

### CHRISTMAS IN EUROPE BETTER

#### Children of War-Ravaged Countries Better Fed and Play Again.

By DR. A. C. DURHAM  
(Written for the United Press.)

Paris (By Mail).—Christmas this year will be the brightest that these countries have seen in many a long year.

Everywhere, except in Russia, conditions are better than last year, particularly among the children. Mass starvation has largely disappeared, infant health has steadily improved, and the older children are healthier and better nourished than at any time since the end of the war.

Many millions of dollars for the relief of child-suffering have been poured into European countries during the past three years, by the American Red Cross, by the American Relief Administration, and by scores of smaller organizations. They have had their effect. An American Christmas will be celebrated this year at 500 Red Cross child-health stations in a dozen European countries, but the relief work has reached its final stage, except in Russia and the middle of the coming year has been fixed for the withdrawal of the last medical and relief units of the American organization.

While there are still many children suffering from malnutrition and under-nutrition in Central Europe, it may be

said that there is practically no starvation in the same sense as has been reported in Russia. Among the refugees who still crowd many localities, there are still considerable groups of children whose families have no means of support, and who are therefore dependent on charity. But these groups, seeking comparatively are not large.

**STEADY IMPROVEMENT**

Excluding these groups of refugees, and again always excluding Russia, the general trend during the last three years has been one of steady and gradual improvement. The impressions of a trained health worker among the children even of stricken Austria or Poland, where conditions were originally the worst, is that today the children are beginning to approach the status of children in other countries. From 60 to 75 per cent are underdeveloped, but this condition is improving and will gradually reach a figure comparable with that in more favored countries.

Central Europe as a whole is not yet self-supporting. Most of the national budgets still contain large items for the purchase of food imports and there is comparatively little food export anywhere in Europe at the present time. But food supplies are more plentiful and reserve stocks are larger. The chief difficulty today is an economic one. In the Central European countries, food prices have in many cases risen, not two or three times as in America, but 200 to 500 times, and while incomes have increased, they have nowhere kept pace with the cost of living. It can be fairly said, that outside of Russia, there is no widespread starvation at present. General health conditions throughout

Central Europe also provide food for optimism. With the exception of the epidemic infectious diseases such as scarlet fever and diphtheria, which are epidemic throughout Europe, there is comparatively little infectious disease. Cholera has not crossed the Russian border, except in a few isolated cases. Typhus occurred widely in Poland, Slovakia and the Balkans during the post-war period. It will be endemic in these countries for some years to come, but at the present time it is brought under control. Tuberculosis increased enormously during the war period. In children it is seen chiefly in the form of bone and gland tuberculosis. There are no outstanding epidemics of smallpox, typhoid or recurrent fever this winter.

The most serious disease, particularly among children, is anemia, due to long-continued malnutrition, but the number of children suffering from severe grades of this disease is decreasing.

But it is a cheerful Christmas message to say, as one can say truthfully, that Central Europe is approaching normalcy as far as child-health is concerned.

### WOMEN GREATLY

#### (Continued From Page One.)

5,000,000 excess males in America more than four and one-half millions are between the ages of twenty and sixty, as an offset against the 13,000,000 excess women at those ages in Europe.

Nature, we are told, will right the balance in time, but this, even if true, does not help to solve the present problem. And it is worth while asking, is it true?

In the countries examined it is only in the excess of females in the population in the excess of females in the population was due to natural increase.

### MY MISTAKE

#### (Continued From Page One.)

true feelings, but I must admit to you that I have more than an ordinary affection for you, and more than a simple feeling of friendship. Here, in the country, far away from men and their villainy I dare at last reveal something which, I hope, will not bring a smile to your lips. I love you!

"But," he continued emphatically, "do not consider my love for you as an end in itself. My attentions are pure, and my sole ambition is to make you my wife."

I would be telling a lie if I did not admit that I had foreseen this confession. However, I offered, in reply some unintelligible words, in which he seemed to see the shadow of a refusal. He appeared to be suddenly disappointed.

"Perhaps," he said in an altered voice, "you think me too old?"

I made a gesture of protestation.

"Think it over," he said. "Up till now I had managed to contain myself. I am able to wait a little longer. But, I beg you, in all conscience, to weigh up the pros and cons and consider this that in exchange for your beauty and your youth—which are great, I grant you—I bring you a position of comfort and the deep affection of a love-smitten heart, which might all seem very little to you. I prefer you not to reply at once. I have no wish to influence you, and I shall be extremely sorry if you decided rashly. Do not let us talk any more about it today, my dear little friend. I do not want to spoil this glorious evening of dying July. Let us enjoy life and sing with the birds of the forest."

### NEGRO IS CHARGED WITH CAPITAL CRIME

Charged with criminal assault on an 11-year-old negro girl, Lavan Harden, city jail Saturday morning at 9 o'clock by Officers Earnhardt and Maines.

Although the assault occurred some nights ago, it had not been reported to police headquarters until Saturday morning. Soon after receipt of the report, however, officers succeeded in apprehending Harden and bringing him to jail.

The assault was committed on Railroad avenue last Saturday night, according to relatives of the negro girl who reported the crime to the police. The girl was attacked shortly after dark in the neighborhood of her home and was left in such a condition that she is still critically ill.

Harden will probably get a hearing at the Monday morning session of the police court. His crime marks one of the few such cases that have been reported in finding him within a few hours after the report had been turned in and a warrant for his arrest made out.

### CAPITAL MEN

(Continued From Page One.)

but he is not likely at any time soon to be included in the circle of gloating intimates of the Chief Executive. Elmer himself tells the reason why. When he moved to Tacoma, he took up the royal and ancient game, but the more he attempted to improve his style, his stance and his swing, the worse he got. One day he was particularly exasperated, and naturally the caddy was looking at him with such a look as only a caddy can give.

"Son," said Elmer, "did you ever in all your experience see a worse golfer than I am?"

"No, sir," replied the lad promptly, "but Johnny Brown tells me he caddied for one yesterday."

"What in the world was the man's name?" asked Elmer, a gleam of hope in his eye.

"I'm not sure, sir," said the boy, "but I think it was 'Dover.'"

Steven Hunter Love, of Salt Lake City, prominent in the beet sugar industry of Utah and a member of Mr. Hoover's food advisory committee during the war, was in Washington the past week for the sugar hearings before the finance committee of the Senate. Mr. Love has a great gift for story telling and is particularly fond of Swedish stories, his imitation of the Scandinavian dialect being well-nigh perfect.

It seems that recently a picturesque old Swede employed in one of the sugar mills thought to himself that he would not mind having a little drink or two after a particularly hard day's work. So he hid himself to a boot-legger of his acquaintance.

"You got any of that squirrel whiskey, Yohn?" he asked.

"No, I haven't Sven," replied the liquor merchant, "but I can give you a little Old Crow. How 'bout that?"

Sven thought for a moment, then shook his head.

"Nay-da," he said, "ay, don't want to fly, ay just want a hop a little."

### SEVEN DAYS

(Continued From Page One.)

third story window and landed on his feet, un hurt, in time to be sent to a hospital for observation.

But a truce to levity. This, my masters, is a serious world. Gotham is in the clutches of reform. No less an authority on social welfare than Alderman Peter J. McGuire, introduced at a board meeting a new city ordinance, which, if passed he believes will do a lot toward snuffing out sin. The ordinance provides that no hotel or restaurant or public resort in the City of New York, "in which people meet for refreshment or entertainment, shall allow any female to smoke in any such place." Take that.

And again a truce to levity. William Mohrman, a prominent business man, who has an income of \$200 a month, \$4,000 in savings, and an apartment house. He lives in a shack on his house lot and, when summoned to court the other day, he arrived in an army suit of chink and campaign hat. Most of his wealth, wrapped in a bit of newspaper, was secured by nine safety pins. Asked concerning his living expenses, Mohrman said they were "about a dollar a month." Living in New York on 25 cents a week is more than an accomplishment. It's a miracle.

To George Berry we are indebted for a parting holiday sentiment these zero days. Berry was charged with threatening to kill a park commissioner. Officials told Berry they were sending him to an observation ward.

"Go as far as you like," said Berry cheerfully, "the world is full of nuts."

### BERLIN BANKS

(Continued From Page One.)

as a bank of the middling type until its Board of Directors quite recently had the luck idea of coopting a successful private banker, Goldschmid by name. The said Goldschmid has in the course of a few years developed into one of the first men of finance in Germany. He is a man of business and his brain continually produces plans for industrial combinations of every order.

Among the banks of Germany, the Berlin banks play a special part. By the network of branches extending all over the country, they have managed to get hold of nearly the entire business of the State. A lively exchange of effects takes place between them and the German trade.

It is very interesting to compare the conditions of banking in Germany with the entirely different conditions obtaining in the United States. At the present moment, these banks dance merrily to the music of paper money and inflation. They are literally flooded by money. The eight principal Berlin banks now have a capital of about three and a half milliards marks, 80 milliards of strange money being deposited with them. They swim in the waves of inflation. The price of the American dollar—240 marks—is a good life belt.

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### PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE

And without any anxiety a sto my thoughts, he began to sing one of his favorite ballads.

On leaving me perhaps he thought I did not care, but he did not even turn away his head, as was his custom when I left.

From the day the pseudo Guillet raised his first confession, he did not utter a word or allude in any way to the subject of a possible marriage between us. It was only in the month of December, 1917, on the anniversary of my birthday, that he began to urge this particular question more strongly.

On that occasion he asked permission to give me a present. I had scarcely time to reply before he pulled a small case from his pocket. This he opened carefully, and I saw it contained a very pretty watch and a St. Andrew's cross. When I told him that he had no right to offer me such a present, he replied without hesitation:

"These jewels were left me by my mother, and I should be extremely grateful if you would accept them, for, with my mother, you are the person in the world I have loved most."

As he had told me several times that, in his memory, his mother was a sort of idol, I found it very difficult

to refuse. He thought this a propitious moment to hint at the possibility of marriage.

"Besides, at home, I have many more jewels which belonged to my mother, and which shall be yours on the happy day you become my wife."

Then he began a most passionate speech. He pictured to me the attraction of a very comfortable position, giving me to believe that he would pay me the most assiduous and fervent attention, and became so persuasive that my first resolve was shaken. It was then that I let him understand that I was not a very good match for him, and that I was in a position to bring a dowry to my husband.

He began to smile, and replied:

"My dear little friend, it is you alone that I want, and nothing else. I have enough money for us both, and have sufficient energy to provide myself for our immediate needs without any necessity for you to work."

He then spoke to me of numerous great schemes to which were to give impetus to his business and which would benefit him considerably financially. But all that was vague, indefinite, and he did not enter into details. Nevertheless, I must confess I willingly let my imagination play with the idea of marriage.

**MAKING MY MOTHER'S ACQUAINTANCE.**

I was the victim of the apprehensions of a time when the war gave young girls small hopes for the future. I did not discourage him then, but I asked for a few days' time to enable me to see my first fiancé's father, to whom I wished to announce the breaking off of my engagement with his son. He agreed, and said that all in, on first impressions, he seemed to be a good match for me.

My mother, however, put me on my guard against the mistakes of first impressions, and was of the opinion that it would be better to wait, before judging him, until he had paid his court for a little longer time.

**MARRIAGE FIXED FOR EASTER.**

A week later Landru returned. That day mother thought it better to give him some information regarding our family, and as he showed the most ar-

dent wish to become engaged to me, she announced at once that he was a suitable match.

Then Landru rose up, kissed my mother, and asked her permission to give me the engagement ring. At the same time, from a pretty little case bearing the name of Detouche, he took out a lovely ring, set with diamonds, and gently taking my hand, placed the ring on my finger.

"We spoke of the date of the marriage. He spoke of his anxiety to have the ceremony in the near future, and proposed Easter week, declaring with much truth that my brothers, then in the army, would be able to be present then.

"Will you have your witness?" I asked him.

He thought for a moment and replied the Mayor of Roerol, who was an intimate friend of his, would be pleased to do him that service. He added that he would bear the expenses of the ceremony himself, and that his mother need not worry on that point.

"Believe me," he said, "what I am doing is for the best, and I do not want anything to mar the happiness of this marriage, and I hope that this day, for my young fiancée, will be the dawn of everlasting happiness."

The following Wednesday we were all seated with him round the family table. My grandfather was with us, and I could already see from his smiling face how much he appreciated Guillet's impulsive conversation, and how sensible he was to the suggestions of his neighbor at table laid out on him.

That evening Guillet was astonishingly full of animation and vigor. Without ever departing from the good taste which my presence demanded, he bubbled over with jokes and sallies, did a little conjuring, interspersing his patter with the most amusing puns.

To Be Continued Next Sunday.

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Here's wishing you happiness on the glorious Christmas Day. And the same goes for many more to come.

**Arcade Pharmacy Inc.**  
PHONE 777  
324 South Tryon St.



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he had already given me of his family, and estimated having something like 50,000 francs in ready money and material.

"In this total," he said, "I am not including what the State will hand over to me. I hope, some day, to indemnify me for the loss I have sustained in Roerol."

My mother then questioned him on his Paris connections.

"I scarcely know any one there," he replied. "I live entirely alone, and, since I left Roerol my dearest friends are scattered and lost sight of. Besides," he confessed, "I am of rather a primitive disposition and reticent nature. I prefer to live apart from men. I have got to know society to my cost."

As he spoke in the bitter tone of a man who has suffered cruel deceptions in life, my mother was moved to pity and her sympathy for him grew.

He told us several amusing anecdotes and little spicy little-tattlers of gossip, and, not wishing to overstay his welcome, but to rest content with the excellent impression he felt he had created, he got up and took his departure most courteously, and promised to come back again within a week's time.

After he left I asked my mother what she thought of him. She replied that Guillet seemed to her to have the best intentions, and that all in, on first impressions, he seemed to be a good match for me.

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God has blessed our nation. Let us thank Him on the birthday of His Son.  
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**A Merry Christmas**

May Happiness and Countless Gifts be yours on this festive occasion.

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THE GOOD SERVICE STORE  
30 West Trade St.



**Christmas Greetings**

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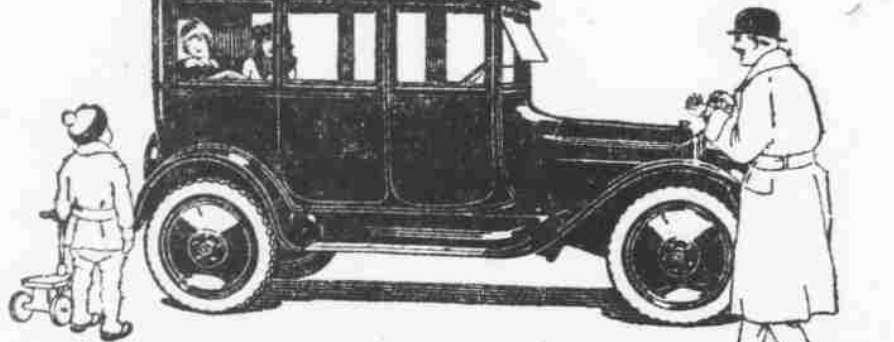
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