

The Weather.

Fair, colder Monday and Tuesday. temperature probably close to freezing. Monday night in west and central portions.

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PRESIDENT VISITS WOUNDED HEROES IN NEULLY HOSPITAL

Remains Four Hours Shaking Hands and Talking With the 1,200 Patients.

STOPS AT EVERY BEDSIDE Finds Many Affecting Cases and Leaves Tired and Worn From the Ordeal.

FINDS THE MEN CHEERFUL Only a Few, Though Badly Wounded, Looked Very Ill.

Paris, Dec. 22.—(By the Associated Press.)—President Wilson today visited the Red Cross hospital at Neully, where he shook hands individually and talked with 1,200 badly wounded Americans, for the most part survivors of the Chateau Thierry action.

Speaking of his experiences at the American hospital, the president said: "I went through the American hospital at Neully with the greatest interest and the greatest satisfaction. I found the men admirably taken care of and almost without exception in excellent spirits."

"Only a very few of them looked really ill and I think that their mothers and their friends would have been entirely pleased by their surroundings and by the alert look in their eyes and the keen interest which they took in everything about them."

"I am sure that they will go back to their loved ones at home with a new feeling of joy, alike in their recovery and in the fine service they have been able to render."

Going to the American hospital with the expectation of remaining an hour, the president found four hours all too short, as he felt that he could not leave without speaking with every man, and he expressed regret only every man and the care they were receiving there were many affecting cases in the wards."

When he came to one very badly wounded the president sat on the edge of the cot for a moment and asked the man from where he had been wounded. He admired his war crosses and decorations. Noticing that many of his wounds were in the legs, the president asked: "Why have we not men wounded in the upper part of the body?"

"Men who are wounded above the waist are not here; they have gone home," answered the soldier simply. "One of the men the president came to stood proudly erect with medals on his chest and an epaulet on his shoulder in an appliance for restoring its usefulness. He looked suggestively like a traffic policeman on duty."

"I'm glad to see you look so cheerful," said the president. "You have seen me many times before, Mr. President," responded the soldier. "I used to be a traffic policeman at the grand central station. Don't you think I look natural?"

The president laughed softly. It probably was the only merry moment he had in the hospital.

Another strapping fellow gave his name as Private Wilson.

"I am proud to know I have a name like you," said the president. "I only tried to do it proud," responded the soldier.

One soldier had lost both legs by a shell. "I am thankful they didn't get an arm," he said cheerfully. "More than 6,500 wounded Americans from the battles around Chateau Thierry have passed through Neully hospital. The 1,200 remaining are the most serious cases, whom miracles of modern surgery are rebuilding to resume their places in civil life, though some will probably never leave the hospital."

The president abstained from attendance at church in order to make the visit. He was accompanied by Mrs. Wilson and Rear Admiral Grayson and the commandant and his staff. He made it plain that he wished no ceremony.

Were U-Boat Prisoner



LIEUT. JUNIUS FULCRER, LIEUT. F. M. MULLER

Two navy officers who were made prisoners when the U. S. S. Ticonderoga was sunk Sept. 30, by the submarine U-125, have just returned to this country. They are Lieut. Junius Fulcher of Frisco, N. C. and Lieut. F. M. Muller of Oakland, Cal. They were held aboard the U-boat during the month of October, then taken to Kiel and eventually to Harwich, England, where the Germans surrendered their undersea fleet.

WALTER HINES PAGE DIES AT PINEHURST

In Critical Condition Since His Arrival From England in October.

AT PINEHURST TEN DAYS

Resigned as Ambassador to the Court of St. James in August—Noted as a Publisher—Funeral at Aberdeen Tomorrow.

Pinehurst, Dec. 22.—Walter Hines Page, former ambassador to the Court of St. James, died at Pinehurst late Saturday night. He returned from England October 12 in a critical condition and was taken from the ship to a hospital in New York where for the first few weeks his condition seemed to steadily improve. Late in November he suffered a relapse, but rallied and was brought to Pinehurst about ten days ago. He apparently gained in strength for a short period after reaching here, but beginning Thursday he grew appreciably weaker and Saturday night passed away.

Members of Dr. Page's family who were with him at the end were Mrs. Page; his daughter, Mrs. Charles G. Loring, of Boston; son, Ralph W. Page; daughter-in-law, Mrs. Arthur W. Page, of New York, and his brothers, Henry A. Page, Junius R. Page and former Congressman Robert N. Page. Major Frank C. Page, who came aboard with his father, from England, arrived at Pinehurst this morning. Capt. Arthur W. Page, another son, is at present in service in England.

The funeral services will be held from the Page Memorial church at Aberdeen, N. C., Tuesday at 11 a. m. Walter Hines Page was editor of the magazine, The World's Work, and a member of the publishing firm of Doubleday, Page and Co., of Garden City, N. Y. In March, 1913 President Wilson appointed him American Ambassador to Great Britain.

The President's selection of an editor and an author for their post-eligibility favorable comment in Great Britain where Mr. Page was referred to as a "scholar-diplomat" and his appointment was characterized as an interesting experiment. His selection was considered in some British circles as a compliment to the good sense of the British people who, it was stated, preferred a man of personality and achievement as American Ambassador rather than a man of wealth capable of giving lavish and expensive entertainments.

Virtually all Mr. Page's life before his ambassadorial appointment had been spent in literary work. He was the author of works on the development of the southern portion of the United States in which he was particularly noted.

MR. WILSON GIVEN AN INVITATION TO PAY IRELAND VISIT

Sunday Wilson Day and More Than Forty Towns Join in Celebration.

RESOLUTION DRAWN UP

Sinn Feiners Appeal to the President Not to Overlook the Irish Cause.

Dublin, Dec. 22.—(By the Associated Press.)—This was Wilson day in Ireland. Meetings were held in more than 40 towns and resolutions drafted by the Sinn Feiners inviting President Wilson to visit Ireland and pledging him Ireland's support were adopted. At most of the meetings constitutional nationalists joined with the Sinn Feiners. The attitude of the unionists is that the president will not interfere in the domestic politics of Ireland, but that he would be welcomed to Ireland to examine into real conditions and problems.

The meeting at Dublin was presided over by the lord mayor. The city trades councils co-operated. At the meeting held under Sinn Fein auspices the majority of the speeches appealed to President Wilson not to overlook Ireland's case at the peace conference.

PRESIDENT WILL DINE IN FAMOUS LONDON MANSION

London, Saturday, Dec. 21.—Lancaster house, where the British government will give a banquet in honor of President Wilson next Saturday night, is one of the most famous old mansions in London. It faces Green Park, only a stone's throw from Buckingham palace, and was for many years the residence of the Duke of Sutherland before he sold it to Lord Liverholme, the soap magnate, who presented it to the government and founded a museum of relics of London.

After the war broke out, it was taken over by the government for office use and several state dinners have been given there. The interior of the place is palatial, its crowning feature being its famous stained glass window which was presented to the Duchess of Sutherland as she entered. "I come from my house to your palace."

GREAT GATHERING TO GREET PRESIDENT WHEN HE ARRIVES

London, Dec. 22.—President Wilson's arrival in London on a public holiday makes it certain there will be a great gathering of Londoners to receive him. The only handicap to would-be observers is the fact that the distance from the station to the palace is so short that it is likely there will be many persons who will be unable to get places through which they can witness the passage of the royal and presidential parties.

A better opportunity to see the president will be offered the public when the American executive goes to the Guild Hall Saturday to receive an address from the Lord Mayor of London. President Wilson then will traverse the route the king usually follows when he visits the city for public functions—through the Strand and Fleet street and past St. Paul's cathedral and returning along the Thames embankment.

Various public bodies have expressed a desire to present President Wilson with addresses, but the president's time in London will be so encroached upon for official visits that he is not expected to receive them. American organizations in London are anxious to entertain the president at a dinner or luncheon but they also are likely to be disappointed. It is expected that the president will find time for a short inspection of some of the American soldiers still in London.

The diplomatic corps is interested in the question of precedence which will prevail at the state banquet. The general view is that the foreign ambassadors in London, which they are the sovereigns or governments, will precede all except the king and the president.

NOTE FOUND PINNED TO PIPER'S CLOTHING

Indicates He had Planned Suicide for Some Time—Coroner to Probe Absence of Guard.

Muskegon, Mich., Dec. 22.—That Milo H. Piper, who last night ended his life in a cell at a county jail here where he was held on a charge of killing Miss Freda Weichman, had for some time contemplated suicide was the belief expressed by the authorities today.

This assumption is based by the police on the finding of a brief and somewhat cryptic note which Coroner James F. Balbirnie announced was found pinned to the dead man's underwear, seemingly written by Piper while he was in Hamilton, Ont., reads as follows: "Dear Mother, father and brother: Thanks for all you have done for me. Take good care of Hilda and Choppy (Piper's wife and three-year-old son) as you or I must go, let it be me. Good-bye all. I am not guilty. Milo."

No theory has been advanced as to what Piper meant by the words "you or I must go." At the coroner's inquest which will be held tomorrow, Coroner Balbirnie stated today an effort would be made to determine why Piper was left unguarded long enough to permit him to hang himself. The cell, it was learned today, was left unwatched for two hours before Piper's body was found.

AIRPLANE SURVEY TO BE MADE OF THE NORTH POLE

Capt. R. A. Bartlett Will Head Expedition Which Will Leave Next June.

PEARY CONCEIVED PLAN

Exploration of "Upper Air and Bottom of Polar Basin" Proposed.

New York, Dec. 22.—An expedition to be led by Capt. Robert A. Bartlett, noted explorer, will be sent to the polar regions next June to survey the north pole by airplane, according to an announcement here tonight by the aero club of America. The plan, it was said, was conceived by Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the pole.

The purpose of this expedition, which it was said, would be the most completely equipped ever sent out, will be to "explore, survey and photograph the unexplored parts of the arctic regions and establish the existence or non-existence of land or lands in that region."

It also is intended, according to the announcement, "to explore the upper air and the bottom of the polar basin." "Results of inestimable value to the United States and to science will surely be obtained from this expedition," said the announcement, which added that the club would raise \$250,000 to finance the trip.

"The North Pole has been discovered, but the major part of the work still remains to be done," the announcement states. "Both Admiral Peary and Captain Bartlett want to do a great deal of scientific research in the polar basin of which over 1,000,000 square miles remain unexplored and they would want to have a laboratory on the ship where the flora and fauna from the coast bottom will be kept until the return of the expedition. Little or no data has been obtained from the bottom of the polar basin and no meteorological surveys have been made in the polar region."

Assuming that with the aid of the leading geographers and scientific bodies assured, it is planned to have the expedition leave the United States next June, the announcement continues: "There are six weeks of fair weather in July and August when, even in the polar regions, it is seldom lower than 60 degrees above zero. The plans are to have a ship go to Etah, about 600 miles from the North Pole, in June when the ice is sufficiently broken to permit the ship to cross Melville bay. The ship would carry a large seaplane or land airplane for the final flight across the top of the earth and for exploration of the unexplored regions, as well as smaller planes for the scouting flights."

Immediately upon arrival at Etah, a base would be established and while waiting for the ice to break up further north to permit the ship to go as far as Cape Columbia, the small seaplanes would fly to which they can establish a base there for the large plane which is to be used for the flight across the top of the world, from Cape Columbia on the American side over the pole, to Cape Chelyuskin on the Siberian side and for exploration over long distances.

"For the six weeks after the middle of July, when the weather conditions are best for flying in the polar regions, the large plane and the small planes will be put into service and the important work of the expedition will be done."

Assuming that only one-seventh of the earth's surface has been accurately mapped and two-thirds only mapped from rough sketches, officials of the club stated that by use of airplanes it would be possible to do in 20 years what would require 200 years by the usual methods.

ITALY WILL USE AUSTRIAN SHIPPING

To Be Put in War Supply and Transportation Service.

None Will Be Used for Commercial Traffic—Allied Maritime Council Decides Upon Disposal of the Enemy Vessels.

Paris, Dec. 22.—(By the Associated Press.)—Italy will act as trustee of 500,000 tons of Austrian shipping now in Italian ports and distribute it for the exclusive use of war supply and transportation, none to be used for commercial traffic. This agreement was reached today at a meeting of the allied maritime council.

The Italian flag will be flown from those ships manned and managed by Italians. On these ships the flag of the allied maritime council will make its first appearance on the seas.

Four admirals, representing the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy, whose flags are in Italian waters, will take immediate charge of the disposition of the shipping under the direction of the council. Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the American shipping board, Thomas F. Logan and Rear Admiral Benson, represented the United States at the conference; Giovanni Villa, minister of transport; Dr. Crespi, minister of food, and Admiral Grassi represented Italy; a representative of the foreign office (Continued on Page Two.)

GARDENS FRITZ PLANTED WHEN HE WASN'T FIGHTING—HELP TO FRESHEN UP SAMMIE'S MENU



Germany's high cost of living may be high but the resourceful doughboy is managing to make out very well at meal time, thank you. Thrifty Fritz evidently found time between tours of duty in the front line trenches to plant and tend many a garden. Here are two Americans, who, while following Fritz back over the Rhine, are profiting by his labor and forethought. These soldiers, who will have corned beef and cabbage for dinner, if they can find the beef, are Benjamin Falls of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and A. T. Langley of Williamsport, Pa.

RUSSIAN CASUALTIES DURING THE WAR PLACED AT 9,150,000; NUMBER OF MEN KILLED TOTALS 1,700,000

Copenhagen, Dec. 22.—(By the Associated Press.)—Russia's war casualties total 9,150,000 men, according to a telegram received here today from Petrograd. Of this number 1,700,000 were killed.

The disabled men number 1,450,000 while 2,500,000 other soldiers were wounded. The Russians taken prisoner total 2,500,000.

Estimates of the Russian casualties in the war made last week by the Russian information bureau director, A. J. Savvin, in New York, figured the total at "not less than 8,000,000 men" of whom 2,000,000 were killed, and about 1,000,000 disabled for life.

CHRISTMAS FINDS US IN A NEW ERA

Liberty Rests Upon Justice in Which Might Bows Before Force of Right.

SEC. WILSON'S MESSAGE

All Mankind Is Bound in a Firmer Fellowship, He Declares, and a Universe Is United by a Common Purpose.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Secretary of Labor Wilson, in a holiday message to the employers and workers of the country, made public today, says Christmas this year gives vigor to the generous spirit which stirred the nation in the trying time of war and binds all mankind in a firmer fellowship.

"Christmas this year," said the message, "dawns upon a nation that has done its duty, that has met the greatest task in the country's history and has bravely fulfilled that task. All the people in the year now coming to a close have been called upon to sacrifice and they have given fervid response. The nation's industries and the nation's workers have been put to their highest test in skill and stamina. They have been true to their trust."

"Christmas this year smiles upon a new era, an era in which the people's will controls their destinies, an era in which liberty rests upon justice, an era in which might bows before the force of right."

"Christmas this year bids us forget the price we have paid for the freedom we have won, to shape our course of life to meet the grave trust which universal liberty imposes upon our people; to turn our thoughts to the glories of the nation's future."

"Christmas of this year gives vigor to the generous spirit which stirred this nation in the time of war. "It binds all mankind in a firmer fellowship. It greets a universe that has been united by a common purpose. "The world has sorrowed long enough. The past is behind us; the future is ahead of us. Let us meet it with high hope and courage."

Best Schwab for President. Chicago, Dec. 22.—Choice of Charles M. Schwab for the next president of the United States was voted at a banquet given by the Chicago Machinery Club to 750 plant superintendents and other representatives of 750 machinery construction and metal working concerns. Partisanship was not mentioned.

NATIONAL BANKS SET NEW RECORD THE PAST MONTH

Resources Aggregate \$19,821,404,000; An Increase Of \$1,777,799,000.

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

The Total Exceeds Resources of Banks of Ten Other Countries Combined.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Resources of the national banks of the country on November 1, the date of the last call, aggregated \$19,821,404,000, Comptroller of the Currency Williams announced today. This not only was a new high record but was an increase of \$1,777,799,000 over the total shown by the call last August 31.

The resources of the national banks of the United States, Mr. Williams said, exceed the combined aggregate resources of the national banks of England, the Dominion of Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Japan and Germany, as shown by their last available reports.

Mr. Williams also said that the national banks resources were only one billion dollars less than the combined resources of all state and other banks and trust companies in the country, as shown by their reports of June, 1917, and that in the past five years the growth of the resources of the national institutions had been greater than the increase which took place in the preceding 25 years.

During the present year, the comptroller's report said, only one national bank in the entire country had failed, that being a small institution in California. This was declared to be the best record since 1870.

Returns from the national banks on November 1, Mr. Williams said, as compared to those on last August 31, showed:

Deposits, \$15,051,000,000, an increase of \$1,165,000,000. Loans and discounts, \$11,300,000,000, an increase of \$608,000,000. Capital, surplus and undivided profits, \$3,315,000,000, an increase of \$33,000,000.

Bill payable and rediscounts, \$1,550,000,000, an increase of \$273,000,000. The borrowings being principally liberty bonds, and certificates of indebtedness.

The total holdings of U. S. bonds, including liberty bonds, and certificates of indebtedness, amount to \$3,156,000,000, an increase of \$700,000,000.

The circulation of all national banks November 1, was \$675,000,000, an increase of approximately \$1,500,000.

The lawfully reserve banks, with Federal reserve banks, was \$1,101,000,000, a reduction of \$12,000,000, and the excess of reserve held over the amount required was \$68,000,000, a reduction of \$33,000,000.

Cash in vaults and due from Federal reserve banks, totaled \$1,803,000,000, an increase of \$131,000,000.

Mr. Williams said the increase in resources is widely distributed throughout the country, with national banks showing a material increase in every state except four—Nebraska, Kansas, Ohio and Illinois—and in these the decrease was small.

PREPARING SURPRISE FOR THE PRESIDENT

He and Mrs. Wilson to Receive Christmas Tree and Gorgeous Collection of Souvenirs.

With the American Army of Occupation, Saturday, Dec. 21.—(By the Associated Press.)—Here is a guarded army secret concerning the president of the United States for publication in the United States, but not in France. The story has been passed by the army censor and concerns the welcome that is being arranged for the president at Christmas time. The army is arranging for President and Mrs. Wilson a Christmas tree as a surprise and also the most gorgeous collection of German souvenirs yet gathered by the American army of occupation.

The souvenirs include officers' gold and steel helmets, anti-tank gun shells, swords, iron crosses and the like.

Passed good throughout the Third Army area for President and Mrs. Wilson were issued today by the provost marshal, Lieut. Col. Julian Dodge, provost of the occupied district. President Wilson's pass is numbered 500 and that of Mrs. Wilson 506.

SCHOOL FOR BOLSHEVISTS IS ESTABLISHED AT MOSCOW

Copenhagen, Dec. 22.—Harold R. De Haven, former Danish minister at Petrograd, stated today that a special revolutionary school has been established at Moscow under the direction of the bolshievist leader Radek, where agitators from all parts of the world are receiving training preparatory to returning to their own countries to spread revolutionary ideas.

Gen. F. J. Kent Dead. Troy, N. Y., Dec. 22.—Maj. Gen. Ford J. Kent, U. S. A. (retired), died at his home in this city this afternoon after a brief illness. General Kent was a second lieutenant at the outbreak of the Civil War. He was made major in 1868 for "gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Spotsylvania" and colonel in 1894 for similar services during the campaign before Richmond. He served throughout the Spanish-American war and reached the rank of major-general in October, 1898.

WATCH ON THE RHINE NOW BEING KEPT BY AMERICANS

With the American Army of Occupation, Saturday, Dec. 21.—(By the Associated Press.)—American patrol boats, each armed with a machine gun used by the marines at Boissons or in other drives, are plying the Rhine. The Rhine American fleet consists of 12 boats, ten patrol craft, one supply boat and the "Frusian," which is being used by General Dickman.

The Prussian was requisitioned from the head mayor of the Coblenz district and is one of the finest steam yachts on the Rhine.