

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE A MERRY ONE

GUERRILLA WARFARE IN MEXICO NOW

Flying Wedge of Federal Troops Sweeps Rebel Territory.

CUT COMMUNICATIONS IN REBEL COUNTRY.

General Villa's Army at Chihuahua Temporarily Isolated—Will Destroy All Property of Use to Rebels.

Juarez, Dec. 23.—A flying wedge of federal troops swept into rebel territory today, and adopting the tactics of guerrilla warfare, began a campaign to destroy railroad bridges and telegraph lines, according to reports. Their first act was to cut off communication between General Villa's six thousand rebels at Chihuahua and the rebel base at Juarez. By pulling down telegraph wires south of Juarez, the federalists temporarily isolated Villa in Chihuahua, so far as direct communication was concerned.

The small federal band went out from Olinaga on the border, and was believed to have been commanded by General Ynez Salazar, who was well seasoned in guerrilla warfare. A plan of the federalists, as understood by the rebel chiefs is to operate extensively over northern Mexico, and by working in circles to destroy all property that might be of use to the rebels without engaging the latter in a fight. According to the report, Salazar's men were heading for the Casas Grandes district, west of the railroad running from Juarez and were despatching to burn houses and other property. In this district are located comparatively rich agricultural lands, and the rebels are believed to be operating a fugitive band, destroying what property they can reach, and disappearing again before they can be overtaken.

Extensive destruction of telegraph and telegraph lines would handicap the rebels, but so far no serious damage has been done, as the wires between Juarez and Chihuahua can soon be repaired. The total federal strength is about 4,000 men, the bulk of whom are Chihuahuans, while with more than 10,000 men, Villa controls almost the whole of the country north of Torreón and west of Monterrey.

The last report from Villa was that he was sending men and supplies to Torreón in preparation for an attack on that city. Mexico City, Dec. 23.—Unaware of the presence of northern rebels at a point so far south, a train carrying a detachment of government troops on a tour of exploration ran over a rebel dynamite mine near Charcos today and was practically destroyed. A majority of the federalists who escaped death in the explosion were killed afterwards by the rebels. Charcos, which is now occupied by the rebels, is just north of San Luis Potosí and is the farthest point south to which northern rebels have advanced.

NO STANDARD TOMORROW. Tomorrow, Christmas Day, The Standard will not be published.

CURRENCY BILL SIGNED BY PRESIDENT WILSON

Great Jubilation as He Affixes Signature to Measure—Second Important Piece of Democratic Legislation to Go Through—Recess for Two Weeks.

Washington, Dec. 23.—President Wilson signed the Glass-Owen currency bill at 5:01 o'clock tonight in the presence of members of his cabinet, the congressional committees on banking and currency, and Democratic leaders in congress.

With a few strokes of the pen the President converted into law the measure known as the Federal Reserve Act, re-organizing the nation's banking and currency system and furnishing in the words of the President, "the machinery for free and elastic and uncontrolled credits, put at the disposal of the merchants and manufacturers of this country for the first time in fifty years."

Enthusiastic applause ran through the ceremony, not only as the President affixed his signature, but as he delivered an extemporaneous speech characterizing the desire of the administration to take common counsel with the business men of the country and the latter's efforts to meet the government's advances as "the constitution of peace."

The event came at the close of a day of rejoicing in the national cap-

CHINA WILL BUILD TWO RAILWAYS

Form Part of Chinese State System Under Trade Minister—German Capital to Finance Scheme.

Berlin, Dec. 23.—The Chinese foreign minister and the German minister to China signed at Peking today an agreement for the construction in China of two railways to be undertaken by German engineers, who are to utilize purely German materials and the capital for which is to be provided by German financiers.

The cost of the two undertakings is estimated at from \$17,500,000 to \$20,000,000, but the Deutsche Gesellschaft estimated the financial requirements at a much higher figure. It is yet uncertain when the loan is to be offered, but a considerable time must elapse before the amount can be definitely known.

The first line is to run from Kaohsiung, near Kiaochow on the Shanghai railway southward to Sanchwang, where the Tien-Tsin-Pukow railway crosses the grand canal.

The second line is to extend through Shantung railway from its terminus at Tsinan to Shunteh, on the Han-Kow railway.

A mixed commission of Germans and Chinese is to settle the exact route to be followed between the terminal points of the lines, and it is hoped that this will be done within three months, so that construction may begin in 1914.

The railways are to form part of the Chinese state system under the control of the ministry of commerce, but a German chief engineer is to remain in charge as manager until the loans have been repaid.

The lines will form valuable feeders to the German harbor of Tsingtau, which, aided by the Shantung railway, has jumped from the twenty-sixth to the sixth degree of importance among the Chinese ports since 1904.

The railroads will have little strategic influence, but will open up great districts now dependent upon canals and river traffic. The second line, particularly, will divert traffic from southern Chi-Li and Shan-Si, which has hitherto passed through Peking to Tien-Tsin, and will open up the Shan-Si mining regions, which is the richest in China.

The Kaohsiung line concession was granted in the Kiaochow treaty of 1898, but never undertaken.

BOY TURNS BURGLAR TO GET HOCKEY OUTFIT

P. E. Island Lad Broke Into Store and Took \$100 Worth of Goods—Had Accomplishes.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Dec. 23.—Determined to get a good supply of hockey sticks, skates and boots for the winter, Laurin Crawford, aged 16, broke into Ernest Rice's shop about a week ago and helped himself to the above goods, also to some electric flashlights, the value of the haul being \$100.

This evening the police found the boots at Crawford's home and took the lad in charge. He will be tried on Saturday. It is understood Laurin had accomplices.

Woman Found in Secret Room of Lawyer's Office Will Remain Voluntary Prisoner Awhile.

Monticello, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Miss Adelaide Brance, the woman who was with Melvin H. Couch, former district attorney of Sullivan county, when he fled suddenly Sunday morning in his office, was given her freedom late this afternoon, the authorities having failed to connect her with the death of one man for whom she inured herself for three years.

Though freed now, even of the charge of petty larceny, on which she was held pending an investigation of the man's death, Miss Brance has asked permission to remain a voluntary prisoner for two or three days. "I cannot face the world now," she said today. "I am sick at heart and sick physically."

Sheriff Kinney will permit the woman to stay long enough to regain her strength. She is destitute and says she has no place to which she might go. Today she expressed the wish to be buried beside the dead man. Miss Brance refuses to give any information as to her relatives, saying that she does not wish to bring disgrace upon them.

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FORTY-FOUR MILLIONS SQ. YANDED BY GRITS ON TRANSCONTINENTAL

Report of Commission Likely to Reveal the Biggest Scandal in History.

EXTRAVAGANCE IS FOUND EVERYWHERE.

One of Worst Cases of Dishonesty and Graft on Record—One Contractor Cleaned Up \$750,000 on Deal.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—That the National Transcontinental Railway has cost the country \$44,000,000 more than it should have, judged by the standard of the new Toronto-Suburb line of the Canadian Pacific, will be one of the principal findings of the report of the investigating commission. This is now being put in shape in the hope of having it ready for presentation soon after the assembling of parliament.

The investigation, which was conducted by G. Lynch-Staunton, K. C. of Hamilton, and F. P. Gutelius, now manager of the government railways, has extended over a period of two years.

It has been thorough in every regard and has involved the careful inspection of every mile of the road, the examination of all contracts and sub-contracts and of innumerable transactions connected with the huge undertaking.

The primary purpose was to establish reasons for the extraordinary disbursements and to estimate the actual costs and the factors which entered into it. As stated the difference between actual and estimated cost will establish how this has come about.

It is understood that there are many phases as to the cause and that the commission speaking generally, will declare that wanton extravagance has characterized the whole business; that the line was built where it was most expensive to build; that hard and fast rules against curves and grades have operated largely to increase abnormally the cost; that there has been extensive over-classification of material, this being a very large item in the cost, and that huge profits were reaped by certain contractors, who did little or no work themselves, but sub-let the jobs and pocketed the rake-off up in the hundreds of thousands.

One case was cited some time ago where, on the sub-letting of contracts, the original contractor cleaned up \$750,000 without turning a spadeful of earth. The commissioners will give a lot of interesting details with reference to the acquisition of right of way and terminal properties and of many incidental transactions.

When the whole is made public it is expected to reveal a scandal that has not been equalled in the political history of the country. Some very prominent people are understood to be involved directly or indirectly, and it is quite possible that in the light of the finding, that public money has been squandered recklessly and in many respects illegally, criminal or civil proceedings may be instituted.

SICK AT HEART, SHE CAN'T FACE THE WORLD

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A FEW FACTS ABOUT CHRISTMAS DAY

Ten million people in the United States and Canada will depend upon charity for their Christmas.

Chicago's Christmas this year will cost, it is estimated, about \$20,000,000, of which three-fourths has been spent for gifts.

King George and Queen Mary have confined their holiday gifts to articles of British origin.

In the United States about 37,000 parcels containing holiday remembrances are annually sent to the dead letter office.

Strasbourg pie, made of the livers of fattened geese and truffles, and boudin, or black-putting, are the Christmas delicacies most favored by the French.

Owing to the difference in calendars, Russians and other adherents of the Eastern church will not celebrate Christmas until the seventh of January.

The Emperor and Empress of Germany visit the stores to personally choose their gifts, but other customers are "shooed" out while they are shopping.

Christmas was first kept as a festival in 98 A. D., and for several centuries was celebrated on varying dates in September, December and January.

The use of holly and mistletoe in Christmas decorations is considered to be a remnant of the pagan observance of the ancient Druids.

In the middle ages, fantastically dressed persons called Mummers or Lords of Misrule, made their rounds on Christmas Eve.

The boar's head long occupied the place of honor on England's Christmas table, but it has long since given way to plum-puddings, roasted "joints" and the goose.

The Kaiser and Kaiserin annually spend about \$25,000 for presents for the family servants and palace attendants.

In South America, Australia and Africa Christmas comes at the beginning of the Summer season.

About 175,000 people in the United States and Canada will "celebrate" Christmas in prisons and almshouses.

The first Christmas tree recorded in history was set up in Strasbourg in the sixteenth century, and the custom soon spread over Germany and to other countries.

The ancient custom of carrying a boar's head in procession to the Yuletide banquet is still followed at Queen's College, Oxford.

Medieval times set apart one room to represent the stable at Bethlehem, and a manger is contrived in which is placed, with great ceremony, an image of the infant Christ.

Merchants report that more people have followed the advice to "do it early" than ever before, and, in consequence, shop girls are not so worn out as formerly.

In Norway and Sweden the farmers put out huge sheafs of wheat to provide a Christmas feast for the birds.

Candy costing \$100,000,000 is made in the United States each year, and a large proportion of the sweets are consumed during the Yuletide season.

Nearly all wealthy and noble Londoners spend their Christmas at their country places, and the custom has been adopted by many American millionaires.

The demand for bright, new coins to be used as holiday gifts has become so great that the mints of most Christian countries have had to work overtime to supply the need.

PRES. HUERTA CELEBRATES HIS BIRTHDAY

Observes Occasion With Formality at National Palace—Foreign Diplomats, Except U. S. Charge, Attend.

Mexico City, Dec. 23.—Provisional President Huerta today revived what was an annual custom under the regime of General Porfirio Diaz of celebrating at the National Palace with great formality, the anniversary of the birth of the chief executive. He was born on December 23, 1854.

Before daylight this morning military bands from the regiments which have their headquarters in the federal capital, marched up and down in front of the palace and serenaded the provisional president, who afterwards, during the forenoon, received the congratulations of committees, representing all departments of the government.

The final event in the day's celebration was a reception of the diplomatic corps, at which all the foreign representatives were present, with the exception of United States Charge d'Affaires O'Shaughnessy. The Spanish minister, dean of the diplomatic corps, delivered an address to General Huerta, congratulating him in the name of his colleagues.

ROBBED TRAIN AND KILLED PASSENGER

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—Jacques Bostick was arrested here today charged with having robbed a Southern Pacific passenger train near El Monte on December 1, and having murdered James Montague, a passenger agent who attempted to resist him. The police took from him the watch of

TRAIN FALLS SIXTY FEET, ONE KILLED

Fast Freight Derailed Goes Over Embankment—Dead Man Thought to Have Been Stealing Ride.

Toronto, Dec. 23.—An unknown man was killed, telegraph poles were wrecked, twelve cars hurled from the rails, half a score or more of cattle killed and injured, and main line traffic delayed for 10 hours, owing to a freight wreck which occurred a little north of Bolton on the C. P. R. today, owing to a wheel on one of the cars, which was loose, coming off when the train was travelling at about 30 miles an hour. Every car tumbled over the sixty foot embankment.

Fortunately the engine of the train remained on the rails, and the train crew escaped injury beyond a few bruises. When the wreckage was cleared away the body of a man was found pinned under the overturned cars. He was dead when discovered. It is thought he was a tramp riding the bumpers and had not been detected by the train crew. There is no clue to his identity.

He was taken to undertaker's rooms at Bolton.

The freight train was heavily laden and some of the cars contained cattle, six or seven of which were killed outright, while as many more were injured.

The train to Sudbury and the train from Winnipeg were delayed for hours the passengers being transhipped at the point of the accident. Traffic was diverted east to Burton Junction and by way of Lindsay and Coldwater Junction and thence west.

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FRANCE LOSES ONE OF HER IMMORTALS

Jules Claretie, Literateur, a Franco-German War Veteran, and Late Director of the Comedie Francaise is Dead.

Paris, Dec. 23.—Jules Claretie, one of France's "Immortals," and administrator of the Comedie Francaise, died today of influenza, aged 73.

Jules Arsene Arnaud Claretie was born on December 3, 1840, at Limoges but lived the greater part of his life in Paris, where he was educated. He was a prolific writer of books and dramatic criticisms and acted as war correspondent in 1870 with the Italian army fighting against the Austrian troops. He again took part in warlike operations during the Franco-German war of 1870-71, when for a period he was in command of a battalion of volunteers of the National Guard, and was present at nearly all the engagements in the vicinity of Paris.

He afterwards stood unsuccessfully as a candidate for parliament and then gave up politics to resume his literary pursuits.

Claretie's works were mostly of a light gossamer character, but he wrote some volumes of history and fiction. Since 1885 M. Claretie had been administrator of the Comedie Francaise, which office he resigned in September this year. He was a grand officer of the Legion of Honor.

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WOULD MAKE U. S. VESSELS PAY TOLLS

Suspension of Clause Exempting American Ships Has Been Asked.

SCHEME FATHERED BY REP. ADAMSON.

Submits Resolution Asking that Two Years Test be Made—Presents it on His Own Responsibility.

Washington, Dec. 23.—A joint resolution to conditionally suspend the operation of the provision of the Panama Canal Act, granting free passage to American coastwise vessels was introduced today by Chairman Adamson of Georgia, on the House Commerce Committee.

The suspension would be subject to the following conditions:

"At any time after the Panama Canal shall have been opened and operated for two years, if, in the judgment of the President the revenues derived from tolls of vessels other than those engaged in the coastwise trade of the United States shall be sufficient to defray the cost of maintaining and operating the canal and the expenses of government and sanitation of the canal zone, and all diplomatic questions touching the treatment of vessels to conditions or charges of traffic at the canal, shall have been adjusted, then the President is authorized to issue an executive order declaring such suspended exemption of full force and effect."

It would further provide that from the date of such an executive order the cost of maintenance of vessels of the United States should be the same tolls as others. The free toll provision now in effect is a diplomatic protest.

Representative Adamson introduced the resolution on his own responsibility, and it will not go before Congress as an administrative measure. It was said in high official circles, however, that the silence of the administration did not mean that the proposed stop was approved. Any declaration of policy on the subject of canal tolls has been avoided since President Wilson assumed office last March.

When Alexander Bryce left Washington in April it was generally understood he had secured some sort of assurance that no effort would be made by the United States to execute the free tolls provisions of the Canal Act. There has been no official confirmation of this, but significance has been attached to the fact that negotiations between Washington and London in regard to the tolls question came to a complete stop about that time, and the British government has made no effort to resume them, although Mr. Bryce's last note practically committed the British foreign office to the delivery of another communication amplifying and strengthening the points adduced by the ambassador in opposition to the argument of the State Department in support of the existing canal tolls act.

(Continued on page 2)

CITIZENS OF LEEDS ORGANIZE AND TAKE TO STREET CLEANING

Strike of Public Works Employees Necessitates Residents of City Doing Work—Stoned by Strikers.

Leeds, England, Dec. 23.—As the streets here had not been swept nor the garbage cans emptied during the past ten days a citizens' league was formed of volunteers willing to keep the public works in operation. Many of the volunteers drove to the place of assembly in their own automobiles at midnight. They were soon equipped with brooms and shovels and supplied with garbage trucks and they worked steadily for six hours cleaning the streets under a police guard.

Volleys of stones and pieces of metal thrown by the strikers greeted the volunteers at several points but they stuck manfully to their task until the cellars of the city had been cleaned. Another body of private citizens at the same time managed the municipal gas, electric and water-works. The struggle is attracting considerable attention as the municipal workers in other cities are known to be waiting to strike in case the employees in Leeds should be successful.

(Continued on page 2)

PROVINCE OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED OF EMBARGO

J. B. Daggett Receives Word from Washington—Temporary Quarantine Effective Today—Cooperation of Farmers Asked to Stamp Out Disease.

Special to