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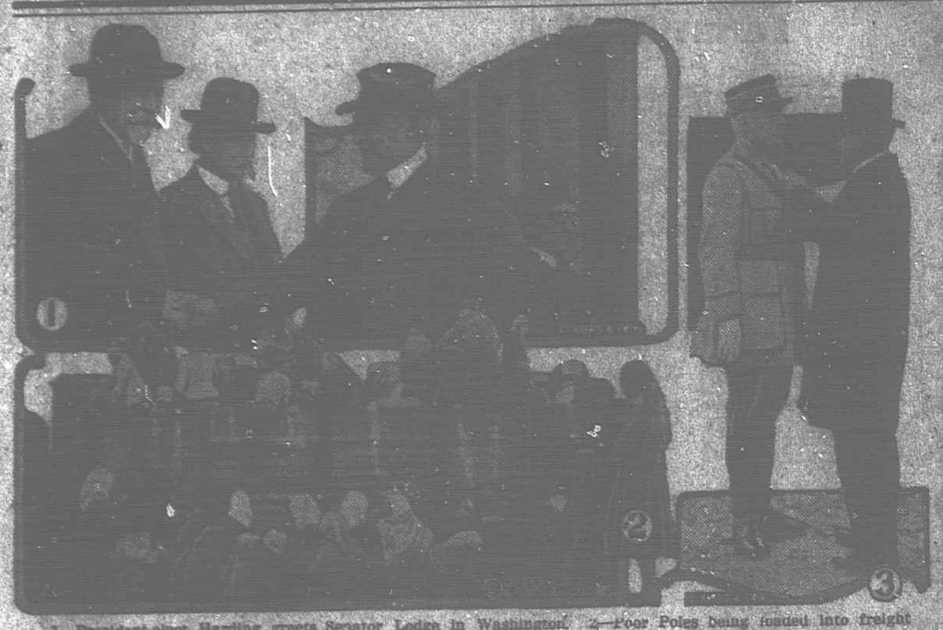

1—President-elect Harding greets Senator Lodge in Washington. 2—Poor Poles being loaded into freight cars to get them out of the typhus-stricken regions. 3—General Nivelle of France being decorated by Secretary Baker with the American Distinguished Service medal.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

President Urges Independence for the Philippines and a Loan to Armenia.

BOTH OPEN TO OBJECTION

Canadian Delegate Stirs League Assembly by Scoring European Statesmanship—Attacks on Article X—Prospects for Irish Settlement Good, Says Lloyd George.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

[illegible] this job again, with [illegible] of a budget and the restriction of immigration. President-elect Harding, who occupied his seat in the senate for a day or two, urged upon his colleagues the need of quick and nonpartisan work, and intimated that an extra session would be called soon after his inauguration.

President Wilson was desirous of appearing in person before congress to deliver his message, but was dissuaded at the last minute by his physicians and the document was read by the clerks. In his opening generalizations Mr. Wilson said autocracy was again to the fore in Europe, and that it was up to the United States to save democracy by giving an example of its successful operation, enacting and enforcing just laws and "standing for right and justice as toward individual nations." Aside from domestic matters he made just five specific recommendations. The first was that a large loan be made to Armenia, the money to be expended under the supervision of an American commission. Compliance of congress with this request is made somewhat doubtful by recent developments in Armenia, where the Russian Reds are now in almost complete control and have set up a soviet government. The President also advised that complete independence be granted at once to the Philippines. This, too, will be opposed by many congressmen who do not agree with Mr. Wilson that the people of the islands have succeeded in maintaining a stable government. Probably most of our law-makers would be glad to get rid of the Philippines, however, if it were not for the proposition that we should guarantee their independence, a policy that likely would involve us in serious complications, if not wars, in the not distant future.

The President recommended the early adoption of a budget system, the institution of rigid economy in government expenditures, better care for disabled soldiers, revision and simplification of the tax laws and protection for the agricultural industry—all of which meets the approval of most of the people.

The message made no mention of the League of Nations but the prediction was made in Washington that Mr. Wilson would lay the treaty and covenant before the senate again, discharged and would continue the fight for ratification up to the moment of his retirement from the White House, and afterward as a private citizen. Another matter which he omitted from his message was the restriction or stopping of immigration. This was taken to mean that if congress passed a drastic act he would veto it.

Withdrawal from the League of Nations Assembly by the Argentine delegation caused a lot of talk, in Geneva and elsewhere, but it didn't disrupt the gathering by any means. Indeed, Pueyrredon and his colleagues found they had put themselves in a rather ridiculous position and the chief retired to Paris, disappointed but still defiant. Their argument that proposed amendments to the covenant should be discussed and acted on at this session was upheld by the Scandinavians and certain others, but their action in quitting because they found themselves in the minority on the question was not approved by anyone, and was attacked by some of the Buenos Aires papers. Pueyrredon stated that his mission in Paris was to consult with Senator McCormick of Illinois in the hope that the United States and Argentina would become the leaders of a movement to give to the world a substitute for the present league.

Wednesday's session of the assembly was enlivened by a hot speech by Newton Rowell of Canada in opposition to the article of Mr. Pueyrredon [illegible] permission that health quarters, and to be supported financially by the league, as is the labor bureau. The labor bureau's budget for the coming year is 7,000,000 gold francs, and Mr. Rowell protested that nations like Canada would not agree to be saddled with the immense additional expense that the three proposed commissions would require. Nor could such nations afford to send their best technicians each year to the conference, he said, and consequently the problem involved would be handled exclusively by European nations, which would not at all suit Canada. "Why," he cried, "do you think we should have confidence in European statesmen and leaders when it was European policy, statesmanship and ambition that drenched the world in blood?" Senator Millen of Australia warmly supported Rowell, and Lord Robert Cecil's compromise, that the existing international health organization continue, under league supervision, and the other two be abandoned, was adopted.

Earlier in the week another Canadian, Minister of Justice Doherty, proposed an amendment to the covenant that would erase article X, and though he was forced to yield to the assembly's determination to put over until next year action on amendments; he made a bitter protest against domination of the league's affairs by the council. On Wednesday Lord Robert Cecil took another wallop at article X, offering a motion to relieve members of the league from obligations laid on them by that article. When France, Holland, Sweden and Czecho-Slovakia objected the proposal was referred to the legal section, apparently to ascertain if the league could make reservations on its own covenant. The assembly committee on new members decided in favor of admitting Finland and Luxemburg, but deferred action on Albania and the Baltic states.

Considerable time was devoted by the assembly to discussing the war on typhus in the Near East. Several delegates appealed to the world to stamp out the scourge that is gradually spreading over Europe, and good progress was made in raising the 250,000 pounds sterling necessary to set the campaign in motion.

Despite the knowledge that the resolution of Venizelos would cut Greece off from all political and financial support by the great powers, the Greek citizens went out to the polls and flung that little people had voted in favor of his return, and invited him to resume the throne. Premier Rhallis of course recognizes the seriousness of the situation, but probably he is the most cool the circulars of the people. Early had a story to the effect that Quarantine plague to overcome the terrible troubles of the country. Greece offers the best connections for [illegible] Asia Minor, Russia, Turkey, Persia, Africa, Italy and Egypt. Athens has an excellent hotel, and the city is supported financially by the league, as is the labor bureau. The labor bureau's budget for the coming year is 7,000,000 gold francs, and Mr. Rowell protested that nations like Canada would not agree to be saddled with the immense additional expense that the three proposed commissions would require. Nor could such nations afford to send their best technicians each year to the conference, he said, and consequently the problem involved would be handled exclusively by European nations, which would not at all suit Canada. "Why," he cried, "do you think we should have confidence in European statesmen and leaders when it was European policy, statesmanship and ambition that drenched the world in blood?" Senator Millen of Australia warmly supported Rowell, and Lord Robert Cecil's compromise, that the existing international health organization continue, under league supervision, and the other two be abandoned, was adopted.

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[illegible] Feis, also [illegible] a message to the premier concerning a truce, and the cabinet, considering this, was reported to have decided on a reply embodying these terms: "No amnesty, no republic, and a cessation from the present campaign of outrage and murder."

Sir Horace Plunkett, chairman of the Dublin peace convention, sailed for New York to appear before the American committee of inquiry, and before starting said: "I see no hope of a truce in Ireland nor any hope in the overtures reported in the press. There cannot be peace while there is frightfulness on both sides. In my judgment the British government is blamable."

The American committee heard one of its star witnesses, Mrs. Terence MacSwiney, widow of the lord mayor of Cork, whose appearance before it was very interesting though probably her views on the Irish problem are given an exaggerated value. She was preceded by her sister-in-law, Miss Mary MacSwiney, who told a long story of the wrongs of her country, and freely admitted that in 1916 Ireland turned to Germany for arms and would have accepted from that nation all the help it could get. This she justified by the assertion that Ireland was "at war with England." Because of that "war" she defended all the killings of British policemen and soldiers, while in the same breath she denounced the killing of Irishmen by the English.

The American committee's delegates named to go to Ireland for a first-hand investigation cannot go. They obtained their passports, but the British embassy in Washington refused to vise them for the stated reason that "the proposed visit to British territory is not advisable in his majesty's government."

Delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation in Indianapolis adopted a resolution asking congress to prohibit short selling in agricultural products on the Chicago board of trade. Banking and commercial interests were asked to cooperate in their efforts to get immediate relief from the present economic conditions by the extension and renewal of notes. The legislative bureau of the federation will make a special study of rural personal credit. The Capper-Tincher act was approved and an amendment was asked to increase the loan limit from $10,000 to $25,000.

E. W. Thomson of Chicago, heading a delegation of farm mortgage bankers, told the senate agriculture committee that bankruptcy was threatened in many quarters through the farmer's being called upon to carry an undue share of the burden of deflation. He urged that the war finance corporation be revived to take over the loan in order to prevent business chaos and save the future food supply of the country and the world.

[illegible]

MANY EMPLOYEES IN CIVIL SERVICE

TOTAL NUMBER CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES DURING LAST JULY WAS 631,116.

MAXIMUM NEARLY A MILLION

A Tabulation of the Army of Workers Fixes Average Age as Twenty-Eight, and Salary $1,176.

Washington.—One person out of every 159 in the entire country was on the government civil service pay roll last July 31, the civil service commission declared in its annual report. The commission adds that of those estimated by the census as employed in gainful occupations in the country, one in every 68 was a government worker.

The total number of civil service employees last July, the commission says, was 631,116 and the government was using them in approximately 1,400 different kinds and grades of work.

There are almost a million government employees at the height o fthe world war, the commission asserts and adds that pre-war figures of some 480,000 in 1916 probably never again will be reached. The commission declares that an "altogether rosy picture can not be painted" of the government's personnel situation.

A partial tabulation of the great army of government employes fixes the average age at 28.4 years and the average salary at $1,176 a year, exclusive of the $240 yearly bonus which many of the employes receive.

Woodmen to Disburse Fund.

Omaha.—Woodmen of the World in all parts of America will share in the distribution of $1,250,000 during the month of January. Announcement has been made that each policy holder will be credited with an amount equal to one month's premium. Fraternal [illegible] point to a substantial growth of the Woodmen insurance feature.

Anti-Constantine Demonstration

Constantinople.—As a result of anti-Constantine demonstrations, which have culminated in disturbances, the allied police have forbidden the playing of the Venizelist anthem in theaters and other public places in Constantinople.

Motorcycle Kills Two.

Freeport, N. Y.—When their motorcycle ran over an embankment near here William Cameron, 25 of Miami, Fla., was instantly killed and his dance's brother, Lester Smith, so badly injured that he died in a Mineola hospital.

Ireland in a State of War.

Dublin.—A proclamation declaring that "the public must at once realize that Ireland is in a state of war with forces of the British crown," has been issued over the signature of the officer commanding troops of the Irish Republican army at County Monaghan.

Japs Hold Mass Meeting.

Tokio.—A large mass meeting of students, members of the Students' League of Japan, was held here. A resolution protesting to the world in the name of "justice and humanity" against the anti-Japanese law in California was adopted.

Bank Robbery in Oklahoma.

Tulsa, Okla.—Robbers smashed the vault of the First State bank of Shamrock and escaped with approximately $50,000 in cash without leaving a clue.

German Ex-Empress is Better.

Doorn, Holland.—Former Empress Augusta Victoria of Germany, continues to improve in health, but her condition still is critical.

To Resist Wage Reduction.

New York.—Reports from mill centers give great indication that wage reductions announced for December 20 by large cotton manufacturing plants will be resisted.

National Baseball Agreement.

New York.—The tentative draft of the proposed new national baseball agreement which is to be the government of the sport, was accepted by the major and minor league committees which have been working on the document.

Constantine is On His Way.

Lucerne.—Preparations have been completed for the departure of Tino Constantine and his family for Venice on the stage of their journey to Athens.

Fall of Adobe Expected.

Copenhagen.—The Russian Soviet government is expected to fall in the hope of securing peace with the Russian people from being [illegible] the fall of the soviet is regarded as inevitable.

Memory Bells

By Agnes G. Brogan

CONNIE looked down to the busy street, through a blur of snowflakes. At least, Connie told herself determinedly that snowflakes were accountable for the blur; then, she wiped her eyes.

"It's Merry Christmas time," Connie said to her old yellow cat. "Who ever heard of Christmas without the Merry? So cheer up, Prowler, and let's join in the game."

At the little "Shoppe" just around the corner she stood longest of all. And all at once into Connie's bright eyes came a speculative light. The window was full of small framed pictures, most of them with the Christmas spirit. There were the usual night-clad children looking up broad chimneys, there were landscapes of snowy fields with distant windows alight—Connie studied them all; she was seeing in vision the winding hill road of the place where she had spent her last summer vacation; the church with its swaying bell in the steeple, the queer little bridge over the deep and beautiful stream—a bridge with seats along its sides where countless lovers had sat and courted. The old lady who had been Connie's volunteer hostess told her, with the pink coming and going in her withered cheeks, about the lovers. For it was there that her own husband had asked, and had been answered—his question. The way that Connie had chanced to visit this beautiful country place and to meet there the dear old lady was quite remarkable chance too. She had started out on the trolley car for one restful day in the country and had chosen this station at random. And [illegible] Mr. Hubert Armstrong came directly to business.

"Your sketches have for me a double interest, Miss Carroll," he said.

"You have drawn remarkably some of the happiest scenes of my boyhood. Scenes which I am ashamed to say I had half forgotten. The world of business absorbs much of human kindness I am afraid, and sometimes a struggle for success causes us to leave much that is tender behind. I am grateful to you for awakening in me that tenderness which had almost buried."

The man's voice broke huskily. He drew forth an old sitting-room picture.

"Peace on Earth" was the name she had given it.

"That," said Hubert Armstrong, "is the living room of my home in Hillcrest—the place where I was born. This white-haired woman's profile is the peaceful profile of my long-lost mother. That little bulging stocking might have been my own stocking, just as it used to hang there years ago— Tell me—" his tone was eager, "how did you come by your dream?"

"I visited last summer," Connie told him, "in that same old house in Hillcrest with Mrs. Martha Snow, who invited me."

The man nodded hestily.

"I see," he said, "it is quite simple after all. Martha Snow is my mother's widowed sister." A dull red crept to his cheek.

"I had almost forgotten that Aunt Martha asked me years ago to allow her to continue on in the old homestead. It was left mine by will. So she's there yet, and the church bell still chimes out for Christmas!

"You have sounded the memory bells for me, Miss Carroll."

It seemed that the purchaser had almost forgotten her in his musings. Now that she looked at him closely his face was threaded by lines of care, his fine eyes sorrowful beneath their sternness. Connie put forth a friendly hand.

"Why," she said, "so you are Martha Snow's nephew. Then there can be no question of bargain between us, the pictures are freely yours."

The man spoke abruptly.

"You paint to sell do you not?" he asked. "Isn't that what your studio is for?"

Connie shook her head ruefully.

"Mostly," she replied, "my studio is just to live in."

"And you live alone?"

That her responsible mate broke forth.

"Unless," she added, "you would count Prowler." She caught the cat in her arms.

"I—live—alone—too," Hubert Armstrong said slowly.

"I know what it means. There's not much difference between the gilded walls of an apartment and these walls of yours here."

"Not when it comes to loneliness," Connie agreed. "We were going to look much more cheerful," she went on, "when you interrupted us with your knock. I was climbing the ladder to hang a holly wreath."

Connie Studied Them All.

"Let me do it for you," the man said. Before she could could refuse his assistance he was on the ladder, the wreath in his hands.

"That's better," Connie told him as side by side they stood looking up at the crimson berries.

"It's the first time in years," Hubert Armstrong said with a boyish laugh, "that I've done that sort of thing. Gives me a thrill of old Christmas. Makes me wish for a fireplace with a filled stocking before it. The fireplace of your picture makes me long to go skating on a creek—Yonder creek back at Hillcrest. Makes me want to taste turkey again over the old dining-room table."

"Yes!" breathed Connie, "and hear the church bell ring out across the snow."

Eager-eyed the man gazed into those other eager eyes beneath his own.

"Let's do it," he said immediately. "Let us have a real, joyful old-fashioned sort of Christmas. You and I back at Aunt Martha's. I will call her on the phone. It would delight her, too."

"It would be just peace on earth," Connie said happily.

[illegible] Christmas Eve as a good [illegible] the attic window [illegible] down through the [illegible] "Good tidings," whispered Connie [illegible] the old moon [illegible] [illegible] promise of happy [illegible] to come.

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RECORD OF STILL SEIZURES BROKEN

THE COST TO GOVERNMENT OF ROUTING OUT CONTRABAND IS COVERED BY SALES.

A HEAVY SNOW AT ASHEVILLE

No Information as To Building of a Double Track Railway to Morristown is Yet Available.

Asheville.—All past records of local Federal prohibition agents, or even the old revenue raiders, have been shattered by the work of the Federal agents working out of Asheville under the direction of J. Henry Reed, agent-in-chief, who reports that approximately 700 stills, together with thousands of gallons of beer, have been captured and destroyed.

In addition to this the agents have seized several hundreds of gallons of whiskey, which was poured out; wagons, buggies, automobiles, horses, mules, harness, hay, grain and other things. All of these articles have been sold and out of the proceeds of the sales the government realized enough money to pay the agents for their salaries.

Asheville experienced the heaviest snow of the winter, but it has been impossible to measure it, owing to the wet ground, which caused the snow to melt as fast as it fell.

Officials of the Southern railway here have not been informed of the specific plans for the building of a double track between Asheville and Morristown, Tenn.

Greensboro.—Judge James E. Boyd cleared the Federal court docket of four-fifths of its criminal cases when with one swoop of judicial dignity he declared the Volstead act by implication repeals the previous internal revenue laws. The decision automatically released 189 defendants charged with blockading offenses before the new act became effective. The [illegible] room was [illegible] trick Attorney [illegible] had appealed to the district court from the decision.

Charlotte.—Electing J. W. Grimes of Asheville as Honorary potentate, succeeding Julian Pierce, of Greensboro, and moving up the official line one step, with Gene Graham placed on the bottom run, as outer guard, Oasis Temple, shrine, dispensed business cares and went into the mid-winter ceremonials devoting practically ,the remainder of the day to music and mirth.

Raleigh.—The supreme court upholds the judgement of the Mecklenburg county jury which awarded $10,000 to Mrs. Lacy Crowell from her husband, W. J. Crowell, for actual and punitive damages at the May 1920, term of superior court, because the husband infected his wife with a "vile and loathesome disease."

Salisbury.—The state livestock associations opened their ninth annual meeting here with sessions in the courthouse, with the largest exhibit of purebred poultry ever shown in the state, in the entire floor space of the big McCanless tobacco. Thirteen hundred birds are on exhibition.

Raleigh.—Persistent rumors that members of the international reform bureau, the national anti-vice squad or a similar organization having for its purpose the purification of cities in the United States are visiting in the capital city this week cannot be verified.

Lenoir.—A big creamery, cold storage and packing plant is almost assured for Lenoir, according to Secretary Joy of the chamber of commerce, who have been working on the project for several weeks. Mr. Joy finds that the farmers of the county are enthusiastic over the project.

Good Roads for Hickory.

Hickory.—Hickory business men expect to be well represented at the hearings in Raleigh during the session of the general assembly in the interest of good roads and it is the present intention to stay on the job until hard surface highways are made available to the state. Intense interest in permanent highways has always been felt among a few individuals in this section, but it is now believed that practically the majority of people are favorable to the proposition, their eyes having been opened.

Murder Suspect Arrested.

Fayetteville.—One arrest in connection with the death of J. W. Collins, found dead beside the A. C. L. railroad tracks here, was made here a few days ago.

The man placed under arrest for investigations is a negro who is said to have accompanied Collins into the northern section of the city, near the place where the body was found. No information was given out by the officers but it is said that Collins had a large roll of money on his person.