

SOUTH BEND NEWS-TIMES

Morning—Evening—Sunday. JOHN HENRY ZUVER, Editor. IRVIN S. DOLE, Advertising Manager. C. N. PASSETT, Business Manager. NEWS-TIMES PRINTING CO., Publishers. Office: 210 W. Colfax Av. Home Phone 1151. Bell Phone 2100

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Morning and Evening Editions, Single Copy 2c; Sunday, 5c; Morning or Evening Edition, daily, including Sunday, by mail, \$3.00 per year in advance. Delivered by carrier in South Bend and Mishawaka, \$3.00 per year in advance, or 12c per week.

ADVERTISING RATES: Ask the advertising department. Foreign Advertising Representatives: CONE, LORENZEN & WOODMAN, 225 Fifth Av., New York City and Adv. Bldg., Chicago.

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Only eight-column daily newspaper in Indiana outside Indianapolis—is published every day of the year and twice on all save Sundays and Holidays—day and night leased wire service for all editions. Entered at the South Bend postoffice as second class mail.

Average Daily Circulation For Week Ending Dec. 11th, 15,586. Books Open to Advertisers.

DECEMBER 25, 1915.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOM OLDER THAN THE BIRTHDAY.

Once upon a time, long before Christ was born, there were people in the far north where the snow comes early and lies long upon the hills, to whom winter was a hard and cruel time, summer a soft and joyful.

These people watched the sun in its progress with eager interest. When the time came for it to cross the line they were very glad and held a winter festival. They longed for summer and good crops, so, in the best way they could, they tried to show the Providence they worshipped what they hoped that it would do.

They went out into the forest and got green trees—the kind that stay green all year long. And they decked the trees with bits of bright color, imitating fruits and flowers that the gods might know their desire for the green and fruitful time.

There came a year when a great teacher was born just after the sun had started on the hopeful part of its journey. This teacher after two thousand years is worshipped by millions of his followers as the Son of God. By millions of others he is revered as the divinest of the sons of men. And on this, his birthday, Jew and Gentile, bond and free, unite to do him honor. Because whatever one's dogma or lack of dogma, his the wisest teaching, his the most beautiful vision for humanity of anyone who has ever walked the earth.

And somehow, through the changing customs of the centuries, there still is kept the old Norse custom of the green and glowing tree with which to mark the turning of the year, though now the tree celebrates the birthday of Jesus.

Last year, with the world in turmoil, it seemed to many a sort of mockery to celebrate the birthday of him who is called the Prince of Peace. This year, with war and suffering spoken of as commonplace, it may be we have reached a truer insight. For infinite intelligence is wiser than the minds of men. And as the burn of the child who touches the forbidden stove hurts, and seems unjustly painful at the time, and yet serves as a useful lesson through the child's whole life, so war and poverty and suffering of all kinds may be the means of the whole world's growth.

And it's not incongruous to decorate the Christmas tree, but more than ever fitting. It helps us to become as children—even as the Norsemen in the childhood of the race—to show with joy and color and peaceful happiness what we hope may one day be the portion of all humanity. It is easy to imagine that wise, tender, Prince of Peace viewing happily the joy of the children, glad that we older children on one day at least, hold his vision of good will to me.

HOW JAPAN IS PUTTING THE SCREWS ON CHINA.

Japan protested against the Chinese republic re-venting to an empire. The empire has now been reestablished, nevertheless, under Yuan Shi Kai. But Japan has not given up her efforts to keep the Chinese nation from attaining independence under whatever form.

According to a newspaper account from Tientsin, Japan before she will acquiesce in the new monarchic regime insists on these concessions:

China must proclaim Japan as "the most favored nation, and recognize a more or less definite Japanese protectorate; Japan must have more representation in the collection of Chinese customs; Japan must get China's foreign orders for war munitions; whenever the Chinese government employs foreign advisers for any purpose, they must be Japanese; 'Group Five' of the Japanese demands forced on China last spring, the only group not definitely accepted, must be taken up again for consideration."

As matters stand, Japan with the concessions gained recently by threats of military compulsion, has a pretty firm grip on the Chinese government and Chinese industry, transportation and commerce. She evinces a double purpose of keeping China from developing genuine governmental efficiency and keeping other nations from doing any business with China.

Both of these purposes are contrary to our own Chinese policy, as created by John Hay. We, in conjunction with other powers, are supposed to be guaranteeing Chinese autonomy and the "open door."

Both duty and interest should impel us to maintain this policy. It is certainly not for the best interests of the United States to have Japan turn a nation of 400,000,000 Chinamen into a Japanese colony and thus multiply her own power and prestige incalculably. As for the industrial and commercial development of China, that has meant little as yet, but will be of vast importance in the future, particularly to our Pacific coast.

It behooves the American people to keep an eye on Japanese maneuvers in China, and stand firm for Chinese and American rights.

ACTIVE PRO-GERMANS AS ENEMIES OF THE GERMAN CAUSE.

It has remained for the German government to give extreme German partisans in America sound advice which their own newspapers and leaders in this country ought to have given him long ago.

A recent statement from Berlin to the American public tells active pro-Germans what the majority of Americans have known for many months—that violent efforts in behalf of the Fatherland only defeat their own purposes.

The German government in this statement "does most emphatically declare to Germans abroad, to German-American citizens in the United States, to the American people, all alike, that whoever is guilty of conduct tending to associate its cause with lawlessness of thought, suggestion or deed against life, property or order in the United States is in fact an enemy of that very cause and a source of embarrassment to the

German government, notwithstanding anything he or they may believe to the contrary."

The sincerity of Germany's disclaimer of all responsibility for offensive propaganda and acts of violence in this country need not be discussed at present. Legal procedure now under way will soon show what connection, if any, Berlin has with the conspiracies and crimes for which 80 German partisans, some aliens and other American citizens, now are under arrest in the United States. The point is that, whether the activities in question were inspired from Berlin or not, they were foolish in intent and execution, doing Germany incalculably more harm in a moral sense than could be compensated by any incidental material gain through interfering with the allies' war supplies.

There is no question that legitimate advocacy of the German cause has suffered grievously in the United States because of these plots and propaganda. The American public has been driven to such indignation that Germany has not had a fair hearing.

There is no question, either, that German-Americans as a class have suffered undeservedly from the misguided zeal of a few propagandists and fewer criminals. There has never been any good reason why German leaders, and particularly the German-language newspapers, which assume to speak for our German citizens, have so uniformly pursued a policy of condemnation of crime and denunciation of things American that they have fostered this misconception and fastened an undeserved taint on their own people.

Now the repudiation by Germany of the policy which these leaders and organs have openly or covertly encouraged leaves them as high and dry as Germany's back-down in the submarine warfare left them, after they had stubbornly maintained the principle of sea murder and defended the Lusitania massacre.

THE RATIONALS' PLATFORM.

The "Rational" Defense league is an organization just formed at Washington. It does not seem to be fathered or mothered by anybody of great fame or wealth, and it may merely be intended as a means through which people not wildly radical on any of our momentous questions, can express themselves and their influence.

When all the excitement on both sides, and all sides, of the subjects of war, war to come, and peace to come has somewhat subsided, a good many of our people will welcome any really rational organization as a blessed refuge, and this new league in the magnificent galaxy of leagues offers this platform:

Taxation of the rich for preparedness, rather than the poor, by income and inheritance taxes. Government manufacture of all war munitions. Government conservation and development of all national resources, for national defense. Mutual cooperation between the republics of North and South America.

Referendum to the people, men and women, whenever possible, before war is declared. It sounds rational, democratic and comprehensive. Gentlemen contemplating the building of party platforms at St. Louis or Chicago, next June, might well study it.

ROOSEVELT VERSUS O'CONNELL.

Daniel O'Connell, the Irish patriot, once wagged that he could "out-cuss" a fishwife without using a single word of profanity, and later, when he encountered one of the most abusive of her breed, he not only checked her flow of billingsgate but scared her out of her wits and reduced her to tears by fiercely denouncing her as a parallelopipedon, an isosceles triangle, and other geometrical forms and measurements utterly beyond her ken.

To describe Pres't Wilson as a "Byzantine logolethe"—a mere accountant, or literary hack, or idling bureaucrat, or wordy and aimless rhetorician, or any of the other suggested definitions of an indefinite term—is hardly more accurate than to characterize a fishwife as a parallelopipedon; but in the later instance as in the earlier the impressiveness of mystery has produced its inevitable effect upon the uninformed, and so Col. Roosevelt, famed manipulator of uncommon phrases, has scored once more.

AW, WHAT'S THE USE?

Thousands of democrats are to go to St. Louis in June to perform a political ceremony—the unanimous indorsement of Pres't Wilson.—New York World.

A clear waste of time, money, and liquor, and it will give Bryan a chance to advertise himself by a fight. Platform? Who demands a platform? The old one will answer all purposes. A new one would be vagrant, within ten days. Good thing to let St. Louis drink up her \$100,000 herself.

The average salary of Methodist ministers in Ohio is given as \$1,254 a year, or a trifle over \$24 a week. That's nothing to get excited about, from a temporal and material point of view, but it's a luxurious income as ministerial stipends go. The average salary of ministers in New York and other states is said to be about equivalent to the wages of a competent street sweeper.

Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Fillmore and Harrison all married widows; Jackson a grass widow. But Woodrow gets the only widow with Pocahontas blood in her. There may have been Indian in some of the others but not the rich, royal Pocahontas strain.

The redeeming feature, from the American viewpoint, about Yuan Shi Kai's assumption of the imperial crown of China, is that Japan didn't want him to. We can't help suspecting that anything Japan doesn't want China to do must be for China's interest.

Now the Episcopal church is establishing a pension fund, for the retirement of all ministers on half pay at 65. If this preacher pension business continues, there'll be a rush of men from other occupations to the ministry.

"One who has not three and seven-tenths children is a failure as a eugenic member of society," says an eastern college professor. Now, 'fess up—have you, sir, or madam, your three and seven-tenths?

New York has a woman detective named Constance Kopp. The other day she added to her laurels by arresting a husky man after a five-minute struggle. Detective Kopp deserves her name all right.

Mayor Thompson of Chicago announces that he's preparedness. In case of national need, maybe he'll rush into the breach with those 25,000 citizen policemen that Chicago raised over night.

National "Baby Week" celebrations hereafter are set to begin March 4. Is that calculated so that an incoming national administration can take credit for all the improvement in the baby crop?

Treaties may be mere scraps of paper, but we guess that the no-separate-peace pact will hold for some time. It's a case of hang together or hang separately.

Germany is getting so mad because the allies won't see for peace that the first thing they know she may start in and lick them all over again.

Justice Hughes seems determined to acquire immortal fame as the only republican who ever refused a presidential nomination.

Sketches from Life :: By Temple



Strangers

WITH OTHER EDITORS THAN OURS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

(Lakeland, Fla., Telegram.)

Here is the way the Tampa Times looks at it, and practically the whole body of the southern press and all the leaders of southern opinion in public life are on the side of the Telegram in the issue forced by one of its subscribers. Says The Times: "The Lakeland Telegram has lost a subscriber because it said Abraham Lincoln was as good a man as Woodrow Wilson. 'We're southern to the core, but we believe Abraham was as good a man as the United States ever produced. If nine hundred and ninety-nine men out of every thousand had suffered as Lincoln suffered from childhood to the day of his assassination, they would have been as mean as man can be.'"

GUATEMALAN OPPORTUNITIES.

(New York Press.)

Among the many openings that war has provided for the enterprising business man, Guatemala is one of the most promising. Germany had gained there a footing which was well planted. Many of the wealthy land owners kept their banking accounts with German houses; and, since it has been impossible to obtain funds, these land owners have had to narrow their operations and dispose of part of their holdings. Property can now be bought from them for one-half what was demanded a little more than a year ago.

Coffee plantations producing in 1513 355,353 quintals of 100 pounds each were owned by Germans at the outbreak of the war, while the land of the Guatemalans themselves produced only 235,356 and that of the Americans 19,235 quintals. Other nationalities showed a range of from 15 quintals produced by the Chinese to 57,402 by the Spanish. The Germans not only owned plantations producing one-third of the whole crop, but had a close hold on the natives, having lent them money well secured at 10 per cent. In Guatemala City alone twenty-five German houses were represented, with branches throughout the country, which supplied funds and acted as manufacturers' agents and importers.

There are possibilities of great in-

THE MELTING POT

COME! TAKE PO-LUCK WITH US.

CHRISTMAS.

Though many days must pass between, Like pictures thrown upon a screen, Our Christmas lingers through the year. Through winter, summer, autumn serene, An all-pervading spirit sweet, Which sanctifies all hearts that beat, It seasons all events of life, It lessens bitterness of strife, And through the discords of the days Weaves a potent note of praise.

We welcome Christmas for its balm, Its lofty spirit, peaceful calm, And hail it as a day apart Denoted to the human heart. A day with selfishness debased, A day with rancor, hate erased.

The milk of human kindness flows, And on each hearth the fire glows, Which warms the chilled and shrunken soul And lifts all eyes to the higher goal.

ALL Americans are ordered out of Juarez, and you sometimes wonder wotnell Americans are doing in Juarez. The answer, we infer, is that the American loves to be where there is something doing, whether it is his fight or somebody's else.

THOSE Panama canal slides should make a killing at the movies.

We see by the paper that the Germans are coming this way again.

THE figures from the Dardanelles, 112,921, sound like a lottery ticket, and, like most lottery numbers, they are unlucky.

provision must be made on our plains. The Guatemalan is already grateful to the merchants of the United States for having increased our purchases of coffee 65 per cent, and later he will find it possible to invest as usual in automobiles and machetes. Meanwhile we can extend our influence and prepare for the future.

Now doth the busy bee of politics Improve each shining hour, It bumbles in the brains of men And makes them yearn for power.

Make a Noise Like a Tree. (Detroit News.)

This influenza epidemic has so many people coughing that when you go to the theater you can pick out all your friends at various places in the audience without turning to look. You recognize their bark.

DISTRIBUTING peace in Europe and sowing Fords in America are two different and distinct occupations. He should stick to his job.

THE Knife and Fork club is a non-partisan organization, but the N.-T. featured John Sharpe Williams and the Trib. featured William Howard Taft.

SWIFT LATHERS is an editor in Means, Mich. He soft soaps his subscribers so gently and with such dispatch that they don't mind the shaving.

THE antiquity of the fox-trot has been traced back 14 years to the Cherry Sisters by some relentless person. Shouldn't the Cherry Sisters be given a much-needed rest?

When you rise this morning And look at your sock Be prepared for surprise And ultimate shock; It may contain nought, But a Big Een clock.

AGAIN permit us to wish you the same.

C. N. F.

PEACE ON EARTH

By Arthur Brooks Baker

Oh peace on earth, good will to men! If Christians are so loving, Why don't they give each other room and quit their hateful shoving? If Germans want a little land which Russians have been plowing, Why can't the Russians give it up without this awful rowing? If Frenchmen need Alsace-Lorraine within their country's border, Why can't the matter be arranged, with dignity and order? The sums the peace-adorers spend for cannon shot and powder Would float the navies of the world in champagne, cheese and chowders,

Or build a banquet table big enough to seat the nations. With food prepared to suit their several interpretations: And when their stomachs had received the proper sort of filling, The people would not be so strenuously bent on killing. But while the nations prate of peace with words of cream and honey, They yearn to get each others' goods and bag each others' money. "Good will to men, and peace on earth," but only on condition That our competitors shall cease their hateful competition! "Good will to men! Good will to men!" we generously holler, But never let it compromise a chance to make a dollar.

Here's Wishing You a Merry Christmas

-I. & M.

SMART WINTER DRESSES

for afternoon, evening and business wear. Never before has home dressmaking been so favored by fashion as in the new

Advertisement for McCall Patterns. Includes text: 'JANUARY McCall Patterns', 'Hundreds of chic new winter designs, beautifully illustrated, in the great fashion encyclopedia—the McCall Book of Fashions (Winter Quarterly)', 'NOW ON SALE', 'Get your copy today and learn the latest decrees of fashion.', 'Smart Afternoon Model McCall Pattern No. 6813. One of the new January designs.' Two illustrations of women in winter dresses.

Geo. Wyman & Co. SOUTH BEND, INDIANA.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Indicative of the occasion a "Merry Christmas" is upon the lips of every citizen of South Bend and community.

Christmas records each year the gathering of happy families and friends; the giving and receiving of remembrances that seal bonds of friendship and admiration.

The present Christmas will prove no exception other than possibly a greater manifestation of the altruistic spirit to bring happiness and good cheer to every home.

Officers of the St. Joseph County Savings Bank and the St. Joseph Loan and Trust Company extend Greetings of the Season to patron, friend and stranger. A Merry Christmas to all.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY SAVINGS BANK ST. JOSEPH LOAN & TRUST COMPANY

Advertisement for Dr. J. Burke & Co. 'Eyes Examined', 'Glasses Properly Fitted.', 'Optometrist and Manufacturing Optician', '750 South Michigan St.', 'LENSES DUPLICATED.'

Advertisement for Mitchell Car. 'MITCHELL CAR FOR SALE CHEAP', '1914 model, fully equipped. Self Starter, Lights, Speedometer, Extra Tires, Slightly used. Inquire of L. K. STARK, 215 S. Michigan St.'

Advertisement for Santal Midy. 'SANTAL MIDY', 'These tiny CAPSULES are superior to Balsam of Capella, Cubes or injections, and RELIEVES IN MIDY 24 HOURS the same diseases without inconvenience. Sold by all druggists. No trace of odor in Price.'

Advertisement for Economy Cloak Dept. 'Greatest Bargains in Town Economy Cloak Dept. Economy Dept. Second Floor, 219-211 S. Michigan. In Conjunction with the Independent Stores.'

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