

EX-CZAR MAY BE STILL ALIVE

HIS WHEREABOUTS KNOWN TO THE ALLIES SAYS A PROMINENT RUSSIAN TO REPORTERS

Warsaw, Dec. 24th, via Associated Press.—"There is no doubt that the Czar and his entire family are alive. I am positive of this," was the declaration made to this correspondent today by a nephew of General Skoropadski, and who has just escaped from the Ukraine, after a recent trip to Petrograd. "His whereabouts is known to an allied government. He is in a neutral country. Accounts of his murder were manufactured by Trotsky and Lenin for propaganda purposes."

Bolshevik Wants Terms

London, Dec. 27.—The Allied Governments since Christmas have again been approached by the Bolshevik government of Russia regarding terms. Their proposals have met with no response as they emanated from a government which is not recognized by the Allies. The whole Russian question is at present under discussion among the Allied conference.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS DISCUSSED IN CONGRESS

Washington, Dec. 27.—In introducing a resolution today calling on the Peace Conference to adopt President Wilson's plan for a League of Nations, Representative Britten of Illinois, Republican, said unless such a league is established, "the entire world will immediately throw into the discard the contention that America interfered in the war to make the world safe for Democracy."

Every unit of the German Navy, whether surrendered or interned, Mr. Britten continued, should form a nucleus for a world navy for patrolling duty on the high seas. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Rumor That Former German Emperor is Assassinated

Paris, 4:25 a. m.—Rumors that the former emperor of Germany has been assassinated became current in Paris, notably at the Chamber of Deputies last evening. There is not the slightest confirmation of the report up to the present.

WILCOX TAKES CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH RELATIVES

Elizabeth City, Dec. 27.—Jim Wilcox, pardoned by Governor Bickett on the previous Friday, arrived in Elizabeth City on Christmas Eve and once more at his Christmas dinner with family and friends, a free man.

When news of his pardon reached Wilcox he was at Construction, N. C., in the western part of the State, near Asheville. He left there Saturday for Raleigh where he stopped over to gather up personal belongings left at the State Prison and then came on to Elizabeth City by way of Norfolk, arriving about 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon on the train due here over two hours earlier.

The pardoned man was met at the train by members of the family and the reunion with loved ones at the Norfolk Southern depot was an affecting scene. Both of his parents are dead now, but there are two sisters in town and one aunt at Weaverville, in the lower part of the county.

Judging from the general tone of comment heard at the depot on Wilcox's arrival and about the street since the news of his pardon was received here the Christmas welcome extended him is not confined to members of his family and near relatives but is felt by the public generally. The feeling against Wilcox, once so strong here that he was allowed a second trial in another county, has died out and the general sentiment seems to be one of satisfaction at the action taken by the Governor and at the former prisoner's return to Elizabeth City.

DELEGATES FROM JAPAN

Arrive at San Francisco On Way to Paris to Attend Peace Conference

WELCOMED BY AMERICANS

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 27.—Baron Makino, after arriving here, said he was not authorized to discuss any possible policies of the mission. He added that no plans could be made for action at the peace conference until after the arrival of the peace mission at Paris and consultation there. In a formal statement upon his arrival Baron Makino said: "The terrible war is over and the victors will jointly take counsel together to make plans for and lay a new, firm and permanent foundation on which civilization and progress stayed for a time, may resume their upward and onward course. Japan will join the counsels of the wise and brave men who have won this war and will contribute her share of the labor which must be furnished for the achievement of this glorious task."

"Fifty years ago Japan entered the family of nations. Today Japan is proud to associate herself with those nations in their work for humanity."

"A new era has dawned for you and for us. A great light is seen upon the world's horizon. All of us most sincerely and earnestly hope that within its broadening sphere and larger scope, higher ideals will be conceived and, being carried out, the whole human race will live and breathe more freely."

The delegation was welcomed by Representative of the State and Navy Departments and the Japanese consul.

MARKETS

COTTON

New York, Dec. 27.—There was a somewhat reactionary feeling in the cotton market at the opening today, owing to the expenses of recent advances and a disposition to take profits for over the week-end. First prices were unchanged to 16 points lower, with the active months selling about 15 to 25 points under last night's closing figure right after the call. This reflected some scattered Southern selling, as well as realizing that the offerings were well absorbed at the decline and prices firming up against during the early trading.

Cotton futures opened steady, January 29.60, March 28.45, May 27.70, July 26.95, October 24.70.

The cotton market at noon was as follows: January 29.53, March 28.15.

Spots Wilson market middling basis 29c.

STOCKS

New York, Wall Street, Dec. 27.—Wall Street gains of one to three points in Rails, Shippings, Coppers, Oils and Utilities at the outset today were regarded as a logical reversal from the excessive bearishness of yesterday. The strongest features included Southern Pacific, Chicago and Northwestern, United Fruit, Mexican Petroleum, Texas Company, American Smelting, Hide and Leather, Preferred, and Brooklyn Transit. United States Steel was the only backward feature, yielding a fraction. Free offerings of Liberties, 4 and 1-4 "approaching their minimum" was the feature of the bond market.

Four Dead Under Automobile

Ordway, Tenn., Dec. 27.—The bodies of Charles O. Godsey and his three small children, of Bristol, were found near here under an overturned automobile. It was thought they were killed last night while out riding.

WILSON IS KING'S GUEST

London Pays Tribute to American President. Two Million People on Streets

MAKES A SHORT TALK

London, Dec. 27.—The great moment of President Wilson's visit in England was when he stood with the King and Queen and Mrs. Wilson in the balcony of Buckingham Palace yesterday, facing a multitude which stretched down the Mall to the Admiralty, half a mile distant, and overflowed St. James' Park on one side and Green Park on the other.

Greatest Ovation Ever.

Only a corporal's guard could head the President's brief speech, but the people, who had demanded that he show himself, gave him a greeting more clamorous than any other guest of the nation has commanded within the memory of the oldest Londoners. The day's events constitute a tribute to the President and the United States which will be historic. The official ceremonies—a reception by the Dover Corporation and the navy, the welcome at the station by the Royal family and the chief officials of the empire, and the state progress through the heart of London—were colored with touches of medieval pageantry even to the crimson coated beef eaters from the tower, bearing halberds, which the British people cherish.

Greatest Man Wore No Crown

That the central figure of the royal procession in quaint state carriages, attended by a military escort and household officials, should be a civilian wearing a black coat and silk hat gave a flavor of novelty to the scene.

But the assembling of the people was spontaneous. That was the chief note of the day. There had been no time to erect stands. The people simply flocked in from all quarters afoot, in motors and other vehicles.

The Plain People.

It was a gathering principally of the plain people; the others were in the country for the holidays. It was a diverse and picturesque throng such as few capitals can muster, with a large element of soldiers, among whom the colonials and Americans seemed conspicuous and popular.

The popularity of the King and Queen was again attested by the ovation given them while on their drive to meet the President. Every one agreed that London has never known another such demonstration except on great national days, when the British people have celebrated the inaugural of a new reign or a milestone in the old.

Two Million People on the Streets

It is estimated that 2,000,000 people crowded the two miles of streets through which the state procession passed. These were canopied with flags and bunting and amid the thudding of the saluting cannon the President of the United States received a popular welcome almost unprecedented in history.

The "Supreme Moment" of the Welcome.

London was not satisfied with the tumultuous greeting accorded during the ceremonial drive to Buckingham Palace, where the President and Mrs. Wilson are staying as guests of the King and Queen. Some 200,000 people, completely filling the huge semi-circular assembling place facing the palace, cheered incessantly until half an hour after the President's arrival, when he appeared in balcony beside the King. They were followed by the Queen, who waved a small American flag; Mrs. Wilson, who carried a Union Jack; Princess Mary and the Duke of Connaught. So prolonged and intense was the cheering that the President, showing great emotion, thanked in a few words the citizens of London for their great welcome.

FAIR TONIGHT AND WARMER

For North Carolina generally fair tonight and Saturday slightly warmer. Tonight in the western and central portions gentle and shifting winds.

NITRATE OF SOA PRICE FIXED

Wilmington Will Be Distribution Point for N. C. Regulations Same as Before

PRICE IS \$81 PER TON

Washington, Dec. 27.—Secretary of Agriculture David F. Houston authorized the announcement yesterday that the Department of Agriculture would distribute nitrate of soda to the farmers during the coming season. The price to the farmers will be \$81 a short ton, f. o. b. cars at the loading point or port. The port of Wilmington is the distribution agency for North Carolina, and already much nitrate is stored at this seaport town for sale to farmers.

Additional to the price of \$81 a ton, the farmer will have to pay the freight charges to unloading point and any incidental expenses that he may himself incur in connection with the delivery of the nitrate. Judging by the ultimate cost figures to the farmers, Senator Simmons and other Southern Senators failed to make effective their contentions for an unrestricted market. The highest figure heretofore placed before the War Department for its supplies was \$90 a ton, whereas the Department of Agriculture stated that in a free market the farmers ought to be able to secure the nitrate for \$75 a ton.

The distribution by the Department of Agriculture is empowered under the authority of section 27 of the food act and subsequent legislation relating thereto. The plans employed in the sale and distribution of the nitrate last year will be essentially duplicated the coming season.

LEVIATHAN SAILORS PLAY SANTA CLAUS

New York, Dec. 26.—Orphan children of New York city and Hoboken little folks at whose homes financial circumstances make Christmas a slim affair and "newsies" from the Hoboken streets and New Jersey terminals—numbering in all more than 1,200 were the guests yesterday at a real Christmas party held on board the monster American steamship Leviathan. The hosts of the occasion were the fifteen hundred or more sailors who make up the operating personnel of the ship. The expense was borne by them, and it was all planned and arranged for during the liner's recent voyage home with 8,500 American soldiers and sailors.

This reception was the first of a public nature held on the ship since the flag of Germany was lowered on the 52,000 ton vessel one year ago last April and her Teutonic name Vaterland, changed to the one she now bears. The children were from various orphan asylums with no restriction as to color or religion. Automobiles driven by army and navy transport men and women, picked up the youngsters at the doors of the institutions and transported them to the ship—taking them home again after they had been bounteously supplied with good things to eat and with gifts. Supplementing the children from the various orphanages, the sailors sought out private homes where sickness and misfortune had made itself felt this year and where the Christmas that children look forward to did not come down. These little persons were brought to the ship and returned by the bluejackets as their personal charges.

GERMANS HOPE TO REGAIN THEIR COLONIES

Washington, Dec. 27.—That the Germans hope to regain their colonies is indicated in a despatch received from Bern yesterday through official channels announcing that Dr. Dilf's recent resignation referred only to the foreign office, and that he still retains the post of secretary of the colonies. This dispatch quotes the Berlin Tageblatt as authority for the statement.

Did you ever thank God you were not the Kaiser? If not, think about it, you have lots to be thankful for.

DANIELS REVIEWS VICTORY FLEET

ELEVEN TRANSPORTS ON WAY HOME

Names of Ships and of the Division of Soldiers They Are Bringing Home

THOUSANDS RETURNING

Washington, Dec. 27.—Departure from France of eleven transports, including the Mauretania with more than 3,000 men from the 347th Infantry of the 87th Division, was announced by the War Department. The Mauretania sailed on Christmas Eve and will reach New York Monday, and most of the men aboard will be sent to Camp Dix for demobilization.

Eight hundred sick and wounded are on the Henderson, due at New York January 5, but the other vessels are bringing only a small number of men.

The transport Antigone, due at Newport News January 4, is bringing home eleven officers and eighty-five men of the 76th (New England) division, which has been used as a depot division and which has been reduced to skeleton proportions. They will be sent to Camp Devens, Mass. The 52nd Coast Artillery regiment with a number of casualties and sick and wounded also are on the Antigone.

The transport Espange, which is expected to reach New York January 2, and the Virginia, Newport News January 5, carry small detachments.

The transport Princess Matoika, which will dock at Newport News, January 2, has on board the 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 43rd Regiment, Coast Artillery, instead of the 37th Regiment as first announced.

UROTECTIVE LEAGUE WILL DIS-SOLVE

Washington, Dec. 27.—Dissolution of the American Protective League, with its membership of 250,000 and branch organizations in nearly every city and town in the country effective February 1, was announced today by the league's directors. Decision to disband, said a statement by the directors, was reached after conference with Department of Justice officials.

Attorney General Gregory in a letter written shortly after the armistice was signed asked that the organization which was formed shortly after relations were severed with Germany and which the Attorney General said, "has performed a great task," continue its activities during the period of readjustment. A canvass of the situation, the statement says, resulted in an agreement to disband February 15 with the coming of peace. "The statement declares there is no place for organized citizen espionage." Men who devoted much time and effort to the purposes of the league, said the statement, now desire to take their place in the constructive work of peace. The return of peace would soon render the problem of finance acute, the directors believe, and many local organizations will be forced to suspend.

Although the league will be disbanded, the director's statement expresses a belief that the "service of the league will not end but it will remain a potent force," through the training received by its members during the war.

GERMAN COMMERCE BY AIR ROUTE TO SWITZERLAND

Munich, Dec. 27.—The Munich Post prints a startling charge that German war profiteers, unable otherwise to get their booty out of the country have resorted to the use of airplanes. According to the newspaper several aeroplanes have taken securities of enormous value from Frankfurt to Switzerland.

The Post urges the government to seize capital where it is available, especially in banks.

TEN GREAT BATTLESHIPS, COMMANDED BY ADMIRAL MAGO, STEAMED INTO N. Y. HARBOR TODAY IN GRAND REVIEW BY SECRETARY OF NAVY

New York, Dec. 26.—Led by the superdreadnaught Arizona ten great battleships, commanded by Admiral Mayo—the vanguard of the American victory fleet in European waters, steamed majestically into New York harbor today in review by Secretary Daniels and were greeted with a tumultuous reception by harbor craft and, thousands of persons who lined the shores.

NAVAL PARADE AT NEW YORK

New York, Dec. 27.—Guns that awaited in vain the challenge of German sea power thundered yesterday in salute to the secretary of the Navy and the sovereign citizenship he represents when the flower of American battle fleet, home from the war, passed the statue of Liberty in a review staged in a setting of wind-driven snow and low-lying clouds.

Ten superdreadnaught battleships passed by the secretary on the Presidential yacht Mayflower. The din of whistles shrieked a welcome, but on the shores a vast throng watched in silence as if awed by the spectacle. As the ships dropped anchor later sunshine came through the clouds and touched the decks and the snow ceased falling.

Tenthousand sailors were hurried ashore after the dreadnaughts had reached their anchorage and assembled for a parade which took them through Fifth Avenue. They were led by secretary Daniels and the fleet commander, Admiral Mayo, riding in an automobile, and Admiral Rodman on foot.

Riding at anchor in the Hudson are twenty-one super-dreadnaughts, dreadnaughts, and ships of the line, which, with cruisers, destroyers, and a host of smaller craft, made the mightiest American armada ever assembled. Ten of the floating fortresses steamed into the harbor yesterday after eighteen months' service overseas, with Beatty's grand fleet. The others are the flower of the North Atlantic fleet. Grim guardians of a great nation, they symbolized that the United States has become the second naval power of the world.

In the teeth of a northwester, in the chill of a driving snow-storm, millions waited hours until the ten battleships of the home-coming armada appeared. This was New York's and the nation's tribute to the ships, far more eloquent than the greatest din of whistles, bell human voices. The vocal welcome came later when the rugged weather beaten tars who debarked Secretary Daniels and Admiral Mayo at their head, marched down Fifth avenue.

Leading civilians in the cheer were wounded soldiers returning from France.

Passing in review before the secretary of the Navy of the Statue of Liberty the home-coming armada loomed suddenly out of the mist as it rapidly disappeared. They seemed almost like phantom craft, grim gray, majestic in their silent might. But as they dropped anchor the skies cleared and they stood revealed in holiday attire, ablaze from stem to stern with multi-colored pennants. To many of those who lined the shores this flash of sunshine symbolized the light of peace which awaited the fleet after the gloom of war from which it had emerged.

UNION WITH RUMANIA

Washington, Dec. 27.—A report reached the State Department from Jassy that the Rumanian assembly, which last March voted for a union with Rumania with a liberal autonomy, had now voted for union without a reservation.