

The Courier

Published every Tuesday afternoon under date of the following Wednesday by the proprietors, "The Sask. Courier Pub. Co. Ltd.," at their offices: 1835-1837 Halifax Street, Regina, Sask., near the Market square and Eleventh Ave. Telephone 3391.

Advertising Rates on Application
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New York: L. Klebahn, 1. W. 34th Street.
Chicago: Miss H. W. Korgren, 1416 Masonic Temple.



THE NEW YEAR

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

"Wiser it were to welcome and make ours

Whatever of good, though small, the present brings,—

Kind greetings, sunshine, song of birds, and flowers,

With a child's pure delight in little things."

—R. C. Trench.

"Into all our lives, in many simple, familiar, homely ways, God infuses this element of joy from the surprises of life, which unexpectedly brighten our days, and fill our eyes with light. He drops this added sweetness into His children's cup, and makes it to run over. The success we were not counting on, the blessing we were not trying after, the strain of music in the midst of drudgery, the beautiful morning picture or sunset glory thrown in as we go about our daily business, the unsought word of encouragement or expression of sympathy, the sentence that meant for us more than the writer or speaker thought,—these and a hundred others that every one's experience can supply, are instances of what I mean.—You may call it accident or chance—it often is; you may call it human goodness—it often is; but always call it God's love, for that is always in it. These are His free gifts."

—S. Longfellow.

NEW YEAR'S TIME.

New Year resolutions are the subject for so much joking, but they are an excellent institution none the less. Where would you and I be were it not for our annual stocktaking? Many of us are far enough off, as it is, from what we desire to be, but we might be further away still without the reminders Father Time gives us of his passing.

As the years come and go one possession we learn to prize more and more highly, and that is our home. It is an old saying that "Home loving hearts are happiest," and a very true one. "No place like home" when you have unexpected good news to impart; "no place like home" in which to find pleasures; no responsibilities quite so sweet as those that await us inside our homes. In times of prosperity we are apt to lay much stress upon our possessions, and expect to find happiness in them; but in times which are a little hard, we perhaps look deeper and prize more the love, and unselfishness and the kindness which abound, and nowhere should there be more of these qualities than in the home.

THE KING'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

OTTAWA.—The governor general has received the following telegram from his Majesty the King, through the secretary of state for the colonies:

Dec. 25, 1918.

"Buckingham Palace."
"Another Christmas has come round and we are no longer fighting. God has blessed your efforts. The Queen and I offer our heartfelt good wishes for a happy Christmas and many brighter years to come. To the disabled, sick and wounded, we send a special greeting, praying that with returning health you may be comforted and cheered by the vision of those good days of peace for which you have wished so much.

(Signed)
"GEORGE R.I."

BOLSHEVICS IN VILNA.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Vilna has been captured by the Bolshevik forces, according to a Copenhagen despatch to the Mail, quoting Petrograd reports.

War's Casualties 26,000,000

LONDON, Dec. 27.—More than 50,000,000 men were raised for war by all the nations engaged. Casualties on the battlefields were more than 26,000,000. About 8,000,000 men have been killed. These estimates are necessarily rough. They are also disputed. One estimate places the casualties by nations as follows:

Britain	2,900,000
Germany	6,960,000
France	4,000,000
Austria	4,500,000
Russia	5,000,000
Italy	1,500,000
Serbia	400,000
Belgium	350,000
Turkey	750,000
Rumania	200,000
Bulgaria	200,000
United States	236,000

Total 26,996,000

Total number of fighting men is estimated as follows:

Britain	8,000,000
France	6,500,000
Germany	12,000,000
Austria	6,000,000
America	3,600,000
Russia	10,000,000
Italy	3,500,000
Turkey	1,000,000
Serbia	600,000
Belgium	500,000
Greece	300,000
Rumania	500,000

Smaller nations are not included in these tables. It will probably be many months before anything like accurate figures can be given.

PLAN OF REPUBLIC FOR GERMANY

GENEVA, Dec. 27.—Reports received from Germany indicate that the present government there is to constitute a federal republic on practically the same plan as the United States. There would be a congress composed of two chambers, a Volkshaus, or popular chamber, which would be the chamber of representatives, and a Staatenhaus, of chamber of states, which would take the part of a senate. The president would be elected by the people and would not be responsible to congress. The border states would be completely modified, the privileges of the nobility abolished and Germany would annex German Austria.

ERSATZ-CHRISTMAS, THEY CALL IT

BERLIN, Dec. 25.—This was Ersatz-Christmas in Germany. Everything in Germany is Ersatz now. Ersatz, the German word for substitute, has come to be the most used word in the Teuton language and was applied to the Christ's birthday by a wan, thin girl the correspondent saw in Unter den Linden. She was standing in front of a shop with her small brother, their noses pressed flat against the window; behind gleamed a gaudy Christmas tree, hung with frosted cakes and colored candies.

"Sister, do you think we will get candies and cakes this Christmas?" the boy asked.

"Of course not," was the reply. "This is Ersatz-Christmas." There were no candies and no presents with the exception of trinkets. There were no big dinners, but yet there was no starvation. The people are thankful peace has finally come.

Merchants everywhere have "Ersatz" articles on sale. Caterers and candy makers displayed high priced gaily colored sweetmeats—which were not sweet at all and which had a most unsatisfying effect on the purchasers.

People Crowded Streets

The streets have been a mass of people. The crowds are gay, but not lively. The men, women and children, with peaked and hollowed eyes with no sparkle, walked through the streets. Soldiers presented a sharp contrast to the civilians. They are far from being well and are fat and bright.

The crowds in the opera houses and cafes endeavored to put some spirit into Christmas, but the joy was not spontaneous. I noticed hundreds of well dressed persons staring at edibles displayed in windows.

On the whole we would say that animals suffer when in distress much more patiently and uncomplainingly than their human fellows. Their eyes seem often to tell a tale of woe unvoiced by any man.

Spain Wants Gibraltar

PARIS, Dec. 28.—During the recent visit here of Count Romanones, the Spanish premier, extended consultations are reported to have been held by the premier with French and American statesmen regarding the Moroccan question, which was discussed in both its military and financial phases.

The future status of Gibraltar is said also to have come up for consideration.

On his arrival at Madrid Premier Romanones is understood to have expressed great satisfaction over the result of his conference.

It was reported in Paris on Dec. 23 that Premier Romanones planned to return to Paris in the near future to confer with allied and American representatives over questions vitally concerning Spain.

In connection with the status of Gibraltar, it was declared in some quarters that the Spanish premier contemplated raising the question of its return to Spain, that country expressing willingness, if necessary, to concede Ceuta, on the Moroccan side of the strait, to Great Britain in exchange for Gibraltar, holding that possession of Ceuta by the British would afford equal strategic advantage in modern warfare.

SINN FEIN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT NOT TO TAKE SEATS

DUBLIN, Dec. 26.—The Sinn Fein victory over the Nationalists in the recent parliamentary elections exceeded the highest hopes of the Sinn Feiners. It is believed that when the final count is made on Dec. 28, the Sinn Feiners will have won a majority of the Irish seats.

In fact, before the election they had gained twenty-five seats because the Nationalists did not oppose them.

The Sinn Feiners elected to the house of commons will not take their seats. They will forfeit the \$15 which they had to post as an election fee and which is returnable only when a member takes his oath and his seat.

The immediate purpose of the Sinn Feiners, according to one of their most prominent leaders, is to convene an Irish Nationalist assembly early in January. The assembly would draft a national constitution for Ireland which would be laid before a conference of all nations.

Want Independent Republic
Complete separation and a republic wholly independent of Great Britain is proclaimed by some Sinn Feiners. The policy of the Sinn Feiners is reported to be all or nothing, and it is believed that the success of the Sinn Fein has been because a moderate settlement of the Irish question has not yet been reached. The difficulties in the way of a home rule agreement still persist. Various plans have been suggested to bring about home rule, but none has substantial backing from any organized party in Ireland.

GERMAN ADMIRALS DISMISSED.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 27.—Vice-Admiral Hipper, commander-in-chief of the German high seas fleet; Vice-Admiral Bachmann, commander of the Baltic fleet, and Captain Hinke, director of the dockyards at Kiel, have been dismissed, according to a telegram from Berlin.

Vice-Admiral Hipper headed the German delegation which arranged the plans for the surrender of the German ships to the allied nations recently in the North Sea. He succeeded Admiral Scheer as head of the high seas fleet. Admiral Bachmann had been in command of the Baltic fleet for several years.

GERMANS RESTORE 6,000,000,000 FRANCES

PARIS, Dec. 28.—The Germans have returned stocks taken from the banks in Northern France, amounting approximately to 6,000,000,000 francs.

Several safes, weighing from five to seven tons each, which the Germans didn't open and are now in Brussels, will be brought back shortly to Valenciennes.

Writing of one of the most despicable characters he ever portrayed, Fledgeby, the money-lender, Dickens says, "Instinct (a word we all clearly understand), going on four legs, and reason on two, meanness on four legs never attains the perfection of man's."

Strong Government To Discuss Peace

BERLIN, Dec. 25.—Philip Scheidemann, member of the German cabinet, in an interview with the United Press, said a stable Socialist government would soon be established, a responsible, constitutional government to deal with the Allies. All disorders in Germany will disappear shortly, he promised. The Spartacist movement, he asserted, is rapidly dying.

"Now that the date for a constitutional assembly has been fixed and the political situation is stabilized, we must concentrate all our efforts upon bringing peace and establishing our world position," Scheidemann said.

Scheidemann said he was not worried about the disorders among the radicals and the Spartacist attacks.

Radicals in Minority

"It is safe," he declared, "to regard the assaults against public order—which we intend to strenuously suppress—as demonstrations of disorderly radicals who are in an insignificant minority. The great majority with whom the workmen's and soldiers' councils carried their important resolutions, justified us in naming our party the majority party. The Socialists have approved our authority to govern until the constituent assembly establishes a permanent government. Even the privilege class here has ceased talking. Thus, the constitutional government, when established will be Socialistic. It will be stable because the majority of Socialists oppose dangerous economic, social and political experiments."

"There is no doubt that the political situation is clearing. Important voices demand a fusion of the minority and majority Socialists, which will be possible only after the Spartacists are put out of the minority. That will come. But the revolution does not depend upon it. Until the constituent assembly acts, the revolution rests on the broad shoulders of the majority Socialist party."

Interference With Communication

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—Telephonic communication between Berlin and Danzig has been interrupted since Tuesday evening. Attempts to communicate with the Baltic port by way of Posen have failed.

Danzig was occupied last week by Polish forces from France under command of General Haller.

POPE READY TO AID IN SECURING PEACE

ROME, Dec. 25.—Pope Benedict yesterday received the members of the Sacred College, who presented their Christmas wishes to him. Twenty-three cardinals and many bishops and prelates were present.

In reply to the greetings, the Pope expressed a wish that the decisions of the coming peace congress not only would re-establish order, but would give a new birth to human sentiments which will render communion with our brothers and the sacrifices made for them sweet.

The pontiff declared that he would do all in his power to facilitate acquiescence in the decisions of the congress in order to secure a just and durable peace.

Pope Benedict expressed doubt whether the temper that had devastated the world had not left in the hearts of men the deadly remains of ancient rancors, unwholesome germs of discord, vengeance and reprisals. The very ardor of war and the passion for defence of country, the pontiff added, were noble in their origin, although it was natural that in principle they could easily lead to excesses and make the germs of social discord more grave.

The Pope said he wondered if it were not the holy father's task to repair the moral ills of the war, no less than the material damages, and dissipate the dangers of fresh perturbations which might result from excessive national hatreds and passions. He said he hoped his work henceforth might be an echo of the decision of the peace conference, and mainly directed to the cares and instruction of his children, and the protection and direction of workers and the counselling of the wealthy classes for the good use of their wealth and authority.

One of Agassiz's biographers

says of him, "When a very little fellow he had all sorts of pets; birds, field-mice, hares, rabbits, guinea-pigs, etc., whose families he reared with the greatest care. His pet animals suggested questions, to

Bolsheviki Recruit Army of 2,000,000 of Repatriated Men

WARSAW, Dec. 27.—Two million Russian prisoners, the first thousands of which are slowly passing homeward, are being picked up by the Bolsheviki, for the formation of their new army, all of whom appear to be tainted with Bolshevism and there is danger of its spreading to Poland and Bohemia.

The Poles are rapidly organizing their own army around the nucleus of General Pilsudski's phalanxes. The old Polish legion of home-weary troops, which are coming home, have no Russian or German sympathy, merely desiring to be left alone.

ODESSA BECOMES SCENE OF FIGHTING ON LAND AND SEA

ODESSA, Dec. 27.—There had been sharp fighting throughout the city for several hours Wednesday, in which 5,000 French troops participated. French cannon on the waterfront and big guns of the French battleship Justice are firing over the city, bombarding a camp beyond.

It is impossible, as yet, to estimate the casualties or to determine the exact control of any quarter of the city, with the exception of the waterfront.

TWO HUNDRED KILLED IN ODESSA STREET FIGHTING

ODESSA.—The volunteer army which is holding Odessa, under French command, is to be increased by detachments from the Crimea. The main force of the Republican army, which is now ten miles from Odessa, is reported to have received reinforcements from Kiev, who came in an armored train.

More than two hundred persons were killed in the street fighting here on Dec. 18, a revised count shows. One third of these were civilians. Several school children were wounded.

SWEARS CZAR LIVES

WARSAW, Dec. 27.—"There is no doubt that the Czar and his entire family are alive. I am positive of this," was the declaration made to the Tehilichetef, a nephew of General Skoropadski, and who has just escaped from the Ukraine after a recent trip to Petrograd, Dvinsk, Vilna and Rowno.

VIENNA HOLIDAY SEASON ANYTHING BUT HAPPY

VIENNA, Dec. 24.—With shops closed at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, after which the streets are in semi-darkness, with homes lacking in light and heat, with food and clothing at famine prices and more than 50,000 persons unemployed, Vienna's first peace Christmas promises to be far gloomier than any during the four years of the war. Persons with unlimited means can get nearly everything they need, but the middle classes and the families of professional men, who before the war and even two years ago, were comfortably off, must, for instance, go to bed on Christmas night at 6 o'clock because of the entire lack of light.

Since the armistice was signed the shopkeepers have brought out amazing stores of goods, especially of clothing, which only a few days previously, they asserted, were nonexistent. Prices have fallen to one-fourth the previous rate, but are still too high for any but the war profiteers. Food prices show no reduction and are still prohibitive in many cases, while some products like milk are almost unobtainable.

The newspapers report that 50,000 persons were waiting at the meat markets on Saturday morning, of whom 10,000 had been standing in queues all night long, hoping to be able to buy a small quantity of bacon. Turkeys cost \$6 a pound, beef \$3 and pork \$5. The prices of all Christmas fruits are equally exorbitant.

The only bright spot in the comparatively mild weather, which has saved thousands of lives.

ALLIES OCCUPY MANNHEIM

PARIS, Dec. 27.—A battalion of infantry have occupied Mannheim by order of Marshal Foch, in order to watch the prison camp near there where 10,000 allied prisoners await liberation, according to the Badische Landeszeitung. The paper adds that this step was taken because of the ill treatment of the

GERMANY WILL KEEP TO WILSON'S PROGRAM

PARIS, Dec. 28.—"All the belligerents have accepted President Wilson's fourteen points, and the only question to be discussed is their interpretation," said Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, in giving his opinion of what Germany's attitude would be at the peace conference, according to the Geneva correspondent of the Matin.

"Germany," declared the count, "will keep to the president's programme, which grants each people of an ethnic group, the right to dispose of itself."

Asked if he thought the president's programme would furnish the basis for a lasting peace, Count von Bernstorff shrugged his shoulders.

"This is the only one which can be proposed at present," he added, "and the attempt must be made to apply it. At any rate we shall support it."

When he was asked by the correspondent what attitude Germany would adopt toward the east, he replied: "All the questions concerning the new states which have sprung up on the Russian frontier are the affairs of the allies. Let them disentangle things as best they can. We wash our hands of Russia. We are content to safeguard as far as possible the integrity of our territory, consulting at the same time the will of the people."

Would Protect Kaiser.

Asked about the white book which Carl Kauffsky is said to be preparing in Berlin, Count von Bernstorff said:

"I don't think the book will reveal the individual responsibilities of the persons who directed Germany in 1914. It will rather show the collective faults of the regime."

"I do not favor handing over the Kaiser to the allies. A sovereign is not responsible for the policy of his government."

LIBERALS WANT UNITED GERMANY

COLOGNE, Dec. 28.—Appeals for the union of all the Liberal parties which desire a republic and do not wish the new Germany to fall into the hands either of reactionaries or Socialists, were made at a meeting Sunday, of the German democratic party, which assembled in Cologne to adopt a platform.

The party desires a united Germany, including German Austria, equality before the law of citizens of all classes, male and female; freedom of thought and religion; a free press and free speech; but no arbitrary attacks on the rights of the church. Families with many children, it is declared, should be protected from excessive taxation.

So that the burden may be borne, industry and healthy trade are necessary, as well as freedom of trade from the fetters of war industries. The abolition of war industries is desired.

The party advocates the living of free peasants on free soil. Officials must be assured a livelihood, in order to insure good service. There must be sympathetic care for the war wounded and for the dependants of the fallen soldiers, which would be made a point of honor in the new Germany. Upon this platform, it is announced, the German democratic party will stand in the national assembly.

REAL SCARCITY IN GERMANY

BRUNNEN, Dec. 26.—[The Germans, particularly those living in the larger cities, were yesterday having lean fare for their Christmas dinners.]

So much has been said about the food situation that it is understandable if there is an impression in some quarters that the situation has been exaggerated. Here, however, there is one excellent harbinger of the situation, namely "Schlittenhandel," or illegitimate trafficking in foodstuffs is termed, and this is beginning to diminish remarkably.

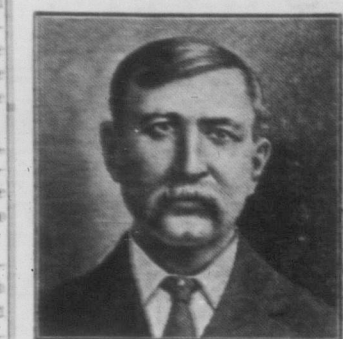
A month ago it was possible to buy butter, sausage and some other articles from these surreptitious dealers at high prices.

During the last fortnight, however, it has become increasingly difficult to find these things, and even the best "connections and sources" are now unable to procure more than occasional small portions at greatly increased prices.

When the crafty dealers in this business cannot longer secure goods

FRIENDS THOUGHT HE WOULD DIE

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" Conquered Dyspepsia and Restored His Health.



MR. ROBERT NEWTON.

Little Bras d'Or, C. B. "I was a terrible sufferer from Dyspepsia and Constipation for years. I had pain after eating, belching gas, constant headaches, and did not sleep well at night. I lost so much weight—going from 185 pounds to 145 pounds—that I became alarmed and saw several doctors who, however, did me no good. Finally, a friend told me to try 'Fruit-A-Tives'."

In a week, there was improvement. The constipation was corrected, and soon I was free of pain, headaches and that miserable feeling that accompanies Dyspepsia. I continued to take this splendid fruit medicine and now I am well, strong and vigorous."

ROBERT NEWTON.

Box, a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 5c. At all dealers or sent postpaid on receipt of price by Fruit-A-Tives Limited, Ottawa.

SUDDEN DEATH OF E. KRAFCHENKO

FLUKE COULDER, Man, Dec. 27.—E. Krafchenko, father of John Krafchenko, the noted desperado, who robbed the bank of Montreal here a few years ago, was found dead in bed this afternoon. His wife is employed as housekeeper for a family in town and had not been home since some time yesterday. This afternoon she went to the house, but was unable to get in or get any response to her knocks. Entrance was obtained through a window and the old man was found dead in bed.

Dr. McGavin, the coroner, announced that death had resulted from a paralytic stroke and decided an inquest would not be necessary.

GERMAN COAL MINES TIED UP

BERLIN, Dec. 27.—New strikes have broken out in the Silesia coal field as a result of agitation carried on by agents of Dr. Liebknecht, radical Socialist leader, the Tageblatt says it is informed. The agents succeeded in inducing the miners to repudiate the recent agreement with the mine owners. Demands, with the conditions that they be accepted at once, were refused by the owners, and five of the leading mines have shut down. The present Silesian output is half the normal yield.

The Rhenish Westphalian coal fields also are still partly paralyzed by a strike which has cut down the output one-third.

The Socialist Vorwaerts declares that the entire industrial activity of Saxony will be crippled within fourteen days unless more coal is assured. In November the coal shortage in Germany amounted to 30,000 tons. The December supply, it is declared, will show a greater decrease.

LOOTING BY AIRPLANE

MUNICH, Dec. 26.—The Munich Post today prints a startling charge that German war profiteers, unable otherwise to get loot out of the country have resorted to the use of airplanes. According to the newspaper several airplanes have taken securities of enormous value from Frankfurt to Switzerland.

The Post urges the government to seize capital where it is available, especially in the banks.

PADEREWSKI'S OLIVE BRANCH TO POLAND

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Dec. 26.—Ignace Jan Paderewski, it is reported, has been landed in Danzig from the British cruiser Coventry. From there he will proceed to Warsaw to urge the Polish authorities to frame a harmonious and democratic government and to refrain from the present dangerous quarrels with the Lithuanians in Vilna, the Germans in Posen and with the Galicians and Ukrainians.

Children Cry

CASTORIA