

## COMMISSIONS DETERMINING FLOATING DOCK TONNAGE FOR SCAPA FLOW SINKINGS

The Final Date for the Exchange of Treaty Ratifications Will Depend Upon the Speed With Which They Reach Conclusions.

### GERMANS CLAIM MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS EXIST

Peace Delegation from the Great Enemy Claim It Has Been Their Purpose to Hurry Rather Than Delay Negotiations.

Paris, Dec. 25.—(By The Associated Press)—The final date of the repeatedly postponed exchange of ratifications of the Treaty of Versailles now depends upon the speed with which the Allied nations in Germany can verify the German figures of available floating dock tonnage demanded by the Allies as compensation for the sinking of the German warships at Scapa Flow, the Associated Press was informed today at the headquarters of the German Peace Delegation.

Baron Von Lersner, head of the German representatives, said he thought this would take at least a fortnight, if not longer, in view of the difficulties of transportation in Germany and the delay involved in verifying the figures. "A decided misunderstanding is reflected in the Paris press during the past two days regarding my projected trip to Berlin, which I subsequently abandoned," he said. "My object was to hurry, rather than delay, the putting of the Versailles Treaty into effect. From Monday night until Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock I was deprived of any communication with my government by either telegraph or telephone. In consequence of which Berlin had no knowledge of the Entente note, or of the verbal communication given on this subject by Dr. Dutasta, Secretary of the Peace Commission, until this morning.

"I thought that a trip to Berlin and a verbal explanation of the situation to the government would facilitate matters. The inference by the French papers that the German government wanted to delay the exchange of ratifications is absolutely unfounded. We want nothing more than effective restoration of peace.

"Peace means the repatriation of our soldiers, prisoners in France, who are obliged to spend another Christmas in captivity, though hostilities have been suspended for more than a year.

"The fact that Herr Von Simson arrived in Paris last Sunday to start negotiations for putting the Treaty into effect, proves that we had no intention to delay matters."

Regarding the Entente note, Baron Von Lersner said its tenor surprised him, as it seems so little in accord with the proceeding of the negotiations.

"The Paris papers," he said, "even announced our readiness to give up over all the harbor material we could spare without endangering our economic existence as compensation for the Scapa Flow sinkings, and forecast an early agreement on this question. If we did not get that far, it was not our fault. Our experts have not been asked to talk the matter over since a week ago."

Baron Von Lersner asserted that, according to the verbal communication of Mr. Dutasta at the time of the delivery of the note, the Entente made a diminution of the port tonnage demanded, conditional upon verification of Germany's claim that the Entente estimation of the harbor material available were erroneous.

"I want to say in this connection," he continued, "that the statements in the French press that we were disloyal and gave out wrong figures on this tonnage is absolutely unfounded. This, the investigation would prove. I promised Mr. Dutasta to ask my government to give all facilities for such an investigation, and have no doubt that they will be accorded at once.

"We both agreed that it should be possible that a short time only would be necessary to verify our statements and come to a definite agreement regarding harbor materials to be delivered by Germany should be granted. I hope that our expectations will soon

## Reclassification of Civil Service Producing Its Own Difficulties

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 25.—The reclassification of the Civil Service, which was postponed at the last session of Parliament, is, it is understood, bringing with it its own difficulties. It is stated that departmental heads are being handicapped in the preparation of estimates which must be ready for the coming session of Parliament, by the fact that the reclassification calls for drastic changes in salaries. Positioning which formerly called for additional salary are found, under the new classification, to be worth much less, to the consequent discomfiture of the clerk or officer holding the position and the perplexity of the high officials in charge of preparing the estimates. Their classification has, it is understood, given rise to a good deal of discontent, and one of them stated that a large portion of his time is taken up in dealing with complaints of employees resulting from their being classed at a lower salary than they were paid under the old system.

## Hun Given Life Lost Sentence for Misdeeds

On the Charge of Organizing the Pillage of Factories in Eastern France Receives Heavy Sentence.

Ambiens, Wednesday, Dec. 25.—A court-martial has sentenced the German officer, Robert Roeckling, administrator of mines at Karlsruhe, to ten years imprisonment, fifteen years of exile and a fine of ten millions francs upon his conviction on a charge of organizing the pillage of factories in Eastern France. It was testified at his trial that he collected machinery and other material from the factories, and hived them up in November, 1918. His brothers, Norman and Ludwig, were given similar sentences by default.

The Roeckling brothers are known as German "Steel Kings." Hermann Roeckling, president of a steel association, was at Treves as a member of the German arbitration commission, for which reason he was not arrested. The other brother, Ludwig, went to Versailles as a member of the peace delegation and consequently was covered by diplomatic immunity.

## FLOODS IN FRANCE CAUSE DAMAGE

Continued Rain Storms Swell Rivers to Highest Freshet Pitch.

Paris, December 25.—Continued rain storms have caused floods in a number of rivers causing considerable property losses. At Epinal, the Moselle overflowed and many persons were compelled to evacuate their homes. At Louan L'Esque, the Meuse overflowed.

be fulfilled and that peace will finally be put into effect."

The chief of the German delegation informed Mr. Dutasta that he thought it advisable to go to Berlin, communicating by special wire was restored according to information given out at the headquarters of the German delegation, and it was decided to telegraph the note and verbal communication, which, taking into consideration the time for sending, transmission and deciding, could not come to the knowledge of the German government before the morning of December 25.

## FORMER EMPEROR ENTERTAINS AND ACTS AS SANTA CLAUS

Amerongen, Dec. 25.—(By The Associated Press)—The former German Crown Prince Frederick reached here today to spend with his parents their second Christmas in exile. J. B. Kan, secretary of general affairs of the Dutch government, Burgomaster Pereboom of Wirigen, members of the Von Bentinck family and some of the Amerongen functionaries were the guests at a banquet this evening in the great hall of the Bentinck castle. This was the celebration arranged by the former emperor personally. A huge Christmas tree was erected in the hall, and from this the former ruler distributed gifts.

## MURDER OCCURS AT CELEBRATION IN MONTREAL

Man and Wife Held on Charge of Murdering a Guest Whom They Had Invited in for Supper.

### VICTIM RECEIVES BULLET IN HEART

Husband Admits Shooting Man Who Was Said to Have Started Row at the Home.

Special to The Standard. Montreal, Dec. 25.—One man was shot and killed in a fight which occurred early this morning at 26 D'Amontigny street west, and another man and his wife were later arrested. The man who was charged with murder, while his wife is being held as a witness for the coroner's inquest, and it is likely that a charge of attempted murder will be made against her.

The victim of the affair is Patrick Lahey, 32 years of age, of 109 Benoit street, who was shot through the heart and died at the Montreal General Hospital. The man under arrest for murder is Victor Dupuis, 40 years of age, of 28 Demontigny street west. The woman is Mrs. Florentine Dupuis, 33 years of age, at the same address. Quick work by Constable Belanger, to the City Hall avenue station, who was on duty opposite the Montreal General Hospital, enabled the police to make the arrest thoroughly and quickly. The constable was standing near the door of the hospital when Lehey was brought there in a cab. He saw the victim bleeding from a bullet wound in the left side and carried into the hospital. The constable hurried inside and found out that the man had been shot at 26 Demontigny street west. He promptly notified Lieutenant Trahaner. The lieutenant sent out Sergeant Laporte and Constable Noel and Desroches to investigate the affair.

## CHRISTMAS FEELING STRIKES TORONTO RAILROAD MEN

Engineers and Trainmen Booked Sick Wednesday Night Making it Impossible to Secure Sufficient Crews.

## QUEBEC FARMERS TO ORGANIZE POLITICAL PARTY

Meeting Called for Next Monday When Premier Drury of Ontario Will Address the Farmers.

## JAIL DELIVERY IN TOLEDO, O.

Toledo, O., Dec. 25.—One of the most daring jail deliveries ever accomplished in this part of the country occurred here early today, when six men called at the county jail, exchanged Christmas greetings with three deputy sheriffs on duty, overpowered and locked them in a cell, then liberated four notorious burglars and snafobs.

## AFTER MIRACULOUS ESCAPE FROM DEATH CARDIGAN CREW ARRIVES SAFELY HOME

Avalanche at Switzerland M't Resort Causes Death and Damage

Geneva, Dec. 25.—The avalanches which occurred at the mountain resort of Davos yesterday caused terror among visitors and residents and a number of deaths in the village itself. One huge powdery avalanche swept down upon a sanitarium, smashing doors and windows on the first and second stories, and killed a Russian woman and her nurse, and seriously injuring several others. Many were imprisoned in the upper floors throughout the night. It is considered a miracle that the sanitarium did not collapse as the walls were badly damaged.

## Soviets May Agree With Esthonian

Indications That An Agreement for Peace Between the Two Nations Might be Reached Are Observed.

Dorpat, Tuesday, Dec. 23.—Some indications that an agreement might be reached in the negotiations for peace between Esthonia and Soviet Russia were observable here tonight. The Bolsheviks were said to be showing a willingness to make further concessions in the matter of territorial adjustments which, it is believed, would obviate the necessity of the Esthonian army falling back from the Narva front, to which the Esthonian government has been offering strong objections for strategic reasons.

## CHRISTMAS DINNERS GO BEGGING IN BOWERY DISTRICT

Less Than Half of Usual Applicants Appeared for the Mission Feed — Sign of Prosperity.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 25.—Christmas dinners went begging on the Bowery tonight. Roast turkey with all its trimmings, candy and mince pie, failed to attract half as many hungry men as were served in former years. This was attributed to prevalent poverty and prohibition. The famous Bowery Mission served only four hundred persons, where in former years it served three hundred. At Hadley's Rescue Hall less than three hundred appeared for dinner. Many missions did not serve the usual Christmas repast because of the lack of applicants. The usual Christmas noon hour dinner at the McLaughlin Water Street Mission was postponed until tonight because of the lack of applicants. Not a man appeared at noon, although four hundred pounds of turkey and many good things had been prepared. A few years ago it was not unusual for the mission to feed fifteen hundred, but tonight less than three hundred hungry men appeared.

## APPEAL MADE IN BEHALF OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN SIBERIA

Geneva, Dec. 25.—The International Red Cross has sent out an appeal in behalf of the prisoners of war in Siberia. Two hundred thousand prisoners, for the most part Austrians and Hungarians, many of whom were captured in 1914, are living without shelter and virtually without clothing and little food. Any contagious disease may make terrible ravages. Typhus has already killed 12,000 of the 16,000 men at the Troitzky camp.

## Schr. 'Barbara MacDonald,' With Owner Aboard Buffeted About by Tempestuous Seas, and Finally Wrecked.

### WAS MAKING HER MAIDEN VOYAGE

In Describing Experiences of the Trip Owner Declares That Only the Intervention of Providence Saved All from Watery Grave.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Dec. 25.—After a miraculous escape from death when the new three masted schooner "Barbara MacDonald" was dashed to pieces on Cape Pine, on the rock bound coast of Newfoundland, Hon. J. A. MacDonald, of Cardigan, P. E. I., the owner of the vessel, and surviving members of the crew reached the island on Christmas Eve. MacDonald tells a thrilling tale of suffering and hardship and what he regards as providential intervention, for on this section of the coast, the scene of past disasters, no other shipwrecked crew has ever reached shore alive.

## Americans Dispose of Many Ships

The Shipping Board Decides It Inadvisable to Go Into Passenger Business Because of Ban on Liquors.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 25.—The Shipping Board has under consideration the sale of all former German ships with the stipulation that the vessels be run under the American flag, it was announced today. These vessels, which were taken over by the government, are approximately 230,000 deadweight tons. No price has been fixed for the ships but \$20 a ton is supposed as a probable valuation by high officials.

## GENERAL ELECTRIC STATIONS IN THE DOMINION

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 25.—Under the direction of Hon. Arthur Meighen, chairman of the Dominion cabinet on power, there were released for general distribution the directory of general electric stations in Canada which constitutes the first adequate governmental attempt to systematically compile a ready reference to the central electric stations of the Dominion.

## R.R.'S REVERT TO PRIVATE OWNERS ABOUT MARCH 1ST

Washington, Dec. 25.—President Wilson last night announced he would return the railroads to private ownership March 1st. The President also announced that the Railway Express companies would be returned at the same time.

## RR'S REVERT TO PRIVATE OWNERS ABOUT MARCH 1ST

Paris, Dec. 25.—(Havas)—Paris celebrates her first Peace Christmas today with great animation and enthusiasm great crowds thronged the churches and theatres. The boulevards and principal streets of the capital were filled all night with celebrators and the popular restaurants were carried by storm.