

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

MUNICIPAL XMAS TREE PROGRAM HUGE SUCCESS

Blanket of Snow Adds Immensely to Prettiness of Big Decorated Pine at Court House.

TABLEAUS ON BIRTH OF SAVIOUR MAKE BIG HIT

Blast of Bugle Opens Afternoon Festivities — Shepherds Gather About Red Camp Fire on Lawn.

Beneath a snowstorm made to order South Bend's second municipal Christmas tree celebration took place last evening—a success in every respect. The great Christmas tree, its branches and festoons of tinsel weighed down with snow through which a myriad of colored lights gleamed brought a burst of applause both afternoon and evening as the spotlight was thrown upon it.

A crowd which lined both sides of Main st. in the afternoon was greatly augmented in the evening when the more elaborate program was presented. An interesting prelude to the evening program was unexpectedly introduced when the six large sheep which was a part of the tableau of the announcement of the shepherds, disturbed by the campfire escaped from their inexperienced keepers and gave the shepherds and several onlookers a merry chase for a few moments before they were again corralled.

With the ringing of the church bells for ten minutes before 5 o'clock the afternoon program began. Following the ringing of the bells the dozens of candles burning in the court house windows—the only lights in the block—were extinguished and from out of the dark came the sound of the bugle blown by Arthur Fordham stationed on the east balcony of the court house, and to the excitement of the crowd the Biblical story of the announcement to the shepherds read by Father White.

Suddenly the red light of the campfire flared up on the lawn revealing the shepherds and their sheep grouped about it. The wind blowing sent the snow swirling through the tent with a remarkably beautiful effect. The part of the shepherds will be taken by Clarence Beyrer, Albert Zeitler, Roy Inman, Orville Newirth, Wallace Kreishbaum, Richard White, Raymond Kuessert, Harold Warner, Stephenson Barnes, James Ray and J. O. Huffman of the Westminster Presbyterian Young People's society.

Spotlight Turned On. The spotlight was then turned upon the great body of school children of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades, who, led by E. D. Lloyd, R. A. M., organist and choir-master of the First M. E. church, sang "Joy to the World."

As this chorus was completed Father White read the story of the Three Wise Men and the spotlight was turned to the north corner of the court house, where the Wise Men, dressed in rich, vari-colored robes, appeared and slowly made their way to the manger as the St. James choir sang the song of the Wise Men.

Above the stable, a roughly constructed shed near the court house entrance, appeared a huge star. Through an opening in the roof it shone down upon the Child, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in the manger, with Joseph and the Blessed Mother in white bending over Him. Into one corner of the shed the sheep huddled together and in a stall stood a little gray donkey thrusting its nose curiously over the shoulder of the Virgin Mother.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Mrs. Quilhot Recovers From Cut on Her Toe

After spending one week in Epworth hospital to receive treatment for a cut on her toe that was inflicted by her husband when he trimmed her corns, Mrs. John H. Quilhot, wife of South Bend's former vice investigator and alleged speculator in the wealthy widow market, has left the institution. She is now visiting with friends in this city. The wound was inflicted accidentally by Quilhot the day before the woman was taken from the "house of mystery" in Battle Creek by friends.

M'ADOO TO FILL FIVE STOCKINGS

Sec'y of Treasury to Have Big Party at White House Today.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Santa Claus began his Washington visits tonight by making his first stop at the white house despite the absence of Pres't Wilson and his bride. Ten little stockings carefully hung by five little children about a big Christmas tree demanded his first attention. A lack of Christmas snow forced Santa to abandon his time-honored reindeer and sleigh and to take to a high-powered automobile. All of the children of Sec'y McAdoo of the treasury department, Sally, Nona and the president's grandchild, Ellen McAdoo, seven months old; Francis Bowes Sayre, one-year-old grandson of the president, and 12-year-old Josephine Cothran, a grandniece, were included in the Christmas tree celebration. They all hung up their stockings and had them hung for them. The Christmas tree was lighted and fitted out tonight, but the real celebration was scheduled for tomorrow when Sec'y McAdoo is cast for Santa Claus in the absence of Pres't Wilson.

There was considerable discussion tonight as to whether the secretary would appear in costume and arrangements were made to secure the necessary apparel and the well-known Kris Kringle beard in case they should be needed. Sec'y to the President Tumulty, in addition to playing Santa Claus for his family of six, was invited to bring them to the white house celebration.

Besides the children the white house holiday guests are Sec'y and Mrs. McAdoo, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bowes Sayre, Mrs. Anne Cothran, Prof. Herbert Axson, Mrs. Anna Howe, Miss Margaret Wilson and Miss Helen Woodrow Bones. Although there are no children in the vice-presidential hotel suite, and their borrowed baby will not be with them this Christmas, the Vice Pres't and Mrs. Marshall have decorated one of the handsomest Christmas trees in Washington.

GERMAN PRESS DIFFERS

Papers Have Varied Opinions on Second Ancona Note.

BERLIN (via Amsterdam), Dec. 24.—There is a marked difference of opinion on the part of the German press toward the second Ancona note to Austria. The Cologne Volks Zeitung says: "Pres't Wilson will not slip a single opportunity to gain his ends as failure would prejudice his prospects at the next election in the United States and also would be to his detriment in the eyes of his new wife." On the other hand, the Cologne Gazette expresses the opinion that the note leaves the door open for a friendly discussion of the matter as it is written in conciliatory terms. It expresses the view that the legality and facts can now be calmly discussed.

TYPHOID ON BORDER

Authorities Co-operate to Prevent Spread Into U. S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The public health service announced today that it was cooperating with the United States immigration bureau and the Mexican health authorities to prevent the spread of the typhus plague over the border into this country.

The bureau sent observers to the border as early as last October. Since that time, three typhus cases have been under observation at Laredo, Texas, but the precautions against spread of the disease have been so complete, the bureau believes, that danger of its communicating to this country is practically eliminated.

PROBE BEGUN IN SUBMARINING OF JAPANESE LINER

Concern Felt at Embassy in Washington That Act May Cause Participation in War.

OFFICIALS HOLD REPETITION WOULD CAUSE PROMPT ACTION

Attache Says if Oriental Shipping Is Made Part of Attacks His Nation Will Join In.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The state department today began official investigation of the sinking of the Japanese Yasaka Maru, on which an American citizen was a passenger, by an Austrian or German submarine in the Mediterranean. Cablegrams were sent to consular officers at Mediterranean ports in the locality where the boat was sunk urging them to obtain all facts bearing on the case and report immediately to Washington.

Concern is felt at the Japanese embassy over the possibility that the submarine attack on the vessel may force Japan into active participation in the war on the side of the allies. Repetition May Start Action. While officials of the embassy did not believe that the torpedoing of the Yasaka Maru in itself was sufficient justification to induce Japan to participate in the European campaign, it was definitely stated that a repetition would urge the mikado's government to prompt action.

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Japan Active Only In East. Japan's activity, Mr. Salto explained, had been confined to reducing the German forts at Tsingtau, and driving the Germans from Chinese territory and the treaty agreement with Great Britain. There had been no serious intention on the part of Japan to participate further in the war unless in defensive measures.

It is known in Washington diplomatic circles, however, that the greatest pressure has been brought to bear to induce Japanese to send land forces to aid the allies. These efforts, it is understood in Washington, have been redoubled since the Germans and Turks have opened their campaign against the Suez canal. Loss of the canal by Great Britain, Japan's ally, would mean a heavy trade loss to Japan. Diplomats believe that this situation, aggravated by the torpedoing of the Japanese liner, may force Japan's hand.

The lack of information of any kind to establish definitely the nationality of the submarine that attacked the Yasaka Maru has prevented the state department from asking information of either Germany or Austria.

PLAN SUSPENDED TO HELP ENGLISHMEN BACK

British Subjects Threatened With Prosecution for Violating Neutrality.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Under Secretary of War H. W. Tennant announced today that arrangements for assisting Englishmen of military age to return to this country from the United States for army service have been suspended owing to the threatened prosecution of British subjects by the American authorities for violation of neutrality.

GIVE WHITE HOUSE GIFTS

Candy, Nuts and Fruit Are Distributed to Children.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The big white house limousine distributed to the president today nuts, candies and fruit to the children who greet him daily along the road to the Washington Country club where he plays golf. The children were excited by the gift. The event is an annual affair and the president gave explicit instructions for its Christmas tour this year before leaving on his honeymoon with H. Hoover, white house head usher, acted as "Santa Claus."

No Truth in the Report That Bernhardt is Ill

By C. E. Bortelli. PARIS, Dec. 24.—This afternoon I addressed a direct request to M. Dussaud, manager of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, for information as to her condition. In response to a question as to whether there was any truth in the report that she is critically ill and is "sinking" he replied: "That is simply another lie. Here is proof."

M. Dussaud thereupon produced a telegram signed by Mme. Bernhardt complaining because she was not receiving a daily report about her theater. He also exhibited a long letter signed by her, dated Dec. 23, taking up many details about her theatrical affairs. There is no truth in the report that her son Maurice has left Paris for Andornos.

BELL EMPLOYEES IN GREAT TIME

Telephone Family Remembered From Janitor Up—Reporter Gets Dog.

From the sublime to the ridiculous, and midst peals of hearty laughter and gasps of genuine surprise, members of the office department of the Central Union Telephone Co. held their annual Christmas tree celebration Friday afternoon. This is an annual affair in which E. T. Bond's "down stairs family," as he calls it, participate in the joys of the season in exceptional and unique manner.

They wrote their Santa Claus letters first, each and every member of the department, and Roy Daniels, construction foreman, and E. J. Wampler, also a member of the Central Union construction department, joined in the fun of the day.

Automobiles, diamond rings, wrist watches, flying machines,—these are but a few of the many and diversified presents asked for by those telephone people. And they received in most instances at least part of what they desired. However, Mr. Daniels, while he did get his "three karat stone" in the form of a neatly boxed trio of juicy carrots and one large rock, and while, after unwrapping box after box, each smaller than the other, and ripping the soddered top off a veritable safety deposit vault, he did find a ring with a glass glimmerer large enough for a kum anchor, didn't get his five sege kuns he had requested for the German war.

All Are Remembered.

From Manager Bonds to "Pete," the genial janitor, and from "Pete" to the visiting newspaper man, all were remembered with this, that and the other thing. There was a regular Christmas tree, and it was decorated tastefully by the feminine part of the office.

Mr. Bonds received an airship,—also an automobile, and a pair of specs,—the airship and auto of the toy variety,—the glasses of large cable wire and made to order by a lineman genius. Warren G. Steadman acted as Santa Claus, and Santa gave himself from the many packages a gift as requested, of a plate of beefsteak and onions,—the latter very strong,—O, very strong, indeed.

Mr. Wampler's camel cigarettes were accompanied by a toy camel; Miss Ada Roy received enough "wrist watches" to last a lifetime, and Miss May B. Stowell received, as she has asked from St. Nick, "a dog like Cinders."

Reporter Gets Present.

There were gifts of value and in line with the S. P. U. G., and there were gifts which will be remembered long for their mirth-provoking propensities. The Xmas party lasted over an hour, and there wasn't a moment when a laugh wasn't forthcoming.

And the reporter,—he was talked of organization, the emblem of which adorned, from the pen and scissors of Miss Edith Niswonger, the festive tree,—a "yeller dog."

PACKAGES HELD UP

Swedish Authorities Stop 10,000 From England to Russia.

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—(By wireless).—Stockholm dispatches state that 10,000 parcel post packages consigned from England to Russia have been held up by the Swedish authorities at Haparanda and 2,500 have been stopped at Stockholm. They also report that the English authorities seized registered letters on board the steamer Frisland.

Christmas Day Here and Abroad



The illustration is an attempt to portray Christmas as it will be celebrated in Europe and in America. At the top is a wounded soldier in a military hospital, receiving his Christmas presents and his dinner from the hands of a pretty war nurse, while below is the old-fashioned Christmas as celebrated in most of our churches in America.

ALL COMMERCE RECORDS BROKEN

American Trade During Past Year Amounts to Five Billion Dollars.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—A total trade of a half billion dollars in the month and of five billion dollars in the year, with exports comprising two-thirds of the whole, is the unparalleled record of American commerce in November and the 12 months ending with November. Figures made public by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, department of commerce, show that November imports were valued at \$164,219,165, as against \$126,467,962 in November, 1914, and that they exceeded by \$1,000,000 the former November record made in 1912. Twelve months' imports to Nov. 30, 1915, aggregated \$1,730,243,229, as compared with \$1,858,645,927 in the preceding year.

November exports broke all prior records. Last month's total was \$331,144,527, as against \$223,630,281 in October, 1915, also a record. One year ago November exports aggregated \$205,878,332, and in 1912, the former record, \$278,244,191. Twelve months' exports rose to the new level of \$3,437,292,533, as against \$2,161,183,471 two years ago.

The export balance for November was \$166,825,358, as compared with \$78,411,271 for November, 1914; and for the 12 months ending with November last, \$1,707,049,264, as against \$242,547,093 one year ago and \$738,472,118 two years ago. Duty-free imports comprised 68.3 per cent of the November imports, compared with 62.1 per cent for November, 1914.

Gold imports during November, 1915, amounted to \$60,981,540, as against \$7,391,729 in November, 1914. Twelve months' imports of gold aggregated \$410,650,976, as compared with \$58,352,655 in the preceding year.

DESTROYER DECORATED. PARIS, Dec. 24.—The torpedo destroyer Obusier has been decorated with the war cross for saving the crew of the destroyer Branlebas, sunk off the Belgian coast on Sept. 23.

Official Reports

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Midnight official: "The artillery fighting has been particularly spirited in Belgium. German infantry which was being assembled in the trenches and tunnels in the region of Lombaertzyde was dispersed by our fire."

"Between the Somme and the Oise our batteries demolished German works west of Lassigny and seriously damaged the Roland tower. On the southern bank of the Aisne, at Hill No. 108, we shot off simultaneously two counter-mines, which wrecked the enemy's works."

"In the Vosges, at Hartmannsweiler-Kopf, the Germans, after a violent bombardment, launched an attack along the entire front of the positions conquered by us between the summit of Hartmannsweiler-Kopf and the outskirts of Wattweiler. They were repulsed at all points."

"Army of the east: The work of constructing fortifications round Salonika is being actively pursued. The enemy has made no attempt whatever to cross the Greek frontier, and our heavy artillery executed an effective fire against the Turkish trenches and combated the enemy artillery on the European shore."

THE ITALIAN.

ROME, Dec. 24.—Official: "On the morning of Thursday the Austrians attacked our Grafenberg position on the heights west of Gorizia. Our artillery fire and prompt arrival of reinforcements quickly checked the attack."

"On the Carso after a heavy artillery fire and throwing of bombs, the Austrians advanced our entrenchments on the right wing east of Stelz. Our effective fire checked them and drove them back."

THE AUSTRIAN.

VIENNA, Dec. 24.—Official: "Balkan front: During the engagements of the last few days we took six hundred prisoners. "Italian front: Our positions in the Ledro district and the bridgehead of Tolmino were shelled by the enemy."

"Russian front: Attacks on our positions on the Gossarabian frontier were repulsed. The Russians suffered heavy losses."

RURAL CREDIT BILL DRAFTED

Tentative Measure Provides for 12 Farm Mortgage Banks Over Country.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—A tentative draft of a bill providing a system of farm loan banks was completed today by a sub-committee of the joint congressional committee on rural credits. The measure will be submitted to the full committee on Monday and will be presented to both houses of congress in a committee report soon after the session convenes after Jan. 4.

The scheme of rural credits evolved by the sub-committee is modeled in a large measure after the federal reserve banking and currency system adopted by the last congress. The plan provides for the establishment of 12 farm mortgage banks in different sections of the country to be located to best meet the needs of agricultural finance. Each bank will be capitalized at \$12,000,000 and through member banks throughout the country would loan to farmers on farm security. The bill as framed by the sub-committee would limit to six per cent the interest to be charged by the farm mortgage banks on mortgage loans, although members of the sub-committee believe that the usual rate would be considerably below that figure owing to the safeguards incorporated in the bill.

Under Federal Eye. The entire rural credits system would be under close government supervision and would be under the control of a central board similar to the federal reserve board in the conduct of the system and of the business of the banks in the scheme. There is a strong demand for rural credits legislation among members of congress and the administration has practically promised the representatives of the rural districts that action will be taken at this session of congress.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—The war office announced today that King Peter of Serbia has been decorated with a war cross by a representative of Pres't Poincare.

BREAK AGAIN IMMINENT ON ANCONA NOTE

Austria Holds Incident Comes in Same Category With Lusitania Case Still Under Discussion.

INDICATES COMMANDER WAS ACTING UNDER DIRECT ORDERS

Officials Shocked Since U. S. Gave Its Views on This Contingency in First Note.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The prospect of a satisfactory settlement of the controversy with Austria over the sinking of the Ancona was given a setback today when confidential information was received in Washington as to the attitude of the Austrian government. The possibility of a break between the two governments was at once revived.

The communications from Austria which came through diplomatic channels, purport to give also an outline of the probable reply of the Austrian government.

Point to Lusitania Case. According to these advices Austria holds that the Ancona case comes in the same category as the Lusitania case, which is still the subject of negotiations between the United States and Germany. The reason for this, it is stated, is that Austria has never given instructions to the commanders of her submarines to observe the rules of recognized international law as the United States and Germany both understand them at the present time, which provide that vessels shall not be torpedoed without full warning and without provision for the safety of every person on board.

This has come as a shock to officials of this government, inasmuch as it indicates that the commander, in torpedoing the Ancona without warning for all passengers and members of the crew to take to the boats, was acting under general authority of his government.

U. S. View in First Note. The United States gave its view of such a contingency in its first note to Austria on the Ancona, when it said:

"The government of the United States is forced, therefore, to conclude either that the commander of the submarine acted in violation of his instructions, or that the imperial and royal government failed to issue instructions to the commanders of its submarines in accordance with the laws of nations and the principles of humanity. The government of the United States is unwilling to believe the latter alternative and to credit the Austro-Hungarian government with an intention to permit its submarines to destroy the lives of helpless men, women and children. It prefers to believe that the commander of the submarine committed this outrage without authority and contrary to the general or special instructions which he had received."

The assumption of this position by Austria, according to diplomats acquainted with the Austrian viewpoint, will mean that the demand of the United States that the act of the submarine commander be "denounced" will be refused. If this develops they say, a severance of diplomatic relations will almost certainly follow, because the demands of the United States on Austria were much more emphatic than her representations to any other government, on any other incident, since the beginning of the war.

U. S. Must Recede to Avoid Break. The only way a rupture can be avoided, in the opinion of the same authorities, is by the United States backing down and consenting to enter into negotiations, just as was done with Germany in the Lusitania case. The general view is that this is not likely to occur, because the state department has repeatedly indicated its irreconcilable insistence that Austria must disavow the sinking of the vessel and punish the commander of the submarine.

In the Lusitania case, the principal obstacle to a speedy settlement of the controversy has been the attitude of Germany that it was impossible to disavow the sinking of the ship for the reason that the commander of the submarine was acting under general instructions which permitted him to destroy the vessel without regard to the safety of those on board. The German view, in a word, is that the government cannot disavow an act which it had authorized.