

FRENCH CABINET ACTS ON FRANC

PARIS, Dec. 24—(P)—The French cabinet voted yesterday to devalue the franc, several ministers reported at the conclusion of a meeting that lasted four and a half hours.

The cabinet members said they were sworn to secrecy as to the exact new rate of exchange. Previously it had been predicted that the franc would probably be pegged at 125 to the dollar and 400 to the pound sterling. The present rate is 50 to the dollar and 200 to the pound.

No communique or announcement was issued at the close of the cabinet meeting, contrary to usual practice.

The Bourse is closed for the holidays. Earlier today the finance committee of the Constituent Assembly voted to recommend ratification of the Bretton Woods monetary agreement. This action was regarded as clearing the way for the move to devalue the franc.

The committee will present its recommendation to Wednesday's meeting of the Assembly. It ratified this would bind France not to change the value of the franc unilaterally by more than 10 per cent for a period of five years after Dec. 31.

IF THE WHISKERS DON'T COME OFF THEN IT'S SANTA

NEW YORK, Dec. 24 —(P)—Kids in Brooklyn, says eight-year-old Richard Firman, don't believe in Santa Claus.

Richard, himself a flatbush resident, also is skeptical and he's going to settle the question once and for all.

Through cooperation of the New York Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund, Richard and another Brooklyn youngster, Johnnie Campbell, representing New York's underprivileged children, left by plane for Montreal today to meet a six-foot, four-inch Santa in person.

"The first thing I am going to do when I meet him," Richard told newsmen at the airport, where he divulged the Flatbush skepticism, "is to pull his beard to see if he is a phoney or the real thing."

Cherry Point Officer Receives Promotion

CHERRY POINT, Dec. 24. —William M. Gustafson, of South Dakota and Louisiana, assistant to the naval officer in charge of construction here, has been promoted from lieutenant - commander to commander in the Naval Reserve. Commander Gustafson holds the record of having served here longer than any other military or civilian person on the station.

He was one of the first three naval officers to arrive in New Bern during July, 1941, to draft plans for construction of this mammoth air station. During the four years he has been on duty here continuously and has risen in rank to his present grade from that of junior - grade lieutenant. Shortly he will return to civilian life and will resume his civil engineering work in Louisiana.



The bells ring out joyfully our message to you this Christmas. May it be the merriest, happiest, most wonderful Christmas you've ever had—may the New Year see your hopes and prayers fulfilled.

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

This Christmas finds us again in a world at peace. To you, who have sacrificed in foreign lands or at home, we are eternally grateful. A Peace bought at such a price we know must endure. We must all strive together to preserve and keep it forever.

At this Christmas we would greet you and extend our very best wishes for you and yours. May the Joy of This Peacetime Christmas be unbounded and the year forthcoming bright and prosperous.

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Strictly Sentimental

Maybe we are old fashioned but we do get just a little sentimental at Christmas time.

We like to look back over the past twelve months, remembering all the fine things that have been our good fortune. It's pleasant to review the associations we have had with our friends—to find comfort in the knowledge that in lasting friendships come the joys of good living.

It's good to say "Merry Christmas"—it's satisfying to hear our friends say "Merry Christmas."

So, old fashioned or not, we just wanted to extend

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May You Have a Happy Yuletide

Christmas is a symbol - it stands for Peace - Love - Merriment - Cheer - Happiness - Joy. No other day or season gives a deep spiritual joy and a merry and gay heart, as does this holiday. Faces are wreathed in smiles, happy childish laughter floats in the air. The bright colors and the tinkling bells make one glad to be alive and to be able to enter into the spirit.

Our Very Best Wishes Your Happiest Christmas are Extended To You for New Year.

We think you have a share in our business as well as we do because of what you have put into it, and we eagerly look forward to pleasant association with you in 1946.

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