

CHRISTMAS AWAITS BUT TURN OF CLOCK

Santa Drives His Reindeer Here Tonight.

CHILDHOOD'S B.G. HOUR COMES

Portland, Prosperous, Contented, in Holiday Mood.

CHURCHES TO CELEBRATE

Spirit of Good Will Is Everywhere Manifested by Happy Faces, Cheerful Greetings and Observance of Customs.

BY CLARK H. WILLIAMS.
Christmas is at the door. It waits but the turning of the clock around. Tonight Kris Kringle will drive his fleet-footed reindeer from out the North to Portland.

Many an eager-eyed child not yet grown worldly wise who still is near enough the land of dreams to be attune to the things most unreal, yet most worth-while, will hear the scamper of the flying hoofs of Santa's scurrying steeds.

Santa Claus is real tonight. Nothing in all the world more so than this patron saint of the children's holiday. And the holiday, too, of all of older years who still cherish in their hearts that vital spark of youth eternal.

Christmas Meant for Childhood.
Christmas is meant for childhood. A child of sacred memory brought the day straight out of heaven to earth. It was established here that man, grown weary and overburdened with his workaday life, might turn again the backward look to the source of all good things and the supreme love that gave Christmas to the world.

While the lids of tired but eager eyes hang heavy tonight, fighting off impending sleep to catch old white-whiskered Santa Claus to his tricks of sliding down chimneys and filling expectant stockings, that blessed holiday-maker will—hly and truly come, so silently that none wholly out of the land of dreams may hear him, and he will fill every single stocking and whisk away again so elusively that none shall mark the flying center of his deer.

Santa's Gifts for All.
None need doubt there is a Santa Claus. His gifts are for every single one, but the best thing in his whole pack is for those of older years who gladden the heart of a child. Those who can make the bright eyes of youth glow brighter have the greatest reward. To those who cannot do this wonderful thing Christmas is not worth while.

Christmas greetings are in the air, the spirit of the holiday is here and need not wait another day before it finds expression. Compliments of the season are interchanged by friends, the good fellowship and human sympathy that are most marked at holiday time are everywhere. It is the time of good will to men. If not peace on earth.

Christmas brings a meaning to the hearts and minds of men from out the centuries and from far-away Bethlehem's child. Portland heeds the message and will celebrate in the true spirit of the day. Peace lavishes her blessings here, where wars that terrify a hemisphere are unknown.

Portland is prosperous and content, that she is not gross and worldly is attested by the most liberal Christmas buying in its history; a fact that speaks volumes for thoughts of others and devotion to the highest sentiments.

In Portland churches today will be

MODERN ROBINSON CRUSOE IS RESCUED

SHIPWRECKED AMERICAN SAILOR LANDS IN WILDS.

Berries, Etc., Only Food for Days. Indians From Whom He Flees Prove to Be Friendly.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Like the tale of Robinson Crusoe is the report reaching Acting Secretary of Commerce Sweet today on the shipwreck and rescue of Gustave Nelson, an American sailor, one of three survivors of the steamer Edward L. Hines, which went down in a storm in the Caribbean Sea Friday, October 13.

After floating nine days on a piece of wreckage, aided by an improvised sail, with nothing to eat and only a little water collected during showers to drink, Nelson reached Honduras. There he lived in the wilds for eight days, eating berries and small fruits until he met three Indians. He ran from these, but they overtook him and proved to be friendly Caribs.

They took him to the American Consul at Tela, J. Rivers, who reported the story. Nelson has been sent back to New Orleans and expects to join his family in Boston.

Another sailor, Frederick Troutman, who was with Nelson on the wreckage, drank salt water, became crazed and when they sighted land he jumped into the water to swim, but drowned.

Two other members of the crew, a Norwegian and a Spaniard, were afloat at sea on a hatch cover for 13 days in rainwater to drink and two gulls, caught with their bare hands, to eat raw. They landed on Utilia Island and were reported by F. J. Dyer, American Consul at Celba.

WEATHER TO BE VARIABLE

Temperatures Along Coast Will Average Near Normal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Sunday, December 24, issued by the Weather Bureau today, are: Rocky Mountain and plateau regions—Snow is probable in northern and central and rain in southern parts at the beginning and after Wednesday. Temperatures will be below season normal, decidedly so over the northern parts.

Pacific states—Unsettled weather with frequent rains probable. Temperatures will average near the normal.

ASHLAND SNOW 8 INCHES

Fall in Siskiyou Two Feet Deep and Trains Are Delayed.

ASHLAND, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Eight inches of snow covered the entire valley this morning and conditions tonight promised more.

Trains were somewhat delayed, varying from a half hour north to three hours from southern points. The snow-fall on the Siskiyou is reported two feet deep.

SNOW SLIDE KILLS MINER

Party of Seven Caught by Avalanche in Colorado.

OURAY, Colo., Dec. 23.—Snow slides claimed their second victim within two days here today when an avalanche caught a party of seven miners on their way here to spend Christmas.

Elmer Anderson was killed, but his six companions escaped with minor injuries.

JOHN D. GIVES MEN \$10

Each Employee on Estate Receives Gold Piece and Greetings.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—John D. Rockefeller's Christmas present to each of the employes on his Tarrytown estate is a \$10 gold piece, inclosed in a case, on which is printed "The Season's Greetings from John D. Rockefeller."

ROADS GIVE 8-HOUR DAY TO SWITCHMEN

Wages Increased Five Cents an Hour.

PAY FOR DAY 40 CENTS LESS

Federal Board of Arbitration Makes Time Optional.

SENIORITY WILL PREVAIL

Older Men in Service to Have First Chance to Work Ten Hours if They So Wish—Report Is Not Unanimous.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—An eight-hour day, an increase in wages of 5 cents an hour and a straight pro rata overtime was granted to the members of the switchmen's union employed by 13 eastern and middle western railroads in an award filed here today by the Federal Board of Arbitration that heard their differences.

The decision of the Board had been eagerly awaited by the railroads in general and the four major brotherhoods of railroad trainmen for what bearing it might have on the controversy between them over the Adamson act, in which the eight-hour day is a question at issue.

Day Fixed at Eight Hours.
The decision says that "eight hours or less shall constitute a day's work," gives "an increase of 5 cents an hour on the present rates of pay, and rules that 'overtime shall be paid at pro rata rates' to be computed 'on the basis of the actual minutes worked.'"

Switchmen at present receive a maximum hourly rate of 40 cents so that, as explained tonight by Judge Charles E. Howry, chairman of the Board, on the eight-hour basis they will receive \$3.60 for a day's work, 40 cents less than they received under the ten-hour basis. By working ten hours under the new rate, they will receive \$4.50, or 50 cents more than under the old rate.

Burden Falls on Roads.
In a statement appended to the award by Judge Howry and Professor Jeremiah W. Jenks, the neutral members of the board of six, it is declared that the long hours of switchmen do not imply "excessive physical labor"; that it has been established "it will not be possible to make the actual working eight-hour day effective in the case of more than a small percentage of the switchmen" and that "with the exception of one experiment, the testimony was unanimous to the effect that the efficiency of switchmen on the shorter workday would be only slightly increased so that the burden of the shorter hours would fall almost entirely upon the railroads."

While the switchmen asked for a 10-cent increase, the statement emphasizes the point that the 5-cent advance is the largest given in any arbitration. The increase was granted, the neutral arbitrators explain, because of the high cost of living and "hazards and hardships of the work."

Decision Not Unanimous.
"The increase," they state, "imposes a heavy burden upon the railroad, which, owing to the interstate commerce law, they are unable to transfer to the shippers and thence to the public."

They add that "it is the duty of the properly constituted governmental authorities to protect railway interests in this regard, so far as it is necessary."

The arbitrators were not unanimous (Concluded on Page 7, Column 1.)

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REPUBLICANS GIVE REBATE

Clarke County Campaign Contributors to Get 13 Per Cent Back.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—W. S. T. Derr, secretary of the Republican County Central Committee, today declared a 13 per cent rebate to all contributors to the campaign expenses.

The Republicans elected every candidate on the ticket, carried Clarke County for Hughes by 600, and yet had a surplus in the fund.

JAPAN'S NEW NAVAL PROGRAMME VEXING

Washington Concerned at Warlike Activity.

U-BOAT SITUATION STRAINED

Entente Allies Seem Resentful Concerning Note.

BERLIN APPEARS PLEASSED

Nippon's Policy of Increasing Its Navy so as to Be Greater Than That of United States Causes Uneasiness.

BY JOHN CALLAN O'LOUGHLIN.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Two significant facts, bearing upon President Wilson's peace move, have interested Administration officials today.

The first was the announcement of Japan's new naval programme, designed to make that nation more powerful upon the sea than is the United States. The second is the deep concern of the Administration over the recent torpedoing of the steamers *Marina* and *Arabia* and the effect of such action upon the relations of the United States and Germany.

Central Powers Welcome Note.
There were no actual developments today in connection with the President's suggestion. Cables have been received from the American Ambassadors accredited to the central powers showing that official circles welcome the President's intervention, while the press is more or less divided in its comment.

Cables also have been received from the American Ambassadors accredited to the allies. These indicate distress and resentment, especially in unofficial circles. But there is nothing official yet from any source nor can there be until the allies have consulted among themselves and Ambassador Gerard has had opportunity to talk with the German Emperor and the German Chancellor.

King's Speech Significant.
The authorities here accepted as an indirect answer to the President the speech from the throne, delivered by King George in connection with the adjournment of Parliament. That it expresses the allied attitude is accepted beyond question. But as has been stated, there will be long discussion between the allies before any response to the President will be framed.

It is not believed the allies will join in a single note. That would be extremely discourteous to the United States. Probably they will follow the example of the President and send notes identical in most of their features, but containing paragraphs dealing particularly with the matters of vital and intimate interest to each.

"Watchful Waiting" Is Rule.
In the meantime, a policy of "watchful waiting" will be observed by the President. He and his advisers realize that efforts may be made to curtail the activities of the United States and therefore they are deeply interested in the reports from Japan as to the naval programme adopted by that government.

As the ally of Great Britain, Japan has nothing to fear upon the sea. The British navy, however, is occupied with blockading the German coast and preparing to meet the German fleet should it come out. Moreover, the chances are that in a war between the United States and Japan, Great Britain would be neutral. Therefore the Japanese statesmen, believing they may have to depend upon their own forces, are pre-

PASSENGER ROUTS BANDIT ON TRAIN

Pistol Duel Is Fought in Smoking-Car.

Desperado Leaps Through Window While Train Is Running After Dropping His Loot.

SIoux CITY, Ia., Dec. 23.—A robber made a futile attempt to hold up the passengers in the smoking-car of Milwaukee train No. 3 from Chicago as it was entering the yards here tonight.

The robber escaped with \$10 in cash after shots had been exchanged with passengers and he had leaped through a window while the train was in motion.

The robber boarded the train at Morningside, a suburb.

With a mask drawn over his face and a large revolver in his hand the man commanded J. R. Robbins, of Jefferson, S. D., to begin taking up a collection from the other passengers. After \$30 had been collected Will Beath, of Plumbush, Colo., appeared in the vestibule to the rear of the robber with a drawn revolver. He ordered the robber to throw up his hands. The robber swung Beath over the eye, causing a deep but not serious wound.

Beath believes his first shot hit the robber.

21 ARE CHRISTMAS BRIDES

Vancouver License Bureau Makes Year's Record.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Twenty-one couples came to Vancouver today to be married, making the record number for one day this year and nearly reaching the record of 25 set July 3, 1915.

Cupid did a land-office business and all the ministers and judges were kept busy tying nuptial knots. Some of the couples will postpone the ceremony until Christmas day, but those from Oregon have to be married in this city.

Eight of the couples claimed Clarke County as their home, several of them living in Vancouver. The others were all from Portland and other points in Oregon.

There was a rush for holiday marriage licenses yesterday when 20 couples sought the license window at the Courthouse. The day before Christmas a year ago there were only 17 applicants. Thursday there were 14 licenses issued.

TERMS OF PEACE IN DETAIL ARE DESIRED

Words of Hostiles Regarded Too Vague.

Wilson Feels Facts Due U. S.

America Ready to Enter Any Agreement to Prevent War.

Monroe Policy Might Go

President Is of Opinion This Nation Can Be Committed to an Abandonment of Doctrine Without Senate Action.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Information as to their exact meaning in seeking a "just and permanent peace" is the whole purpose of the note addressed to all the belligerents by President Wilson. The United States desires a full, practical and detailed statement from each of the governments addressed. This outline and what follows was stated officially today for the Administration.

This Government does not know and feels that it has been given no real means of knowing what terms would be required by each of the belligerents to make peace. It regards the recent speeches of the leading statesmen in all countries as vague and undefined and sees nothing in them that would enable a conference to draw up a treaty. All speak of the rights of small nations, the repugnance of conquest and the guarantees of a permanent peace, but no one nation has yet gone into what it means by these phrases in a way that the Government of the United States can understand.

Press Enhances Vagueness.
Recent press comment has been taken to enhance that vagueness. France, for instance, has not disclosed if what she considers a just peace means the evacuation of her northern provinces, or, in addition to that, the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine, or, in addition to both those claims she expects a money indemnity for the damage of invasion, or, beyond that, if she has an actual programme for doing away with so-called German militarism. In short, the United States asks what would she accept today as the basis of peace.

Similar issues apply to all the belligerent countries in merely a varying form. What President Wilson wants are their details. As the largest neutral facing grave problems, and as the friend of all parties concerned, the United States feels most earnestly that it is entitled to know those facts. Unless some one of the group lays down its actual terms there will be no basis for negotiation and no possibility of peace till the world is bled white, officials declare.

Some Demands Impossible.
There is not the slightest expectation here that the terms laid down will be reconcilable at first. It is known that in actuality it is impossible. Nevertheless, the naming of those terms will afford a basis of negotiation, a starting place from which the conflicting interests can begin to converge.

Nor is any embarrassment seen to any of the nations in naming such terms. It is understood in advance that they are apt to fluctuate with the military changes and are not permanently binding under new conditions. Whatever any nation feels must be included in its terms for moral reasons can also be added to the terms without embarrassment, it is said.

As to permanent guarantees, it was (Concluded on Page 4, Column 4.)

BERLIN BETTING ON PEACE

Wagers Made on Exchange That War Will End by August.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A Frankfurt dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Rotterdam says there was heavy betting on the Berlin exchange today that peace would be signed before August.

The same dispatch says that the German Emperor will return to Berlin for conferences with the American and Spanish Ambassadors.

PAPERS WILL SKIP ISSUE

Omaha Publications Not to Go to Press Christmas Day.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 23.—No newspapers will be issued in Omaha on Christmas day. This will be the first time the morning papers have missed an issue since their establishment. In making the announcement they give as their reason a desire to conserve the paper supply in the interest of the press generally.

CHRISTMAS-EVE THOUGHTS ON SOME LIVE TOPICS EXPRESSED PICTORIALLY BY CARTOONIST REYNOLDS.

