

# FALLS CITY NEWS

VOL. XIII

FALLS CITY, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1916

No. 17

## CHRISTMAS

"While the shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around."

This is the season of the year when the genial spirit of man should be made manifest. The birth of a Savior, his sublime teachings, his example and his crucifixion should have a mellowing influence, removing the petty spite and vindictive feeling you may cherish against your fellow-man. All have an equal right in the divine promises given and judge not too harshly those who may differ from you in opinion.

Christmas, the day on which the birth of the Savior is observed, probably dates back to the reign of Antoninus Pius, (138-61 A. D.) The first certain trace of it are found about the time of emperor Commodus (180-92 A. D.) In the reign of Diocletian (284-305 A.D.), while that ruler was keeping court at Nicomedia, he learned that a multitude of Christians were assembled in the city to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, and having ordered the church door to be closed, set fire to the building, and all the worshippers perished in the flames. It does not appear, however, that there was any uniformity in the period of observing the nativity among the early churches; some holding the festival in the month of May or April, others in January. It is, nevertheless, almost certain that the 25th of December cannot be the nativity of the Saviour, for it is then the height of the rainy season in Judea, and shepherds could hardly be watching their flocks by night on the plains.

Among the causes that co-operate in fixing the 25th of December as the proper one, was that almost all heathen nations regarded the winter-solstices as a most important part of the year, as the beginning of renewed life and activity of the powers of nature, and the gods, who were originally merely the symbolical personification of these. In more northerly countries, this fact must have made itself particularly palpable—hence the Celts and Germans, from the oldest times, celebrated the season with great festivities. At the winter-solstice the Germans held their great yule-feast, in commemoration of the return of the firey sun-wheel; and believed that during the twelve nights reaching from the 25th of December to the 6th of January they could trace the personal movements and interferences on earth of their great deities, Odin, Berchta, etc. But the church sought to combat and banish—and to a large extent was successful—the deep-rooted heathen feeling by adding—for the purification of the heathen customs and feasts. Hence also originated, at a later period, the Christmas-tree adorned with lights and gifts, the custom of reciprocal presents. Thus, Christmas became a universal social festival for young and old, high and low as no other Christian festival could have.

## Ban on Smoking at McMinnville College

Smoking by the students will not be tolerated at McMinnville college, either on the campus or elsewhere, according to an edict of the college authorities. Students who do not wish to conform to the wishes of the faculty in the matter of smoking have been asked not to return after the holidays.

## Beligerent Asked To Discuss Peace

The President Sends Notes to All the Nations at War Asking That They Submit Terms of Peace. Mediation is Not Offered. Good May Result

Washington, Dec. 20.—President Wilson has appealed to the belligerents to discuss terms of peace.

Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation, the president has sent formal notes to the governments of all the warring nations suggesting that "an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be satisfactory as a guarantee against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future, as would make it possible to compare them."

Wholly without notice and entirely contrary to what administration officials have described as his course, the president last night dispatched the notes to all the belligerents, and to all neutrals for their information.

### Mediation Not Offered

Sumarized in the president's own words as contained in the notes, his attitude is as follows:

"The president is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, the neutral nations and belligerent, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing. He believes that the spirit in which he speaks and the object which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidentially hopes for a response which will bring a new light into the affairs of the world."

This latest development in the rapidly moving world events toward a discussion of peace was not permitted to become known until tonight when the notes were well on their way to the American ambassadors in the belligerent capitals and probably already in the hands of some of them.

British embassy officials declared they were utterly taken by surprise, were wholly unable to explain it, and were emphatic in their statement that no exchanges whatever had passed through the embassy here as a preliminary.

The wish and hope of the German powers that President Wilson would intercede in some way has long been known and has conveyed in different ways to the White House. The attitude of the entente allies as expressed by their statesmen and certainly until recently in official advice to the American government has been that a peace offer by the United States would be considered almost the next thing to unfriendly.

All that, however, was before the German allies of their own accord brought forward their proposals for discussions of peace. President Wilson specifically says in the notes he is somewhat embarrassed in making the suggestion at this particular time "because it may now seem to have been prompted by a desire to play a part in connection with the recent overtures of the central powers."

## "THE BIG STICK"

Senate By Party Vote Passes Bill to Permit Shelving of Judges

### GIVES PRESIDENT FREE HAND

Executive Can, if so Inclined, Place Litigation in Hands of Jurists Who Will Do His Bidding.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The first bill to be passed by the Senate at this session was one which gives the President arbitrary power to appoint from 17 to 20 Federal Judges, at salaries of \$7500 a year each. It adds to the Federal payroll a maximum of \$150,000 a year.

This legislation, though couched in general terms, was drawn to enable President Wilson to shelve several Federal Judges, unpopular with Democratic Senators, who have refused to retire, though eligible for retirement. One is in Georgia, and the additional judgeship bill was drawn and pushed by Senator Hoke Smith, of that state.

### Republicans Oppose Measure.

It was the contention of Republican Senators that the legislation, in the first instance, is not necessary. Democrats supporting the bill contended that some Federal Judges are now overburdened and need relief. The answer was that where a judge has more work than he can do, judges from other districts or other circuits are detailed to assist and relieve him. There are nearly always some judges who have leisure, and in addition, there are available five circuit judges, formerly on the Commerce Court—that court having been abolished—who are always available for just such detail. In extraordinary cases Congress has the power and has authorized the appointment of additional judges in districts where work has grown beyond the capacity of a single judge.

Notwithstanding the fact that there are today five judges doing nothing but detail duty, and others who have leisure, the Democrats, bent on creating additional judgeships, jammed through the Smith bill. The President, wishing to prevent a certain case from being tried before the judge before whom it naturally would be heard, may appoint a new judge, and thus sidetrack the judge in question.

### Power Could Be Abused.

What is more, the President, by boldly abusing the power reposed in him by the Smith bill, can in effect retire any judge over 70 years old, regardless of his qualifications and his ability to serve, if he (again the President) is willing to say that the judge has been rendered incompetent by age, illness or other cause. It is a vast power; one that could be abused, and one that would enable a President, if so inclined, to shape decisions of the Federal courts. That this power would be exercised by a President was not charged in the Senate debates, but the possibility is there.

To illustrate, when the Adamson railroad law was taken into court, had the Smith bill been in effect the President would have had it in his power to appoint a Federal Judge before whom that case was to be heard whose views he knew in advance. He could have so made the appointment that the case would have to go before the judge of his selection. It is not charged that the President would do so extraordinary

a thing, yet he has that power under the Smith bill.

### Safeguard is Rejected.

To guard against abuse of executive power, Senator Sutherland, of Utah, offered an amendment which would have permitted the President to retire a Federal Judge only when the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court certified to his unfitness or disability. This would have taken from the President the right arbitrarily to hold that any judge was disqualified, as he can do under the bill. The Sutherland amendment was voted down by a strict party vote, save that Senator LaFollette voted with the Democrats. The Oregon Senators voted with their party to give the President full power over Federal Judges.

Senator LaFollette, who refused to come to the aid of Mr. Hughes in the late campaign, because he said that to speak for Hughes would be to throw away every Democratic vote he otherwise would get, is evidently going to "tote fair" with the Democrats who did support him. He is starting out as the lone Republican in the Senate to array himself with the Democrats on strictly party legislation. But no one can doubt how LaFollette would have voted five or six years ago had President Taft asked Congress to give him the unrestricted power to appoint 20 additional judges and to remove other judges at will.

## RETURN OF OREGON MEN AGAIN ASKED

GOVERNOR SENDS SECOND URGENT PLEA TO WASHINGTON.

Executive is Incensed at Failure of War Department to Act on His Letter of December 1.

Salem, Or., Dec. 16.—Incensed at failure of the War Department to take any action upon his former request to withdraw from the border Troop A, Oregon Cavalry, and Battery A, Oregon Field Artillery, Governor Withycombe today forwarded a telegram to Newton G. Baker, Secretary of War, urging prompt measures in connection with those troops and asking that they be returned to their homes from Calexico by New Year's at the latest.

The executive wrote to Secretary Baker on December 1, but has received no reply to his request for removal of the troops.

In his telegram he said: "Receiving no answer to my letter, dated December 1, requesting withdrawal of Oregon troops now held in Southern California, and being besieged with inquiries concerning them, I venture again to query you as to what action is proposed. Cannot they be returned before the new year?"

"They have done their duty and made big sacrifices. Citizen soldiers, intended for emergencies only, should not be made to suffer because regular Army is inadequate to cope with situation. Such treatment will undermine possibility of enlistment in future emergencies."

## Wilson And Labor

President Wilson's plan of preventing strikes is not meeting with the approval of the labor unions that were responsible for his reelection. The idea of forcing men to continue in the employ of a company pending a government

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AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
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investigation in the event of a controversy is not to the liking of labor unions. The right to strike is the only defensive weapons they have and to deprive them the use of this is the blow that "killed daddy."

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, who played such an important part in the Wilson campaign says that he will fight against such legislation with as much vigor as he fought for the passage of the Adamson Law. He says:

"It took four years of sanguinary war costing hundreds of thousands of lives and untold treasure to reverse the 'Dred Scott' case. It is my purpose to prevent another such a revolution."

"I understand the intent of the suggestion. It is to stay the men from acting in concert until a commission has made its investigation. In the mean time a concerted quitting of work would be unlawful and punishable. Involuntary service can not be enforced under the Constitution of the United States.

"You may make strikes illegal and may make them criminal, but you are not going to avert strikes when strikes are necessary in order to express the needs of America's workers for a higher and better consideration of their rights. The experience of countries who have tried compulsory arbitration and the enforcement of compulsory award, and the experience of countries in which compulsory investigation and a stay of the workers from their

employment has been all to the detriment of the principle."

It is beginning to develop that Wilson's old antipathy for labor unions is breaking out in an aggravated form.

To deprive a man the right to quit work when he believes his interests were not conserved would be to bring about enslaving conditions that the American worker will not tolerate even though his refusal should bring about a revolution.

## Former President Taft Makes War Prediction

Fall River, Mass., Dec. 21.—William Howard Taft, speaking for the League to Enforce Peace here yesterday, predicted that if the machinery of war continues to grow, the next conflict will find the United States a participant.

"All nations, when the curtain falls upon the terrible panorama of strife and bloodshed on the European battle fields, will be looking to us," he said. "They will look to us to prevent a repetition of the terrible catastrophe that has shocked the world and all but prostrated nations. This places a trust upon us. It is a trust to help if we can, the less fortunate brother.

"If the machinery of war continues to enlarge and grow more terrible, the next war as President Woodrow Wilson has said, will be a war with no neutrals.