

### LAVAL STAKES ALL ON SPEECH SLATED FRIDAY

(Copyright, 1935, by United Press)  
Paris, Dec. 26 (AP)—Premier Pierre Laval submitted to his cabinet today the speech he intends to make before the chamber of deputies tomorrow on foreign policy—a speech on which he will stake his government.

Laval discussed all angles of the Italian-Ethiopian crisis and, as is customary, submitted the text of his declaration for the approval of his colleagues.

The ministers formally approved the text after hearing Laval's exposition of the thought behind it. Laval also discussed with the cabinet the budget and a bill to dissolve dangerous fascist or extreme left wing semi-military organizations.

It was agreed to ask a vote of confidence on this in the chamber of deputies next week. Laval decided to support a bill which the senate passed, instead of a bill approved originally by the government which the chamber passed.

There will be a vote of confidence on this if necessary. The chamber will be asked to accept the senate's means for dissolving the bands by the council of state, a special body over which the minister of justice presides. The chamber bill empowered the minister of interior, the police authority, to do any dissolving.

On the foreign debate tomorrow, Laval must get a vote of confidence to remain in office. Most observers agreed he was likely to remain in office. Most observers agreed he was likely to get one but by a narrow margin.

Laval was understood to plan a vigorous defense of his policy in the Ethiopian crisis, and particularly of his own course in negotiating with Sir Samuel Hoare of Great Britain the rejected peace proposals.

It was understood also that he intended to explain in detail recent French-British conversations regarding naval cooperation in the Mediterranean.

### PUYALLUP MAN TO SUCCEED F. W. PECK

Washington, Dec. 26 (AP)—President Roosevelt today announced appointment of S. D. Sanders of Puyallup, Wash., as cooperative farm bank commissioner to succeed F. W. Peck, commissioner since the organization in 1933 of the cooperative farm banks.

Sanders has been president and general manager of the Washington Cooperative Egg and Poultry association, largest cooperative egg and marketing association in the country, for the past 13 years.

He was born in the Ozark mountains in Arkansas and moved to a homestead in Douglas county, Washington, when he was 22. He organized a wheat cooperative association there and has been active in farm cooperatives since that time.

As commissioner, he will have direct charge of the 12 regional cooperative banks, which in turn make loans to farm cooperative associations. Peck will return to his position as director of extension work at the University of Minnesota.

Quinaby—Marguerita Maddox, a pupil in the seventh grade, has moved to Washington with her parents.

### Disaster and Death Throw Tragic Note Into World Holiday

(By Associated Press)  
Disaster and death marred the Christmas holiday at home and abroad. The toll of lives, including 36 killed in a German train wreck, exceeded 150. Traffic accidents took the heaviest toll. Crime, fire and exposure claimed other victims.

Domestic disturbances accounted for several deaths. John Rogers, 56, Philadelphia, killed his wife, his mother-in-law, his three children and himself. Joseph McElroy, 17, was accused of shooting to death his stepmother, Mrs. Lillina McElroy, in another Philadelphia affray.

At Butte, Mont., Frank Walsh, 24, and Policeman Tom O'Neill, 37, were killed and two other persons were wounded in a boarding house disturbance. Police sought Harry Knight as the suspected slayer.

Arthur Blake Manness killed his infant child, wounded his estranged wife and killed himself at Carthage, N. C.

A woman was burned to death in a Hot Springs, Ark., theater, another woman and two children died in Oklahoma residence blazes; a father and his two children burned to death in New York; a woman was burned to death at Stockton, Calif.

Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa reported two deaths each from freezing cold. Missouri, New Jersey, Arizona, Indiana, Tennessee, Montana and North Dakota reported one each. Suicides gave a macabre twist to the Christmas celebrations. At Kansas City, Kas., Mrs. Allie Thompson found a farewell note on her Christmas tree, her husband dead of carbon monoxide poisoning in the basement.

Ten died in Missouri traffic accidents; Texas counted 17 dead in auto crashes and one in the premature explosion of a cannon.

Other traffic fatalities included: Illinois 9, Oklahoma 4, Georgia 8, Washington 3, Kansas 3, Michigan 6, Los Angeles 8, Florida 2, Ohio 6, Indiana 5, Massachusetts 3.

Jolo, capital of the Sulu provinces of the Philippines, is the chief center of the pearling fleet of that region.

It is considered interesting that in the city-wide competition three of the soloists to be selected should be from the same choir. It is also considered of wide interest that this year's contralto, Miss Jean Handzlik, is a Franklin high school student, 16 years of age. Miss Handzlik will sing before her first major audience with the presentation of Handel's great Christmas oratorio. Each of the other soloists is experienced in radio as well as concert and church work.

Many who heard Grete Stueckgold sing the soprano part of Handel's "The Messiah" last Sunday evening over the radio will be glad to know Mme. Stueckgold is being presented with the Portland Symphony orchestra Monday evening, January 6. Hailed as the "Prima Dona" soprano, Mme. Stueckgold thrilled her listeners with her glorious voice, in the time-honored beauty of the century old oratorio. Portland music lovers will have the opportunity to hear this star of the Metropolitan Opera company when she comes here next month as guest artist on the first symphony program of the new year. Born of German and English parents, Mme. Stueckgold has at her command many languages and a large repertoire of operatic and concert music. Having taken New York City by storm in her debut there, Portland is felt to be fortunate to have Mme. Stueckgold sing here this winter. She has sung under such distinguished conductors as Berlin's Purtscheller and other well-known European orchestra leaders. Having sung for some time on the radio, it is believed a great number of her following in that field of music will be at the concert to hear Mme. Stueckgold January 6.

### 5-YEAR RECORD MARKED UP IN HOLIDAY SALES

New York, Dec. 26 (AP)—Santa Claus was good to the United States yesterday.

Preliminary reports of pre-Christmas retail sales indicated that more Americans found full stockings on the holiday morning than in any year since 1930. Police records reflected a day of extremely few accidents and temperate conviviality. Most of the country enjoyed the snow and nippy temperatures that make the ideal Yule.

Business leaders and the man in the street agreed that it was the best Christmas of the post-prosperity era and may herald, in its circulation of an estimated \$4,500,000,000, a definite turn of the corner economists have hunted for five years.

Reports gathered by the national retail dry goods association and federal reserve banks from all parts of the country indicated retailers sold 10 per cent more goods this year than last, nearly 20 per cent more than two years ago, and employed thousands of persons who last Christmas were dependent on charity. Government funds again cared for tens of thousands of homeless men and women, but only charitably saved Santa Claus from the stigma of neglect in thousands of homes where children awaited him.

Federal government figures showed that the number of jobless was lower. The lines of men seeking Christmas dinner in front of municipal shelters were shorter.

**IDAHO PEOPLE VISIT**  
West Stayton—Mr. and Mrs. Iverson, of Ferriswood, Idaho, are visiting with her daughter Mrs. Ed Clark and family. It has been six years since they have seen each other. They will extend their visit over New Years.

### Indian Stabbed in Argument Over Beer

Pendleton, Ore., Dec. 26 (AP)—The condition of Willie Elk, 26, Umatilla reservation Indian who was stabbed here Tuesday night, was described as "good" by hospital attendants today.

Charles Hoskins, officer at large of the Indian service, said that Elk was stabbed in the stomach by Ed Pillars, 68, negro, when Elk refused to return a jug of beer that Pillars dropped after slipping and falling on an icy sidewalk.

### DEATH THREAT SENT TO JUDGE

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 26 (AP)—Judge Merrill E. Otis of the federal court who declared the Wagner labor act unconstitutional in a decision here last week, today was threatened with death.

It is the second time in four months that Judge Otis has been threatened. Today's threat was by letter from Chicago. There was no handwriting in the letter which contained a clipping from a Chicago newspaper with the story of Judge Otis' decision. The clipping reviewed the decision and carried a picture of the judge.

Pasted on the clipping were printed words cut out of another part of the paper which read, "Your last Christmas." Below that was a newspaper photograph of an automatic pistol pasted in such a manner that the barrel of the gun was pointed towards Judge Otis' picture.

The letter was addressed with pencil and had been printed. It had been handled so many times that it was virtually impossible to secure fingerprints.

Judge Otis said he had received many letters of both praise and condemnation since the decision. He regarded the death threat from Chicago the work of a crank and refused to turn it over to federal agents.

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