

MORE CHRISTMAS PICTURES. Beautiful photogravure reproductions of famous religious paintings and many other Christmas features IN THE SUN NEXT SUNDAY.

THE WEATHER FORECAST. Cloudy to-day, with a warm shower or more on Friday; lowest, 19. Highest temperature, 70. Detailed weather, map and forecasts on page 14.

VOL. LXXXIII.—NO. 107.

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PRICE TWO CENTS.

ASKED \$5,000 TO PAY WOOD FOR SUBWAY WORK

Signal Company Head Says Vice-President Didn't Get It—Forced Out.

PERKINS DECIDES TO ASK FOR RECORD

District Attorney May Follow Up Thompson Committee's Revelations.

Walter D. Uptegraff, president of the Union Switch and Signal Company of Passaic, N. J., issued yesterday his ultimatum to the Thompson committee...

Wood's Unqualified Denial. "The statement is absolutely false," he said. "I did not know anything about it before and know nothing whatever about it."

Mr. Uptegraff said that the only deal the company had had with Commissioner Wood was the payment of \$15,000 for helping Johnson to get a contract with the Kansas City, Mo., street railway...

Mr. Uptegraff said that he became president of the Union Switch and Signal Company on July 15, 1914, and had been president in charge of finance since that time.

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Big Strike Threatens to Tie Up 17 Chicago Roads

600 Belt Line Trainmen Now Out and 4,000 More May Follow in Sympathy To-morrow—Federal Mediator's Peace Efforts Fail.

FREIGHT HELD UP; MAY USE STRIKEBREAKERS

Chicago, Dec. 15.—Spread of the strike of the 600 employees of the Belt Line Railroad to include the 4,000 trainmen, switchmen and yardmen of the seventeen railroads entering Chicago became a strong probability to-night.

After conferences lasting all of the afternoon and the early evening, G. W. W. Hanger, assistant commissioner of the Federal Board of Mediation and Conciliation, who came from Washington to start an arbitration movement, said to-night that neither the railroad officials nor the employees would grant a single concession at any of the conferences so far held.

While the troubles of the belt line and its employees were demanding the immediate attention of the Commissioner, other developments arose to complicate the trouble.

Chairmen of the grievance committees of every railroad union which handles freight from and to the belt line met in the Kaiserhof Hotel and formulated a demand on the railroad managers.

"Unless we are asked for a meeting by Friday at 3 o'clock to settle the dispute arising over the discharge of E. Mallory from the belt line without proper explanation and the suspension of R. K. Smith from the Pennsylvania because he insisted on a caboose, the membership will be asked if it wishes us to continue to work for the companies," said George H. Hannauer, chairman of the managers' conference.

Alleged violations of contract on the part of employers were drawn up for submission to the managers' committee to-morrow.

Some of the company officials said to-night that they would make an attempt to move the 6,000 cars of freight tied up in the freight yards with strikebreakers at an early date unless a settlement was reached.

"To get the railroads' side of the dispute and then talk it over with the men, pointing out ways whereby their differences can be settled, is all I can do," said Mr. Hannauer to-night after the conference.

"If the men still refuse to accept terms I can only then suggest arbitration."

The representative of the men are said to have taken the stand that they will reject arbitration, holding firmly to the demand that a service train—the principal reason for the men quitting work—be installed for the benefit of the trainmen.

A committee composed of H. G. Hettler, president of the Belt Railway; J. H. Brinkhoff, general superintendent, and C. C. Austin, general counsel, met Mr. Hannauer.

Timothy Shea, F. A. Burgess and A. P. Whitney represented the strikers. "I do not think the company will attempt to import strike breakers," said Mr. Burgess, who is assistant grand chief engineer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, "unless it is purposely looking for more trouble. There would be nothing to be gained by moving a few cars of freight at clearing."

"It is clear that the minute strike breaking began in the switchyards the strike would involve every railroad entering the city. Union engineers, firemen and trainmen will not handle freight switched by non-union employees."

Deputy Sheriffs and private guards were sent out to prepare for the running of trains manned by strike breakers. The Sheriff told the officials that he would send deputies to the scene of any trouble immediately and if necessary would swear in enough extra deputies to handle the situation.

Men who are being brought to Chicago are said to be non-union engineers. The company is depending on getting enough local help to fire the engines and attend to the other train work.

Timothy Shea, assistant president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, said the precautions against disorder were being taken by the railroads without reason. He declared the men had been warned against violence and that there was no reason to believe they would indulge in any.

BULGARS END NEUTRAL ZONE ON GREEK LINE

Note to Athens Is Taken as Warning of Coming Invasion.

FIGHTING CEASES: ALLIES' HANDS FREE

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 15.—An Amsterdam despatch quotes the Koestische Zeitung as saying this afternoon:

"The Bulgarian Government has informed Greece that the neutral zone on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier will no longer be maintained now that the Allies are on Greek territory."

The Athens correspondent of the Times, discussing the next move of the Germans in view of the Allies' retirement from Serbian Macedonia, says: "Circumstances make it probable that the Central Powers will insist on facilities in Greek territory similar to those accorded to the Allies."

The correspondent implies that Greece's decision will depend upon whether or not the Bulgarians accompany the invaders. He expresses doubt that Greek public opinion can be restrained if the Government consents to the Bulgarians entering Greek territory, saying that the Bulgarians by crossing the frontier would force Greece to abandon her neutrality.

Electoral Truce Likely. All despatches from Athens and Salonica indicate that the Central Powers are making time and are not crossing the frontier. The Daily Chronicle's Salonica correspondent thinks it probable that there will be a tacit truce until after December 19 to allow the Greeks to participate in the forthcoming elections.

A Central News despatch from Athens says the Jewish population of Salonica has begun to leave for Greece. It is concluded from this that the Germans are preparing a formidable attack against the French and British forces.

The correspondent of THE SUN at Rome reports that the German Minister at Sofia has declared that Monastir is an irretrievable Bulgarian possession. He adds that a Bulgarian administration is being established in Monastir and that the frontier has been closed to arrivals from Greece.

Bulgars' Plans in Doubt. This is taken to indicate either that Greece and Bulgaria have concluded secretly an agreement which binds Bulgaria to retain this part of Macedonia—an agreement which has been frequently rumored of late—or that Bulgaria purposes to do so.

The allied front in Greece now extends, according to Salonica advices, as far as the Greek town of Kallios, about twenty-five miles north of Salonica. The Daily Mail's Salonica correspondent, telegraphing under date of December 13, says:

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Gen. Sir John French Is Retired; Sir Douglas Haig in Command of the British Forces in France

Premier Announces Change in Leadership of Expeditionary Force.

KITCHENER QUARREL MAY BE THE CAUSE

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 15.—The following announcement was made to-night by the official press bureau:

"The War Office announces that Gen. Sir Douglas Haig has been appointed to succeed Field Marshal Sir John French in command of the army in France and Flanders."

"Since the commencement of the war, during over sixteen months of severe and incessant strain, Field Marshal Sir John French has most ably commanded our armies in France and Flanders and has now at his own instance relinquished that command."

"His Majesty's Government, with full appreciation and gratitude for the conspicuous services which Sir John French has rendered the country at the front, have, with the King's approval, requested him to accept appointment as Field Marshal commanding in chief the troops stationed in the United Kingdom. Sir John French has accepted that appointment."

"His Majesty the King has been pleased to confer upon Sir John French the dignity of a Viscount of the United Kingdom."

Premier Asquith foreshadowed the announcement by stating in the House of Commons earlier in the day that "some changes" in the higher command of the British forces in France were in course of being made and would be announced immediately.

In the plural is regarded as indicating that Sir John French may not be the only British officer in high command in France to be replaced.

Premier Asquith also stated that the changes in the British command had no connection whatever with the change made by the French Government in placing Gen. Joffre at the head of all the French armies.

Sir Edward Carson asked the Government in the House of Commons on Monday whether Gen. Joffre's appointment would necessitate any important changes in the higher commands of the British forces. At that time the Premier declined to answer the question.

Won Fame in South Africa. Sir John French was a British soldier who served in the Boer War, less than a year before the outbreak of the war in Europe. He was a member of the House of Commons and was a member of the War Office in 1914.

Retreat From Mons. These operations are known to-day as the British retreat from Mons. Whenever it is mentioned Sir John French is mentioned with it. At first Englishmen spoke of the "military retreat" made by French from Mons; then they spoke of the "retreat from Mons."

There is good authority, however, for the statement that the retreat was a piece of military strategy. The British forces suffered heavily, but like the French forces they were sent intact until the battle of the Marne, when they were able to turn the German invaders and drive them back to the present front.

The attack upon Sir John French's name has been going on since the outbreak of the war. It has been going on since the outbreak of the war. It has been going on since the outbreak of the war.

WETS' GOVERNOR TURNS DRY. Kentucky Executive Sets Example by Giving Up Liquor.

Louisville, Dec. 15.—Liquor interests of the State are a severe jolt to-day when it became known that Gov. Stanley had decided to bar all intoxicating liquors from the Mansion and to forego their use himself during his term of office.

The governor's announcement was made by the Rev. Aquila Webb, pastor of one of the largest congregations in the city, and was verified by the Executive Council.

AUSTRIAN NAVY CHIEFS UPHOLD ANCONA SINKING

Disavowal of Submarine's Act Is Opposed by Admiralty.

WERE SATISFIED WITH COMMANDER'S REPORT

Vienna Cabinet Reported in Special Session to Discuss Reply.

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MAY LOOK ON NOTE OF U. S. AS ULTIMATUM

Rome Hears Decision Rests on Interpretation of Document.

VIENNA, Dec. 15.—The Austro-Hungarian Admiralty not only is opposed to any disavowal of the course of the commander of the submarine which sank the Italian liner Ancona but it also approves and commends the action of the commander.

A statement issued by the Admiralty further admits that the commander has reported and that if his report had not been satisfactory it would have investigated before a protest could have been made.

The Admiralty also says the commander would have failed in his duty if he had allowed the Ancona to escape.

It is understood that the reply to the American note will be delivered within a day or so.

The Admiralty statement follows: It is a submarine commander's duty to make a report to a designated base as soon as possible and the commander who sank the Ancona did this as soon as he was within wireless distance of land. He made a supplementary report at Pola and accompanied it with his log.

No examination of the crew was held, because the commander's report was considered complete and there was no reason to suppose the crew could add anything thereto.

So far as the commander is concerned, his course is clear. The Admiralty has received his report and sees no reason to find fault with his course of action.

If any such reason existed, that is, if the Admiralty had found that the commander had done anything contrary to his instructions, it would spontaneously institute an investigation against him without waiting for any demand to come from some foreign Government. It can happen that a commander in head a battle-deck contrary to instructions, but nothing of the kind has occurred in this case.

It appears clearly from his report that his ship was in danger; indeed in double danger; first, from the fact that an enemy boat was approaching on a line that threatened to cut off his retreat; and secondly, from the fact that the Ancona could not escape his radius of action and could have set a torpedo boat flotilla on him; and, second, there was danger of the Ancona escaping, which, according to his instructions, was to be prevented by the use of force.

Hence the circumstances of the conduct of the command were such as the loss of innocent lives might be regretted and deplored, cannot be disapproved.

On the contrary, if he had departed without destroying the Ancona it would have been failure to do his duty since the Ancona could have notified other ships of his whereabouts. The loss of American lives is regrettable, as well as that of American vessels belonging to a nation at war with Austria-Hungary.

It was pointed out to-day that the favorite Austro-Hungarian Government and that to disavow the part of a navy officer would create a distinctly bad impression. For that reason such an act would be undertaken only in extreme cases.

IS NOTE ULTIMATUM? Austrian Cabinet Decision Depends on Its Interpretation.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. BUDAPEST, Dec. 15.—(Continued from page 1.)

Received here from Vienna which looked out late to-night as to the effect that the Austro-Hungarian Cabinet Council was convoked yesterday to discuss the reply to the American note on the Ancona, which is likely to be delayed until the American government explains whether or not the American note was intended to have the character of an ultimatum.

If it was meant in the spirit of an ultimatum, it is held in Vienna, it would be practically equivalent to a conditional declaration of a rupture of Austro-American diplomatic relations, which would be absolute in case of Austria's non-compliance with the American demands. The Cabinet Council's decision was withheld and probably will not be announced until Premier Burian of Austria has consulted Berlin. A satisfactory solution of the matter is not considered impossible, but the Austrians are reported to be indignant over the threatening tone of the American note, which they hold is not justified.

A conciliatory reply, it is argued in



RIGHT—Sir John French, who has been removed as commander in chief of the British forces in France, and to left, Sir Douglas Haig, who succeeds him.

JOFFRE'S NEW AID NOT RIVAL, BUT OLD FRIEND

Generalissimo Motored 125 Miles to Tell Castelnau News, Paris Hears.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, Dec. 15.—The Figaro, remarking for several days have been spreading a report that a general adjoint had been imposed on Gen. Joffre, who accepted the situation because he was forced to do so, tells the story of how the news of the appointment of Gen. de Castelnau, the new commander of the armies in France under Gen. Joffre, reached the appointee. The Figaro adds that it tells the story "in order to drive another nail into the lid" that Gen. Joffre was displaced at the appointment.

"On Friday, after receiving a telephone message from Paris announcing the appointment of Gen. de Castelnau, the new commander of the armies in France under Gen. Joffre, reached the appointee. The Figaro adds that it tells the story "in order to drive another nail into the lid" that Gen. Joffre was displaced at the appointment.

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RECRUITING TOTAL BIG, DERBY INFORMS LORDS

Complete Figures Given to Premier for Announcement Next Week.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 15.—Lord Derby announced in the House of Lords to-day that full details of the results of the recruiting campaign had been furnished to Premier Asquith and Lord Kitchener. "Only the men actually enlisted and attested under the group system had been counted, he said, adding that willingness to serve had not been considered. The enrolment office, he said, had been completely snowed under last week. He said that he would not give the figures to-day, but that the Premier would announce them on Tuesday of next week. The gross total, he said, was very large.

Between 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 men have responded to the call for recruits, according to the London Spectator. This figure, it is expected, may be reduced under analysis and possibly the figures on single men may be below the required standard.

GERMANY AFTER GOLD HOARDS. Takes Brastle Step to Get Contents of Safe Deposit Boxes.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Amsterdam correspondent of the Daily Express telegraphs:

"The German Reichenbank has started a new policy, that of forcing the people to hand over to the Imperial Treasury their hoarded gold deposits. This policy, it is expected, may be reduced under analysis and possibly the figures on single men may be below the required standard.

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PARIS GOWN IMPORTS REACH RECORD HERE

Most of the Outfits Coming Are for Private Persons and Not the Trade.

Information gained from the Appraisers' Stores shows that the importation of Paris gowns to this country during the current month is the largest on record within the memory of the Custom House officials for any corresponding period.

Most of the gowns imported during the current month are for private persons and not the trade, notwithstanding that imports for the trade have also shown an increase.

A customs official with considerable knowledge of matters relating to this branch of the importing trade gave two reasons for the increase in private orders at present. First, the gowns are being sent in as orders and thus figure in the import records.

The fact that the volume of private American orders placed with Paris couturiers is so large will, it is said, be of interest to the American trade in many respects. First, it shows that the American woman has money to spend. This will indicate to the retailer in wearing apparel here the possibilities of getting his quota of that business.

It also shows that Paris is able to deliver orders notwithstanding the various handicaps from which it is still suffering as the result of the war.

SHOTS IN 5TH AVENUE CHASE.

Man Accused as Pickpocket Stopped by Third Bullet.

Fifth avenue between Forty-ninth and Fiftieth streets was the scene of the pursuit of a pickpocket last evening in which three shots were fired from the revolver of Patrolman Lowry. The West Forty-seventh street station. After the third shot the fugitive, who later gave his name as Benjamin Katz, 17 years old, of 414 East 107th street, West Fourth street, decided that arrest was preferable to bullets and stopped.

Two shots had previously been fired on Fifth street by Patrolman Lowry, who had picked up the chase from the steps of the Sixth avenue L station, down which he saw Katz running with Louis Schenck, of 406 East Forty-ninth street, in hot pursuit. Schenck charged at Katz twice a watch and chain valued at \$275 from his pocket on the uptown platform of the West Fourth street station on the charge of grand larceny.

CLOSING OF SUEZ CANAL LOOKED FOR BY BRITISH

Expected as Result of the Reported German Plan to Attack Egypt.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 15.—The closing of the Suez Canal to the commerce of all nations is a possibility in British shipping circles as probable.

Announcement is made that the Dutch steamship men already have decided to abandon the Suez route to the Dutch East Indies and send their passenger and freight vessels around the Cape.

The Dutch lines explain their action as the result of the increasing uncertainty of coaling at the usual stations on the Suez route, but since the change to the older route will mean a trip longer by two weeks it is believed that more serious reasons are behind the decision.

The Daily Telegraph says this morning: "British shippers, when asked with reference to the Dutch avoidance of the Suez Canal, scouted the idea that it was based on a shortage of coal and declared that there was plenty of coal at Port Said, although it was exceedingly expensive. No British shippers, they said, had decided to divert their vessels to the Cape route, but they were seriously considering it. One shipper said that not only the Dutch but all nations would be obliged to send their ships around the Cape, because it is expected that the Suez Canal will be closed."

The action of the Dutch shipping men in conjunction with reports printed in the Koestische Zeitung of British military preparations on both sides of the canal, is taken by the Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily News as definite confirmation of a German plan to attack Egypt.

NERVOUS MEN ARE SMARTEST.

Quick Thinkers Lead, Says College Psychologist.

INQUIRY, Wis., Dec. 15.—According to Dr. K. T. Waugh, head of the department of psychology of Beloit College, three years of college training will do this for a young person:

Increase the amount of information 47.7 per cent. Increase his general mental standing 19 per cent. Increase his speed in learning 11 per cent. Increase his power of concentration 4.6 per cent. Increase his ability to learn 4.2 per cent. Increase his ability to associate ideas 2.6 per cent.

Dr. Waugh has compiled figures to show that the student who thinks the quickest is highest in general class standing. The student who is least nervous is lowest in class standing.

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