



OLD SANTA MYTH? WHO SAYS IT NOW?

Childhood's Bulliest of Dreams Come True.

DOUBTERS ARE DISCOMFITED

Evidence of Old Saint's Visit Found Everywhere.

YOUNGSTERS ARE HAPPY

Christmas Celebrated as Never Before in Portland—Nobody, It Seems, Was Forgotten.

BY BEN HUR LAMPMAN.

Who says that St. Claus, the storied, the fabled, the kindest saint in all the calendar, orthodox or otherwise, comes no more? That the hoofs of his prancers, whose heads are tossing their horns this very minute over the tundra of the north, have long forsaken the trails that lead away to homes and happiness? That wretch who dares deny, wherever he may be, stands this day a discontented and unnatural fellow, shorn of the right to friendship and left of the bulliest dream that ever came true. He doesn't reside in Portland, at any rate—so away with all thought of inviting him, the last lingering remembrance of the ruffian renegade who dared assail the Christmas traditions!

Doubters Convinced Now.

For Santa Claus came to Portland, sometime before dawn arrived yesterday. He came as truly as ever a true friend comes when friends call out for him—and, to prove beyond dispute that he was really here, he came to homes where folks had banished all thought of inviting him, to homes where the curfew was almost as bare as the late Mother Hubbard's pantry. And he left Christmas dinners and toys and nuts and candy and all the concomitants of the cheerful Yule.

Peculiarly the province of children, Christmas in Portland yesterday was little different from the many Yules that have preceded it except that maybe it made the children a little more happy, if that were possible. For the city saw to it with especial solicitude that no "kiddle" within its boundaries, from the Heights to Mount Tabor, lacked for toys or joy.

Thousands Render Thanks.

In the great churches, where the organs rolled away at the chants and carols and hymns that are bound with Christmas as firmly as the mistletoe and holly, nay, more so—for they are the lifted words of the holiday—thousands of worshippers rendered thanks from full hearts for the meaning of the Yule. Save when the church-goers were on their way to worship the streets were almost deserted, for Christmas found Portland at its own firesides, as should be.

The snowy and drab adventure gulls that ride over the river and perch on the pilings below Morrison-street bridge, took such toll as comes to them only once a year. They may not have known that the day was Christmas, as did the featherless, coated fellow-birds who tossed peanuts and bits of bread from the bridge rail, to see the graceful swoop and curve of clean sure wings as the gulls retrieved the morsel in mid-air. And, maybe, they did know—for there is a story about a bird called the crossbill, and if you don't know it, it's worth looking into. At any rate the gulls were fed so full of Christmas cheer that they gazed apathetically on the most tempting provender, ruffled grumpy mendicants who would beg for no more.

Coins Tinkle on Streets.

In the heart of the city, from the hotel windows and from street corners, folks threw nickels and dimes and pennies to the newsboys—who were truly as swift and certain as the gulls, and a great deal more pronounced in their opinions regarding the right of possession. As the coins tinkled to the street the boys met them in maddening formation, or an especially agile one would leap high in the air and catch the money ere it fell within the grasp of his fellows. The newsboys knew that it was Christmas, all right, and they played with delighted, jovial jest the game that has come to be a feature of Portland's streets on the day that celebrates the advent of a certain friend of all children.

Biggest and Best of All, because it compassed a multitude of children, each with a full heart and a proportionately quoted stomach, was the entertainment that the Portland lodge of Elks held in the forenoon at the Auditorium. There were 1700 children assembled in the great hall, and there were 500 more who couldn't come, but who were equally remembered with baskets—though they missed the joyous and splendidous tree.

Pictures Precede Dinner.

For an hour the screen across the stage had raced away its diverting tales of the comic "movies," with the pranking heroes of childish filmdom at their very best. And there had been songs and music, before the lights dimmed and the curtain rose in hushed darkness. Suddenly astir that forefront of velvet dark flashed the brilliant electric letters that spelled "Merry Christmas."

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WASHINGTON MINERS CLASH; TROOPS ASKED

UNION WORKERS ATTACK NON-UNION MEN.

Appeal Sent Governor Hart to Rush Soldiers to Wilkeson to Protect Employes.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 25.—John J. Hewitt, treasurer of the I. Wilkeson Coal & Coke company of Wilkeson, Wash., at 8:30 tonight telephoned from Tacoma to Governor Louis E. Hart appealing for troops to be rushed to Wilkeson because of fighting which is reported to have broken out between union and non-union miners, who are ex-service men.

"I have been informed tonight that union miners at Wilkeson attacked several of our non-union men and beat them," said Mr. Hewitt. "I understand that they then formed in quite a large force and started for our mine which was turned back by some of our deputies.

"I have asked for troops to protect our miners and the mine property and am awaiting a reply from Governor Hart."

The Wilkeson Coal & Coke company is the only mine of the state which is holding out for the open-shop basis of operation, which was instituted when the miners refused to return to work in conformance with the orders of their international and district officers and the settlement made through the government.

Reports of labor troubles at Wilkeson began to arrive here this afternoon, but could not then be confirmed.

Later J. T. Lee, mine superintendent, advised Sheriff Tom Morris here that two non-union men arriving on an automobile stage from Tacoma today had been taken off and beaten by a crowd of union miners and that further trouble was likely.

Following this Deputy Sheriff A. White at Wilkeson reported that another man arriving to go to work today had been taken off and beaten by the union men, but that no one in that affair had so far been injured.

Additional deputy sheriffs in automobiles were then sent tonight to aid those already at Wilkeson and were hardly on their way when Treasurer Hewitt sent his appeal to the governor.

Ill feeling between the unions and (Continued on Page 3, Column 1.)

EDICT WILL EASE LABOR SITUATION

Wilson Railroad Proclamation Approved.

MORE TIME HELD NECESSARY

Chance for Solution of Problems Bettered.

SHIPPERS' AGENTS CONFER

Meeting to Be Held in Chicago to Consider Legislation to Precede Return of Roads.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Dec. 25.—Six railroad shop crafts numbering 600,000 members will strike if Congress, when enacting legislation to return the railroads when they are returned to private ownership, includes an anti-strike clause. It was asserted today in a statement issued by W. S. Patterson, secretary-treasurer of the International Machinists' union, on the Santa Fe system.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—President Wilson's proclamation returning the railroads to private control March 1 lends a new aspect to wage problems now before Director-General Hines. In the opinion of railroad administration officials the president's order, made public last night, should tranquillize the labor situation, inasmuch as the time of government control is extended by two full months. Union officers who have been pressing for a settlement of their demands before the roads went back, on the supposition that the transfer would be made on January 1, the date originally set.

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1.)

EX-SOLDIER IS FOUND DYING BESIDE ROAD

YOUTH WITH BULLET WOUND IN HEAD SUCCUMBS.

Earl Milton Picked Up by Auto Party 7 Miles From Chehalis. Coroner to Hold Inquest.

CHEHALIS, Wash., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Earl Milton, discharged sailor of Chehalis, was found lying beside the road with a bullet wound in his head, seven miles southeast of Chehalis, near Forest, at 8 o'clock last night.

The young man's groans drew a party of Chehalis motorists who were on their way to an entertainment at Forest, and they discovered Milton. Beside him was a revolver with one empty cartridge in it.

Milton was removed to a Chehalis hospital, where he died at 5 o'clock this morning. The coroner announced tonight he would hold an inquest tomorrow. Whether death was due to suicide or a clash was not indicated by the coroner.

Milton, who was an orphan, had been living the past three months with C. M. Miles of Chehalis.

SAILORS' FATE IN DOUBT

Intention to Release Americans in Mexico Not Confirmed.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 24.—No confirmation was obtainable here tonight from Mexican government sources of reports published here this morning that the two American sailors who had been placed in jail at Mazatlan would be released during the day.

Neither did the American embassy have any advice regarding the intention to release the Americans.

EDGE BILL IS SIGNED

Increase Authorizes Creation of U. S. Export Corporations.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—President Wilson today signed the Edge bill authorizing the creation of corporations for the purpose of financing American export trade.

The measure was passed just before the Christmas recess of congress.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL REFUSES TO RESIGN

WASHINGTON GUARD OFFICER IGNORES GOVERNOR'S ORDER.

Harvey J. Moss Is Reported to Have Turned Office Over, but to Have Retained Title.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—As a practical and constructive step to relieve the car shortage threatening them with ruin, leading Pacific northwest lumbermen are planning to make an immediate appeal to the railway administration and to the head office of the railroad companies under its control to speed up replacement and repair of rolling stock by turning at least a part of the work over to private car builders of this section. More than 2000 freight cars, badly needed by the railroads to handle lumber shipments, the lumbermen ascertained, are in railroad car shops of Washington and Oregon undergoing repairs in the ordinary routine of management and with only normal forces of shopmen at work on them, although several large private car-building plants in the same territory are running part time owing to lack of work and are faced with the prospect of being forced to close down before many weeks.

Lumbermen interested in the plan (Continued on Page 3, Column 2.)

GOVERNMENT IS BLAMED

2100 Cars Lie in Shops in Bad Order—High Cost of New Work Held Justified.

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SPEED CAR REPAIR, URGE LUMBERMEN

Northwest Moves to Get More Carriers.

METAL MILLS GO-OPERATE

Appeal Will Be Made to Railroad Administration.

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ASTRONOMER BEGINS SEARCH FOR PLANET

BODY BELIEVED TO EXIST OUTSIDE OF NEPTUNE.

Telescopic Photographs to Be Taken of Heavens to Determine Whether Points Move.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Dec. 25.—Professor William H. Pickering of the Harvard astronomical observatory, who is stationed at Mandeville, Jamaica, is engaged in a search for the planet which is supposed by astronomers to exist outside Neptune and estimates that this undiscovered member of the solar system is some 55 times as far from the sun as is the earth, according to a statement today by Professor Solon L. Bailey, acting director of the Harvard observatory.

"Astronomers have suspected the existence of a planet outside Neptune for at least 50 years," said Professor Bailey. "and since 1877 many observers have tried to locate it. The usual method was to study the perturbations of Uranus and determine from these what must be the situation of the object which was deflecting Uranus from its course. In recent years Professor Pickering has studied the perturbations of Neptune as well, and as a result has ascertained what he believes to be the approximate position of the new planet."

"He has recently been engaged in a systematic study of photographic plates of the area of the sky in which he believes the planet to be situated. His method is to have telescopic photographs of a certain small section of the heavens taken at short intervals and by placing the plates one on top of another to see if any of the minute points recorded on the plates seem to have moved."

"It is expected that the planet will be in opposition to the sun this winter and therefore in a favorable position for observation. The exact date set for observation by Professor Pickering in an estimate was December 30, 1919. It is thought that the planet will be of about the 15th magnitude, which means that it will prove to be several thousand times too faint to be seen with the naked eye."

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TREATY EXCHANGE IS DELAYED AGAIN

German Tonnage Figures Yet to Be Verified.

BERLIN FAILS TO GET NOTE

Peace Mission Head Charges Misunderstanding.

INTENT TO DELAY DENIED

Estimate on Bottoms Available as Compensation for Scapa Flow Sinkings Held Correct.

PARIS, Dec. 25.—(By the Associated Press.)—The final debate of the repeatedly postponed exchange of ratifications of the treaty of Versailles depends upon the speed with which the allied mission to Germany can verify the German figures of available floating dock tonnage demanded by the allies as compensation for the sinking of the German warships at Scapa Flow. The Associated Press was informed this afternoon at the headquarters of the German peace delegation.

Baron von Lersner, head of the German representatives, said he thought the situation at least a fortnight if not longer in view of the difficulties of transportation in Germany and details involved in verifying the figures.

Speed Held German Aim.

"A decided misunderstanding is reflected in the Paris press during the past two days regarding my projected trip to Berlin, which I subsequently abandoned," he said.

"My object was to hurry rather than to delay the putting of the Versailles treaty into effect. From Monday night until Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock I was deprived of any communication with my government by either telegraph or telephone, in consequence of which Berlin had no knowledge of the entente note or of the verbal communications given on this subject by M. Dutasta (secretary of the peace conference) until this morning."

"I thought that a trip to Berlin and a verbal explanation of the situation to the government would facilitate matters. The inference by the French papers that the German government wanted to delay the exchange of ratifications is absolutely unfounded. We want nothing more than effective restoration of peace."

Intent to Delay Pact Denied.

"Peace means the repatriation of our soldiers, prisoners in France, who are obliged to spend another Christmas in captivity through hostilities have been suspended for more than a year."

"The fact that Herr von Simson arrived in Paris last Sunday to start negotiations for putting the treaty into effect proves that we had no intention to delay matters."

Regarding the entente note, Baron von Lersner said its tenor surprised him, as it seemed so little in accord with the progress of the negotiations. "The Paris press," he said, "even announced our readiness to deliver over all the harbor material we could spare without endangering our economic existence as compensation for the Scapa Flow sinkings and forecast an early agreement on this question. If we did not get that far it was not our fault. Our experts have not been asked to talk the matter over since a week ago."

Estimate Believed Correct.

Baron von Lersner asserted that according to the verbal communication of M. Dutasta at the time of the delivery of the note, the entente made a diminution in the port tonnage demanded, conditional upon verification of Germany's claim that the entente estimates of the harbor material available were erroneous.

"I want to say in this connection," he continued, "that the statements in the French press that we were disloyal and gave out wrong figures on this tonnage are absolutely unfounded. This investigation would prove, I promised M. Dutasta to ask my government to give all facilities for such investigation."