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PRESIDENT FACES A PARLOUS YEAR

Portentious Problems Loom Ahead in Both National and International Affairs

FOUR EVENTFUL YEARS ARE PAST

During Which Dramatic Scenes Have Been Staged and Nation has Tottered on the verge of War

By ROBERT J BENDER (United Press Staff Correspondent) Washington, Dec. 28—President Wilson faces a new year fairly teeming with portentous problems in international affairs.

In brief, 1917 promises to be the most eventful twelve months of President Wilson's administration. The year, nevertheless made its bow at the White House mildly, inaugurating no changes in the President's regular program of daily work.

A Review of the Year

Looking back on 1916 the calendar pages disclose twelve months of almost constant strain at the White House.

"Our own rights as a nation, the liberties, the privileges, and the property of our people have been profoundly affected as a result of the war the President declared recently.

He probably was thinking of his long tour through the central west urging immediate response to a call for preparedness; his constant difficulties with Germany and England as a result of breaches of international law; his appearance before Congress with a warning that broken relations with Germany was a crisis immediately facing the United States, and finally the hope of an end to these dangers when Germany proffered peace to the world.

The White House itself has housed some of the most dramatic scenes in its history. Full details may never be told of the dramatic conference between the President and administration leaders in the library of the Executive Mansion when it appeared inevitable that the United States would be drawn into war with Germany.

Relations with Germany

It was then that the President told Senator Stone of the Senate foreign relations committee that if another American life were lost as a result of violation by Germany of her pledges to this country on submarine warfare, the only course open to him was to sever diplomatic relations with Germany.

were laid bare. It was followed by an effort to pass resolutions in Congress warning Americans off armed ships—a measure fought to a successful finish by the President himself. Later he appeared before Congress, notifying that body of the virtual ultimatum sent to the Kaiser, following the Sussex sinking.

Railroad Strike Averted

There was another dramatic conference in the White House. The Gold room famed for its spectacular social social events during years gone by, was opened to a conference between the President and five hundred railroad trainmen in an effort to ward off a nationwide railroad strike. This was followed by the appearance of railroad executives, representing millions of dollars of capital, and for days the conference went on to no avail.

Immediately afterward the President wielded his 'big stick' over Congress and forced the passage of an eight hour law, averting the strike.

Then came the election. The exciting scenes of uncertainty surrounding the climax of that struggle, was transistered to Shadow Lawn, where the President was spending his vacation. The President himself tells an interesting story of the twenty four hours from Tuesday evening until Wednesday evening when the returns gave the result first to Hughes and then to Wilson.

Election Returns

During Tuesday evening he stayed with Mrs. Wilson and his daughter Margaret, in the library of the Mansion hearing the returns. They were a dubious lot of returns and after all the New York papers had awarded the victory to Hughes there seemed little hope for him in the outlook. "I retired about 12:30," said the President, telling of his feelings, "and at that time the situation could not be termed as encouraging. I was shaving the next morning when my daughter, Margaret, who had risen early in order to catch a train for New York, came up and informed me I was elected.

"Oh,shaw," I said to her, 'what do you mean? Let's have some of the details.' She then told me that early reports received over press association wires in the executive office indicated the change. However, I went on shaving. Details were not very complete. They of course, came later." The President that day played an exceptionally good game of golf. Mrs. Wilson's confidence in the outcome already had been indicated when she planted tulip bulbs in the front yard of the White House in order to enjoy them next fall.

FARM TRACTORS PURCHASED HERE

Spence & Hollowell are unloading the first farm tractor engines ever received for use in the county or section. These engines have been purchased by Dr. L. S. Blades of this city and Mr. H. C. Ferebee of Camden. They will be used for ploughing, hauling, and to supply power on the farm.

A public demonstration of these interesting farm implements will be held here soon by a representative of the International Harvester Company, to which the farmers of the section and all others interested will be invited.

SAYS CONGRESS MADE MONEY

(By United Press) Washington, Dec. 28—Over sixty million dollars were made in Wall Street by those having advance information in Wilson's peace note, says Thomas Lawson.

"If it were actually believed in Washington," says he, "that there would be a real investigation of last week's leak, there would not be a quorum in the House or Senate Monday, and there would be a shifting of bank accounts similar to those of sugar investigation days

MARRIAGES AND MORE MARRIAGES

Holiday marriages continue to abound in the land and indications are that before the end of Leap Year 1916 the record may be piled up yet more amazingly. Wednesday was another popular day for the couples of this section.

PARKER—JENNINGS Robert Linwood Parker and Miss Louise Virginia Jennings were married by Justice of the Peace, J. W. Munden Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock. The groom is from Portsmouth and the bride is the daughter of Mr. W. A. Jennings of Providence township, this county.

JENNINGS—TWIFORD Mr. J. M. Jennings of Providence and Mrs. Fannie Mae Twiford were married Wednesday night at eight o'clock at the home of the bride's father, Mr. B. F. Alexander of this city. The groom is a prominent farmer of Providence and a member of the County Board of Commissioners.

RICE—BATLINER James Fletcher Rice and Miss Mary Anna Batliner, both of Belhaven, were married here by Justice of the Peace, J. W. Munden Wednesday afternoon.

HARRIS—STAFFORD Mr. Claude L. Harris and Miss Annie Elizabeth Stafford were married by Rev. D. P. Harris at Berea Church Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock. Mr. Paul Harris acted as best man and Miss Ruth Hastings of this city was maid of honor. The groomsmen were J. Kenneth Stafford, brother of the bride, and W. C. Pritchard. The bridesmaids were Miss Leslie Albertson of this city, and Miss Lesura Harris, a niece of the groom. A sumptuous wedding supper at the home of the bride followed the wedding at the church.

Swan Burned

The Swan, a gas boat belonging to the National Column Company of Camden, was burned to the water last night as she lay at the dock here. The fire occurred at about eight o'clock and crowds lined the water front as the alarm of fire was sounded. It is thought that the fire was due to the explosion of a lantern left on board to keep the carburetor warm or else to gasoline fumes in the room where the lantern was burning. The boat was valued at about \$300.

A New Serial At The Alkrama

In the first episode of the Shielding Shadow, the new movie serial beginning at the Alkrama Friday night, Stephen Walcott favors the suit of Sebastian Navarro, a Spaniard, for his daughter, Leontine's hand, foreseeing in the marriage a prop to strengthen his tottering fortunes. Leontine is deeply in love with Jerry Carson, a penniless young writer, who has taken passage on his father's ship.

The ship burns at sea and all are reported lost except the captain and a seaman. Jerry, however, has managed to swim ashore where he finds in a bottle a manuscript written by a shipwrecked scientist, Matthewson, which gives the location on an island of a buried fortune. Matthewson also writes of some black pellets he has manufactured which will give the finder "power beyond the dreams of all men.

Sebastian, thinking Jerry dead, tries to hasten his own marriage by having one Lamp Leule forge a paper which casts a blot on Jerry's memory. Jerry after many hardships arrives shortly after the paper is shown to Leontine and her father and tries to secure it from Diego, Sebastian's brother. During the struggle Diego falls and is killed by hitting his head against a heavy desk ornament. The only witness is Lamp Louie who sees it through a window. When Jerry is found bending over Diego he is arrested on a charge of murder, Louie keeping silent, fearing he will be implicated also.

Crokers Horses Again on Track

By H C HAMILTON (United Press Staff Correspondent)

New York, Dec. 28—Richard Croker, former Tammany leader and prominent race horse owner in the United States will send his horses to the starters on American tracks again. He may take part in race meetings this summer but probably will not have much of a string in the American meetings until the following year. Before Croker left a short time ago for Palm Beach Florida, to spend the winter he declared he would like nothing better than to see his Yale blue and gold tassels again sweeping down the tracks in competition with American horses.

He has several youngsters, sired by Orby, his Derby winner, that he believes would be able to show their heels to the best horses on this side of the Atlantic. Croker is a great admirer of the English system of breeding and the results it has produced. He does not believe that American bred horses will begin to compare with the English horses until several years. Croker confided that he was reluctant to take part in the English meetings while the war is in progress. That is sufficient reason, he believes, to state that his horses will be again seen on tracks in the United States.

Little Rosa Snowden Dead

Little Rosa Snowden, the nine year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Snowden, died Wednesday morning at four o'clock at the home at Snowden. The burial took place today in the family burying ground. The little girl was the only child and had been ill for a year and a half. J. H. Snowden and E. M. Stevens of this city attended the funeral today.

Cantata To-night

A Christmas Cantata, 'The Loyal Santa Claus', will be given by Blackwell Memorial Sunday School tonight in the Sunday School annex. Opening March—Instrumental Opening Chorus—School. 'Santa Claus'—solo, Bertha Clifton. Tom—George Modlin Jim—Randell Holleman Santa—W. I. Peal. 'We're the Boys'—Boy's Chorus. 'The Happy Time'—Girl's Chorus. 'Din Cupid'—Solo, Oliver Gilbert, Jr. 'The Street Wail'—Solo, Margaret Chession. Our Loyal Santa Claus—Solo and chorus, Henrietta Godfrey. He'll be here—Solo and chorus, Nellie Hastings. He won't be here tonight—reading, Franklin Owens. By-lo—Solo, Little Miss Elizabeth Carter. In Slumberville—Solo, Miss Aurilla Strahl. The Fairies Song—Chorus, Primary girls. He may yet come—duet and chorus, Nellie Hastings and Annie Belle Trueblood. Little Roy Queer—Planologue and chorus, Norman Trueblood. The Situation—solo and duet, Odell Long. Song of the Snow Fairies—chorus, Primary girls. Coxeys' Army—chorus, George Modlin, Captain. Jack Frost—solo, Mr. Sim Burgess. You better be going—solo and duet, Messrs Sim Burgess and W. I. Peal. Ring, Bells Ring—chorus. Good Bye Santa—chorus, all the cast. Gifts to the children of the Sunday School will be distributed after the program and a pleasant social hour enjoyed. The cantata will begin promptly at 7:30.

Judge Turner Speaks Friday

Judge Turner will be one of the speakers at the annual membership dinner of the Tidewater Automobile Association at the Monticella Hotel in Norfolk Friday evening. Judge Turner will speak from the subject 'Norfolk to Elizabeth City.' This dinner is looked forward to as the most important in the history of the association. Delegates from all parts of Tidewater Virginia and Eastern North Carolina will be present.

BOY SCOUTS MEET FRIDAY

All Boy Scouts are requested to meet Scoutmaster Ford at the Y. M. C. A. building at nine o'clock Friday morning, provided it is not raining.

TWO HOUSES FOR RENT

One 7 room and one 6 room. Brand new on Queen Street. Apply to Mrs. I. N. Loftin, Phone 142.

ARE NOT WEARING CHIP ON SHOULDER

WILSON AND LANSING SILENT ABOUT SUBMARINE SITUATION WHILE PUSHING PEACE WORK (By United Press) Washington, Dec. 28—The fear that present peace negotiations will fail and this nation then must clear the slate with Germany grows apace today. But as stated yesterday in United press dispatches, the President intends to push the peace work to the limit and avoid the possibility of subsequent unpleasantness with Germany, if possible. Both Wilson and Lansing have decided to maintain a discreet silence on the submarine issue for the present as they do not wish to appear as wearing a chip on the shoulder while talking peace. Officials believe that there is now no mistaking that Wilson's peace notes to belligerents and their explanation by Lansing in effect constituted a warning to all belligerents against unbridled acts of war which would involve American lives or rights. Since this government's attitude is that violations which affect property are not to be compared to violations affecting life, the warning is generally interpreted as directed against the central powers.

INVESTIGATING EARLY SKIRMISH

(By United Press) Washington, Dec. 28—That Carranza has not signed the troop withdrawal protocol but instead has again submitted counter proposals is the growing belief here, even in official circles where earlier in the day hope was expressed that the First Chief would ultimately sign. Men in close touch with the situation said today that they believed that Carranza will seek another peace conference. This request is expected to be submitted by Chairman Cabrera of the Mexican Commission when he sees Secretary Lane this afternoon. Reports from El Paso state that investigation is underway of the outpost skirmish early this morning between Mexican snipers and the patrol of the Third Kentucky Guard, in which more than three hundred shots were fired across the Rio Grande by guardsmen after a fusillade of shots from the Mexican side. The entire city was aroused by the heavy firing. Regular army officers in the vicinity declare that they heard no shots from the Mexican side, while other officers of the guard on patrol say that scattered firing continued for several minutes from the other bank.

GREAT MISERY IN AUSTRIA

(By United Press) London Dec. 28—Daily food demonstrations are reported in the chief cities of Austria Hungary, and great misery throughout these countries with hundreds of suicides during the past month.