

FORECAST
RAIN AND SOUTH WINDS
Tonight and Tomorrow.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

WEATHER
Max. Yesterday 47; Min. To-day 30; Pre. .15.

MEDFORD, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1916

NO. 235

PEOPLE OF EUROPE LONG FOR PEACE

Noted British Pacifist Writes President That War Is a Deadlock, That Civilization Is Near Destruction and That Masses of Belligerent Nations Welcome Peace Move—Fury of National Passion Destroying Civilization.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—A special committee of the American neutral conference committee left here early today for Washington to present to President Wilson a letter from Bertrand Russell, the noted British pacifist, lecturer and philosopher, appealing to the president to end the war in Europe. The committee consists of George Foster Peabody, Paul U. Kellogg and Miss Emily Greene Balch.

The letter was brought to this country by an unnamed and otherwise unidentified messenger from England, a girl, in order to evade the British censor.

Deadlock in Prospect.

After asserting that the president now has an opportunity of performing a signal service to mankind, "surpassing the service of Abraham Lincoln," Mr. Russell states that it is within the president's power "to bring the war to an end by a just peace," and that if the war be allowed to continue it may be too late to save European civilization from destruction. The letter said in part:

"The military situation has now developed to the point where the ultimate issue is clear in its broad outlines, to all who are capable of thought. It must be obvious to the authorities in all the belligerent countries that no victory for either side is possible. In Europe the Germans have the advantage; outside Europe and at sea the allies have the advantage. Neither side is able to win such a crushing victory as to compel the other side to sue for peace. The war inflicts untold injuries upon the nations, but such injuries as to make a continuance of the fighting impossible.

No Hope of Victory.

"The allied governments have not had the courage to acknowledge publicly what they cannot deny in private, that the hope of a sweeping victory is one which can now scarcely be entertained. For want of this courage they are prepared to involve Europe in the horrors of a continuance of the war, possibly for another two or three years. This situation is intolerable to every humane man. You, sir, can put an end to it. Your power constitutes an opportunity and

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NIGHT RIDERS ACQUITTED BY JURY IN FEDERAL COURT

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 23.—Absolute acquittal on all four counts of the indictment was the verdict of the federal jury in the case of the government against twelve alleged night riders of Pacific county on a charge of conspiracy. Agreement was reached at 11:40 this morning after four hours of actual deliberation. The jury had been out since 10:20 last night. They went to bed at 12 o'clock by permission of the court and began this morning at 9:30.

Court was called in the jury room on the fourth floor at the Tacoma hotel this morning, owing to the serious illness of Thomas Irving, juror from Cathlamet. He was obliged to leave the box once during the charge of Judge Cushman to the jury last evening, and was taken to the hospital in an ambulance immediately after the verdict had been read this morning. Deliberations of the jury were conducted about the bed of Mr. Irving this morning.

UNCLE SAM IS NOW SANTA CLAUS FOR ALL THE WORLD!



VILLA SAID TO HAVE CAPTURED CITY OF TORREON

Persistent Rumors of City's Fall Denied by Carranza Officials—Another Report Is That Villa Is Marching Upon Chihuahua—Villa Has 7000 Men Under Command.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 23.—Persistent rumors that Torreon has been captured by Villa were in circulation here today but Carranza officials here and in Juarez insist that nothing has been received from the Coahuila metropolis. One report was that Villa forces entered the town at one o'clock yesterday afternoon and now are in complete possession of the city and surrounding territory. Another report was that Villa's forces are marching on Chihuahua City and that fighting had started south of that city.

None of these reports can be verified from Carranza sources here or in Juarez where it was insisted today that nothing had come over the telegraph lines from Chihuahua City regarding the fight and nothing had yet been received from Torreon by way of Eagle Pass or Laredo.

As these reports of the capture of Torreon originated from sources known to be strongly pro-Villa, government agents and military officers here are not accepting them until something definite can be obtained from the south. However, it is admitted that Villa with his present force of 7,000 men could capture Torreon from the de facto forces without difficulty and government agents say it is highly probable that Torreon will soon be in the hands of the Villa forces if it is not now controlled by this faction.

LINER ARABIA NOT IN SERVICE OF THE ALLIES

British Government Declares Torpedoed Vessel Sunk by Submarine Without Warning Never in Government Service—No Asiatics Aboard Except Indian Crew.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—An official report from the British government on the British liner Arabia, sunk by a submarine without warning in the Mediterranean, declares the Arabia was not at that or any previous time in the service of the allies. Germany claimed in a note to the American government the Arabia was an armed auxiliary ship.

The British report was made in answer to an inquiry from the state department and further information probably will be asked to clear up doubtful points after that at hand has been forwarded to Germany.

The report was summarized in the following state department announcement:

"The department of state has received a reply from the British government to the inquiry regarding the status of the steamer Arabia, to the effect that she was not at the time she was sunk and never had been in the service of the British government or that of the allied governments; that she carried some government passengers booked as ordinary passenger passengers at the expense of the government. The number of such passengers will be communicated later. It is understood also that there were no Asiatics on board except the Indian native crew and that vessels do not follow the ordinary peace route on account of the operations of submarines."



Uncle Sam this year is playing Santa Claus to all the world. War has stopped the European toy factories, and for several months toys made in America have been sent abroad for those who could buy them, or sent as presents to war-impooverished children.

Relief ships, carrying food and clothing to European sufferers, also have contributed to this nation's role as the world's Santa. Here are some of the poor "kiddies" of Europe Uncle Sam will make glad.

SWITCHMEN WIN 8 HOUR DAY BY ARBITRATORS AWARD

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The eight-hour day with straight pro rata time for overtime is granted to the Switchmen's union in a decision today in the switchmen's controversy with the railroads. The award gives an increase of five cents per hour for both foremen and helpers.

The switchmen had asked an advance of 10 to 12 cents. They had demanded also time and a half pay for overtime work instead of the pro rata basis fixed by the board.

While all six arbitrators signed the award, James B. Connors and W. A. Titus, representing the switchmen, dissented as to the 5-cent increase, to the denial of time and a half for overtime and to the award giving overtime at the pro rata rate. E. F. Peter and T. W. Evans, the railroad representatives, dissented to the award of the eight-hour day.

Charles B. Howry was chairman of the board and Jeremiah W. Jenks was the sixth member.

The award affects thirteen eastern railroads.

"Much emphasis has been laid upon the fact that the hours of work of the switchmen are often long," says a statement by Arbitrators Howry and Jenks, attached to the award. "Although the standard work day has been ten hours, frequently the men have worked from eleven to twelve and sometimes even longer."

It was said here today on behalf of the railroads that the award was interpreted by them as "not giving an O. K. to the Adamson law."

William T. Brower of Salem arrived in the city Saturday and will spend the holidays with relatives near Jacksonville.

PRESS OF BERLIN QUESTIONS MOTIVES OF THE PRESIDENT

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—The Berlin press receives here Wilson's note to the belligerents with varying views, scarcely any two papers looking alike at the proposition. The views range from the enthusiastic welcome accorded the plan by the Tageblatt to the unexpectedly cynical quasi-acquiescence of the Vossische Zeitung, with the middle ground represented by the Lokai Anzeiger, which prefers to await the answer of the entente powers to the emperor's note before deciding for or against it.

George Reinhardt, in the Vossische Zeitung, views President Wilson's proposal as actuated purely from American, selfish motives. America, he says, finds itself in the position of having passed the heyday point in its financial operations with the entente and now wants peace and the co-operation of England in preparing for what it alludes to as the inevitable Japanese trouble.

Berr Reinhardt refers to Secretary Lansing's statement regarding American being drawn to the verge of war as a distinct tip to Germany, yet he is convinced that America desires to avoid such a conflict, primarily for selfish reasons.

INSURANCE RATES ON BRITISH VESSELS RAISED

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Daily News says that owing to the increased submarine menace the government war risk insurance office has raised the insurance rate per voyage for British vessels to 40 shillings per cent.

WILSON'S NOTE COMPELS KAISER TO STATE AIMS

French View of President's Peace Suggestion—Appreciate Lofty Sentiments Inspiring Move, But France Is Fighting for Ideals and Will Continue Until Aims Realized.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The only reference to President Wilson's note at the public sitting of the chamber of deputies was made by Deputy Renaudel, who expressed the belief that it would compel Germany to tell plainly her war aims. Deputy Renaudel made such brief reference in announcing that the socialist party would vote for the appropriations for the first six months of 1917 which were subsequently passed. He said:

French Viewpoint.

"Today the president of the United States of America asks the belligerents to make known their views as to the object of the war. We do not wish to judge his intentions; we only wish to see this neutral guided, we believe, by concern for justice and for right, helping to obtain more light. Our enemies can no longer now keep making halted statements, they must speak out clearly. We do not fear that can trouble the minds of the soldiers of the republic, who, to win back peace, have covered their country with glory. Let our government make known to the whole world that the allies' people, always wish peace and never afraid of war, are ready to accept any solution which, having repaid the injustice of force, shall organize the nations for the salvation and the free development of humanity."

Admire Sentiments.

In the galleries of the chamber President Wilson's note was the subject of all the conversations among the deputies who, without exception, agreed in paying homage to the sentiments which inspired President Wilson to take his step, but gave expression unanimously to the opinion that in the present state of affairs his suggestion could not have the results he expects from it—that is to say, the establishment of a lasting peace. The views of the members of the chamber, as thus given expression are in substance as follows:

The French nation knows and appreciates the loyal friendship of the people of the United States in general, the two countries having a common ideal of justice and liberty.

FRENCH REPULSE GERMAN ATTACK

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The French official statement on the progress of hostilities in France, given out this afternoon, reads:

"In the Champagne district, after a spirited bombardment, a detachment of the enemy endeavored last night to approach our lines west of Auberville, but were repulsed."

MILLION DOLLAR FRUIT CROP 1916 DUE TO WATER

Bulk of Fruit Harvested This Season Came From Irrigated Area—Stories of Dollars and Cents Created by Water Can Be Verified by Talking With Orchardists.

Results in dollars and cents speak strongly and truthfully. A clear showing of great increases in revenue arising from the use of irrigation is the best argument that can be advanced in its favor. The bulk of the valley's million dollar 1916 fruit crop came from the small percentage of irrigated orchards.

A large number of successful orchardists and farmers of the valley have during the present campaign made public the results made possible by the use of irrigation during the past season. Part of these results have already been published and part have not. They have been arranged below in condensed form.

See the Parties Named.

Some may be skeptical as to the correctness of the figures, and to these the best advice is—to set your mind at rest, and to convince, if necessary, either see personally or phone the men who are listed below, and they will be glad to verify the figures and to cast additional light on the benefits of irrigation, further statements that the brevity of the articles below necessitates omitting.

Practically all of these men are in favor of the proposed district plan. The only opponents are those whose lands lie outside the district and who are obtaining water from present canals. However, others in similar circumstances are among the strongest advocates of the creation of the district. Many who are within the

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DRESDEN PEOPLE RIOTING FOR FOOD

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A Rotterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph says that there were food riots in Dresden on December 17, 18 and 19, and especially on the 19th when troops were called to help the police in suppressing the trouble which arose from the closing of several food shops on Sunday because they were without stocks.

The dispatch says women stoned the shops on Sunday and then marched through the streets but the police did not interfere. There was another parade on Monday, when the paraders passed the king's palace shouting for food. Several women are said to have been arrested for using insulting language about the king. The disturbances were renewed on Tuesday when a sharp fight occurred between several women and three policemen being wounded. The soldiers then charged the crowd and cleared the streets.

BLIZZARDS DELAY CHRISTMAS MAIL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Blizzards in the middle west, shortage of mail cars and an unequal number of mail handlers in large railroad terminals have contributed to the delay in the Christmas mail service, the postoffice department announced today. Reports of postmasters in the large cities, the department stated, show the Christmas mail this year exceeds that of last year by 25 per cent and orders have been issued by the postmaster general to superintendents of railway mail service to secure freight cars where necessary to move the mails.

"With the clearing weather," the department announced, "the congestion has been much relieved during the last 24 hours. Except for belated posting, the eastern mailings to distant points in the west, northwest and southwest, it is reasonably certain now that substantially all Christmas gifts caught in the crush will be delivered Christmas day."

DUTCH WELCOME PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS

THE HAGUE, Dec. 23.—The Dutch anti-war council has sent the following cablegram to President Wilson: "Holland thanks you for your effort in favor of lasting peace. All neutral nations meet your step with the greatest sympathy and support your noble efforts in the efforts of the whole of humanity."

IRREGULAR CHANGES ON STOCK MARKET

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Irregular changes accompanied the moderate operations at today's stock market opening. United States Steel was offered in a lot of 10,000 shares at a slight gain.

NO MAIL TRIBUNE ISSUED CHRISTMAS DAY

There will be no issue of the Mail Tribune on Christmas day. All readers are wished a Merry Christmas.