

## Statement Denied by Mrs. Hamon

### Woman Arrested in Connection With Oklahoma Murder Case Says Alleged Interviews "Highly Colored."

## Party Reaches Ft. Worth

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 24.—Denial that she had signed any statement whatever since she left Ardmore, or that she gave any letters to her attorneys, and characterization of purported interviews by a press association as "highly colored," exaggerated and, in many places inaccurate were made by Mrs. Clara Smith Hamon, charged with the murder of Jake L. Hamon, in a statement given to the correspondent of The Associated Press aboard her train shortly before her arrival late today.

The statement was handed to the correspondent who had accompanied her party from El Paso by one of her attorneys, W. P. McLean, jr., of this city with the following comment:

"This statement was signed by Mrs. Hamon in the presence of nine witnesses, including her attorneys. I guarantee the genuineness of the signature."

## Arrive at Fort Worth

Sheriff Garrett of Ardmore, Okla., where he is to take Mrs. Hamon to her trial, and his party left the train at Benbrook, 10 miles west of here, shortly after 5 o'clock this afternoon and proceeded to Fort Worth in automobiles that were awaiting them. They drove immediately to the law offices of McLean, Scott & McLean, where a conference with Mrs. Hamon was held behind closed doors.

Mr. McLean said Charles A. Coakley of Ardmore, who is associated with him in the handling of the Hamon case, would proceed to Ardmore immediately, but that their client would remain in Fort Worth with friends until she was "needed in Ardmore."

## To Make Attonement

Big Springs, Tex., Dec. 24.—Consecration of her future energies to atoning to her family "for the sorrow she has brought it" and determination never again to waste another hour of her life were avowed late yesterday by Effie Smith, en route to Ardmore, Okla., to answer a charge of murder in connection with the death of Jake L. Hamon.

In an interview with the correspondent of The Associated Press, lasting nearly an hour, she spoke earnestly on religion, philosophy, psychic research, art, fancy work and most earnestly of all her impressions of Mexico, where she stayed three weeks before giving herself up to the custody of Sheriff

## Children of France

### Send Christmas Toys To Kiddies of Aisne

Paris, Dec. 24.—Sixty tons of toys, donated by the children of France, will be distributed in the devastated Aisne and in Rheims by the league of officers and ex-soldiers of France under the French writer, and vice president of the league.

The idea first occurred to M. Binet-Valmor last year, when visiting the centers of the American committee for devastated France, and it was through the aid of the committee that 40 tons of toys, 40,000 packages were transported from Paris to the devastated area.

The first load, heavy with childish happiness, left Paris December 6 in an American camion under the direction of Lieutenant Pericard, remembered for his rallying cry in a French trench where he was the only man left standing.

## Woman Tries to Kill Self Under Tram Car

Des Moines, Dec. 24.—(Special Telegram)—"I want to die," said the world's too cruel to me," an unidentified woman started Christmas shoppers here by throwing herself beneath a moving street car. The car was stopped before the wheels had touched her. When passing pedestrians attempted to pull the woman from beneath the car, she resisted their efforts.

"Let me alone, I want to die," she said. Taken by police and the car crew to a store, she refused to give her name, broke away from an officer and made her escape in the crowds in the store. The woman, witnesses say, was about 35 years old and well clothed.

## Section Employe Killed By Northwestern Engine

Charles Severine, 55, was instantly killed yesterday in the Union Pacific railroad yards at Council Bluffs, where he was employed as a section hand, by a Northwestern switch engine. He was shoveling snow from the tracks, witnesses say, and stepped in front of the approaching engine.

A. E. Everts, foreman, and Richard Wallace foreman of the switch crew, Mr. Severine lived at 3430 Avenue E and is survived only by his widow, Roy Cutler, coroner, took charge of the body and may hold an inquest.

## Will Boost Capitalization

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—Stockholders of the Standard Oil company of California will be asked at a special meeting March 30 to authorize an increased capitalization of \$15,000,000, which is to be sold to employees on the installment plan, it was announced.

## Omahans Receive Two Lost Daughters as Xmas Presents



Left to Right: Mundicia, Ivan and Anka Novacic.

Though Santa Claus did not personally escort them, Mundicia and Anka Novacic, 13 and 11, came as real Christmas presents to their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Novacic, 6302 South Thirty-third street, when they arrived yesterday morning from Ubidia, Jugoslavina, after a separation of eight years.

The two little girls came to the United States with two cousins several weeks ago, but were delayed at Ellis Island, New York. Frantic telegrams sent by the father failed to receive any response until John C. Barrett, South Omaha attorney, wired immigration officials and Senator G. M. Hitchcock, who soon

## Steps Taken to Release Control Of San Domingo

Washington, Dec. 24.—By direction of the president, initial steps were taken for withdrawal of American control over affairs of the Dominican republic.

A proclamation announcing this purpose was issued at San Domingo by Rear Admiral Thomas Snowden, military governor. Its text was made public here. By its terms the friendly purposes of American military intervention in the island in 1916 are declared to be "substantially achieved" and "simple processes" inaugurated for "rapid withdrawal from the responsibilities assumed in connection with Dominican affairs."

A Dominican commission, aided by an American adviser, will be named by Admiral Snowden to formulate amendments to the Dominican constitution and draft new election laws. When approved by the military governor, these will be submitted to a constitutional convention and the Dominican national congress as a preliminary to the election of a Dominican government to which the affairs of the republic will be turned over.

An accompanying announcement by the State department said tranquility prevailed in the republic; that Dominican finances had been placed on a stable basis; education and sanitation advanced and the people "for the first time in many years had been able to devote themselves to peaceful pursuits."

## Missing Balloon Men Are Believed Safe In Canada

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 24.—Belief that the three United States naval officials who left Rockaway Point, N. Y., a week ago last Monday in the gas balloon A-593 on an endurance flight had fallen into the hands of Indians in the lake country was expressed today by Lieutenant Evans, the American aviator, who was sent here to direct search for the missing balloonists.

The quest, which came as a complete surprise, is the culmination of a drama in real life. Years ago Mrs. Goodale became separated from her family and for a long period she could not be located.

Finally her father, Frank S. Merwin of New York, found her in Peayallup and visited her.

Ray Merwin, the brother, in leaving the estate to Mrs. Goodale, requested that the surname of the son be changed to Merwin.

## Mother and Child Get Half Million Dollars For Christmas Gift

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 24.—Santa Claus came a day early to the home of Mrs. Ray D. Goodale in Peayallup and left \$500,000 in her stocking for herself and baby son.

The gift came in the form of news that the woman and baby have inherited the estate of Ray Merwin, a New York stock broker, who recently died.

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## Firm Is Bankrupt

Rockford, Ill., Dec. 24.—A petition in involuntary bankruptcy asking for the appointment of a receiver for the Cotta Transmission company of this city was filed in the district court at Freeport last night.

## Christmas Brings Joy To Omaha

### House With Plenty Provide For Others Less Fortunate—Santa Arrives to Gladden Hearts of Kiddies.

## Spirit of Cheer Abounds

Merry Christmas! Where is the man who said there was no Santa Claus?

After a strenuous week of holiday activities, Omaha settled down to rest last night, to awake this morning and find that the merry monarch of toyland and joyland had put in a busy night. The venerable purveyor of presents made the rounds with his wonted alacrity. Tens of thousands of kiddies passed a night of fitful slumber and it is said that not one had to be summoned the second time this morning because of any disinclination to arise.

One of the most cheering prospects of the day is the manner in which those who have enough and to spare have provided for those who are in need at this season of the year, the time when good cheer and good will abound and when the joy of giving is accentuated.

Christmas Cheer in Homes

In many homes last night Christmas trees blazed brightly and hearts beat lightly. It was a glad occasion for the kiddies, the parents and for the old folks.

Thousands of store clerks were glad that the busy week for them was over. Omahans heeded the advice to shop early and they kept it up until the closing hour of 9 last night.

One delivery of mail will be made this morning and then the tired carriers will have a surcease until Monday morning. They have been overwhelmed with the holiday rush, some of which will run into next week. Barber shops will be open until noon today, but practically all business houses will be closed today, because Christmas comes but once a year.

## Churches Hold Services

Midnight masses were observed in St. Cecilia cathedral and various Catholic parish churches also Episcopal churches. Some churches held sunrise meetings.

The annual Christmas distribution and entertainment of the City mission will be held this morning. This event always brings substantial joy to several hundred homes. Mary E. Anthony, superintendent, has worked diligently to make the occasion a success. Mayor Smith will be at the mission this morning to assist in the distribution and to speak a few words of cheer to those who are assembled.

Frank McCormick, Mrs. McCormick and Mary Smith had charge of the Christmas distribution of the Volunteers of America last night.

## National Secretary of Y. M. C. A. Replies to Charges of Vatican

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 24.—Charles W. Bishop, general secretary of the national council of the Young Men's Christian association, today issued a statement replying to the charge of the Vatican that the organization "corrupts the faith of youth."

"We have a number of Roman Catholic members in our Y. M. C. A. branch in the Dominion and in some cases, as in Quebec, the number amounts to a considerable portion of the membership, but these members are free to use only the facilities of the institution which they wish to."

The religious program of the association is entirely optional and is not thrust upon those who, for any reason, do not wish to avail themselves of it. It is quite true that the foundation of the Y. M. C. A. is what is known as the evangelized Christian basis, but there is nothing in our program aiming at proselytism in any who come into the membership and who hold different religious views."

## Hoheznollern Family To Celebrate Quietly

Doorn, Holland, Dec. 24.—The third Christmas of the Hohenzollern family in Holland will be less pretentious than last year's celebration at Amerongen. The serious illness of the former empress and the suicide of Joachim will give the observance more of an air of mourning than celebration.

Many messages of greetings have been received at Doorn, where the Duchess of Brunswick and the former Crown Prince Frederick William will stay with their parents until after New Year's.

## Shivering Girl Delivers Washing While Father Warms Feet at Fire

Grace Campbell, 11, 1953 Vinton street, crying, benumbed with the cold, trying to deliver a large basket of washing to her father, George Campbell, 2436 South Nineteenth street, observed her sorry plight and reported the case to the Nebraska Humane society yesterday.

Leaving over the basket of clothes, her little heart almost broken as she saw other children, happy-faced, running in their Christmas-time joy, she touched the heart of the passer-by who delivered the basket for her and then took her home.

Mr. Miller advised the humane society's office that he believed the case should be investigated. George Campbell and Mrs. James E. Dimond, humane officers, went to the girl's home and found her shivering. William Miller, warming his feet at a fire. There were three other children—Julia, 12; Anna, 8; George, 3. Mrs. Miller stated that she received \$30 per month from the estate of her first husband and that she earned what she could by taking in washing. She also told the humane officers that Miller had not worked for several months; that he said he was unemployed. The house was cheerless.

This home will have Christmas cheer tonight. The Elks will see that these kiddies are remembered in a substantial way.

Why the able-bodied stepfather sent the girl with the basket of washings and remained at home to warm his own feet at the fire, is a situation which the humane society people are unable to reconcile.

## Merry Christmas



## St. Louis Man's Death Believed Due to Accident

That accident and not suicide was the cause for the death of E. L. Hess of St. Louis, whose body was found in room 407 at the Wellington inn yesterday afternoon, is expressed with certainty in a report prepared by police last night.

The body of the man, shot through the heart, was found by F. J. Ramey, manager of the Wellington inn, at 3:15 when he broke in the door to the room, after smelling smoke in the hallway. On a table nearby lay a .38-caliber revolver with one discharged cartridge in the chamber and a handkerchief passed through the trigger guard. Smoke was still pouring from the bullet wound in the body.

Mr. Ramey summoned police, who at first said they believed the man had committed suicide, wrapping the handkerchief about the gun to deaden the sound of the shot. Later investigation, however, disclosed the fact that the handkerchief evidently had been used to clean the revolver.

According to Detective Graham who, with Detective Franks and Officer Sinclair, was called to the hotel immediately after the tragedy, the rubber grips had been removed from the revolver butt and several loaded cartridges lay on the table. Other equipment used for cleaning purposes was strewn about the table, all indicating the accident theory. It is

## Heirs of Bernard Daly File Suit to Break Will

Lake View, Ore., Dec. 24.—Suit was filed in district court here on behalf of the heirs of Bernard Daly, Lake View county, to break the will under the provisions of which \$500,000 was set aside as a fund through which no fewer than 15 young men and women from Lake View shall be sent to college each year. The heirs ask that the will be declared intestate as to all portions of the educational fund and that this property be passed to the 15 heirs.

## President Issues Three Pardons for Christmas

Washington, Dec. 24.—Three pardons as President Wilson's Christmas gift to men serving sentences in federal prisons were announced by the Department of Justice. They were:

Clarence Brown, serving a life term for murder at Atlanta; Rufus Castlebury, serving a life term at Leavenworth; and Edward C. Rivers, serving two years at the United States penitentiary at McNeil Island, Wash., for violation of the narcotic laws.

Commutation of sentence and extension of clemency have been granted in some 50 other federal cases.

## Policeman Held Up

Quincy, Ill., Dec. 24.—A Quincy policeman was held up by a lone highwayman early this morning on one of the principal business streets, stood up against a wall and searched. The robber escaped.

## Harding Wishes All A Merry Christmas

Marion, O., Dec. 24.—President-elect Harding issued the following Christmas greeting tonight:

"Like every normal human being, I wish everybody a very Merry Christmas. It gets us out of a rut to join in a national chorus of cheer and good will.

"There is peace, there is confidence in the morrow. There is even cheer in the belief that the distress of today is quickly to pass and we may hope as well wish for a prosperous new year."

## Woman Convicted of Murder at Alliance Asks for New Trial

Alliance, Neb., Dec. 24.—(Special Telegram)—Attorneys for Mrs. Evelyn Preis McElhaney, who was convicted by jury last week on a charge of second degree murder for the killing of Earl Anderson, whom she shot December 7, have filed a motion for a new trial, alleging that the jurors were unduly influenced by public sentiment, which was strongly against the woman during the trial and that Judge W. H. Westover erred on each of the 21 points in his instructions to the jury. The application also alleged that the verdict was not sustained by the evidence and takes exception to the rebuttal testimony of Miss Mydia (Mike) Verdie, former partner of Mrs. McElhaney in the Wilson rooming house, who declared on the witness stand that Mrs. McElhaney had a revolver in her pocket when she left the rooming house.

Judge Westover will pass upon the motion for a new trial when he returns here to hold a 10-day court session beginning January 10.

Shortly after being taken back to the county jail following her conviction Mrs. McElhaney asked that a Bible be brought to her cell and she has spent much of her time reading the scriptures. A religious meeting was held in the sheriff's office at her request. Her aged mother, two sisters and a number of friends attended the meeting. Mrs. McElhaney was given to weeping during the first few days following her conviction, but now is apparently resigned to her fate and has made inquiries concerning the kind of work assigned to women at the state penitentiary.

## Paid Secretary Elected by Alliance Commerce Body

Alliance, Neb., Dec. 24.—(Special Telegram)—George M. Carey, for the last four months secretary of the North Platte Chamber of Commerce, has been elected secretary of the Alliance chamber to succeed J. W. Guthrie, whose resignation becomes effective January 1. Secretary Guthrie stated that his private business affairs left him no time to devote to the duties of the secretary. Mr. Carey will be paid a salary of \$3,000 a year. He formerly had charge of a department of the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce.

## Missouri Governor Grants Six Christmas Pardons

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 24.—Governor Gardner granted six Christmas pardons to inmates of the state penitentiary here on recommendation of the state prison board. This is the smallest number of pardons granted at Christmas for a number of years, officials said.

## Beatrice Man Wounded by Comrade on Hunting Trip

Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 24.—(Special)—While hunting rabbits near Wyoming William Jeffries was slightly wounded in the face by shot fired from a gun in the hands of Gerald Schwentker. The shooting was an accident.

## Another Irish Raid

Cork, Dec. 24.—Military forces yesterday raided the village of Clonduane, county Cork, and made 24 arrests. The prisoners were taken to the barracks in Fermoy, a mile and a half west of Clonduane.

## Starvation to End State of War With D'Annunzio

London, Dec. 24.—Starvation is expected soon to bring to an end the state of war now existing between the regency of Quarnero at Fiume and the kingdom of Italy. The 48-hour time limit given civilians to leave the city expired at 6 o'clock last night, and it appears the Italian government troops have settled down to wait for hunger to defeat d'Annunzio's plan to combat the enforcement of the treaty of Rapallo. One government soldier is reported to have been killed by a bomb thrown by one of the d'Annunzio legionaries, and shots are said to have been fired at an Italian destroyer, but thus far the "war" has not been marked by any notable hostilities.

A barrage of proclamations has been hurled into the rival camps carrying out of the Rapallo pact. The people, however, do not seem to be very anxious to follow his advice. In spite of orders from the post-soldier forbidding anyone leaving Fiume, several hundred persons are said to have fled.

The fact that some Russian troops formerly a part of General Wrangel's army have been landed in Dalmatia has caused apprehension in some quarters that they might be used to oust d'Annunzio from Fiume. It is asserted, however, that there is no intention of using the Russians for this purpose.

## Soldiers of Poet Have Settled Down to Let Hunger Defeat Plans to Resist Rapallo Treaty

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## Utah Man Convicted Of Blackmail Pardoned

Salt Lake City, Dec. 24.—Joseph Henry Martin, convicted in 1914 of blackmailing several prominent Ogden citizens who were terrorized by his threats, was paroled by the state board of pardons today. The blackmailing campaign and the trial of Martin created nation-wide interest.

In 1919 Martin escaped from the state prison. He voluntarily surrendered in October, 1920, after roaming through many states and Canada, stating that he was prepared to "take his medicine" and that he was filled with remorse after the kind treatment accorded to him by prison officials.

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## Another Irish Raid

Cork, Dec. 24.—Military forces yesterday raided the village of Clonduane, county Cork, and made 24 arrests. The prisoners were taken to the barracks in Fermoy, a mile and a half west of Clonduane.

## New Plan to Aid Farmers Is Proposed

### Head of Farm Bureau Federation Urges Opening of Russian and German Markets to U. S.

## Hitchcock Presents Bill

Washington, Dec. 24.—Opening of the markets of Russia, Germany and other foreign countries to American farm products through the handling of securities of those nations by the war finance corporation was suggested by J. R. Howard, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation to the senate agriculture and banking committees.

Mr. Howard's plan, as outlined to the committees in joint session, would provide for the extension of credits, by having such securities as foreign countries might be able to give for the purchase of American farm products handled by the war finance corporation, either through selling them to American investors or by issuing debentures based on such securities. Mr. Howard emphasized that his plan did not involve putting the treasury behind such credits.

## Suggestions First Lien

In the case of Germany, the Farm Bureau Federation president suggested that the American credit be made a first lien on all the resources and income of that country by taking priority over the claims of the allies for reparations. Such a step, he said, would be possible under the Versailles treaty and the only thing necessary would be to obtain the consent of the allied governments to the making of such credit a priority over reparations.

The federal reserve board, through Governor Harding, suggested to Chairman McLean of the banking committee introduction and consideration of a bill authorizing federal land banks to make direct loans to the public for agricultural purposes and authorizing the secretary of the treasury to deposit funds with these banks. Such a measure, the board said, would prove more effective for the purpose of making additional credit available than a bill permitting the treasury here to deposit earnings of the federal reserve banks as a special deposit to cover extension of such credits.

## Bill By Hitchcock

A bill of the latter nature has been introduced by Senator Hitchcock, democrat of Nebraska.

W. W. Brauer, New York, who claims to represent the German government with authority to secure a loan of \$100,000,000 for the purpose of buying American farm products, was present in the committee room but did not appear as a witness.

No date was set for another hearing by either committee, but members said that additional hearings might be held after the holidays.

## Industrial Workers Provide Christmas For U. S. Prisoners

Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 24.—A check for \$1,200 was received by Warden A. V. Anderson of the federal penitentiary, from the headquarters of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, for distribution among prisoners who belong to that organization. Thus 60 prisoners will receive a \$20 note Christmas morning.

In addition, all so-called political prisoners will receive a basket of fruit and some tobacco, distributed by the I. W. O. of M. League.

To insure every prisoner receiving a present, a fund is being collected among the inmates to purchase gifts for those who have not been remembered.

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## The Weather

Forecast.	
Snow and warmer Saturday.	
Hourly Temperatures.	
5 a. m.	-7
7 a. m.	-7
9 a. m.	-7
11 a. m.	-7
1 p. m.	-7
3 p. m.	-7
5 p. m.	-7
7 p. m.	-7
9 p. m.	-7
11 p. m.	-7
12 (noon)	3

Shipper's Bulletin.  
Forecast for the next 24 hours from 12 noon, Dec. 24, to 12 noon, Dec. 25, 1920.  
North and west, 5 degrees below; east, 3 degrees below; south, 5 degrees above.