WISHING YOU A VERY
Merry Christmas
FROM YOUR
OREGONIAN CARRIER

Morning Oregonian.

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BURGLAR'S LOOT IS 1 FILLED STOCKING

Christmas Spirit Found in Nooks and Out.

TONE DEPENDS ON CONDITION

One Drink Enough to Cheer Burnside-Street Character.

PRISONERS HEAR JOMELLI

Little Girl From New York Insists on Snow for Christmas, and Ingenious Bellboy Provides It With Shaved Ice.

"Say," remarked the city editor, "we want a good Christmas story, something different and heart throbby. Work in some genuine Christmas spirit. Now g'long and look around a bit."

Christmas spirit, eh? All right. Christmas spirit shall abound. Let us view it, though, not through one narrow peep-hole, but to see the Christmas spirit in all manner of strange manifestations in this town.

Thus the theory. Turn now to the practical, in these little incidents from life.

Santa's Gifts for Boys Stolen.

Can you conceive of a man who would steal from a kid's Christmas stocking? Even the police had never heard of him before last night.

Some time Christmas eve he crept into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Dupont, 429 East Madison street, and took the toys that Santa Claus had just left in the stocking of their 7-year-old grandson, Gerald.

He must have come in by the front door, which was not latched. Mrs. Dupont told the police over the telephone. When the old folks returned from the basement of the flat building in which they lived with some Christmas greenery to go with the stocking, it was gone.

"He even took the stocking," Mrs. Dupont mourned. "There wasn't much in it, for this hasn't been a very lucky year—just a little candy and some nuts and a toy violin the boy had begged Santa Claus for weeks past to bring him."

Another Kid May Get Loot.

Can you see the youngster as he awakes today with that delightful, shivery feeling we all used to get at 4 o'clock of a Christmas morning as we hurried out, like him, small white blurs in the darkness, to the long-awaited stocking and then—

Oh, well, who knows? Even the Christmas spirit must be behind the theft of a kid's stocking—an irresistible impulse, perhaps, to bring a touch of real Christmas to some other little kid that wasn't going to have one.

Come now to the Burnside-street district, where the unemployed these days hibernate in droves. The saloons along the street are their best imitation of homes. And to be in a saloon without money—it is not to be thought of very long.

Would you say that the Christmas spirit could permeate even these depths? Yes, even here, as a reporter learned who experimented yesterday.

"Merry Christmas," he accosted one dour-looking man, who stood, his hands deep in trousers pockets, ruminatingly on the curb.

"Merry h——!"

Jomelli to Sing to Prisoners.

"Come in and have a Christmas drink, Bill."

"Oh, all right, Mister, I'm with you."

Crude stuff? Oh, sure. But, even thus crudely, as through a glass darkly, the spirit of Christmas was manifested and will be manifested many times today.

Glance next at the City Jail. There are two reasons why the 40 prisoners held there for various infractions of the peace and dignity of the City of Portland are looking forward to this Christmas day.

The two reasons are Madame Jomelli and turkey dinner.

For Madame Jomelli is to sing at an entertainment to be held at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon in Municipal Judge Stevenson's courtroom, and turkey will be the chief item on the prison dinner bill of fare, at 2:30 o'clock.

The programme, in addition to Madame Jomelli, will include funny anecdotes by Carl Reiter and other features. The Rev. Thomas Jenkins, E. L. McFadden and a number of parishioners of St. David's Episcopal Church will be hosts.

Dinner to Be Delicious.

The dinner, in addition to turkey, will include dressing, cranberry sauce, mince pie, apples, oranges, candy and nuts, furnished by the Market Restaurant and charitable organizations.

There, from still another angle, you have the same old Christmas spirit.

And now for the good old Christmas spirit of our kid days, as it was shown in Portland last night and as it will be manifested today wherever such words as "Merry Christmas" are known.

They still do it just as they used to. Nobody has yet invented a better way, and in all probability nobody ever will.

You remember the excitement there used to be on Christmas eve, don't you? How every youngster on the place was herded into one of the back rooms after dinner, while the grownups went back

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GIRL STEALS DOLL; STORE PLAYS SANTA

SPOKANE CHILD HAS WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE.

Little Culprit Is Sent Home by Special Delivery Loaded With Gifts for Poor Family.

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—A 7-year-old girl, thinly clad and shivering from the cold, today went into the Kemp & Hebert department store, where she stood for more than an hour longingly admiring the great assortment of toys. Her affection was claimed especially by a gaily dressed doll. Finally she slipped the doll under her ragged coat and started for the door.

A floorwalker saw the act and took her, crying, to the office. To Probation Officer Parkes the little girl, who still clung to the doll, declared her name was Lucille and gave him her address.

The officer found her home to be a hovel, and her mother a hardworking woman with a big family to support. Little of joy had ever been in Lucile's short life. Christmas with a Santa Claus was a thing unheard of.

When the officer returned to the store and told what he had found, the manager took the little girl to the toy department and helped her select a big box of assorted toys for herself and all her little brothers and sisters. The doll which she had coveted was included. He then loaded the little girl and the big box of toys in a special delivery wagon and took them to her home.

ENGINE CREW ARE KILLED

Freight and Passenger Trains Have Head-On Collision on Clover Leaf.

DANVILLE, Ill., Dec. 24.—Four enginemen were killed in a head-on collision near Veedersburg, Ind., late today between an eastbound Clover Leaf passenger train and a westbound freight train.

Although the passengers were severely shaken up, none of them was injured seriously enough to need medical assistance, according to a report from the scene of the wreck.

The entire crew of the engine pulling the freight, consisting of engineer, fireman and a student fireman, were killed, as was the fireman of the passenger engine. It is believed the wreck was caused by mixed orders, causing the freight to run beyond the passing point at Veedersburg.

MARSHALL'S TREE COSTLY

Vice-President's Chauffeur Arrested for Speeding With Pine.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Desiring to conform to an amiable Indiana custom of allowing no Christmas to go by without a tree, Vice-President Marshall sent his chauffeur to Virginia to bring one. Later the Vice-President was advised that the chauffeur had been arrested for speeding, and the Vice-President's secretary, Mark Thistlewhite, went to the rescue.

The Vice-President will have his tree in the apartments in the Willard, but he said today that he would advise his chauffeur next time not to be in such a hurry about it.

HYMNS SUNG IN STREETS

Choristers Cheer Tired Workers and Sick Folk at The Dalles.

THE DALLES, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The voices of 70 singers rang through the business district and in the vicinity of the hospitals from 5:30 to 6:30 o'clock this evening, sending cheer and the true spirit of Christmas to tired workers and shoppers.

Under the direction of Mrs. Carlton P. Williams hymns and Christmas carols were sung. The singers later were guests of Manager Fish at a dinner in Hotel Dalles.

WIDOWS GET FREE RENT

New Government of Mexico Undertakes Philanthropy.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 24.—Free house rent for a year for impoverished widows of Carranza soldiers is a philanthropy which the new government has undertaken.

Two hundred such homes have been established here by decree of General Pilar R. Sanchez, chief of the second division of the West, according to advices available here today. Many houses were commandeered.

ST. LOUIS HAS FIRST SNOW

Christmas Storm General in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 24.—St. Louis experienced its first snow storm of the year today and tonight, seven inches of snow having fallen between 8 A. M. and 8 P. M.

The storm was general throughout Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, the Weather Bureau reported.

HAND GRENADE ORDER BIG

France Places Contract for Hundred Million in America.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Contracts for 100,000,000 hand grenades for the French government, it was announced here, were placed today with a syndicate of Eastern Pennsylvania iron founders.

The price was not announced.

GERMAN HOLIDAY IS ALL IN TRENCHES

Empire's Efforts Expended on Soldiers.

GIFTS TAKE RIGHT OF WAY

Only Munitions Put Before Mail Going to Troops.

TINY TREES GOING OUT

Thousands of Candles Will Burn in Bombproof Dugouts Today Under Enemy's Guns—Widows and Orphans Remembered, Too.

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—(Special cable via London.)—Germany is spending its Christmas in the trenches. Every home in the empire has its Christmas tree as usual, but its heart is out on the snow-covered front where the German soldiers are holding 2000 miles of lines against their allied enemies.

Three-fourths of Germany's Christmas shopping has been done for the soldiers. For two months the field post has been struggling with tons on tons of Christmas packages, which have now arrived at the trenches.

Delicacies Sent to Front.

First went the mail for the soldiers in farthest Serbia and Russia, where at the end of the rail journey the packages had to be carried 100 and sometimes 200 miles over terrible roads and mountains. In the last few weeks the Christmas mail has taken preference over everything except ammunition. And such a Christmas mail! No home in richest Berlin will have as many delicacies as have been sent to the front.

There was more caviar in the Christmas packages than will be eaten in German homes in the next three months. One store in Berlin alone sold enough delicacies for the soldiers to feed Berlin for two weeks.

Tiny Trees Sent Out.

Thousands of tiny but real Christmas trees with real candles have been sent out in packages 18 inches high. These will shed a cherry light on Christmas Eve in thousands of bombproof shelters away out under the enemy's guns.

Then there have been trainloads of warm woolen articles, such as sweaters, underwear, mufflers, wristlets, knee-warmers and chest protectors, tons of tobacco, cigars and cigarettes and liquors, to say nothing of mothers' own cakes and mothers' own knitting. For it seems as if all feminine Germany has been devoting itself during the last six months to knitting for the men at the front, and now for weeks feminine Germany has been baking, so that no soldier may be forgotten.

All to Be Remembered.

Lists have been gathered for months of those who might be forgotten otherwise. Thousands with no soldiers of their own to give to have taken these

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ROGUE RIVER IS TO GET SUGAR PLANT

CONTRACT FOR $500,000 FACTORY TO BE LET AT ONCE.

Site Not Announced, but Location Across River From Grants Pass Regarded as Most Likely.

GRANTS PASS, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The Rogue River Valley received her one best Christmas gift today, when announcement was made from Salt Lake that the Oregon-Utah Sugar Beet Company had definitely decided to erect a beet sugar factory in the Rogue River Valley.

Bids for erection of a factory will be called for immediately after the holidays and construction of a $500,000 plant will be started at once.

Seed for 5000 acres of beets, to be planted in 1916, has been arranged for and contracts made with farmers for seeding this area.

While the exact location of the factory has not been made public, it is significant that surveyors have been busy the past week just across the river from Grants Pass, where the California-Oregon Coast Railway enters the town and that the Grants Pass district has signed up a much larger acreage than any other district.

NEW SHIP LINE PLANNED

Inauguration of Central American Service Expected Soon.

SAN JUAN DEL SUR, Nicaragua, Dec. 24.—It is reported that the Pacific Steam Navigation Company will immediately inaugurate a service to Central American ports.

The government has asked the authorization of Congress for the sale of a wharf and adjacent lands at San Juan del Sur. It is said that the proposed purchasers are the owners of the railroad from Corinto, on the Pacific Coast, to Granada on Lake Nicaragua, who propose the immediate construction of a railroad from Granada to San Juan del Sur and the construction of a larger wharf at the latter place.

NEW CURE IS ANNOUNCED

Serum Reported Successful in Treatment of Whooping Cough.

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—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."

EMPLOYMENT TO BE GIFT

Work for Married Men Will Commence Today.

A day's work will be the Christmas present given to a number of unemployed married men with families today by the city. Park Superintendent Convill announced last night that work for married men will start at Laurelhurst Park today. For single men work will start at Kelly Butte Monday.

At Laurelhurst Park the men will start excavations for a lake. They will be paid by the yard and will be allowed to earn $2 a day every other day.

THREE ACCUSED OF INSURANCE FRAUDS

Identity of Washington Suspects Revealed.

ONE MISSING; $500 OFFERED

"Outsider," "Insider" and Saloonkeeper Involved.

CONVICTION THOUGHT SURE

Confederates Who Cashed Warrants in $20,000 Steal Expected to Testify for State—Other Charges Also Pending.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—In filing today information in the Superior Court charging Frank W. Stone, John W. Gillies and Eugene K. Kearns jointly with grand larceny, state authorities formally named the alleged members of a criminal ring for the looting of industrial insurance funds that has long been hinted.

That an "outside man" and "inside man" and a saloonman were believed implicated has been known from the first. Stone, still at large, ostensibly engaged only in the fishing business, was the outside man; Gillies, in jail for the last two weeks, former claim agent of the industrial insurance department, the inside man, while Kearns is the saloon proprietor through whom operations are alleged to have been carried on.

Kearns Faces Second Charge.

Kearns, who was arrested two days ago on the charge of aiding a confessed Tacoma burglar and who obtained his release on bonds on that charge, was rearrested today, again obtaining bonds. Immediately following the issuance of the new warrants for Stone, Gillies and Kearns, Governor Lister issued a proclamation offering $500 reward for the "apprehension and delivery" of Stone. Burns operatives for nearly a month have been following unsuccessfully various clews as to his whereabouts.

Governor Lister emphasized that no requirement as to conviction was a requisite to earning the reward, adding: "We will attend to that."

A previous warrant for Stone on the charge of forgery was issued secretly, December 13, it developed today.

Nature of Evidence Indicated.

The information in which Stone, Gillies and Kearns are charged jointly with grand larceny, aside from indicating that the state authorities believe they have sufficient evidence in their possession to insure conviction, gives an idea of the character of this evidence in the fact that the name of David Blake, Seattle, is in the list of witnesses.

Blake is proprietor of a Seattle saloon. State authorities found at the beginning of the investigation that the fradulent warrants were cashed at three places only: Kearns, Olympia

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MOTHER RISKS LIFE ON TRACK FOR BOY

TITANIC SURVIVOR AND SON HIT BY OREGON ELECTRIC.

Mrs. Ellen Polihronis Follows Lad Who Leaps Before Train and Tries to Throw Him Free.

In a vain effort to pull her 5-year-old son from in front of an Oregon Electric train early last night, Mrs. Ellen Polihronis, of Multnomah Station, rushed onto the track near her home and both mother and child were struck and dangerously hurt. Mrs. Polihronis is the wife of a track foreman on the Oregon Electric, and is said to have been a passenger on the steamer Titanic when the liner sank off Newfoundland.

The woman and the child were standing by the track watching the incoming train. As the whistle blew for Multnomah Station the boy shouted with glee and leaped on the track directly in front of the cars.

Mrs. Polihronis followed. She seized the boy by the trousers. She tried to throw him clear, willing to sacrifice her own life if she could save her boy.

The mother was too late. The train struck her as she lifted the boy to throw him. The mother was hurled aside by the impact of the motor. The child fell on the track. Two cars passed over the lad's body, but he was dragged out from under the rear trucks without fatal injuries. None of the wheels had struck the boy.

The child's injuries consist of a fractured leg and a concussion of the brain. The mother has three broken ribs, a twisted ankle and serious bruises on her head and left side.

The mother and child were picked up by the train crew and brought to Portland. The Ambulance Service Company took them to St. Vincent's hospital. Dr. R. C. McDaniel attended them. Dr. McDaniel says both probably will recover.

The train was operated by Motorman Peck and Conductor Morrison.

GREETING SENT BY POET

Riley Says Even Sorrow-Ridden Planet Has Paused to Smile.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 24.—James Whitcomb Riley, who is in Florida for the Winter, has sent the following Christmas message to the people of Indiana:

"Christmas means love. We cannot picture it without seeing the spangled Christmas tree girt with the faces of gleeful youngsters, glad parents and happy bodies returned home from town or far metropolis. It sounds like bells and crackling logs, and shouts of children. And even our old, round-shouldered, sorrow-ridden planet, with his eye knocked out on his cheek, pauses to smile from sea to sea, and love is everywhere rejuvenated."

DIXIE ROAD COST MILLIONS

Plans Call for $6,931,000 for Highway Linking North and South.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—Plans are being made to expend $6,931,000 during the coming year on the Dixie Highway, an automobile route linking the North with the South, it was announced today.

The Highway starts at Chicago and terminates at Miami, Fla.

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BUSINESS MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Activity Not Altogether Due to War.

SOUND BASIS BEING REACHED

Enormous Volume of Credit, However, Still Unused.

LABOR ISSUE COMPLICATED

Large Profits in Overactive Lines Increase Wages Beyond Point of Even Normal Profit in Ordinary Industries.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Evidences of business activity and growing prosperity manifest themselves on all sides. They find reflection in highly satisfactory railway and industrial corporation reports, higher prices for steel products, crude and refined petroleum and in practically all other commodities, the full employment of labor at high wages and in the higher rates of many dividend disbursements.

How much of this is traceable to the war business and how much represents an expansion of domestic business is difficult to determine. There are reasons to believe that domestic business, independent of the stimulus received from the so-called war order business, has been overestimated. The fact remains, however, that even this domestic business is making progress in the right direction.

Much Credit Still Unused.

Individual deposit accounts continue to indicate a large amount of unused credit, a condition that would not exist were business generally as active as statistics of a superficial character are likely to lead one to believe. The volume of business with Europe is enormous, which is daily strengthening the American financial position, and if this continues long American business will find itself strongly fortified, but it is generally conceded that this cannot continue active unless the demand keeps up, and until domestic requirements are sufficient to replace the demand that is now so insistent from abroad the country cannot be said to be on a firm foundation for a long period of sustained prosperity.

Excessive Profits Disturbing.

At the moment, if there is a source of complaint, it is not of commercial activity, but rather of overactivity in some departments. This is likely to prove disturbing later on, because the enormous profits of the overactive branches of business attract labor from the less active branches and enhances wages to a point that makes it more difficult for many lines of domestic business to show even the normal profit. Should the war end suddenly—and at the moment there is no indication of this—this is certain to cause disturbing developments, for labor resists wage reductions strenuously.

In many lines of enterprise the consumptive demand exceeds productive capacity. This is true of iron and steel manufacture, where contracts are delayed through lack of material. Distributive channels are choked because of inadequate shipping facilities and a congestion of freight at terminal points has led to an embargo on export shipments by many railways, East and West. Wholesale prices have advanced

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PORTLAND'S TRADE ZONE IS LARGEST AND RICHEST.

The trade territory of the Pacific Northwest comprises three major zones, based upon a seaport point and handling a seaborne business. The Portland district is far the largest, with the competitive district next and the third, or Seattle, district small in comparison. The Portland exclusive trade territory embraces 154,000 square miles and the Seattle zone only 34,900 square miles. The competitive territory, which is divided between Portland, Seattle and Spokane, contains about 57,000 square miles.

In computing the extent and value of resources of the three zones, those of the Seattle and competitive districts dwindle in comparison to those of Portland. Timber, grain and water-power resources in the Portland district are twice as large; wool and hops show a big increase; the population is larger, while three-fourths of the livestock business is centered in Portland.

These compelling facts, together with a trade-zone map of the Northwest, will be featured in the New Year's Edition of The Oregonian.

SPEAKING OF CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS!