

La Grande Evening Observer

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FREE HAND GIVEN TO WILSON BY CONGRESS

SENATE TWICE REFUSES VOTE OF EXPRESSION

DETERMINATION OF BELLIGERENTS' ATTITUDE ON PEACE TO GO ON.

STOCK EPISODE MAY LEAD TO A SCANDAL

Resolution Demanding Investigation of Who Profited By the Stock Fluctuations Which Broke Out Yesterday After Lansing's Announcement Comes Up in the House Today

Washington, Dec. 22. — (United Press)—Congress will allow President Wilson a free hand in attempting to ascertain the belligerents' peace terms. Both houses have refused to endorse any resolution approving or disapproving the President's action. This leaves the matter entirely in his control.

The senate, for a second time, has refused to pass a resolution of approval.

Secretary Lansing's two statements interpreting the Wilson note were sent to the American diplomats abroad this afternoon.

Market Tumble to Be Probed. Representative Wood has introduced a resolution asking for a committee of five representatives to be appointed to investigate conflicting interpretations of Mr. Wilson's note and probe consequent stock market fluctuations. He asked the committee to ascertain whether "anyone high in the administration or government affairs had profited financially by the stock market quotations."

Note Now in Berlin. American Agent Grew at the Berlin embassy has notified the state department that a copy of President Wilson's note has been received and delivered to the German foreign office.

Entente diplomats firmly believed the allies will not flatly reject the President's suggestions. They based the belief on the fact the allies failed flatly to reject Germany's peace proposals.

Berlin Ready to Stipulate. The Hague, Dec. 22.—(United Press)—German dispatches have said it is semi-officially announced Germany will disclose the chief peace terms immediately, provided the allies' note in reply to Holland leaves the peace door open.

Yankee Dinners For Diplomats Provided

Berlin Attaches Will Get Goodies Direct From Home—London Delegation On Own Resources.

London, Dec. 22.—(United Press)—Notwithstanding war food scarcity, food tickets, meatless days and fatless weeks, there will be real American Christmas dinners in Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey this year.

Thanks to Uncle Sam, his diplomats and employees generally in the warring "foodless" nations will enjoy real turkey, cranberry sauce, oysters, pumpkin pie, etc., on December 25—all direct from America. Somewhere on the Atlantic today, or perhaps on the North sea by now, are big steel boxes closed with the formidable seal of the American eagle, en route to Uncle Sam's diplomatic and consular folks in the central empires and smaller allied states.

A Christmas dinner for these "orphans" is one small job. Ambassador Gerard and his staff, in Berlin, together with the various consular representatives scattered throughout Germany number more than 150 mouths. American official dependants in Austria and Hungary are equal to those in Germany, and in Bulgaria and Turkey they amount to 75, making 375 in all. This means that some of the 375 have families and the American state department must provide Christmas eats for all.

American embassies in London and England, where food is not so scarce, will have to provide their own Christmas

Congress Will Be Idle The Holidays

Several Lawmakers Have Already Returned Home Anticipating Vacation—Early Hours Offset Loss.

Washington, Dec. 22.—(By United Press)—Congress will quit work today and go home for Christmas. In anticipation of the adjournment many solons departed several days ago. But the big crowd leaves today.

The president was not much in favor of the idea, nor was Speaker Clark, because there is so much legislation for the thoroughly Democratic present congress to finish before it dies March 4 and is replaced by one not quite so democratic.

However, President Wilson did not "disapprove" of this adjournment according to Democratic Leader Kitchin. To make up the time thus lost both houses will convene between 10 and 11 o'clock for the remainder of the session. Kitchin said all appropriation bills would be passed and there will be no special sessions.

WICHITA MASONIC HOME BURNED—SEVERAL DIE

Wichita, Kan., Dec. 22.—(United Press)—Four charred bodies have been found in the cellar of ruins of the burned Kansas Masonic home. Firemen are hunting in 18 inches of water for other corpses.

FOREIGN TRADE TOTAL REACHES HIGH FIGURE

Washington, Dec. 22.—(United Press)—The commerce department has announced that American foreign trade for the year probably will total \$7,800,000,000. Eleven months of trade totaled \$7,148,000,000.

PRIVATE WINE PRESSES UPHOLD BY COURT

Portland, Dec. 22.—(United Press)—Circuit Judge McGinn has ruled Oregon citizens have a right to manufacture wine for their own use.

Farmers Controlling Three Legislatures

Minnesota and Both Dakotas Can Draft Legislation for the Farmer—Sweeping Reforms Anticipated.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 22.—(United Press)—Legislatures of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota will convene January 2.

Woman suffrage, statutory prohibition and regulation of mining companies will be before the Minnesota legislature. It is believed that statewide prohibition and suffrage will be placed on the ballot of the next state election, as a result of legislative action this session. About two-thirds of Minnesota was made dry by local option laws enacted at the last legislative session.

In North Dakota, sweeping reforms are looked for from the "farmers" legislature convening January 2. Four years ago, a farmers' co-operative marketing organization for non-speculative selling of their grain, was organized. As an outgrowth of this organization the Farmers' Non-Partisan league, object strictly political, was organized.

Twice in general elections the Non-Partisan league has swept North Dakota. Her legislature is filled with Non-Partisan league candidates. These men are instructed to fight for state-owned elevators, and are understood to advocate public ownership of public utilities. Adversaries of the Non-Partisan league have referred to its aims as socialistic.

In South Dakota, enactment of laws to enforce statewide prohibition, passed by the voters at the last general election, is slated.

mas feasts.

Before the high price of food became a factor in England, Ambassador Page used to act as wholesale grocer for his compatriots in the central empires. The food was bought in England and shipped via Holland. Finally British prices became too much for Jeffersonian simplicity and Ambassador Page suggested to Washington that the "catering" could better be done from America direct. A month ago orders from Berlin, Vienna, Budapest, Sofia and other points began to sound like Christmas. There were appealing references to real turkey, sage and oyster dressing, candies and other requisites which a Christmas dinner cannot be without. These orders reached America in plenty of time. The ship captain who has them in charge on the way to Europe has been requested to ask any submarine commander he happens to meet to "have a heart."

BEAUTIFUL WIFE OF GERMAN ATTACHE VISITS BOMB TRIAL AT SAN FRANCISCO.



LIEUTENANT WILHELM VON BRINCKEN AND HIS WIFE on their way from the federal court in San Francisco where Consul General Franz Bopp, Von Brincken, attaches and agents of the German consulate are on trial under indictments charging conspiracy to dynamite munitions ships and vessels in western ports and to destroy Canadian trains and railway lines. Lieut. Von Brincken's wife is the former Milo Abercrombie, San Francisco society girl, considered one of the most beautiful of western women. She is one of the popular members of the exclusive social set on the Pacific coast and is taking a keen interest in the proceedings against her husband and consulate officials.

SOLDIER HAS SCHEME FOR MESSAGE BEARER

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 22.—(United Press)—During a session of the school for officers in the Thirty-second Michigan regiment the officer in charge asked for suggestions for the improvement of the Intelligence department. "Why couldn't we cross-breed carrier pigeons with parrots and tell them the message instead of tying it to them," asked one of the pupils. Another suggested the government might train swordfishes to torpedo enemy submarines and woodpeckers to puncture enemy aeroplanes.

VILLISTAS ATTACK TORREON.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 22.—(United Press)—Villistas attacked Torreon at 4 o'clock this morning. An official wire to the Mexican government attaches said the battle was raging at daybreak.

Villistas yesterday captured Burmillo, 30 miles north of Torreon.

If Villa takes Torreon he will dominate the railways leading to the border.

Military observers believe Villa can easily seize Torreon, as the garrison was weakened when Murgua marched northward to aid Chihuahua.

CHRISTMAS TRADING SETS MARK LUXURIES COMMAND ATTENTION

Christmas trade in La Grande is and has acted accordingly. The new condition is welcomed by merchants and employees alike, who have long been burdened by the eleventh-hour rush.

In jewelry stores especially is this new trade noticeable, purchases exceeding by two hundred per cent the volume of business of last year. The trade in art and stationery stores has also increased wonderfully, conclusive proof that La Grande people have money and inclination to buy that kind of goods.

Christmas lines in gifts, foods, meats and luxuries are now displayed in gayly decorated windows, a practice that is not only profitable to the merchants but which greatly enhances the yuletide spirit.

SCHOOLS CLOSED WITH APPROPRIATE EXERCISES

Pupils in Miss Anderson's room—the Sixth grade—this afternoon presented "The Bird's Christmas Carol," in a splendid manner at the high school auditorium. Many parents were present to listen to this particular program, while others went to different rooms of the Central building where various teachers had brief programs. With these pre-Christmas festivities school adjourned this afternoon until the first Tuesday in the new year.

Several teachers and students from out of town are leaving tonight for their respective homes to spend the holidays, and the school bells will hang idle during Yuletide.

Weather Forecast.

Rain in west of Oregon, snow eastern part. Southwest winds.

Holiday Hours Christmas.

There will be one city delivery of parcels post packages only Sunday, and no rural delivery. There will be no mail or package delivery in the city Monday, but rural routes will go out. General and route windows will be open at the postoffice Sunday.

Stores Open Evenings.

Most of the business houses in the city are open evenings toward the close of the week. Last evening the after-supper shopping was of a lively sort.

BOPP SPENT GREAT DEAL OF MONEY IN AMERICA

Civic Tree Has Been Put In Place

Electric Lights Have Been Swung and Big Star to Top the Tree—Many Aid in the Work.

Towering high in the air and securely fastened with guides, the monster civic Christmas tree is today in place, which is located at Fourth and Depot streets, and will be embellished with additional branches and then will be ready for the big union Christmas tree service Sunday evening at 7:30 p. m. The manual training department of the high school has made a large star which goes to the top of the tree, and will be illuminated profusely when the lights in the tree are turned on Sunday evening. Five streets intersect at that point. The tree will remain lighted during the week of Christmas. There are a profusion of globes in the tree.

In dragging the heavy fir to town many of the branches were broken, and these will be replaced and the sawnwood relieved. Many agencies have volunteered and donated services in erecting the monster tree.

In connection with the donations toward the tree, the committee in charge has issued the following statement:

"The committee on the Civic Christmas tree wishes to express its thanks to the Electric Supply company, of which Austin Brownell is proprietor, for its assistance in supplying all the globes and fixtures and the wiring of the star; to the manual training department of the public school for the making of the star; to the Home Telephone company for their co-operation in giving their line in putting the tree in position; to the Eastern Oregon Light and Power company for their donation of the electricity and their men in wiring the tree and placing the tree in position, and the many other acts of co-operation that they have manifested."

Wilson's Note Discussed. Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law told the commonsense British government's attitude on President Wilson's note will not be determined until all the allies have been consulted.

Business Men Pick Their Own Teams

Spirited Election for Representative Squad to Face Baker Ended With Burst of Enthusiasm.

Considerable interest was manifested by the businessmen of the Y. M. C. A. in the election for new captains of the volleyball league and in the selection of six men to represent the team against Baker on New Year's morning in the local Y. M. C. A. gymnasium. Ballots were prepared and were given to the men at their regular class and all were returned today. The vote as cast by the men is as follows: To represent the Y. M. C. A. against Baker—Elmer Stoddard 19 votes, Dr. Graham 19 votes, Linden McCullough 15 votes, S. D. Crowe 14 votes, W. C. Kelley 12 votes and George Cochran 11 votes. Charles Harding and Dan Scott were close and will be first substitutes.

Thirty-six votes were divided between nine other players. For the new captains, the following players were selected: Elmer Stoddard 13 votes, Dr. Graham 13 votes, Linden McCullough 11 votes and S. D. Crowe seven votes. Forty-one votes were cast for 12 other players.

The new league promises to be the best ever conducted by the local association. During the recent contest a large number of businessmen joined the Y. M. C. A. and all promise to come to the Businessmen's class.

The standing of the league just finished is as follows:

	Won	Lost	Pct.
Dr. Graham's team..	13	7	.650
W. C. Kelley's team..	12	8	.600
S. D. Crowe's team..	8	12	.400
F. L. Meyer's team..	7	13	.350

Not Pledged for Speaker. Vale, Ore., Dec. 22.—(Special)—Representative Crandall, in a statement issued, says that he is not pledged to Stanfield or anyone else for speaker.

EIGHT LINES BALKING ADJUSTMENT OF CARS

Washington, Dec. 22.—(By United Press)—The American Railway Association stated eight railroads have refused to co-operate in relief of the car famine, and hindered adjustment of the national shortage. Federal authorities have declared the famine is largely responsible for the high cost of living.

REFUSES REPLY TO QUESTIONS OF PAST LIFE

HAS NO ANSWER TO GIVE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT DEALS IN 1915

CONTRABAND OF WAR WAS PURCHASED BY CONSUL

Examination of German Diplomat Accused of Violating Neutrality Becomes Heated When Uncle Sam's Attorney Fires Pointed Questions At the German—Silence Tactics Frequently.

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—(United Press)—German Consul General Franz Bopp, charged with violating neutrality, admitted he "spent a great deal of money" purchasing contraband of war for the German government.

Federal Attorney Preston cross-examined Bopp regarding the "secret fund," totalling a hundred thousand dollars. He declared Bopp placed the money at Bopp's disposal. Bopp refused to specify the exact total spent, but testified he personally controlled the fund, and reported all expenditures to Berlin.

He refused to answer when asked why he needed \$100,000 in March, 1915. He denied purchasing war munitions, but admitted buying rubber and nickel.

"What else was purchased?" Preston asked. The witness refused to answer.

Preston queried Bopp concerning the employment of C. C. Crowley, a consulate agent, and asked details of Vice Consul Vanshaack's purchase of a bomb model from Johannes Vonkoolbergen. Bopp said the bomb was worthless.

New Records at the "Y."

The Y. M. C. A. has been the recipient of a number of excellent phonograph records from Howard Richardson from time to time, but his gift of today quite surpasses all others. The records are as follows: American Patrol—The Bullfrog and the Coon—Poet and Peasant, Nos. 1 and 2—Mountain High—The Strolling Yodler—Lucia Di Lammermoor, by Prince's Band, and Lucia Di Lammermoor Sextette.

The Y. M. C. A. is very grateful to Mr. Richardson for his interest and loyalty toward the association.

Parliament Prorogued.

London, Dec. 22.—(United Press)—The King has prorogued parliament until February 7. He said in issuing the order:

"War's vigorous prosecution is our single endeavor. We must vindicate our rights the enemy has ruthlessly violated, and establish for Europe security on a firm foundation."

Free Purses Thanked. He thanked the commons for "un stinted loyalty" in providing war funds.

"In this sacred cause I am assured of united support of all my people and pray God to give us blessing," he concluded.

Send the Christmas Observer to Your Friends

A limited number of the Christmas Edition of The Observer will be sold at 10 cents, including mailing and postage.

Those who desire to send them away need only phone The Observer, Main 37, the addresses and The Observer will do the rest.