

Christmas in Europe



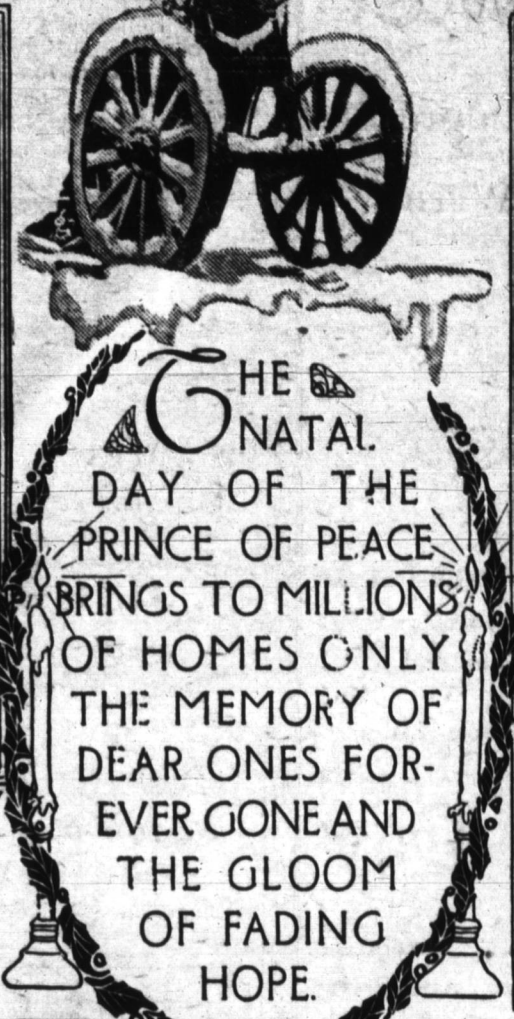
NO STOCKINGS HUNG HERE FOR SANTA

By JERLE DAVIS.

WHAT a ghastly holiday Christmas will be in Europe this year. Millions of families in mourning, millions of women and children starving, millions of homes in ruins, millions of new graves, millions of dead men that haven't even the shelter of earth, millions of square miles of fertile land laid waste by war, millions of men killing fathers, husbands, brothers, sons and sweethearts.

Belgium, Serbia, northern France and Poland are a Hades of wreckage. In Germany everyone is living on short rations and turning all energies to the pursuit of war. Even the half-grown boys of France are under arms awaiting the call to the trenches. Austria and Italy and England and Russia and Bulgaria are pouring their money into the mill that turns out guns and explosives while the poor exist in the misery of semistarvation, getting their mite of food and fuel and clothing by taking their turn in the "bread line."

All of warring Europe's able-bodied men are soldiers in one capacity or another. In the streets of all the cities and villages of the continent—excepting the little neutral nations—one sees only aged men, veterans of other wars, and maimed men who are recovering from wounds received in this one. Everywhere are hospitals.



THE NATAL DAY OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE BRINGS TO MILLIONS OF HOMES ONLY THE MEMORY OF DEAR ONES FOREVER GONE AND THE GLOOM OF FADING HOPE.



FIGHTING FOR BREAD IN POLAND



THE ORPHANS CHRISTMAS BEFORE THE WAR IN FRANCE



DISTRIBUTING CHRISTMAS PACKAGES TO ORPHANS IN FRANCE

Schools, churches, factories, homes—every sort of habitable place is filled with wounded. And one of the most flourishing enterprises over there is the sale of artificial limbs.

Even from Asia comes the wail of sorrow, for Mohammedan Turkey is religiously slaughtering its hundreds of thousands of Christian Armenian subjects. News dispatches of the last few days describe the terrible plight of refugees—penniless, ragged, hungry, diseased, noncombatants and exhausted, beaten soldiers—who are sweeping out of desolated Serbia into Greece. We read of women with children in arms spending a month tramping through the snow-covered mountains, hoping in the end to find a little warmth and food and peace. We read of frozen roadways strewn with the bodies of those that stopped on the way for a bit of rest—and never went on.

None of the hundred million of us in the United States can appreciate the horror of it all. Some of our war correspondents over there have seen and heard, but none has suffered and endured as those who are a part of the conflagration.

Santa Claus will have a sorry time abroad this year. Fathers and mothers have neither the heart nor the means of commemorating the birth of the Child of Bethlehem and his mission among men. Of necessity they and their children will fast instead of feast—if there is any feasting it will be a feast of prayer and hope.

America sent no Christmas ship abroad this year. Why not? some of us may ask. Why not?—with the United States at the height of prosperity and blessed with peace. Perhaps because we realize what a horror the war is. A prominent newspaper man in one of our large cities—a man who had much to do with the success of the project last year—had this to say when the question was brought up:

"A Christmas ship this year—a boatload or two or three boatloads of dolls and jumping-jacks and red apples and candy and cakes and mittens and red-top boots for the kids of Europe? I shall not dwell on the fact that the warring nations have become much more deadly in their hate and suspicion and probably would refuse safe passage for the cargoes from one country to another. I shall not concern myself with the fact that the nations

embroiled look upon the United States as a greedy animal growing fat and sleek feeding on their life blood, and probably would return our gifts to us with curt "No-thank-yous."

"Instead I shall confess that I am weighed down with the hopelessness of the situation. Here in America we have all we may reasonably ask of Providence—considering our own sins of politics and social injustice. Over there they are cursed beyond the power of words to describe, and the curse will be felt for generations.

"Millions in Europe are dying in the agonies of starvation, cold and disease for want of food, clothing, shelter and medical aid. What a ghastly joke it would be in these circumstances for the richest and luckiest nation to offer those millions of pitiful children a little candy and fruit when they need milk and broth, mittens when they need blankets and clothing, dolls and toy trains when they need doctors and nurses and sanitary supplies. No, this is no time for polite mementoes. Let us concentrate on giving the only real help that would suffice and that would be welcome—peace as soon as possible."

Let us look upon the manner in which Europe celebrated Christmas before the war

In France and Belgium on Christmas eve the barques, or booths, appear in the streets without hindrance, and are all ablaze with candles and glittering treasures, for every household must contain some bright trinket in honor of Noel. The midnight mass is thronged; the magnificent Christmas hymn is chanted everywhere, and then all is gleeful holiday for an hour or so, for it is Christmas morning, the peace-making morning of the world!

There is the boudin to be eaten, the calen, or Christmas lamp, symbolical of the star that guided the Magi to Bethlehem, to be lighted, the little creche to be exposed, and all happiness, all good-will to everyone to be expressed before retiring with the grand chorale of peace-sounding in the ears. In the country the lads and lassies merrily drag home the buche de Noel, corresponding to our Yule log, which is kindled by the head of the family; the boudin must be eaten and the hot spiced wine sent round, and many a misunderstanding is made clear—lead—the Christmas

fire on this, the day of good will. In Germany and Austria every housemother and every father makes Christmas the feast for the children, the great day of reunion, the glad time when all meet under the old roof-tree, and social customs prevail, over religious observances. The Christmas tree is ubiquitous—everyone has it, rich or poor—and no one omits Weihnacht's Bescheerung or Christmas gifts. To provide these, the German people will, if need be, save up half the year. Each member of the household must have something as a surprise, generally serviceable presents that are often needed and always acceptable.

Singularly enough, the Christmas is not celebrated as one would expect in Italy. There the night of the year is less a religious festival than a fair. The world seems absorbed in delirious excitement, and all crowd round Pulcinello and divert themselves hilariously till the churches claim them for the midnight mass. But the fun goes on; they laugh gleefully, as the Italians can laugh, enjoy themselves to their hearts' content, but the celebrations are not home celebrations; it is a general, not a domestic, feast.

In Russia and Poland the children put their shoes filled with hay outside the door for the horses of St. Nicholas; and it is believed in most sections that St. Nicholas comes first on a preparatory visit ten days before Christmas to learn which children have been good. He leaves nuts and candy in the shoes of those who have been good, but nothing for those who have been bad, who thus know that they may expect no presents on the real Christmas day.

In Serbia and the other Balkan countries, at dawn on the day before Christmas the sturdy peasant proprietor dispatches his sons to the forest. On reaching the spot where the destined Christmas tree stands, the axbearer offers up a prayer; then he draws on a pair of gloves, takes a handful of corn, flings it against the tree, and says, "Good morning, and a happy Christmas to you." This done, he addresses himself to the task of felling, paying careful attention to the laws of the "badnyak," which prescribes among other things that all the cuts be made on one particular side. Once felled, the tree is carried home and leaned against the east side of the house, where it remains till evening. Then the wife lights two candles and places one on either side of the doorway, while the husband goes forth to bring in the "badnyak."

The master of the house now throws three nuts into each of the four corners of the room, saying as he does so: "In the name of the Father; in the name of the Son; in the name of the Holy Ghost—Amen!"

All night everyone remains gloating over the crackling, roasting pig, with an eagerness of anticipation proportionate to the zeal with which they have observed the six weeks' fast enjoined by the Greek orthodox church. By this time Christmas day has dawned, and on Christmas everyone must go to service.

CASE IS DECIDED IN STATES FAVOR

JUDGE PEEBLES SAYS ARTIFICIALLY BLEACHED FLOUR LAW IS CONSTITUTIONAL.

DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People Gathered Around the State Capitol.

Raleigh. Judge Peebles of the superior court announced his ruling in favor of the State Department of Agriculture in the injunction proceedings instituted against the department by nearly 50 flour mills to stop the enforcement of the North Carolina statute regulating the sale of artificially bleached flour. Judge Peebles holds that the statute contains no violation of either the state or the federal constitution. It is expected that the case will be appealed to the supreme court and will likely be carried on to the United States supreme court before final settlement is reached.

The case is Liberty Mills et als, vs. North Carolina Department of Agriculture and was instituted by the flouring mills through Tillett & Guthrie of Charlotte. Judge Peebles heard the case three weeks ago, the argument for the state being by Attorney General Bickett and that for the flouring mills by T. C. Guthrie of Charlotte. Judge Peebles had reserved his ruling until now. The statute, the enforcement of which is being resisted, imposes an annual license tax of \$25 on each milling company that puts on the market flours artificially bleached. This tax is supposed to defray the expense of collecting and analyzing samples of flour being sold in the state.

Increase Shown in State Revenue. Special from Washington.—The report of Col. W. H. Osborn, commissioner of internal revenue, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, has just been made public.

Here are some of the facts about North Carolina: The collection for the state amounting to \$13,651,937.38, A. D. Watts collecting \$8,174,622.67 and J. W. Bailey \$5,477,314.71.

The total collections for 1914 were \$11,947,270.54. The cost of collecting the revenue in 1915 was: the eastern district, \$35,766.25, and the western, \$60,762.90; and in 1914 \$37,514.51 and \$66,910.97. The corporation income tax for 1915 totaled \$257,825.38 and the individual income tax, \$123,553.96.

The number of incomes returned in 1915 were 2,277; those taxable, 1,590; and in 1914 there were 2,270 returns and 1,673 were collected.

The personal income tax record for the state follows: Four hundred and fifty-two paid on \$3,000 to \$4,000; 343 on \$4,000 to \$5,000; 703 on \$5,000 to \$10,000; 169 on \$10,000 to \$15,000; 63 on \$15,000 to \$20,000; 36 on \$20,000 to \$25,000; 7 on \$25,000 to \$30,000; 16 on \$30,000 to \$40,000; 5 on \$40,000 to \$50,000; 6 on \$50,000 to \$75,000; 1 on \$75,000 to \$100,000; 1 on \$100,000 to \$150,000; 1 on \$150,000 to \$200,000; none on \$200,000 to \$250,000; 1 on \$250,000 to \$300,000; none on \$300,000 to \$400,000; 1 on \$400,000 to \$500,000, and 1 on \$500,000 and over.

Boy Bean Outlook Bright.

Before leaving Raleigh for Elizabeth City to take a hand in experimental demonstrations as to the extraction of soy bean oil by a local cotton oil mill there C. B. Williams, chief of the division of agronomy, talked confidently of the outlook for this new industry in North Carolina. He will be joined in Elizabeth City by W. J. Morse, expert of the United States department of agriculture.

Mr. Williams says the bean contains about the same amount of oil and protein as cotton seed and that at least 200 pounds of oil should be secured to the ton of beans. In addition to this, there will be around 1,800 pounds of bean meal.

Largest Orphanage Collection.

M. L. Shipman, commissioner of labor and printing and chairman of the special publicity committee of the North Carolina Orphanage Association that pushed the campaign for one day's income Thanksgiving donations to orphanages in North Carolina, says that by far the biggest revenue from this source came to the Thomasville Orphanage, this institution having received \$20,444. The other orphanages have not yet made public their receipts, but it is not believed that any of them received such an amount.

State Prison Directors Meet.

The directors of the State's Prison have held their regular December meeting. Only routine matters for the month were considered. It develops that there are now 200 state convicts assigned to the American Aluminum Company's plant at Baden. The Elkin & Alleghany Railroad Company, from which a large squad of convicts was taken for the Aluminum Works, is said to be satisfied with the squad of 54 convicts left for this railroad construction work. The prison still has on hand its 700-bale crop of cotton.

Summary of State Banking Report.

Deposits in the North Carolina State Banks increased more than \$6,000,000 during the past year and the total resources foot up \$87,606,324, compared with \$85,820,023 last year, a net gain of \$1,786,301. These are especially figures contained in the summary of reports of conditions of state savings bank and trust companies issued by the Corporation Commissioner, based on reports of November 10. The comparisons are with reports of October 31, 1914. There were reports from 417 banks including 21 branch banks. The number reporting one year ago was 422, including 13 branches.

Members of the Corporation Commission say the showing this year indicates a healthy business growth, and that the items that show decreases are about as creditable to banking progress as those that show increased figures. For instance, the item of bills payable show a decrease from \$7,567,431 to \$3,694,200, and notes and bills rediscouted show a decrease from \$1,689,824 to \$744,973, both much more sound banking.

The savings deposits at this time aggregate \$16,057,002, an increase of \$1,455,099 for the year; demand certificates of deposit total \$6,742,055, an increase of \$2,342,268; deposits subject to check, \$30,773,077, an increase of \$2,239,180; time certificates of deposit are \$8,574,518, a decrease of \$111,661. Loans and discounts are \$62,366,887, a decrease of \$2,225,293; overdrafts, \$443,019, a decrease of \$88,431; stocks and bonds and mortgages, \$2,012,655, an increase of \$65,167; banking house furniture and fixtures, \$3,009,717, an increase of \$274,965; all other real estate owned \$409,315, increase of \$23,911 demand loans, \$3,699,553, increase of \$229,873; due from banks and bankers, \$12,003,189, increase of \$2,744,387; cash items, \$694,787, increase of \$88,093; gold coin, \$438,821, increase of \$45,272; silver coin, \$632,643, increase of \$54,191; National bank notes, \$2,201,373, increase of \$380,377. The summary shows \$191,482 trust deposits, and miscellaneous funds, \$256,410, this being an increase of \$199,569.

Accrued interest due to depositors is \$238,215, an increase of \$135,877. The total capital stock is \$10,800,048, an increase of \$115,347; the fund, \$3,577,338, increase of \$315,188; undivided profits, \$3,008,516, a gain of \$239,977.

The total increase in the various stages of bank finances summarized in the report was \$4,114,923 and the total decrease \$2,374,623.

New Great Seal for State.

There has just been used for the first time in executive offices of Governor Craig a new North Carolina Great Seal. The order for this seal has been outstanding for nearly a year the one in use since 1893 having been in very bad condition for quite a while. The new seal shows the Goddess of Liberty holding a staff and with a scroll of the constitution in her hand. Ceres is facing her and holds a sheaf of wheat in her right hand while her left hand rests on the small end of a cornucopia, which is emptying the abundant products of the state. The principal difference between the old seal and the new is that the new seal shows a ship in the offing. In the background are representations of fields and mountains, the idea being to represent the commercial and agricultural activities of the state. The new seal is the eighth that North Carolina has had from the Colonial period to the present time. It is the fourth seal since the formation of the state, and the definite adoption of a State Seal by the Assembly at Halifax in December, 1776.

Barnes Secretary Agriculture Board.

K. W. Barnes will be secretary to the state board of agriculture on and after January 1. Announcement of this effect was made by Commission W. A. Graham, on his arrival in the city, after a 10-days' absence in Charlotte, Columbia and Charleston. Mr. Barnes, whose home is at Lucama, Wilson county, served for six years as a member of the state board of agriculture.

Good Leaf Tobacco Sales.

Forty-seven North Carolina leaf tobacco markets sold during November 44,975,363 pounds of leaf tobacco, compared with 44,206,824 pounds sold during November, 1914. Of the sales the past month 39,249,071 pounds were first-hand sales for growers.

Union Station Company Chartered.

A charter was issued for the Winston-Salem Union Station Company \$125,000 authorized and \$30,000 subscribed for erecting and maintaining a commodious union station and leasing it or railroad companies or individuals for union station purposes, including passenger mail and express service, telephone and telegraph offices and operation of bus and automobile lines. The incorporators are L. E. Johnson, N. D. Maher, W. G. MacDowell, A. C. Needles, L. H. Cocks and F. T. Brinkley.

Confer About Derby School.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joyner spent a day at Jackson Springs in conference with Roger Derby and trustees of the Derby Memorial district school, created under special act of the 1915 legislature. This is a school provided by Roger Derby, the district being made up of portions of Montgomery and Richmond counties. The school is not yet organized, but is to include the grammar school, high school and farm life school features that will prove a great benefit to the state.