

# PAY HOMAGE TO MEMORY OF WILSON

### MANY DINNERS HELD IN OBSERVANCE OF WILSON'S BIRTHDAY.

New York.—Five hundred cities of the United States paid homage to the memory of Woodrow Wilson on the 69th anniversary of his birth.

At the Woodrow Wilson foundations dinner at the Hotel Astoria, the late war President was eulogized for his statesmanship, his principles and ideals. Dr. Harry A. Garfield, president of Williams college, said Mr. Wilson's clear vision and indomitable purpose gave to the world living principles for the settlement of disputes among the nations, which at the close of the first quarter of the new century are bearing fruit abundantly.

Dr. Garfield listed as "the fruits of his efforts" the conference for international control of trade in arms, the commissions and conferences on welfare of women and children and on public health, the treaties negotiated at Locarno, and what he termed the favorite attitude of the United States toward world court adherence, and the proposed conference on the limitation of armaments.

Woodrow Wilson laid the foundation, said Norman H. Davis, president of the Woodrow Wilson foundation, for a "new and better order in world affairs." His influence in "reconstructing a shattered world and establishing peace" has been exemplified by such achievements as the restoration of Austria and Hungary, settlement of the German reparations under the Dawes plan and the prevention of war between Greece and Bulgaria.

Mr. Davis said these accomplishments, together with the Locarno treaties had been made possible for the league of nations as founded by Woodrow Wilson.

### Three Slain in Dance Hall.

New York.—A renewal of gang warfare, from which Brooklyn has been free for nearly a year, was believed responsible for the pistol battle in the Adonis Social club, a South Brooklyn resort, in which Richard (Peg Leg) Lonergan and two others were killed as the climax of a Christmas night party.

Lonergan was identified by his mother, Mrs. Mary Lonergan, who in 1923 was acquitted of a charge of having shot her husband. He was known to police as a member of the "White Hand gang," which was led by William Lovett, his brother-in-law, who was murdered in November, 1923.

Mrs. Lonergan identified one of the other men as Aaron Haines, friend of "Peg Leg." Finger prints disclosed the third man as Neil "Needles" Perry. Both had police records.

A policeman found Perry lying dead in a gutter outside of the club and inside found the other two men. There were signs of a terrific struggle in the hall and bullet holes were found in the walls.

### Citrus Fruit Crops Not Hurt.

Tampa, Fla.—Florida's citrus crop was not in danger of being seriously damaged by the probable killing frost and freezing temperature, Walter J. Bennett, government meteorologist, said. The weather bureau issued a bulletin warning citrus growers of the frost and temperature of from 30 to 26 degrees.

The weather official did not believe the mercury would drop lower than 30 degrees. If it does reach 26 degrees he said, that temperature would have to remain for two hours before citrus would freeze on the trees.

Mr. Bennett said that he expected the vegetable crops in this section and in central Florida to be badly damaged.

### Alleged Counterfeiters.

New York.—Arrest of five alleged members of a counterfeiting band, whose operations include the printing and distribution of fake stock certificates and federal reserve notes, was announced by federal agents. The gang's operations extended into Canada and the royal mounted police assisted in the roundup.

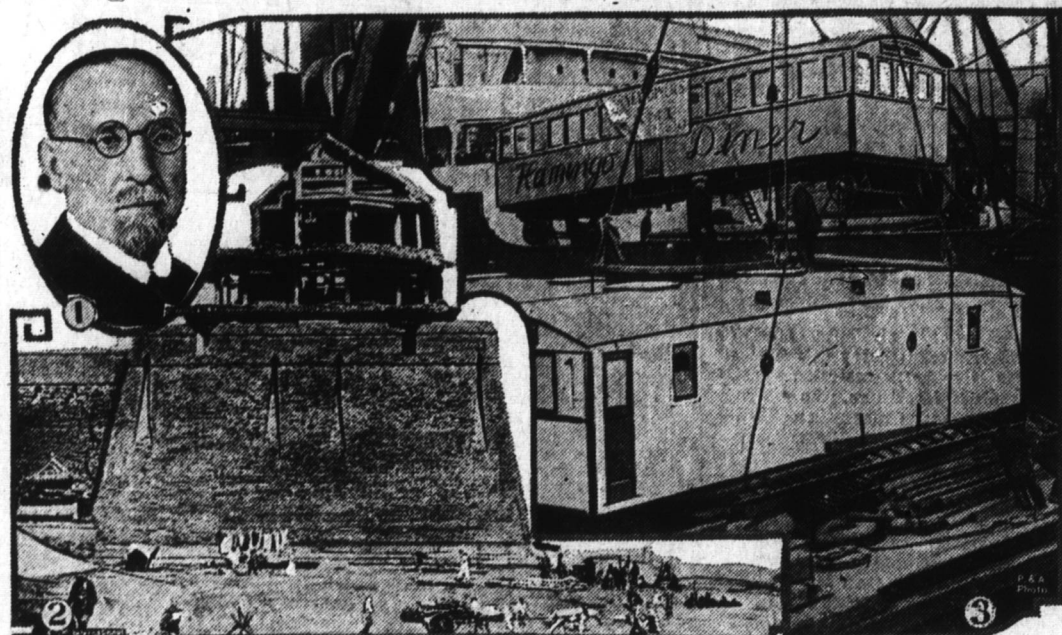
### New Use for Peanut Hulls.

Washington.—A possible new use for peanut hulls is described in commerce department reports from Marshall, France. A new process for making alcohol from such material hitherto regarded as refuse is said to have been worked out and a plant started for operation.

### Ferishing in Falling Health.

Washington.—Alarming symptoms of falling health may compel General John J. Pershing to surrender his work as president of the Tacna-Arica plebiscite commission, set up in President Coolidge's arbitral award in the dispute over those provinces between Chile and Peru and return to the United States.

Abnormal blood pressure, which has developed since the former commander of the American expeditionary forces undertook his difficult task at Arica.



1—Simeon Radu, the new minister from Bulgaria to the United States. 2—Walls of Mukden, which city Japan is protecting from the warring Chinese factions. 3—Ready-built lunch wagons being loaded on steamer at New York for Miami, where it is difficult to get meals.

## NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

### President Likely to Accept League's Invitation to Disarmament Parley.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE is desirous of accepting the invitation of the League of Nations to participate in the preliminary discussion of a world disarmament congress, and with that in view he has conferred with congressional leaders, asking whether it is necessary to obtain the permission of congress and an appropriation. Among others, Chairman Borah of the senate foreign relations committee was called to the White House. When he left he said he was in complete accord with the President on the subject, and it was indicated that the Chief Executive intended to submit the matter to congress. Senator Lenroot of Wisconsin also talked with Mr. Coolidge, and he said most of the senate would favor accepting the invitation of the league. Former Secretary of State Hughes was a guest of the President at luncheon and this led to the belief he would be named to head the American delegation to the congress, which was held to be quite fitting since he is given large credit for the Washington armament conference of 1921. Hugh Gibson, minister to Switzerland, will represent America in the preliminaries.

According to information from the White House, the President has considerably modified his idea that the United States might appropriately participate in a conference for the further reduction of naval armament, but that inasmuch as the limitation of land armament is almost solely an European problem America should not take part in the discussion of that matter unless invited in to compose differences of the European nations on the question.

Whether it will be necessary to obtain the consent of congress to acceptance of the league's invitation is a matter still undetermined. The Knox reservation to the Berlin treaty apparently is not applicable, but the act of 1913 forbids acceptance of an invitation to an international conference without specific authority of law. Senator King of Utah has introduced in the senate a resolution authorizing the President to accept the invitation, and Representative Hamilton Fish of New York has introduced a similar resolution in the house. The matter probably must await the reassembling of congress on January 4.

Another matter upon which Mr. Coolidge sought the advice of Mr. Hughes was the appeal by Chile from the decision of General Pershing delaying the Tacna-Arica plebiscite until April 15.

CONGRESS adjourned Wednesday for a 13-day holiday recess. The house had passed the tax reduction bill—which will not have such an easy passage through the senate—and had made ready to take a vote on the treasury-post office supply bill immediately after reconvening. It also adopted a resolution calling for an investigation of the alleged manipulation of crude rubber prices by the British colonial government.

While considering the treasury appropriation measure the representatives found an opportunity to give old John Barleycorn another hard jab. Mr. Tucker of Virginia, a dry, sought to amend the bill so as to restrict the use of funds in the purchase of liquor as evidence of law violation. The proposed appropriation for this purpose is \$250,000, and Mr. Tucker's amendment would have provided that no portion of this might be used "to induce any person by fraud, deceit or falsehood to violate the prohibition law."

The argument was long and warm, embracing the merits or demerits of prohibition, but when it came to a vote only 17 supported Mr. Tucker, while 139 were against him. This being in the committee of the whole, the votes were not recorded.

On behalf of representative of the men who believe in the suspended officer. Nothing could harm his cause more than the action of such men as Blanton of Texas, La Guardia of New York and Tillman of Arkansas, who have been abusing the court-martial and its verdict and seeking ways of undoing what it did. Secretary of War Davis, it is said in Washington, is going to try to restore harmony between the various branches of the army, and at the same time is determined to take drastic measures if necessary to maintain absolute discipline. He knows no reason for delay in bringing the significance of the Mitchell case home to any other branch of the service where there has been evidence of open disagreement with settled departmental or national policies.

Representative Bloom of New York has proposed to Mayor-Elect Walker that Colonel Mitchell be appointed police commissioner of New York city. He said he believed congress would enact any legislation necessary to make the appointment possible.

BRIG. GEN. SMEDLEY D. BUTLER resigned from the marine corps in order to continue as director of public safety of Philadelphia. Mayor Kendrick then, in a stormy interview with Butler, told him he did not want him in his cabinet "as a resigned officer because he did not want any other action misunderstood by President Coolidge," who had refused the general a further leave of absence. He demanded that Butler resign, and this being refused, he dismissed him from his position. It was understood that General Butler's resignation from the marine corps would be withdrawn. Concerning his plans he said: "I'm going to my home in Overbrook and I'm going to drive there in a car of the United States marine corps. The marines can take care of me, and I'd rather be in the marine corps than in 15,000,000 cities like Philadelphia."

DISSATISFACTION with President Coolidge's farm relief legislation policies was voiced at Des Moines by the executive committee of the American Council of Agriculture and the Corn Belt Committee of Farm Organizations. The joint committee, which claims to represent more than a million farmers of the Middle West, criticized Mr. Coolidge's recent address concerning agriculture, denied that the Fordney-McCumber tariff is of great benefit to agriculture as a whole, and announced that an export measure would be submitted to congress. A resolution, adopted notes "with a degree of amusement" that the new measure sponsored by Secretary Jardine is to prove a means of salvation to the farmer by supplying him with an expert fund of information about the "mysteries of co-operative marketing." Farmers, the resolution says, have more information than they need—in fact, have but little else, and need "a fair price rather than more information."

Congress is warned in another section of the joint committee's resolutions that industry "should not blame the farmers if they invoke the principle of self-preservation and declare war on the protective tariff." This "war" is promised if industry insists that it cannot exist without the tariff and refuses to grant agriculture like protection.

High up in the Republican party, too, there are those who believe that the President's plans do not go far enough. Among them are Senator Capper, Former Governor Lowden of Illinois and Vice President Dawes. Mr. Capper has his own program, the main features of which are:

1. Legislation providing machinery for segregating the surplus of any crop, selling it abroad for a price below that of the home market, and distributing the loss among the producers.
2. Development of co-operative marketing with the assistance of government agencies.
3. Liberalization of the farm loan law and amplification of the farm credit system.
4. Tax relief for the farmer, to be accomplished by rigid economy in national and local governments and by a constitutional amendment prohibiting issuance of tax-free securities, the present and increasing volume of which is becoming an unbearable tax burden to agriculture.

WHAT was characterized as one of the most sensational crop reports in the history of the country was issued Wednesday by the government and caused prices of wheat, corn and oats to skyrocket on the Chicago board of trade. The shorts were forced to cover without being able to force prices back materially. The figures released by the government were its final estimate on the 1925 yield of grains, which showed a downward revision somewhere in the vicinity of 30,000,000 bushels. This indicated that the country had used some 15,000,000 bushels of last year's carry-over. Total yield of all wheat is fixed at 689,385,000 bushels, or a decrease of 193,262,000 bushels, as compared with final figures a year ago.

The total crop and carry-over amount to 756,000,000 bushels. Of this the people consume in bread and seed 640,000,000 bushels, leaving a surplus of 116,000,000 bushels. Exports to December 1 total approximately 50,000,000 bushels, making a 66,000,000-bushel carry-over, or a reduction of 22,000,000 bushels, compared with last year.

ONE of the Middle West's sensational murder trials has ended with a verdict of guilty. John Looney, who used to be called the "king of the underworld" of Rock Island, Ill., and who formerly was editor of the Rock Island News, was convicted of killing William Gabel, a saloonkeeper who, according to the charges of the state, had betrayed Looney and eight others in a blackmail conspiracy. Looney was sentenced to 14 years in the penitentiary.

The Gabel killing was an upshot of vice and factional feud conditions in Rock Island for several years during which Looney's son, Conner, was killed as he sat in an automobile in front of a hotel, and Looney fled to the Southwest and for a long time successfully fought attempts to return him for trial.

AT THE insistence of Prime Minister Baldwin, the British parliament accepted the League of Nations council's award of the Mosul vilayet to Great Britain's mandate state of Iraq, before recessing for the holidays. The Labor members protested and left the house in a body. Mr. Baldwin and his cabinet at once opened negotiations with Turkey which it is believed will remove the danger of war over the oil lands. The prime minister held a long conference with Ahmed Ferid Bey, the Turkish ambassador, and it was understood the latter left, pleased with the hope that Turkey would receive compensation for its loss. Paris correspondents assert that in case Turkey should remain recalcitrant and start hostilities, the British have planned for an attack on Turkey by the Greek and Italian armies and a naval demonstration by the British, French, Italian and Greek fleets. The western powers also have been moving to induce Russia to withdraw her support of Turkey.

THERE are signs of early peace in both Morocco and Syria, though some bloody engagements have taken place in recent days. Abd-el-Krim has sent an emissary to France to receive the French and Spanish terms, and the Druses in Syria are inclined to accept the offers of M. Jouvenal, the French high commissioner.

All, king of the Hedjaz, has abdicated because the Wahabists under Ibn Saud captured the city of Mecca after defeating the army at Jeddah.

THERE was fierce fighting in China last week between the troops of Chang and the people's army, and the victories alternated, if dispatches can be credited. The last report at this writing is that the Manchurian has defeated his foes and occupied strong positions. Meanwhile the Japanese forces continue to hold Mukden to protect the city and foreign interests there from the warring factions.

FRANK A. MUNSEY, millionaire publisher of newspapers and magazines, died in New York after an operation for appendicitis. He was a bachelor and left no direct heirs, and the disposition of his estate is a matter of interested speculation. His fortune, including the New York Sun and the Telegram, is variously estimated at from \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000.

## 23 VIOLENT DEATHS ASTONISH ST. LOUIS

St. Louis.—Tragedy stalking in the wake of Christmas festivities gave the coroner's office here the busiest day in history when 23 violent deaths in 24 hours, almost one an hour, were recorded. Seven of the 23 deaths were traffic fatalities, a number resulted from burns and exposure and one from inhaling gas.

A warning was sounded by Coroner Vitt against an even greater toll of fatalities New Year's Eve. He declared that most of the 23 deaths were attributed to intoxication.

## HE SEEKS LEADERS VIEWS

### CONFERS WITH BORAH, MOSES AND LENROOT ON ARMS PARLEY.

Washington.—President Coolidge, in his efforts to find a way to accept the league of nations invitation to the preliminary discussion of a disarmament conference has sought the views of congressional leaders as to the best method of procedure.

He conferred with Chairman Borah, of the senate foreign relations committee, and Senator Moses, republican, New Hampshire, and Lenroot, republican, Wisconsin, as to whether congressional sanction should be given even in advance of participating in the preliminary Geneva meeting at which an effort will be made to draw up a agenda for the projected world arms conference.

He also conferred with the members of the senate foreign relations committee, and Senator Lenroot told the President that most senators favored acceptance of the invitation.

Senator Borah and others of the irreconcilables in the league of nations fight hold that acceptance should be conditioned upon a very thorough understanding that the proposed disarmament conference would not endanger the security pacts and that this country would not enter into any kind of agreement which the league of nations would be called upon ultimately to put into force.

The foreign relations committee chairman declined to discuss his visit to the white house other than to say that he and the President were in accord. Later, it was stated at the white house that he had expressed the opinion to the President that action by Congress on an appropriation for conference expenses would be both necessary and appropriate.

In addition to the congressional leaders, President Coolidge had another conference with Secretary Kellogg.

Embargo Necessary Says Burr. Tallahassee, Fla.—The situation which caused imposition of the recent express embargo in Florida, "is unprecedented in the history of the whole country," R. Hudson Burr, chairman of the railroad commission, declared in a statement made public.

The embargo, however, Mr. Burr declared, was justifiable and unavoidable because of the congestion at Jacksonville, where, he stated, he personally found conditions "even greater than was stated when the embargo was placed."

"There were approximately 50 carloads of mail in the terminal at that time," Mr. Burr said, "nearly all of which had to be unloaded, reclassified and loaded again for various destinations both in and out of Florida, the volume being so great that solid steel freight cars had to be used to load package mail for different routes and destinations."

The express company had in cars on the platforms around 200 cars of express matter in bound for Florida and outbound for all points, and the one box or small shipment lots of parts fruit for outbound movement to all parts of the United States was so great that it was necessary to use great strings of refrigerator cars to load 504 for special expedited service out of Jacksonville terminal for northbound and west, the supply of express cars being insufficient and the volume being too great to be carried on regular passenger trains. This was being done in order to get this fruit out of the terminal and to destination without loss.

The express company was working on their platforms 300 men, 600 negroes and 200 whites, the work being carried on throughout the 24 hours.

Another Victim Added to Tragedy. Erie, Pa.—The death toll as a result of the panic in which three children were trampled to death when 5,000 boys and girls made a wild dash for exits following the collapse of a bench at the Erie arena during a Christmas observance, was increased to four when Joe Majkiewicz was reported dead at his home. His name had not been included among the injured, the boy having been taken from the arena directly to his home in an automobile, and no report made of his injuries.

## DEATH RATE 11.9 OUT OF 100,000

### GOVERNMENT FIGURES SHOW INCREASE IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS.

Washington.—The national death rate in the United States will be placed by the commerce department at 11.9 per 100,000 population, on the basis of figures for 1924 as compared with 12.3 in 1923, 11.8 in 1922 and 11.6 in 1921.

The figures covered the entire death registration area of the country, which accounts for about 83 per cent of the population. The number of deaths registered in this territory during 1924 was 1,173,990 out of 99,030,494 population.

In another statistical study made public the department noted a further increase in the number of deaths due to automobile accidents in the principal cities of the United States. The total for the four weeks ending December 5 was 624, compared with 612 the preceding four weeks, 524 in the period ending October 10 and 521 in the one ending September 12, while in the period ending May 23, the total was only 421.

So far this year, the daily average of automobile fatalities was 14.7 while last year for the same period it was 14.5, but for the four weeks ending December 5, this year is jumped to 16.8.

Heart disease was found to have been the chief cause of death in the general registration area in 1924, accounting for 176,671 fatalities, a slight increase over the comparative figure for the preceding year. Cancer, likewise, took a heavier toll in 1924 than in 1923, 91,941 deaths being attributed to this cause. Tuberculosis deaths, on the other hand, showed a decline, numbering 89,724 in 1924 as compared with 90,732 in 1923. Cerebral hemorrhage, pneumonia and nephritis were other large factors in the mortality figures while of 75,745 accidental deaths, automobiles alone caused 15,528, compared with 14,411 in 1923.

Both suicides and murders increased, suicides totaling 12,061 in 1924 against 11,287 in 1923, and 8,420 against 7,878.

### Witnesses Sanguinary Battles.

Peking.—The battles which led to the defeat of the Chih army of General Li Ching-Shang and the occupation of Tientsin by Marshal Feng Yu-Hsiang, were the most sanguinary ever fought in modern China, in the opinion of observers. Twenty-three hundred wounded in the Nanyuan hospital alone doubtless represent only a small proportion of the Kuomintang, Feng's army, casualties whose total probably never will be known.

General Li is reported to have estimated his dead at 4,000 and to have stated that his fatalities were less than the enemies.

Because of the nature of the conflicts and the inadequate field and hospital service, thousands died in the trenches and open country from wounds and exposure.

### Storms Take Heavy Toll in France.

Paris.—The storms which have brought destruction to many parts of France, in the past week continue, adding to the heavy toll of damage.

At Laronchelle, a fishing boat founded, and the crew of seven is missing. Rivers in the southeastern departments already are swollen by the rapidly melting snows in the mountains and in many cases are over their banks, with serious flooding of villages.

The Seine, fed by heavy rains, mounted rapidly, and fear is expressed that if there is no cessation of the downfall in the next 24 hours, extensive damage will result.

### Fire Causes \$750,000 Damage.

South Boston, Va.—Thirteen buildings, comprising two blocks of the heart of the business section, were destroyed by fire here at an estimated loss of \$750,000.

Starting shortly after 2 o'clock from an undetermined cause, the fire was swept beyond control by a high wind. Fire fighters also were handicapped by a temperature of 15 degrees above zero.

The loss was believed to have been mostly covered by insurance. Among the buildings destroyed were the Garland hotel and the First National bank, the vault of which was believed to have withstood the flames.

### Four Trainmen Killed in Wreck.

Fort Worth, Texas.—Four trainmen, all of Fort Worth, were killed and two others injured when a switch engine backed into an approaching freight train on the Fort Worth and Denver railway near here.

The dead are Harcey DeCamp, switch engine foreman, J. J. Llyod and B. C. Pickett, switchmen, and Ray Sands, fireman.

The engineers of the wrecked locomotives were injured about the legs.

## HALF MILLION DOLLAR FIRE IN ASHEVILLE.

Asheville.—Fire, originating in the building occupied by the Farmers Federation, on Roberts street, wrecked four buildings in the wholesale district and caused damage estimated by officials of the concerns involved at \$500,000. Insurance on the property is about \$150,000. In addition to the Farmers Federation building the quarters of Ebbs Brothers, wholesale grocers, the Biltmore Wheat-hearts company, and Crane & Co., wholesale plumbing supplies, were destroyed by fire, which, fanned by the high wind, completely wrecked the buildings.

## PIRATE SEIZE, LOOT VESSEL

### WATER PROWLERS ENCOUNTER BRITISH STEAMER IN FOREIGN SEAS.

Hong Kong.—The British owned steamer Tungchow, bound from Shanghai for Tientsin, arrived here after a thrilling experience with pirates who captured her on December 18, shot the captain, held up passengers, and sailed the vessel to a pirate retreat where she was looted of valuables.

The Tungchow had on board several foreign passengers including Mr. McAfee, of the American Oriental bank; Mr. Sharpe, of the British American Tobacco company, and P. G. Woodhead, editor of The Peking and Tientsin Times. The Tungchow was taken by the pirates 300 miles south of Weihaiwei and run from there to Bias Bay in south China, a noted pirate resort. The pirates took off quantities of specie and other valuables and permitted the steamship to proceed to Hongkong.

The pirates had boarded the Tungchow as passengers at Shanghai and did not reveal their true character until they had proceeded some distance northward in the China sea. There they took possession of the ship, shot and wounded the captain and held up the passengers. The pirates then put the ship about and made for Bias Bay, a run of nearly 1,000 miles from where they took her. Bias Bay is about 60 miles northwest of Hongkong and the ship was permitted to proceed there after the pirates had unloaded their loot.

### Three Children Trampled to Death.

Erie, Penn.—The laughter and mirth of 5,000 children attending a pre-Christmas performance in the Erie arena suddenly changed to cries of fear as a small bench on which three of the youngsters were seated broke, causing a panic in which three children were trampled to death and seven injured, one seriously.

The children screamed as they fell to the floor and this was the signal that sent them into a wild dash for the exits of the arena, an enclosed structure.

The dead: William Wagner, 5; Eileen Kickrode, 9; Raymond Kupotzinski, 12.

The seven children injured ranged in age from 9 to 12 and it was said at the hospital to which they were taken that all would probably recover.

Attendants and police on duty at the entrance tried to calm the tots by waving them back and shouting but their gestures and shouts seemed only to add to the panic.

Seats were overturned, railings along aisles were broken and toys, gifts bestowed at the celebration, were dropped as the rush continued. About 1,000 others who had been unable to gain admission and, milling about outside, blocked the exits.

### New Arrangement.

Washington.—Under a new commercial agreement negotiated with Finland goods imported into that country in American ships will pay the same duty as if they had arrived in Finnish bottoms, and Finnish vessels in American ports will be free of discriminating duties.

### President Opposes Wholesale Pardons.

Washington.—While President Coolidge is in sympathy with the custom of giving Christmas pardons, no wholesale clemency for federal prisoners is planned this year.

The department of justice, announcing that the President had pardoned Joseph Gilman, a Hawaiian, effective Christmas day, did not disclose whether other recommendations for Christmas pardons had gone to the White House from Attorney General Sargent, but the statement was made that the number this year would be small.