

KAISER AT HOME ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Indisposition of Emperor Enables Him to Attend Family Tree Celebration.

STAGED IN BIG PALACE HALL

BERLIN (Via London), Dec. 25.—Emperor William this year, because of his indisposition, was able to spend Christmas with his family at Potsdam. A slight "inflammation of the cellular tissues," about which no further bulletin has been issued, confines him to his apartments, but not to bed, and he was able to attend the celebration of the Hohenzollern family Christmas tree, or rather Christmas trees which entertainment as usual was held this Christmas eve in the big hall in the new palace.

The emperor, empress, their daughter, their daughters-in-law and granddaughters each had an individual Christmas tree, graduated in size, on which his or her gifts were arranged and also gifts for the sons unable to leave the front. Before the family Christmas tree celebration at the palace each princess attended Christmas exercises and later superintended the distribution of gifts at public celebrations held under her special patronage.

Nation Is Cheerful. Germany is celebrating the second year Christmas under the worst conceivable climatic conditions. Snow has been steadily falling throughout the entire empire for a week, giving every promise of a white Christmas, but a twenty-four-hour rain has converted the yuletide snow mantle to deep mud and slush.

In spirit, however, the nation is making of it a cheerful Christmas. Encouraged by the long record of German victories and the satisfactory conclusion of the Serbian campaign and having made up their minds there is no immediate prospect of peace, the people generally seem determined to ignore the probability of an indefinite continuation of the war and minor discomforts, such as bread cards and other food regulations, and will celebrate the great German festival in the traditional spirit.

A large proportion of the nation's manhood, of course, will observe the day in the trenches and bombproofs. Last year almost every dutiful and sheltered soldier spent Christmas with their families. For a week past the streets of Berlin and of other cities have been crowded with returning soldiers dressed in their war-worn uniforms.

All the merchants report that they have had a good Christmas trade. The dealers in jewelry and other luxuries say they have very rarely sold out their wares, and the stocks of the expensive fashions and confectioners are almost depleted. The toy dealers and the establishments patronized by the masses also have done an exceptional business during December, which is considered to show there is no appreciable scarcity of money.

Return for Holiday. The army authorities this year have been most liberal in granting Christmas furloughs and thousands of veterans will spend Christmas with their families. For a week past the streets of Berlin and of other cities have been crowded with returning soldiers dressed in their war-worn uniforms.

Pope Hopes that Peace Will Come in Answer to Prayer

ROME—(Via Paris)—Dec. 25.—Pope Benedict today, in replying to the Christmas greetings, extended on behalf of the sacred college by Cardinal Vannutelli, felicitously alluded to the "terrible war in Europe," and spoke of the immense carmine and crucifixes as unprecedented in history.

The pontiff again expressed an ardent desire for peace and said that, in conformity with the wishes of many of the faithful, he had consented to make an addition of the words of "Queen of Peace, pray for us," to the Litany of Loreto and expressed the hope that the Virgin's intercession with God would soon bring an answer to his prayers.

Pope Benedict's reply to Cardinal Vannutelli's greeting, delivered on the occasion of the reception by the pontiff of the sacred college.

Prosecuted Without Any Title Whatever

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.—Whether a baron or just a man was indicted here for use of the mails to incite murder, arson and for attempted interference with foreign commerce, was an issue raised here today.

Counsel for Baron George Wilhelm von Brincken, one of three so indicted, objected, and asked that "Heutenant" be substituted for "baron" in the indictment.

"Well, we'll sweep away all titles and prosecute him as George Wilhelm von Brincken," said Judge Maurice T. Downing, before whom the matter came up in the United States district court.

SKI AMBULANCES OFF TO THE FRONT OF WAR

PARIS, Dec. 25.—The new ski ambulance section of the French army, organized by H. H. Harjes, left today for the Alpine mountain front. The new section was formed with the object of carrying the wounded over the snows of the winter on ski sleds instead of employing mules as formerly. The section comprises twenty-five ski in charge of fifty men, among whom are many Americans and Norwegians who are commanded by Herman Webster of Chicago.

DISCOVERS SERUM FOR WHOOPING COUGH CURE

BERLIN, Dec. 25.—(By Wireless to Bayreuth)—The Overseas News agency gave out the following item today: "Great interest has been aroused in Berlin medical circles by the notice that Dr. Kraus of Buenos Ayres has discovered a serum for the cure of whooping cough. In spite of the fact that little is known of the inventor in bacteriological circles, it is said that tests of the serum assure its success."

Kansas City Girl Guest of Her Sisters



Miss Mildred Marr

WILSONS ATTEND A TREE CELEBRATION

President and Wife Spend Evening in Old-Fashioned Virginia Xmas Jollification.

HOT SPRINGS, Va., Dec. 24.—President and Mrs. Wilson spent tonight in an old-fashioned Virginia Christmas celebration, held in the spacious lounging room of their hotel. It was their first appearance in the public part of the hotel since they arrived Sunday to spend their honeymoon.

A big and gayly decorated Christmas tree filling one end of the room, was presided over by a dusky Santa Claus. Before it disported fifteen negroes, whose antics and musical efforts kept the president and everybody else almost convulsed with laughter.

When Mr. Wilson and his bride appeared they found a crowd of merry celebrators, including many other honeymoon couples standing, waiting for them to take reserved places. Mrs. Wilson wore an evening gown of black chiffon velvet, with flesh colored cloth at the neck. She wore a diamond brooch given her by the president, and a small wrist watch.

It was near midnight when the party broke up with hearty exchanges of Christmas good wishes. Earlier in the evening the president and Mrs. Wilson, on returning from an automobile ride, had been surprised by finding on their dinner table a brilliantly lighted little Christmas tree surmounted by a dove of peace.

Take Another Step To Isolate Germany

LONDON, Dec. 25.—By a royal proclamation published in tonight's Gazette, the exportation to Switzerland of virtually everything that might be serviceable to Germany is prohibited, unless consigned to the Societe Suisse De Surveillance Economique, which corresponds with The Netherlands Overseas Trust, with which the government has a similar agreement.

Thus the British policy of preventing goods from reaching Germany through neutral countries has been carried a step farther.

HERE IS THE NEW VON HINDENBURG TARIFF BILL

BERLIN—(Via London)—Dec. 25.—Field Marshal von Hindenburg has proclaimed a new tariff for Russian Poland, which shows many great reductions from the Russian tariff. Leather, for instance, is reduced from 25 marks per metric hundredweight to 20 marks; steel plates from 13 marks to 10 pfennigs to 6 marks; steel bars from 9 marks 50 pfennigs to 2 marks 40 pfennigs; cutlery from 20 marks to 10 marks; glassware from 20 marks to 12 marks; rice from 14 marks to 4 marks; potato flour from 25 marks to 15 marks; and beeswax from 4 marks to 15 marks.

FOUND GUILTY OF FORGING NOTES FOR QUARTER MILLION

NEWARK, O., Dec. 25.—After being out all night, a jury in common pleas court today returned a verdict of guilty in the case of A. L. Rawlings, a former prominent businessman of this city. Rawlings, who formerly conducted a large piano house, was charged with the forgery of notes aggregating \$250,000. His creditors included many firms in cities throughout the country. Sentence was deferred.

SIR EDWARD GREY BACK AT WORK AFTER REST

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Sir Edward Grey, secretary for foreign affairs, returned to the foreign office today, apparently much improved in health by his rest of more than a week in the country. He was visited by Earl Kitchener, secretary for war, and later by the Greek minister in London, with whom he had a long conversation.

BRITAIN DENIES BAN ON MEDICAL GOODS

Embassy Issues Statement Prohibiting Not So Sweeping as Had Been Said.

AN EXPLANATION IS GIVEN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—A statement was issued by the British embassy tonight denying that Great Britain had extended to hospital supplies of all kinds its prohibition against the shipment to Teutonic countries of such supplies made of rubber.

Difficulties encountered by the American Red Cross in obtaining permits for the passage of hospital stores have been brought to the attention of the State department, and yesterday it was learned that the department had communicated with the London foreign office seeking to facilitate the dispatch of large quantities of goods accumulated at the New York headquarters of the Red Cross. Officials of the society say they have been unable to obtain permits for the shipment of supplies of any description to the central powers.

Hope All Will Be Well. In view of the British embassy's statement, however, it is hoped that this situation was the result of some misunderstanding which may now be cleared away.

The statement follows: "A statement has been published in the press to the effect that Great Britain has suspended the issuance of permits for shipments of hospital supplies of any description from the United States to Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey."

The facts are as follows: "On May 11 the British government communicated to the United States government a list of articles which they were prepared to accept as coming within the description contained in the Declaration of London, article xxix (1), as articles serving exclusively to aid the sick and wounded and therefore not liable to be considered as contraband of war, provided that a general agreement between the belligerent powers could be secured. It was not until December 9 that the British embassy was informed that Germany had acceded to this list. But the articles mentioned on the list have been given permits since the war began.

Not Included in List. "Rubber goods, such as gloves and rubber sheets, were not included in this list, and rubber being contraband of war and an article of great importance from a military point of view, such goods were not allowed to pass into Germany. The British government, however, after careful consideration of all circumstances, offered to allow all hospital stores, whether on the list or not, to pass freely on receipt of a guarantee that these stores should be used exclusively by the American Red Cross and destroyed after being used.

"This guarantee the American Red Cross was unable to give, their units having been withdrawn from Europe. They have recently applied for permits for a very large amount of rubber goods on account of a Netherlands Red Cross for the use of the German Red Cross in southeastern Europe, including 2,000 meters of rubber tubing and 2,000 square meters of rubber sheeting. This proposal, in view of recent attempts to smuggle rubber into Germany, requires careful consideration and is now before the allied governments.

"It is absolutely untrue that the prohibition has been extended to all supplies." The State department has been informed of the above-mentioned circumstances in letters dated the 21st and 23d instant.

Hunt for Submarine Bases at Canal Ends

PANAMA, Dec. 25.—Major General George W. Goethals, governor of the canal zone, Brigadier General Clarence R. Edwards and Rear Admiral Albert W. Grant, commanding the Atlantic submarine flotilla, at conferences being held here, are said to be discussing locations for submarine bases at both ends of the Panama canal, with a view to bringing a larger underwater fleet to the isthmus.

It is also understood that they are arranging the location of various mine fields and other defensive measures in which a submarine fleet would play an active part. At the conclusion of the conference they will make recommendations to the War and Navy departments.

Platte County Fair Will Buy Grounds

COLUMBUS, NEB., Dec. 25.—(Special)—A meeting of the stockholders of the Platte County Fair association was held in Ryan & Byrnes office for the purpose of electing officers and a board of managers for the ensuing year, which was well attended. Arrangements were completed for the organization of a permanent fair association and the following officers were elected: Carl Rohde, president; J. C. Byrnes, vice president; Jerry Carrick, secretary; Fred Wille, treasurer; and Carl Rohde, R. F. Dickenson, Emil Loske, J. C. Byrnes, Bruce Webb, C. W. Hollingshead and Fred Wille, board of managers. C. W. Hollingshead was elected as a delegate to attend the annual meeting of the county fair managers to be held in Lincoln on the 16th of January, 1916.

Death Call Comes to Miss Martha Parratt

Miss Martha Parratt, for many years a teacher in the public schools of this city, died Friday afternoon at the home of her brother-in-law, John Bamford, 621 Dodge street.

Miss Parratt had been ill for the last five weeks. She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. E. P. Rose and Mrs. A. G. Kruse, and by two brothers, E. J. Parratt of Los Angeles, Cal., and John H. Parratt of this city.

SIR EDWARD GREY BACK AT WORK AFTER REST

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Sir Edward Grey, secretary for foreign affairs, returned to the foreign office today, apparently much improved in health by his rest of more than a week in the country. He was visited by Earl Kitchener, secretary for war, and later by the Greek minister in London, with whom he had a long conversation.

This Kansan Once Kept Napoleon From Sleeping Sleep of the Just

John Munsinger of Howard, Kan., once kept Napoleon Bonaparte awake a few hours longer than the French emperor wanted to be kept awake.

Cannon at Waterloo could not keep Napoleon awake all the time, for he is said to have slept on his horse a few moments at a time throughout the day, catching up much needed rest despite the roar of shot and shell.

But John Munsinger of Howard, Kan., now 106 years old, once kept the great Napoleon from sleeping.

Munsinger was a baby in Wittenberg, Germany. Napoleon was on the march into Russia. The vast army of France passed through Wittenberg on the way to the fatal invasion of the czar's land. In Wittenberg a large division of the army camped for the night, and Napoleon and his wife, Marie, of Austria, easting about for headquarters for the night selected the large home of Mr. Munsinger's father.

John Munsinger was then a baby, and his tiny squalls over some article of diet that did not agree with him, kept the emperor wakeful for a part of the night, but the great Corsican did not complain. It made little difference, in fact, for Napoleon gave little thought to sleep in those days. He was planning the great invasion of Russia. When the Munsinger baby had grown to boyhood, when the Moscow expedition had sunken into the annals of epoch-making military failures, when Napoleon was scowling his life away on the island of St. Helena, then John Munsinger's father took the boy on his knee and many a time related the story of that great march and of the night when Napoleon and Marie, of Austria slept in their home in Wittenberg.

The old gentleman related that Napoleon and his empress sat up late, very late, talking over the great campaign. Napoleon mapped out his plan of invasion and declared he would hurl the Russians to defeat with the same speed and expedition that had marked his other campaigns.

The empress Marie just as stubbornly told her lord it could not be done. She repeated over and over that winter would overtake the French, and that the French soldiers from their warmer latitudes could never survive the frightful winters of Russia.

History tells the tale. Napoleon was stubborn, and the march went on. But history has never related the tale of how the empress sought to dissuade the emperor from that fatal military blunder, under the roof of the Munsinger home in Wittenberg.

M. T. Munsinger of Wayne, Neb., nephew of John Munsinger of Howard, Kan., passed through Omaha recently on his way home after visiting with his aged uncle in Kansas. Some time ago the one-hundred and third birthday of the old gentleman was celebrated at Howard. On that occasion a little calculation was made and it was found that he has twelve living children, forty-eight grandchildren, eighty-three great-grandchildren, and eleven great-great-grandchildren, thus completing five living generations.

On his one hundred and third birthday he enjoyed his dinner with the rest, told many interesting stories, wrote his autograph for all guests without the aid of glasses, and danced a lively jig in the center of a cleared floor for the edification of those present.

"How did I live so long?" repeated the old gentleman. "Why, I never get the blues. That's how I lived so long. Blues are what kill people."

After further conversation the old gentleman confided to the guests that he claims an athletic championship, too. "Yes, sir," he said, "I claim I can outrun any man of my age."

SANTA CLAUS COMES HERE ON A VISIT

Jolly Old Man Plays the Glad Game and Distributes Presents to Gas Co. Employers' Children.

The children of the Omaha Gas company's employees had an opportunity to see old Santa Claus right at home and at work in his toy shop. It was the annual Christmas entertainment given by the company at Washington hall. The scene was the north pole with great icebergs and a couple of polar bears and there sat Santa asleep in front of his work bench.

Eight little brownies came tiptoeing in to make and mend through evolutions before the sleeping Santa. Then they gathered around him and began to sing and suddenly he woke up. He jumped up, patted each brownie on the back and then, on request of one, sang a song for them, dancing around while he sang. Then he pointed to the clock. Time was precious and he didn't have quite all the toys finished. So he put the brownies to work helping him. They worked on all kinds of things and soon they were done. Then Santa hurried into his coat and cap and put his pack on his back and down went the curtain.

Down the chimney. The next scene showed him coming down the chimney into a good child's room and filling the stockings. The boys and girls in the audience held their breath with interest. William E. Davis, South Omaha manager, filled the role of the good saint. And after all this came the distribution of presents. All the children had tickets and they gathered around the place where the gifts were given and every one was made happy with a gift and also candy. There were cigars for the men and candy and other presents for the women.

It was the twelfth Christmas entertainment given by the company to its employees. Nearly 50 were present. A program preceded the list of names and the gift giving. A Christmas tree that touched the ceiling was brightly illuminated.

Gold Medal to Wood. G. W. Claiborn, vice president of the company, presided and introduced Rev. T. J. Mackay, who delivered an address. Harry Dabrow sang "Song of Thanksgiving" and later rendered "Luch Lomond," and had to respond to an encore.

Little Frederick Campbell gave a delightful recitation, "Bess and Santa Claus," and C. Regnier Davis played a cornet solo, "The Palma."

An impressive part of the program was the presentation of a gold medal to Harry Wood for long and faithful service. The company presents a gold medal each Christmas to the employee who has been in the company's service the longest. Mr. Wood's record of contiguous service dates from 1890. The presentation speech was by Vice-President Claiborn. Mr. Wood responded with words of thanks and appreciation.

TWO HIGHWAYMEN SEARCH DELIVERY WAGON FOR TURK

After two highwaymen had searched the pockets of Lynn H. Clair, delivery boy for the Elmer Johnson grocery at Twenty-ninth and Leavenworth, they directed their attention to the wagon.

AMERICA ASKA DATA ON JAP SHIP SINKING

State Department Begins Inquiry Concerning Torpedoing of Yasaka Maru.

MAY COMPLICATE SITUATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The state department today began an inquiry into the sinking in the Mediterranean of the Japanese liner Yasaka Maru by cabling the American consular agent at Port Said, Egypt, to gather and forward promptly all available details.

Prompt action followed receipt of unofficial reports that the vessel had been torpedoed by an Austrian submarine without warning, thereby endangering the life of an American citizen who was on board.

Should official verification of the reports be received the matter will be made the subject of further diplomatic correspondence with Austria-Hungary. Officials made no attempt to conceal the fact that the sinking of the Yasaka Maru under the alleged circumstances would seriously complicate the negotiations over the sinking of the Italian steamship Ancona, which already threatened to result in the breaking off of diplomatic relations.

Eases the Tension. Baron Erich Zweidinger, charge of the Austro-Hungarian embassy here, is understood to have told Secretary Lansing, during an informal conference, that in preparing a reply to the second American note the Vienna foreign office would be guided by concern for the good relations at present existing with the United States government. This tended to ease somewhat the existing tension, though there was no indication that Austria had decided to comply with the demands of the United States for disavowal, punishment of the commander of the submarine and reparation by the payment of indemnity for the Americans killed or injured.

The United States does not contemplate entering into extended diplomatic exchanges over the Ancona case. Unless some good reason presents itself for further negotiations the United States, it is said, will consider as final the reply to its second note, which Baron Zweidinger informed Secretary Lansing today probably would arrive some time before Wednesday.

Has No Information. During his call upon Mr. Lansing the charge was understood to have discussed informally the press dispatches concerning the sinking of the Yasaka Maru. However, he had no information to impart.

The state department cabled instructions for a report to Edward Loyell Bristow, consular agent at Port Said, press dispatches having reported that the survivors, including the American citizen, had been landed there.

The department also expects that information regarding the sinking of the vessel may come from diplomatic or consular representatives in other places, particularly Paris, a French gunboat having rescued the survivors.

Contract is Let for Deep Oil Well Project

PLATTSMOUTH, Dec. 25.—(Special)—Charles H. Baker of Des Moines, and T. H. Flock of Plattsmouth, who are prospecting for oil and gas in southeastern Cass county, have signed a contract with L. Detrich of Kansas City, for the drilling of a test well. Machinery with a capacity of drilling 3,000 feet has been shipped to Cass county from the southern oil fields, and work will be begun immediately upon the arrival of the rig.

E. F. Schramm, assistant professor of geology, University of Nebraska, has selected the anticline, or ledge of rock which shows evidence of a great upheaval south of Plattsmouth and north-east of Union, as the most favorable location.

Funeral Services For Margery McCord

Private funeral services were held Friday afternoon for Miss Margery McCord, who died suddenly Thursday. Rev. Edwin Hart Jenks, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, which Miss McCord attended, had charge and spoke from the text in Matthew xiv: 24. "The maiden is not dead, but asleep."

After the services at the home, Twenty-second and Cass streets, the body was placed temporarily in a receiving vault in Forest Lawn cemetery. Later it will be buried at St. Joseph, Mo., the former home of the McCord family.

FLAUGHER COMMANDS GEORGE CROOK G. A. R. POST

George Crook post, Grand Army of the Republic, elected officers last night at headquarters at court-house, and selected delegates to the state encampment.

Officers elected, were as follows: Commander, D. S. Flaugh; senior vice commander, C. T. Smith; junior vice commander, M. L. Platts; quartermaster, J. T. Beatty; chaplain, Perry Hough; officers of the day, Frank Miller; officer of the guard, Charles Wicks; surgeon, F. W. Simpson; patriotic instructor, George P. Gardick; trustee for three years, F. W. Simpson; delegates to state encampment, R. N. Willis, E. E. Melick, and O. H. Swingle; alternates, H. L. Platts, E. B. Eagen, and Charles Wicks.

BOULEVARDS OF PARIS THROGGED WITH PEOPLE

PARIS, Dec. 25.—The second Christmas Eve of the war was even less solemn than the first. Parisians are becoming accustomed to the unusual conditions imposed by the war and although no restaurants were permitted to remain open all night, the boulevards were thronged until a late hour and the traditional booths enjoyed an unusually good trade in toys and candy.

Hundreds of soldiers in French grey uniforms in blue and British in khaki reaveled the sombre color of the boulevards. A brilliant full moon made for the restrained lighting of the streets. Theaters and moving picture places were crowded to capacity.



John Munsinger

nephew of John Munsinger of Howard, Kan., passed through Omaha recently on his way home after visiting with his aged uncle in Kansas. Some time ago the one-hundred and third birthday of the old gentleman was celebrated at Howard. On that occasion a little calculation was made and it was found that he has twelve living children, forty-eight grandchildren, eighty-three great-grandchildren, and eleven great-great-grandchildren, thus completing five living generations.

On his one hundred and third birthday he enjoyed his dinner with the rest, told many interesting stories, wrote his autograph for all guests without the aid of glasses, and danced a lively jig in the center of a cleared floor for the edification of those present.

"How did I live so long?" repeated the old gentleman. "Why, I never get the blues. That's how I lived so long. Blues are what kill people."

After further conversation the old gentleman confided to the guests that he claims an athletic championship, too. "Yes, sir," he said, "I claim I can outrun any man of my age."

More men fall to get into the United States navy because they have flat feet than for any other reason. This is disclosed by the annual report of the local recruiting office. Out of 118 rejections in the first quarter of this year thirty-three were because of flat feet, twenty-six because of defective eyes, nine because of heart affections, seven for deformities, eight for skin diseases, six for nasal troubles and thirteen for defective teeth.

It is estimated that it costs about \$300 to get each man accepted, counting the salaries of the recruiting staff, railroad fares of accepted men, office expenses and so on.

Out of every eight applicants six fall to pass the physical examination.

Flat Feet Keep Men Out of Navy

More men fall to get into the United States navy because they have flat feet than for any other reason. This is disclosed by the annual report of the local recruiting office. Out of 118 rejections in the first quarter of this year thirty-three were because of flat feet, twenty-six because of defective eyes, nine because of heart affections, seven for deformities, eight for skin diseases, six for nasal troubles and thirteen for defective teeth.

It is estimated that it costs about \$300 to get each man accepted, counting the salaries of the recruiting staff, railroad fares of accepted men, office expenses and so on.

Chokes to Death While Eating Meat

While eating a small piece of steak in Louis Hearty's "Unceca Quick Lunch" at 115 North Fifteenth, early last night, John Hall, a stone mason, aged 41, choked to death when a piece of the meat lodged in his windpipe.

He was sitting at the counter, and customers were eating on both sides of him when he suddenly fell forward on his face.

Dr. W. F. Leary was called in but the man was dead before the obstacle in his throat could be removed.

Coroner Crosby was unable to learn anything of his relatives last night.

Gold and Turkeys For Store Employees

Each employee of Benton & Lajer was presented with an envelope containing a card with the Christmas greetings and a \$5 gold piece.