

STRIKES FORCE HUN MINES TO SUSPEND

Conditions Serious in Silesia, Westphalia and Saxony.

BERLIN SCENE OF CLASHES

Sailors Guarding Foreign Office Fight With Republican Guards Who Would Relieve Them.

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—(By the Associated Press.)—Silesian strikes have broken out in the Silesian coal field as a result of agitation carried on by agents of Dr. Liebknecht, radical Socialist leader, the Associated Press is informed. The agents succeeded in inducing the miners to repudiate the recent agreement with the mine owners. Seven demands, with the condition that they be accepted at once, were refused by the owners and five of the leading mines shut down.

The present Silesian output is half the normal yield. The Rhinisch Westphalian coal fields also are partly paralyzed by a strike which has cut down the usual output one-third.

More Coal Needed. The Socialist declares that the entire industrial activity of Saxony will be crippled within 14 days unless more coal is assured. In November the coal shortage in Saxony amounted to 20,000 tons. The December supply, it is declared, will show a greater decrease. The German Foreign Office and the Chancellor adjoining it, which is at present the seat of the government, were blockaded for an hour and a half yesterday by a squad of sailors which had been doing guard duty there for the past month.

The navy men who were about to be replaced by a republican soldier guard and sent back to Kiel objected to the new ruling. As a protest against the action of the military commander small squads of sailors attempted demonstrations in the various parts of the downtown district.

Clash Results in Casualties. At a guardhouse in the Unter den Linden the sailors clashed with members of the new republican guard. Shots were exchanged and it is reported there were a number of casualties.

A bullet entered the classroom in the University of Berlin of Professor Winer Sombart, a well-known economist, but no damage was done. The presence of the sailors in Berlin had been a source of dissatisfaction among the troops returning from the front and friction frequently has been apparent. Suspicion also is general that the bluejackets have leanings toward the Spartacus group.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 24.—Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, the German Minister to Denmark, who has just been appointed Foreign Secretary in succession to Dr. Solf, interviewed today by the Berlin correspondent of the Politiken, said he cherished no illusions as to the difficulties of the task confronting him, but declared he had confidence in the German people had now taken their own fate into their hands.

Wilson's 14 Points Favored. The Count said his earnest aim would be to achieve a peace based on President Wilson's 14 points and thereby secure a league of nations.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—(Havas)—The Germans have complied with the provisions of the delivery of all their submarines, according to the Matin. The newspaper points out, particularly in this connection the presence at Trondheim, on the Norwegian coast, of submarine cruiser U 57. This is a vessel of the most recent type, displacing 1800 tons, credited with having made a cruise of four months and a half without making port.

BASEL, Dec. 24.—(Havas)—An agreement has been reached between the Berlin government and the German general staff, by which Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General Groener, the chief Quartermaster-General, retain their offices, according to the Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin.

Independents to Nominate. Berlin reports say parleys between the majority Socialists and the independent Socialists concerning election to the National Assembly have failed and that the independents have decided to nominate candidates in all districts.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 24.—The circulation of German bank notes increased during the war from 1,500,000,000 marks to 30,000,000,000 marks, Herr Simon, Prussian Finance Minister, reported. In Prussia from April 1 to October 31, 1918, state expenditures exceeded the income by 218,000,000 marks.

AUTO COMPANY IS SANTA

Portland Day Nursery Children Receive Gifts.

Not to be outdone by the elvish chubs of the city in providing Christmas cheer, the Northwest Auto Company played Santa Claus to 39 children from the Portland Day Nursery yesterday afternoon.

The children were brought from the nursery in autos provided by the company to the select rooms at Chapman and Alder streets, where they had erected a handsomely decorated Christmas tree. Toys, candy, nuts and other presents were passed out to the children, who seemed to enjoy the celebration immensely. The children ranged in age from 2 to 6 years.

WILSON IS TO SPEAK

(Continued from First Page.)

Sessions devoted to economic matters will begin soon after the general convention, for decisions in this matter will affect intimately the prospects of permanent peace. So important is the economic phase of negotiations that President Wilson has sent Bernard Baruch and Vance McCormick to come here as advisers of the American delegation.

Questions concerning availability of raw materials are of prime importance in this connection. There will also be problems regarding imports, exports and embargoes.

Boris Rakhmetoff, Soviet Russian Ambassador to Washington, is here with others to urge the claims of the Kerensky government in Russia before the peace conference. He has arrived at a time when certain sections of French public opinion is shaping toward a definite attitude in Russian affairs, the tendency favoring open warfare against the Bolsheviks in order to establish in Russia a permanent government, wholly free from German influence.

This view does not seem to have made much real headway, the opinion of official visitors being that the internal affairs of Russia are questionable matters for interference at this time, especially by a peace conference.

GIANT CHRISTMAS TREE IN LIBERTY PLACE, AS IT LOOKED LAST NIGHT WHEN THOUSANDS HEARD THE OPEN AIR PROGRAMME.



The city's Christmas tree, a towering fir, blazing with many hundred lights, summoned 3000 Portland citizens in the most remarkable Christmas Eve celebration ever held in the city.

ARCHITECT IS EXONERATED

LEWIS I. THOMPSON FREED BY COUNTY GRAND JURY.

Investigators Fail to Find Evidence Supporting Alleged Attack on Miss Nina Arbuckle.

Lewis I. Thompson, a Portland architect, was exonerated from any wrongdoing in connection with the charges of Miss Arbuckle, a stenographer, when the Multnomah County grand jury yesterday reported a not true bill. Miss Arbuckle several weeks ago reported the arrest of Mr. Thompson on the charge that he had endeavored to attack her when she went to his office in answer to a help wanted advertisement. She asserted that only the ringing of the telephone bell saved her from the alleged attack.

The grand jury made a thorough investigation of the charges, and even went so far as to visit Mr. Thompson's office in order that the investigation might be thorough. After summoning all witnesses it was possible to procure the jurors reached the conclusion that Mr. Thompson was innocent.

Among the true bills reported to Judge Tucker were joint bills charged John Hill and James with statutory offense. Hill and Mrs. James had lived together as man and wife 15 years ago, but after Hill had deserted her, she married Charles James. Fifteen years later Hill returned and Mrs. James left her legal husband to return to her common-law husband of more than a decade ago.

Another joint indictment charges E. L. Owens and Clarence Dayton with the theft of an automobile belonging to T. Sumida. A similar charge is contained in a true bill returned against George Rudolph and Louis Spady. Elliot Sibley and Renie Mineus are accused of endeavoring to steal the automobile of Harley Davis.

Mr. W. Steele, an elderly farmer living near Gresham, is accused of issuing worthless checks on the Bank of Gresham. He was placed under arrest last week.

Fred Staley was indicted under the special statute prohibiting the "borrowing" of a machine without the owner's consent.

Tom Smith, a soldier, is held to answer a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor girl in the last true bill reported out by the grand jury.

CITY OBSERVES CHRISTMAS

(Continued from First Page.)

Events of today, will be the annual Christmas dinner and good time given by Tommy Swivel to the children of the city. It is held at the Chamber of Commerce dining hall this afternoon at 2 o'clock. There will be entertainment for at least 250 juvenile guests, with a tremendous amount of presents and all that appertains thereto. A band and a merry-go-round are merely incidental to this gorgeous affair.

Other events of today, sponsored by various civic organizations, are as follows: Noon—Christmas party at Matinmah Farm, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.

3 P. M.—Christmas party at the Tuberculosis Hospital, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.

3 P. M.—Christmas party at the St. Agnes Baby Home, sponsored by the Ad Club.

Elks to Carry Cheer. Christmas will be carried to the soldiers at Vancouver Barracks, the majority of whom are far from home, by the Portland Lodge of Elks. Through the War Camp Community Service hundreds of dinner invitation cards have been distributed throughout the city. Soldiers and sailors will be honored guests at many hotels and in more than 1000 homes.

Gifts, refreshment and dancing await all men in uniform who visit the Elks Club tonight, where the War Camp Community Service will welcome them, with Mrs. Otto Grieg as hostess. A resident tree awaits the guests and will be the center of festivities from 7 until 8:30 o'clock. Miss Neelon Ewert is major in command of the committee which prepared the entertainment.

Into port yesterday came 50 tons from Bremerton, aboard the West Zeda. They were at once asked to take dinner at the Hotel Benson, as the guests of Mrs. A. J. Meier, the invitation being tendered by Julius L. Meier.

CHURCHES HOLD SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE IS OBSERVED IN APPROPRIATE MANNER.

Carols Are Sung and Messages in Keeping With Yuletide Theme Are Delivered in Pulpits.

Many Portland churches held services last night, on Christmas eve, while others will celebrate today with special services, singing of carols and pulpit messages in keeping with the significance of the day and the times. At Trinity Episcopal Church there will be a Christmas sermon this morning. Christmas eve services were held last night at 11 o'clock. At St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral Bishop Walter T. Sumner will preach a Christmas sermon at 10:30 this morning. Services will be held at the same hour at the Ascension Sunday school on Portland Heights.

The Swedish Tabernacle will hold a song service this morning at 8 o'clock. At Bethlehem Lutheran Church the Young People's Society celebrated on Christmas eve. A special service will be held there at 11 o'clock this morning.

At St. Patrick's Church, North Fifteenth and S. W. streets, masses will be said at 5:15, 6, 8, 9:15 and 10:30 A. M. The 6 and 10:30 will be high masses, at which the full choir will be present. Christmas carols will be sung at the other services. Gonoud's mass in C will be rendered at 6 A. M. Turner's mass of St. Cecilia at 10:30, with violin accompaniment, prelude, "Angels We Have Heard on High," offertory, Adeste Fideles; "Silent Night," by Grubel.

HEAD ASKS INQUIRY

COMPLAINTS MADE BY SOLDIERS TO BE INVESTIGATED.

Excessive Charges in Canteens Overseas Reported by Men Now Returning.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Widespread complaints by home-coming soldiers of exorbitant charges for service in Y. M. C. A. canteens overseas have been referred to the War Department for investigation.

Declaring that the association wanted to "know all its shortcomings," and that if we are not "delivering the goods, after the way the people of the country have supported us, we ought to be made to do so," John R. Mott, head of the war work council, announced today that all specific complaints would be placed before Third Assistant Secretary of War Keppel, in charge of Army morale, with the request that they be made the subject of an inquiry by the Inspector-General's office of the American expeditionary forces.

"If I have been inefficient, I ought to be removed," said Dr. Mott. "If anybody else has, he or she ought to be removed. We want to know our shortcomings, both of omission and commission, so that as far as possible they may be corrected."

Dr. Mott said that his decision to turn the inquiry over to the War Department was based upon a report to him by P. T. Edrop, a Y. M. C. A. chaplain, who had made a preliminary investigation by examining witnesses regarding association service and who had interviewed returned soldiers.

THREE INJURED IN CRASH

Autos Collide at Union Avenue and Sacramento Street.

Three soldiers from Vancouver Barracks were injured last night in a collision between an automobile driven by G. C. Price and a car driven by John R. Grek at Union Avenue and Sacramento street. Grek was arrested by L. C. DuVall, of the Oregon Military Police, and charged with driving an automobile while intoxicated.

The injured were: Sergeant W. C. Jorgenson, nose cut; Sergeant Charles E. Smith, lacerated lip, and Private Joseph Gilgerton, all of the 14th Spruce Squadron. They were taken to the Emergency hospital for first-aid treatment. Their injuries were not serious. The injured were riding in Price's machine.

Dr. Northrup Brings Son Home.

Dr. R. B. Northrup returned Monday night from Pocatello, Idaho, where he went to be with his son, Stanley, who had an attack of pneumonia and was confined to the Pocatello General Hospital for ten days. His son was taken sick while on the train en route home from officers' school at Camp Pike, Arkansas. He has recovered sufficiently to be brought home for Christmas, but will be confined to his home for some days.

WILSON WILL VISIT ARMY

(Continued from First Page.)

Fourth carriage—Major-General Bidale, Brig-Admiral Grayson, Earl Reading and Lord Hershell.

Fifth carriage—Brigadier-General

ambassador, John W. Davis, Lord-in-Waiting to the Queen and Master of the Horse.

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Advertisement for POWERS Furniture Company. Text includes: TO THOSE WE KNOW AND THOSE WHO KNOW US MERRY CHRISTMAS. AND MAY IT BE THE HAPPIEST DAY YOU HAVE EVER ENJOYED. FOR SURELY THIS IS THE MOST WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS IN ALL HISTORY! MAY WE ALL BE VERY GRATEFUL BECAUSE WE ARE AMERICANS—AND BECAUSE THE LEGIONS OF LIBERTY HAVE AT LAST BROUGHT PEACE TO THE WHOLE WORLD. POWERS Furniture Company.

Advertisement for William L. Hughson Co. Text includes: It is our pleasure to extend the season's greetings to our patrons and all. William L. Hughson Co. Federals—Kissels—Fords Broadway at Davis. T. R. to Leave Hospital. NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Theodore Roosevelt, who has been a patient for nearly two months at the Roosevelt Hospital, undergoing treatment for rheumatism, will spend Christmas with his family at Oyster Bay.

Advertisement for Sherman, Clay & Co. Text includes: To New Owners of VICTROLAS we extend a cordial invitation to avail themselves of Our Victor Record Service. We devote an entire floor (third floor) to the proper demonstration of Victor Records—the Demonstration Rooms are glass-partitioned, sound-proof, and perfectly ventilated—Comfort Always. We maintain a Big Stock of Victor Records. Our corps of demonstrators will gladly play any Record without any obligation on your part to purchase. They will advise regarding your selection of Records—being thoroughly familiar with all the Victor Records, from the popular dance numbers to the most beautiful operatic selections. Victrolas, \$22.50 to \$400.00 Convenient Payment Terms. Dealers in Steinway and Other Pianos, Pianola Pianos, Victrolas and Records, Player Music, Music Cabinets, Piano Lamps, etc. Sherman, Clay & Co. Sixth and Morrison Streets, Portland (Opposite Postoffice) Seattle—Tacoma—Spokane.