Morning Oregonian.

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RAILROADS GO BACK MARCH 1

President Relinquishes Control of Lines

EXPRESS COMPANIES FREE

Delay Allowed for Roads to Avoid Financial Troubles Because of Transfer.

DETAILS ARE UP TO HINES

Director-General Instructed to Settle All Disputes and Adjust Claims.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—President Wilson tonight issued a proclamation returning the railroads and express companies to private control March 1.

Failure of congress to enact remedial legislation was given as the reason for extending by two months the time originally announced for relinquishing government control of the properties. In his message to congress last May President Wilson said the roads would be turned back at the end of the calendar year.

"No agreement having yet been reached by congress," Secretary Tumulty said in announcing the proclamation, "it becomes necessary in the public interest to allow a reasonable time to elapse between the issuing of the proclamation and the date of its actually taking effect. The president is advised that the railroad and express companies are not organized to make it possible for them to receive and manage their properties, if actually turned over to them on December 31."

Lively Fight in Prospect.

The Esch-Cummins bill, designed to meet conditions incident to the return of the roads, is in conference, with the prospect that an agreement on differences between the house and senate will be threshed out before March 1. While one provision of the bill would order the return of the roads at the end of the calendar month in which the bill was approved, it was considered hardly likely that an agreement would be reached quickly enough to put the roads back February 1, or one month earlier than ordered by the president.

There are indications of a lively fight before either house adopts the other's position on anti-strike clauses of the bill or the question of continuing the government guarantee to the roads until they can obtain increased rates to meet advanced operating costs.

Also it was said tonight in congressional quarters that because of the president's decision no attempt would be made to rush through the necessary legislation.

Operation Questions Simple.

Inasmuch as the staffs of the various systems have been retained virtually intact by the railroad administration, return of the railroads will involve legal and financial rather than operating questions. Those departments of the railroad administration will remain in existence with increased personnel for months after the operating officers have left the government service. Swagar Sherley, director of finance, railroad administration, probably will be chosen to wind up the government's business in railroading.

Even bigger problems confront the express companies. Consolidated into one system under government operation, the four original corporations are reported to have asked the department of justice if there would be any violation of the Sherman anti-trust law in their remaining a unit.

In two years of physical possession of the railroads the government has encountered a deficit of approximately $646,000,000, according to estimates submitted by Mr. Sherley. When the roads were taken over January 1, 1918, congress guaranteed them a rental of $900,000,000 annually, based on the average income of a three-year period. Operating revenues in 1918 fell $236,000,000 below the standard return and

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GOVERNMENT FLOUR IS PLACED ON SALE

GRAIN CORPORATION EXPLOITS PURE WHEAT PRODUCT.

Campaign Said to Be Aimed at High Cost of Living; Flour Shortage Rumor Is Denied.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The United States grain corporation announced today that the government's pure wheat flour is on sale in small packages "at moderate prices" in hundreds of retail grocery stores throughout the country, and merchants selling it will be provided on application with posters advising their customers of the fact. In a supplementary statement by Watson S. Moore, second vice-president of the corporation, consumers are informed that the flour is in no sense a war or substitute article, but derived from pure wheat.

"The regular flour trade," said Mr. Moore, "should also understand that this campaign is in no sense designed to discredit their regular business, or the brands which they ordinarily handle. They recognize, I am sure, that this is but part of a general campaign on the part of the government to reduce the high cost of living."

Mr. Moore added that rumors of a flour shortage are without foundation and that flour stocks are approximately 50 per cent larger than they were at this time last year.

"MAD POET" SALUTES U. S.

"Mass Dulled by Riches Transformed," Says d'Annunzio.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A message from Gabriele d'Annunzio to the American people was brought today by Mrs. John Adam Drake, president of the American free milk and relief committee for Italy, who arrived on the steamship Giuseppi Verdi. The poet-warrior wrote it in English for Mrs. Drake.

"You were an enormous mass made dull by power and riches," he said. "Behold! You are transformed into ardent and active spirituality; you are become a race of storm and passion, ready for the fight; erect in the face of a future greater than your whole past.

"Oh! Liberty! Let others despair of you, but I will never despair, is the cry of your lion-hearted poet. Gabriele d'Annunzio."

SALES OF TURKEYS SLOW

High Prices Turn Attention of Purchasers to Chickens.

Although the Christmas supply of turkeys was small, high prices prevented dealers from cleaning up. The price was generally cut to 60 cents during the afternoon, but even at that the market men found trading slow. Many purchasers turned their attention to dressed chickens, which could be had at prices ranging from 30 to 45 cents. Dressed geese at 40 cents also sold well, but they were not all disposed of.

In the wholesale district the dealers fared no better than the retailers. Many late shipments were received and only a part of them were sold. Bad roads, high water and scarcity of labor were given by shippers as the reason for sending in their turkeys so late.

EGGS MOVING IN CARLOADS

Tacoma Concern Makes Heavy Shipments to New York.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Solid carloads of eggs are being expressed direct from Tacoma to New York. The first left today, another will start December 26 and a third next week. At least two cars weekly will follow, according to Walter Ely, Tacoma manager of the Henningsen Produce company.

From every direction eggs have been pouring into Tacoma the last few days. Producers have received from 65 to 75 cents a dozen.

Egg receipts for December will be three times larger than ever before in Tacoma.

SPANISH PALACE BURNS

Duchess of Manzaned Masterpieces and Jewelry Destroyed.

MADRID, Dec. 24.—Fire today virtually destroyed the palace of the Duchess of Manzaned.

Several masterpieces, objects of art and much jewelry were consumed, involving enormous loss.

NINE BIG STARS IN WASHINGTON SHOW

Josephus Daniels Will Do Headline Act.

CONGRESS ASKS QUESTIONS

Naval Heroes, Tumulty, Baruch and Others in Cast.

PALMER TO BE CALLED

Who Settled Coal Miners' Strike and How? Is Subject of Sketch on Programme.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 24.—Matters are shaping here for a great show to be staged under the dome of the capitol just as soon as congress reconvenes on January 5. It is going to be positively the biggest show on earth of big men, the passing show of 1920.

Just read this list of stars:

Josephus Daniels, Admiral Sims, Commander David W. Bagley, Joseph Patrick Tumulty, Barney Baruch, William G. McAdoo, A. Mitchell Palmer, John L. Lewis and William Green—all stars, and nine of them.

The headliner will be Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy, who will be hailed before a congressional committee to tell why he took it upon himself to change the list of awards of the expert board which was appointed to spot all genuine naval war heroes entitled to recognition.

Reward of Failures Hit.

There is one paragraph in Admiral Sims' letter that has attracted more attention than any other feature. It is this paragraph:

"In the case of destroyers or other vessels that were successfully attacked by German submarines no special distinctions were recommended in my reports. These are typical examples not only of unsuccessful actions, but of failures to injure the enemy. By reason of the peculiar nature of submarine warfare, no blame necessarily attaches to the commanding officers of these vessels for their failures, but on no account should they receive a special award for their lack of success. Even the assumption that subsequent to their failures they handled the situation well is, of course, no reason why they should be rewarded. To do so is to reverse the policy of our navy and all other navies."

Daniels Decorates Relative.

This paragraph has struck members of congress with great force, and in scanning the list of Secretary Daniels' hand-picked heroes they are astonded to find that the particular brand of heroism so much minimized by Admiral Sims is that which drew recognition for David W. Bagley, Mr. Daniels' brother-in-law. Commander Bagley was in command of the destroyer Jacob Jones which was sunk by a German submarine and it was in connection with this action and this only that a distinguished service medal was awarded to him by his relative, reversing, as Sims says, the "policy of our navy and all other navies."

Admiral Sims will be summoned and Commander Bagley, wearing a D. S. M. doubtless will be invited to appear and tell "how he got that way."

Other Big Men Slated.

Other big men are to be on the carpet, among whom will be Joseph Patrick Tumulty, secretary to the president, who will be asked to tell a special sub-committee of the senate what he knows of the deal made with the officers of the United Mine Workers by which the men in charge of the coal strike were relieved of the humiliation of obeying a court injunction.

Attorney-General Palmer is likely to be called back to see if he wishes to correct some of his testimony that fails to square with statements in letters sent out by the mine workers'

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NEW GOVERNOR WILL ATTACK DRY STATUTE

NEW JERSEY TO FIGHT FOR BEER AND LIGHT WINES.

Constitutionality of Federal Amendment to Be Challenged Again in Supreme Court.

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 24.—Constitutionality of the federal prohibition amendment will be challenged again in the United States supreme court when Governor-elect Edwards takes office, it became known today.

Mr. Edwards stated that a bill declaring beer and light wines non-intoxicating and saleable in New Jersey would be introduced.

A tentative bill has been drafted legalizing sale of beer and light wines in New Jersey, which will be sent to the house, but before it reaches the legislature "one of the greatest constitutional lawyers in the country" will pass on it.

In support of the contemplated assault on the "dry" amendment, Mr. Edwards quotes the constitution of the United States, which says: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

The governor-elect declared he would use all legal resources within his power "to protect the rights of New Jersey."

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 24.—Another legal attack on prohibition was launched tonight when Elihu Root, as chief counsel for Christian Feigenspan, president of a brewing corporation, in the United States district court asking an injunction restraining United States District Attorney Bodine and Charles Duffy, collector of internal revenue, from enforcing the prohibition law.

The bill declares both the Volstead act and the 18th amendment are unconstitutional.

The attack on the 18th amendment is based on the ground that it deals with a subject outside any power granted to congress, is a violation of the tenth amendment in regard to state's rights and is, in fact, not an amendment to the constitution, but "mere legislation." It is also claimed that the amendment is null and void because two-thirds of the members of congress did not by joint resolution or otherwise declare that they deemed it necessary. Such action by congress, Mr. Root argued, is a condition precedent to any amendment, according to article 5 of the United States constitution.

FRUIT BRINGS $20,000,000

Yakima's Returns 50 Per Cent Over Those of Year Ago.

YAKIMA, Wash., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Year-end recapitulation of Yakima fruit production, as published here today, places the total amount of fresh fruit of all kinds shipped out of the valley, including stocks still held in storage, at 15,309 carloads. The total last year was 10,405 cars, the gain this year being practically 50 per cent.

Returns for the 1919 crop are placed at $20,000,000 in round figures, against $12,000,000 last year.

Apples are the largest factor, their returns this year being nearly $15,000,000.

MEXICANS GET PICTURES

Carranza Sends Every Soldier an Autographed Photograph.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., Dec. 24.—Venustiano Carranza, president of Mexico, is sending every soldier in the Mexican army an autographed photograph, according to the local Mexican consulate today.

The pictures are sent as a Christmas remembrance and for the sentimental reason that this will be the last Christmas he will be in office, it was stated.

TRANSPORT IS LAUNCHED

New Army Craft Chateau Thierry Named After Battle.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.—The United States army transport Chateau Thierry, of 6000 tons, named after the famous battle field on which the army and marine corps achieved undying fame, was launched today at Hog Island.

Mrs. George Barnett of Washington, wife of the commandant of the marine corps, was the sponsor.

LEGION COMMANDER GREETS WAR HEROES

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE SENT TO DISABLED VETERANS.

Telegram Expresses Appreciation of Assistance Given in Placing Facts Before Congress.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 24.—National Commander D'Olier of the American Legion today sent Christmas greetings to the war-disabled men and women throughout the country which he addressed to Corporal J. E. Bute, Walter Reed hospital, Washington. Corporal Bute represented the disabled veterans in the recent conference of the legion in Washington. The telegram follows:

"As national commander of the American Legion, I desire to extend through you to the disabled service men in the Walter Reed general hospital and to the disabled men and women of the recent war throughout the country sincerest Christmas greetings from the American Legion.

"It was with most heartfelt gratification that I learned less than 48 hours after the conference of department commanders of the American Legion in Washington adjourned the senate had acted in response to our recommendations for legislation to secure to the disabled men and their families just and liberal treatment for which they had waited so long.

"I want you and your comrades to know that no small share of the success of the conference was due to your assistance in representing the facts to the members of congress. It is the hope of the American Legion to be of continuous service to the comrades in need and no efforts will be relaxed while any men who have been handicapped by reason of their service to their country require the legion's intercession and support."

GERMAN CROWN IS GONE

New Coat of Arms Is Chosen by Government.

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—(Havas.)—The German government has chosen a new coat of arms for the republic. It consists of a black eagle on a gold and yellow background, without other ornamentation.

The crown and other emblems have disappeared.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS WHOLE CITY CRIES

Great Day of Year Given Over to Gladness.

LABORS OF LOVE ARE MANY

Happiness Is Carried Into Every Needy Home Found.

SHUT-INS REMEMBERED

Church Services, Christmas Trees, Dinners, Public and Private. Betoken Festal Spirit.

CHRISTMAS-DAY EVENTS IN PORTLAND.

Elks' tree for children, municipal auditorium, 11 o'clock A. M.

Tommy Swivel's turkey dinner for children of pensioned widows, main dining-room of Chamber of Commerce, at 2 o'clock P. M.

Dinner for girls at Louise home, followed by programme tendered by Hotel Men's association.

Annual dinner for homeless men at Portland commons.

Christmas concert, evening, at Men's resort.

Entertainment for ex-service men, evening, at Everyman's club.

Public band concert, 8 o'clock P. M., lobby of Multnomah hotel, by Oregon Marine band.

BY BEN HUR LAMPMAN.

There is a city that stands by a river, and the river runs down to the sea. And all the long year, in that city, its folks are exceedingly busied at their own affairs. They barter and trade, and build homes, and close deals, and send their trains and ships from the yards and harbors, and count their cash, and plan their plans, and play the game. And the city is no more selfish than other cities.

But one day belongs to that city beyond all others, for it closes the doors of business and opens the hearts of all who dwell by the river. And the day is Christmas. And the city is Portland.

City Cries "Merry Christmas!"

With this preamble, offering no excuse save the spirit that reigns today, to all and sundry, near and far, Portland cries out the password of the Yule:

"Merry Christmas!"

It began yesterday, though it has been whispering in thousands of hearts for many days. Last night they called it one to another, as friends passed on the holiday streets. This morning, with the first festival of Christendom actually at hand, it is echoed throughout America as through Portland.

Christmas Is Real One.

Now, Christmas is only as merry as those who proclaim it. It is a festival that cannot be camouflaged. And if the spirit really reigns there isn't a false note in all the carols and cries of good wishes—and there isn't a home that stays unhappy, if fellowship can find it out and reach it.

So far as this proof goes—and that's all the way and back again—Portland this morning answers the test of Christmas. For in every district of the city and more particularly in those where want has crept, the big-hearted volunteers of the yule have carried practical joy.

You should have seen the reflection of real happiness brighten the faces of the work—wearied Salvation Army staff when, on yesterday afternoon, they sent laden baskets of Christmas cheer to more than 200 Portland homes that faced a dinnerless holiday. The yule log casts a

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PRE-WAR CHRISTMAS SPIRIT COMES BACK

GIFT PRODIGALITY OF AMERICANS AGAIN RAMPANT.

Holiday Mails Declared Heaviest on Record, Indicating Unprecedented Expenditure.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The American people tonight began celebration of Christmas in pre-war spirit.

Evidences of the nation-wide return to the spirit that prevailed before 1914, when the war, although confined to Europe, cast a reflection across the Atlantic, has been noted in unprecedented buying of gifts, according to reports. Christmas mails—one of the exact indications of national participation in the spirit of the holiday—have been the heaviest on record, it was said tonight by postoffice department officials.

President Wilson, owing to his illness, will spend tomorrow quietly, although his Christmas eve was marked by announcement of his decision with regard to return of the railroads to private ownership. Because of Mr. Wilson's illness there will be no Christmas tree. The interior of the White House tonight, however, was decorated in Christmas style, Mrs. Wilson having supervised the placing of evergreens, holly and other Christmas decorations.

Restrictions on the president's diet have been removed and he will eat his Christmas dinner in his room. Vice-President and Mrs. Marshall went to Indianapolis early in the week. Secretary and Mrs. Lansing left today for Watertown, N. Y., and Secretary and Mrs. Glass are to spend the day at their home at Lynchburg, Virginia.

All departments of the government closed at noon today until Friday morning to permit officials and employes to enjoy the holiday.

Officers and men of the army, whether in camps in this country, in Europe, in Siberia or in the island possessions, had received tonight the wishes for a merry Christmas sent out by Secretary Baker. A Christmas dinner will be served in all camps and cantonments.

Special preparations have been made for Christmas in the navy, the navy department today predicting that its men, whether in home waters or in remote parts of the world, would have the merriest Christmas in the navy's history. Ship supply officers, it was said, began earlier than usual to prepare for the occasion so that every man is insured a turkey dinner. Entertainments have been arranged, many of them for tonight.

For the men of the army, navy and marine corps convalescing in hospitals from war wounds elaborate preparations have been made, both by the military authorities and by citizens.

Secretary Lansing tonight issued the following statement, addressed to the American people:

"It is heralded abroad that we have entered upon a new era of peace and of higher standards of international and national life. It is not a new era, but the old era which was ushered in by the birth of Jesus, perfected by his teachings and consecrated by his death; the old era, to which we return after a time of madness, of agony and of evil. Clothed in the ancient peace proclaimed over 19 centuries ago on the hills of Bethlehem the world, with conscience awakened by the fiery ordeal through which it has passed, should find renewed hope that Christian principles will triumph and become the dominant force in the affairs of men and nations."

JERSEY CHIEF FOR WOOD

With General as Leader Governor Predicts Victory.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 24.—Governor Runyon today announced his support of Major-General Wood as a presidential candidate, asserting that his election "would benefit the country immeasurably."

"With General Wood as our leader next year I am confident the republican party will win," the governor said. "He is intensely a patriot, is possessed of infinite courage, both physical and moral, has bravely preached his creed the country over and demonstrated clearly his great executive ability, tact and statesmanship."

ROCKEFELLER GIFT IS $100,000,000

College Professors, Medical Schools Aided.

CANADA TO GET BENEFIT

General Education Board Will Select Institutions.

HIGHER PAY NEED SEEN

Donor Recommends That Principal as Well as Income Be Used Promptly and Largely.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—John D. Rockefeller today gave to mankind a Christmas present of $100,000,000—half to the general education board to raise salaries of college professors and half to the Rockefeller foundation to aid in combatting disease through improvement of medical education, public health administration and scientific research. It is estimated that Mr. Rockefeller's public gifts now approximate $450,000,000.

While leaving to the general education board the task of selecting the colleges which shall receive awards for their teaching staff and the amount each is to receive, Mr. Rockefeller urged that the principal as well as the income be used "as promptly as may seem wise."

The trustees of the Rockefeller foundation also are authorized to utilize both the principal and income of their gift, in connection with which Mr. Rockefeller added that if the board "should see fit to use any part of this new gift in promoting medical education in Canada, such action would meet with my cordial approval." Such action will be taken, according to Dr. George E. Vincent, president of the foundation, who stated tonight that the trustees would be asked to set aside $5,000,000 for this purpose.

Campaigns Under Way.

It is known that for a long time Mr. Rockefeller has been interested in the problem of aiding teachers in meeting the increased cost of living. In 600 colleges campaigns are under way to raise approximately $150,000,000 for this purpose, and while in making his gifts Mr. Rockefeller does not specify institutions receiving a share shall contribute a sum themselves, this has been the practice of the general education board.

In transmitting his gifts to the board, Mr. Rockefeller said:

"The attention of the American public has recently been drawn to the urgent and immediate necessity of providing more adequate salaries to members of the teaching profession. It is of the highest importance that those intrusted with the education of youth, and the increase of knowledge, should not be led to abandon their calling by reason of financial pressure, or to cling to it amidst discouragements due to financial limitations. It is of equal importance to our future welfare and progress that able and aspiring young men and women should not for similar reasons be deterred from devoting their lives to teaching.

Calls for Aid Numerous.

"While this gift is made for the general corporate purpose of the board, I should cordially indorse a decision to use the principal, as well as the income, as promptly and largely as may seem wise for the purpose of co-operating with the higher institutions of learning in raising sums specifically devoted to the increase of teachers' salaries."

In commenting upon the gift, Dr. Wallace Butterick, president of the board, said that since the end of the war it had received from colleges and universities applications for aid "which would practically exhaust the working capital of the board."

Alluding to the gift of $20,000,000 for improvement of medical education this year, he said:

"My attention has been called to the need of some of the medical schools in Canada, but as activities of the general education board are by its charter limited to the United States, I understand that the gift may not be used for Canadian schools.

Fund Set Aside.

"The Canadian people are our near neighbors. They are closely bound to us by ties of race, language and international friendship, and they have without stint sacrificed themselves, their youth and their resources that democracy might be saved and extended. For these reasons, if your board should see fit to use any part of this new gift in promoting medical education in Canada, such action would meet with my cordial approval."

In asserting that $5,000,000 would be set aside for Canadian schools, Dr. Vincent said:

"From this sum appropriations will be made by the foundation to medical schools on condition that they raise additional funds from other sources. It is hoped that $5,000,000 thus employed by the foundation at this time will give a distinct impetus to the development of medical education in Canada."

LITTLE CHRISTMASTIDE STORIES FOUND IN NEWS OF YESTERDAY FROM PLACES FAR AND NEAR

THE message of Christmas, borne as it should be, winged through the misty night on Christmas eve. Wherever a lighted candle cast its beams from a front window—for children had been told how to call the carolers—the olden songs of Christmas sounded.

In Portland, the Christmas carolers were mustered by Walter Jenkins, of the community service organization, and in all the city they numbered 150 groups. From nightfall until 9 o'clock the carols of Christmas—old English songs that have outlived the centuries—celebrated the advent of the day.

They sang of "Good King Wenceslaus," and of that happy Christmas counsel which begins:

"God rest you, merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay—"

In downtown districts groups of Christmas singers visited hotel lobbies and other public places, singing their carols and passing on. Their advent, and the clear music of the fine old songs, served to draw large crowds who heard them with applause.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—All records for Christmas mail handled at the Chicago postoffice have been broken. Parcel post packages received during the past eight days totaled 1,050,540, 35 per cent more than were handled during the corresponding period last year.

First-class mail handled yesterday was 85 per cent greater than on December 23, 1918.

The flood of mail has overflowed into the streets and an entire block adjoining the federal building has been roped off to accommodate the piles of sacks. Aerial mail planes are carrying capacity loads of Christmas cards, jewelry and other small gifts.

In the last mad rush of Christmas buyers 500,000 shoppers jammed loop stores and sales, merchants report, reached the climax of between $500,000 and $1,000,000 an hour.

All Christmas records of crowds and money spent were broken. Surface and elevated lines carried more passengers than on any single day in history.

In the final scramble money flowed into the coffers of State street department stores and jewelers at a rate that left merchants speechless with amazement.

To the usual Christmas expenditures was added more than $15,000,000 in Christmas bonuses, distributed by banks, offices, stores and factories.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Whether his ship is riding at anchor in a home harbor or is on duty in the remote corners of the world, the American bluejacket will sit down tomorrow to a groaning board. Turkey or chicken, candy and nuts and all the other "trimmings" of a Christmas dinner will be before him.

Ships in home waters will be decorated with Christmas greens at the masthead and foreyard arms and each will have a real Christmas tree for the men. Various forms of entertainment have been provided on each vessel.

Secretary Daniels today sent the following message to all naval vessels and stations:

"Christmas greetings to all in the naval service. Demobilization has lost many shipmates who were with us last Christmas when we celebrated the peace the navy had helped to win, but they are still our comrades. The glory of achievement abides with all who served in the world war. May the blessings of the peace won and the blessings of the prince of peace cheer every heart this Christmas time."

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—A carload of Christmas mail and presents destined for Sacramento and Sacramento valley points from the San Francisco bay district caught fire near Rodeo, Contra Costa county, today and burned so fiercely that it had to be sidetracked at that place. A few of the packages were saved.

Inspectors were sent from here to ascertain the cause of the fire if possible and determine the loss.

To save them from being hauled off as garbage wholesalers in Christmas trees today offered the trees to anyone who would carry them away, according to reports from the commission district. It was announced that more than a carload of trees awaited a market that did not materialize.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Christmas day at the White House will be a quiet one.

Owing to President Wilson's illness his grandchildren will not come to Washington and consequently there will be no Christmas tree. The White House, however, will be decorated as usual. Mrs. Wilson today directing the placing of poinsettias, holly, mistletoe and evergreen.

The president will eat his Christmas dinner in his room. It will be served by Mrs. Wilson. Rear-Admiral Grayson, the president's physician, will spend most of the day at his home with his family, and there will be virtually no restrictions in the menu to be prepared for Mr. Wilson. The president will spend some time out of doors in his wheel chair.

Tomorrow morning Mrs. Wilson will distribute presents to friends of the family and to children who live in the countryside along the route to the Country club in nearby Virginia, where the president has played golf since he has been in the White House.

Hundreds of presents and cards have been received at the White House, a large number being delivered today.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 24.—Bill Yopp, former slave, held his annual reunion at the soldiers' home here today with the old warriors of the confederacy, and Bill, as usual, brought along a little gift for each of them.

The aged negro has been providing the gifts for years, partly with his own money and partly from dimes collected around his home near Macon, where he has become known as "Ten-Cent Bill." Last summer the Georgia legislature in making appropriations for 1920 provided a special fund to carry on Bill's work, and, as this is probably the last time the old darkey will play Santa Claus at the home, Governor Dorsey and other state officials arranged to be present.

Bill started his custom of brightening Christmas for the old soldiers when he returned to Georgia ten years ago and found that his old mas-

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