



## WILSON PEACE MOVE INDORSED BY SWISS

### Note is Sent to Each of Belligerents.

### ASSISTANCE FREELY OFFERED

### Country Filled With Longing to See End of War.

### NEUTRALITY IS PRESERVED

### Federal Council "Would Consider Itself Happy if It Could Act in Any, No Matter How Mod- est, Way to Help.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—In a note to all of the warring powers, has announced its support of President Wilson's appeal for a discussion of peace terms, saying it "would consider itself happy if it could act in any, no matter how modest, a way for the rapprochement of the powers now engaged in the struggle and for a lasting peace."

The note was sent to the belligerents yesterday by the Swiss Federal Council, and Dr. Paul Ritter, Minister of Switzerland here, sent a copy of it to the White House. Secretary Lansing made it public tonight.

The translated text follows:  
"The President of the United States of America, with whom the Swiss Federal Council, guided by its warm desire that the hostilities may soon come to an end, has for a considerable time been in touch, had the kindness to apprise the Federal Council of the peace note sent to the government of the central and entente powers. In this note President Wilson discussed the great desirability of international agreements for the purpose of avoiding more effectively and permanently the occurrence of catastrophes such as the one under which the peoples are suffering today. In this connection he lays particular stress on the necessity for bringing about the end of the present war."

"Without making peace proposals himself or offering mediation, he confines himself to sounding as to whether mankind may not have approached the haven of peace."  
Switzerland Longs for Peace.  
"The most meritorious personal initiative of President Wilson will find a mighty echo in Switzerland. True to the obligations arising from observing the strictest neutrality, united by the same friendship with the states of both warring groups of powers, situated like an island amidst the seething waves of the terrible world war, with its ideal and material interests most sensibly jeopardized and violated, our country is filled with a deep longing for peace and ready to assist by its small means to stop the endless suffering caused by the war and brought before its eyes by daily contact with the interned, the severely wounded and those expelled and to establish the foundations for a beneficial co-operation of the peoples."

"The Swiss Federal Council is, therefore, glad to seize the opportunity to support the efforts of the President of the United States. It would consider itself happy if it could act in any, no matter how modest, a way, for the rapprochement of the peoples now engaged in the struggle, and for reaching a lasting peace."

## AMERICANS RETURN FIRE

### Kentucky Troops Use Machine Gun on Mexican Snipers.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Annoyed by continued sniping by Mexican troops on the Rio Grande, troops of the Third Kentucky Infantry tonight at 10:30 o'clock opened fire with a machine gun, firing about 200 shots. The shooting occurred at Hart's Mill, near the city limits of El Paso.

There were no casualties on the American side nor was there any more shooting from the Mexican side after the fusillade from the Kentuckians.

## KAISER SENDS GREETINGS

### Christmas Message Addressed to Germans in Field and at Home.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam says Emperor William has sent the following Christmas greetings to all the German armies and to Germans at home:

"Honor to God above, peace on earth and to man, happiness. God bless the third war Christmas of all those away in the field and of those at home in our dear Fatherland. WILLIAM."

## BOY STEALS AUTO, LEADS WILD CHASE

### WILLIAM NUNN WRECKS CAR IN TRYING TO ESCAPE.

### Race Down Portland Heights Ends When Lad Attempts to Turn Corner at 35-Mile Rate.

In a mile-long chase, leading from Portland Heights to Columbia and West Park streets, at a pace that flouted the speed laws, Guy W. Talbot and his chauffeur, Howard Scott, overtook a stolen car yesterday afternoon and restored it to its owner, F. H. Strong, of 250 King street. The thief, 15-year-old William Nunn, son of W. H. Nunn, manager of the Paraffine Paint Company, broke into tears when captured, and was taken to the police station.

The finale of the chase came when the fleeing car skidded at Columbia and Park streets, crashing into the curb, where it parted with the left rear wheel. Howard Scott, chauffeur for Mr. Talbot, believes that the boy's speed as he attempted to make the turn was at least 35 miles an hour. The heavy car spun completely around on the wet pavement.

The car was taken by young Nunn yesterday morning from before the Presbyterian Church, where Mr. Strong was attending services. When he discovered its loss he told Mr. Talbot and his chauffeur, and the latter agreed to watch for it. Early in the afternoon he saw the car in the downtown district, but was uncertain of the number. Later, while Mr. and Mrs. Strong were delivering Christmas gifts, they met the stolen car on Portland Heights, and promptly gave chase.

The boy declares that he meant to return the car after he had ridden an hour or so. He was before the juvenile court some months ago on a similar charge, he says, and is penitently perturbed over the prospect.

## HOLIDAY MAIL IS RIFLED

### Thieves Steal Parcel Post Packages at Mount Angel.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The postoffice at Mount Angel was broken into last night and the thieves played havoc with the Christmas mail, stealing many parcel post packages and several letters.

Postmaster Ebner, in whose store the postoffice is situated, was unable to estimate the loss. Some of the packages were recovered near the Mount Angel section house and some at Baron, a mile away.

Benign robbing the Christmas mail the thieves secured between \$15 and \$20 worth of stamps and about \$5 in money.

## 1000 CHILDREN ARE HAPPY

### Coos Bay Cities Participate in Big Christmas Tree.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The Municipal Christmas Festival took place at the Orpheum Theater tonight. One thousand children from this city, Englewood, Bunker Hill and Bay Park received presents.

There were short exercises, including concert singing and a Santa Claus program.

## SNOW COVERS COOS BAY

### Two Inches at Marshfield Melts, but Hills Are All White.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The Coos Bay district experienced its first snow storm of the season this morning.

Two inches of wet snow fell, and although that in the lower altitudes melted before noon, the hills are still covered.

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## WILSON EXPECTED TO WARN AMERICANS

### Travel May Stop If Peace Move Fails

### POLICY WILL BE REVERSED

### Effect Will Be to Provoke Re- sentment Among Allies.

### REPRISALS ARE POSSIBLE

### Stand May Be Taken That Entente Nations Cannot Supply Tonnage This Country Needs to Trans- port Its Products.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Unless peace shall result from the effort made by President Wilson, the State Department will inaugurate a new policy designed to lessen the difficulties of the United States as a result of German submarine operations.

This policy contemplates a refusal to grant passports to American citizens taking passage on armed belligerent merchantmen or employment on vessels chartered or in any way controlled by the nations at war.

The consideration the Administration has given these matters will profoundly surprise the country. President Wilson offered successful opposition last spring to the enactment of the McLeMORE resolution, and Gore bills prohibiting American travel on belligerent merchantmen. These measures had the support of ex-Secretary of State Bryan.

The Administration argues, however, that a state of facts exists at the present time different from that which obtained when the McLeMORE resolution and Gore bills were proposed. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, has announced a purpose to nationalize all British shipping and to put the vessels in a condition to defend themselves from submarine attack. Thus British ships, it is asserted, will lose their status as merchantmen and become in effect government craft.

Some Principle Observed.  
The United States has never raised any question when the belligerent government ship was torpedoed without warning, in spite of the fact that American citizens employed as members of the crew were killed or drowned. The same principle must be observed, it is declared, in the case of other vessels torpedoed having the same status.

In order that the country may not become involved in controversy with Germany which might precipitate war, it is deemed important to issue a warning to Americans not to travel or accept employment on belligerent merchantmen with the new status contemplated. This action will not be taken until and unless the peace move should fail. The authorities have been observing the greatest secrecy regarding the matter and will not admit that it is being considered, though it is known that a circular of instruction is in course of preparation.

Allies Will Resent Action.  
If the President should issue the circular it may be expected that the resentment among the allies, as a result of this action, will be pronounced.

(Concluded on Page 4, Column 4.)

## WILSONS JOIN IN SINGING CAROLS

### MISS MARGARET WILSON ONE OF LEADERS IN MUSIC.

### President Goes to Church in Morn- ing and With Mrs. Wilson Visits Relatives in Evening.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The President and Mrs. Wilson attended a community Christmas eve celebration here today, and for more than an hour stood on the steps of the Treasury Department, singing Christmas carols with several thousand men, women and children. With them were Francis E. Sayre and Mrs. Sayre. Miss Margaret Wilson was one of the leaders of the singing, and Secretary and Mrs. McAdoo stood with her.

The celebration was participated in by boy and girl scouts. Afterward groups of the boys and girls went to their own neighborhoods and sang Christmas carols.

The President had not planned to attend, but just before the singing began, he walked over from the White House with members of his family. A sheet of music was handed him and he joined in singing. In intervals he and Mrs. Wilson talked with the children and wished them a merry Christmas.

The President and his wife went to church this morning, and in the evening they visited relatives. A large Christmas tree has been put on the second floor of the White House for tomorrow's celebration, in which Josephine Cothran, the President's grandniece, and Ellen McAdoo, his granddaughter, will be the principal figures.

## INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

- The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 35 degrees; minimum, 33 degrees. TODAY'S—Unsettled, probably light rain or snow flurries; westerly winds.
- Peace. German official discusses peace note. Page 4. National. Move for Republican conference to formulate policies taking form. Page 1. Switzerland indorses American peace move. Page 1. Country facing deficit as result of Congress' extravagance. Page 2. President Wilson reverses policy if peace move fails. Page 3. Domestic. Insurance adjusters implicated in "Auto Thieves' Trust." Page 3. Great municipal Christmas tree lighted in New York. Page 10. President Wilson joins in singing carols at outdoor Christmas celebration. Page 1. Troop A celebrates Christmas eve. Page 2. Sport. Darcy says he is not afraid to fight Willard. Tennis makes remarkable advance in year. Page 12. Two titles to be at stake at next Rose City Club show. Page 12. Golf and other amateur sports arranged for today. Page 7. Oregon reverses policy if peace move fails. Page 7. Pacific Northwest. Washington budget at \$7,250,000. Page 7. Bomb received by Albany mail from Seattle suburb. Page 3. Train from East side of Puget Sound. Page 1. Schooner stripped by Alaskan storm. Page 4. Portland and Vicinity. Tommy Swivel plays Santa to 300 poor children today. Page 11. Birth of Christ kept by pastors at Sunday school. Page 13. Hotels will have special Christmas attractions from East side of Puget Sound. Page 10. Oregon men on border send Christmas greetings. Page 10. Meshik is sung by Portland Oratorio Society. Page 3. Diplomatic. Diplomat and coast advocated in fixing railroad rates. Page 11. Dr. J. H. Boyd preaches on Christmas "The Light." Page 11. Boy wrecks stolen auto after wild chase to elude pursuers. Page 1. Europe seeking new home for building sets of frames. Page 6. Many become Christmas brides. Page 16. Portland expects to get 1919 Shriners' convention. Page 10. Christmas trade breaks all records in Portland. Page 10. Weather report, data and forecast. Page 12.

## REPUBLICANS URGE AGGRESSIVE POLICY

### Agitation for Party Conference Gains

### GARDNER OUT FOR LENROOT

### Roosevelt Takes Interest in Organizing House.

### MANN WILL BE OPPOSED

### Effort to Obtain Conference, How- ever, Declared by Mr. Gardner to Be Wholly Disassociated From Personal Idea.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Agitation for a conference of House Republicans to outline a definite plan of constructive action during Congress to replace the present policy of merely opposing Democratic proposals began today to take definite form.

On his return from Cincinnati, where he announced his opposition to Republican Leader Mann for Speaker of the next House and his support of Representative Lenroot, of Wisconsin, for the place, Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, said he would immediately seek to have a conference called for the purpose of "formulating policies" for the future.

He made it clear that his effort to obtain a conference had been entirely disassociated from his opposition to Mr. Mann, which, he says, is based solely on his conviction that Mr. Mann stands for "Prussia and Prussianism" in international affairs. Until Mann indorses President Wilson's recent peace message, Gardner said, he favored him.

"I shall endeavor to have a conference called to formulate policies and discuss them rather than personalities," said the Massachusetts Representative. "I am tired of death waiting for a lot of big-wigs in the Republican party to prepare a platform for us that means nothing. The Republican party more nearly represents the people than any other, and it is high time that we were planning for urging the adoption of many progressive ideas which already have been incorporated into laws in other countries."

Lenroot Favors Plan.  
Representative Lenroot evinced keen interest in the conference proposal, and said he favored a similar plan. He declined to discuss the Speakership situation.

Coincident with the return of Mr. Gardner it became known that he recently conferred with Colonel Roosevelt on the House situation. Other than saying that a conference had been held, however, Mr. Gardner declined to discuss the meeting. Representative Schall, of Minnesota, one of the two Progressives elected to the next House, also is in receipt of an invitation to call on Colonel Roosevelt. In political circles the Colonel's activity is interpreted as indicating that he intends to take more than a passing interest in the organization of the House.

Representative Gardner's announcement of his intention to agitate for a conference, at which more than 30 of his relatives are present.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—James Casey, aged 50 years, who came to Oregon in 1851, will celebrate his first Christmas as a full-fledged American citizen tomorrow. Mr. Casey was born in Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland, and came to America when a young man.

Soon after his arrival in Oregon Mr. Casey took out his first papers as a citizen of the United States, and from that time participated in all elections until the Oregon Legislature two years ago passed a law requiring proof of completed citizenship. He has always voted the Democratic ticket.

Mr. Casey is the center of one of the largest Christmas celebrations in Eugene, at which more than 30 of his relatives are present.

The big war in Europe has brought tears from many little folks in this city, just now.

The cause of the trouble is the fact that a good deal of the supply of cluster lights used in Christmas trees comes from war-stricken Europe, and the supply of such goods in this and other American cities is limited. People are too busily engaged in fighting over in Europe to bother about such

## TRAINS BRINGING GIFTS ARE DELAYED

### MAIL HELD BACK BY HEAVY SNOWS IN WYOMING.

### Rotary Plows Keep Tracks Clear in Eastern Oregon—4 Feet Depth Reached at Dixie Summit.

BAKIER, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Snow continues to delay transcontinental mail trains from the East. O.-W. R. & N. train No. 5, due in Portland at 7 o'clock this morning, went through here at 10:30, nearly 15 hours late. That due in Portland Christmas morning is now reported eight hours late, and will not reach Portland until late tomorrow, probably too late for the delivery of Christmas gifts from the East until Tuesday.

Westbound passenger trains are from one to two hours late, but those east-bound are practically on time. The trouble is still due to snows in Wyoming and congestion of business. Heavy snow in this vicinity has little effect, because rotary plows are keeping the tracks clear between here and La Grande.

Snow has fallen almost continuously here since Friday night, and was so heavy today that the highways are drifted in many places. Four feet has fallen at Dixie summit, and here, but the Sumpter Valley trains have been able to fight their way through almost on schedule.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Battling with snow drifts and intensely cold weather both East and West, trains running into Chicago continued far behind their schedules today. Railroad officials expect the situation to improve within two or three days, as the Christmas business comes to a lag end.

The Oregon and Washington limited, east-bound, was nine hours late. Yesterday's North Coast Limited, east-bound, arrived today, 20 hours late, and today's train is 10 hours behind. One of the sights of the day was the observation cars, still redolent of the California orange groves, but piled high with snow and ice, after encounters with fierce storms on Western plains.

## SNOW IS PROBABLE TODAY

### Precipitation May Be Rain, How- ever, Says Forecaster.

Light rain, or possibly snow; westerly winds.

Now make your plans accordingly, for that is the prediction for today, after the forecaster had basted and bargained with all the elements. Only Santa's cold breath from the far North can make it snow today to any appreciable extent. More likely a drizzling rain is in store, although on the heights a light snow is expected. Yesterday a suggestion of snow appeared on the heights on the East and West sides, but it paid only a brief call. The maximum temperature was 33 and the minimum was 33.

## ARMED CAR GIFT TO GUARD

### Colorado Citizens Raise Funds by Popular Subscription.

DENVER, Dec. 24.—An armored motor car, funds to buy which were raised by popular subscription, was presented yesterday to the National Guard of Colorado.

Adjutant-General Harry P. Gamble accepted the car. The presentation took place in the Capitol grounds here.

Man Thought Villa Victim Is Safe.  
PRESIDIO, Tex., Dec. 24.—Guillermo Snayman, son of the late General W. D. Snayman, of Boer war fame, arrived here Saturday from Mexico, where his long period of hiding from Villa bandits caused his friends to announce their belief that he had been killed.

Seattle is raising a fund of \$10,000 to send a delegation, band and patrol to the imperial session in Minneapolis in 1917 to strengthen the chances of the Northwest and those of Portland for the 1919 session.

"Student" committees, glee club and an orchestra will accompany them and an extensive programme is being planned to attract attention to the West as a center worthy of notice for a gathering of this sort. The Seattle Temple is working with the knowledge of the benefits that accrue from the entertainment of so vast a throng of visitors. Approximately \$2,000,000 was left in that city by the gathering that was held there in 1915.

Al Kadens also will send a band and patrol to Minneapolis in the campaign, and will expend about \$6000 of \$7000 annually out of their own funds until the National gathering has been landed. No funds will be asked for the preliminary work, but in 1918 a whirlwind campaign will be launched to raise the entire fund of \$75,000 to \$100,000 needed for the entertainment of the visitors.

At present it is suggested that the event be held in conjunction with the Rose Festival, and that the events be handled by the same workers, but as yet this move has taken no definite form.

One of the most effective arguments in favor of the move to bring the session here is the matter of hotel accommodation, which is placed as above that of Seattle, Buffalo or Minneapolis, each of which has landed similar meetings.

One Hundred Specials Would Run.  
Approximately 100 special trains would be run from the various temples with members and their families, wherever the meeting is held.

## SHRINE CONVENTION IN 1919 EXPECTED

### Session Would Bring 50,000 Members

### OTHER CONTENDERS INACTIVE

### All Western Temples Pledge Support to Portland.

### \$100,000 FUND REQUIRED

### Estimate Is That Gathering Would Bring \$2,000,000 and Proposal Is to Have Celebration in Con- nection With Rose Festival.

HOW AL KADER TEMPLE WILL TRY TO GET 1919 SHRINE CONVENTION.

Entire West to unite in invitation to 50,000 wearers of fes to visit Portland for 1919 imperial session.

Al Kader to expend \$6000 or \$7000 annually on campaign.

Fifteen temples west of Denver will pledge support.

Hundred special trains will be run.

Fund of \$75,000 or \$100,000 to be raised in 1918 in Portland for entertainment of visitors.

Seattle raising \$10,000 to bring huge gathering to West.

Eastern temples favor Portland.

Elaborate programme planned.

Fifty thousand wearers of the fes will gather around a oasis of joy, bask in the radiance of Portland's hospitality, and carry a new glow in praise of the West to their home temples throughout the United States, if the plans further considered at the annual meeting of the Al Kader Shrine in Portland Saturday night materialize.

The entire West, unofficially, has rallied to the cause of the Al Kadens, and officers of the 17 temples west of the Rocky Mountains have pledged support in the entertainment of the three-day session here in 1919. Portland will take upon itself the financing of the entire programme.

Portland Apparently Wins.  
The invitation extended by Portlanders at the Imperial session held at Buffalo last July met with hearty response and the obstacles of that time apparently have been overcome. Jerusalem Temple, at New Orleans, reported in the race, has made no move. The Indianapolis Shrine, mentioned at first, have made no campaign for the gathering that is generally considered one of the greatest in the country.

The Philadelphia Lu Lu Temple, which was also tentatively in the field for the honors, has decided not to be a contender, since Philadelphia is to have the 1919 convalescence of the Knights Templar.

Ellis Louis Garretson, Imperial officer of Tacoma, has indorsed the plan of the Portland lodge to land the session and the final action in the assurance of a concert that will be taken at the annual meeting of the Al Kader.

Seattle Raising Fund.  
Seattle is raising a fund of \$10,000 to send a delegation, band and patrol to the imperial session in Minneapolis in 1917 to strengthen the chances of the Northwest and those of Portland for the 1919 session.

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One Hundred Specials Would Run.  
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George W. Stapleton, chairman of the committee in charge of the arrangements to bring the gathering here, says he has sent out telegrams to Eastern temples and the imperial officers announcing the intention of the Al Kadens to exert every energy to the campaign.

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 1.)