Weather Forecast for Kentucky: Fair, colder Monday; Tuesday fair.

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All Neutrals To Join In Peace Move

Switzerland Issues Note In Which It Offers To Aid In Any Way To End Titanic Struggle

OTHER DOCUMENTS ARE EXPECTED SOON

"Meritorious Personal Initiative of Wilson Will Find Mighty Echo"

FRENCH PRESS FIRM

Lincoln's Rejection of Napoleon's Intervention During Civil War Cited

AMSTERDAM, VIA LONDON, Dec. 24.—Announcing that the Swiss minister at Berlin is about to present Switzerland's peace note to the Imperial German Counsellor, the Vossische Zeitung says that peace notes from other neutral countries are expected in the course of the week.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Switzerland, in a note to all the warring powers, has announced its support of President Wilson's appeal for a discussion of peace terms, saying "it would consider itself happy if it could act in any, no matter how modest a way, for the reapproachment of the people now engaged in the struggle, and for a lasting peace."

The note was sent to the belligerents Friday by the Swiss Federal Council, and Dr. Paul Ritter, minister of Switzerland here, presented a copy to the State Department yesterday. Secretary Lansing made it public tonight. The translated text follows:

"The President of the United States of America, with whom the Swiss Federal Council, guided by its warm desire that the hostilities may soon come to an end, has, for a considerable time, been in touch, had the kindness to appraise the Federal Council of the peace note sent to the Central and Entente Powers. In this note President Wilson discusses the great desirability of international agreements for the purpose of avoiding more effectively and permanently the appearance of catastrophes such as the one under which the people are suffering today. In this connection he lays particular stress on the necessity of bringing about the end of the present war. Without making peace proposals himself or offering mediation, he confines himself to sounding as to whether mankind may hope to have approached the haven of peace.

Wilson's Initiative Lauded.

"The most meritorious personal initiative of President Wilson will find an echo in Switzerland. True to the obligations rising from observing the strictest neutrality, united by the same friendship with the states of both warring groups of powers, situated like an island amidst the seething waves of the terrible world war, with its ideal and material interests most sensibly jeopardized and violated, our country is filled with a deep longing for peace, and ready to assist by its small means to stop the endless suffering caused by the war and brought before its eyes by daily contact with the interned, the severely wounded and those expelled, and to establish the foundations for a beneficial cooperation of the peoples.

Any Aid Possible Offered

"The Swiss Federal Council is therefore glad to seize the opportunity to support the efforts of the President of the United States. It would consid-

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CHRISTMAS AT LINCOLN SCHOOL

Christmas was celebrated at Lincoln School well in advance. And this time there was something for every one of the more than 300 children in school, though the limited amount of wherewithal had to be "ground exceedingly small" to do it.

But these children are learning early that you can't eat your cake and have it, too, and they take what is their portion in a perfect spirit and don't repine for the flesh pots of Egypt. For instance, the older children, the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades, took theirs in a sliding party Monday evening with a hot picnic supper in the school house afterward. Then they never said a word about oranges and candy at the Christmas tree for they knew they had had what was coming to them.

The Chi Omega girls of Hamilton College saw to the kindergarten children; there were oranges and candy and a doll—if she was a girl—or a cannon or some instrument of warfare—if he was a boy—for every kindergarten child. The first grade had candy and oranges, and a book for each one, which is to stay in the school room and be a school library on the shelves which the manual training class has made. Then each child will really own all the books, it is explained, and the year's Christmas gift will last longer—and strange to say the children were delighted with the idea.

The Kappa Kappa Gamma girls of State University, supplied twenty-one stockings for the second grade and the other ten necessary were gotten together. Each stocking had a toy, an apple and nuts and candy. The third and fourth grades had to be satisfied with candy and oranges; but the Out-Door children also had a special dispensation from outside friends and had a toy, (if they were little) and a crochet needle and materials by special request (if they were older).

But there were many joyful things besides the presents. In the first place the "house committee" and others went to the river in the Elmendorf truck and got the greens, and then altogether they decorated the auditorium. All day Thursday the school was a community center, if ever a school was one. In the morning there was a James Lane Allen celebration, when the mothers came to see their children act. They made charades of the names of Mr. Allen's books and stories, and it almost seemed as if he had chosen his titles for that purpose; "The Bride of the Mistletoe," "Flute and Violin," "Two Gentlemen of Kentucky" (one white and one delightfully blacked for the occasion), "The Choir Invisible," (which sang, of course, behind the scenes). In the afternoon the mothers came back again to see how the "company" liked the children's acting, and before the Christmas tree there was a play, "King Solomon of Kentucky." The older children read the story and then adapted it, writing the dialogue, and the younger children did the acting. There were songs and recitations and then the Christmas tree burst upon a darkened scene in all its glory of tinsel and red electric bulbs (which the school owns for the first time this year). And the auditorium was filled throughout with happy children and proud parents.

It will be good when every public school in town has an auditorium and is a "community center." Then Margaret Wilson herself, daughter of the President though she be, can't give us any good advice!

VILLA FORCES HOLD TORREON

Official Reports to Washington Say Bandits Entered City Friday

FOREIGNERS UNHURT

General Talamante Had Only Small Garrison, Say Refugees at El Paso

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Official reports to the State Department today from border and Mexican interior points said Villa bandits yesterday occupied Torreon. No details of the action were given except that many foreigners, anticipating that the attack would be successful, had departed before the bandits entered.

REPORTS BELIEVED ON BORDER.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 24.—A State Department representative who received similar information said he considered it reliable. The fight which preceded the town's occupation by Villa troops began at 4 a. m. Friday, it was said.

His source confirmed the statement that Villa had not harmed any foreign property and had given guarantee to the foreigners still remaining in the city. Villa was not at Torreon in person, it was said, as he was in the vicinity of Bermajillo yesterday.

The report that Villa forces had occupied Torreon was accepted here as a fact today by Americans who have been watching developments in Mexico. The reports from Torreon brought by the refugees from Parral were that General Talamante has only a comparatively small garrison and the fact that the Americans left before the attack started was taken to indicate the apparent inability of the Carranza forces to withstand the attack.

TORREON RAILROAD CENTER.

(By United Press.)

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 24.—Villa today is in possession of Torreon, the most important railway center in Northern Mexico. At 1 o'clock yesterday the bandits marched into the city.

In an early morning assault yesterday the Villistas had met with a brief resistance from the Carranzista garrison from the abandoned city.

Authentic reports of the fall of Torreon were obtained by United States

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GERMANS TAKE ANOTHER TOWN

Russians and Roumanians Continue To Fall Back In Dobrudja Region

ARTILLERY AT WORK

Czar's Men are Aggressors In Carpathians—Capture Austro-German Positions

(By Associated Press.)

The forces of the Teutonic Allies in the Dobrudja region of Roumania are still hammering hard the Russian and Roumanian lines in the north. The town of Isakishe, on the east bank of the Danube opposite Braila, has been captured by the invaders, who are also keeping up their operations in the region of Tultcha, seeking to make secure the bridgehead for operation against Southern Bessarabia. The northern bank of the Danube is being vigorously shelled from this latter sector by the artillery of the Central Powers.

In Galicia and in the Carpathian Mountains considerable activity still prevails, with the Russians as aggressors. In the Carpathians the Russians have captured several Austro-German positions, and farther soul near the Transylvania frontier have taken a ridge from them.

The third Christmas of the war, except in Roumania, finds the belligerent forces still well entrenched and using their artillery as the chief method of warfare. Only small infantry engagements are reported from any of the fronts.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—An Amsterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says:

"Prefacing an evidently inspired leading editorial with the statement that Germany does not desire to create a feeling of revenge in Russia, which would provoke another war," the Cologne Gazette declares that Germany intends to restore the Russian Baltic provinces, but that Russia must recognize that the new situation created in Poland cannot be changed. The paper argues that in taking Poland, Germany was really rendering a service to Russia and that, deprived of Poland, Russia will form a united and homogeneous empire.

Germany will never allow Russia to possess Constantinople.

Merry Christmas

Christmas Cheer Is Broad Cast in N. Y.

Tree of Light in Madison Square Garden; World Peace Prayers; Police Station's Mecca.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—When the great "tree o flight" flashed into lite in Madison Square Garden at 6 o'clock tonight the official celebration of Christmas was begun in New York. Trumpet calls toward the four corners of the earth by trumpeteers in white and gold were answered by an Indian chant and carols from a volunteer chorus of 1,000 voices as the lights were turned on.

Six hours later prayers for world peace were offered at midnight mass in the Roman Catholic Church of the city.

But the distribution of Christmas cheer for the city's poor did not wait for nightfall. Police stations throughout the greater city were literally transformed into great storehouses for gifts of all descriptions intended for the needy. Trees had been provided in some of the station houses, while others were decorated with Christmas greens and flags.

Of the approximately 25,000 children whose hearts were gladdened by the police, many were crippled from the epidemic from infantile paralysis last summer. Most of these children came from the tenements and but for the police they probably would have gone without toys and other holiday gifts.

LINER, LOST, AFRAID TO CALL FOR HELP, BELIEF

Vauban Brings No News Of Voltaire, Ten Days Overdue From Liverpool

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The arrival here today of the Lamport & Holt liner, Vauban, from Liverpool, via Halifax, brought no information to throw light on the mystery of the fate of the missing steamship Voltaire, of the same line. The Vauban left Liverpool ten days after the Voltaire and it was hoped in marine circles that she might bring some word of the ship.

Officials of the Vauban said they first learned the Voltaire was overdue when they reached Halifax. It was believed that some accident to her machinery had delayed her and fear of attracting German submarines had prevented her from calling for help by wireless.

RUMORS OF DYNAMITING AND WRECKING DENIED

Saltillo Quiet, Passengers Say After Arrival At Laredo, Texas

LAREDO, Tex., Dec. 24.—Rumors reaching Eagle Pass yesterday that Coahuila Hotel, at Saltillo, had been dynamited, resulting in the killing or injuring of many Carranza officers, were denied by passengers reaching the border here tonight from Saltillo. They reported Saltillo quiet when they left yesterday.

Bandits attempting to blow up a train at Gomez, Flarias, near Saltillo, December 21, failed, according to passengers reaching here tonight from interior Mexico. Yesterday's report that many persons had been killed was declared untrue.

The outlaws, it was stated tonight, removed a rail from the track, derailing the locomotive and two coaches. The engineer and fireman were crushed to death, but Constitutionalist groups on the train succeeded in routing the bandidts without further loss of life.

DR. DIXON TRANSFERRED TO BOARD OF CHARITIES.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 24.—Governor Stanley will appoint Dr. Arch Dixon, of Henderson, a member of the State Board of Control of Charitable Institutions to succeed Judge W. T. Figg, of Shelbyville, deceased. Dr. Dixon is a member of the State Tuberculosis Commission and his appointment to the Board of Control will create a vacany on that board.

BRECKINRIDGE LONG TIPPED AS ASSISTANT TO LANSING

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Breckinridge Long, of St. Louis, probably will be nominated by President Wilson as assistant Secretary of State to succeed John E. Osborne, of Wyoming, who resigned recently. Mr. Long is a lawyer and has taken a prominent part in politics as a Democrat.

Glad Tidings From Here and There

CHRISTMAS SONGS EXCHANGED ACROSS RIO GRANDE; SOLDIERS, IN BORDER CAMP, SING "SILENT NIGHT"

EAGLE PASS, Tex., Dec. 24.—Mexico sang to the United States and the United States sang to Mexico in an unusual Christmas celebration here tonight when a member of the choir of the Piedras Negras Roman Catholic Church, standing on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, sang the first stanza of the "Adeste Fideles" ("Come Ye Faithful"), the second stanza being immediately picked up by a member of the choir of the Eagle Pass Church of Our Lady of Refuge, on the Texas bank of the international boundary. Alternating in this manner, the entire hymn was sung.

In the local Roman Catholic Church, regular soldiers and Tennessee and Maryland guardsmen sang 'Silent Night."

PRESIDENT AND MRS. WILSON JOIN CHILDREN IN THE STREET IN SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The President and Mrs. Wilson attended a community Christmas Eve celebration here today and for more than an hour stood on the steps of the Treasury Department singing Christmas carols with several thousand men, women and children. With them were Frances B. Sayre and Mrs. Sayre. Miss Margaret Wilson was one of the leaders of the singing and Secretary McAdoo and Mrs. McAdoo stood with with her.

The celebration, held under the auspices of the Washington Playgrounds Association, was participated in by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Afterward groups of the boys and girls went to their own neighborhood, and sang Christmas carols.

The President had not planned to attend, but just before the singing began he walked over from the White House with members of his family. He was handed a sheet of music and joined in singing. In intervals he and Mrs. Wilson talked with the children and wished them a merry Christmas.

This morning the President and his wife went to church and in the evening they visited relatives. A large Christmas tree has been put up on the second floor of the White House for tomorrow's celebration in which Josephine Cothran, the President's grandniece, and Ellen McAdoo, granddaughter, will be the principal figures.

A CHRISTMAS BABY IN LEXINGTON—WILL YOU HELP?

(By M. McD. Breckinridge)

It is more than twenty centuries since a baby was born in a manger. We thrill today at the pathos of it.

A few weeks ago a baby was born in Lexington. When the city doctor summoned a visiting nurse, she found the mother on a dirty mattress, with two other dirty baby children crawling over her. The mother had no sheets or gowns, no baby clothes for the new baby. The nurse heated the water and bathed each member of the family in turn, the Baby Milk Supply furnished baby clothes for the newcomer, and the Public Health Nursing Association provided sheets and gowns. There is a desultory or intermittent husband.

Are we proud that after twenty centuries of civilization a new baby comes into the world at Christmas time in the heart of the Bluegrass to find the world like that?

Something is at fault, our machinery for dealing with delinquents, our ability to fit the man to the job or the job to the man, our willingness as a community to help to bear the burdens of the sick and aflicted. With us the State takes no thought of such situations, there are no maternity funds and sick benefits—though a workmen's compensation law indicates the first step. Relief must come in such emergencies of wretchedness through private agencies having some public support.

Such an agency is the Public Health Nursing Association. It cannot pauperize, for it gives no relief, except nursing and sanitary care and supplies for the sick. And it searches for causes and tries to prevent, by popular education and the application of the things the medical men and scientists have found out for us, the recurrence in the future of such wretchedness as it is today seeking to alleviate only.

Will you help it to maintain its nurses and to furnish its supplies for the sick?

In the warmth and joy of your own comfortable home today, in the riot of material things that you see around you in this year of prosperity, does not your heart move you to help to bear the burden of sickness that now falls too heavily on the workers and the poor? This is one of the ways to do it.

CREW OF UNIDENTIFIED SHIP ON AMERICAN BARK

Norwegian Steamer Brings News of Seamen On Way to Scotland

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A shipwrecked crew from an unidentified vessel is aboard the American bark Brown Brothers, from Brunswick, Ga., for Truon, Scotland, according to officers of the Norwegian steamship Thorvald Haldvorsen, which arrived here today from France.

The Brown Brothers was sighted December 16 about midway between the Newfoundland Banks and the Azores, the bark signaling that the crew which it had rescued wished to be taken off. After boats had been lowered by the Throvald Haldvorsen it again signaled that the crew had decided to remain aboard and go to Scotland.

An effort was made to learn the name of the vessel from which the crew came, but without success.

NEPTHIS IS RECOVERED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The Brazilian bark Nepthis, a derelict, at sea for the last week, has been recovered by the United States coast guard cutter Seneca and is being towed to New York, according to a wireless message received here from the Seneca at noon today.

MARGUIA IN COMMAND

JUAREZ, Dec. 24.—Gen. Jose Murguia, assumed command of the border forces here and in Northern Chihuahua today. Gen. Murguia relieved General Francisco Gonzales.

MASS MEETING TO LAUNCH A BIBLE CLASS CAMPAIGN

Promoters of Recruiting Movement Plan Big Session for January 7

A big mass meeting to precede the campaign of the Men's Bible Class Recruiting Movement will be held at Curry Hall on the afternon of January 7, it was announced by the executive committee after a meeting with supporters of the project held at the Y. M. C. A. yesterday afternoon. An attempt also will be made to get every pastor in Lexington to deliver a sermon on the night of January 7, on the possibilities of the movement.

The meeting yesterday was attended by the executive committee and captains and majors who were appointed yesterday morning. It was decided that the captains should be in charge of the classes in the different churches and the majors should be in charge of the work of the entire church. The executive committee also decided that there should be a general, who will have charge of the campaign, colonels who will be in charge of the four districts, and lietenant colonels who will act as assistants to the colonels. Besides this, the advisory committee of the movement, the teachers of the men's Bible classes, the secretary of the organization, his assistants, the pastors of the city, the Sunday School superintendents and the secretary of the Y. M. C. A. were named to aid in the success of the movement. A financial secretary and a publicity committee will be named later.

It was definitely decided that the campaign should start January 15 and continue for a period of eight weeks.

ALL CITY JOINS HANDS TO LIFT WEIGHT OF NEED

Churches, Charities, Lodges and Individuals Tramp Through Slush to Carry Christmas Cheer

BASKETS, PROVISIONS, GOODIES DISTRIBUTED

Yuletide Celebrations Bring Joy to Children From Every Neighborhood

Charitable and religious organizations, penal institutions, both city and county, lodges and individuals joined hands yesterday and are continuing their philanthropic work today, bringing happiness to the hearts and homes of Lexington's poor and unfortunates for their 1916 Christmas celebration.

From one end of the city to the other automobiles and other vehicles loaded with candies, nuts, fruits, toys and gifts of the useful variety, ploughed through the snow and slush all day Sunday. Around half a score or more Christmas trees, youngsters with eyes bulging, faces smiling, hands, hearts and in many cases mouths and stomachs full, laughed and shouted their happiness as Santa Claus walked between them, patting this one on the back and that one on the head.

None Is Overlooked

In fact, Lexington outdid herself yesterday. Never before, according to many of the older residents, who found much delight in visiting the different Christmas trees, has the entire city joined hands in such a capable manner and taken care of its unfortunates in such a splendid way as it is doing this year. From all reports last night, it is doubtful if a single family or child lives within the limits of this city, who has not received a visit from Santa Claus.

Practically every charitable organization had some sort of a celebration. Some had Christmas trees, while others contented themselves with the gifts of baskets filled with goodies and gifts. Among the charitable organizations which had celebrations were the Associated Charities, the Children's Home of Lexington Charity Organizations, House of Mercy, Lexington Orphan Asylum, Macalester Memorial Episcopal Church Home, Public Health Nursing Association, Pythian Home of Kentucky, and the Odd Fellows Home. The Baby Milk Supply had its celebration Friday, when baskets of goodies and gifts were distributed to the children.

Giving Is Systematic

Rotarians of Lexington had no central celebration yesterday, but following a custom recently instituted, sixty Rotarians traversed the city, visiting poor families and bearing, in person, their Christmas offering. Names of the families needing help were furnished by charity organizations and each Rotarian chose one family to which he carried a basket of presents and provisions

The members of the Knights of Columbus visited about 100 families during the morning and afternoon with baskets filled with candy, fruit and nuts. Toys were given to many of the children and in some cases, where the needs were found to be more urgent, useful gifts of stockings and mittens were dispensed.

Other lodges and fraternal organizations played their part as Santa Claus, distributing baskets of goodies and gifts of usefulness, especially during the cold weather.

About 100 children gathered at the offices of the Lexington Candy Manufacturing Company, of which J. W. Coleman is the head, and received baskets filled with fruit, candy and nuts. Music for the occasion was furnished by Fred and Julia Yarrington.

This morning at 10 o'clock the Elks Club will be the scene of more Christmas festivities. Printed invitations have been sent to about 300 of Lexington's poorer children and they are all expected to be present. Santa Claus will also be there, ready to distribute "Christmas cheer" in the form of candies, fruits, nuts, toys and useful articles. Music will be furnished by a talking machine loaned by C. F. Brower & Company. The Christmas tree was donated by J. H. Tocher, of the Q. & C. railroad, following his annual custom. In the afternoon the Elks will hold an open house at which egg nog will be served.

APPOINTMENT IS INTENDED TO WELD TWO EMPIRES

Count Czernin Von Chudenitz New Foreign Minister Of Austria Hungary

VIENNA, via London, Dec. 24.—In political circles here the appointment of Count Czernin von Chudenitz as Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, is looked upon as culmination of the efforts of Emperor Charles in pursuance of the desire attributed to him to solidify the relations between Austria and Hungary.

Count Czernin is a German Bohemian with a successful record as a diplomat, and, personally, is close to the Emperor, to Count Tisza, the Hungarian premier, the Count Clam-Martiniz, the new Austrian premier, and to Field Marshal Conrad von Hoetzendorf, chief of the Austro-Hungarian general staff.