

AT NATIONAL CAPITOL

WHAT IS BEING DONE THERE

Epitome of the Doings of the National Lawmakers at Washington.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Emergency Appropriations

Washington.—The emergency appropriation providing \$4,250,000 for dependent families of guardsmen and regulars, has passed the house and was taken up immediately in the senate.

It carries \$210,000 for the Philadelphia mint, \$37,000 for Denver, \$25,500 for San Francisco and \$45,000 for the New York assay office to care for extra work on account of the unusual demand for coins.

Senator Wadsworth's resolution to authorize an increase in the amount of water diverted from Niagara Falls to increase the electric power output of plants on the American side of the river was passed by the senate. The measure aims to increase the American power output to make up for the curtailment of power from the Canadian side, which is being kept at home for munitions plants and other military activities.

Government Employees Get Raise

Washington.—Salary or wage increases of from 5 to 10 per cent for about 16,000 government employees receiving less than \$1,500 a year and of \$500 a year for each representative's secretary were provided for in the legislative, executive and judiciary appropriation bill passed by the house without a record vote.

The secretaries now get \$1,500 a year. An attempt to provide each representative with an extra stenographer at \$75 a month during the session failed.

Discussion of the measure, which carries appropriations aggregating about \$39,000,000, was productive of much debate over the financial condition of the country.

Appeal to Discuss Peace

Washington.—President Wilson has appealed to all the belligerents to discuss terms of peace. Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation the president has sent formal notes to the governments of all the warring nations suggesting that "an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future, as would make it possible frankly to compare them."

Sheppard Bill Set Aside

Washington.—A parliamentary misadventure by one of its friends upset plans for an immediate vote on Senator Sheppard's District of Columbia prohibition bill, and advocates of the measure were obliged to agree that it go over until after the Christmas holidays for final action.

The senate agreed to a final vote on the measure on January 9 after its opponents had been sustained by the chair in contradicting that the measure lost its place in the senate calendar by the action of Senator Ashurst.

Friends of the prohibition bill have admitted a fear that postponement of the vote until after Christmas recess would imperil its chances of passage.

To Discard Volunteer System

Washington.—Major General Scott, chief of staff of the army, told the senate military committee that the volunteer system - be discarded because "the time has come when this country unless it intends to avoid war 'at a cost' must resort to universal liability to military training and service."

Washington.—No out-of-town engagements will be accepted by President Wilson during the present session of congress. This reply is being made to the many invitations received by the president recently to speak in different sections of the country.

Food Restrictions in Effect

London.—The first food restriction has gone into force in England. Hotels and restaurants are now forbidden to serve more than two courses for breakfast or luncheon and three courses for dinner.

Little inconvenience was experienced in connection with the first two meals. The Englishman's usual breakfast consists of a cereal and bacon, eggs or fish and except in the more expensive places a luncheon of two courses is the rule.

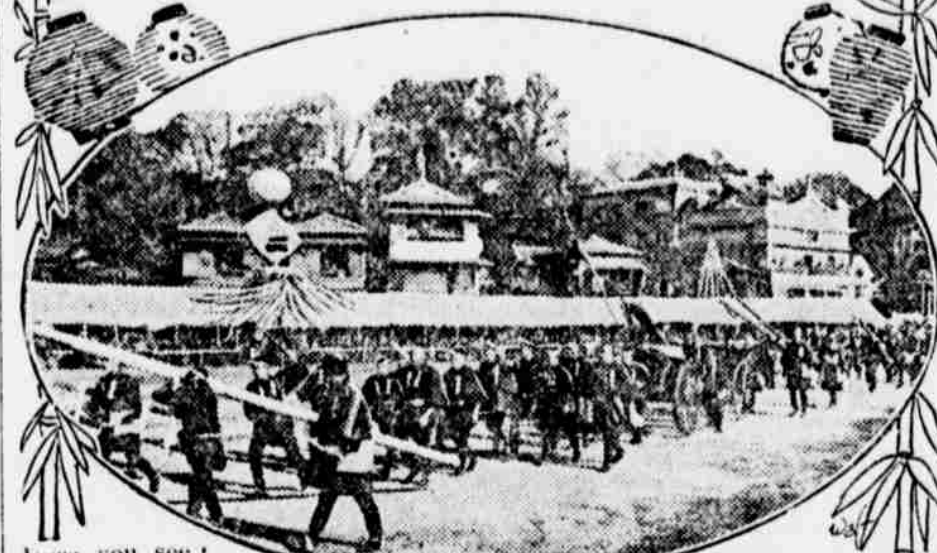
Boston Defeats Prohibition

Boston.—Boston has voted to continue the license saloon of liquor after the liveliest campaign on the liquor question that the city has had in years. The vote in favor of license was 53,459, with 29,997 against. Last year the vote for license was 46,115 and 31,877 against. The Rev. William A. Sunday, who is conducting an evangelistic campaign here, took a prominent part in the fight. He delivered several addresses on the liquor issue and urged the voters who attended his meetings to vote "No."

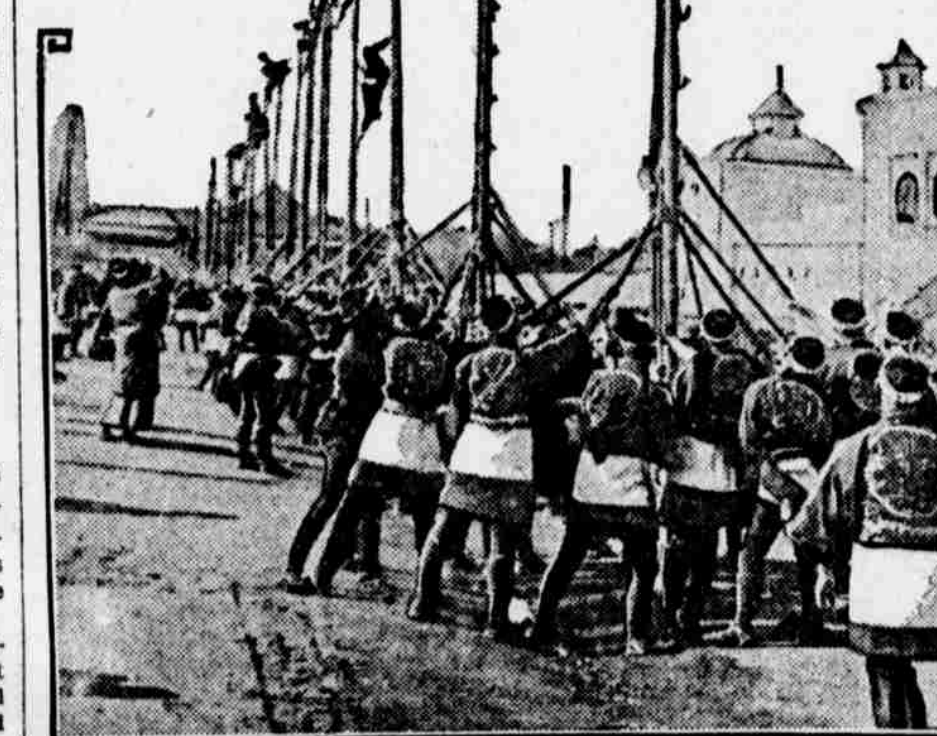
NEW YEAR'S DAY IN JAPAN



New Year's day has come to rank as one of the most popular of the Flowery Kingdom's holidays. As in America it is a day of feasting and good cheer, though oddly tempered by religious observances. The above picture shows three Japanese belles on their way to the temple for prayers before starting on a round of New Year's calls.



Here you see a parade of Tokyo firemen on New Year's day on their way to the drill grounds for the annual inspection, one of the big features in the way of celebrating the first day of the year in every Japanese city of any size. Fire engines and equipment pass in review before the city officials, after which fire drills are performed and the firemen take part in contests of various kinds. The fire engine has only recently been introduced into the Island Kingdom and the modern auto-truck is not yet known there. In the lower picture are shown the firemen with their bamboo scaling ladders which are used not only for life-saving and as an elevation from which to direct the water from the hose nozzle, but as a ruse with which to knock down buildings too far gone to save and so prevent the spread of the conflagration. The Japanese firemen are wonderful acrobats and perform truly remarkable feats on the tall ladders, scaling them with the agility of monkeys. Men, women and children turn out to watch the exhibitions. Note the odd costumes of this brigade from Tokyo.



NEW YEAR SUPERSTITIONS

When the master enters the house for the first time in the new year he must take something in which he did not take out. A piece of money placed on the doorstep on New Year's eve and brought in the morning the clock strikes will insure plenty throughout the year. Never go out on New Year's day until someone has come in. Throw out all peacock's feathers before New Year's day or you will have bad luck. When the clock strikes 12 on New Year's eve open both the front and back door of the house, so that all evil spirits may pass out and the good ones pass in. But be sure to close the door as soon as the clock has finished striking, so that the good spirits may not escape. On New Year's eve take a little money, bread, salt, wood and coal, tie them in a bundle and lay them on the doorstep. If the first person who comes to the door possesses a name whose initials are made up of straight lines allow him to pick up the bundle and bring it in. Give him a gift, and let him pass out through the back door. Then you will have good luck for another year.

IS NOT BELLIGERENT

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT NOT INTENDED AS A THREAT

NEW PROBLEM FACES RUSSIA

Care of Rumanian Refugees a Task that Must Be Met—Exciting Day in New York Market.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Washington.—President Wilson's note to the belligerents urging discussion of peace has been officially interpreted as not bearing any threat that the United States might be forced to enter the war because of the continued invasion of its rights by the warring powers on both sides.

This interpretation was made by Secretary Lansing in a formal statement issued to overtake what was characterized as widespread misconception placed on one given out earlier, saying that because of the increasingly critical position of the United States as a neutral it was entitled to know exactly what each belligerent seeks in order that it might regulate its conduct for the future.

Mr. Lansing's first statement, made orally and of which no official copy was distributed, led to exaggerations of its language and purpose throughout official Washington. Its most striking phrases, on which the widest speculation was based, were that the United States was "drawing nearer the verge of war," and that the sending of the note "will indicate the possibility of our being forced into the war," and that neither he no President Wilson regarded the note "as a peace note."

REFUGEES IN RUSSIAN EMPIRE

Care of Rumanian Refugees, Driven from Their Homes, a Task that Must Be Met

Petrograd.—The passage across the Russian frontier of thousands of Rumanians, who have abandoned their houses and property in the face of invading Germans and Bulgarians, has cast the shadow of a new refugee problem on the Russian empire. These refugees have been pouring into Odessa, Kiev and other southern Russia cities in a destitute and helpless condition and present a problem which threatens to be more difficult than any which has confronted a belligerent power since the invasion of Belgium.

Russia has only partially succeeded in colonizing and assimilating the millions of homeless Poles, Jews and members of other races who fled to the interior during the first year and a half of the war.

Wild Day on Exchange

New York.—The stock market Thursday went through the most exciting day in its history, with one exception. President Wilson's note to the belligerent powers, followed by Secretary Lansing's first explanatory statement of its intent, were the occasion of frenzied selling, which in scope and volume fairly dwarfed all the operations which followed on the peace proposals from Germany. Prices were slaughtered to the extent of five, ten and fifteen points, and in one case thirty-three, and the day's sales amounted to 3,176,000 shares, a total without precedent since the famous Northern Pacific corner of 1901. The decline was virtually unchecked, only a few nominal rallies marking the trading of the final hour.

1914 Manufacturing Record

Washington.—The country's manufacturing industries in 1914 turned out products valued at more than \$24,000,000,000 and employed 8,000,000 persons. In giving out these figures the census bureau announced that investigations planned for the coming year will cover transportation by water, religious bodies and marriage and divorce.

Berlin.—The German steamship Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm, which had been anchored at Odde, Near Bergen, Norway, since the beginning of the war, has arrived at Stavenger, according to a dispatch from Christiania, "after having broken the British blockade outside Bergen."

Sunk by Submarine

London.—Seventeen American muleteers and eleven of the crew of the British horse transport ship Russian, which was sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean on December 14, have been killed, the British admiralty announced.

London.—The prize court has confiscated, under the reprisals order, German securities valued at 30,000 marks (about \$7,146) which were seized en route to the State Commercial Savings bank of Chicago.

Lost With All on Board

Halifax, N. S.—The American schooner William Mason, bound from Perth Amboy for Yarmouth, N. S., has been lost with all hands, according to a report received here. Wreckage of the vessel's cabin, containing the bodies of two seamen, was washed ashore at Meteghan river, on the east side of St. Mary's bay. A builder's plate in the cabin bore the name of the vessel. The schooner is believed to have foundered in the storm the swept the Nova Scotia coast last Friday.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. BELLEFIS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) (Copyright, 1916, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 31

CHRIST'S COMING AND COMING TO CHRIST (REVIEW).

READING LESSON—Rev. 22:6-14; 16:21. GOLDEN TEXT—The spirit and the bride say, come. And he that heareth, let him say, come. And he that is athirst, let him come. He that will, let him take of the water of life freely.—Rev. 22:17.

It is possible in lessons one to nine to review the past quarter's work, in a logical, chronological manner, but lessons seven and nine are not in their proper chronological setting. These lessons extend over five years of Paul's life from about 58 A. D. to 63 A. D. They are five wonderful years, and the last of the authentic years we have of the life of this wonderful man. The review should of course center in Paul, his conduct, character and teachings.

The first twelve chapters of the Book of Acts, in which we have chiefly been studying, cover a period of about sixteen years, A. D. 30-46, with Jerusalem as the center. The rest of the Book of Acts cover another period of approximately 16 years from 46 to 62, and is the record of the foreign missionary work of Paul and his companions, Paul being of course the central character. The series for this quarter close with the vision of the final triumph of Christianity as seen by John in the Revelation. Maps should be employed if possible to show the journeys of Paul. The risen Christ and the endowment of the Holy Spirit were the vision and the power which wrote this first Church History, and which have been writing Church History ever since.

The home church (Chs. 2-7) began with about 120 praying men and women. Peter's first sermon brought into "the way" 3,000 more. From time to time others were added. Persecution and deliverances, the first martyr, Stephen, and the dissatisfaction which led to the choice of the deacons, are the outstanding events of this period. The home mission period, with Jerusalem as the center and Palestine as the field (Chapters 8-12) covers a period of about ten years. Persecution scattered the disciples throughout the country. Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, Philip goes to Samaria, and Peter carries on the work throughout Lydda, Joppa and Caesarea. In this section we have the story of Philip and the Ethiopian, of Peter curing the palsied man at Lydda, the raising of Dorcas and Paul and Barnabas returning to Jerusalem with help to those at that city who were suffering from famine. Then begins the period of foreign missions, covering about sixteen years, from about A. D. 47 to 62. The principal characters begin of course with Paul and Barnabas, though Paul soon takes his place of leadership. Paul's first missionary journey lasted for about two years, from say A. D. 47 to 49, Barnabas being his principal companion. Returning to Antioch from Jerusalem, Paul soon began his second journey, this time taking with him Silas. Again there is a period of about two years, from A. D. 50 to 52. Paul had his Macedonian vision during this time, and the gospel first entered Europe, beginning with the conversion of the Philliplian jailor. Paul's preaching at Athens and his service at Corinth are perhaps the most outstanding features of this journey. Paul's third journey lasted nearly three years, A. D. 52 to 56 or 57. He re-visits the Asia Minor churches to strengthen them, spends nearly three years at Ephesus, and has some outstanding adventures as, for instance, the riot at Ephesus about the shrines of Diana. Returning to Jerusalem to take part in the feast, he is told of the ultimate persecutions which he must endure. For a long time he has desired to preach the gospel in Rome. Everyone of the trials, hindrances, oppositions and attacks proved to be the means by which he gained that desired end.

In this particular quarter, in lesson one, we see Paul's calmness in persecution, his prudence under danger. In lesson two, his delicate courtesy and shrewdness in seizing every opportunity that he might witness for his Lord. In lesson three is manifested his unshaken belief in everything found in the Scriptures, and his wise use thereof in leading men to Christ. In lesson five, his fearlessness amidst danger and his absolute confidence in God. In lesson six, his humility. In lesson seven, his well balanced common sense and his love of peace among his brethren. In lesson eight, we see him longing for human companionship and sympathy, and have an evidence of his love for his own countrymen, and yet his faithfulness declaring the word of God to them as well as to the Gentiles. Last Sunday we stood with Isaiah, looking down through the centuries to the man of Galilee 700 years hence. Today, as we review this quarter and the lessons of the past year, we are looking back nearly two thousand years to the one who wrought out our salvation on Calvary, but we may also turn our faces the other way, and look for him whose returning will bring peace to the earth, and at whose coming the brightness of his glory shall cover the earth even as the water covers the sea.

We have seen the breaking down of "armed peace."

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There was a little lawyer man, who quietly smiled as he began his dear dead husband's will to read. And thinking of his coming in, he said to her quite tenderly "Yes, I have a nice 'fat legacy'." Next morning he lay on his back with a picture on his broken head, he wondered that the deed he'd said.

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