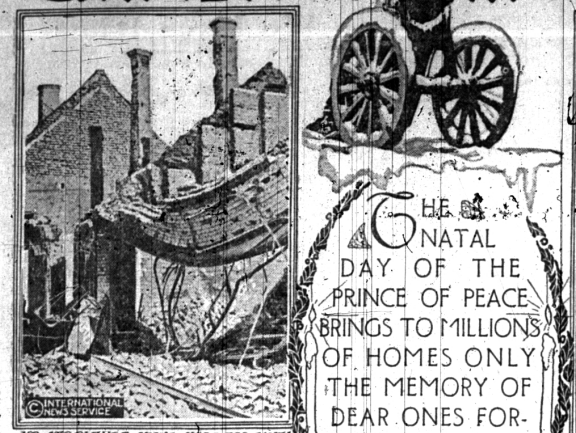
Christmas in Europe



THE NATAL DAY OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE BRINGS TO MILLIONS OF HOMES ONLY THE MEMORY OF DEAR ONES FOREVER GONE AND THE GLOOM OF FADING HOPE.

NO STOCKINGS HUNG HERE FOR SANTA

FIGHTING FOR BREAD IN POLAND

By JERLE DAVIS.

WHAT a ghastly holiday Christmas will be in Europe this year. Millions of families in mourning, millions of women and children starving, millions of homes in ruins, millions of new graves, millions of dead men that haven't even the shelter of earth, millions of square miles of fertile land laid waste by war, millions of men killing fathers, husbands, brothers, sons and sweethearts.

Belgium, Serbia, northern France and Poland are a Hades of wreckage. In Germany everyone is living on short rations and turning all energies to the pursuit of war. Even the half-grown boys of France are under arms awaiting the call to the trenches. Austria and Italy and England and Russia and Bulgaria are pouring their money into the mill that turns out guns and explosives while the poor exist in the misery of semistarvation, getting their mite of food and fuel and clothing by taking their turn in the "bread line."

All of warring Europe's able-bodied men are soldiers in one capacity or another. In the streets of all the cities and villages of the continent—excepting the little neutral nations—one sees only aged men, veterans of other wars, and maimed men who are recovering from wounds received in this one. Everywhere are hospitals.

THE ORPHANS' CHRISTMAS BEHIND THE WAR IN BELGIUM

CONTRIBUTING CHRISTMAS PACKAGES TO ORPHANS IN FRANCE

Schools, churches, factories, homes—every sort of habitable place is filled with wounded. And one of the most flourishing enterprises over there is the sale of artificial limbs.

Even from Asia comes the wail of sorrow, for Mohammedan Turkey is religiously slaughtering its hundreds of thousands of Christian Armenian subjects. News dispatches of the last few days describe the terrible plight of refugees—penniless, ragged, hungry, diseased, noncombatants and exhausted, beaten soldiers—who are sweeping out of desolated Serbia into Greece. We read of women with children in arms spending a month tramping through the snow-covered mountains, hoping in the end to find a little warmth and food and peace. We read of frozen roadways strewn with the bodies of those that stopped on the way for a bit of rest—and never went on.

None of the hundred million of us in the United States can appreciate the horror of it all. Some of our war correspondents over there have seen and heard, but none has suffered and endured as those who are a part of the conflagration.

Santa Claus will have a sorry time abroad this year. Fathers and mothers have neither the heart nor the means of commemorating the birth of the Child of Bethlehem and his mission among men. Of necessity they and their children will fast instead of feast—if there is any feasting it will be a feast of prayer and hope.

America sent no Christmas ship abroad this year. Why not? some of us may ask. Why not—with the United States at the height of prosperity and blessed with peace. Perhaps because we realize what a horror the war is. A prominent newspaper man in one of our large cities—a man who had much to do with the success of the project last year—had this to say when the question was brought up:

"A Christmas ship this year—a boatload or two or three boatloads of dolls and jumping-jacks and red apples and candy and cakes and mittens and red-top boots for the kids of Europe? I shall not dwell on the fact that the warring nations have become much more deadly in their hate and suspicion and probably would refuse safe passage for the cargoes from one country to another. I shall not concern myself with the fact that the nations embroiled look upon the United States as a greedy animal growing fat and sleek feeding on their life blood, and probably would return our gifts to us with curt 'No-thank-yous.'

"Instead I shall confess that I am weighed down with the hopelessness of the situation. Here in America we have all we may reasonably ask of Providence—considering our own sins of politics and social injustice. Over there they are cursed beyond the power of words to describe, and the curse will be felt for generations.

"Millions in Europe are dying in the agonies of starvation, cold and disease for want of food, clothing, shelter and medical aid. What a ghastly joke it would be in these circumstances for the richest and luckiest nation to offer those millions of pitiful children a little candy and fruit when they need milk and broth, mittens when they need blankets and clothing, dolls and toy trains when they need doctors and nurses and sanitary supplies. No, this is no time for polite mementoes. Let us concentrate on giving the only real help that would suffice—and that would be welcome—peace as soon as possible."

Let us look upon the manner in which Europe celebrated Christmas before the war.

In France and Belgium on Christmas eve the baraques, or booths, appear in the streets without hindrance, and are all ablaze with candles and glittering treasures, for every household must contain some bright trinket in honor of Noel. The midnight mass is thronged; the magnificent Christmas hymn is chanted everywhere, and then all is gleeful holiday for an hour or so, for it is Christmas morning, the peace-making morning of the world.

There is the boudin to be eaten, the calen, or Christmas lamp, symbolical of the star that guided the Magi to Bethlehem, to be lighted, the little creche to be exposed, and all happiness, all good-will to everyone to be expressed before retiring with the grand chorals of peace sounding in the ears. In the country the lads and lassies merrily drag home the buche de Noel, corresponding to our Yule log, which is kindled by the head of the family; the boudin must be eaten, and the hot spiced wine sent round, and many a misunderstanding is made clear beside the Christmas fire on this, the day of good will.

In Germany and Austria every housemother and every father makes Christmas the feast for the children, the great day of reunion, the glad time when all meet under the old rooftree and social customs prevail over religious observances. The Christmas tree is ubiquitous—everyone has it, rich or poor—and no one omits Weihnacht's Beschegrung or Christmas gifts. To provide these, the German people will, if need be, save up half the year. Each member of the household must have something as a surprise, generally serviceable presents that are often needed and always acceptable.

Singularly enough, the Christmas is not celebrated as one would expect in Italy. There the night of the year is less a religious festival than a fair. The world seems absorbed in delirious excitement, and all crowd round Pulchnello and divert themselves hilariously till the churches claim them for the midnight mass. But the fun goes on; they laugh gleefully, as only Italians can laugh, enjoy themselves to their hearts' content, but the celebrations are not home celebrations; it is a general, not a domestic, feast.

In Russia and Poland the children put their shoes filled with hay outside the door for the horses of St. Nicholas; and it is believed in most sections that St. Nicholas comes first on a preparatory visit ten days before Christmas to learn which children have been good. He leaves nuts and candy in the shoes of those who have been good, but nothing for those who have been bad, who thus know that they may expect no presents on the real Christmas day.

In Serbia and the other Balkan countries, at dawn on the day before Christmas the sturdy peasant proprietor dispatches his sons to the forest. On reaching the spot where the destined Christmas tree stands, the axbearer offers up a prayer; then he draws on a pair of gloves, takes a handful of corn, flings it against the tree, and says, "Good morning, and a happy Christmas to you." This done, he addresses himself to the task of felling, paying careful attention to the laws of the "badnyak," which prescribes among other things that all the cuts be made on one particular side. Once felled, the tree is carried home and planted against the east side of the house, where it remains till evening. Then the wife lights two candles and places one on either side of the doorway, while the husband goes forth to bring in the "badnyak."

The master of the house now throws three nuts into each of the four corners of the room, saying as he does so: "In the name of the Father; in the name of the Son; in the name of the Holy Ghost—Amen!"

All night everyone remains gloating over the crackling, roasting pig, with an eagerness of anticipation proportionate to the zeal with which they have observed the six weeks' fast enjoined by the Greek orthodox church. By this time Christmas day has dawned, and on Christmas everyone must go to service.

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Live Stock.

DETROIT—Cattle: Market steady. Best heavy steers, $6.75@7.50; best handy weight butcher steers, $6@6.50; mixed steers and heifers, $5@6; handy light butchers, $4.25@5; best cows, $5@5.25; butcher cows, $4.50@5; common cows, $3.75@4.25; canners, $3@3.50; best heavy bulls, $5.35@5.50; bologna bulls, $4@5; stock bulls, $3.75@4.25; feeders, $6@7; stockers, $4.50@5.75; milkers and springers, $40@80.

Veal Calves—Market steady. Best grades, $10@10.50; others, $7@9.

Sheep and Lambs—Market strong; 25c higher. Sheep, steady. Best lambs, $9.50@9.75; fair lambs, $9@9.40; light to common lambs, $6.75@8.25; fair to good sheep, $4.75@5.50; culls and common, $3@4.

Hogs—Market 10c higher. $6; others, $6.25@6.50.

EAST BUFFALO—Receipts of cattle 110 cars; market 15@25c higher; choice to prime native steers, $8.75@9; fair to good, $8.25@8.50; plain and coarse, $7.50@7.50; best Canadian steers, $8@8.50; fair to good, $7.25@7.75; common and plain, $6@7; choice handy butcher steers, $7.75@8; fair to good grassers, $6.50@7; light to common grassers, $5.50@6; prime heifers, $6.25@6.75; best butcher heifers, $6.75@7; common to good, $4.75@6.50; light, $5.25@6.50; best fat cows, $5.75@6.50; good butcher cows, $5@5.75; medium to good, $4.50@5, cutters, $3.75@4.50; canners, $2.75@3.40; fancy bulls, $6.75@7; good butcher bulls, $6.25@6.50; light bulls, $4@4.75; best feeders, $6.25@7.75; common to good $5.25@6; best stockers, $5.50@6.25; common to good, $3.50@5.50; good yearlings, $5.75@6.25; common $4@4.50; milchers and springers, $60@100.

Hogs: Receipts, 130 cars; market active and 10c higher; heavy, $6.75@6.85; yorkers and mixed, $6.70@6.75; pigs, $6@6.35.

Sheep: Receipts, 40 cars; market active and higher; top lambs $10.15@10.25; yearlings, $8@8.50; wethers, $6.50@7; ewes, $6@6.25.

Calves: Receipts—700; market steady; tops, $11@11.25; fair to good, $9.50@10.25; grassers, $4@5.

Grains, Etc.

DETROIT—Wheat Cash No 2 red, $1.19 1-2; December opened 1-2c lower at $1.18 1-2 and advanced to $1.19; May opened at $1.24 and advanced to $1.25 1-2; No 1 white, $1.16 1-2.

Corn—Cash No 3, 69 1-2c; No 3 yellow, 71c; No 4 yellow, 69 1-2c.

Oats—Standard, 46c; No 3 white, 44c; No 4 white, 41@42 1-2c; sample, 39@41c.

Rye—Cash No 2, 97c.

Beans—Immediate and prompt shipment, $3.55; December, $3.45; January, $3.45.

Clover Seed—Prime spot and December, $12.20; March, $12; prime alsike, $10.25.

Timothy—Prime spot, $3.75.

General Markets.

Apples—Greenings, $1@2.50; Spies, $1@4.50; Baldwins, $3.50@4; Steel Reds, $3.50@4; Jonathan, $4@4.50; Kings, $4.50@5 per bbl; wesorp, $1@2.25 per box.

Beans—Wax, $2.50@3.75; greens, $3.75@4 per hamper.

Beets—75@80c per bu.

Dressed Hogs—Light, 8@8 1-2c; heavy, 7@7 1-2c per lb.

Dressed Poultry—Turkeys, 25@26c; geese, 15 1-2@16c; ducks, 16@17c; spring chickens, 14c; hens, 13c per lb.

Dressed Calves—Best, 12 1-2@13c; medium, 10@11c per lb.

New Hay and Straw—No 1 timothy, $16@17; standard timothy, $15@16; light mixed, $15@16; No 1 timothy, $14@15; No 1 mixed, $12@13; No 2 mixed, $10@11; No 1 clover, $10@11; rye straw, $7.50@8; wheat and oat straw, $6.50@7 per ton.

Live Poultry—No 1 spring chickens, 12 1-2@13c; medium spring, 11 1-2@12c; heavy hens, 11@11 1-2c; medium hens, 10@11c; light hens, 9@10c; ducks, 15@15 1-2c; geese, 14@15c; spring turkeys, 22@23c; old turkeys, 17@18c per lb.

Potatoes—Car lots on track; Minnesota red, 80@82c; Minnesota white, 80@85c; Michigan, 80@85c per bu. in sacks.

Onions—Spanish, $1.50 per crate; yellow, $1.90@2 per 100-lb sack; white $1.75 per bu.

Sweet Potatoes—Jersey, kiln-dried, $1.30@1.35 per hamper.

Cheese—Wholesale lots: Michigan flats, 16 1-2@16 3-4c; brick cream, 17 1-4@17 1-2c; limburger, in 2-lb pkgs 15c, 1-lb pkgs 16 1-2@17c; domestic Swiss, 20@25c; imported Swiss, 38c; New York flats, 17@17 1-4c; long horn, 18@18 1-4c; daisies, 18@18 1-4c per lb.

Feed—In 100-lb sacks: Bran, $22; standard middlings, $25; fine middlings, $30; cracked corn, $30; coarse cornmeal, $29; chop feed, $28 per ton.

Hides—No 1 cured, 18 1-2c; No 1 green 17c; No 1 cured bulls, 15@16c; No 1 green bulls, 11c; No 1 cured veal kip, 20c; No 1 green veal kip, 19c; No 1 cured murrain, 16c; No 1 green murrain, 14c; No 1 cured calf, 27c; No 1 green calf, 21c; horsehides, $4.50; No 2 horsehides, $3.50; No 1 sides, 1c off; No 2 kip and calf, 1 1-4c off; sheepskin, as to wool, 50c@$1.50.

James A. Greene, for two years assistant in the attorney-general's office, has tendered his resignation, to take effect January 1. He will go to Alma to go into partnership with W. A. Sahlke.

The largest check received by Secretary of State Vaughan for automobile licenses this year from a single company came Saturday from the Edison Illuminating Co. Their check was $1,482.30 to cover license plates for their seven machines used in Detroit.

TESTS QUALITIES OF CLOTH

English Town, It Is Claimed, Has Machine That Makes It Possible to Tell Value of Goods.

A machine for testing the wearing quality of cloth has been produced in Bradford, England. It may be found of interest to American firms which manufacture, sell or use textile fabrics. Relative wearing qualities of different pieces of cloth may be determined by placing them in the machine and giving them a uniform number of rubs, perhaps two hundred each. This makes it possible to compare one kind of cloth with its imitation, or to compare cloth samples of the same character from different mills.

A piece of cloth is clamped in a right jaw and passes over a rubbing surface formed by dull blades set in a cylinder. This cylinder makes one revolution clockwise, then one in the opposite direction, and this is recorded by a counter as one rub. The other end of the cloth is clamped to a roller, on which is placed the quadrant, from which any number of weights can be suspended, and thus put the cloth in tension. The machine can be driven by an electric motor. When the cloth is worn through the machine automatically stops.

He Was Company All Right.

"Make yourself perfectly at home. We don't look on you as company."

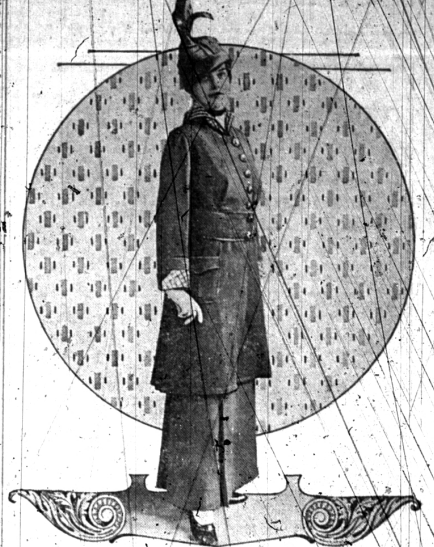
"Don't believe 'em, mister. They made me wash my face and hands just because you were coming to supper."

The Trouble.

"Now, let me tell you about this new hat of mine. It came direct from—"

"You needn't go all over that again. Anybody to look at you can see you've got Panama on the brain."

Concerning the Remaking of Suits



It is a good idea to buy an extra yard or so of the material selected for a tailored suit, in order that the coat or skirt, or both, may be altered and the suit remodeled. Good fabrics outlast styles, and a suit is often regretfully consigned to the discard, not because it is worn but because styles have changed since it was made.

A suit that is required to do more than one season's service without any alteration should be conservative in style. A plain skirt of medium fullness, and a box coat or one of the plain, semifitted models, if well made of good material and fine finish, is never out of the running.

A good model to follow in remaking a suit is shown in the picture given here. The skirt is made with an inverted panel set in at the back and front, and a narrow skirt may be widened by the addition of such panels. Another good plan for widening a narrow skirt is to split it up at each side to the swell of the hip. Here it is trimmed to form a yoke, and an extra piece is set in at each side by shirring or plaiting it to the yoke. The fashion for short skirts help make the way easy in altering them, and borders at the bottom and bands set on are useful for the same purpose.

Coats have been brought up to date this season by the addition of full skirts set on at the waist line, and by belts and pockets made in the new mode. A collar and cuffs in another fabric help out in the transformation, and buttons supplement these with the smartest of finishing touches.

It is a great satisfaction to convert an old style into a new one. Whether one is compelled to be economical or not a remade suit made of good cloth adds variety to the wardrobe and admits of the exercise of the individual taste in design.

Artificial feathers for millinery, made of fur, have been invented by a Boston man.

Little Ministers of Vanity

Someone whose occupation, or business, is the thinking up of pretty things must have turned her attention recently to artificial flowers. For these cunning copies of nature's beauty-wonders are compelling attention everywhere because they are used in new and unusual ways. We are used to seeing them in corsage bouquets and replacing natural flowers in the limousine. We are familiar with them in girdles about the waist and in wreaths about the hair, but these are only mere beginnings of their usefulness as it has been lately developed.

Everywhere little blossoms nestle in bows and rosettes of, malines or lace, ornamenting collars and cuffs. They dangle, in place of ribbons, in hanging sprays from the girdle. They are perched in bright sprays on the party or the shopping bag, and they adorn the pincushion, the perfume bottle and the powder puff.

A small bouquet set in a frill of gauze and suspended by narrow ribbons that are tied about the wrist is the latest adjunct but one of the party gown. And that one is the spray of flowers which finishes an adorable anklet of malines that is tied above the slipper to fly with the feet of the youthful dancer. Only one ankle is allowed this final touch of color and coquetry.

The corsage bouquet and the flowers for the limousine have other business in hand besides their important mission of beauty. They are determined to be useful as well as ornamental. A bouquet for the limousine is shown in the picture, made of two orchids and many sprays of lifelike lilies of the valley. In the heart of one orchid, concealed by flower petals, is a tiny box of compact powder and the other darns to harbor in this secret way a box of rouge. Flower petals cover the small powder puff that slips in each box and the unnoticeable little ring that is the handle of the puff is covered with silk floss.

The stems of the flowers are tied with a bow of ribbon matching one of the shades in the orchids in color. One ribbon loop is sewed up along the edges to form a case for a tiny mirror. Look twice in the heart of the newest corsage rose and the chances are that you will find it harboring the same sort of first aids to Cupid.

Julia Bottomley

Quaint Runner Design.

There is a strong evidence of the revival of things quaint in needlework not only in stitches, but in designs as well. One expression of this revival is noticeable in a runner for a library table. Conventionalized birds form the principal motif, and are stamped upon heavy tan crash. They are embroidered in vivid colorinks, heavy wool being used for the purpose. The rounded ends of the runner add an unusual effect to the scarf. These are finished with fringe, which looks just as old-fashioned as the birds themselves. The sides of the scarf are embellished with a conventional border formed of solid and outline stitches.

A pillow displaying the same design would complete a very attractive set for somebody's library.

Many Like Him.

"Ever notice how Jones butts into a conversation?" "Yes; he always thinks his particular train of thought has the right of way."—Boston Transcript.