

WEATHER.

Partly cloudy tonight; Thursday cloudy and probably rain; not much change in temperature. FULL REPORT ON PAGE ELEVEN.

HEROIC FIREMEN CLOSE TO DEATH IN BLAZING RUIN

Seven Sent to Hospital After Hours Under Debris of Fallen Wall.

TWO DESTRUCTIVE FIRES IN BUSINESS SECTION

Flames Extinguished Only After Losses Aggregating \$70,000 Have Resulted.

THREE ALARMS FOR EACH

Every Company in City Except Nine Called to Save Property on 7th and D Streets From Destruction.

Two raging fires a few blocks apart in the downtown section of the city early this morning caused injuries to seven firemen and a child, furnished an opportunity for a series of thrilling rescues, did damage estimated at nearly \$70,000 and aroused almost the entire city by bringing all but nine of the thirty-six fire companies of the District of Columbia clanging through the streets to the scenes of the fires.

The first fire, which broke out shortly after 1 o'clock, almost destroyed the American Five and Ten Cent Store, at 314-318 7th street. Just as this fire was being gotten under control a blaze was discovered in the iron and wire works of Fred G. Gichner at 1214-1216 D street, which quickly assumed alarming proportions. Both were three-alarm fires.

Buried Under Tons of Debris. Flames which leaped high in the air at both fires lighted up the downtown section of the city during the early hours of the morning and brought hundreds of people from their beds. Mounted police joined squads of bicycle and foot police to handle the huge crowds.

Planned for more than two hours beneath tons of debris from the floors at the five and ten store fire, five firemen from No. 6 engine company were almost given up for dead, and were finally rescued by Fire Chief Wagoner and a rescued by fire comrades only after corps of half a dozen men had been sent to the scene.

One interesting feature. The first of the tableaux will then be presented, the chorus and band rendering the hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." On each of the great abutments of the great archway, a statue group, on which evergreen has been placed, will be focused a great spot light, to illumine the tableau, which will be that of Joseph and Mary on their way to Bethlehem, with the infant Jesus in a manger star, signifying the Star of Bethlehem, at the top of the tree, will be lighted, and the chorus, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," will be sung.

ENDORSE REDFIELD PLAN

Members of Chamber of Commerce of United States Favor Trade Attaches Abroad.

By the overwhelming vote of 62t to 3 constituent members of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in a referendum held in the main the plan of Secretary Redfield of the Department of Commerce for more direct stimulation of commerce through the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce in his department, as has been reported, has asked Congress for \$750,000 for use during the coming year, about half of which will be expended on the work of commercial attaches and commercial agents of the United States in foreign countries.

Another referendum of the Chamber of Commerce to establish a bureau of legislative reference and bill drafting in Washington to overcome difficulties experienced by congressmen in the preparation of bills is still being taken.

Charles Francis Osborne Dead

PHILADELPHIA, December 24.—Charles Francis Osborne, professor of the history of architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, died here today. He was fifty-nine years old and was widely known in his profession. He was a member of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania for thirteen years and prior to that was for fifteen years connected with Cornell University.

Mitchell Takes Oath of Office.

NEW YORK, December 24.—John Purroy Mitchell, elected mayor of New York last month on the fusion ticket, took the oath of office today. The oath was administered by Supreme Court Justice Ford in the presence of a few personal friends. Mayor Mitchell will not take office until the first of the year.

A Glenmore Davis Circus Story

will appear next Sunday. The title is "THE CONFOUNDING OF HOLLOW." If you want to forget your troubles, read it in the next

Sunday Magazine

Of The Sunday Star

MEXICAN REBELS RETAKE TORREON

Twelve Thousand Men Engaged in Battle With Much Loss of Life.

RIFLES FOR FEDERALS DISCARDED BY JAPAN

Contracted for Last April, It Is Said, and U. S. Cannot Interfere With Shipments.

JUAREZ, Mex., December 24.—After heavy fighting at Torreon the rebels have retaken that city from the federals, according to reports brought by couriers today from Jimenez, half way between Chihuahua and Torreon.

Federal Troop Train Blown Up.

MEXICO CITY, December 23.—Unaware of the presence of rebel forces at a point so far south, a train carrying a detachment of government troops on a tour of exploration ran over a rebel dynamite mine near Chihuahua yesterday and was practically destroyed.

Mexico Gets Discarded Rifles. The arms which the Huerta government is obtaining in Japan are the rifles and ammunition discarded by the Japanese army recently in favor of a new model which resembles the extremely efficient Mauser which the United States army is now armed.

Although manufactured originally in the imperial Japanese armories, like the old Springfield muskets and the Krags which followed them in this country, these arms were disposed of by the government to private dealers, and it is understood that the Mexican government has been able to get them. Naturally these old rifles, while good weapons, are as cheap as the new ones, and it was said at the State Department that the contract for the delivery of these guns was made last April, before the United States government had announced its policy of refusing recognition to the Huerta government, and that there is no legal warrant for interference with the deliveries.

Arms Go First to Germany.

American arms and ammunition for Huerta, denied direct exportation to Mexico, are being shipped from the United States to Hamburg, Germany, and re-shipped to Mexico. This became known to officials here today, when it was found that a large shipment recently had been made by that route.

Robert Pasqueira, confidential agent of the United States government, today emphatically stated that the rebels have ordered any Japanese to leave the state of Chihuahua as has been reported. He stated that not only have no such orders been issued, but that all Japanese subjects in the state are being treated with every consideration.

Those Assisting Even.

To Neighborhood House, led by Mrs. J. P. S. Follett, belongs the credit of organizing the laboring class of the city.

Prof. Otto T. Simon will lead the chorus, which consists of many volunteers from various singing societies and individuals, as well as children of Neighborhood House and the schools, who were to have danced about the tree, although that part of the program has been abandoned. The tree was donated by Blackstone, and it was erected by Gude Bros. The electric lights, which are to be produced from current supplied from the Capitol building, are being provided by the Electric Light and Power Company.

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Angel Figures to Appear.

Then will come another Christmas hymn, followed by the chorus, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," and between the great white columns of the Capitol will appear white-robed, winged angel figures, trumpeting "Tidings of Great Joy."

At this point will follow what musicians consider to be the most thrilling of all the Christmas carols, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," by the Marine Band, and following that the message, "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men," will shine out from the base of the pillars of the portico a manner which will illumine. The voices of the chorus will ring out in a great alleluia, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," and those who depict the angels will crown up the song of "Crown Him" taken from the "Crown Him" book.

Madame Mountford, the Syrian missionary-lecturer, has loaned her collection of Christmas carols, and the tableaux, and with Mr. Neill, Mrs. John Jay White and others has assisted Mrs. Neill in preparing the program. The characters will be taken as follows: Joseph, John J. Hoobar; Mary, Mrs. William S. Carter; the shepherds, Madame Mountford, Ralph Campbell and William Grenier; wise men, George H. Clement, Edith Blunkhorn, and James Bayne; angels, Miss Sophie Siebert, Mrs. G. H. Barnard, Mrs. Charles Keefe, Mrs. G. H. Puhlers and Miss Aida Pluekiger.

Members of Chorus.

Among the members of the chorus will be the following members of the Camp Fire Girls' Club: Helen Frael, Annie Tresselt, Katie Tresselt, Lillian Stern, Elva Murphy, Amy Shapiro, Aida Wargner, Hazel Altman, Bernetta Beaver, Marguerette Conner, Bertha Tresselt, Helen Birch, Pearl Myer and Marie Harmon.

The following are the personally chosen Peace Club will be in the chorus: Eva Ball, Caroline Bayhause, Rose Berger, Edith Blunkhorn, and James Bayne, Ethel Coleman, Ada Cooper, Minnie Cox, Wilhelmina Christopher, Ellanora Davis, Pearl Degees, Constance de Mont, Elizabeth de Ment, Ellen Desmond, Elaine Gal'alone, Louise Gal'alone, Lillian Hatton, Edna Kennett, Margaret Lerch, Katherine May, Anna Nielsen.

Chicago Veiled in Darkness.

CHICAGO, December 24.—Darkness dense as midnight spread over Chicago this forenoon, the personally chosen Peace Club will be in the chorus: Eva Ball, Caroline Bayhause, Rose Berger, Edith Blunkhorn, and James Bayne, Ethel Coleman, Ada Cooper, Minnie Cox, Wilhelmina Christopher, Ellanora Davis, Pearl Degees, Constance de Mont, Elizabeth de Ment, Ellen Desmond, Elaine Gal'alone, Louise Gal'alone, Lillian Hatton, Edna Kennett, Margaret Lerch, Katherine May, Anna Nielsen.

THE FOURTEEN OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunity No. 1. A mother with four small children, who is a born homemaker and a natural

GREAT CHRISTMAS PEANS TO ASCEND TO SKIES

Great Chorus Will Assemble About Community Tree at Capitol.

BEAUTIFUL TABLEAUX PART OF CELEBRATION

Scenes of Impressive Beauty Expected as Shades of Night Begin to Fall.

The celebration of Washington's first "Community Christmas" will begin this afternoon about half past 5 o'clock, when a giant Norway spruce, which has been set up in the plaza at the east front of the Capitol, will be electrically lighted in colors from tip to base, and the full Marine Band will begin to play the hymn "Creation."

Tableaux of Nativity.

Above the heads of the chorus will shine out in electric lights the Christmas legend, "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men," and on the center steps and near the chorus will be carried out a series of dramatic tableaux depicting the story of the nativity.

The organizers of the celebration predict a scene of impressive beauty before the Capitol at dusk. With the massive dignity of the great portico and its terraces of steps for a background, it is expected that the picture in quality and a distinct appeal to the imagination, at the same time, will be a splendid celebration of a "community Christmas," which has grown the idea of such a celebration, but nowhere in the United States will the celebrators have such an impressive background as the Capitol building, and the splendid natural advantages in the way of an architectural and constitutional plaza in front of the Capitol at the east.

Wilson Rests Comfortably on His Trip to Pass Christian.

President Wilson, with Mrs. Wilson, their two daughters, Misses Margaret and Eleanor, Miss Helen Woodrow Bones and Dr. Grayson, the President's physician, left Washington last night at 10:45 o'clock for Pass Christian, Miss., to spend Christmas.

STATION CROWDS FAIL TO DISTURB PRESIDENT

The President missed the crowd which had gathered at the depot to see him depart by boarding his private car an hour before the time scheduled for its departure. He will return to Washington in time for the diplomatic reception, January 13.

DEPART FOR SOUTH

The presidential party traveled on Southern railway train No. 37, first section, which is due to arrive in Atlanta, Ga., late this afternoon. From Atlanta the party will travel over the Atlanta and West Point railroad to Montgomery, where it will be transferred to the Louisville and Washington railroad, which will take it direct to Pass Christian.

DEAD ENGINEER, SAID TO LIVE IN WASHINGTON, IS NOT KNOWN HERE.

The name of neither Hamilton R. Woolford nor J. H. Rawlins appears in the city or telephone directory, and at the office of the district engineer of the Pennsylvania road in this city it was stated that neither man is listed as working out of Washington.

CARNegie's "WAR" GIFT.

Andrew Carnegie's well known ideas on universal peace and international disarmament were reflected in a Christmas gift received by each member of President Wilson's cabinet this morning. The gift was a framed lithograph representing the departure of a soldier for the field of battle. It is bidding his little daughter goodbye.

FRANK KENYON IS SHOT DEAD.

Alleged to Have Been Intruder in Home of Man Who Killed Him. SYRACUSE, N. Y., December 24.—Frank Kenyon, a railroad telegraph operator, was shot and killed at Albany early today in the home of Albert Webster, a young business man. The sheriff is searching for Webster, who is charged with the killing.

BUY ANOTHER STEAMER FOR SERVICE ON RIVER

Potomac and Chesapeake Company Adds the Tolchester to Its Fleet. For service on the Potomac river in place of the steamer Capital City, which was placed out of commission several months ago, the Potomac and Chesapeake Steamboat Company, according to report, has secured the sidewheel steamer Tolchester, now owned in New York, and before the opening of spring business on the river the steamer will be brought here for service.

Marshall Host to Senate Pages.

Vice President Marshall was host by proxy today at a dinner to sixteen page boys of the United States Senate. Edwin A. Halsey, chief of pages of the Senate, sat at the head of the table in place of the Vice President, who had left Washington for the west. The page boys received many Christmas remembrances from senators. Senator Martine gave each of present day money, and Senator Chilton gave each a knife.



THE CIVIC CHRISTMAS.

FORMER PREMIER DIES IN COPENHAGEN TODAY

J. B. S. Estrup With Danish King Defied Parliament for Years on Cabinet Issue.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, December 24.—Jacob Brovnuum Sevenstrup, for many years the leading politician of Denmark, died here today. For nineteen years from 1875 to 1894 he was premier and finance minister in the Danish cabinet. He was born April 16, 1825, and entered politics in 1854 as a member of the lower house.

'TIS RESPONSE DAY FOR KIND HEARTS

Heed the Best in Your Nature and Help Capital's Needy.

ELEVEN OPPORTUNITIES ARE YET UNSUBSCRIBED

Associated Charities Will Keep Open Christmas Morning to Receive Contributions.

In the hope that the remaining eleven of its fourteen opportunities will be fully subscribed by Christmas morning, the Associated Charities will keep its office, 922 H street northwest, open tomorrow morning to receive donations either by mail or by person. Last year seventy letters were received in the Christmas morning mail, and the full amount asked for was oversubscribed by just three dollars when the office closed at noon.

POPE TO SEND GREETINGS

Christmas Season to Be Celebrated at the Vatican With Usual Formalities.

ROME, December 24.—The recent deaths in the cardinalate have cast some gloom over Christmas festivities at the Vatican, but the season will be generally observed with the usual formalities. The Pope will send his personal greetings to all the Catholic sovereigns of Europe, with the exception of the King of Italy, with whom he is supposed to hold no communication.

ZELAYA OFF FOR FRANCE

Former Nicaraguan President Sails Today to Visit Old Home in Spain.

NEW YORK, December 24.—Jose Santos Zelaya, former president of Nicaragua, sailed today for France, whence he will go to Barcelona, Spain, to visit his family. His departure is the sequence of efforts of the government of Nicaragua to have him extradited to that country. These were abandoned upon the conditions imposed by the Department of Justice in Washington that he would leave the country within a reasonable time. Recently agents of the department have been watching him to see that the condition was complied with.

RECEPTION TO CARDINALS.

Today the Pope received the cardinals. Christmas day itself, however, is to be a day of rest for the pontiff, as after celebrating early mass he simply recites his sisters and passes the remainder of the time in the library with his books.

Aid From Children.

A letter inclosing one dollar received this morning by the Associated Charities: "We got the dollar by voting for the poor family No. 10. Not one voted for candy. I want the poor family No. 10 to have it because it is the family that needs it most. Yours truly, "Mott School, Room No. 12, "Fifth Grade A."

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A mother with four small children, who is a born homemaker and a natural

WHILE HOUSE GIFTS FOR NEEDY OF CITY

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BASKETS FOR GROWN-UPS AND TOYS FOR CHILDREN

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Many Deserving Cases Found.

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PLANS UNDERWAY FOR NEW CURRENCY

Secretaries McCadoo and Houston Working on Details of Organization.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS SOON TO BE DESIGNATED

Washington Among the Cities Seeking Favor—Members of Reserve Board Not Yet Appointed.

With all the power of a law fresh from the pen of President Wilson behind them, Secretary McCadoo and Secretary Houston today began working out details of the nation's new financial system.

First Step in Organization.

The first step to be taken by the Secretaries will be the selection of cities where federal reserve banks, the backbone of the system, are to be located. The law provides for not less than eight and not more than twelve such banks. The organization committee is empowered to employ counsel and submit witnesses and papers to go deeply into the location of the reserve banks.

Power of the Committee.

The organization committee is empowered to prescribe regulations for membership in the system. Applications from all over the United States have been flowing into the Treasury for several days. An unusual flood, however, arrived today, and one of the first duties of the committee will be the promulgation of rules for their acceptance. National banks have sixty days in which to file applications, but under the law will remain in interest one year without joining the system. To begin formal work on selecting federal reserve cities tomorrow.

Number Not Determined.

Mr. McCadoo did not know, he said, whether there would be eight or twelve banks. That is a point he regarded as one of the most important before the organization committee. He expressed great satisfaction with the way in which the banks have responded to the law. "The law has been accepted," he said, "in a most commendable manner. I have never had any doubt, and have known that most of the national banks will not be broken up. I believe I believe I believe it will prove a success and the greatest thing that has happened in the history of the country."

Applications for Membership.

Applications for membership came today from banks in Seattle, Cleveland, Denver, Trenton, N. J.; North Adams, Mass.; New Orleans, Portland, Ore.; St. Marietta, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Kan.; Manchester, N. H.; Peoria, Ill.; Pomona, Cal.; Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; St. Joseph, Mo.; Palouse, Wash.; Roanoke, Va.; and several others in California, Jefferson City, Mo., and Richmond, Ind.

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