

# GLY USHERS IN DAY OF PEACE AND GOODWILL

### Happy Children Reign Supreme in Every Home in Washington.

Little Eddie did not shiver, it was not cold enough for that; neither did Sister Nellie cling tightly to his hand, for the janitor is paid to keep the chinks out; neither slipped down a barnster rail, for they lived in an apartment house, but:

Eddie and Nellie did creep stealthily out of bed before dawn this morning, while father and mother slept, went into the living room, and there found, piled high, around a genuine old-fashioned Christmas tree, brought by a good old-fashioned Santa Claus, a pile of presents as dear to the child heart as those any child of any generation ever received.

This is the picture you can get in nearly every home in Washington this morning where there are children.

### Busy Christmas Eve.

Streets in all the residential sections were busy with hurried, smiling persons with great armfuls of bundles. Doorbells were rung, and the donors fled, before the portals were opened, and Christmas presents were deposited on door steps, and in apartment receptacles, all over the city.

Religious observance of the day began at midnight in many churches, especially in Catholic churches, where crowds poured in to attend the midnight masses, which were marked by beautiful and impressive music. Thousands attended these masses, some of the larger churches including St. Patrick's, St. Aloysius and Holy Trinity in Georgetown, being packed to the doors. One of the most beautiful services was that at St. Sepulchre Monastery, Brookland, by the Franciscan friars.

Scarcely were the crowds from the midnight masses home in bed when others wended their way, before the break of day, to early services in both Catholic and Protestant churches. On Capitol Hill many attended a sunrise service at the Church of the Resurrection at 5:30 o'clock, and nearly all of the Episcopal churches of the city, as well as many others of Protestant denominations, had early services.

### No One Forgotten.

Never before have such efforts been made by societies, fraternal bodies, missions, settlement houses, charity organizations, and churches to insure every one in Washington a Merry Christmas.

Last evening hundreds of volunteer workers carried to the homes of the poor baskets of provisions and more substantial articles that will be needed for the coming winter months. The Salvation Army served a breakfast, as well as a Christmas dinner, and at both the Central Union and the Mission workers were busy throughout the night and this morning putting the final touches to the preparations for Christmas dinners. Christmas trees and Christmas trees to which children of the poor will be invited, and from which they will receive presents.

Not even the widows of the District were neglected. At the jail an exception is made on Christmas Day to the rule against bringing presents for the inmates, and friends of those who are detained there took them Christmas foods and presents of various sorts. Though there was no turkey, there was a special Christmas dinner, with pork as the meat for the occasion, and this afternoon there were services conducted by choirs from various churches at both the jail and the Washington Asylum Hospital.

Down at the District workhouse, at Occoquan, the inmates received a holiday, dressed up in their "Sunday best," and gathered around a Christmas dinner table. Later they assembled for devotional exercises.

The Associated Charities was forehanded with its Christmas gifts, such as a ton of coal, or warm clothing. Nearly 2,000 children were the beneficiaries of the "Christ Child Society." This organization, under the direction of Miss Laura V. Merrick, distributed more presents this year than ever before. All the presents that make the child heart happy were piled high the last week at 223 G street, and young women worked against the incoming deluge of gifts in wrapping them in bundles to be taken out last evening.

At the Y. M. C. A. members of the staff made the merry Christmas celebration to rooms of those who live there wishing them a Merry Christmas, and every effort was made to provide the essentials of a cheery Christmas for those who are away from home.

### Xmas Greetings Flashed Throughout the World

Christmas greetings by wireless to naval officers and crews on ships and shore were flashed from the Arlington radio station yesterday afternoon. Secretary Daniels also sent a telegram to the crew of the USS York, at Brooklyn navy yard, congratulating the men for giving a dinner and playing Santa Claus to 100 poor children of New York.

Following is the wireless message to all ships and shore stations: "Voicing the national spirit, I send Christmas greetings to the American navy from the American people."

The message was caught by ships at sea within reach of Arlington, and relayed throughout the world. Secretary Daniels declined over the telephone by Thomas A. Edison, of the generosity of the crew of the New York in providing a dinner for poor children.

### Aged Man's Prayer for Death Is Answered Soon

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25.—"I do hope I do not live to see another Christmas," said Alexander McClure, friendless and alone and bent by the weight of seventy-five years. "The brighter Christmas is for other folks, the darker it is for me. There isn't a soul living I can call my own, and I hope the good God will take me soon."

It was on Wednesday the old man thus expressed his wish. Yesterday they were fulfilled. He was found dead in a chair in his room in Patrick's Hotel.

## HERE'S REAL SANTA CLAUS WITH EXPERIENCE



PHOTO BY BUCK.

A. B. GRIFFITH.

## SANTA IN PERSON COMES TO NATIONAL

### W. R. & E. Co. Employees to Enjoy Griffith's Distribution of Presents to Children.

Santa Claus in the real flesh and blood will distribute presents to the children of the Washington Railway and Electric Company's employees at the National Theater next Tuesday. What's that? There isn't any such person as Santa Claus? Well, anybody who says that has never attended a Washington Railway and Electric Company Christmas party and does not know A. B. Griffith, of 920 Massachusetts avenue northwest.

Mr. Griffith has represented Santa Claus in the District for seven years. Of course, Santa Claus could not be expected to cover the whole world by himself. He has got to have assistants, and it is common talk in Washington that Mr. Griffith is the "split image of Santa Claus" when he represents Kris Kringle at the Washington Railway and Electric Company parties and at other affairs.

### Real and Lifelike.

As Joseph Jefferson lived "Rip Van Winkle," so it is with Mr. Griffith as Santa Claus. His impersonation of good old St. Nicholas is so real and lifelike that for several years the children who approached him to receive their presents were awed into tears. With a flaming red suit, bushy white whiskers, and mustache, ruddy complexion, merry, twinkling eyes, high top boots, red cap, and long whip with which to drive his reindeer, Mr. Griffith delineates the role of Kris Kringle to perfection and has come to be regarded as the genuine person. His make-up, decided upon after consulting hundreds of photographs of Santa Claus, is regarded as wonderful for its fidelity to detail.

Mr. Griffith has represented Santa Claus so long that the childish questions which used to puzzle him are answered in the quickest and most plausible manner now. The big pose used to be, "How does a fat man like you get down a stove pipe?" but the explanation that Santa Claus uses fire-escapes in these later days has taken all the terrors out of that question.

### Love for Children.

Santa Claus double here is very fond of children; in fact, he has a little girl at his own home who can bear witness to his love for the little ones and corroborate the assertion that there is a real live Santa Claus. Every year he coaxes the timid "kiddies" up to him, makes friends with them by telling them stories, and makes them feel perfectly at home with him. In many cases shy-children who approached him

with awe cried when torn away from him and screamed that they wished to spend the remainder of their lives with Santa Claus instead of with their own mothers and fathers.

A long study of Santa Claus' ways, a faithful representation of his personality, and a love and tenderness toward children has made Mr. Griffith's part in the Christmas parties the big, never-to-be-forgotten feature in the children's minds.

## CRIPPLE USED POLE TO BREAK FROM JAIL

### With His Cellmate Prisoner-Also Utilized Forty Mattresses in Making Their Escape.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 25.—The fact that Robert Devine, alias Patrick Sullivan, a prisoner in the Wyandotte county jail, on the Kansas side, is a cripple and has long used crutches did not prevent Devine and his partner, "Clem" Henney, alias Ted Cole, from making a sensational escape from the jail. Devine has been a prisoner since November 22, wanted for the robbery of a postoffice in Willow Springs, Minn. Henney went to jail on November 29, accused of a similar offense in Hopville, Iowa. Both men were brought to the county jail immediately after their release from the Federal prison.

Devine and Henney used at least forty of the jail mattresses, which they found in empty cells, to make their escape. They were both confined in the "bull pen" of the cellhouse. Henney stood on his bed against the side of the cell and managed to place the mattresses in a row over the top of the cellhouse.

He then used a window pole and poked a hole through the attic floor into the attic, threw the hook on the end of the pole over a rafter there, and climbed hand over hand up the pole into the attic. Henney then fastened a rope out of a blanket, tied the rope to the hook and let it down to Devine. Devine grasped the rope and Henney pulled him up into the attic with him.

Henney then threw the rope through an attic window to the fire escape. He climbed down the rope, stood on the iron escape and lowered Devine down after him. Then they both fled. Henney and Devine made impossible a chance of any of the other prisoners to escape by taking the window pole with them in their flight. The two prisoners were not missed until the morning, when Thomas Kelly, the jailer, noticed their absence when he made the morning round of the cells.

### Discovers New Serum.

BERLIN, Dec. 25.—Great interest has been aroused in Berlin medical circles by the notice that Dr. Kraus, of Buenos Aires, has discovered a serum for the cure of whooping cough.

## GENERAL BOARD OF NAVY AND DANIELS DIFFER ON PROGRAM

### Not Agreed Also on Battleship Building Facilities of American Shipyards.

## FOUR DREADNAUGHTS URGED

### Board Recommends Construction of Four Battle Cruisers and Increased Facilities.

It developed today, following the publication by Secretary Daniels of the suppressed July report of the Navy General Board, that the Secretary and the board are not agreed on the battleship building facilities of American shipyards.

Secretary Daniels, in defending his action in reducing the estimates made by the board, said that the program of four capital ships and six battle cruisers urged for authorization next year will tax to the utmost the facilities of American shipyards. The board, in the suppressed report, said the program of eight capital ships it recommended was well within the limit of existing facilities.

### The Board's Recommendations.

The program submitted by the general board called for the authorization of four dreadnaughts and four battle cruisers in 1917. The program submitted to Congress by Mr. Daniels called for two dreadnaughts and two battle cruisers in 1917.

No estimate of cost was submitted by the general board, but Mr. Daniels said the July program of the board would cost \$270,000,000 for new construction. Additional sums for continuing old construction, ammunition reserve, and air craft would bring the total to \$300,000,000.

Mr. Daniels' estimate of cost for 1917 construction in the program he submitted to Congress called for \$57,000,000 for new construction, and \$30,000,000 for completion of ships previously authorized, for aviation, and for reserve ammunition, a total of \$87,000,000.

### Increased Facilities Urged.

While embarking on this building program, the board urged that there should be "increased facilities for navy yards and shore establishments generally," with the idea that more ships might be built in subsequent years.

In outlining the policy it believed the United States should adopt in obtaining a navy "equal to the most powerful maintained by any other nation of the world," the general board said that this limit should be attained not later than 1925.

Naval experts in considering this report reached the conclusion that the minimum expenditure under the general plan would be \$300,000,000 in 1917, and that this yearly expenditure would be increased year by year as fast as navy yards and private plants should be equipped to build more warships. The highest point in expenditure would be reached under this plan in 1922, the last year available for appropriations for vessels to be completed in 1925.

### The Suppressed Report.

The suppressed report of the general board is as follows: "In compliance with the oral order of the Secretary of the Navy to express its opinion as to the earliest practicable date as to a policy which should govern the development of the navy and a building program, the general board reports as follows: POLICY.

"The navy of the United States should ultimately be equal to the most powerful maintained by any other nation of the world. It should be gradually increased to this point by such a rate of development, year by year, as may be permitted by the facilities of the country, but the limit above defined should be attained not later than 1925.

"In pursuance of this policy, and having in mind the present facilities of this country, the board is of the opinion that the following addition to the naval establishment should be authorized this year and recommended in the same for your consideration: This addition is believed by the board to be within, and practically at the limit of, the facilities at present existing: "Four battle cruisers, 4 dreadnaughts, 6 scouts, 30 coast submarines, 7 fleet submarines, 28 destroyers, 6 gunboats, 1 destroyer tender, 2 minesweepers, 4 fuel oil ships, 1 supply ship, 1 transport, 1 hospital ship, 1 repair ship, 1 ammunition ship.

"Air craft service (lump appropriation) \$5,000,000.

PERSONNEL.

"Eleven thousand men. This number will provide for the needs of the present ships of the navy including those nearing completion, but it must be borne in mind that the personnel, commissioned, warrant and enlisted, will have to be further increased as the new construction progresses.

"Increased facilities for the navy yards and shore establishments generally, such as dry docks, berthing spaces, building slips, structural weights, shop machinery, ammunition and other storage facilities, civil, personnel, etc.

(Signed) "GEORGE DEWEY."

Comparison of the two reports of the general board and the recommendations made to Congress by Secretary Daniels show that where the board urged a heavy program of construction for 1917 in both reports, Mr. Daniels provided for an even program of two battleships each year for the five years.

The general board recommended for the year 1917 the authorization of eight capital ships in its July report and seven in its October report. Mr. Daniels recommended four. The board recommended thirty-seven submarines in July and twenty-two in October. Mr. Daniels recommended thirty. The board recommended twenty-two destroyers in July and ten in October, while Mr. Daniels recommended fifteen. Demand has also been made in Congressional circles for publication of the report made in August by Admiral Fletcher, showing the shortage of men to each ship. Mr. Daniels has not made public this report.

## Serbian Women Face Suffering and Death

By WILLIAM G. SHEPHERD.

SALONKI, Dec. 25.—A million Serbian girls and women are facing intense suffering and possible death through lack of food and clothing, or a worse fate at the hands of roving bands of comitadjis, not yet entirely suppressed by the invading armies.

Well clothed, well fed soldiers of the allies suffered intensely from the cold in southern Serbia. What is happening to the girls and women left behind by the retreating Serbian army, the world can only guess.

The Serbian government ordered all men and boys to leave the villages and join the army in the retreat through the Albanian mountains. Coincidentally the women and girls were ordered to remain to care for the villages.

In other countries the women said good-by to their men and saw them go to war. But these Serbian heroines said good-by to their men and then waited for the war to come to them, with all its horrors and outrages.

It is not the refugees who fled to the women of the Albanian mountains who are suffering most. It is the helpless and aged men and girls in the mountain huts and the German government.

## MANY CIVILIANS DIE FROM SHOCKS OF WAR

### Fewer Births and More Deaths Stun the Countries Now at War.

By WILBUR S. FORREST.

LONDON, Nov. 26 (by mail).—Ravages of war on Great Britain's peaceful civilian population sums up 7,500 fewer babies and more than 60,000 additional deaths as compared with the peaceful year of 1913, according to statistics available today.

Seventeen thousand fewer babies than in 1913 have been born in the county of London alone. In Greater London, which includes continuous suburbs, there is a birth decrease of 3,000 within the year, while 25,000 more civilians than normally die each year. London's outer ring, which includes cities not properly termed suburbs, has had 8,000 fewer infants and 5,000 more deaths than in 1913.

Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Dublin, Edinburgh, and Glasgow are also affected. In addition to the babes unborn, the United Kingdom's frightful infant mortality, indirectly due to the war, is mounting. Public efforts have been instituted to combat the latter condition, but the fall in the birth rate is regarded as an evil directly attributed to the general devastating influence of war. The excess of civilian mortality is ascribed by the board to the most potent causes of the war and resultant consumption, cerebral hemorrhage, and heart disease, principally the latter, superinduced by worry and shock.

The majority of civilian war victims are persons more than fifty years of age. Four hundred such deaths occurred in London during the single week ending November 29.

Figures on the birth and mortality rates in Berlin, the next greatest European war city, show that the German capital is losing civilians at the rate of 400 a week. The birth rate is more than 400 less a week than normally. Hamburg, Cologne, Breslau, and other German cities are suffering in proportionately, out of the estimated 5,000,000 military casualties of the world war to date, can be accurately estimated only after peace is declared.

### Postoffice Employee Found Dead in Bed

James E. Boardman, seventy-three years old, of 415 Fourth street north-west, was found dead in his bed early yesterday. Death was due to natural causes. He had been employed in the city postoffice.

# White Rock

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