WEATHER
Snow or rain Monday. Tuesday fair and colder. Fresh, possibly strong southwest winds, shifting to northwest Monday night.
Full Report on Page 6

New York Tribune

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Vol. LXXVI No. 25,607 [Copyright 1916—The Tribune Ass'n.] MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1916 * * * ONE CENT In New York City, Newark, Jersey City and Hoboken

POLICE ACT AS SANTAS IN CITY'S XMAS

All Over New York They Give Children Presents

50,000 POOR GET HOLIDAY DINNERS

Many Sing About Tree of Light—Home Celebrations To-day

New York City began its celebration of Christmas yesterday. On the eve of the great holiday Father Knickerbocker got on his false whiskers, with the intention of being known only as Santa Claus until to-night. How well he succeeded in his premature beginning of the holiday, the thousands of children who flocked to his police stations, the thousands of their elders who sang carols headed about the Tree of Light in Madison Square may tell.

To-day is the Christmas of the home. Yesterday was the city's celebration. In every police station, from the furthest reaches of The Bronx to Coney Island, Christmas trees blazed, and the men whose duty for 364 days in the year requires that they mount guard over the city yesterday gave their earnest attention to bringing joy to the hearts of the city's children.

New Significance in Uniforms

Brass buttons and blue uniforms have taken on a new significance in the minds of many thousands of boys and girls. They mean not only a ban on baseball in the streets and swift extinction to bonfires, but also glittering trees and presents and candy and Christmas cheer.

When the Tree of Light kindled into flame at the touch of a little blind child's hand the city's work for the day was done. The voices that chanted the Christmas carols in Madison Square ended a fitting finale to the work that had made untold numbers of children happy, that had fed more than 50,000 destitute adults, that had brought a mighty crowd of men and women to the park to sing, bareheaded, beneath the star of Bethlehem, of the Christ Child.

In a red instead of the blue uniform but with the same smile, Santa Claus was found yesterday, as he can be to-day in every police station. He has filled them with presents, put in a word, and brightened the places behind recognition with colored lights, holly and pictures of himself in the old uniform of scarlet and fur.

Meets 25,000 Children

Fully 25,000 children met him face to face, sang songs with him, laughed with him, and then went home with arms full of gifts and minds full of wonderment. It was enough to puzzle any kind to find that the old fellow was—of all persons—the cop on the corner.

The first Christmas celebration managed by the police comes in two instalments. While some stations were being disguised as branch offices of the children's saint, others were deep in the work of entertaining children of the neighborhood. It will be a late hour this afternoon when the last precinct plays Santa Claus to the last child. The first celebration was—but let Police Commissioner Woods say it.

"Wasn't it wonderful the way the men took hold of it!" he commented last night. The Commissioner and Mrs. Woods had returned home after a day spent at many of the stations. They have been in at least fifteen, and the spirit was fine in every one. The credit for the success of this celebration must go to the policemen. It was their party and a great deal of good will come from it.

"This celebration isn't solely to give children a happy Christmas, however. We want to make the police and their neighbors mutually helpful. We want to impress upon the kids the fact that the policeman is their best friend. I think they have seen a different side of the policeman to-day. This celebration will actually help prevent crime."

Begin at East Fifty-first Street

The police and their neighbors began to be mutually helpful yesterday at the East Fifty-first Street station. About 1,800 children received presents there, but before the distribution took place there was a session of singing.

In groups of 150 the children marched through the decorated station house and up the stairs to the assembly room. There was a piano in that room, and around it the best police voices in the precinct. Patrolman McGee, who has a voice like John McCormack's, sang the same sort of songs, and Patrolman Shaw handled the topical stuff.

"And everybody sings the chorus," Shaw ordered.

Everybody did. There wasn't a popular song in his repertory that wasn't familiar to the youngest. They switched from "There's a Little Bit of Bad in Every Good Little Girl" to the sonorous strains of "America," and then they marched downstairs for the real business of the afternoon.

Captain Duggan acted as distributer. Something to play with, something to wear and something to eat was given to each of the 1,800. There were a doll for the girl, a toy for the boy, candy, caps and shoes. The selection was typical of all stations.

Patrolmen Give Up Sleep

The comment of the well known hardened offender on seeing the interior of a precinct station yesterday would have been interesting. The patrolmen devoted hours that should have been given to sleep to transforming the bare interiors of the station houses. Holly wreaths hung in every window, big red bells from gas fixtures and festoons of green stuff from all corners of all rooms.

The well hole of the East Thirty-fourth Street station was one gigantic green bell, stretching from roof to basement, and trimmed with roses and red and green lights. In the dormitory, stripped of beds for the occasion, stood a seven-foot Christmas tree, with which Patrolmen McVeigh and Murray and Court had fussed for hours. It was ablaze with lights and decorated to the last sprig with gay balls and ribbons.

The distribution of presents will

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Wife, as Judge, Jails Husband For 30 Days as Christmas Gift

Magistrate, Expecting Her in Holiday Spirit to Suggest Parole, Is Shocked When She Says "Six Months," Five More than Maximum

The wind sang of Christmas as it whooped around street corners, but no answering Yuletide carol sounded in the heart of Mrs. Anna Smith, alone in her dingy apartment at 21 West End avenue. She looked at the clock and smiled, half fearfully.

Perhaps her husband would bring back the toys she had given him the money to buy. Perhaps in a little while she would hear the heavy dragging feet on the stairs and the fumbling at the latch, that could mean only one thing. She shuddered as she thought. Her children were asleep, dreaming of a span of reindeer. It was Christmas time.

Tears started to her eyes, and then she heard the sound of feet on the stairway, heavy dragging feet.

No Toys in His Arms

There were no toys in her husband's arms when he stumbled into the room. The woman spoke to him timidly. He turned and swore at her. She cringed, but he continued.

A frightened woman faced her now sober husband in the West Side Court yesterday. Magistrate Deuel cut short the man's mumbled string of excuses and turned toward the timid, shrinking figure.

"Your husband has been brought here," he said kindly, "charged with intoxication and disorderly conduct. I understand that he was maltreating you. I find him guilty. But its Christmas time, and I am not going to sentence him myself. I am going to let you say what is to be done with him."

The man looked toward his wife and grinned slyly. His bloated face had lost its look of fear and now wore one of confidence.

The little woman faced him, her face pale.

Gives Six Months' Sentence

"Can I do anything that I please with him?" she faltered to the magistrate, and when he had reassured her a look almost holy spread over her face.

"I sentence him to six months on the island," said Mrs. Anna Smith. "I'll teach him to swear at me!"

"But," the magistrate protested, "that is far too heavy a penalty for a first offence."

"Four months, then," Mrs. Smith suggested.

"No, it's too much," the amazed court said again.

"Well, will you please tell me," the woman interposed sharply, "for how much I can send him up?"

"Thirty days is the maximum sentence, but I thought that you'd like to have him paroled"—

"Thirty days," said Mrs. Anna Smith, firmly.

The wind sang of Christmas as it whooped around street corners, and an answering carol sounded in the heart of Mrs. Anna Smith, sitting alone in her dingy apartment at 21 West End Avenue. She looked at the calendar and smiled, half-fearfully.

AT 105 SHE PREPARES FOR HER XMAS DINNER

Mrs. Bennett Will Entertain at Her Cottage in Brooklyn

It was Mrs. Alice Bennett's 105th birthday yesterday, and she spent it in the cottage at 152 Webster Avenue, Brooklyn, that is her home, preparing for the real celebration which will take place to-day. She had pies to bake, a twenty-five-pound turkey to stuff and innumerable other "chores."

In the midst of her fragrant preparations some of the twenty-five great-great, great and just plain grandchildren who were to eat Christmas dinner with her began to arrive. Until nearly midnight Mrs. Bennett and her daughter Mary, who lives with her, were the life of the party.

Mrs. Bennett is the widow of Thomas Bennett, a Flatbush farmer, who died forty-two years ago. When they moved to the cottage, with its flower gardens, more than fifty years ago, there was scarcely a house in sight. Now apartment houses loom close by and the neighborhood is populous.

MEMBER OF 7TH, JILTED WHILE AT BORDER, ENDS LIFE

Dons Uniform and Turns On Gas After Reading Letter of Girl's Wedding

Ezra B. Naylor, jr., a member of the 7th Regiment, was found yesterday morning, in full uniform, dead from gas in the kitchen of his home, at 201 Fremont Street, Peekskill. In his desk was a letter he had received the night before from his former fiancée, Miss Mildred Barger, of 312 Walnut Street, Peekskill. She wrote that, during his absence at the border, she had married John McCord, of Brooklyn.

Gas was flowing from the burners of the gas stove and from several jets in the room. After finding the letter Coroner Forshay expressed the opinion that it probably had been the cause of the young man's taking his life.

During the evening, the Coroner learned, Naylor got out a revolver and spent considerable time cleaning it. He slept in the same room with his brother, got up during the night, and, without awakening him, donned his uniform. It was after daylight when the odor of gas aroused his sister.

Mr. Naylor was twenty-six years old. He was employed by the New York Central Railroad in its offices at the Grand Central Terminal. He was a member of the fire department of Peekskill.

No trace of Mr. and Mrs. McCord or of their wedding could be obtained in Brooklyn last night.

RED BALL UP AT VAN CORTLANDT PARK

Forecaster Promises Snow for New England and Great Lakes

The lake at Van Cortlandt Park will be thrown open for skating at 8 o'clock this morning, Thomas W. Whittle, Park Commissioner of The Bronx, announced yesterday.

This Christmas will be a white one, certainly in Northern New England and the Great Lakes region, and likely in the Middle Atlantic States, according to last night's weather forecast from Washington. However, the snow looked for in the Middle Atlantic States may turn into rain.

Fair weather and moderate temperatures are promised for other sections east of the Mississippi.

23D DELAYED IN STARTING HOMEWARD

Regiment May Not Leave Border Station Until To-morrow

Pharr, Tex., Dec. 24.—The 23d New York Infantry, scheduled to leave here to-day for home, will not depart before to-morrow, and possibly as late as Tuesday, it was announced at headquarters to-night. No reason for the delay was given.

PRESIDENT SINGS IN XMAS CHORUS

With Mrs. Wilson, He Joins in Carols on Treasury Building Steps

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 24.—The President and Mrs. Wilson and their household welcomed the Christmas spirit along with members of the Cabinet, diplomats and others in and out of official life, and the holiday is being celebrated as the prosperity of the country demands.

The President and his wife attended a community Christmas eve celebration here to-day and for more than an hour stood on the steps of the Treasury Department singing Christmas carols with several thousand men, women and children. With them were Francis B. Sayre and Mrs. Sayre. Miss Margaret Wilson was one of the leaders of the singing and Secretary and Mrs. McAdoo stood with her.

The celebration, held under the auspices of the Washington Playgrounds Association, was participated in by Boy and Girl Scouts.

Wilson Talks with Children

The President had not planned to attend, but just before the singing began he walked over from the White House with members of his family. A sheet of music was handed to him. At intervals he and Mrs. Wilson talked with the children and wished them a Merry Christmas.

This morning the President and Mrs. Wilson went to church and in the evening they visited relatives.

A huge fir tree has been set up in the library at the White House and hundreds of tiny electric lights will be switched on to-morrow, revealing a wealth of glittering tinsel. There will be quantities of toys for little Ellen A. McAdoo, the President's granddaughter, and his grandniece, Josephine Cothron. Other children have been invited.

Miss Margaret Wilson, with Miss Helen Woodrow Bones, has superintended the erection of the tree and has purchased most of the toys for the children.

The Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. McAdoo will have the largest Christmas party of the Cabinet to-morrow, and a giant tree will be lighted there for Ellen McAdoo and her stepniece, Nona Martin, who with her mother, Mrs. C. Taber Martin, is spending the holidays in Washington.

The Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Daniels have a large family house party and will light a tree to-morrow, as will the Secretary of War and Mrs. Baker and the Secretary of Agriculture and Mrs. Houston.

Fir Blazes for England

A tall fir has been set up in the British Embassy and will be lighted to-morrow, while many ancient customs of England are observed. On account of the war there will be no formality about the celebration, but an effort will be made to lift from the hearts of the children the general gloom felt by older members of the corps who represent warring countries.

Little Miss Betty Spring-Rice and her brother, Anthony Spring-Rice, will entertain children of the Counsellor of the Embassy and Mrs. Colville Barclay and the two small sons of the Military Attaché and Mrs. Murrough O'Brien. Other children of members of the staff will join them in the merriment.

The Christmas trees of the Norwegian and Swiss legations burned brightly to-night, and parties of children were asked in. To-morrow the Minister of Sweden and Mme. Ekengren will light a Christmas tree in American fashion for their two little girls, Elsie and Christina.

A celebration was held at the Chinese Legation, where the Minister and Mme. Koo entertained a large party of Chinese students who are on vacation.

Despite the troubled state of affairs in Mexico, a celebration in keeping with all the interesting traditions of that country was carried out, and a tree was lighted in the Mexican Embassy, in I Street.

BURGLAR HUNT FREES WOMEN IN MACY HOME

Axemen Rescue Three After Five Hours in Elevator

CRIES MUFFLED IN LIFT SHAFT

Family Away, Son Hears Alarm—Brings Police to Seek Thieves

Valentine E. Macy, jr., a student at Hotchkiss School, got home from a dinner at 1:30 yesterday morning. His father, V. Everit Macy, and the rest of the family had gone to their country place in Westchester County. The house at 37 West Fifty-sixth Street took on extraordinary and gloomy proportions as soon as the young man opened the door.

Laying down his keys, Macy picked up several letters which were on the hall table. He was examining them when a startling clangor filled the place. It was the burglar alarm. Dropping the letters, Macy flung the door wide and dashed outside. The door slammed behind him, and with the click of the spring latch he realized that his keys were still on the hall table.

Calls for Police Aid

He found a public telephone and was connected with the East Fifty-first Street police station. Patrolmen Solomon and Lynan were sent to the house.

Under Macy's direction they examined all the accessible windows and doors. None had been forced and the burglar alarm had stopped ringing. Lyman suggested that the intruders had got in by way of the scuttle. He went to 35 West Fifty-sixth Street, aroused the household of George A. Helme and got permission to ascend to the roof and try the Macy scuttle.

Minutes passed; the two watchers on the street shivered with cold and nerves. Patrolman Solomon fidgeted openly.

"Something's happened to Tom," he said; "like as not one of them has laid him out with the leather. I'm going to swarm up to that window and have a look."

He pointed to a French window opening on a balcony over the door. Boosted by Macy, he clambered up the stonework, smashed the pane with his heel and cautiously backed his way through the broken glass. Several minutes later he poked his head out.

Climbs Into His Home.

"Say," came a stentorian whisper to Macy, "I've parked my sins on every chair in the place but I can't find the electric light switch. You'll have to come up."

The young man promptly peeled off his overcoat and dinner coat and carified his gleaming shirt bosom in the climb up the face of his home. Lynan, who had found the scuttle securely locked, appeared about that time and was admitted by the front door.

The house was searched from cellar to roof. Not a human being was to be found. Even the caretaker's room was empty. Whenever the searchers paused for a moment on whatever floor they happened to be, strange sounds came to their ears. Muffled knocks and stifled screams seemed to float with them from room to room.

These seemed to be clearest near the elevator shaft, and Lynan put his ear to the stout oak door on the first floor.

Assistance Arrives at Last

"Who's in there?" he called suddenly, drawing his revolver.

"We are," came a weak and somewhat inadequate reply.

The voice was unmistakably that of a woman, and Lynan pocketed his revolver and snatched a fire axe from the wall. With that the door to the elevator shaft was demolished. The car was stuck about eight feet from the floor. In it was Jennie Traynor, the caretaker, and two young women friends, Val Keefe and Mary Kirkwood, whom she had invited to spend the night with her. It was almost 3 o'clock and they had entered the elevator at 10. Their struggles to start the car apparently had short-circuited the burglar alarm.

It was some time before they were extricated, for the elevator could not be budged, and Miss Traynor, who weighs about two hundred pounds, had to clamber down to the shoulders of the rescuers.

GERMANY IS WILLING TO NEUTRALIZE STRAITS

Would Bar Russia from Constantinople, but Pass Her Ships

London, Dec. 24.—An Amsterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says:

"Prefacing an evidently inspired leading editorial with the statement that Germany does not desire to create a feeling of revenge in Russia, which would provoke another war, the 'Cologne Gazette' declares that Germany intends to restore the Russian Baltic provinces, but that Russia must recognize that the new situation created in Poland cannot be changed.

"The paper argues that in taking Poland Germany was really rendering a service to Russia, and that, deprived of Poland, Russia will form a united and homogeneous empire.

"Germany will never allow Russia to possess Constantinople, according to the paper, but is ready to negotiate with Turkey and Russia an arrangement permitting Russian warships and merchantmen to navigate the straits."

"PEACE ON EARTH," KAISER'S PRAYER

London, Dec. 25.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam says Emperor William has sent the following Christmas greetings to all the German armies and to Germans at home:

"Honor to God above, peace on earth, and to man, happiness. God bless the third war Christmas of all those away in the field and of those at home in our dear fatherland! WILLIAM."

SWITZERLAND BACKS WILSON

Sends Note to Powers Offering to Help End War

Washington, Dec. 24.—Switzerland, in a note to all of the warring powers, has announced its support of President Wilson's appeal for a discussion of peace terms, saying "it would consider itself happy if it could act in any, no matter how modest a way, for the rapprochement of the peoples now engaged in the struggle, and for a lasting peace."

The note was sent to the belligerents yesterday by the Swiss Federal Council, and Dr. Paul Ritter, Minister of Switzerland here, sent a copy to the White House. Secretary Lansing made it public to-night.

In Touch with United States

The translated text follows:

"The President of the United States of America, with whom the Swiss Federal Council, guided by its warm desire that the hostilities may soon come to an end, has for a considerable time been in touch, had the kindness to apprise the Federal Council of the peace note sent to the governments of the Central and Entente powers:

"In this note President Wilson discusses the great desirability of international agreements for the purpose of avoiding more effectively and permanently the occurrence of catastrophes such as the one under which the peoples are suffering to-day.

"In this connection he lays particular stress on the necessity for bringing about the end of the present war. Without making peace proposals himself or offering mediation, he confines himself to sounding as to whether mankind may hope to have approached the haven of peace.

Echo Wilson's Appeal

"The most meritorious personal initiative of President Wilson will find a mighty echo in Switzerland. True to the obligations arising from observing the strictest neutrality, united by the same friendship with the states of both warring groups of powers, situated like an island amidst the seething waves of the terrible world war, with its ideal and material interests most sensibly jeopardized and violated, our country is filled with a deep longing for peace and ready to assist by its small means to stop the endless sufferings caused by the war and brought before its eyes by daily contact with the interned, the severely wounded and those expelled, and to establish the foundations for a beneficial coöperation of the peoples.

"The Swiss Federal Council is therefore glad to seize the opportunity to support the efforts of the President of the United States. It would consider itself happy if it could act in any, no matter how modest, a way, for the rapprochement of the peoples now engaged in the struggle, and for reaching a lasting peace."

Swiss Action Stirs Paris; Rejection Is Forecast

Paris, Dec. 14.—The peace note of the Swiss government has stirred anew the French press and public.

The "Petit Journal" suggests that President Wilson in sending the note knew he would have the support of Switzerland, and says: "France pities its neighbor, menaced like Belgium, perhaps, but France, which did not want war, knows that there are suggestions that honor and interest prevent it from hearing."

The "Petit Parisien" says that the Swiss note confirms one of the declarations of President Wilson, referring to discussions engaged in five weeks ago between Berne and Washington. It adds:

"The note deserves the same courteous examination and reserve. France will not forget the treatment by the Swiss of the interned and repatriated people, but has a right to recall that as to the war the Entente Allies cannot be placed on the same footing as the Central Powers."

The "Echo de Paris" says: "Our resolution will demonstrate once more that the Federal Council will be mistaken as to the feeling of the Allies, and the French in particular, if it believes them disposed to negotiate with Germany. Germany has attempted the same effort in Switzerland as in the other European neutral countries to procure benevolent intervention. Switzerland needs the victory of the Allies to prevent her own absorption by Germany."

The "Matin" says: "It must be remarked that the Federal Council supports the efforts of America without associating itself with regard to the questions. Instead of asking the governments to make known the objects of the war, it limits itself to the very honorable wish that peace be concluded now, and homage is to be rendered to the sentiments dictating the note."

ALBERT T. PATRICK TO WED

Thrice Sentenced to Die, He Will Marry Oil Man's Daughter

Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 24.—Albert T. Patrick, wealthy oil man, who was sentenced three times to die in Sing Sing prison on a murder charge, announced here to-day his engagement to Miss Mildred West, daughter of a Tulsa oil operator. They will be married in June.

Patrick was pardoned after a long fight. His first wife died in 1913.

GEN. LYAUTEY NAMED FRENCH WAR DICTATOR

GENERAL HUBERT LYAUTEY

New Minister to whom France has assigned task of speeding up war.

New Council Gives Him Complete Command in Everything

COUNTRY STRIPS FOR FINAL DRIVE

Believes Germany in Distress and That Victory Is Near

By FRED B. PITNEY
[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Paris, Dec. 24.—General Lyautey has become war dictator of France, and with a growing conviction that the various peace moves can have no other reason than German necessity, France is stripping herself for the final drive which she feels sure will bring victory.

The passing of the supreme power into Lyautey's hands was simple and not attended with any of the agitation which marked the recent ministerial crisis. At a meeting of the new war council last night Lyautey, who had been called from Morocco to become Minister of War, attended for the first time. The council decided "that all questions concerning the preparation and carrying on of the war will be under the direction of the War Minister, and that he will notify the interested ministers and the generals in chief of the decisions taken and assure the coördination necessary to their execution."

This action is expected to end the agitation which has been disturbing France for months.

Dictator Has Been Demanded

The demand has been for a dictator, a man who could insure the focussing of the whole power of the nation on the battle front, and it is believed that in this action and in the choice of Lyautey, who is regarded as the ablest administrator in France, the demand will be satisfied.

Evidence of this came last night, also, in the unanimous vote of the Senate of confidence in the Briand Ministry. The Senate also voted unanimously that France could not discuss peace with an enemy so long as it had a soldier on French territory.

France for a long time refused to take much stock in the stories of German internal troubles, economic difficulties, starvation and that kind of thing. The information here, which was very carefully gathered, did not lead us to believe them.

But now it is different. There is no doubt to-day that Germany is in serious difficulties. Of course, it is not probable that anything can come directly from the present peace moves, but they show unquestionably how things are going. No one here fails to draw the inference that the time for Germany to break is rapidly approaching. No one believes that so many moves—German, American and Swiss—would have been made simultaneously unless inspired by Germany.

Evidence in Austria

There is more direct evidence. In the first place, there is the direct statement of the Papal Nuncio in Vienna that the Austrian Emperor asked the Pope to intercede for peace. Then there are the disorganization and recent rapid changes in the Austrian Cabinet, all pointing directly to divisions in Austria-Hungary on the question of Germanophile policy.

These divisions and the request to the Pope unmistakably indicate differences between the Central Empires.

Beyond that are the German, American and Swiss notes. The conclusion is not to be avoided that there are serious internal difficulties in Germany as well as between the members of the Alliance. Every one knows that President Wilson has most trustworthy information from all the capitals. A year ago he sent Colonel House around Europe. The colonel made most careful investigations, particularly examining conditions in Germany.

Wilson put forward no peace proposals at that time. But now, just after he has had a long visit from Ambassador Gerard, he does make his move. It is hard to believe that this is merely a "feeler." Wilson must have had some information or he would never have sent the note.

Observations from Switzerland

Finally, as to German conditions—Switzerland is one of the best places from which to observe Germany, and reports from Switzerland all say one thing:

"Germany is in deep trouble. Germany is surely breaking. She needs peace now and needs it in a hurry."

The German peace note is merely an additional proof of this, and when a note also comes from Switzerland, so close to Germany and with such intimate relations with Germany, what more could you ask?

I have reason to believe that the replies to both the German and the Wilson note are ready. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber devoted a large part of its time yesterday to the consideration of the American note, and the reply to the Kaiser was well advanced some days ago. The tone of the reply to Germany will be different from that to Wilson.

It will unmistakably make Germany responsible for the war. That must be established as a point of departure before there can be any question of discussions. Germany cannot come into court except on that basis. It may seem simple to Americans just to begin

MASSING U-BOATS FOR NEW SEA WAR

Germany Plans Outbreak of Frightfulness, Britain Believes

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Dec. 24.—Britain and her allies are preparing as rapidly as possible for the new outbreak of submarine frightfulness which they firmly believe will follow their rejection of Germany's peace offers. It is known here that before any official mention of peace was made President Wilson was informed that Germany still had a big card to play, and Britain has no doubt what that card is.

The Pan-Germanic party is again agitating violently for the shelving of the Bethmann-Hollweg government and the return of von Tirpitz. For the last three months Germany has been using submarines which are far larger than those sent out earlier in the war, and which are thus able to operate to greater distances and for a much longer time from their bases. They have been exacting a heavier toll of neutral and Allied shipping.

In the German press semi-official stories have exaggerated these losses, until the people believe that Britain is facing immediate famine, only Germany's pledge to President Wilson saving her. The German shipyards have concentrated on the building of submarines for the last six months, since the battle of Jutland.

New U-Boat Orders Expected

From these facts the deduction is natural that if the German peace overtures fail the submarine commanders will receive orders to sink practically everything in sight, dispensing entirely with the formalities of warning or examination before firing their torpedoes. The defence will be that all Allied ships are armed cruisers and that all neutral vessels are carrying contraband—everything will come under the German rulings which have been elaborated in the long and futile correspondence between Berlin and Washington.

When the Kaiser and Bethmann-Hollweg made their peace offer they had considered fully the policy they would pursue if it were refused, as they evidently expected it to be. Germany appreciates fully the effect of a weak economic situation on a nation's fighting strength. To cripple Britain, France and Italy would be worth more than a hundred fresh divisions of troops to Germany.

But so long as Germany is forced to consider its pledge to the President submarines are unable to operate at the maximum efficiency of frightfulness. Germany wishes to keep on good terms with the United States, but nothing would please her better than an excuse for violating that pledge. She hopes to find it in the Allies'

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WILSON PEACE NOTE UPHELD BY VATICAN

Rome, Dec. 24.—The "Osservatore Romano," the official organ of the Vatican, in reference to President Wilson's note to the belligerents, says that it wishes to express full satisfaction for this "very important document" by which the authoritative voice of the head of the great American Republic calls the warring parties to "consider their grave responsibilities." Pope Benedict expressed the hope that it would have a beneficial effect.

WILSON STRIVING TO SAVE HOLLWEG

Note Aimed to Head Off Tirpitz U-Boat Drive, Washington Hears

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 24.—Out of the mass of attempted explanations of President Wilson's sudden change of mind about sending a peace note—he said at noon of the day the note was sent that he was doing nothing in the matter—came to-day a suggestion that accounts not only for the note itself, but takes into consideration the two Lansing statements and some confidential information at the State Department about Germany's preparations for submarine warfare.

According to this theory, Mr. Wilson came abruptly to the conclusion that by indorsing the German peace move he could insure the stability of the Bethmann-Hollweg government in Germany.

Tirpitz Party Gaining Power

Bethmann-Hollweg has been tottering for some time. The Tirpitz party, demanding a ruthless submarine campaign against Great Britain, has won the applause of the people. The peace overture of twelve days ago is believed to be Bethmann-Hollweg's high card, for there is only one thing, it is believed, dearer to the German people than a vigorous prosecution of the war against England, and that is peace.

If the Hollweg peace plea, therefore, had fallen altogether on barren ground, if it had been rejected utterly by the Allies and had kindled no spark of sympathy in neutral countries, Bethmann-Hollweg's best card would have been played. Nothing could have prevented the alternative of a war to the death, in which Germany should employ every means at her command to bring her enemies to submission.

President Wilson's indorsement, therefore, can be regarded by the Bethmann-Hollweg party with satisfaction. The Tirpitz adherents can be rebuked with the evidence that Bethmann-Hollweg's policy has won American support.

Took Back Too Much

Mr. Lansing saw on Thursday, the day after the Wilson note was made public, that public opinion had too readily interpreted Mr. Wilson's move as an open indorsement of the German Chancellor's note. Back in his mind were the cases of the Marina and the Arabia, and the confidential information about the new fleet of submarines now in preparation for a "spring drive" on shipping.

To make it clear that the United States had interests of its own to safeguard, and at the same time to convey a timely warning to Germany that this country had at least considered the possibility of war in defence of its violated rights, he issued a statement which so alarmed the country and Mr. Wilson that he had to withdraw it.

The second Lansing statement, in its haste to overtake the first, overshot the mark. It not only retracted the first statement, but it nullified much that had been said in the note itself about the danger of the position of neutrals becoming "intolerable." It is now doubted that the peace note, with its two official interpretations, will have much weight in influencing the decision of the Allies.

Postpones Final Reckoning

But if the Wilson move has strengthened a little the hand of Bethmann-Hollweg, it has accomplished a good deal toward postponing a final reckoning with Germany. It is assumed that while the Allies are making their answer to Germany and while Germany makes her counter reply, and so on, the submarines will keep in the background out of respect for President Wilson.

After that there will be the customary winter lull in marine operations. And after that something else may turn up to stave off a little longer the strict accounting between Germany and the United States.

The President, it is known on the

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