

British Talk About 'Abominable Snowman' Instead of St. Nick

By Alvin J. Steinkopf
LONDON, Dec. 24—(AP)—It's Christmas and what do you suppose the British are talking about?
Santa Claus? No, the dominant topic of conversation is the "abominable snowman," the fabulous creature who is supposed to live among glaciers and avalanches somewhere near the top of Mount Everest. He is supposed to eat yaks or Tibetan children.

RFC Gives \$16 Million to U.S. Treasury

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24—(AP)—The treasury got a Christmas "bonus" of \$16,345,812 from the much-investigated reconstruction finance corporation today. Nearly half of it came from RFC loans to private business.

Altogether, the government's huge lending agency reported it has turned over a total of more than \$5 billion dollars to the treasury this year.

In addition to the "bonus," the total included 75 million made in the RFC-controlled production of synthetic rubber and tin and from the liquidation of wartime assets, and four million from liquidating assets of the old Smaller War Plants corporation.

The agency reported that at the end of the fiscal year last June 30 it had 11,000 business loans outstanding. These totaled \$806,000,000. It reported 231 loans totaling \$2,159,255 were written off as losses during the year.

The federal agency said that since it launched a business loan program in 1934, it has granted 62,000 loans totaling \$4,900,000,000. Actual disbursements were \$2,400,000,000, of which \$64,300,000 has been charged off as "unrecoverable."

RFC Administrator W. Stuart Symington told newsmen he was "pretty proud" of the report for the current fiscal year, and he commented:

"This is one agency that doesn't cost the government a cent." The \$16,345,812 Christmas dividend to the government was made up of \$7,600,000 earned on loans and \$8,745,812 in a readjustment of reserves set aside for losses.

Symington took over as one-man boss of the RFC last May after President Truman abolished the old five-man RFC board of directors following a congressional investigation of RFC loan policies.

Union Official Shot to Death

JACKSON, Tenn., Dec. 24—(AP)—The business agent of a CIO union on strike at the Bemis Bag company was shot to death today.

Sheriff Emory O. Bruce said Lowell Simmons was shot in the face with a .38 pistol fired by Cecil Cooke, who had been distributing circulars urging a return to work.

Simmons apparently sought out Cooke to complain about the circulars and an argument flared, Bruce said. The union official was standing on Cooke's porch when he was killed. Bruce said Cooke fired through a screen door.



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Norblad Asks Economy as Yule Present

By Frank W. Vallis
AP Special Washington Service
WASHINGTON, Dec. 24—(AP)—Rep. Norblad (R-Ore.) suggested today the defense department give the "nation's taxpayers a Christmas present by eliminating the duplication of facilities among the armed services."

"Any effort to stop this needless duplicating," he told Defense Secretary Lovett in a letter, "would be appreciated not only by members of the congress but by every single taxpayer in the United States."

He said it "seems very apparent that very little is being done" to unify and merge the three services. The result, he added, is "senseless and a waste of money."

"An illustration of conditions which he said he protested Norblad said he recently watched a soldier have his identification checked by each of the services during a half hour wait at the Portland Oregon Bus stations.

"This is not duplication but triplication," the congressman wrote, "and a little effort toward merger or organization in the Portland area would have stopped this over-lapping and attendant expense."

While in Alaska as a member of the house armed services committee, Norblad continued, he saw the army and air force at one base each building its own chapel across the street from the other. He said similar duplication was proposed on the two services' enlisted men's clubs and non-commissioned officers' club.

"Right here in Washington," he said, "we witness side by side operations of absolutely duplicating facilities at Bolling and Anacostia fields, whereas if these were merged and one runway paved for the job and walked in briskly for the navy would have a much better flying field and a better runway," he added.

He said the two fields duplicated control towers, fire crews, mess halls, mess crews, briefing rooms, mechanics and fueling facilities among other things.

Wells Dug for Thirsty Lions

KATHIAWAR PENINSULA, North India—(AP)—What will 250 lions do when they're thirsty?
Saurashtra state officials are taking no chances in this drought-stricken region bordering the dense Gir mountain jungles. They have sent special detachments of workmen to dig wells for the big cats.

The Gir mountains have been designated a protected area for the only extant specimens of the Asiatic lion. Officials fear the lions may prowl into villages bordering the jungles—attacking not only domestic animals but possibly humans.

Workmen digging the lion wells have devised sloping approaches on one side of the wells to ease the way for the thirsty felines.

Fuel Use Varies in Tractor Work

LEXINGTON, Ky.—(AP)—The University of Kentucky experiment station reports that the amount of fuel used by farm tractors varies according to the kind of work done and operating skill.

Measured in gallons of kerosene or distilled per 10-hour day, the average daily consumption for different kinds of work is about as follows:
Plowing, 20 gallons; disking, 20 gallons; cultipacking, 12 gallons; cultivating, 15 gallons; mowing, 15 gallons; binding, 15 gallons; combining, 14 gallons; pick-up baling, 10 gallons, and drilling grain, 15 gallons.

and principal consideration in the question of peace."
The remedy, he asserted, "must be sought for the spiritual anemia of nations."

Doe Tramps Toe Of Doe in Colo.

WALSBERG, Colo.—(AP)—A female deer usually is the gentlest of creatures, which is why Ronnie Abe was so chagrined over what a doe did to him.

Abe dropped the doe with one shot. When he walked up to it, the deer sprang up, kicked him on the left foot and ran 40 yards before dropping again, dead. The kick ripped Abe's boot and left him with a wound which required three stitches.

Bank Robber Grabs \$3,500 In Spokane

SPOKANE, Dec. 24—(AP)—A hold gunner held up the Citizens Savings and Loan Society bank in downtown Spokane today, stuffed \$3,500 into his pockets, and vanished down a street crowded with last minute Christmas shoppers.

The gunman picked high noon for the job and walked in briskly when there were no customers and only two women employes on duty. The rest were out to lunch.

Mrs. Viola Barker, a bank secretary, said the man carried a long barreled revolver and had his hat pulled down over his eyes. He walked to the back of the bank, went through a small gate to get behind the counter, then started opening cash drawers.

"O. K., where is it?" he asked waving the gun. Mrs. Barker and the bookkeeper, Mrs. Lillian Briggs, pointed out a drawer and then were forced into the manager's office.

"You stay in there—get back, don't fool around. I mean it," he cautioned them.

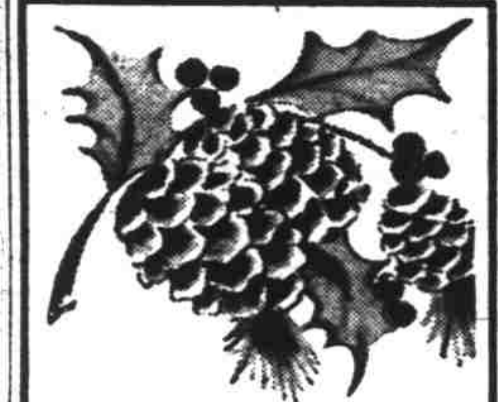
Mrs. Barker said he stuffed the money into the pockets of his overcoat and then walked out. She thought he got about \$5,000. A later check showed the loss only \$3,500, maybe a little less.

Mrs. Barker was calm about the whole thing.
"I've been held up twice before," she said. "This one was the easiest, though. They usually make us get down on the floor."
Police had few clues to go on. The man was described as about

35 years old, about 5-feet-6 and weighing 145 pounds. He wore a shabby overcoat and a battered hat.

EGYPT CASUALTIES AT 93
CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 24—(AP)—Interior Minister Fouad Serag el Din told parliament tonight that 93 Egyptians had been killed by British gunfire since this country denounced the Anglo-Egyptian 1936 treaty last October.

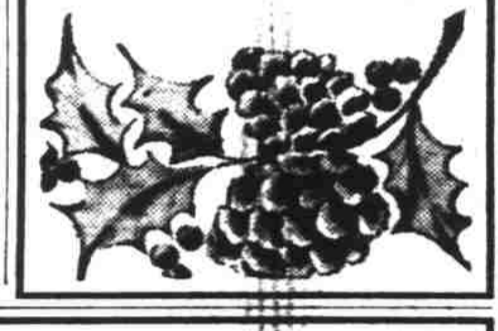
INDIA, JAPAN TO NEGOTIATE
TOKYO, Tuesday, Dec. 25—(AP)—Negotiations leading to a separate peace treaty between Japan and India will begin sometime in January, government sources disclosed today.



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