

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS DISPLAYED BY AMERICA

Executive Clemency Extended Prisoners and Much Charity Work Done—Blease and Hooper Lead in Pardoning Role in the South—Wilson Grants One Federal Prisoner His Liberty, for Christmas Gift.

WHITE CHRISTMAS WELCOMED BY CITIES IN THE NORTH FOR FIRST TIME IN YEARS

National Government Practically at a Standstill, While Officials Eat Turkey With Families at Home—Community Christmas Tree Celebrations Are Numerous Throughout Breadth and Length of Land.

Atlanta, Ga., December 24.—The advent of Christmas in the South was marked by executive clemency to prisoners and to the poor, and various public celebrations in city and country.

Among the Governors who issued pardons, commutations and paroles to convicts, were Blease of South Carolina and Hooper of Tennessee. Many city and county judges also showed leniency in court decisions.

Governor Hooper also made the occasion one for abolishing striped uniforms in the two state penal institutions. The new garb is a brownish gray. Heretofore, it has been allowed only to prisoners whose good conduct made them eligible for the first class.

Gifts of food and clothing to the poor were especially extensive in the chief Southern cities. Funds for the purpose were collected by both newspapers and charitable organizations. Public dinners for the needy have been provided for by charitable agencies.

Montgomery, Memphis, Jackson, Miss., and other Southern cities had municipal Christmas trees tonight. Churches generally planned some celebration of the season's significance.

National Government at Standstill. Washington, Dec. 24.—The nation's government was virtually at a standstill tonight. On Christmas Eve everybody from the President down to the minor departmental employees, had declared a holiday. The first real snow storm of the winter put in its appearance to add to the setting of the Christmas celebration.

A community celebration was held on the plaza in front of the capitol, thousands of children braving the snow storm to gather about a brilliantly decorated tree loaded down with presents.

President Wilson, with a group of his close relatives, spent Christmas Eve at the White House, preparing a tree for his small grand niece, Anna Cothran, and Sally McAdoo, daughter of the Secretary of the Treasury. In the party were the President's three daughters, Mrs. F. B. Sayre, Mrs. McAdoo, and Miss Margaret Wilson, Mr. Sayre, Secretary McAdoo, Sally McAdoo, Mrs. Edward Howe, the President's sister, Mrs. Anne Cothran, his niece, Anne Cothran, and Miss Helen Bones, his cousin.

At 8:30 o'clock the President touched the button which illuminated a "community" Christmas tree in Brooklyn. During the evening he sent greetings to many friends in different parts of the country.

CHRISTMAS IN BERLIN

Celebrated Very Much as Usual—Hospitals All Have Christmas Trees. Berlin, Dec. 24.—(By London Dec. 25, 1914, A. M.) Berlin is celebrating Christmas eve under leaden skies. Several inches of snow that fell during the night turned to hoar-frost. Christmas differs little from former years.

Home enjoyments are on a more domestic scale and more public spiritedness is shown. Gifts for the poor have increased in proportion never before known.

Soldiers are being remembered by the whole population and hundreds of cartons of presents have been sent to the front and West fronts. School children figure largely in the gifts for the soldiers.

The military aspect of this Christmas has been increased by the lavish donations to the wounded in the hospitals. Here every hospital yesterday morning or this evening had a Christmas tree filled with gifts.

These celebrations were attended by the school children who sang Christmas songs. The Empress at Potsdam, who is recovering from a severe illness, is spending Christmas at her home in Potsdam. She presented 500 poor families with presents. The American women yesterday distributed presents to the poor at the kitchen of the American Association of Commerce and Industry.

More than 500 women and children were remembered in the distribution. Mrs. James W. Gerard, wife of the American ambassador and the other women of the embassy staff, and Miss G. Lay, wife of the American minister general in Berlin, took a prominent part in the affair.

BLEASE GRANTS PARDONS. As Many as Usual, but Governor Follows Custom. Columbia, S. C., Dec. 24.—Governor Blease today granted four pardons and paroles to State prisoners in continuing his custom of granting clemency

GREAT NATURALIST, JOHN MUIR, IS DEAD

After Brief Illness With Pneumonia, in Los Angeles.

GIVEN MANY DEGREES

Visiting His Daughter on Ranch in California and Taken Sick Last Week—Carried to Los Angeles Where He Died.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 24.—John Muir, the naturalist, died in a hospital here today of pneumonia. He was 76 years old. Mr. Muir was visiting his daughter, Mrs. Helen Muir Funk, at Daggett, in San Bernardino county. He was stricken with pneumonia last week, and on Tuesday it was determined to bring him to this city for treatment.

When he arrived here last night, Mr. Muir was in a critical condition and sank rapidly, death coming at 10 o'clock today. His daughter was with him.

John Muir belonged to that tradition of British naturalists whose work was so fused with the writer's personality and so penetrated by individual feeling that their output was as much literature as science.

History of His Life. Born in Dunbar, Scotland, in 1838. Continued on Page Eight

ACTION IN FRANK CASE POSTPONED

Supreme Court Justice Says Wait Until After Xmas.

ATURDAY OR MONDAY

Justice Lamar Hears Argument in Appeal from Georgia Courts and Announces He Will Give Decision After Christmas.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Justice Lamar of the Supreme Court today postponed until after Christmas action on an appeal in the case of Leo M. Frank, under death sentence for the murder of Mary Phagan, the factory girl of Atlanta, Ga.

During the day Louis Marshall, of New York, made application to the justice for an appeal from the decision of Judge Newman of the Georgia Federal Court, denying Frank's petition for release on a habeas corpus writ.

The attorney argued for an hour that the trial court, which found Frank guilty, had lost jurisdiction over him by permitting a mob atmosphere to prevail in the court room and by allowing a verdict to be returned during the prisoner's absence from court. Justice Lamar notified Mr. Marshall that he would withhold decision on the appeal until after Christmas.

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COMMITTEE URGED TO ADOPT MEASURE

The Naval Appropriation Bill Would Create Reserve.

INCREASE EFFICIENCY

Secretary of Navy Addresses Letter to Congressional Committee on Naval Affairs Urging that Bill Be Adopted

Washington, Dec. 24.—Creation of a naval reserve of honorably discharged enlisted men of the navy is proposed in an amendment to the forthcoming naval appropriation bill, which Secretary Daniels today urged the congressional naval committee to adopt.

"If this amendment be enacted into law," said Mr. Daniels in a statement tonight, "two most important and necessary means for promoting the efficiency of the navy will be provided. First, it will make available a reserve organization of trained men to supplement the regular establishment in time of war. Second, it will increase the efficiency of the regular navy by offering a substantial inducement to men to continue in the service for periods of twelve, sixteen and twenty years."

The principal features of the bill are as follows: Men who have had twenty years of

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BOTH EUROPEAN LINES SEE FIERCE FIGHTING

Instead of the Proposed Christmas Truce, Two of the Greatest Battles in the History of the World Are Raging Between the Austrians and Germans, and the Forces of the Great Allied Powers of Europe.

GERMANS IN POLAND SAID TO HAVE REACHED RUSSIAN MAIN LINE AND HAVE BEEN ROUTED

Germans Apparently Turn the Tables in East Prussia and Are Again Advancing Into Russian Territory, While Russian Troops South of the Carpathian Mountains Claim to Have Won Victories Over Austrians.

London, December 24.—Instead of the Christmas truce which Pope Benedict endeavored to arrange, Christmas Eve finds the armies of the belligerent powers engaged in fierce battles on both the eastern and western fronts, and all Europe celebrating the anniversary in a subdued manner.

In the West the Allies' hammer is pounding at the German entrenchments, trying to find a weak point, while in the East the Russians, who have been driven back from the Austrian and German frontiers seemingly have been brought to bay behind rivers which offer them natural defense, and, turning, have counter-attacked the Austro-German forces.

The Germans in their great rush toward Warsaw, drove the Russians over the Bzura and Rawka rivers, and they themselves succeeded in crossing, but according to a Russian official report tonight the Germans there reached the main Russian line and were routed. From this report it is gathered that the Germans directed their main attacks against the Russian front, which lies along the banks of the Bzura and thence southward to the Pilica, but without success.

Along the rest of the front south to the Carpathian mountains, the Russians claim similar victories; but in East Prussia the Germans apparently have turned the scales on their adversaries, and, after having retreated into their own territory, resumed the offensive and again are back in Mlawa.

Even now, it is possible that the Germans have resumed their out-flanking tactics, and while keeping the Russian center busy by making frontal attacks, are hoping to get into Warsaw by the back door. All that is certain at present is that the two great armies are engaged in one of the greatest battles of the world's history on a front which extends from East Prussia to the Carpathians and in which the advantage sways first one side and then to the other.

Military experts say that the Russians, by virtue of retaining the right bank of the Vistula as far west as Plock can prevent the Germans from using the river for transit of supplies, and that along the whole of the rest of the front they have rivers and streams to fall behind when hard pressed. This, however, will all be changed, the experts say, when the rivers freeze, and the armies can easily be moved over them.

Mining and sapping, artillery duels, attacks and counter attacks, and, in fact, every means of warfare is being employed in Belgium and France by the Allies, in their effort to force the Germans to give up their present lines of defense. Some advance has been made, but only against stubborn opposition.

England this morning had her first experience of an aerial attack, when a German aeroplane, coming from the Belgian coast, flew over Dover, and dropped bombs in the garden of St. James' rectory, in front of Dover Castle. No damage was done. Two British aeroplanes immediately rose in pursuit, but the German escaped in the mist.

NO MARKED ADVANTAGE. For Either Army is Report the German Press Bureau Gives Out.

Berlin, Dec. 24. (By Wireless)—Among the items given out today by the official press bureau was the following: "While there is general confidence that the Germans and their ally are making progress in the East, there is no indication in official reports of any marked advantage."

"Indeed, it is noticeable that Vienna uses the adjective 'favorable' in referring to the battles in the Carpathians and contents itself with saying that the severe battle along the lower Dunajec river and on the Krosno-Tuchow line continues."

"Strikingly frank and interesting is the official Vienna report concerning the Austrian withdrawal from Serbia, due to the terrible conditions of the country and the weather and also the fact that the Serbians had been reinforced. The Austrians lost considerably in the retreat but the spirit of their army is unsurpassable. The report also brings the first news that Field Marshal Oskar Potiorek has been relieved of command of the Austrian army on account of his health."

"The situation in the West has not materially changed despite desperate effort of the Allies. The Austrian general staff refutes the allegation contained in a Russian bulletin that the Austrians lost 3,000 prisoners and a number of guns and machine guns. The total Austrian loss in killed, wounded and missing during the fights alluded to was 307. No gun or machine gun was lost."

"The Rusky Slovo (a Petrograd newspaper) reports that the Turks and Kurdish troops have occupied nearly the whole of the Persian province of

Azerbaijan, northeast Persia, and that Julfa is menaced."

GERMAN OFFICIAL REPORT. General Headquarters Staff Issues Statement as to Conditions at Front. Berlin, Dec. 24.—(By wireless to London)—The official communication issued today by the German general headquarters staff says: "The enemy did not renew his attacks in the neighborhood of Nieuport yesterday. At Bixchoote we took 250 prisoners on December 22."

"The enemy was again active yesterday in the neighborhood of Chalons. Infantry attacks followed a fierce artillery attack made by the enemy in the regions of Souain and Perthes. These were repulsed."

"A trench kept under continuous artillery fire by the enemy was lost to us, but was recaptured in the evening. The position was abandoned after this successful counter attack because parts of the trenches had been almost leveled by the enemy's fire. More than 100 prisoners were left in our hands."

"In the East we have assumed the offensive and are advancing from Nidderburg and Soldau (in East Prussia). We have repulsed the Russians after several days fighting at Mlawa (Northern Poland) and the enemy's positions at Mlawa again are in our hands. More than 1,000 prisoners were taken in these battles."

"At the confluence of the Bzura and Rawka rivers, fierce bayonet attacks took place at many places. The artillery could do little on account of the misty weather."

"The Russians suffered heavy losses on the right bank of the Pilica river in

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The Morning Star Wishes Its Readers One and All :: A :: Happy Christmas and a PROSPEROUS New Year.

FIGHTING SOLDIERS NEED NEW OUTFIT EACH MONTH

Supplies of Clothing Must be Continually Repeated.

(Correspondence of Associated Press.) London, Dec. 24.—So great is the wear and tear of warfare that a soldier in the fighting line needs a new outfit every month. Well over a million men have already been clothed, and another million will have to be provided for immediately. The khaki industry, therefore, is flourishing.

Millions and millions of yards of cloth are needed for uniforms and overcoats. Though mills are working overtime, new mills have been opened, and everything has been done to speed up the supply has not kept up with the demand.

French, Belgian and Russian orders have also poured into the English market. Some mills have had four different army cloths on their machines at one time or another.

The price of khaki has risen considerably since the outbreak of the war. The government is buying a good quality, which costs about four shillings, nine pence a yard as against three shillings, eleven pence in July.

Cotton Is Examined With Powerful X-ray

LATEST METHOD OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO SEARCH FOR CONTRABAND IN COTTON CARGOES.

New York, Dec. 24.—Representatives of the British government examined with the X-ray today 10,000 bales of cotton consigned to Bremen, to determine whether any of them contained contraband. The cotton was being loaded aboard the steamship City of Savannah, which sails tomorrow.

The X-ray machines, according to the English officials, had been especially designed, and enabled them to inspect the interior of the bulky cotton bales which could easily conceal arms, ammunition or other contraband. They had decided to use this method, they said, after it was found that owing to the varying weight of the bales, the scales could give no certain guarantee that each bale was honest.

STEAMER PUTS INTO NEWPORT NEWS AFIRE.

British Tramp With Cotton from Galveston Anchored Astream.

Newport News, Va., Dec. 24.—With fire in her hold, the British steamer Hampstead, en route from Galveston to Genoa with a cargo of cotton, put into port here today. The fire was discovered while the vessel was at sea yesterday and was said to be extinguished this afternoon. The hold in which the flames were confined was flooded. The Hampstead is in stream awaiting orders.

The extent of the damage is not known at this time. Capt. Tuplin said he did not know how the fire originated.

UNDERWOOD PREDICTS DEFEAT OF AMENDMENT.

House in January Doomed. Washington, Dec. 23.—Democratic Leader Underwood predicted tonight that the proposed constitutional amendment for woman suffrage would be defeated in the House, probably by a two-thirds vote.

"I shall vote against it, and so will most of the Democrats," said Mr. Underwood. "The party, by caucus action, has gone on record holding that woman suffrage, like prohibition, is a state issue."

Suffrage Resolution to Come Before House in January Doomed.

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