

Joyous Christmas

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News Review of Current Events the World Over

President Back in Washington Preparing for Inauguration
—Hopkins May Get New Cabinet Post—Wallace Urges Permanent Crop Control.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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RETURNING to Washington in fine health and spirits after his trip to Buenos Aires, President Roosevelt plunged into a great mass of work that had accumulated on his desk. There were numerous reports on government activities to be read, plans for the inaugural on January 20 to be made, outlining of his inaugural address, and consultation with the full cabinet concerning the program for his second term.



President Roosevelt

Still more immediate was the task of writing his annual message to the state of the nation and his budget message for the coming fiscal year. Then, too, he is expected to devote considerable time to consideration of the revamping of the cabinet and to plans for reorganizing the government machinery in various departments.

The inaugural ceremonies will be simple in accordance with Mr. Roosevelt's wishes, and the traditional ball will be omitted. After consultation with Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson, chairman of the inaugural committee and Vice President Garner, it was decided that the parade should be limited to units from the army, navy and marine corps and from the West Point and Annapolis academies. Governors of all the states will be invited but they will be limited to three motor cars apiece. There will be no civilian organizations in the parade. Grand stands are being constructed on both sides of Pennsylvania avenue at the White House, and on the steps of the Capitol.

One of Mr. Roosevelt's first duties was a sad one—that of attending the funeral services for August Genrich, his close friend and bodyguard who died suddenly in Buenos Aires. The services were held in the White House and with the President were Mrs. Roosevelt, Vice President and Mrs. Garner and cabinet members. A delegation of New York City policemen was present to pay the respects of the "finest" to one who had served with distinction on the force for twenty-five years.

The President and his household were cheered by news from Boston that Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., ill in a hospital with a streptococcus infection and sinusitis, was recovering rapidly, that an operation probably would not be necessary and that the young Harvard senior has a good chance of spending Christmas in the White House.

JOACHIM VON RIBBENTROP, German ambassador to England, addressing an English audience in London, told the world plainly that Germany intends to scrap "the discriminating part of the Versailles treaty" and that Adolf Hitler is determined to regain colonies for his country.



Joachim von Ribbentrop

"One thing is certain," he said, "and this I cannot help stating: Germany has made up her mind to get rid of that discriminating part of the Versailles treaty which no great nation could have tolerated forever.

"To attain this aim by agreement, der fuhrer and chancellor made his offer to the world, but the

world, still blind and wrapped up in the mentality which is generally known today as 'the spirit of Versailles,' did not respond.

"But der fuhrer sees now, as before, in the possession of colonies desired for supply of raw materials only, on one side, and in world trade on the other, two most essential means of raising the standard of life of his people from the present subsistence level.

"A reasonable solution to the colonial question, therefore, is most desirable and to my mind to the interest of all in the long run."

IT WAS announced in London that Great Britain and Italy had almost agreed on the terms for a mutual declaration of interests in the Mediterranean. At the same time Foreign Secretary Eden told the house of commons that on September 12 the British government warned Mussolini that he must keep his hands off the Spanish Balearic islands. He said there was now reason to believe Italy would not enter into negotiations with General Franco, the Spanish Fascist leader, for a change in the Mediterranean status quo. Eden added that Great Britain had not recognized Italy's annexation of Ethiopia and did not intend to do so.

WAR clouds again gathered over the Far East when Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, dictator of China, was kidnapped at Sianfu, Shensi province, by troops commanded by Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang, former war lord of Manchuria. The mutinous marshal demanded immediate declaration of war against Japan; a pledge from the Nanking government to recover all lost territory, including Manchuria, and reorganization of the Chinese Nationalist party, the Kuomintang, so that Chinese communists might be admitted to membership.

The Nanking government promptly declared war on Chang and his army and a large body of troops was sent toward Sianfu to besiege the city. But it was reported in Shanghai that Chiang Kai-shek, clinging to his ideal of a united China, sent word to Nanking by Gen. Chiang Tingwen forbidding hostilities. Meanwhile agents of Chang and the kidnaped generalissimo were passing to and fro trying to open negotiations for the release of Chiang Kai-shek.

Japan professed to believe that Chang's action was promoted by Russia, and officials in Tokyo said forceful steps by Japan might be necessary.

The soviet news agency Tass in Moscow issued an official denial of reports that Russia had conspired in the Chinese crisis, but diplomats in the Far East were of opinion that Moscow would intervene if war should break out between China and Japan. Japanese action would be based on the reported setting up of an independent government at Sianfu by Marshal Chang with the support of soviet Russia.

REPRESENTATIVES of the 21 American republics gathered in the conference at Buenos Aires all signed two measures designed to maintain peace, security and non-intervention in the Western world. These projects are:

A plan for maintenance of peace and security which provides for con-

sultation in the event of war within the American continents or war abroad which menaces American peace.

A reiteration of the resolution of the 1933 Pan-American conference, for nonintervention by one nation in another's affairs. This carried also a Mexican amendment for consultation if intervention appears necessary.

GREAT BRITAIN again defaults on its war debt to the United States, but intimates it would like to re-open negotiations for reduction of the debt. This time the British government does not state it has found no new reason to warrant a resumption of payments. All the other debtor nations also defaulted except Finland, which as usual proudly paid the installment due.

MEMBERS of the electoral college met in the capitals of their respective states and went through the empty formality of casting their votes for Presidential candidates — 523 for Franklin D. Roosevelt and 8 for Alf M. Landon. About the same time it was announced in Washington that a move to abolish the antiquated electoral college system had been started and would have the approval of many members of both houses of congress.

Leaders of this plan are Senator George W. Norris, Independent, of Nebraska, and Representative Clarence Lea, Democrat, of California, both of whom have previously advocated a constitutional amendment making the change, substituting a system whereby state electoral votes would be divided among presidential candidates on the basis of their relative popular vote strength in the state.

Under the present system President Roosevelt, polling approximately 27,750,000 votes, received 523 electoral votes. Governor Landon, polling approximately 16,680,000 votes received 8 votes. Each Roosevelt electoral vote represents the desires of 53,000 voters. Each Landon vote represents the wishes of 2,085,000 voters.

JOHN HAMILTON is still chairman of the Republican national committee. At a meeting in Chicago 74 of the 76 members in attendance rejected his resignation, and he responded: "I'm gratified, and I'll keep right on working." The opposition to Hamilton was led by Hamilton Fish of New York, but it dwindled rapidly during the debate.

Before adjournment Hamilton was empowered to appoint a group of Republicans soon to formulate a plan to bring the party funds out of the red. Treasurer C. B. Goodspeed reported that the campaign expenditures were \$6,546,776, and that the deficit was \$901,501.

"SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WELFARE" may be the title of a new member of the President's cabinet, and it may be held by Harry L. Hopkins, WPA administrator. The creation of this department has been under consideration for some time and becomes probable with the plans for consolidation of several governmental agencies and activities pertaining to public welfare, from the social security program and the independent office of education to the children's bureau now in the Department of Labor.

There has been talk that the new department might be given to Miss Perkins, who is slated to retire from the labor secretaryship, but general opinion is that Hopkins, favorite money dispenser of the administration, will get the job.

A Holiday for Two

by Luella B. Lyons

"THIS being with the family on Christmas is the bunk so I won't mind parking myself down there in Martinville, Mr. Howard," Paul Boyd told his employer. That's how he found himself spending the holidays in a lonely little room in a boarding and rooming house. His landlady had gone out to church services, he knew, but he determined to pass the lonely hours by reading, having prepared himself with a flock of new detective fiction before leaving the city.

Before another half hour had passed, Paul tossed the book aside and began pacing the floor. Here he was alone at last on one Christmas eve, far from too-concerned relatives and friends.

As the crowning insult, without a moment's warning, the little light



Paul Tossed the Book Aside and Began Pacing the Floor.

that hung on a single cord from the ceiling, flickered and went out. "Great day, this is the end! I wonder what they do here when the lights go out—go to bed, I suppose!" he muttered disgustedly. But just the same he began scratching matches to hunt for a possible kerosene lamp he might have overlooked. Five matches later, he found a candle and lost no time lighting that. "At least I can find my way about while getting ready to retire," he grumbled.

But as he jerked at his tie, the unmistakable sound of a smothered sob came to him through the hot air register. Paul wanted to be alone, but sobs did things to him and it took him just three minutes to locate the door from behind which was darkness and those sobs.

All because a thoughtless landlady had failed to provide the lovely and lonely girl with an extra bit of lighting in case the rather unreliable power company service discontinued without notice, wasn't the only reason for the sobs.

"Being in a noisy city where folks are celebrating, asking all kinds of favors of you at the holiday time, doing the same old parties, family dinners and all that—I thought it would be nice to escape it for a change," she explained. Jean Hathaway, she said was her name.

"Jean, I said the same thing and maybe we were both right only that—that," and suddenly he became embarrassed but struggled on, "that it is all okeh if you don't have to escape alone. Just one for company and for celebrating is about the right number. What do you think, Jean?"

"Alone together! It doesn't make sense as for English, but it does Christmas-edly speaking!" and the light of the candle burned high and proud on that holiday for just two.

After His Visit



A House Built Christmas Day

... by ...

Frances Grinstead

A HOME that was built on a Christmas day stood for a long time on the old Santa Fe trail where it passed near Arrow Rock, Mo., on the Missouri river. Though not quite completed in a single day, with the help of his neighbors on that "holiday" about a hundred years ago, Henry Nave got his cabin ready for his family and the day after Christmas took them into his shelter.

Of course the house was built of undressed lumber, felled right on his farm. When he had selected the location this pioneer cut down round poles for the walls, rafters and joists—the framework.

Mr. Nave had found some large,

flat stones, and in the afternoon they dragged these into place for the hearth. Then of other suitable rocks, by much puffing and pulling they built a fireplace—one of those great practical ones which served to heat the home and to cook venison, buffalo meat, corn pone and other "victuals." The exterior of this fireplace was wood, the stones providing a fireproof lining.

The mortar to bind the stones was chiefly mud; to obtain even this simple ingredient it was necessary to build a fire in the middle



While the Little Nave Children Wished for Things.

of the half-constructed cabin and thaw the ground.

But, writes this hardy woodsman, "It was not many days until we were living snugly in our cabin and in good health and with fine appetites."

Holidays among our ancestors, were made occasions for such celebrations as this, but they never witnessed the cessation from labor ours afford. There was always need for immediate shelter, crop harvesting, or game killing. Hence log-raising, corn-huskings, and gun-shoots were made social occasions. But do you suppose we ever have more fun than Henry Nave's family and friends had building a house on Christmas day?

New Year's Resolution

HERE'S a New Year's resolution
I... Any one can make and keep;
It will help one's constitution,
And enable one to sleep.

"I will try to keep from fretting
When I cannot see the sun;
I will try to keep from getting
Into quarrels I may shun.

"I will try to keep from grieving
Over troubles that are past;
I will try to keep believing
Things will all come right at last.

"I will try to keep from sighing
When I ought to smile, instead;
I will try to keep on trying
To deserve to get ahead."

—Montreal Herald.