GERMANY FEARS ALLIES ON WEST FRONT; RUSSIANS HEAD KAISER'S PEACE TERMS

Christmas Bells

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Written Dec. 25, 1864.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come.

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

The world revolbed from night to day,

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed mp head ;

"There is no peace on earth." I saib:

Till, ringing, singing on its way,

Their old, familiar carols play. And wild and sweet

The belfries of all Christendom

The words repeat

Bad rolled along

A boice, a chime,

A chant sublime

The unbroken song

NO ANNEXATIONS AND NO INDEMNITIES ARE **KEY TO NEW PROPOSAL**

Von Kuehlmann Presides Over Russ-German Conference at Brest-Litovsk; Emperor Announces Intention to Attend if Agreement is Reached; All European Rulers May Be Invited.

Peace without annexations and without indemnities, the Christmas relief work which has been formula adopted by the German Reichstag in its peace resolu- maintained for several weeks by The tica last July, is the keynote of the Russian peace terms now Bee in conjunction with the Asbeing discussed at Brest-Litovsk.

The Russian terms have been submitted to the representatives of the central powers, who have taken them under consideration.

WORKERS HOPE

TO DOUBLE QUOTA

With Many Solicitors Yet

to Report: Pixley Sure

of 70,000 Mark.

At 1 o'clock yesterday Red Cross

"We may yet double our quota be-

Forty per cent of our workers have

not yet reported," said committee

No figures were given out on the

the exception of Waterloo, which

"These facts make its additionally

certain we will reach 70,000 and pos-

salers' committee sent for 1,000 sup-

plies Monday morning when those in

Swamped with Money.

with an assistant assigned to each

money and memberships from the

final drive. Headquarters in the Keeline building were open until 11

o'clock last night in order to permit

Monday morning's returns were

committee especially hopeful for the

Splendid returns in the state are re

also reports a 30 per cent member-

committee. "Let Charles do it" has

they say, Arthur Keeline, Harvey

information desk have given yeoman

A street car conductor who volun-

Christmas day. The weather bureau

has the cold wave flag up. The tem-

perature dropped 27 degrees in the

when the thermometer stood at 21

were northwest we might be in for a

long spell of cold. But, as it is, the

probability is that the cold wave will

To give employes of this paper

an opportunity to observe the

holiday as far as possible. The

Bee will not issue an evening pa-

the other Omaha dailies to dis-

continue publication altogether

on Christmas day, but to meet

competition we will print the

morning edition as usual, and

serve subscribers with The Morn-

THE OMAHA BEE.

It was our desire to join with

before very long."

per Tuesday,

ing Bee instead

12 hours ending at 7 a. m. Monday,

By the Weather Man

teered in Sunday's canvassing ob-

musicians in the Red Cross.

Cold Wave is Announced

tained 60 memberships.

Miss Irene McKnight and Dr. Jen-

final results.

Cashiers were set up in three cages

out supplies was already over.

members late Monday afternoon.

memberships totaled 60,833.

NO ANNEXATIONS.

No compulsory annexatin of territory seized during the war and immediate evacuation of it and no contributions to be required from belligerent countries are proposed by Russia. This is similar to the Reichstag resolution, which, however, was not accepted by Dr. Michaelis, who was then German imperial chancel-

Russia suggests that countries deprived of their independence during the war be reinstated and that national groups not independent before the war shall decide their status by a referendum.

Germany scored a point in the selec-tion of Dr. von Kuehlmann, its foreign secretary, as permanent chair-

man of the conference. Emperor William, it is reported unofficially, intends to go to Brest-Litovsk, if the diplomats now there arrive at an agreement, to attempt to as- fore the campaign closes tonight. semble all European rulers in a peace conference. The German ruler is said to have declared that everybody wants peace.

SUPREME EFFORT IN ITALY. The heavy fighting which has result of Sunday's house-to-house canmarked the situation on the Italian vass. Labor unions, which will have northern front for the last few weeks large numbers to report, have not yet has almost subsided and only local encounters have taken place along the line from Asiago to the Piave.

Indication are, however, that the Austro-Germans will again initiate sent in \$400. a strong offensive in an effort to reach the plain, or the northern edge at least, before severe winter weather halts large scale operations. halts large scale operations.

Raids and local attacks have been carried out in the Ypres and Verdun sectors, on the western front. The charge thought their job of handing Germans gained slightly in a local attack on the Ypres-Staden railway but at all other points on both the British and French fronts they were repulsed. The artillery has been ex- cashier, to handle the large influx of tremely active in the Ypres and Ver-

Palestine in Allied Hands.

General Allenby has begun successfully an advance along the Med- workers to report. iterranean coast north of Jaffa, Paleshis troops on Saturday reached the the campaign opened, which makes the plain of Sharon and captured ten towns near the Nahr El Auja.

General Sarrail, who has been in command of the allied armies on the ported by Frank W. Judson, state di-Macedonian front for the last two rector. Callaway, with a population years, has been recalled by the of 800, expects to send in 1,000 mem-French government, He will be succeeded by General Guillaumat; who claims the state record for volunteers commanded the French forces in to Uncle Sam's service. Pender has their brilliant stroke northeast of Verdun last summer.

to Uncle Sam's service. Pender has approximately 1,200; Chadron had 1,600 Friday; York, 2,400, and Butte

Surgeons Barber and Stitt To Be Made Rear Admirals nie Callfas entered the lists with Mrs

Washington, Dec. 24 - Medical Di-rectors George H. Barber and Ed- in ward and precinct canvassing. ward R. Stitt, of the navy, will be when each woman turned in \$200 in promoted from the rank of captain to memberships. Mrs. Montgomery still rear admiral as soon as congress re- has a slight lead. assembles in recognition of distinguished services. Dr. Barber is at the head of the members, according to the campaign

naval hospital in Los Animas, Colo., and Dr. Stitt is president of the naval been the slogan and "he's done it, medical school at Washington. they say, Arthur Keeline, Harve

The Weather

For Nebraska-Fair: cold wave n southeast portion. Temperature at Omaha Yesterday.



1917, 1916, 1915, 191 4 of long duration.st yesterday ... Promipration ... 00 or 05 00 Temperature and precipitation denartures from the normal at Omeha since March 1. nd compared with the last two years; 191 sweep off northeast and spend itself trefficiency fo rthe day Total rainfall since March 1. 71.78 inches
1- fictionny since March 1. 7.29 inches
1- fictionny for cor. period. 1916-12.79 inches
2-fictionny cor cor. period. 1915. 2.02 inches

Reports From Stations at 7 P. M. Temp. High- Rain 7 p. m. est. full. Station and State Denver, cloudy 28
Des Moines, cloudy 18
Fodge City, part cloudy 21
Fander, part cloudy 24
North Platte, cloudy 14 Salt Lake, pt. njoudy., 44 Santa Fe. cloudy..... 42

OMAHA OPENS **PURSES TO AID WORTHY POOR**

Xmas Relief Work Conducted by The Bee and Associated Charities Meets With Generous Response.

Richard and Marjorie Hiller, 3510 Farnam street, sent a sack containing 120 pennies to The Bee office for the sociated Charities.

These children said they would not enjoy their Christmas unless they could help some child who might be in need. The pennies were handed to Mrs. G. W. Doane, general secretary of the Associated Charities, and she promised to see that the money is used to make a little boy or girl happy Christmas.

Notwithstanding the many demands which have been made during the last few weeks upon the people of Omaha and the state, the responses for aid have been surprisingly generous. The money and packages which have been sent direct to The Bee office have helped many families and individuals Figures Reach New Height, and, added to what has been sent to the Associated Charities office, the total relief has amounted to more than can be indicated in mere words.

Many Homes Brightened. Many homes where sickness and poverty stalked have been brightened; many hearts bowed down with foreboding of a cheerless Christmas have been made to beat a little lighter. Mrs. Doane says she will acknowledge all contributions for which she has names and addresses. Monday morning The Bee received a \$5 bill from a donor who did not wish to give

"I wish all those who gave and those who received a merry Christmas and I certainly wish The Bee a merry Christmas, because the splendid co-operation of The Bee has made it possible to spread much Christmas joy | All have not been received at all, with among homes that otherwise would have been sad on the day when good cheer is so general," said Mrs. Doane.

> Germans Will Flog Women Of Italy as Those of Belgium

Washington, Dec. 24 .- Official dis- Fort Omaha, patches state that the enemy command in the city of Udine has issued half an hour rest in the morning, one hour and a half at midday and half counter. an hour in the afternoon. The transg:essors of these rules will be compelled to work and watched by Gerof the harvest the will be impaisontine. After crossing the Nahr El Auja, much heavier than any morning since ed for six months and every three days they will receive only bread and entire post, and that the canteen was 000 in 1916. water. Slow or lazy women will be closed to avoid spread of the disease. exiled and lazy children will be flogged. If necessary, the commander will inflict coporal punishment on

"for hate is strong. And mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men !" Then pealed the bells more loud and beep: "God is not bead; nor both he sleep! The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men !" DOWN: MEASLES

OMAHA IS CLUSED

the fields from 4 o'clock in the morn- were sent home, suffering from the year. ing until 8 o'clock in the evening, with disease. The stricken women are those who helped hand food over the

Their cases are light ones, according

to Mrs. Kountze. Miss Regina Connell and other canman soldiers and at the termination teen workers on Mrs. Kountze's com-

AMERICA SHOWS TRADE BALANCE

balance of trade approximated \$3,000,-An epidemic of measles threatens 000,000 at the close of November, according to figures issued today by the The Red Cross canteen, in charge bureau of foreign and domestic comrules by which all workmen, women of Mrs. Luther L. Kountze, was merce. It was an increase of \$141,and chidren are obliged to work in closed Sunday, when four employes 000,000 over the same period last

During November export restrictions caused a substantial decrease in foreign trade.

During the 11 months ended with November gold imports amounted to

\$535,000,000 and exports to \$367,000, mittee, are authority for the statement 000, leaving an excess of imports of that many cases are scattered over the \$168,000,000 in 1917 against \$399,000,-Silver imports during the 11 months Mrs. Kountze says the canteen had amounted to \$7,000,000, against \$29,to be closed because the staff of help 000,000 a year ago, and the exports was crippled by the four sick people. were valued at \$74,000,000 in 1917 and (Continued on Page Two, Column Five) \$62,000,000 in 1916.

DREAD MENINGITIS ENDANGERS THE GREAT MILITARY ENCAMPMENT AT CAMP FUNSTON, SAYS CONGRESSMAN REAVIS OF NEBRASKA

port Shows Alarming Death Rate at Kansas Can-Charles E. Metz is credited with assisting in obtaining at least 1,000 tonment.

Milliken and Mrs. J. W. Gill at the as shown by the report of Surgeon things that they need." service. Henry Cox enlisted all the General Gorgas, was urged today by publican, of Nebraska,

conditions at that time, but he de- she visited her son at the Funston clared the situation as disclosed by cantonment. Gorgas' report was appalling and one Zero weather is booked for Omaha that demands an immediate change.

Located in River Bottom. "The report states," said Reavis, that the cantonment at Camp Funston is located in the river bottom and has been known to all health offidegrees, with a gale sweeping down cers as a center for spinal meningitis

from the north.

However, Meteorologist Welsh does not believe the cold snap will be to the report, there have been 84 deaths in this camp, of which 24 were "The high barometer at present is from meningitis. There were 54 "The high barometer at present is from meningus.

directly north of us," he said. "If it deaths from pneumonia, while the were northwest we might be in for a average death rate of the command should not have exceeded 12.

Boys Inadequately Clad. "I visited Camp Funston in Octo-

ber." Reavis said, "I saw 40,000 boys before I did. drilling in the cold, clad in overalls the does not even know that I am "Of course, many of us have had "It was so cold that I had a sweater saying this. He is willing to take bad colds and wet feet many a time. and summer shirts,

ing the time I was there could a see further than 100 feet on account of blowing sand.

the boilers of the heating apparatus buy Liberty bonds, send moncy home foot was sent to Fort Riley from were not yet in place. If this camp to mother, wife or baby. Can he af- Funston. is as infected as the surgeon general ford to buy the side things that the weeks and had not yet received any states, these boys should be removed reader mentioned in The Bee last Sat- attention. Now the foot is dressed from there at once.

"It will not improve the morals of ter for years.

Surgeon-General Gorgas' Re- Mrs. A. B. McConnell Spends Young Soldier, Fresh From Christmas Money on Helmets and Sweaters for Boys at Funston.

Washington, Dec. 24.—(Special "I am not an agitator and I am not Private Joe Kennedy of the 341st Telegram.) -The abandonment of trying to get anybody into trouble, regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Camp Funston, Kan., because it is All I am trying to do is to help the Kennedy, 543 South Twenty-sixth infected with spinal meningitis germs, boys at Funston with some of the street, one of Uncle Sam's boys at

Representative Charles F. Reavis, re- This is the reply Mrs. A. B. Mc- Christmas fide, comments on condi-Connell makes to those who have tions at the cantonment. Reavis visited Camp Funston in been protesting against her statement October and was dissatisfied with of conditions as she saw them when

> Mrs. McCennell is now busy sending sweaters and helmets to the soldiers at the camp. "After I sent the helmets to my son last Friday I wired one of the captains down there asking how many sweaters and helmets could be used for his battalion for men who cannot afford to get them and the answer came back, 'Can use up to 300 helmets and sweaters." I am spending my Xmas money to furnish some of these necessities as Xmas presents to the Funston boys, although I can not supply all of them. Are any of my critics doing as much

tirely new," she continued. General Gorgas and Teddy Roosevelt Anyway, the treatment has been good said some of the things I said long for us for we are all better looking

CHRISTMAS DAY on to keep warm. Not an overder saying this. The is do I would like but then we thought that was the to say that I am not speaking for my beginning of war preparations and so son or any one in his circumstances. thought nothing of it. I am speaking for the less fortunate "There was no heat in camp, and boy who gets \$30 a month and las to that a fellow who had an injured urday

"I know he can not, for many of the army, or the nation either, to us Omalia mothers have equipped a know that nearly 50,000 American number of such men. I know of an forms. They gave us anything, regardboys have been located at a camp Omaha boy who borrowed money less of size. A man who needs a that has been known as a disease cen- from a bank to keep his mother while number 40 coat got a number 36 for (Cootinged on Page Three, Column Five.) | instance.

Camp, Says Stupendous Task of Organization Must Be Taken Into Consideration.

Camp Funston, who was lucky enough to draw a leave of absence for the He takes the attitude of a mediator, admitting that the report is true in degree but also adding that the boys

ment accorded them. "First of all," says young Kennedy, "I want to say that I am not kicking. Things that have happened at Camp Funsion were to be expected on account of the stupendous task of organization. However, it is true some peculiar things do happen there.

have been getting fat on the treat-

Charges True in Part.

"Mrs. McConnell, as a mother, would naturally see things a little different than one in the service, am a member of the company in which her son, Harold, is a sergeant, Nearly everything Mrs. McConnell has said The things I have said are not en- about the camp has been true at some "Surgeon time or other but only in degree. now than we were before we went "But do not implicate my son, for down. We all feel fine, too.

"Of course, many of us have had "As to medical attention, I heard

he returned in two and the fellow recuperating.

"The only real criticism I would make concerns the distribution of uni-

"PEACE BEFORE VICTORY" IS WHAT TEUTONS WANT. SAYS SECRETARY BAKER

Kaiser Wants the World to Believe That Military Situation is Such That He Can Now Dictate Terms of Peace to the Nations at War.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Germany's newest propaganda, viewed as a forerunner to an offensive in the west unless a German-made peace is accepted by the allies and the United States, "should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparations for war," says Secretary Baker in his weekly review of the military situation.

Frustrate Another German Ef fort to Reach Venice; All **Art Treasures Removed** From City.

which had crossed the Piave river at view to achieving a decisive result. Piave Vecchia have been driven back over the river, the war office an-

Foe Checked by Winter Stroke. their attempt to drive through to the ing influence throughout Italy.

Italian plains east of the Brenta by "It is apparent that the Germans switched their attack to the Brenta's torious campaigns of 1915. west bank.

the vicinity of Buso, where the Fren-the vicinity of Buso, where the proper than the vicinity of Buso, where the vicinity of Buso, which is a super-ties of the vicinity of Buso, where the vicinity of Buson, which is a super-ties of the vicinity of Buson, which is a super-ties of the vicinity of Buson, which is a super-ties of the vicinity of Buson, which is a super-ties of the vicinity of Buson, which is a super-ties of the vicinity of Buson, which is a super-ties of the vicinity of the Washington, Dec. 24 .- America's zela valley affords a route to the Brenta valley.

southeast down the Frenzela valley to the Brenta at Valstagna, three initiated. miles distant, where the valleys merge, the Italian line on both sides of the Brenta would have been in preparing for peace before victory. serious straits. The Rome war office, however, reports the enemy checked at the Italian rear positions, whence a counter attack was launched. This counter stroke is proceeding with satisfactory results, the Italian state-

ment declares. Venice Undisturbed.

Venice, Sunday, Dec. 23 .- Amerithe Italian soldiers in the trenches and to the sick and wounded soldiers through the allied lines into the west. in and around Venice by B. Harvey Carroll, jr., American consul at Ven- tary situation in its true light, it must ce, acting for the American Red be understood that the Germans realwith General Di Viterfranchesoa, so will form the principal body of fresh as to make the tour of the trenches strategic reserves remaining available on Christmas eve.

Another distribution will be made liers and civilian poor.

he enemy has been unable to bring across the river anything except mathine guns and a few pieces of small caliber. No shells have fallen anywhere near the city.

One of the chief reasons for calm is the belief that Pope Benedict has intervened in some way by which the Austrians will not shell the city.

The custodians of the art treasures n the city have considered it desirable to remove a large number paintings and statues which up to this ime had been stored within the city The most valuable were sent south months ago, but now the entire bulk of removable art treasures has been taken away. It is estimated that 12,-000 square meters of paintings were aken from the ducal palace alone.

The famous equestrian statue before St. Mark's is being dismounted for removal, although it was first intended to protect it by a brick cov-

Man Who Refused to Join

Edward Sulak, afrested Saturday norning when he refused to buy or wear a Red Cross button, was fined \$10 and costs in police court Monay morning, Mrs. Allen Parmer, Red ross worker, testified Sulak used in-

Christmas Day Meatless Day, but Not "Fowlless"

Christmas day, coming on Tuesday this year, will be a meatless day, according to the regular schedule. Of course, this in no way affects the consumption of any kind of fowl or fish. Meatless day is intended to conserve beef, pork, and such other meats as can be readily exported to our soldiers and those of the allies in the war, while the substitution of chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks and other fowls and fish is encouraged. So, after all, the turkey, roast goose or duck dinner, or chicken dinner will in no way be interfered with.

"The Germans realize," continuedthe statement, "that within a short time our armies will form the principal body of fresh stategic reserves remaining available on the battlefields of "Our armies constitute the reserves

RELY ON UNITED STATES.

of victory!" The review points out that the fight-ing morale of Italy may be relied on, no matter how intensive the German peace campaign becomes, and says: "The Italian theater once again is the scene of important military ac-

"The enemy, impatient of the delays which have occurred in bringing about the successful penetration of the Italian plain and the overthrow of the Italian armies, has dispatched further Rome, Dec. 24.-Enemy forces forces to the Italian front, with a

Drive Italians Back First. "Before proceeding with any operations in the west the Germans hope to drive the Italians back to the Washington, Dec. 24.—Checked in verse would have a very disintegrat-

the brilliant feat of the Italians last have not given up all hope of bringweek in recapturing the Asolone ing about a social upheaval in Italy, as heights, the Teutons have now they did in Russia after their vic-

"No matter how intensive this new Striking suddenly yesterday in this subversive propaganda may be nevquarter, they pushed into the Ital- ertheless we can confidently rely on ian lines on the Asiago plateau in the fighting morale of the Italian

Had they succeeded in driving alded to be launched in the west, an intensive peace propaganda is to be

"Careful examination of the situa-

tion reveals that the enemy is again Germans Make Threats.

"Information from various sources confirm the reports that the Germans would have the world believe that the military situation is such that they are able to dictate the terms of peace. They, therefore, threaten that unless this dictated peace is accepted can Christmas cheer will be carried to the German forces now being concenby the allied powers and ourselves, trated on the western front will break

"In considering the general mili-

ross. Mr. Carroll will leave Venice ize that within a short time our armies for action on the battlefields of Europe. Thus, no matter what superiorin Venice on Christmas eve and ity in men and guns the enemy may hristmas morning to wounded sol- for the time be able to bring to bear on the west, and even admitting an The city of Venice remains com- eventual modification of the allied line paratively undisturbed by the recent in his favor, nevertheless he knows renewal of enemy pressure on the that insofar as it is humanly possiower Piave nearest to Venice, where ble-to foresee, his effort will inevitahis line is 12 miles east of the city. bly result in merely a local success, While shells from the heavy guns which can have no determining influcould reach Venice, it is known that ence on the final outcome of the ward France Bore Brunt.

"For the first two years of the war France bore the brunt of battle, while Great Britain was preparing.

"Since the defeat of the German forces in front of Verdun, England and the British dominions have taken over an increasingly large share of the burden of the war. "Italy has, to the limit of its forces.

also assumed a considerable share of

When, as a result of the defection of the Russian forces, the weight of Austro-German pressure was directed against Italy, France and England united in coming to the rescue of their ally and are today aiding the Italian

"It is our duty, therefore, in looking to the future, to realize that if we are to fulfill the pledge we made on entering the war, if we are to fight this war to a successful conclusion, we must assume the full responsibility which rests upon us. We are the freshest in the struggle; we have the Red Cross Pays \$10 Fine reserve man power and the reserve mechanical power.'

> Kenneth Norton Cables Merry Xmas to Parents

Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Norton, 117 South Thirty-eighth street, have received a cablegram from their son. Lieutenant William K. Norton, who has been flying in France for the last five weeks, wishing them a merry Christmas. He says in his letters he well and happy, has plenty of good things to eat and good sleeping quarters and that the French aeroplanes are wonderful.

Cold Wave Moving

Eastward From Dakotas Washington, Dec. 24.-The cold wave which has caused a drop in temperature of 40 to 50 degrees in the Dakotas in the last 24 hours is sweeping eastward, the weather bureau announced today, and is expected to reach the Atlantic coast by Tuesday

indicates below sero indicates below sero. indicates below sero. indicates below sero.