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The oldest Catholic newspaper of Saskatchewan, recommended by Rt. Rev. Bishop Pascal of Prince Albert and Most Rev. Archbishop Langevin of St. Boniface, and published by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Peter's Abbey at Muenster, Saskatchewan, Canada.

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**In The Wake Of The War**

LONDON, Dec. 15.—President Wilson has accepted an invitation from King George to visit England.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The strike in Berlin has reached serious proportions, according to a dispatch received here from Amsterdam. Only two newspapers are being published and these as small leaflets. It is said that 350,000 workmen are out.

AMERONGEN, Holland, Dec. 15.—The former German emperor continues to lead the life of a near recluse. He is virtually cut off from communication with the outside world. Reports that he was in constant communication with his former advisers are not true.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—Poland has severed relations with the German republic. Director of foreign affairs Bader delivered an official note to Count von Kessler, the German minister.

TORONTO, Dec. 16.—No more Canadian troops will be sent to Siberia, Gen. Mewburn, minister of militia, stated in an interview here today.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Official advices to the state department today indicate that the anti-Bolshevik Russian forces are making progress on the Perm front.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The last German troops leave Finland today under the command of officers of high rank.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Reports that a popular assembly of Montenegrins had voted to depose King Nicholas and unite the country with Serbia, were denied in an official note received by the state department today from the Montenegrin government. It was said that no such assembly existed.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 17.—The Cologne Gazette says Field Marshal Haig arrived in Cologne Monday. The newspaper adds that the British commander-in-chief was received with military honors "familiar to us at former princely receptions."

BERNE, Dec. 17.—According to dispatches received here, the Polish general staff has called for the mobilisation of the classes extending from 1883 to 1901. It is asserted that the mobilisation will bring to the colors 1,500,000 men.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Gloomy reports of the situation in Russia, particularly in Petrograd, continue to reach the state department. A dispatch today announced that the Soviet government has restricted the influx of hungry and destitute prisoners returning from German and Austrian prison camps without officers or guards. The condition of the middle classes in Petrograd is said to be extremely bad, and a great number are dying daily of starvation. No fuel is available and the people are obliged to keep to their beds day and night. No supplies have reached the city for more than two weeks.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17.—The American Jewish Congress tonight declared for a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine under the trusteeship of Great Britain, on behalf of such league of nations, as may be formed.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The press association issues an official statement that President Wilson is coming to London earlier than expected. The date has not been definitely announced, but he is expected within a fortnight.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—No decision has yet been reached as to the number of delegates which will represent each country at the coming peace conference, the arrival of the British delegates being awaited. The claim of the British colonies to participate in the congress is receiving serious consideration. At the same time it is feared that unless some limitation is placed on the number of delegates the conference will become too large to accomplish results.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—The American delegates to the peace congress have resolved to advocate the sinking of the surrendered enemy warships and resist any proposition to distribute them on the basis of naval losses.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—President Wilson today paid his first visit to the headquarters of the American mission, conferring briefly with Col. House, Secretary of State Lansing and others.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—Figures are now made public regarding the number of persons killed during German air raids and by long range guns. These figures relate to the city of Paris only, and not to the suburbs. In 1914, 45 bombs were dropped. In 1915, 70 bombs, 62 of them on March 20, fell on the city. In 1916 the enemy employed 61 bombs against Paris, and in 1917, eleven. During the last ten months of war there were 1,211 casualties from 396 bombs. Airplanes and zeppelins dropped 228 bombs on August 6, killing two persons and injuring 392. The long range cannon fired 168 shells into Paris, killing 196 and wounding 417. On last Good Friday more than 100 persons were killed.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The further we get into Germany the more coldly polite is our reception, writes a correspondent with the Canadian corps. Sullen looks are generously given, but the men raise their hats to our officers and flag. The people on the whole are behaving well.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Estimating Russian casualties in the war at "not less than 8,000,000 men, of whom 3,000,000 were killed and about 1,000,000 disabled for life," A. J. Sack, director of the Russian information bureau, declared in an address before the American commerce commission here today, that Russia's pitiful condition is due to her exhaustion from war. "She is lying in seas of blood and tears," he continued, "and further millions of her people are facing death this time from starvation. About 20,000,000 Russians will die this winter unless the allied countries render the

**THE NEW YEAR.**

*Make it a glad one, thou dear Lord,—To whom the years belong;  
Make it a happy year, all crowned—With love and praise and song.  
Fill it, ye, let it overflow—With loving gifts from Thee;  
And, best of all, dear patient Lord—A grateful heart for me!*

*A heart to thank Thee for the gift—Of each new year of life;  
A heart to trust the hand that sends—Each joy, or care, or strife;  
A heart to pray and to believe—That thou dost answer prayer;  
A heart to hope, a heart to love,—A heart to keep, and share!*

*O tender Christ, bless thou this year,—Bless thou its dawn, and bless  
Its noontide and its evening Lord;—And let each heart confess,—  
As days and weeks and months go by—To help the year grow old,—  
That of Thy glory, King of Kings,—The half not yet is told!*

—Frank McCreehy.

unfortunate country immediate help on a very generous scale."

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Sixteen hundred Canadians, who have been prisoners in Germany, have now reached England. This number is about half of those taken by the enemy.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 19.—In commenting editorially upon President Wilson's visit to London, now in preparation, the Guardian today regards it as signifying that the President means business which the leisurely arrangements previously contemplated hardly seem to imply.

PARIS, Dec. 19.—A Warsaw dispatch says that the landing of Polish troops at Dantzig began yesterday. The Polish army is reported to number 50,000 men. The representative of Poland at Berlin has left Germany.

PARIS, Dec. 19.—King Victor Emmanuel, accompanied by the heir to the Italian throne, the Prince of Piemonte and a small personal guard, arrived in Paris today. A warm welcome was given the Italian monarch by President Poincare, Premier Clemenceau and the other ministers and the throngs in the streets acclaimed him vigorously. This evening the king paid a visit to President Wilson at the Murat mansion.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 19.—The army transport Logan, which left here Dec. 4, with a contingent of troops for Siberia, caught fire at sea at midnight last Monday, but the flames were subdued.

MELBOURNE, Dec. 19.—The commonwealth house of representatives, by a vote of 34 to 25, has given a second reading to a bill for the continuance of war precautions. Five ministerials voted with the opposition.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—The socialist deputy Voiles stated in the chamber of deputies this afternoon that French soldiers to the number of 1,400,000 were killed during the war.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—King George will give a banquet at Buckingham Palace on Dec. 27, in honor of President Wilson. The visit of President Wilson as an overnight guest at Buckingham Palace will be the first time in history that any president has thus been entertained at the palace.

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—German troops have been sent against Bolsheviki forces who are advancing on Mitau, about thirty miles southwest of Riga, from

Friedrichstadt, on the Dvina, according to the Lokal Anzeiger. German troops, the newspaper adds, have been disarmed by the Bolsheviki at various points in eastern Livonia, and the weapons have been given to Bolsheviki supporters. The population is fleeing toward Riga.

VIENNA, Dec. 20.—The national assembly of German-Austria has adopted a bill ordering an investigation into the question of who was actually responsible for the war, and prescribing the proceedings to be taken against its authors.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—The outlines of President Wilson's itinerary during his visit to England were announced today. On the day of his arrival in England, Thursday, Dec. 25, the president will dine with King George. For Friday a dinner at the Guildhall is on the programme. On Saturday, the president will go to Manchester, and on Sunday he will attend church at Carlyle, his mother's birthplace. Returning then to London, he will leave for France at noon on Monday, Dec. 30.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—Zurich newspapers today printed a Vienna dispatch carrying the report that the Austrian government "in order to avoid fresh disturbances" has asked the Allied authorities to occupy the Austro-Hungarian capital. The sending of French, British and American troops for this purpose was requested.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 21.—German representatives have brought here from Cologne 380,000,000 marks in gold, which is being restored by Germany to Belgium.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 21.—The British governor at Cologne has ordered the workmen's and soldiers' councils to discontinue their activities at once on both banks of the Rhine and to evacuate all public buildings.

PRAGUE, Dec. 21.—With the occupation of Eger and Reichenberg, the Czecho-Slovaks seem to have all of German Bohemia completely cut off from German Austria. German Bohemia is unable to resist, since the Austrian army does not exist. Austria is the only country the power of which has been demobilized.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 21.—Count von Brockdorff Rantzau, German minister to Denmark, has been appointed foreign minister of Germany, in succession to Dr. W. S. Solf, according to reports from Berlin.

LUXEMBURG, Dec. 21.—K. von Bach, German minister to Luxemburg since March, 1914, has, together with his advisers, been expelled from the country by the Grand Ducal government. Three Luxemburg ministers of state have left the capital for Paris.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 21.—Reval, the capital of Estonia, situated in the gulf of Finland, has been evacuated by the Germans, according to a telegram from Berlin. The German troops are reported to have been engaged in fighting Bolsheviki forces. Near Zhitomir, 80 miles southwest of Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, the Germans captured fifteen guns from the Bolsheviki.

ATHENS, Dec. 21.—Bulgarian troops today fired on the Greek posts near Trousova, wounding three Greek soldiers, according to an official dispatch from Greek Macedonia. The Greeks, the message adds, then attacked and captured two Bulgarian posts. Several Bulgarian soldiers were killed. The Bulgarians retired toward the slopes of Mont Belas.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—The first elections to the new German National Assembly are symptomatic of what the final result will be, says a dispatch from Berne. In the Duchy of Brunswick, where the minority party had assumed power, the defeat of the Bolsheviki was crushing. In Mecklenburg, and Anhalt, where the majority party was in control, the Bourgeoisie also came out victorious.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 22.—In addition to the execution by Bolsheviki officials of a number of alleged counter-revolutionaries at Pskov, it is reported that the Bolsheviki have shot a number of leading inhabitants in the Orlov district, about 35 miles south of Pskov.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—Figures compiled by the Cologne Gazette and published November 25th placed German casualties at more than 6,000,000. Of this number it was estimated that about 2,000,000 were killed. The French soldiers killed in the war, according to a statement made in the French chamber of deputies on Dec. 20th by Lucien Volin, numbered 1,400,000. Italy lost 500,000 men in killed or died of wounds. The British army official losses total 658,794.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 22.—Russia's war casualties number 9,130,000 men, according to a telegram received here from Petrograd today. Of this number 1,680,000 are dead, disabled men number 1,450,000, while 3,500,000 others were wounded. The Russians taken prisoner total 2,500,000. The casualties of the Austro-Hungarian army from the beginning of the war up to the end of May, 1918, were slightly over 4,000,000 men according to official statistics received today from Vienna. Eighteen generals out of 310 were killed.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 22.—The Frankfort Zeitung says the former German Emperor will hardly live to see the New Year.

**Christ-Child vs. Santa Claus (The New Paganism.)**

In more Christian times it was always Christ the Child who brought the gifts. Now the genius of goodwill, to quote the "Ave Maria", is no longer the Christ-Child; he is an old man without ancestry, without pedigree,—an old man from the North, who drives his reindeer sled over the tops of houses and descends their chimneys. The radiant and benignant Christ-Child has disappeared, and a frosty old man has taken his place. This is symbolical of much of the Christmas keeping that obtains in the world today. It does not centre around the Child Jesus, who is the Source of all our joy, but it is a mere delight in eating, drinking, and merry-making. It is true that wherever the name of Mary comes to be called "blessed," the idea of the Incarnation becomes more remote. And nothing can and the cause of Christianity more than the reiterated assertion of her claims. Devotion to her is "the sure protection of faith in her Divine Son. Every time we invoke her we renew our faith in the Incarnate God; we reverse the sin and unbelief of our First Parents; we take our part with her who was blessed because she believed."

Although the "Ave Maria" deprecates the use of the expression Santa Claus for that of Christ-Child, it uses that very term in one of its Christmas stories. The Christ-Child will surely come into its own on Christmas Day until the Catholic editors show themselves consistent and "taboo" Santa Claus not only in their editorials, but also in their Ads., news, and stories. The St. Peters Bote has consistently followed this policy for years. When you tell your child the gifts come from Santa Claus you are telling a lie, but when you say to them the presents come from the Christ-Child, you are telling the truth. All we possess or ever will possess comes from God. Unless you deny the divinity of the Christ-Child, you can truthfully say to your child that the presents on Christmas Day are from the Christ-Child.

In case you've accustomed yourself to abbreviate Christmas into Xmas, get rid of this habit. True, most of us have failed in this respect, but let us do so no more. Catholic teachers should tell their pupils that this word must not be abbreviated. "X" stands for an unknown quantity; using it in an abbreviation of Christmas would almost seem as if we doubted whether there ever was a Christ.

P. CHRISTOPHER, O. S. B.