Morning Oregonian.

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HARDING IS DOING BEST, SAYS TAFT

Course in Treaty Puzzle Encouraging.

EXTREMISTS DUE FOR JOLT

Senator Declared Chary of Definite Programme.

CLEAR COURSE IS STEERED

Ex-President Says Efforts Are Centered on Making Progress and Giving U. S. Leadership.

MARION, O., Dec. 24.—President-elect Harding's last conference on the proposed society of nations before casting aside political affairs to enter into the Yuletide spirit and its activities was held today with William Howard Taft, ex-president, whose ideas as to the league of nations have not always coincided with those of the new party leader.

Mr. Taft arrived here early this morning from Chicago and had breakfast with Senator and Mrs. Harding. Then they began a conference which continued until almost noon, when Mr. Taft left for Cincinnati where he will pass Christmas with his brother, Charles P. Taft, his son Robert, and other relatives.

Neither the ex-president nor the president-elect would discuss the result of the conference. Mr. Taft, however, gave out a formal statement in which he discussed the senator's views on the Versailles league and the proposed society of nations advocated by Senator Harding. No intimation was given that cabinet positions were discussed.

Statement Is Issued.

Mr. Taft's statement follows:

"I enjoyed very much my conference with Senator Harding. I found that he had been using the conferences with his visitors to formulate and confirm the general views he expressed in his speech of acceptance and that of August 28, and that he felt confident that the desire of the American people, as interpreted by him in his campaign experiences and in the results of the election, was to avoid the political and military obligations of the treaty and the league, and that he feels strongly the necessity for reaching a common ground with the leading powers of the world for an agreement that shall secure a gradually effective limitation of armament, a court with jurisdiction over justiciable questions, and a conference of nations to negotiate and press a compromise of every non-justiciable question threatening war, and which shall give us the benefit of the adjustment of our relations with Germany secured to the United States in the treaty without objectionable features of the provisions of the treaty as shown in the republican reservations, and without participation in such commissions under the treaty as concern European nations.

Encouragement Is Expressed.

"I am much encouraged to think that the senator is working out a practical solution which may not be wholly satisfactory to the enthusiasts at either extreme, of whom I may be considered one, but will satisfy those anxious to make progress and anxious to give the United States the leadership she should have in guiding all the nations to permanent peace so far as that is practicable. Of course, the senator is properly chary of a definite programme because it must depend on the circumstances, which only actual conferences with all concerned may develop, but that he is bent on working out in a very practical way, a real and useful association is most apparent.

"He is in an accommodating state of mind as to details and even important provisions, if the definite objections he always expressed to the method and aims and obligations of a political and military character contained in a treaty and the league are obviated in the new agreement."

Dinner to Be at Home.

Senator Harding has no conferences nor engagements scheduled for tomorrow. With Mrs. Harding he will eat Christmas dinner with half a dozen newspapermen, whom he has invited to be his guests. Most of the morning will be spent by the president-elect and Mrs. Harding opening the hundreds of presents which have been received from all parts of the country.

The conference was arranged at Mr. Harding's request and was understood to have concerned particularly the proposal for a new international court in which the ex-president has been interested for many years. Mr. Taft was a supporter of the Versailles' league, but has taken the attitude that some different agency now must be organized to stabilize world conditions.

TERRIFIC QUAKE REPORT

Chinese Provincials Numbering 2000 Are Killed and Injured.

TOKIO, Dec. 23.—A Shanghai dispatch to the Asahi Shimbun reports a terrific earthquake in Kansu province on December 16.

Casualties are estimated at 2000 persons.

SELF-GOVERNMENT ON WAY TO SAN DOMINGO

AMERICAN NAVAL AUTHORITIES PLAN RETIREMENT.

Revision of Constitution and Other Preliminary Steps to Withdrawal Are Started.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—By direction of the president, initial steps were taken today for the withdrawal of American control over affairs of the Dominican republic.

A proclamation announcing this purpose was issued at San Domingo by Rear-Admiral Thowas Snowden, naval governor. Its text was made public here. By its terms the friendly purposes of American military intervention in the island in 1916 are declared to be "substantially achieved" and "simple processes" inaugurated for "rapid withdrawal from the responsibilities assumed in connection with Dominican affairs."

A Dominican committee, aided by an American adviser, will be named by Admiral Snowden to formulate amendments to the Dominican constitution and draft new election laws. When approved by the naval governor, these will be submitted to a constitutional convention and the Dominican national congress as a preliminary to the erection of a Dominican government, to which the affairs of the republic will be turned over.

An accompanying announcement by the state department said tranquillity prevailed in the republic; that Dominican finances had been placed on a stable basis; education and sanitation advanced and the people "for the first time in many years had been able to devote themselves to peaceful pursuits."

Occupation of the Dominican republic by American marines began in November, 1916, the marine force being landed by Captain, now Rear-Admiral, Harry S. Knapp. This force was gradually increased and it now numbers 2200 officers and men. Control was continued throughout the war and for a time there was some fighting in the republic as the marines cleaned out bandits who had been making frequent raids on the cities.

GIRL CRUSHED TO DEATH

Marjorie Ellis Loses Life When Trucks Collide Upon Bridge.

Marjory Ellis, 12 years old, was killed instantly at 6 o'clock last evening, two miles south of Hillsboro, when a truck driven by her stepfather, A. B. Thomas, capsized in a collision with another truck at the end of the Jackson bridge.

The girl was on her way home from a Christmas shopping trip to Portland. As Thomas drove his truck across the bridge it encountered a truck of the Hillsboro Transfer company, and the vehicles crashed, the Thomas truck being overturned.

Thomas escaped injury, but his stepdaughter was thrown beneath the ponderous truck and crushed. An inquest will be held. Thomas is a rancher, residing five miles south of Hillsboro.

CUPID IS LOSING OUT

Weddings at Vancouver Declared Below Number in 1919.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The record of last year at the marriage license counter was not equaled this year. Last year all records were broken December 24, when 38 licenses were issued. Today only 16 were issued, but arrangements were made for a number to be issued tomorrow.

It was thought that last year the large number was no doubt the result of the war, and that a large number of weddings were celebrated on the first Christmas after the soldiers had returned.

HARDING GREETS NATION

Christmas Message Expresses Confidence in the Morrow.

MARION, O., Dec. 24.—President-elect Harding issued the following Christmas greeting tonight:

"Like every normal human being, I wish everybody a very merry Christmas. It gets us out of a rut to join in a national chorus of cheer and good will.

"There is peace, there is confidence in the morrow. There is even cheer in the belief that the distress of today is quickly to pass and we may hope as well as wish for a prosperous new year."

NAVY PAYS $2 FOR OIL

80 Per Cent of Fuel for First 3 Months in 1921 Bought.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—Bids for virtually 80 per cent of the navy's fuel oil requirement for the first three months in 1921 were accepted today from the Standard, Union and Associated oil companies. The price was $2 a barrel at pipeline terminals.

The navy recently has seized supplies of oil on this coast, when purchase could not be made at prices offered.

CARDINAL GIBBONS GAINS

Secretary to Celebrate Midnight Mass in Prelate's Room.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 24.—Cardinal Gibbons was reported tonight as having had a good day and his secretary was to celebrate mass in his room at midnight for the prelate and members of the household.

The cardinal's physician has prescribed "absolute rest, but no medicine."

SUTHERLAND MAY BE LEGAL ADVISER

Ex-Senator Is Considered for Attorney-General.

PLACE ON BENCH POSSIBLE

Frontier Lawyer, Prominent in Utah, May Be in Cabinet.

RECORD ADMIRABLE ONE

Attorney Who Climbed to Top of Ladder by Own Efforts Is Expected to Get Some Post.

BY MARK SULLIVAN.

(Copyright by the New York World. Published by Arrangement.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Within a very short time or within a few months at most, the country will hear a good deal about the man that everyone speaks and writes about as "Senator Sutherland."

Because every one speaks of him this way it is necessary to distinguish between two men who are known colloquially by the same title. The one who is not treated in this article is Senator Howard Sutherland of West Virginia. He has his place in the senate and is secure until 1923.

The "Senator Sutherland" who will shortly be much in the public eye is not really a senator at all. He is George Sutherland, who represented Utah in the senate for 12 years until he was swept out in the landslide of 1916. Since then he has been practicing law in Washington and in Salt Lake City. Let it be emphasized as the first point in any adequate sketch of ex-Senator Sutherland that he has been practicing law and he has not been practicing personal relations.

Many Have Little Practice.

Many, probably most, of the ex-senators and other ex-office holders who enter law offices or set up law offices of their own in New York or elsewhere after they have left public office don't really practice law at all. They rarely appear in court and the calf-bound books are rarely disturbed on their dusty shelves. What most of these ex-office-holders-lawyers do is to capitalize their old personal relations with men still in public life. They do the most important of their practicing, not face to face with the judge in a courtroom, but in long-distance telephone talks with the heads of government departments. They get clients who value their services, not because they know the law but because they know the ropes.

Even those ex-office-holders who, by

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WILD WINDS SWEEP SURF INTO SEASIDE

WATER TWO FEET DEEP RUNS DOWN BROADWAY.

Waves Break Over Seawall at Astoria and Low Vacant Territory Is Flooded.

SEASIDE, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Water two feet deep ran down Broadway last night when the surf, whipped by a 50-mile gale, dashed over the board walk and swept through part of the business section.

There were several washouts in the business district, but the damage to property was slight. Telegraphic lines were out of commission early today, although the telephone lines were working.

Fire started in a small building near the Seaside hotel and for a time threatened that structure and several others, but the direction of the gale assisted the fire fighters and saved the other buildings.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—As a result of the heavy swell raised by last night's gale, the water at high tide today was more than a foot higher than it normally should have been. As a result the waves broke over the seawall at the foot of Tenth street and flooded the low vacant tract there.

Three barges moored on the west side of Pier 3 at the port terminals broke adrift, but were soon towed to safety. On account of the swells the loading of the steamer Orca had to be suspended until after high tide, when the swell subsided.

The big steamer snapped some of her mooring lines and smashed a few fender piling. The vessel was not injured and the greatest loss was the delay in the loading.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The highest tide since 1909 today flooded the south Marshfield section. Water covered the lower floors of some of the houses, and it was feared that it would put the city lighting plant out of commission. The tide probably will be still higher tomorrow, and more damage is anticipated.

There was a severe storm last night. Telegraph wires were down until noon today. The night train from Portland, due at 7 A. M., arrived eight hours late, having been held up by trees on the track.

SANTA "CUTS UP" IN AIR

Small Parachutes Used to Drop Dolls and Toys to Children.

RIDGEWOOD, N. J., Dec. 24.—Santa Claus came out of the clouds and circled low before assembled hundreds of children who could see the pink of his cheeks and the whirl of his whiskers as his airplane cut "didoes" in the air today. Then he dropped dolls and toys to them, which floated down to earth in miniature parachutes.

Santa Claus' trip was arranged by the Christmas Tree association of Ridgewood.

LAST-MINUTE RUSH MISSED THIS YEAR

SHOPPERS AND MAILERS HEED EARLY BUYING PLEA.

Despite Prophecies of Slack Season, Sales Are Large and Mail Sent Is Record.

The last minute rush of Yuletide shoppers and mailers, that feverish, bustling, scurrying mass of humanity that in former years jammed its way into stores seeking to purchase all presents at the eleventh hour, or which packed the postoffices with tons of gifts, all of which must be sent immediately, was absent yesterday and last night.

Heedful of the admonitions of the press, the stores and the postal authorities, the Christmas shoppers this year bought their presents early and dispatched them to distant cities with the same consideration.

In grateful appreciation of this, Postmaster Jones last night said that all packages arriving in Portland during the night, would be delivered today so as to be on hand for the Christmas celebrations. A supreme effort will also be made, he said, to try to deliver some at least of the packages arriving on Christmas morning.

There were, of course, crowds of shoppers in town all day yesterday, but the crush of former years was gone. Running true to form and heredity, most of the men buyers left their Christmas shopping to do until the last day, and these were on hand early to obtain their gifts.

"The majority of men always buy their presents on the last day," said one department store head yesterday, "but as a rule, they know exactly what they want, go and get it, and the ordeal is over."

Despite the number of prophecies of a slack season, and the assertions of "hard times," buying this season has been far above normal, according to businessmen, and it even compares favorably with that of the recent flush years. Conditions in the federal post also bear out the statements of a successful Yuletide.

"The fluctuations of postal receipts have always been considered as a barometer of business," said Postmaster Jones. "This year the postal receipts are on the average of 20 per cent larger than last year, which was considered a prosperous year. Moreover the number of packages and the amount of gift-money sent this year, is far above the average."

The peak day for the sending of letters and cards of greeting at the local postoffice, was Thursday, when nearly 498,000 were sent from Portland. This number is 53,000 more than the largest number sent in 1919. Yesterday was the highest day for incoming packages and letters, while the tide of outgoing packages had been greatly lessened.

Shopkeepers are reporting that instead of the buyers purchasing the cheaper grade of goods as had been expected, the great demand was for the more expensive articles. Toys, generally regarded as a luxury, were in great demand.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYBODY!

FORESTERS HONOR OREGON DELEGATE

State's Representative Presides at Meeting.

CONFERENCE IS DESCRIBED

Olcott Says Woodsmen Here Have Won Respect.

GOVERNOR TELLS OF TRIP

State Executive Declares Country Faces Minor Business Reaction, but Is Optimistic.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—That Oregon's advanced stand on questions of forestry had won her a commanding position among the foresters of the nation, was asserted today by Governor Olcott, who had just returned from a trip east to attend the conference of governors in Harrisburg, Pa., and the conference of state foresters in the same city.

"Our state, on account of its containing more standing timber than any other—having one-fifth of the available supply of the United States and standing third in output—occupied a conspicuous and commanding position," said Governor Olcott.

"Its forest policy, as originated and carried out by its aggressive state board of forestry, has attracted much attention throughout the United States, and the state is recognized by those in position to know, as one of the most advanced and forward-looking of all the states.

This is the only state having a compulsory fire protection law. In my opinion, the active members of the forestry board giving their time and serving as they do, gratuitously, are entitled to much credit for the good work which they have done and are doing.

Conference Well Attended.

"In the convention of state foresters practically all the forested states were represented. The federal government was represented by Colonel Greely, United States forester, and his first assistant, Mr. Peters.

"Much interest was manifested by all in attendance, and I believe considerable good will come of it. I was much impressed with the personnel of this body of men, and have never witnessed greater loyalty to work, nor a more earnest endeavor to improve conditions affecting fire protection and reforestation than was exhibited there. Oregon was honored by having its representative made presiding officer.

"Subsequently there was organized a National Association of State Foresters. Gifford Pinchot, by appointment of Governor Sproul, is the present forester of the state of Pennsylvania.

Business Reaction Expected.

"The governors I met felt that the business interests of the nation must suffer some losses in the natural trend toward normal conditions. They declared the reaction would be of minor consequence when stacked up against the unprecedented and inflated financial profits of the past five years.

"The object of my eastern trip was threefold. It included my attendance at the twelfth annual conference of governors at Harrisburg, on December 1, 2 and 3, and at the conference of state foresters called by Governor Sproul, of Pennsylvania, and his state forester, Gifford Pinchot, in the same city on December 8 and 9, and also informal conferences with the heads of various departments at the national capital with regard to Oregon interests.

Conference Is Successful.

"The conference of governors was an interesting and successful one. It was attended by more than 30 of the 48 executives of the United States. The testimony offered there showed very abnormal conditions existing in practically every section of the country. Some of the governors from the central west and southern states described the conditions in their states as 'acute,' 'alarming' and critical,' and voiced considerable apprehension as to the immediate future.

"The remedy seems to lie mainly in the good common sense of the American people in readjusting themselves to normal conditions. For five years there has been a condition of inflated financial prosperity. Unquestionably a loss must be stood if normal times are to return, and this is the year when we are stacking up the loss against five years of unprecedented and inflated financial profit.

Governors Are Entertained.

"Following the conference, the governors' party as guests of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was taken by special train to Philadelphia, and in charge of Mayor Moore and the city council were shown the historical places of the city, and given a ride on the Delaware river, viewing the shipping of that harbor and the shipbuilding activities at Hog island and the Cramps works.

"Following this, a banquet at the Stratford-Bellevue hotel was tendered by the city. Governor and Mrs. Coolidge of Massachusetts were in attendance upon this.

"When in Washington I called on General Menoher, who is in charge of the air service, relative to a continuation of the forest fire patrol in this state as carried on by the government the past two years, and an

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DADDY OF 4 IS SET FREE FOR CHRISTMAS

ALL-DAY VIGIL OF FAMILY IS REWARDED.

Prosecutor Inclined to Leniency Because No-Funds Checks Were for Food and Clothes.

"My daddy was arrested last night," volunteered the little lad of 7 who sat on the steps across the corridor from the municipal courtroom yesterday, watching the stream of strange men who jostled back and forth about the swinging doors, "and we may not have Christmas tomorrow if daddy can't come home."

The lad's voice was sober but no trace of tears was there. Beside him sat two others, a sister of six and a chubby boy of three, and not far away the fourth of the little family lay flat on his back in a baby buggy, waved his hands, and kicked the blankets but did not cry. The mother too was waiting with her eyes never leaving the doors.

All afternoon they waited. Someone brought a chair for the mother. The tots grew bolder and scampered here and there about the corridors. Candy came from somewhere, candy that smeared but brought smiles a little brighter than before. Pennies and nickles and dimes were pressed into chubby little hands that clutched them tight.

But "daddy" did come home for Christmas. For when Frank Ewing stood before Judge Rossman, faced with a charge of spreading a half dozen worthless checks, Richard Deich, deputy district attorney, asked that Ewing's case be continued until Monday and that he be released on his own recognizance to spend Christmas with his family. And the family for whose food and clothes the father had signed his name to checks on a bank account that had long been overdrawn went home.

But Monday Ewing must again face the court. If he can make good the worthless checks totaling about $160 the state will not be inclined to prosecute, according to Deputy District Attorney Deich. All the checks were given for food and clothing.

SENATOR OPERATED ON

George E. Chamberlain Goes Under Knife and Rests Comfortably.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 24.—Senator Chamberlain of Oregon was operated upon at the emergency hospital at 9 o'clock this morning. It was said at the hospital tonight that the operation was a complete success and that the senator was resting comfortably.

Dr. H. A. Foweler, well-known specialist, who was a consultant at the most serious point in President Wilson's illness, performed the operation.

COAST TO GET MORE RAIN

Unsettled Weather Promised for Western States.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday are:

Northern Rocky mountain and plateau regions—Cold and generally fair but snows are probable the first half of the week. Cold weather will continue into the succeeding week.

Pacific states—Normal temperature, unsettled and rains.

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YULETIDE CHEER RULES PORTLAND

Everyone Seems to Be Doing Good Turns.

TODAY BIG ONE IN CHURCHES

Entertainment of Children Under Way Yesterday.

BABY HOMES VISITED

Basket Dinners Given to Poor and "Merry Christmas" Greeting Is Heard Everywhere.

It is undeniable that Christmas comes but once a year, and many a weary shopper breathed amen to that in the closing hours of the Yuletide rush late yesterday. But this morning is Christmas itself, and where is the bold and unreasonable wight who will charge to that day of days the toil and turmoil that preceded it? Wherefore, to every passerby, to all friends and kin, "Merry Christmas!"

In every Portland church this morning the message of the Yule will be given, when thousands of Christmas celebrants bow devoutly before the real significance of the holiday. Unusual preparations have been made for splendid vocal numbers, and the choirs of all downtown churches will render anthems that are dearly identified with the day.

Happiness Dispensed by Many.

Yet Christmas actually began yesterday in Portland, with half dozen public events—or more or less so—marking the advent of gifts and jollity. It is significant that these affairs were inspired by the desire of many folk to bring happiness into other lives and to make Christmas very genuine indeed.

There are more than 200 families who owe to the Volunteers of America the holiday cheer that was given them yesterday forenoon at 224 Burnside street, when Christmas dinners were dispensed, and at least fourscore children dined on holiday fare as the guests of the same organization at a dinner given at East Ash and Seventh street.

Baby Home Is Visited.

Santa Claus did not forget the number of Waverly baby home, where the rollicking little wards range from a few weeks to three years of age—and where many of the children were old enough—or young enough, as you choose—to be wide-eyed and appreciative of the glowing tree with its burden of presents and goodies. The directors made speeches, of course, but the children did not mind this in the least and went through the ordeal happily. And a similar event transpired at the children's home, where the Portland Ad club celebrated with a laden tree.

At Sixth and Alder street, shortly after the noon hour, C. W. West of

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AIRPLANE PHOTOGRAPHY FEATURE OF OREGONIAN ANNUAL.

There has been developed in Portland during the past year the latest branch of the photographic art, which has resulted in the production of many unique views of the city and environs. The taking of pictures from airplanes is an exact science which, when mastered, makes possible accurate and beautiful photographs from angles impossible to "shoot" in any other way.

Among the many score pictures which will illustrate the New Year edition of The Oregonian are numerous hitherto unpublished airplane views. On the front page of the third section will appear probably the clearest airplane picture ever made of the heart of Portland's business district. The back page of the same section depicts Portland and its harbor from the air, five views being given. The winding course of the Willamette, not generally realized by residents of the city, is shown faithfully.

Half a page is given to the most unusual view ever taken of Crown Point on the Columbia river highway. It was snapped from a "plane" flying above the river at an elevation virtually the same as the Vista House.

Months were consumed in the taking of some of these pictures, as air conditions must be absolutely right for perfect results, the slightest haze on sunniest days being fatal to detail.