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Peace Will Be Theme For the Coming Year

Most Important Subject Before State Department as country Must Play Big Part in Peace Negotiations

By CARL D GROAT (United Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington, December 29—Peace promises to be the transcendent theme of the State Department the coming year in sharp contrast to the almost warful moments finite took definite form in the last of some months last year.

Intermittent peace talk took definite form in the last two weeks of December, after Germany had proposed peace to the Allies. From now on it will be the enormous subject before the state department in view of the fact that the government seems destined to play a big part in what ever peace negotiations are undertaken.

Yet while peace talk passes back and forth between the chancelleries of Europe and in the granite halls and mahoganyed chambers of the American State department, other international matters of grave moment must be settled. These questions, serious at times almost to the point of ruptured relations, are direct heirlooms of the war, affect America as a neutral and are destined to have their standing when international law is rewritten after the war.

OTHER DIFFICULTIES

In addition to the possible complications with Mexico, the main issues of the last year still are pregnant with difficulties which American diplomacy is seeking to smooth out at the same time protecting adequately and honorably the rights of America and Americans.

These issues are:— Submarine problems between Germany and the United States. German deportation of Belgians. English interference with mails. English blacklisting of American firms with German interests. English embargoes affecting America.

Germany's submarine warfare came to a head insofar as the United States is concerned when this government last March gained a statement that Germany had affected a change in her submarine methods and pledged to continue on a milder course.

The Lusitania case, hung fire, though Germany's terms of settlement were virtually satisfactory in as much as this government did not desire to finally close the matter while other submarine matters were pending.

GERMANY'S PROMISES

For a time Germany seemed to be scrupulously following her promise of the last four months. However, there has been a feeling that she was going as far as she could without provoking new troubles with the United States. In these circumstances, the state department investigated during the closing days of the year a series of sinkings, notably the Marina, Arabia, Chomung, and a dozen others. Evidence indicated Germany was overstepping at least the spirit of her pledges, and the United States proceeded to plan for her next step.

Crises have been numerous. The State Department, however, in accordance with administration principles has sought to settle matters through diplomacy, rather than

through a break in relations. Indeed, this government did threaten to break after the Sussex torpedoing, if Germany broke her pledges, but since then the spirit has been to bring Germany up short, gain a sharp, air tight definition of her pledges and then insist upon adherence to them.

Prospects of peace though still undoubtedly some months distant will probably affect future dealings with Germany, and even more strongly influence the administration's idea of avoiding a break with Germany.

Germany's deportation of Belgians provoked a protest from this government, but her answer gave but little satisfaction. The administration plans to watch the situation closely.

LIFE AND PROPERTY

German transgressions have involved American lives. In these circumstances the general view has been that the cases required quick, strong protest.

On the other hand, England's offenses have involved American commercial rights, not lives. These have been the subject of objections and negotiations, but differences are still extant over England's treatment of American mails, her black list and her embargoes. The state department will continue negotiating and protesting against infringements of United States rights by England, though none of these cases, the department holds, involves such seriousness as to call for a threat of a breach in relations.

THE MEXICAN MUDDLE

Mexico has been a sore spot in diplomacy the past year. Conditions became such that American troops were sent into Mexico, and militia to the border, following Villa's raid on Columbus. The state department found many intricate problems with Carranza. Finally it brought him up short with a recital of outrages against Americans and their property, and a definite demand to know what he was going to do hereafter.

The Americans aim in Mexico in rehabilitation and peace without arms. But the problem before the Mexican-American Commission is still grave and enormous. Villa again is making trouble, though Carranza in recent months has shown a disposition and some ability to alter dreadful conditions.

But with all the problems that have spelt trouble, the idea of peace the world over has been a permanent hope—and more lately, a pregnant possibility.

MARRIED HERE THURSDAY

Mr. Kenneth Mallory and Miss Effie Leona Riggs, both of Norfolk, were married Thursday afternoon at two o'clock by Rev. I. N. Lottin at his residence on Pennsylvania Avenue. They were accompanied by Mr. H. T. Weller and Mrs. Courtney Mallory Sprouse, who witnessed the ceremony.

Mr. Will Ferrell of this city and Miss Annie Brinley of Corapeake were married at four o'clock Thursday afternoon by Justice of the Peace, J. W. Menden at his home on Holden Street.

Forwarded Note Today

London, December 29—The Scandinavian nations today forwarded a peace note to European belligerents, according to a Copenhagen dispatch.

Where is That Banner

(By United Press)

Washington, Dec. 29—Who got the button, Ann's age, and who hit Billy Patterson probably will all be solved before the National Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage finds out who got the banner they swung before President Wilson from the House gallery. Also the question of where it is now. Press Agent Henry Swinehart, who engineered the affair that started the joint Congressional audience on that otherwise peaceful day, admitted today that the Union has about given up hope of getting back its banner. The day after its appearance in the House, those who flung it to the legislative breeze only to have it unceremoniously jerked to earth, went to the sergeant at arms' office to get it back. They failed to do so. The next heard of the new historic emblem was at the Gridiron dinner several Saturday nights back, when the Gridironers pulled a burlesque of the incident while the President was addressing them. The same banner was used in the burlesque. News of this event gave Congressional Union officials hope. They buttonholed every Gridiron Club member they knew and some they didn't know. They pleaded they wanted the grand old flag to use as a background when they were photographed in their new home upon the occasion of dedicating it. They did not get it.

GAVE CHRISTMAS CANTATA

A Christmas Cantata, 'The Loyal Santa Claus', was given by Blackwell Memorial Sunday School last night in the Sunday School annex.

Opening March—Instrumental. Opening Chorus—School. 'Santa Claus',—solo, Bertha Clifton.

Tom—George Modlin. Jim—Randell Holliman. Santa—W. I. Peal.

We're the Boys'—Boy's Chorus. The Happy Time—Girl's Chorus. Don Cupid—Solo, Oliver Gilbert, Jr.

The Street Waf—Solo, Margret Chesson.

Our Loyal Santa Claus—Solo and chorus, Henrietta Godfrey.

He'll be here—Solo and chorus, Nellie Hastings.

He won't be here tonight—residing, 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 Quee—Planologue and chorus, Norman Trueblood.

The Situation—solo and duet, Odell Long.

Song of the Snow Fairies—chorus, Primary girls.

Coxey's Army—chorus, George Modlin, Captain. Jack Frost—solo, Mr. Sim Burgess.

WAR NOT TO END IMMEDIATELY

BERLIN BELIEVES ALLIES MAKING READY FOR CONCENTRATED EFFORT AGAINST GERMAN FRONT

Berlin, December 29—Judging from the unofficial reports from the front and from diplomatic comment, the Peace efforts of President Wilson, the Central Powers and Switzerland will not succeed in immediately ending the war.

That the war will not end with out the Allies making another gigantic concentrated effort to break the German front is indicated by their artillery preparations.

Temper Justice With Mercy

(By United Press)

London, December 29—(By Mail) Richard Cunningham, 34, the lance-corporal who killed his wife in a fit of grief over her betrayal while he was in the trenches today began a sentence of one year under a man-slaughter charge. The stern English jury frankly tempered justice with mercy in Cunningham's case in which the unwritten law played a decided part. Cunningham, taking his turn in the trenches, was tormented by his wife's silence. He seldom heard from her during his first few months with the colors and later her letters ceased altogether. Friends wrote him mentioning a mysterious caller at his home in London. The soldier wrote to local authorities in an effort to learn what had become of his little son but received scant satisfaction in the official replies with their impersonal wording and red tape. At the first opportunity Cunningham obtained leave from France and returned home. A few days later the police found him lying unconscious across the dead form of his wife. She had been strangled. An officer said Cunningham was a high type of soldier without a single black mark against his name in the army records. His former employer gave him a similar good character. In passing the minimum sentence the jury recommended that the convicted soldier ought not to be compelled to serve his time among common criminals.

DETAINED BY PRESS OF WORK

Mr. Anson Cohoon of Medford Oregon, who was to have arrived in his Home Town this week to spend some time with his father, Mr. F. F. Cohoon, was unavoidably detained by the press of work and at the last minute had to postpone his trip. Mr. Cohoon works for Uncle Sam in the Forest Service and the work of closing up the year's reports is a painstaking and important one. He expects to be able to make his trip in January and hopes to get a leave of absence from headquarters at Washington for a visit of several months.

BASKET BALL TONIGHT

There will be a basket ball game tonight between the High School and the town boys. Admission will be free, and all good fans are invited.

LOST. Bob tall pointer dog, about a year old, liver and white spotted. Answers to name of Ned. Wore collar having name of owner, L. W. Cox, when left home. Reward for information leading to his recovery. L. W. COX, Dec 29 16

day School were distributed after the program and a pleasant social hour ensued.

NEVER SUCH A YEAR AS THIS FOR BETSEY

The Picture City is Not Only More Prosperous, But More Active, More Co-operative and More Beautiful.

The year 1916 comes to its close on the stroke of twelve Sunday night in Elizabeth City with PROSPERITY written in large letters in the business record and with unprecedented progress in the activities of the town.

Early in the year a vigorous campaign was launched for the opening of the Y. M. C. A. The building had long stood idle, heat, water, equipment and organization being lacking. The Y. M. C. A. opened in May with an active membership under the direction of Secretary C. W. Ford, who came here from Portsmouth to take charge of the work, and whither he yet need for equipment, the Association has made an excellent beginning and grown steadily in favor throughout the city.

The enthusiasm aroused in the Y. M. C. A. campaign spread in the direction of the re-organization of the Chamber of Commerce, and during the same month the Chamber of Commerce began its new era of accomplishment with Attorney C. R. Pugh as manager, and Mr. W. G. Gaither, cashier of the First National Bank, as president.

The Chamber of Commerce at once went to work to plan for a big celebration to bring together the people of the city and country of the section and make for unity and co-operation. The date set was July the fourth, and the event was termed Good Will Day. No effort was spared in preparing to welcome the city's visitors and when the day dawned clear and fair the guests began to arrive and continued to arrive until the crowd was estimated at ten thousand or more. An elaborate program, which included the flight around the city of a big hydroplane from Newport News, was carried out without a hitch, and only one accident, a minor one, was reported throughout the entire day's festivities.

An active Chamber of Commerce did much to make 'good business' during the summer season, and not until very late in the summer did the annual period of dullness arrive. This period was then of comparatively short duration, because of the good crops of the country surrounding the city and the high prices for cotton and other farm produce. Good business continued steadily through the fall months coming to a climax in the last six shopping days before Christmas, which in spite of clouds and sometimes rain brought the biggest shopping crowds for a like period in the city's history and the best sales records.

This good business was not confined to the stores of the city. The banks passed all records, and more buildings were erected in the business and residence sections of the city than in any preceding twelve months. The palatial residence of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Oakley Robinson on Main Street, erected this year, is the handsomest in the city and ranks with the most beautiful homes in the state. A very large three story brick building is almost completed adjoining the W. H. Weatherly Company on Water Street, which is perhaps the largest building undertaking of its kind during the year. This building was erected by Mr. C. H. Robinson and, it is said, will be occupied by a large wholesale firm at

an early date. The new municipal market house is now complete and cold storage facilities installed. It will be turned over to the town early in the new year, and it is said to be one of the best equipped, though of course not the largest, in the entire state.

Mr. W. H. Weatherly's new home on Riverside Drive, Mr. W. L. Cohoon's on Church Street, Mrs. Clay Foreman's on Main Street, Mr. Oliver Gilbert's on Pennsylvania Avenue, are but a few of the handsome modern residences that mark the increasing beauty of the Picture City of the Pasquotank.

During the month of December the city was the host of the Baptist State Convention with a large number of delegates from all over the state and many visitors from Virginia, all of whom were lavish in their praise of the beautiful location and the cordial hospitality of the people of Elizabeth City.

The program for 1917 embraces such features as: Community Service Week, getting a packing house; building a highway that will connect the city directly with Gates county; opening the new market; another Good Will Day; better equipment for the Y. M. C. A., and many other enterprises of benefit to the entire town and its tributary territory.

WILL PASS ALONG SECRET TERMS

MERELY ACTING AS A MESSENGER BETWEEN GERMANY AND OTHER NATIONS AT WAR

Washington, Dec. 29—"If Germany desires the United States to pass along any secret peace terms for the Allies to consider, this government will do it," said a high State Department official today, explaining, however, that the United States would be merely acting as a messenger, and that "in such capacity there could be no propriety."

It was suggested to him that Germany is apparently trying to maneuver the United States into furthering a secret peace conference. The official pointed out that when this government acts as a messenger for one side or another, any communication which it handles between belligerents must be kept secret if the power transmitting such communication so requests. Meantime there is talk among the congressmen that affairs have been bungled and that secret diplomacy is being tried. This talk is not confined to the Capitol Hill. An administration official said today that the State Department had bungled the publicity arrangements of the President's peace notes subsequent to Lansing's interpretations and that the subsequent explanation was issued solely to make

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THE WEATHER

Saturday, fair and colder. North-east wind.