governmental operation of the roads apparently has been growing, no indication of what the President would recommend has been given and pending his address it was thought no further action was contemplated.

COLD WAVE ON THE WAY.

Expected to Reach Atlantic Coast by To-Morrow.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The cold wave which has caused a drop in temperature of 48 to 59 degrees in the Dakotas in the last twenty-four hours is sweeping eastward, the Weather Bureau announced to-day, and is expected to reach the Atlantic Coast by to-morrow night.

THE WORLD TRAVEL BUREAU, 230 Park Ave. (World Building), New York City. Telephone 4000-4001. Hours: 10:30 a. m. to 8:30 p. m. (Sundays 10:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m.)