



LANSING'S WARLIKE VIEW IS MODIFIED

Secretary Causes Sensation, Then Repents.

WILSON STIRRED TO ANGER

White House Conference Followed by "Explanation."

OPEN BREAK IS AVERTED

Crisis Almost Precipitated When Mr. Lansing Says Officially That United States Draws Nearer and Nearer to War.

BY JOHN CALLAN O'LAUGHLIN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The critical situation of the United States and the fact that the Nation has been drawing nearer and nearer to war was responsible, Secretary Lansing officially declared this morning, for the President's move in the cause of peace.

A few hours after Secretary Lansing had issued a statement explaining the President's action as epitomized, he was called to the White House. Exactly what transpired there has not been revealed, but immediately after his return to the State Department Mr. Lansing issued a second statement, expressing regret for possible misinterpretation placed upon his words and asserting that the United States had no intention of departing from its course of strict neutrality.

Nothing that has occurred in Washington since the Wilson Administration entered into power has attracted greater attention or caused livelier gossip than the two statements of the Secretary of State. The first, describing the situation "critical" as a result of the invasion of American rights by belligerents and saying, in so many words, that "we have been drawing to the verge of war ourselves," caused a sensation in diplomatic circles and "spread" on the New York Stock Exchange.

The second, interpreting the first statement and seeking to calm the storm which it had precipitated, was looked upon by diplomats as an attempt to withdraw what was regarded as a distinct threat that the United States might enter into the great European struggle.

President Fears Effect. The President felt the success of his peace operations might be imperiled; that to the world it would seem that the United States, while urging peace, was getting ready to go to war, and that "grave misapprehensions" might develop which would prove not only disastrous to the peace programme but menacing to the welfare of the American people.

Sensational rumors have been circulating since the White House conference. It is known that the President was exceedingly angry, fearing a mistake had been made which could not be repaired. Secretary Lansing insisted that he was justified in making the original statement by the necessity of reinforcing what the President had said in his formal note to the belligerents.

Reports of Break Entree. One report had it that Mr. Lansing had been told his services would be no longer required; another that he had tendered his resignation. Neither of these reports is true. The Secretary's relations with the President are just as cordial, just as intimate, tonight as they have ever been. As a matter of fact, Mr. Wilson reposes the utmost confidence in the acumen of his chief diplomatic adviser.

If there was a misunderstanding, and it looks as though there had been, it (Concluded on Page 5, Column 1.)

WILSONS TO HAVE CHRISTMAS TREE

WHITE HOUSE OBSERVANCE IS TO BE OLD-FASHIONED.

President to Be Host to Child Relatives and Will Deliver Gifts to Poor.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—President Wilson is preparing for an old-fashioned home Christmas at the White House. There will be a Christmas tree for the children of the family, including Josephine Cothran, the President's grandniece, who arrived at the White House last night with her mother, Mrs. Annie Cothran, of Philadelphia, and Ellen McAdoo, granddaughter of Mr. Wilson.

The family party will include Secretary and Mrs. McAdoo, Miss Margaret Wilson and relatives of Mrs. Wilson. Presents will be distributed Saturday by the President to the employes of the executive offices. Christmas day he and Mrs. Wilson expect to deliver presents to a number of poor families.

AMARILLO, Tex., Dec. 21.—A fat yearling buffalo killed by Amarillo hunters in the second buffalo hunt held in the Texas Panhandle in a quarter of a century was carved tonight and the biggest piece was sent to President Wilson. Others who will receive choice cuts are Ambassador Jusserand, of France; Governors Ferguson of Texas and Phillip of Wisconsin; Senator Culbertson of Texas; Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo and the four members of the Federal Farm Loan Board.

IRISH TO BE RELEASED

British Government Decides Advantages Outweigh Risks.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The government has decided to release the Irish prisoners who were interned after the rebellion in Ireland, Henry E. Duke, Chief Secretary of Ireland, announced today. "The time has come when the advantages of releasing these men far outweigh the risk, and I have so advised the government. Steps, therefore, will be taken today to proceed with the least possible delay to return the interned prisoners to their homes."

CHRISTMAS PARDON GIVEN

Whitman Extends Clemency to Carnegie Trust Company Wrecker.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 21.—A Christmas pardon was granted by Governor Whitman today to William J. Cummings, who has served three years and two months of a state's prison sentence for four years and eight months for his part in the wrecking of the Carnegie Trust Company, of New York, several years ago.

Governor Whitman said that letters and petitions asking for clemency had been received from nearly every state in the Union.

LAST SPAN FLOATED TODAY

Strong Wind, However, Will Prevent Placing of Section.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The last span in the Columbia River Interstate Bridge will probably be floated to its position tomorrow, providing the weather is favorable. It was pulled out to the end of the assembling ways today. If the wind is strong, floating will not take place. The lift span will be lifted to the top and left there before the span is floated to place, probably. The lift span was raised more than half way up today and all worked smoothly.

DEMANDS MADE ON GREECE

Allies Want Control of Utilities and Release of Rebels.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The new note of the entente allies to Greece, according to the understanding here, which was presented today, includes, says Reuters' Telegram Company, the following principal demands: Control of telegraphs, posts and railways. Release of all Venizelist prisoners. Prohibition of meetings of revolutionists. Inquiry by a mixed commission into the disturbances of December 1-2.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIP SUNK

Italian General Among Victims, Says Report to Berlin.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—The Frankfurter Zeitung has received a report from Lugano, Switzerland, saying that a vessel, the name of which was not given, hit a mine December 13 in the Adriatic and sank with its entire crew, according to the Overseas News Agency. The report adds that Lieutenant-General Oreste Bandetti, the Italian chief command in Albania, and numerous sailors were drowned.

CRUISER HITS, LINER SINKS

Several Passengers Lost When Italian and Frenchman Collide.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—The sinking of an Italian steamship in a collision with the French armored cruiser Ernest Renan is reported in a dispatch from Marseilles. The steamship, which was taking Italian soldiers home on leave, was out in two. Several persons, most of them passengers, were drowned. The number of survivors is given as 120.

AGED AND CHILDREN TRAPPED IN FLAMES

20 Are Missing in Fire at Masonic Home.

RESCUERS WORK IN THE COLD

Wichita Refuge Plunged in Darkness as Fire Gains.

FLAMES SPREAD RAPIDLY

Several Residences Nearby Catch From Flying Embers and Danger of Conflagration Is Great.

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 22.—Of more than 100 persons in the Kansas Masonic Home here, which burned early today, only 80 had been accounted for at 3 A. M., according to Superintendent Daniel P. Burdick. Eight children, trapped in a wing through which flames were sweeping, and which had been entirely cut off from any entrance by fire, were given up for lost after rescuers had made many frantic efforts to enter the building to rescue the helpless little ones.

Flames Spread Quickly. Aside from the tragic destruction of the Masonic Home, the fire began to assume serious financial aspects as several nearby houses began burning. Efforts to obtain telegraph operators to man wires to the outside world were hindered by the fact that five men from the telegraph office had been summoned home because their residences were on fire.

The majority of the older persons in the Masonic home apparently escaped. Many of them were uninjured, but in the scanty clothing which they were able to snatch in their exit from the home, they suffered keenly in a temperature close to the zero mark. The refugees took shelter in a nearby chapel and first aid was rushed to them. Frozen fire plugs proved a serious handicap to the firemen in their efforts to check the flames, so that rescue work could be carried on. Walls Crush Woman. One woman, caught under a falling stairway, received injuries which probably will prove fatal.

The fire is thought to have originated in the basement of the home. Among those unaccounted for at 2:30 o'clock this morning are: Gertrude Weigle, 18, a dining-room girl. Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Arrows, each aged 60. Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Brown, each aged about 75. Paul Zielke, 15, an inmate of the home five years, was sleeping in the basement. A plumber had been at the home yesterday and advised the home that someone watch the furnace. Zielke was awakened shortly before (Concluded on Page 6, Column 2.)

CHILDREN GIVE UP SAVINGS TO POOR

BURNS SCHOOL FOREGOES OWN TREAT TO AID HOMELESS.

\$65 Forwarded to Boys' and Girls' Aid Society Is Earned by Youngsters for Christmas.

The real joy of Christmas giving, that comes through self-denial, is the portion of the school children of the Burns School, which has foregone its usual Christmas treat and sent its equivalent in money to the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Portland that the Christmas of these homeless ones may be brightened. A check for \$65 was received yesterday by Runo E. Arne, superintendent of the society, from W. M. Sutton, principal of the Burns School, with a letter of explanation that told of the thoughtfulness for others of the boys and girls of that city. It was stated that the question recently was raised of foregoing the usual Christmas treat at the school and permit the children instead to contribute toward the happiness of those under the care of Superintendent Arne. After the plan was discussed by the teachers, it was not only approved, but each boy and girl gave voluntarily to the fund.

Principal Sutton wrote that nearly all the money was earned by the pupils, and was the result of self-denial of some pleasure on the part of the young people of Burns. In acknowledgment, Superintendent Arne expressed his thanks for the gift, and said the check is the largest received from any school this year.

SENATE MAY HAVE BUT 29

I. H. Bingham, of Lane County, Expects to Stay in New York.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—According to word received here from Eugene, Senator Bingham, of Lane County, will not attend the coming session of the Legislature. He is in New York City. Word received at Eugene by his friends, in a letter coming here, is that he will be unable to return to the West for some time. A recent bereavement in his family also will tend to keep him in the East.

Senator Bingham is a hold-over Senator from the last session, but it is not thought probable that he will resign, so the State Senate may include but 29 members during the coming session.

TARIFF JOB SEEKING MAN

President's Appointee Must Be Acceptable to Progressives.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 21.—President Wilson is looking over the Pacific Northwest for a suitable man for appointment on the tariff board. The names of men under investigation are being carefully guarded.

One of the requirements, it is learned, is that the man chosen must be acceptable to the Progressives. Whether this means that a Progressive or a Democrat will represent the Northwest cannot be ascertained.

There is an intimation that ex-Governor West, of Oregon, ex-Senator Turner, of Washington, and ex-Senator Dubois, of Idaho, all have been suggested as available.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE PLAN IS PROMISED

Army General Staff to Outline Method.

BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED

Estimates of Cost to Nation Will Be Submitted.

MILITARISM IS DENIED

General Scott Says System Will Lead in Opposite Direction and That It Is Democratic and Means Great Saving.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—A definite plan for universal military training will be laid before Congress next month in the shape of a bill formulated by the general staff of the Army, accompanied by complete estimates of cost, as compared to the present volunteer system. Major-General Hugh L. Scott, Chief of Staff, told the House military committee today that the work was in progress, and would require about a month to complete. Chairman Dent said the committee would be glad to see the bill.

In response to a laughing question as to who would introduce it in the House, Representative Kahn, of California, said: "I would be glad to have the honor to introduce it."

General Sharply Cross-Examined. General Scott was subjected to sharp cross-examination today on his reiterated recommendation for a universal service measure, based, in part, on results of the volunteer system as shown in the mobilization of the National Guard for border service. Five of the 22 members of the committee took occasion to assert their belief in the theory of universal service, while two emphatically declared against such a system. Those favoring were Representatives Kahn, Greene, of Vermont, and Tilson, of Connecticut, Republicans, and Olney, of Massachusetts, and Farley, of New York, Democrats, while those opposed were Representative McKellar, of Tennessee, and Representative Quinn, of Mississippi, Democrats.

The statement of Representative Tilson, who went to the border as a National Guard Colonel, followed General Scott's repeated assertion that the federalization of the National Guard accomplished as far as possible by the National defense act, would not meet the country's military needs.

Dual Control Declared Unwise. "Many members, a majority of the National Guardsmen who come back from the border, are in favor of universal service," declared the Chief of Staff.

"I agree with you," said Representative (Concluded on Page 6, Column 1.)

BAKER HIGH BOYS IN RAID APOLOGIZE

THOSE WHO DISTURBED PARTY OF TEACHERS TO DESIST.

Chief of Police Jackson Announces Lads Under 21 Must Stay Out of Poolsrooms.

BAKER, Or., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Students of the Baker High School met today and caused the 12 who had part in the attempted raid of a teachers' party to acknowledge their complicity and to apologize. A C. Strange, superintendent, said the boys had taken an attitude that promised a discontinuance of raids such as was started Tuesday night when A. D. Beasley, the janitor, fired his revolver several times and frightened the boys away.

Edward Jackson, Chief of Police, announced today, after a conference with Mayor Palmer, that hereafter all boys under 21 found congregating for the purpose of molesting persons or are caught handling a cue in a poolroom would be arrested.

AUTO ROBBERS GET \$3000

Chauffeur Shot and Two Others Are Robbed by Highwaymen.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 21.—Julius R. Miller, a chauffeur, was shot through the right shoulder by one of two automobile robbers who attempted to rob him here late tonight. Miller fled when they ordered him to halt and the robbers opened fire but did not pursue him. Jewelry valued at \$3000 and \$5 in cash had been taken from Frank R. Strong, wealthy real estate broker, by two automobile bandits shortly before the shooting of Miller. Charles Stewart also reported to the police that he had been held up by two robbers in an automobile and forced to give up \$7 in cash.

8 ROADS HOLDING CARS

Lines Held Up to Public Opinion for Failure to Re-Distribute.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—In line with its announced policy of bringing before the bar of public opinion the railroads which do not co-operate in car redistribution plans, the commission on car service of the American Railway Association announced tonight that eight roads had failed to carry out recommended redistribution measures. The announcement expresses a hope that these lines will at once show a marked improvement in their performance. The roads named are: Boston & Albany, Maine Central, Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia & Reading, New York Central, Michigan Central, Wash. and Toledo & Ohio Central.

BANK ROBBER CONFESSES

Oscar Lowe Admits Bothell Crime and Implicates A. J. Rounds.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 21.—Oscar Lowe, arrested today at Tacoma and brought here on suspicion of having been one of the robbers that held up the Bank of Bothell, December 8, confessed his guilt tonight, according to the police, and implicated in the crime A. J. Rounds, 61 years old, a blacksmith of Auburn, Wash.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

- The Weather.
- YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 46; minimum, 42 degrees.
- TODAY'S—Occasional rain; southwesterly winds.
- War.
- Germanies describe Russian attacks in Carpathians as waste of men. Page 4.
- British puzzled by Wilson's note to belligerents. Page 2.
- Bonar Law opposes obtaining Germany's terms. Page 2.
- National.
- Secretary Lansing causes sensation with warlike statement, which he subsequently modifies. Page 1.
- Prohibition forces to press campaign in Congress. Page 3.
- Army general staff to present universal service bill. Page 1.
- White House to have Christmas tree. Page 1.
- Food investigation favored by House Judiciary committee. Page 2.
- German Consul admits he hired agents, but says they were employed on lawful business. Page 2.
- Domestic.
- Children and "helpless aged folk" trapped by fire in Masonic home. Page 1.
- Cold wave breaks December records. Page 6.
- Pacific Northwest.
- State budget is completed and runs beyond \$9,000,000 mark. Page 6.
- Baker High School boys in raid apologize. Page 1.
- Safety campaign reduces paper mill accidents. Page 1.
- Pardons denied Idaho defaulters. Page 17.
- Sports.
- Oregon men grind hard for Pasadena game. Page 16.
- Pinetops at outs with Connie Mack. Page 16.
- Cleveland sells pitchers Beebe and Penner to Sox. Page 16.
- Fred Mitchell is real student of baseball. Page 16.
- Commercial and Marine.
- Eastern inquiry for Pacific Coast wheat is renewed. Page 21.
- Wheat advances at Chicago when traders learn of export buying. Page 21.
- Unloading of stocks on enormous scale breaks market. Page 21.
- Capt. to take out first 1917 export lumber cargo. Page 20.
- Portland and Vicinity.
- Judge Langston frees I. W. W. pickets. Page 13.
- Chester A. Sheppard finds that Sheriff has sold his Irvington home. Page 9.
- Mr. Stanfield and Mr. Moser preparing legislative committee list. Page 13.
- State proposes to cheapen foodstuffs proposed. Page 10.
- Jitney guarantees promised city by Stephen Carver. Page 11.
- Two days are left for gifts to poor. Page 11.
- Christmas rush nears end. Page 17.
- Children give up savings to poor. Page 1.
- Art exhibit for Christmas is made. Page 20.
- Grade orders inquiry into prices at public market. Page 10.
- O. W. R. & N. Railway to give employes month's extra pay and insurance. Page 17.
- "Twin Beds" is at Heilig. Page 17.
- Multnomah delegation organizes. Page 20.
- Weather report, date and forecast. Page 21.

JITNEY GUARANTEE IS PROMISED CITY

Mr. Carver Agrees to Start in 30 Days.

COUNCIL ACTION PROTECTIVE

Report of Referendum by Union Gains Currency.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE IS UP

Commissioners Are Stirred by Imputation That They Are in Collision With Trolley Company to Outwit Old Jitneys.

PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS OF PROPOSED CARVER CITY-WIDE JITNEY FRANCHISES.

Service on 11 lines throughout city, eight on East Side and three on West Side, starts within 30 days after franchises are granted. Forfeitable bonds of \$2500 furnished to guarantee establishment of service as called for and for continuance of service. Five-cent fare, with transfers from one line to another promised throughout city and with interurban cars of Portland & Oregon City Railroad.

Lines extend to suburbs, including Lemah and modern buses, as well as touring cars to be used. Service to be maintained on schedule continuously from 6 A. M. to 11 P. M. Power reserved by Council to require additional service. Lines all in territory not now served by street railway company.

Bonds aggregating \$25,000 furnished to protect public in case of accidents. License fees to be paid city at rate of \$1 a seat each three months. Firemen and policemen to be carried free of charge. All regulations asked by Council and refused by Jitney Drivers' Union agreed to.

To prove his good faith in his application for Jitney franchises covering the city, Stephen Carver yesterday agreed with the City Council to furnish bonds aggregating \$2500 to guarantee establishment and continuance of his service as soon as the franchises now pending are settled.

The bonds are \$1000 on each of two East Side franchises and \$500 on a West Side franchise now being considered. The amounts will be forfeited to the city in case of failure to establish the service called for or failure to continue it for six months.

The bond question was brought up by City Commissioner Baker, who said that inasmuch as Mr. Carver had applied for general franchises covering the city and that his action might serve to interfere with others seeking similar franchises, some guarantee should be made that the service called for in the franchises would be established and kept up.

Mr. Carver Takes Issue. Mr. Carver objected at first to the bond proposition, saying that representing an investment of \$250,000 private capital in Portland in the Portland & Oregon City Railroad Company he has too much at stake to act in bad faith with the city or the people.

"The point is this," declared Commissioner Baker. "There have been intimations that there are ulterior motives behind this—that the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company has a hand in it and that the Council is in collusion, and all the rest of that usual line of talk that always comes in a case like this. I am in favor of forcing everything absolutely into the open and that is why I propose this forfeiture. If Mr. Carver is sincere, and I believe that he is, he can have no objection to furnishing a bond, for nothing will be lost if the service is established and kept up."

Bond for Performance Demanded. "I will say," said L. M. Lepper, attorney representing Mr. Carver, "that we have no objection to this except that we have heard statements to the effect that the Jitney Drivers' Union will invoke the referendum on these franchises to prevent us from establishing the service. If the referendum is invoked we cannot start. Furthermore, bus service is in an experimental stage right now and it may be a failure. We intend to make a thorough test—a test that nobody else has ever attempted. If we fail we lose what we invest, and that seems penalty enough without requiring a bond."

Mayor Albee suggested a bond conditioned on there being no referendum invoked and calling for service for at least a year. Mr. Baker said that what he wanted was a substantial indication that the service would be established.

"Of course," he said, "we wouldn't demand a bond requiring the starting of a service if it cannot be started legally."

"I am willing," said Mr. Carver, "to furnish a bond of \$1000 calling for (Concluded on Page 11, Column 2.)

ANNUAL OREGONIAN TO PREDOMINATE IN PICTORIAL FEATURES.

The forthcoming New Year's edition will be the most complete pictorial number ever published by The Oregonian. Two sections, of 12 pages each, will contain full-page and half-page illustrations, presenting in striking manner the chief points of interest and main activities of both city and state.

The State Pictorial Section will contain reproductions of industrial and agricultural scenes of the various counties, while the portrayal of Pictorial Portland in another section will be equally elaborate. Special prominence also will be given to the chief scenic features of Oregon.

In addition, two other sections will be devoted to a detailed presentation of the main activities of Portland and Oregon.

The price will be 5 cents; for postage 5 cents additional in United States and possessions; foreign postage, 10 cents.

JUST WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS?

