

NOT BIG CHRISTMAS FOR MILLION AND A HALF IN COUNTRY

Five Hundred Thousand Jobless on Eve of Biggest Holiday of Year

MILLION ON PART TIME

Conditions Better in South and West Than Elsewhere

—Hundred Thousand Laid Off by Railroads of America

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 24.—More than half a million men and women face Christmas jobless, it was estimated today on the basis of reports to officials of the government and American Federation of Labor.

Of these a considerably large number are normally workers. Perhaps one million are working on part time and reduced wages, the reports show. The wage-cutting movement began in midsummer. Closing of factories and unemployment began being reported earlier.

At least a hundred thousand railway men have been laid off, it is estimated. Automobile workers, garment makers, and textile mill workers are the hardest hit in the north.

Southern and western cities, however, told a different story. Not Enough Labor Here.

Atlanta, Dec. 24.—It is reported that the Louisiana farm labor is barely able to harvest the crops, while cotton pickers and corn huskers are scarce in the Richmond Federal Reserve District.

Heavy Loss Life

From Japanese Eruption; Official Count Begun.

(By the United Press)
Tokyo, Dec. 24.—Loss of life was expected to be heavy as officials today began checking the casualties in the worst eruption in the history of Mount Asama. A terrific explosion Wednesday showered smoldering ashes over a wide territory. This was followed by flames, smoke and a number of shocks.

FINE PLANT TO BE OWNED BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

Work will be started shortly after the first of the year on the new municipal electric plant. The buildings and a stack of unusual size will cost about \$80,000, and the machinery and other equipment \$225,000 or \$250,000. All contracts have been awarded. Some equipment now in use will be added to the new machinery to give the city one of the best-equipped plants in the eastern part of the State. Municipal officials apparently have no intention of following up this improvement with immediate installation of a gas plant, which was a hobby a year ago. Considerable street paving may be planned during 1921, together with minor improvements. Most of these will be allowed to wait over for the new administration to be seated late in the spring.

CHRISTMAS EXERCISES OF COLORED CHURCH.

On account of two days of unfavorable weather, the colored church bazaar at the home of Rev. James E. Holder will not close tonight as announced, but will go through the week. A special feature at St. Augustine's Episcopal Mission, colored, during the Christmas season will be a Christmas altar, which will be illuminated for the first time at the 7 o'clock Christmas morning service to which everybody is invited. The Christmas exercises of the Sunday school will be held at the mission next Wednesday night.

CHRISTMAS PARTY OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS.

The Free Will Baptist Bible School on Chestnut Street celebrated Christmas Friday night. There was a large gathering of the school. B. B. Warters, superintendent, president and Mrs. Lula Heath had charge of the program. Rev. Bernard H. Smith of the Christian church made an address upon the birth of Jesus. A number of the children gave recitations and songs in a well planned program. At the close candies, nuts and fruit were distributed.

HE IS NOT A SANTA CLAUS; THAT'S CERTAIN.

Noted Evans, federal prohibition officer, celebrated Christmas by smashing a one hundred-gallon still six miles northwest of Deep Run on Thursday. The plant had just cooled off from a run. No arrest was made.

NO PEACE IN ERIN ON CHRISTMAS DAY; BRITAIN FORGETTING

King Prorogues Parliament — Merry England Stops Worrying for Three Days — Curtailment of All Activities

(By the United Press)
London, Dec. 24.—Hope for Christmas peace in Ireland was lost today. The chance for definite action disappeared when the King prolonged Parliament.

Great Britain prepared to bury its worries in a three-day holiday. Newspapers will not publish and communications and transportation will be curtailed.

At Caswell School

Santa Claus Will Arrive Here Ahead of Time.

The milk of human kindness, the joy of little children and the abiding faith of baby intellects in misshapen bodies will mix together gloriously with red tin and sparkling tinsel in one little community near here where Santa Claus will not overlook a single kiddie. The Caswell Training School will have a Christmas tree Friday night, and Christmas morning settle down to contemplation and to solve the mysteries of clockwork wheels in dimmutive motor cars and fire engines. Everybody in North Carolina celebrates Christmas, but nowhere does the day mean quite so much as in the red brick buildings where society segregates the results of its own iniquities and Fortune's follies. Maybe that Christ-child story isn't known at the Caswell school; on their little hillside the State's feeble-minded will look out upon a world forbidden to them and hoped there was as much joy in the highways and byways of the beyond as in their own little colony. Santa Claus, it seems, will arrive at the school earlier than elsewhere. He will lavish in his giving to those it is possible to imagine as the special protégés of the Originator of Christmas. A hundred comedies will follow his departure, and some of the gifts and their possessors may seem odd contrasts, but it is not size that counts at the Caswell school. Johnny, 18, might still like a little tin wagon, and if it is automatic and self-propelling, good night! In the morning they will swap congratulations incessantly. Everybody will be happy, and poor attendants will take the count under the excessive affection thrust upon them. Stunted intellects and bodies caused the Caswell school children to be there; their over-developed hearts give them a good start over the average mortal on the road to the everlasting Christmas.

"TEA FOR THREE" HOLIDAY OFFERING AT GRAND THEATRE.

The Selwyns bring another of their popular successes to the Grand Theatre from Norfolk and Richmond Monday, December 27, when they will present Bert Leigh in Roi Cooper Sargent's popular comedy hit, "Tea for Three." Supporting Mr. Leigh is a cast of exceptional ability, including Millicent Hanley, J. W. Cooper, Margaret Tyler and Ernest Haskok.

HOLIDAY WITH BRIGHT YELLOW BERRIES FOUND.


Fully laden with bright yellow berries instead of the conventional reds has been found in country south of here recently. The tree was well-fruited and presented a striking contrast to the usual holly. Persons versed in woodcraft say holly with yellow berries is occasionally found, but is a rarity. Soil or weather conditions are probably responsible.

Willing Disarm

Japan Does Not Intend Set Armament Pace for World.

(By the United Press)
London, Dec. 24.—Japan has no intention of setting the pace in a race for armament, Count Hayashi, ambassador to Great Britain, today declared.

His country will be pleased to join in discussions for armament reduction, he said. Hayashi made the statement immediately after returning from the Geneva conference of the league assembly.



The Governor and Mrs. Bickett
send
Christmas Greetings
to
All the People of North Carolina

May the Joyous Season bring to us all a new birth of love and laughter, a surer grasp of Heaven and a keener relish of the earth; and above the discordant cries of shell-shocked and debt-haunted men may we still be able to hear the Blessed Angels sing.

Big Fund for Her

Clara Hamon Due Back in Ardmore Ere Christmas Dawns.

Ardmore, Okla., Dec. 24.—Today is homecoming day for Clara Smith Hamon. The girl fugitive who surrendered to the authorities at El Paso is due here today. Ardmore citizens are prepared to give her a welcome, and assurances that a huge defense fund will be placed at her disposal.

SPECIAL MUSIC TO MARK THIS CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

A special feature of the Christmas program at the Christian church will be a series of three organ selections, all characteristic of the Far East. The first number, "The March of the Magi Kings," and the second, "In Sight of the Oasis," will represent the slow pace of camels and weird-sounding instruments of the time and country. The third selection will represent the shepherd's pipes echoing and re-echoing on the hills, and terminating with angelic choruses in the distance, and finally ending with the "Gloria," a dignified and magnificent movement for full organ. The offertory number will be the "Gloria Song" by Schubert. This special program of organ music will be given Sunday evening. There will also be special music by the choir.

CHRISTMAS PIECES IN MERRY ENGLAND.

London, Dec. 24.—The third Christmas since the piping days of peace finds poor old still paying the piper. A survey of the shops, aristocratic and democratic, proves that prices remain pretty much the same place as they were last year. Such things as dolls' houses, dolls' perambulators, children's tricycles and scooters are priced just as high as in 1919, which means that for the ordinary citizen they are out of reach.

Numbers of German toys have been imported, but these are of the smaller variety, such as clockwork engines, motor cars, etc. However, they are finding a ready sale, for Britain has not yet learned to compete with Germany in the matter of price. There is small doubt but that Germany will reap a goodly harvest from what the British child calls "stocking presents"—comprising all the small things which give those exciting bulges from the toe to the knee of the stockings which Santa Claus so kindly fills each year.

BRITISH GOLFERS NOT AFRAID, SAYS EXPERT.

New York, Dec. 24.—All England is not so pessimistic about the proposed American golf invasion next summer.

When the British golfers first heard that funds were being raised here to send twenty American links experts to England next summer, after the British amateur and open champion-ships, many declared that it was all over. America, by such a drive, surely would succeed.

However, "Fairway," a British expert, writing in "Sporting Life," does not see such cause for alarm.

"If our leading amateurs keep up on their game throughout the winter months," he says, "the fears of those pessimistic prophets who would have us bow to the inevitable as a result of American preparation for invasion may be dispersed when the time arrives for the international duel."

"Fortunately we are, or should be, quite immune from defeat with the talent we already possess."

JEWISH COLLEGE MEN MEET AT NEW YORK.

New York, Dec. 24.—The part which college men and women can take in the upbuilding of Palestine as the Jewish homeland will be discussed at the convention of the Intercollegiate Zionist Association, which will be held here from December 26 to 28.

LOAN OF BILLION TO GERMANY IS ONE IDEA BEFORE SEN.

Proposed by William Brauer and Probably Supported by Farmers—Committees Hear Proposals Agriculturalists

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 24.—The entire matter of how Congress can best aid the farmers was reopened today at a joint hearing of the Senate Banking and Agriculture committees.

J. R. Howard, head of the American Farm Bureau Federation, brought up the matter of vast credits to Germany to allow purchases of agricultural and other supplies from America.

William Wallace Brauer, representing the Berlin government, proposes a loan of one billion for such a purpose. The farmers are expected to back up his application.

Needs \$965,000

Teachers' Training School Badly in Need Expansion.

(Special to the Free Press)
Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 24.—The East Carolina Teachers' Training School has for several years turned away, because of lack of room, more students than it has accepted. As the purpose of this school is to prepare teachers for the elementary schools of the State, this lack of room is disastrous, because of the shortage of teachers.

If the school is to do its full part in filling the school rooms, especially in the small towns and country, the plant must be enlarged. Two hundred more students in East Carolina Teachers' Training School will mean 200 more teachers in North Carolina; that will mean 6,000 more children being taught. The benefit to the State cannot be estimated in dollars and cents.

The school is asking the General Assembly for \$965,000 to meet adequate needs of the school are: (1) a new dormitory, (2) a home for the teachers, so that the space occupied by them can be filled by students, (3) enlargement of auditorium, (4) enlargement of dining hall and kitchen, (5) library building, (6) gymnasium, (7) remodeling of power plant, (8) cottages for employees, in order to keep them, (9) dairy, and furniture and improvement of grounds.

The State is fourth from the bottom in education, and fourth from the top in its agricultural products. If the State is to rise in education and wealth, which go together, it must spend money on its institutions.

The students from the State institutions, the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Engineering, University of North Carolina, North Carolina College for Women and East Carolina Teachers' Training School, have organized for the purpose of letting the people know the exact situation in the schools of the State.

MISTRIAL IN ARNSTEIN CASE.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The jury trying Mick Arnstein and others on the charge of bringing stolen securities into the District of Columbia was discharged today when it reported that it was unable to agree.

NO PAPER TO BE ISSUED ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

There will be no edition of the Free Press Saturday. It is the inviolate custom of the Free Press to keep Christmas Day. Patrons are wished a Merry Christmas. There will be half a dozen issues in which to extend New Year's greetings, since publication will be resumed Monday.

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TAFT MAY HAVE BIG PLACE IN HARDING GOVERNMENT, THOUGH

To Propose Concrete Things for Association of Nations in Conference With President-Elect at Ohio Home

(By the United Press)
Canton, Dec. 24.—Ex-President Taft in his conference with Harding is expected to fill in with concrete proposals one of the outlines of the association of nations idea.

Taft has figured prominently in cabinet speculation for a month. He has been mentioned also in connection with possible vacancies on the Supreme Court bench, say close advisers of Harding.

It is expected that a clear understanding will be reached today as to whether the ex-president will be named a part of the new administration.

Soft Pedal

For All These Calamity Tales; Many of 'Em False.

(By C. H. VAN HERVIE, Secretary Chamber of Commerce)
For the past several months we have been passing through a severe period of readjustment, and it has tested the courage and nerve of even the most astute business man. So far we all have met the test unflinchingly, and have smiled at financial losses, knowing full well that increased prosperity is surely coming again.

But while we are courageously facing the situation and are resolved to survive the shock, there are some people, who cannot resist the temptation to spread deleterious reports, who repeat rumors of financial disaster merely to hear themselves talk and who thereby greatly increase the difficulties of the real business man.

This underhanded way of starting or repeating stories of coming failures of this firm or that bank, of rumors of financial troubles to this country merchant or that farmer, of inability of any business man to meet his obligations, benefits no one. Such rumors are being circulated everywhere in Eastern North Carolina, and this community is not free from their calamity prophets, and their stories affect some of our strongest mercantile, financial and industrial concerns.

Their calamities spread like wildfire, and increase with every repetition; yet the authors of these stories of impending troubles are unknown and therefore cannot be punished.

Since Kinston and Lenoir County are perhaps far better equipped to stand this period of depression than most sections of the country, it should be the privilege of every citizen to do all he can to deny and discourage such idle rumors; it should be every man's solemn duty to follow down such reports of disaster, learn the truth of the story before repeating it, learn the name of the author of the rumor, and locate the original source of information, so that such calamity prophets may be dealt with as they deserve. They should be put in jail for life.

There is in this community absolutely no possibility of bank failures, and of wholesale bankruptcies of business houses. Of our principal money crops cotton has reached bottom and is on the upward trend again. We have sold thus far 2,500 bales around 17 cents. Of tobacco we have sold in Kinston this season seventeen million pounds at an average price of \$22.40 according to the State Agricultural reports and if we include the Lenoir County market, we have sold in Lenoir County this fall twenty one million pounds of tobacco at an average of \$22.00. All things considered, these figures make quite a respectable showing for this community, and it ought to make every man feel mighty optimistic that Kinston and Lenoir County are considerably better off than most sections; and that there is no reason for failures, no need for calamity prophets, and no desire on the part of any good citizen to listen to such rumors as will work harm and are detrimental to every businessman in the whole county. The spirit of business is to succeed, and this spirit of optimism cannot be conquered by rumors of disaster. But confidence can be undermined and shaken by the continued repetitions of such idle gossip, and they will in time do a great deal of harm to this community unless they are promptly squelched.

CONVICTS' DINNER TO BE A BIG AFFAIR.

Convicts on the Lenoir County roads will celebrate Christmas with a dinner of barbecued pig. Their feast will be a little more expensive than the regular turkey dinner served in most homes. There will be no end to the confections. One of them, Blaney Bryant, will enjoy as a present a pardon from Governor Bickett. Bryant had served two months of six for trafficking in whiskey. Richard Fowler & Co. have given the convicts cigars and apples.

LITTLE FELLOW WILL RETAIN SIGHT OF EYE.

Master Kirkwood Hanrahan, who had an eye seriously injured some weeks ago, is better. Friends of Rev. George B. Hanrahan and his young son will be glad to learn that the eye will be saved.

WILSON FAILS TO CHANGE MIND AS TO PARDON FOR DEBS

Deliberately Violated Law Designed for Protection of Nation in War, View Executive Retains as to Socialist

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 24.—The President has not changed his mind in regard to granting a pardon for Eugene Debs, now imprisoned in Atlanta for violation of the espionage law, it was said today at the White House.

Officials said recently that he would not pardon Debs because he believed he deliberately violated a law designed for the protection of the country during war.

Christmas Appeal

For Sufferers in Armenia and Syria; Many Starve.

Raleigh, Dec. 23.—An appeal from the North Carolina Committee of the Near East Relief has been scattered broadcast through the State and it is a cheering sight to see how many of the people are responding to the cry for aid for the hungry and homeless Armenians and Syrians who are waiting for North Carolinians to set their table.

This advance drive comes at an opportune time—a time when the giver feels like giving and when the needy can be cheered most—and Chairman Bellamy is highly gratified with the holiday response.

The Christmas offering, however, will feed only a few of the 3,334 who are waiting for North Carolina to set their table. The big drive must follow and it is this drive that will tell whether all will be provided for at the Trebizond orphanage.

Here are just a few of the sad messages from their land: "Tens of thousands of refugees from zone of operations. The situation now doubly acute. Can you do anything to help in matter of food supplies?"—Yarrow.

"Repatriation movement has collapsed. People must winter in Mosul region. Suggest we take over one block of Urumians (they are remnants of the old Assyrian race, Christians who were driven from their homes in 1918)."—Thrasher.

"Heavy taxes levied by Nationalists on all Christians will not be easy to bear and will prevent them from contributing anything to the support of their dependents, and it will be very necessary for us to make up the deficiency."—Coombs.

These are only a handful of the numerous reasons why North Carolinians must feed the 3,334 tots assigned to the State by the National Committee of the Near East Relief.

BABY GOT HOME AFTER SPENDING SOME TIME ON DISPLAY IN WINDOW.

Last in the holiday rush and not caring the least, a bright-faced tot attracted more attention than anything else exhibited in the store windows here Thursday. Glowing colored electric lamps, red chimneys, Santa Clauses and gleaming Christmas wares and other things attracted the attention of hurrying pedestrians, but the badly perplexed clerk at the Grand Fountain who made the last baby a window display won first prize in popular approval. She entered the ice cream and candy shop, where the colorful decorations and the crowd appealed to her. She wore an apron and bonnet and a perfectly contented look. She was as demure and pretty as a blonde baby of two years could be. She took a seat and burdened those in charge of the place with a responsibility. The police were notified. No distressed mother came to claim the unidentified. She ate ice cream and candy and gave no thought to expense. A long time passed. Finally a desperate genius removed a couple of hundred pounds of bon bons from a window, installed a chair therein, and sat baby on the sign in big black letters, "Who do I belong to?" Miss Baby surveyed the crowds and smiled. She was charming, her fat face fringed with yellow curls. It pays to advertise. After a time a member of the family of Charles E. Spear, prominent residents of North Kinston, hastened into the shop and claimed the living Christmas doll.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The public is cordially invited to St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Christmas Day at 11 o'clock to a celebration of the Holy Communion. The members of the Sunday school are expected to be at the church ten minutes before service begins. There will be a brief address by the rector. Consumption of a "plan" of the Sunday school is scheduled. Friends of the venerable superintendent are especially invited.