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### CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON

#### Questions of State Forgotten in the Celebration of the Day

### AT THE WHITE HOUSE

The Celebration in the Capitol Different From the Observances in All the Other Cities of the Country—Stand-Patters and Insurgents, Republicans and Democrats Lay Aside Their Differences and Meet on Common Ground—Baby McLean Christmas.

(By Winfield Jones.)

Washington, Dec. 26.—The capital of the United States, with a way all its own, is once more observing Christmas and the reign of "peace upon earth."

In Washington Christmas is different, according to those who have spent the holidays in the average city. The presence of the chief executive of the nation, the ambassadors and ministers from foreign courts, members of congress, cabinet officers and wealthy citizens from all sections of the country give the capital a cosmopolitan air.

There's the Christmas dinner at the white house, the celebration of the Yule tide in foreign embassies according to the customs of various countries represented and a hundred and one magnificent private affairs at the home of diplomats, statesmen and wealthy residents.

For a time the capital forgets all about international complications, the tariff, trust busting, the clamor of insurgents, and the last stand of the stand-patters. A truce is declared between the two political parties. Both houses of congress take a recess and for a couple of days the great government departments, with their thousands of employees, are deserted except for a solitary watchman here and there.

As has been the custom for many years the President of the United States attended church on Christmas day. In the afternoon there was a short spin in one of the big white house automobiles furnished for use of the executive by a generous government. Then as evening fell the President and his family, together with a select party of friends, gathered about the white house table where a sumptuous Christmas dinner was served.

There was no Christmas tree at the white house this year, because the President and Mrs. Taft have no small children. There was a mutual exchange of Christmas remembrances, however, and Miss Helen, Robert and Charlie Taft were all home for the holidays, the two boys arriving several days ago from their respective schools.

The white house will be the scene of many pleasant gatherings of young folks during the remainder of the Christmas holidays, and on New Year the President and Mrs. Taft will throw open the doors for the annual reception, which precedes the various state functions that follow during the first few months of the year.

Little work has been done at the

executive offices since last Saturday. Every one from the President down, wanted to go shopping. There was a general cessation of labor about the white house offices. A feature of the celebration of Christmas at the home of the President was the presentation of Mr. Taft of a turkey to each of the one hundred married employees with the connection of the executive mansion, and the offices adjourning.

The Christmas spirit was also in evidence on Capitol Hill, where both houses face a busy session after January 3rd. The senate and house adjourned on December 21st, and except for those who live in distant states adjournment meant "going home." Perhaps a hundred members of the senate and house, however, remained in the capital for Christmas, not caring to make the journey of several thousand miles in so short a time. This was especially true of the Pacific coast members and those from the far southwest.

Members of the house and senate will be seen at the various diplomatic receptions given during the week, and for the time being an armistice will be declared in the legislative war. Insurgents will gather at banquets with stand-patters and Democratic tariff tinkers, preparing to begin work on schedule K, will forget their differences with Republicans who want to uphold the protective tariff principle in any legislation passed.

Christmas in Washington to the government clerks, of which there are about thirty thousand. The big departments were closed yesterday, and Uncle Sam's employees, from chief of the bureau to carwomen, were allowed to go their way and celebrate Christmas as best suited individual taste.

Hundreds of government clerks are residents of near-by states, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware and great majority of these went home to spend a couple of days with their folks. Comparatively speaking, the work will be light in the department for the remainder of the year, and then on January 1st will come another holiday.

Owing to the large number of (Continued From Page Five.)



John Bigelow, the United States "Grand Old Man" who died in New York City on this date, 1911, at the age of 84. The deceased was a diplomat, soldier and statesman of note.

### MAY ABOLISH SMALL MARKETS

#### Small Tobacco Markets Scattered Over the State May Be Done Away With

Special to The Times. Durham, Dec. 26.—Among the announced changes of the tobacco business, that is, of more importance than the announced one that the small markets are to be cut out and

the Roxboro market, then it had its deficiencies. Oxford became famous and had its feeders until every town of size in all contiguous counties is a tobacco market.

The end for markets have done a great service to the farmers living at a great distance from Durham or Oxford or Roxboro. It is in other counties near Durham.

It is believed that with the elimination of small markets, the city would have a "bigger" tobacco market. It is believed that the city would have a "bigger" tobacco market.

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### FOUR INJURED BY EXPLOSION

#### Hester Atwater, Colored Boy, Sets Off Can of Gunpowder on Christmas Day

### THREE WHITE BOYS HURT

Sherwood Scott and Roy and Archie Raines Receive Severe Burns as Result of Ignition of Ten Pounds of Gunpowder on South Blount Street—Damage Done to the Houses in Neighborhood—All the Victims Resting Well Today.

As the result of the carelessness or ignorance of a young negro boy, who dropped a lighted match into a ten pound can of gunpowder on South Blount street yesterday morning, the boy himself and three white lads were in a more or less serious condition. The injured are:

Hester Atwater, colored, aged about 15 years.

Sherwood Scott, aged 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Scott, 229 South Blount street.

Roy Raines, aged about 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Raines, 1112 South Blount street.

Archie Raines, aged about 10, also son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Raines.

At St. Agnes Hospital today it was said that the negro boy had spent a good night, but it was too early to say whether he would retain the sight of an eye.

Master Scott passed a good night at Rex Hospital and should be well again in several days. His injuries consist mostly of powder burns on the face, body and legs.

The two Raines boys are also doing well as could be expected. Roy, the oldest, was the most seriously injured, and it is thought his right eye may be permanently injured.

The Accident.

The explosion occurred on South Blount street near the corner of Southfield street yesterday morning. Hester Atwater, the colored boy, had been looking at a can of gunpowder sitting on the shelf in the store of Mr. E. G. Smith and had said that he wanted to fire it Christmas day. Told not to monkey with it, Hester took it from the shelf, carried it to the street and applied a match. There are two versions as to how the powder was caused to go off, but these are immaterial, since it was evidently the lad's intention to have a big noise. When the fire struck the powder there was an explosion and the entire neighborhood was jarred.

Were Looking On.

Attracted by want was about to take place the three small white children gathered about the colored boy and his powder to see what would happen. With the explosion the boys were knocked down, windows panes were shattered in several houses and many persons supposed that it was an earthquake. The clothing of Hester Atwater was literally blown from his body, these lodgings in the limbs of a tree near by. He was so terribly burned that it was said he could hardly recover, but at the hospital today the injured

(Continued on Page Two.)

### BLOWS HOUSE WITH DYNAMITE

#### Stick Placed Under Floor And Ignited Which Blew Hole In Floor

(Special to The Times.)

Franklin, N. C., Dec. 26.—Last Saturday night Alex. Kearney placed a stick of dynamite under the home of H. G. Wood on "Mill Hill," one of S. C. Vann's houses, which when ignited blew a hole in the floor large enough to let a man through, blew all the glass out of the windows, the pillars from under the end of the house and scared the inmates very badly. It appeared that Kearney was mad with Mr. Wood for appearing against him in a former case for disorderly conduct.

He also did not like for a certain fellow to visit Mr. Wood's daughter, who was there at the time. Chief of Police A. B. Cook was on the scene watching Kearney and arrested him pretty soon after the explosion.

Mayor Conway heard the case and in default of \$500 bond Kearney is in jail.

### CLARK ON SPEECH-MAKING TOUR

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 26.—Champ Clark arrived here on the way to Oklahoma on a speech-making tour. "Just good old Democratic doctrine," Clark said, would be his subject. Clark starts on the return to Washington Saturday to teach the capital for congress reopening.

### TWO AGED WOMEN BURNED TO DEATH

Aberdeen, Maryland, Dec. 6.—Mrs. Betsy Keithley, seventy-eight, and Mrs. Susan Malloe, eighty-one, widowed sisters, were burned to death in a fire of unknown origin which destroyed their home at Carson's Run. The women have lived alone for the last twelve years.

### MEETING AT NAVY YARD

London, Dec. 26.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg reports a mutiny broke out at the naval ordnance yard. Authorities, attempting to quell the disorder, wounded several mutineers.

### HIGHER PRICE FOR CRUDE OIL

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 26.—Announcement made by Joseph Seeh-

### MR. SEAWELL TAKES OATH

#### Popular and Efficient Office Clerk Given Merited Promotion

Mr. Seawell, a popular and efficient office clerk, was promoted to the position of chief clerk of the United States court at New York City on this date, 1911, at the age of 64. The deceased was a diplomat, soldier and statesman of note.

### BRITISH STEAMER FOUNDERED

Glasgow, Dec. 26.—The British steamer Guillemot from London for Genoa foundered in the Bay of Biscay on December 21. The captain and 15 of the crew were lost. Seven survivors were picked up by the British steamer Lincoln and landed here. Guillemot registered 1134 tons net.

### CAR FELL INTO RIVER

Pottsville, Pa., Dec. 26.—Thirty passengers were aboard a trolley car which left the rails on the bridge spanning Schuylkill river and plunged into the bed of the stream. None were seriously injured. All were hurried into a heap in front of the car which was left in a vertical position.

### ADMIRAL DEWEY'S BIRTHDAY

Washington, Dec. 26.—Admiral George Dewey today received the congratulations of the president, cabinet members and army and navy officials upon the occasion of his seventy-fourth birthday anniversary. Dewey is in the best of health.

### CHINESE DEMAND IMMEDIATE ELECTION

Shanghai, China, Dec. 26.—As no reply has been received by Tang Shao Yi to his despatch to Premier Yuan Shi Kai, pointing out that acceptance of the idea of a republic is the only means of securing a peaceful solution of China's troubles, the revolutionaries are demanding the immediate election of a president of the republic. The conference yesterday between Dr. Sun Yat Sen the proposed president and Wu Ting Fang, chief of the revolutionary delegates at the peace conference, resulted in complete agreement between the two leaders. The revolutionaries are showing a more united front. Nanking is regarded by them as the most suitable place for the new capital.

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### SHOOTING WHITE BOY AT DEPOT

#### Enstace Robertson Kills Francis Ruggles At Southern Pines

(Special to The Times.)

Southern Pines, Dec. 26.—Francis Ruggles, a white boy, was shot and killed at the depot here last night by Enstace Robertson, a negro, who immediately fled. It is reported today that the negro is under arrest at a station fourteen miles south of here.

Although the exact cause of the killing cannot be learned, it is said that the white boy and negro were quarreling and that the negro turned his revolver on the lad. Death came almost instantly. The report that the negro is under arrest at Southern Pines is thought to be true.

Witnesses describing the negro were forwarded today to many towns and cities in both North and South Carolina.

### NEGRO KILLS TWO BROTHERS

Chapel Hill, Dec. 26.—Lewis and Ernie Ramsey, white and brothers, were shot and killed near Patton, N. C., last night by Reid Ruppel, a negro, who was later captured. The sheriff took the negro into the woods where he found the body of the first victim. Later he caught a train. He will be held in Patton jail.

### MAJOR-GENERAL HODGES DEAD

Washington, Dec. 26.—Major General Charles A. Hodges, U. S. A., retired, died at his home in Illinois today. Hodges was born in Rhode Island sixty-four years ago.

### ROOF OF ROUND HOUSE FELL IN

Altoona, Pa., Dec. 26.—A number of workmen were seriously hurt, and twenty locomotives damaged, when the roof of the Pennsylvania railroad round house, used for housing passenger locomotives, fell in.

### MISSING GIRL HAD ROMANCES

Chicago, Dec. 26.—With the discovery that Violet Reuther, missing since November 25, had several romances, the line of police search changed in that direction, and she was found.

### MARTIAL LAW AT PERSIAN CAPITAL

London, Dec. 26.—Proclamation of martial law at Tehran following the dismissal of W. Muzur Shuster, by the Persian cabinet and treasury reports received as to a bloody massacre by Russian soldiers at Reza, are causing serious apprehension. Little additional information regarding the reported massacre has been received. According to latest advices the massacre occurred Sunday when it killed a Russian, it is said, numbered 300, including some women and children. Russian consular reports were restored.

### THREE KILLED IN MEXICAN BATTLE

Panama, Mexico, Dec. 26.—Three persons were killed and twenty wounded when bullets fired into a crowd that was parading the streets shouting for Zapata. The city is now quiet.

### SURRENDER OF REYES ENDS VEXING PROBLEM

Mexico City, Dec. 26.—Gen. Bernardo Reyes' surrender at Linares, yesterday, it is believed, marks the end of the most perplexing problem facing the Madero government. The Reyes following in Mexico was considered very strong for years. To his strength was attributed much apprehension of the government when he started the revolution. Reyes was formerly commander-in-chief of the army under President Diaz.

### REYES TO PRISON

Mexico City, Dec. 26.—The end of the week probably will see General Bernardo Reyes, occupying a cell in the federal district penitentiary in a portion set apart for the political prisoners. The commander of the third military zone probably will assign an escort of rurales to General Reyes and give him safe conduct to Mexico City.

### DON'T BITE OFF MORE KNOWLEDGE THAN YOU CAN CHEW

Don't bite off more knowledge than you can chew, or you may have an attack of mental indigestion.