

TOUGH S WEDDING PLANS COMPLETED

Everything Said to Be in Readiness This Afternoon for Wilson-Galt Nuptials.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY THE POLICE

President in Cheerful Mood as He Prepares for Last Courty Visit to His Fiancee.

Everything was said to be in readiness early this afternoon for the wedding tonight of President Wilson and Mrs. Norman Galt at the home of the bride-to-be, 1308 20th street northwest. Incidentally, it was said at the police department and at secret service headquarters that curiosity seekers and possible traffic obstructions in the vicinity of the Galt home will receive but scant welcome in that neighborhood before, during and after the ceremony.

The vigil of the guardians of traffic began early today, when uniformed men as well as plain clothes took up their stations in the neighborhood. The President's wedding day opened the President himself was probably the but there seemed a prospect as the day wore on that the weather will be clear by the hour set for the ceremony, which is understood to be a little before 9 o'clock.

Notwithstanding the rain, however, the President himself was probably the most cheerful man in Washington this morning, and he showed it. Shortly after 9:30 o'clock he stood on the front porch of the White House, watching the rain pouring down in torrents, whistling cheerily.

Makes Last Courty Call

He was waiting for the closed automobile of the White House to convey him to the home of Mrs. Galt. It was to be his last call of courtesy to his fiancée before the nuptials are pronounced making the pair man and wife. Ordinarily, Wilson never goes out in a motor car until his machine arrives and an usher reports to him that it is in waiting. He apparently has not yet done so. He waited a minute or more and then went back into the corridor of the White House to get ready.

Two police officers standing near the portico listened to catch the tune of the whistle. The President had greeted them cordially.

"Good morning, officer," he said to each man, and then he turned toward and forward on the stone floor whistling in a lively but nervous manner. He wore a business suit of gray, a hat to match and a dark overcoat.

"What was he whistling?" a newspaper man who had witnessed the scene asked one of the officers.

"Couldn't exactly catch it. Sounded happy, though," he heard the President often, especially when he walked in late at night. He doesn't seem to carry a tune well. He whistles in fragments.

Joy and Gloom Together

Whatever the President's thoughts as he enters his machine and is driven to Mrs. Galt's home, he undoubtedly faced a most eventful day, with the official side of his life and full of foreshadowing. There on one with the presence of the President united to a most lovely woman, there was to be the breaking of the international relations with Austria, one of the great countries of Europe now at war.

High officials upon whom he feels he can depend propose to take a little time now and then to spend the afternoon as possible with the dangers of the Austrian situation, but his mind, his instincts and his feelings are drawn from the gravity of severing diplomatic relations with Austria, a step now considered practically certain in administration.

Then upon his desk was a big accumulation of papers to be read and signed for him to consider and sign during the day, added to this being arrangements at the White House for the christening of his granddaughter, Ellen Wilson McAdoo.

Bridal Trip a Secret

Returning from his call at the home of Mrs. Galt, the President went to the bank where he keeps his funds and supplied himself with funds necessary for his bridal trip, the destination of which remains a secret. The President is accompanied by the President at all hours, the private stenographer who will go with him, and a number of secret service men, under direction of "Joe" Murphy, chief of the White House, simply backed up by a number of plain clothes officers who at the executive office called back to Washington by matters of immense importance, to be away from the city until January 3, the Monday after New Year.

President's Family All Here. All the members of the President's family who will attend the wedding tonight arrived at the White House today, the last ones being Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilson of Baltimore, who arrived before noon, to be at the christening. They are Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Sayre, Mrs. Anne Howe, the President's sister, Mrs. Anne Cochran, the President's daughter, and Prof. Stanton Axson of Princeton, brother of the late Mr. Wilson. Secretary and Mrs. McAdoo were also at the White House most of the day.

It was stated by White House employees that many presents have now been sent at that direct to the home of Mrs. Galt. There the President has looked over the presents and has selected the ones that he will accept. The presents of pleasure Mrs. Galt received from the President's family and other friends, which she is said to be especially fond of, are of great monetary value, and that those of unusual value, coming from persons not intimately connected with the President, should be returned. The President, it is known, has been especially watchful in this connection, and has been careful in scanning most of the presents that he might be protected in the future against erroneous impressions.

Presents Sent to White House. The presents were sent today to the White House from Mrs. Galt's home, as (Continued on Second Page.)

C. P. MINNEGERODE IS CHOSEN DIRECTOR

Elected by Trustees of the Corcoran Gallery of Art to Succeed F. B. McGuire.

WITH INSTITUTION FOR TWENTY YEARS

George E. Hamilton Selected for Membership to Board—Other Vacancy Unfilled.

At a meeting of the board of trustees of the Corcoran Gallery of Art yesterday, C. Powell Minnegerode, assistant director, was elected to the position of director of the gallery, to fill the vacancy caused recently by the death of Frederick B. McGuire. Mr. Minnegerode also was elected secretary of the gallery.

At the same time George E. Hamilton was elected a member of the board of trustees of the gallery to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Arthur Jeffrey Parsons. The vacancy on the board caused by the death of Mr. McGuire is to be considered at the next meeting of the trustees, it is stated.

With Gallery Long Time

Mr. Minnegerode has been connected with the Corcoran Gallery of Art for more than twenty years, and has served as assistant director for some time. He is not only thoroughly familiar with the work, but exceptionally qualified to fill the position to which he has been elected.

His executive ability much of the past for other large institutions in the same field, but on account of his interest in the work here, he has chosen to remain in Washington.

That he was one of those selected to serve as a member of the international jury award in the department of fine arts at the Panama-Pacific exposition evidences his standing in the art world. To his executive ability much of the success of the Corcoran Gallery biennial exhibitions of contemporary American art is credited.

Native of St. Louis

Mr. Minnegerode is a native of St. Louis, having come to Washington when still in his teens. He was sixteen years old when he received his first position in the Corcoran Gallery of Art as a clerk. Mr. Minnegerode has a wide acquaintance among the artists of America. It is said that he is personally acquainted with the majority of the artists who are members of the Washington Society of Fine Arts and of the American Federation of Art.

October 13 last Mr. Minnegerode was elected a member of the board of trustees of the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

At the same meeting it was announced that former Senator W. A. Clark has renewed his offer of \$5,000 to be distributed in prizes at the Corcoran Gallery's next biennial exposition of contemporary American paintings to be held in the gallery in the coming year. These generous prizes had increased materially the interest in the exhibition and the reputation of the gift assures their continued success.

Veracity of Witness Attacked

Baron Zwiedinek, charge of the Austro-Hungarian embassy, conferred with Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, today and soon afterward had a conference with Secretary Lansing. The charge was that the Austrian ambassador had given instructions from his government. The veracity of at least one of the American witnesses was being attacked.

Secretary Lansing's memorandum, Saturday President, contains excerpts from affidavits, and that was taken to indicate that the news note to Austria was not blockaded the same as tried in Vienna. It was said, however, that there would be no long discussion of details.

President Wilson while on his wedding tour will keep in constant touch with the White House, and if necessary Secretary Lansing will go to see him to discuss the situation.

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U. S. AND AUSTRIA DUE TO WEAR BREAK

Friendship Hinges Upon Latter's Reply to Note Being Framed Today.

PRESIDENT WILL NOT POSTPONE HONEYMOON

To Keep in Touch With Secretary Lansing—Baron Zwiedinek at State Department.

Friendly relations between the United States and Austria, it was stated authoritatively, are nearing the breaking point, and their continuance will depend entirely upon the reply Austria will be asked to make immediately to the note being framed today.

While the word ultimatum was not used by officials in discussing the note, it was indicated that the reply will state clearly the alternative which will follow if Austria's reply is unsatisfactory.

The gravity of the situation will not, however, cause President Wilson to postpone his departure tonight for the south on his wedding tour.

President Wilson expected to spend considerable time this afternoon going over the first draft of the answer, to Austria in regard to the sinking of the Ancona. The draft was written by Secretary Lansing last night and placed in the President's hands today. Because the answer is expected to be practically an ultimatum to Austria, the President wants to assume responsibility himself for the wording of the note.

The note will go to Vienna within the next few days.

Denies Blame Is Warranted

The official text of Austria's reply to the American note on the Ancona, made public here today, reveals that the Vienna government denies the views presented by the United States, even if correct, warrant the blame for the disaster being placed upon the commander of the submarine.

The reply, which states that blame can be placed upon the Austro-Hungarian government, even if "a most rigorous legal construction were applied to the judgment of the case."

The note also states that the Austro-Hungarian government is unable to determine what the United States intended to indicate when it mentioned the Vienna government's denial of the views presented by the United States, even if correct, warrant the blame for the disaster being placed upon the commander of the submarine.

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DECEMBER 18, 1915.

Christmas Customs of the Countries Now at War.

Despite the fighting and the shambles in sections of the countries now at war, efforts will be made to observe their old Christmas rites. What these customs are and their symbolism is set forth in a timely article in The Sunday Star.

REPORT BY JANUARY 10 ON FISCAL RELATIONS

Congress Extends Time at Request of Joint Select Committee.

The committee, under the law creating it, was to make its report by January 1. Senator Chilton this week urged through the Senate a joint resolution extending the time to February 1. It was stated at the time that the extension of time was requested because the volume of reports before the committee, making some 2,000 printed pages, had not yet been printed in form.

Yesterday afternoon Representative Rainey of Illinois, a member of the committee, called up this joint resolution in the House. Minority Leader Mann demanded to know why the report of the committee was not ready, and Mr. Rainey explained that the committee had given a great deal of time to its work, but that the hearings had not yet been held. The committee was not ready to submit its report to Congress, he said, would not be in session January 1.

Amended in the House. Representative Page of North Carolina then offered an amendment providing that the report should be extended to January 10 instead of January 1. Representative Gardner of Ohio and Representative Cooper of Wisconsin, other members of the committee, spoke in favor of the amendment, and without further debate the resolution was passed. Later, when it reached the Senate, Senator Chilton asked that the report be extended to February 1, and this action was taken.

Expert Safe Blower Fatally Shot. SAN FRANCISCO, December 18.—Frank Smith, said by the police here today to be known in Europe and America as one of the expert safe blowers, was shot and fatally wounded last night at the entrance to a basement saloon. After the shooting Smith's assailants escaped in an automobile. Smith is said to have served six penitentiary terms, and to have broken jail twice.

Bridge at Spokane, Wash., Collapses. Steel Beam Crushes Passengers. SPOKANE, Wash., December 18.—Seven persons were killed and ten injured today when a street car went through the Division street bridge over the Spokane river. The killed were in the car more than an hour after it went into the river. The injured were removed to a hospital.

Two street cars were on the bridge when the whole structure collapsed. One end of one car fell to the water and the other end rested on the abutment. The car crew and two passengers were rescued uninjured.

The other car, inbound and carrying about twenty passengers, fell into the river and a heavy steel beam crashed down lengthwise upon it, crushing passengers on one side of the car. Two hours after the accident the bodies could be seen pinned under the water. Passengers on the other side of the car were injured, but firemen rescued them.

The bridge took with it the water and gas pipes that supply the northeast section of the city.

German General Is Killed. LONDON, December 18.—Maj. Gen. von Stockhausen of the German army has been killed in action, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam to the Central News Agency.

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ALLEGED PLOTTERS HELD UNDER BONDS

Koenig and Leyendecker Are Charged With Conspiracy to Blow Up Welland Canal.

HEARING ON THEIR CASE IS SET FOR JANUARY 12

Bank Clerk Accused of Larceny of Important Documents and Acting as Informer.

NEW YORK, December 18.—Paul Koenig, head of the bureau of investigation of the Hamburg-American line, and Richard Emil Leyendecker, a New York art goods retailer, were held in \$50,000 and \$30,000 bail, respectively, today by United States Commissioner Houghton on a charge of conspiring to blow up the Welland canal. The hearing was set for January 12.

Counsel for Koenig and Leyendecker fought hard for a reduction of the bail asked by the government. In insisting on the higher bond Assistant United States Attorney Wood said:

"The amount is not too large. The people back of these men can put up any amount of money that is needed."

Commissioner Houghton said: "I do not regard the amount of bail asked by the district attorney as excessive. Countries are at one another's throats, and we are trying our best to be neutral. The government is spending a money deal to keep the peace. Just such actions as are complained of here, if these men should leave the country to further the cause, would prevent other men coming here to prevent plots."

The specific offense charged against Koenig and Leyendecker is conspiring to send a military expedition from this country against a friendly nation. The penalty on conviction is three years imprisonment and a fine of \$5,000.

Frederick Metzler, employed by the Hamburg-American line, is charged with having acted as stenographer to Koenig, who was also arrested with Koenig and Leyendecker, will be arraigned Monday.

Assistant United States Attorney Richard E. Conroy, in a recent session of the government made it almost certain that numerous additional arrests will be made throughout the country during the next few days. All of these, he said, will be in connection with the Welland canal plot.

Bank Clerk Arrested. Detectives following the trail of plotters seeking to destroy ships bearing ammunition to the allies today arrested Frederick Schleindt, clerk in the National City Bank, whom they charge with larceny of documents, cablegrams and other papers from the bank.

The documents, the detectives say, gave information as to which ships bore ammunition across the sea, and also the names of the firms which furnished the German representatives as to what firms were manufacturing munitions in this country, and also the amounts of money placed in certain banks to the credit of the allies.

Schleindt, who was arrested in New York on Monday, when arraigned today before a police magistrate on a short affidavit charging suspicion of larceny, was held in \$100,000 bail.

Detective Barnitz testified at the arraignment that documents alleged to have been furnished by Schleindt to Koenig and Leyendecker described in detail the cargo in No. 2 hold of the steamer Minnehaha, when the vessel was in midocean on a voyage to Europe.

Telegram in Schleindt's Possession. Detectives say they found in the pockets of Schleindt a telegram relating to a shipment of 2,000,000 rifles to the allies. The message was from the Banque Belge Pour l'Etranger to a New York bank.

At a meeting of Koenig, who, he said, used an alias, last May, according to detectives, and of having been here since the opening of the war. The prisoner, who is said to be a German agent, was held in a hotel in New York.

Koenig at an uptown hotel arrangements were made for him to obtain a passport and other documents at the National City Bank. For this work, Schleindt told the police, he was receiving about \$25,000 a week.

Schleindt today said that they found among Koenig's effects papers indicating that the Hamburg-American line was to be arrested. The arrests of Schleindt, Koenig and Leyendecker, a New York art goods dealer, were directly due to a confession made several weeks ago by George Fuchs of New York, a relative of Koenig.

At the office of Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City Bank, it was said that nothing was known by the bank here on the steamship line charges against Schleindt. He was employed as a clerk in the foreign credit department, but no suspicion had been attached to him by any one at the bank.

Italian May Prove Factor. The landing of Italian forces in Albania is likely to prove an important factor in the Balkan situation, it is believed here since the opening of the war. The Serbian army for concerted action.

The Sofia (Bulgaria) correspondent of the Cologne Gazette has sent the following dispatch to his paper: "In an interview M. Radosloff, the Bulgarian premier, said that the detachment of the neutral zone (the Serbo-Greek frontier) is making good its promises and that whenever parties of Bulgarian and Greek troops meet the relations are most friendly. He added that the Bulgarians would only fight against the entente allies on Greek territory with the guarantee to Greece that the Bulgarians would not mark the neutral zone (the Serbo-Greek frontier) as a line of demarcation between the Bulgarian and Greek troops, especially the Bulgarians, would place Greece in a position of difficulties.

Situation Stationary. The Saloniki correspondent of the Paris Temps, writing under date of the 16th, concerning the fighting along the Serbo-Greek frontier, says that the situation is stationary. He continued: "The French and English troops have settled north of Saloniki, and trenching is being carried on vigorously. The Bulgarians are continuing their operations at the front. Their number is estimated at 100,000. It is confirmed that the Greek and Bulgarian governments are in accord to create a neutral zone, a mile and a quarter wide, on each side of the line, so as to avoid incidents between the pickets of the two armies."

Situation at Saloniki. Dispatches received by the entente army officers at Saloniki report the ar-

GERMAN THREATS BRING BALKAN WAR NEARER A CRISIS

At Athens Told of Intended Invasion if Allies Continue to Fortify Saloniki.

ATTACK NOW DEPENDS ON PREPARING FORCES

Additional Men and Better Equipment Declared Necessary to an Offensive.

GREECE TAKES FIRM STAND

Premier Declares That Under No Circumstances Will Bulgars Be Allowed to Put Foot on Hellenic Soil.

LONDON, December 18.—The threat that the German minister at Athens is said to have made to the effect that Germany would be compelled to take action to drive out the allies at Saloniki if the fortification of that base continued brings the Balkan development a step nearer a crisis. How soon the Austro-Germans cross the Greek frontier will apparently depend upon how soon they are able to collect sufficient troops.

The Post's Athens correspondent says that the fact that an attack upon Saloniki has not yet begun is attributed in diplomatic circles to the necessity in which the Germans find themselves of concentrating sufficient forces, repairing communications destroyed by the Anglo-French and Serbians and the bringing up of sufficient supplies of munitions, but that the moment they have made these preparations the attack will be begun and pushed home.

Total German Strength. Dispatches to the Daily Mail from Athens estimate the total available German forces at 200,000 men, who, however, are fatigued by continuous mountainous marching, and states that it is reported the intended German reinforcements have been diverted to Rostuchko to meet an expected Russian menace.

According to the Athens Embros, the ministerial organ, the Greek government will address a fresh protest to the entente powers against the Bulgarian ultimatum.

Whether the Bulgarians also withdraw their border is vital question to the Greeks. It is believed a Bulgarian advance would rekindle old enmities and might draw the Greek people into the conflict.

Greek Election Tomorrow. The Greek general election will be held tomorrow, but it is not expected the result will have any controlling influence on the policy of the government.

The party of former Premier Venizelos refrained from putting candidates into the field, the result of the election under arms, constituting a large proportion of the electorate will not vote. King Constantine remains indisposed.

The British and French forces, Premier Skoulioussis rejoined that in no case would Greece allow Bulgarian troops to set foot on Greek soil.

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"MR. AND MRS. HOOVER," two Americans who have been doing remarkable work in Belgium, by WOLLIE BEST.

"FRANCE HAS QUICK RECOVERY FROM INVASION OF GERMANS," by RICHARD HARDING DAVIS.

"SOMETHING FOR FATHER," a Christmas story, by GRACE SARTWELL MASON.

"THE RAMBLER" writes of historic shrines at Upper Marlboro, Md.

Another installment of the new serial "ONCE ON THE SUMMER RANCE" by FRANCIS HILL.

"A CHRISTMAS TREE TESTIMONIAL TO A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE"—UNCLE HARRY TOLSON.

"LETTERS MEN WRITE TO ACTRESS"—a two-page spread of photographs of attractive stage women.

"CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS AND CELEBRATIONS AMONG THE INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA."

"HOW HAM PASSED THE BUCK," a Torchy story, by SEWELL FORD.

"CHILDREN TODAY IN THE LAND OF THE CHRIST CHILD."

FRANK G. CARPENTER writes of travel and transportation in Brazil.

"CO-OPERATION IS ESSENTIAL IN SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE," says ROBERT F. WILSON.

"THE RED BAG LADY PROVIDES A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS FOR 5,000 CHILDREN."

"ENGLAND IS MAKING A FINAL EFFORT TO AVOID CONSCRIPTION."

In an interview with JAMES B. MORROW, SENATOR LEE S. OVERMAN of North Carolina predicts a GREAT BUSINESS BOOM.

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