

Tim said: "God Bless Us Everyone."

MORE and more it is becoming evident that the morning newspaper best serves both subscriber and advertiser.

CHRISTMAS HERE: SANTA'S JOB DONE

Lots of Amusement Provided for People of the Capital of the Nation.

Christmas is here. It isn't necessary to remind you of this fact, but even reporters have the Christmas spirit, although they had to work last night when Santa Claus was busy decorating trees and distributing presents.

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Children's Own Day. The day will be lively enough. Children will begin it because to little ones Christmas is the day of all days.

Mothers and fathers will have one safe bet today and that is that their children will have no headache, toothache, stomachache or any of the other ailments in the category of excuses which frequently permit them to miss a day in school.

Christmas was fittingly ushered in last night with midnight masses in a number of Catholic and Episcopal Churches.

Thousands of Washingtonians will be especially happy today because of the thought that they have not forgotten their less fortunate brother, Charitable Institutions will bring Christmas joy to today.

The Associated Charities has gladdened the hearts of many by adding the needy with groceries, fuel, clothing and other necessities.

At the headquarters of the three latter institutions free of guests who will be entertained at the Belasco Theatre.

Officials of the Associated Charities are crowding the list of guests who will be entertained at the Belasco Theatre.

There are eight divisions of the District in which the activities of the Associated Charities are carried on and in each division the names of children who are to be the guests are being listed.

Announcement of the number of children who will see the film probably will be made tomorrow. None will be invited who by any chance might otherwise have an opportunity to attend a Christmas entertainment.

"SMOKE-SHOP" FOR WOMEN. New York, Dec. 24.—What is believed to be the only cigar shop for "ladies only" in the country has just been opened by the Ritz-Carlton Hotel here.

The management reports it very popular. Heretofore when women wished to obtain cigarettes they were obliged either to depend on a waiter, who was apt to bring the wrong kind, or make their own purchases in stores under embarrassing public gaze.

\$25,000 FIRE IN PHILLY. Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—Starting on the top floor of a four-story brick building at No. 14 South Front street, a stubborn fire spread to three adjoining buildings early today, causing damage estimated at \$25,000.

Thousands of spectators from the ferries, the late Christmas shopping crowds and the Ridgeway Hotel watched the firemen battle for more than an hour before the flames were under control.

President Wilson Lauds Community Celebration

President Wilson, speaking of the community celebration of Christmas, said he thought it was one of the best he had ever witnessed and that "he was glad to have an opportunity to take part with the people of the city in a revival of a real, old-time Christmas idea."

Secretary McAdoo, of the Treasury, said he thought it to be "one of the most remarkable celebrations ever held in this city." He also said he thought it an excellent idea to have such celebrations in the future at public expense instead of by individual contribution.

The little expense incurred this year was defrayed by the District playground department.

CAROLS BY 10,000

President and Mrs. Wilson Participate in Song Ceremonial.

Packed along Pennsylvania avenue south of the Treasury and flowing into the park surrounding the statue of Gen. Sherman, some 10,000 Washingtonians, headed by President and Mrs. Wilson, Secretary and Mrs. McAdoo and Miss Margaret Wilson turned out yesterday to sing Christmas carols and hymns, accompanied by the Marine Band, which played on the south portico of the Treasury, led by Hamlin E. Cogswell, director of music in the Washington public schools.

The District playgrounds department managed the affair.

The "Star Spangled Banner," played by the Marine Band, opened the program, and at the conclusion of the national anthem, Miss Margaret Wilson, Mrs. Susie Root Rhodes, of the Washington playgrounds department, and Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. McAdoo emerged from the south door of the Treasury and stood at the foot of the Treasury steps, remaining there throughout the singing, in which they joined.

These seven hymns were sung: "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks," and "Joy to the World."

At the conclusion of the hymns, children of the playgrounds went in automobiles to the hospitals to serenade the Emergency Hospital, President and Mrs. Wilson returned to the White House, and Miss Wilson and Secretary and Mrs. McAdoo joined them there.

The crowd then turned its attention to the executive mansion, where the Marine Band played for the choir of the Sunday School of the Ascension Oratorical Society and girls from the Wilson Normal School, which serenaded the President and his party. The north entrance of the White House was the scene of a falling brick, when Wilson stood at a second story window.

ENGLAND BADLY HURT, SAYS DUTCH MERCHANT

Peace Overtures by Germany "Stunned" Average British Citizen.

(By the International News Service.) The Hague, via Berlin and Sayville, Dec. 24.—The effect which the German peace proposals have had on London is vividly set forth by a Dutch business man, who has just returned from the English capital.

"The effect of the peace offer upon the British," says the merchant, "is as if he were stunned by a falling brick, even before the Northcliffe papers and other jingo organs labelled Chancellor von Bothmann-Holloweg's message a 'noose,' 'bluff,' 'trickery,' 'indication of weakness,' etc."

"A reputable English business man, however, made me the frank confession that in spite of the habitual boasts of certain newspapers, England is annihilating herself, that her industries are reduced to one-fifth of their former capacity, that her foreign commerce is restricted to a barter with her impoverished allies, while on the other hand she is hopelessly endeavoring to compete with the United States and Japan."

"Englishmen blame Lloyd George for the industrial and economic conditions and assert that an invading enemy could not have paralyzed the country more effectively." The Hollander asserts that the peace proposal revealed Chancellor von Bothmann-Holloweg to the English as the one statesman who clearly perceives the catastrophic effect of a war carried on to its extremity.

Seventy Christmas Revelers Get Ride in Jag Wagon

Despite the fact that all saloons were closed tight as a miser's money bag on Christmas Eve, the usual crowd of pre-Christmas sozzies was present.

This was due to the fact that many did their Christmas drinking early.

From 3 o'clock Saturday morning until 11 o'clock last night, seventy men were locked in cells in the twelve police precincts, charged with intoxication.

TIGERS ROAMED FLORIDA.

New York, Dec. 24.—Human beings, women and children have been quite a while, at least 125,000 years, according to certain scientists who have been digging among the bones of mastodons, saber-tooth tigers and other cheery-looking creatures which roamed the plains or splashed through the overglades of Florida in that distant era.

These learned men, among whom are E. H. Sellards, State geologist of Florida, and Prof. Oliver P. Day, assert that they have found human bones intermingled with the bones of the tigers and other animals whose skeletons were discovered in Florida several months ago.

SCHOOL PAY ROLL HELD INADEQUATE

Teachers and Other Employees Said to Be Paid Less Than Workers Elsewhere.

High school teachers and school employees are working on a schedule showing salaries paid by other cities for the same grade of work, and the petition, which will be offered to Congress, will show that in comparison salaries in the District schools are much lower than elsewhere.

Out of 1,550 teachers in the graded schools, 1,438 get less than \$1,000 a year. Of that number, 50 are in the \$500 class, 338 in the \$600 class, 456 in the \$650 class, 354 in the \$700 class and 119 in the \$750 class.

Of the high school teachers, more than 300 are in the group paid between \$1,000 and \$1,500. There are 14 teachers getting from \$1,500 to \$2,200, but that is practically a closed grade.

The janitors work on an average of twelve hours a day. They have no sick leave and are responsible for the safety of thousands of dollars worth of property, as well as for the safety of the school children. Seventy-three of these men work for \$99 a month and 19 are paid less than \$90.

The school laborers are even more poorly paid. There are 30 getting from \$25 to \$40 a month. There are 32 at \$35 a month, or an average daily wage of 60 cents. Laborers in twelve-room buildings work from 12 to 14 hours a day.

Under these circumstances the school employees of the District feel that it is an unfair discrimination to deny them the benefit of the 5 and 10 per cent grade increases which other employees are about to receive.

The high school teachers have prepared an argument to accompany their schedule of increases to be sought from Congress. It says in part: "The tendency has been more and more during the last few years to throw upon the teacher and especially the high school teacher very many of those functions once exercised almost exclusively by the parents at home. The mere teaching of the child is stressed just as sharply and insistently, but to it has been added all those interlocking student activities which now form such an important part of high school work and which are so intimately associated with preparation for efficient citizenship and proper individual development along all lines. This has been made possible because of the absolute freedom of the teacher from financial worries due to insufficient salary. The demands upon the teacher are more than double what they were eight years ago, and when they require a much higher standard of all-around efficiency, would deal a staggering blow to the morale of the high school teachers of the Capital of the United States as indicative of a low estimate."

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Telegraph Tips

East Mauch Chunk, Pa., Dec. 24.—Prof. Thomas L. Jenkins, a member of the faculty of the local high school, has ninety hens. The Lehighs, which during the present year laid 14,700 eggs. His sales amounted to \$465, which leaves him over \$200 profit.

London, Dec. 24.—A highly important new move by the entente is indicated in the "Paris Herald" whereby the French government will divide into several groups all the shipping employed in the conveyance of foodstuffs and coal for the general public, and these convoys will be escorted by warships.

Baltimore, Dec. 24.—Several of the police courts in the congested sections of the city will hold midnight sessions tonight for the accommodation of Christmas Eve celebrants who may fall into the hands of the police. In past years many persons who were subsequently dismissed had to spend Christmas in a cell.

Boston, Dec. 24.—An exposition in Boston of world's fair magnitude is urged by Gov. Samuel W. McCall as Massachusetts' contribution to the 1920 Pilgrim tercentenary celebration.

Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 24.—"Ed" Conover, who runs the United States mail boat between Atlantic City and Brigantine, was blown on the shoals and was in a precarious position when reached by coast guards from here.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 24.—George W. Padgett, former sheriff and a former United States marshal, and for many years a powerful leader of the Republican party in Baltimore, died about 3 o'clock this morning at his home here. Mr. Padgett had been ill for about five months. The direct cause of his death was Bright's disease.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 24.—It cost Philip Lee \$28.45 in the Northwestern Police Court this morning for striking Ethel Wilson with Christmas tree bulbs. According to the woman's testimony she was greeted with a shower of ornaments when she opened the door of her house last night.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 24.—"Where's my Christmas gift?" asked Margaret Smith of her spouse, Charles H. Smith, 1524 Wilmer street, when he returned home last night with the customary Christmas tokens. Shortly afterward, Patrolman Shea caught the negro after he had stolen a purse containing \$4.95 from Henrietta Holland, 1822 Wilmer street.

SWITZERLAND BACKS WILSON'S PEACE NOTE TO BELLIGERENTS; NEUTRAL SUPPORT FORESEEN

Points in Swiss Note To Countries at War

Supports efforts of the President, who is said to be "sounding as to whether mankind may hope to have approached the haven of peace."

Constitutes the first definite indication that neutral nations of the world will support the Wilson stand for a cessation of hostilities.

Places the Swiss federal council squarely behind the President in his effort to obtain a statement from both sides as to the ends for which they are fighting.

Note addressed to warring nations, but a copy forwarded to Washington.

Date of Swiss note shows it was written almost instantly on the receipt of the American document.

The President's action, it says, finds a "mighty echo" in Switzerland.

WHITE HOUSE GAY RUSSIANS HATED

President and Mrs. Wilson Prepared for Festivities. Scoured Rumania with Fire, Says Berlin News Agency.

(By the International News Service.) Berlin (via Sayville wireless), Dec. 24.—The Overseas News Agency today quoted from a Jassy newspaper to illustrate "the feelings of the Rumanians toward the Russians." The paper is quoted as saying: "There is not a Rumanian who did not do everything in his power, but this struggle is too hard. As far as the Rumanians are concerned, they do not die without honor. But without honor are those who dragged Rumania into misfortune."

"This feeling is also confirmed by Rumanian prisoners. The suffering of the Rumanian population as a consequence of the devastation of their country by the Russians is shown by an appeal issued by the governors of Besarabia and Podolia, which says: "After the failure of our Rumanian allies a large part of the population of Rumania fled without possessing sufficient victuals. The severe cold adds to the miserable position of these people. Many of them froze to death on their way. All the government roads are lined with innumerable corpses which remain unburied."

"The Russians in Moldavia ruthlessly requisitioned all victuals, horses and cattle, and behaved as if they were in an enemy country. Just as they did in Poland, Russian incendiary detachments set fire by torch to Rumanian villages. The population is thus deprived of shelter and food."

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VERDUN DRIVE CALLED FRENCH "PEACE" REPLY

Attack Answered Overtures of German Chancellor, Says Teuton Critic.

(By the International News Service.) Berlin (via Sayville wireless), Dec. 24.—The military critic of the Overseas News Agency writes: "In spite of the continued Russo-Rumanian attacks on a 300-kilometer front in the wooded Carpathians and in eastern Transylvania, the German fighting line there has remained unchanged during this charging offensive, which has now been going on for four weeks."

"On the west front the fighting activity of the last few days did not pass the usual pressure of trench warfare. The French advance northeast of Verdun, planned on a great scale and carried out tenaciously, brought them a local success, but it did not change the situation on the rest of the front."

"Already on December 16 the French attack came to a standstill north of Besonvaux village. On December 18 and 19 there was only fighting about Chambrette's farm and since then the situation has been calm."

"This great attack, which had been planned as France's answer to the German peace proposals—expressly designed as such by the French commander—came to a standstill, as did the previous one."

"On the Somme front there was calm interrupted only by a temporary increase in the artillery fire when the weather here was favorable. On the rest of the front there were only patrol actions and artillery fire."

"The situation of our adversaries on the third war Christmas is not different from that of one and two years ago. To be sure, the heat of fighting has been increased in a gigantic fashion, but the relation of the forces has remained identically the same."

Republic's Federal Council Says Action of President Finds "Mighty Echo" There

Document, Which Reached Washington Late Yesterday, Is Regarded by Administration as Almost an Instant Answer.

Definite assurance of support for President Wilson's peace move by the neutral nations of Europe reached Washington yesterday in a note addressed by the government of Switzerland to the warring nations.

The Swiss communication places Switzerland squarely behind the President in his efforts to secure a statement from both sides in the conflict as to the ultimate ends for which they are fighting. It declared that the President's initiative in the matter had found a "mighty echo" in Switzerland, and pledged Switzerland's support to the President's efforts.

The Swiss note was sent by the Swiss federal council, and was addressed to all the belligerent nations. It was dated December 23, and showed clearly that the Swiss government had been prompt in considering the President's note and in deciding to join his efforts to end the war.

INDICATES SUPPORT OF NEUTRALS.

Diplomatic Washington last night accepted the Swiss note as an indication that the remaining European neutral nations would follow the example of the mountain republic and promptly get behind the United States in the first definite move toward peace. The Swiss note, however, makes a point of explaining that President Wilson in his note made no "peace proposals himself" and that he did not offer mediation.

"He confines himself," said the communication, "to sounding as to whether mankind may hope to have approached the haven of peace."

Swiss Watching Wilson.

The note makes it clear that the Swiss federal council has been in close touch with President Wilson "for a considerable time" in his plans for bringing the subject of peace to the warring nations, and it was believed here last night that developments would show at least an informal concert of action among practically all the neutral nations.

Diplomats here expressed the opinion that the President Wilson had undoubtedly sounded the neutral governments before framing his peace note, and that the coming weeks would find practically the entire neutral world, to some degree, committed to the course initiated by the President. The promptness of the Swiss reply tended to support this conclusion.

The effect of developments along this line would be to place the belligerents in the position of answering practically the entire world outside of the war zone, when they come to consider their replies to the President's note.

The concerted demand that peace terms be made clear and definite, with the weight of all the neutrals behind it, would be a vastly different matter than an individual demand from the United States as a single neutral. Such a demand would force deep and earnest consideration by the belligerents before they could afford to refuse to comply with it.

Text of the Document.

The following was the Secretary of State's announcement: "The Secretary of State made public today the following communication to this government from the Swiss government: 'Text of note of Swiss federal council, of December 23, 1916, addressed to all belligerents. (Not yet communicated to neutrals.)'

"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 contact, and with kindness to appraise the federal council of the progress of the negotiations of the neutral nations, and the President of the United States, in this connection, will pay 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."

"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 us in the deep snows and the terrible world war, with its ideal and material interests most sensibly jeopardized."

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BOY, PAGE OLD KID ART!

New York, Dec. 24.—Artists of a cubistic turn of mind should have a care. Any long-haired man or short-haired woman who is contemplating the perpetration of another "Nude" or "Descending a staircase" or similar works of "art" is in danger of coming a cropper.

Read carefully, you who are cubists, futurists and the like by temperament, and see what the objects of the National Art Society are as described in the article of incorporation on file in the supreme court: "To promote a return to the truly great in art and life, and to counteract the disquieting tendency to so much which is merely clever or trivial, and to react against all degenerate influences."

BANANA STALK AS WEAPON.

Baltimore, Dec. 24.—"I haven't the change to pay the bill, but if you will wait a moment I will go out and get the funds." Robert Gregory told a collector last night. Then Gregory went forth from his home with a green banana stalk over his shoulder, according to witnesses.

"Here's your money," he gasped fifteen minutes later as he burst through the door with four \$1 bills. The money was recovered by Sergeant Dobson, Police Art Section, who gave chase to the negro shortly after he had hit Calvin Jones over the head with the banana stalk and took \$4 away from him.

72 PINS IN GIRL'S BODY.

New York, Dec. 24.—That seventy-two pins had been removed from Miss Teresa ...

Rain, but No Snowfall, Christmas Day Prospect

According to the weather man Christmas morning will be a wet one and folk with a question of locomotion will not have to be wary of the boys who usually try to coast on the sidewalks, for there probably will be no snow. ...

BOSTON CARS EAR "DRUNKS."

Boston, Dec. 24.—Following a suggestion by Gov. McCall that railroads and street car lines refuse to carry "drunks," 200 persons are in various police stations today. Of them, 165 were arrested in the North Station and sixty-three in the South Station.

THIEVES GET 800 CANARIES.

New York, Dec. 24.—Is there anything of value thieves will not steal? This question is raised here by the theft of 800 live canaries, pigeons and other birds from a store. The birds were pets for the most part, entrusted to the store proprietor to care for over the winter.

Christmas Greetings The Washington Herald WISHES ALL ITS READERS A Merry Christmas