

Germany Made Plans to Annex Switzerland?

PARIS, Dec. 18.—As proof that Germany made plans to annex Switzerland the *Matin* prints photographs of German ten and twenty pfennig stamps, across which are printed in black letters, "Schweiz, ten centimes," and "Schweiz twenty-five centimes." The editor claims that he has stamps of this kind in his possession.

PLUM PUDDING.

One pound suet, 1 pound currant, 1 pound raisins, 1 pound mashed potatoes, 1 pound red carrots, boiled and mashed, 1-2 pound brown sugar, 1-2 pound molasses, 1 teaspoonful ground cloves, 1 teaspoonful ground cinnamon, 2 z. can. baking powder, 1-2 pound bread crumbs, 1-2 pound chopped nuts. Add flour enough to make a stiff batter. Steam 24 hours as convenient. It is well to make this pudding at least a week before Christmas, as it is the better. Before serving steam it a couple of hours more.

British Strike Effective Now At The Germans

Paris, Dec. 18.—At the very point where the Germans had massed great forces intending to start an offensive against the allies, British troops have delivered a blow which resulted in an advance of practically two miles. The extent of the forward movement of the allies is now increasing daily. The advance is reported northeast of Arras of from troops which have taken up positions in the battle line and are attacking the Germans with the greatest determination.

Particular attention is being given to the clearing of all small woods of the enemy where their field guns have been masked. From La Bassée westward to the coast heavy fighting is in progress. From hospital bases in the rear of the lines reports have been received that great numbers of wounded are arriving.

"The length of the war does not depend upon the state of French finances. Let France have confidence in herself and thus aid in achieving the final victory which the world foresees." This was the statement of Minister of Finance Ribot, today, in explaining the financial situation before the budget committee of the Chamber of Deputies. "France will not kick at resources to continue the war which was thrust upon her," the minister declared. "We have determined to wage the war to the bitter end. I can view without inquietude the prolongation of hostilities to any length."

London, Dec. 18.—Mine sweepers are to-day combing the waters along the coast between Newcastle and Flamborough Head. The sinking of three ships in this region by striking mines yesterday only augmented the anger to which Englishmen have been aroused by the attack on unfortified cities. The British are unable to understand how the United States and other neutral countries can further ignore the violations of the laws of civilized warfare, of which they charge that the Germans are guilty.

The authorities of all the coast cities are to-day busily engaged in organizing the citizens and planning the local defense measures. This will consist chiefly of maintaining a constant watch on the coast for hostile warships, and arranging for the speedy transportation of civilians from the towns should German vessels appear.

There are no indications that the Admiralty intends to change its plans for the disposition of the British dreadnoughts and battle cruisers. The coast patrol will be left to the destroyers and light cruisers as before.

Stockholm, Dec. 18.—The closest defensive alliance to deal with any eventuality growing out of the European war is expected to be formed between Norway, Sweden and Denmark during the conferences of kings and foreign ministers of these three countries which began at Malmö today. The greatest interest is manifested here in the conference, which was suggested by King Gustav of Sweden. It is expected that plans will be devised to diminish the economic distress in the Scandinavian countries.

A protest is also likely to be made to the powers against Germany's alleged illegal seizure of Scandinavian merchantships, and indiscriminate mine laying. The King of Sweden formally received King Haakon of Norway and King Frederick of Denmark together with the foreign ministers before the conference. All of the monarchs were in civilian attire.

BUENOS AYRES, Dec. 18.—British steamers in the Pacific ports to-day cancelled all sailings because of the danger of meeting the German *Dresden*. It is reported that the *Dresden* has been sighted by a British cruiser, it is believed to be far from British waters, and that German warships are in the area.

Under the same pretext the British shipping line the *Enden* was sighted. It is reported that the *Enden* was sighted by a British ship, and that the German warships are in the area.

VALUE OF BIRDS BEYOND TELLING

Without Them Insects Would Very Soon Destroy Everything That Grows For Man's Use

Ontario's recent experience with the army worm brought to the fore the "greatest friend of man"—the bird. Scientists say that if birds were to be wiped from the earth man would be unable to survive more than twenty-five years, the entire food supply in the meantime being destroyed by insects.

It is probable that no species of insect is so completely protected by its habits of life that it is not found and preyed upon by some bird. There are some insects that smell and taste badly. Certain beetles have a strong caustic secretion giving off a choking odor and cause a burning sensation on the tongue of man. Some draw in their limbs and antennae and look like pieces of earth; others play possum. There are so-called blister beetles, used medicinally to blister one's skin; many caterpillars are covered with hair, others having stinging rays. Yet some birds eat all of these in egg, larval state, or adult form and do not suffer thereby.

This continent is greatly favored in the number and character of its birds which not only include some of the gems of the bird world such as the warblers and humming birds, but on the whole possess few destructive species. No other creatures are so well fitted to capture flying insects as swallows, swifts, and night hawks. The wren also, trim of body and agile of movement, creeps in and out of holes and crevices and explores rubbish heaps for hidden insects. The woodpecker, whose whole body exhibits wonderful adaptation of means to an end, is provided with strong claws to hold him firmly when at work, a chisel-like bill driven by powerful muscles to dig out insects and a long extensible tongue to still further explore the hidden retreats of insects and drag forth concealed larvae safe from other foes.

Fifty thousand birds of different species have been examined in 25 years. One man fed a young robin 70 cut worms a day for fifteen days. A young crow in a day eats twice its weight of almost anything. Two parent grosbeaks have been known in eleven hours to make 450 trips to their nest with one or more larvae at a time. Sparrows, chickadees, vireos, martins and warblers have been known to make forty or sixty trips an hour with their beaks filled with all manner of insects. More than fifty kinds of birds feed upon different varieties of caterpillars, including the army worm, 38 varieties upon the devastating plant lice; 50 kinds feed upon the most destructive species of scale insects.

The hawks work by day, the owls chiefly by night; so that for the twenty-four hours activities are continued. As many as a hundred grasshoppers have been found in the stomach of a swinson's hawk representing a single meal, and in the retreat of a pair of barn owls have been found more than 3,000 skulls, 97 per cent. of which were field mice, house mice and common rats. A ring-neck pheasant's crop contained 800 seeds of chickweed and *cap. non's* head, more than 12,000 seeds have been found in a duck's stomach.

Of the woodpeckers there are 45 species in Canada some remaining throughout the year; two-thirds to three-quarters of their food consists of insects, chiefly noxious. Of two specimens of flickers' stomachs one

contained 1,000.

Of the yellow bill cuckoo, a Canadian bird, one stomach contained 250 tent caterpillars and another 217 web worms. The night hawk or bull bat is one of the most useful birds. There have been identified more than 600 kinds of insects taken from the stomachs of this bird, some birds having thirty to fifty different kinds. They eat the ant and the malaria-bearing mosquito.

Of two hundred and eighty-five stomachs of the meadow lark examined, seventy-three per cent. of the food found was insects. The vegetable food consisted of grain and weed and other seeds. Farmer and town dweller therefore have every reason to protect the birds as their best friends.

Advertising Novelty

As an advertising novelty an umbrella has been patented to be placed over electric lights in stores to diffuse their illumination.

Radium Helps Surgery.

According to a Paris surgeon radium emanations are valuable after operations to destroy stray diseased cells that the knife may have missed.

MODERN METHODS OF SAVING TIME

Machinery Replaces Human Brains and Hands—Office Work Reduced to Minimum

Novelties in the line of devices to save time and trouble in offices have come out in great numbers recently.

A new adding machine has an adding capacity of 10,000,000 and a weight of 13½ pounds. It adds, subtracts, and multiplies. It has seven keys, and an error-correcting device.

Another adding machine has a "Mezzanine" attachment, a keyboard on runways above the regular keyboard, which is said to make easy the solution of involved arithmetical operations.

An electric calculating machine, automatic after the necessary key has been depressed, multiplies, divides, and subtracts with astonishing speed.

Another calculating machine computes pay rolls, total time, and total pay, based on wages per week, per day, or per year.

An addressing machine about the size and weight of a typewriter prepares an address on a metal plate almost as quickly as it could be written on paper with a typewriter.

A special paper for the stencil addressing machines can be placed in any typewriter and written on in the usual way. The striking of the type makes the necessary perforations in the paper, which can then be placed in an ordinary stencil addressing machine and invoices, wrappers, cards, and other matter can be addressed by the thousand in exact facsimile of typewriting.

Presses for baling waste paper effect great savings in offices and large buildings, as every scrap of waste paper is utilized and sold.

A new carbon paper has an uncarbonized strip five-eighths of an inch wide, running lengthwise on the surface edge. This obviates soiling the hands and the paper.

A check machine writes a word at a stroke, impressing the same in indelible characters in the body of the check. It is impossible to remove the letters to raise the amount.

A coin counter will count hundreds of coins in a few minutes and deposit them in tubular containers.

A coin-banking machine will deliver a given amount of change in any variety desired, from one cent to \$200.

There are several new envelope-sealing machines with capacities for sealing from 1,000 to 10,000 per hour.

A compact machine has been devised which will sign five checks simultaneously in exact facsimile of the original.

A new stencil machine will cut the name and address of a customer, name of shipper, routing, and special marks in a material much like cardboard. It cuts from five-eighths to one inch high.

A new typewriter model has two sets of keys. The turn of a knob immediately gives a complete change of type. Many different fonts can be used.

The Spirit of Christmas.



There is hardly a festival in the calendar which has such a hold on the hearts of old and young alike as Christmas Day. The ring of the car bells and the voices upon the streets seem to

take on a more cheery tone, and the spirit of the time seems to throw a glamour over places and things which ordinarily are devoid of all beauty.

As it is with places, so it is with people. They, too, not only seem to change, but the transformation does take place in millions of hearts to a greater or less degree. The spirit of Christmas even affects people who for the rest of the year are devoid of sentiment and of feeling for their fellows. The most interesting stories of Christmaside are those which will never appear in print—true stories of men and women whose thoughts have been only of their own selfish aims and pleasures, but have been awakened, if only for a day or two, from their usual self-complacency, moved by some force of which they are only half-conscious to do some act of kindness to make the day happier for someone less fortunate than themselves in a worldly way.—The *Christian Herald*.

The Christmas Spirit.

But don't you see that there is a Santa Claus! He isn't a man in a fur coat, and a reindeer sleigh and all that, but he is the Spirit of Christmas, isn't he? They've personified that and made a saint of him and invented legends about him—for the children, but when we're no longer children and don't believe in him, we still have that Christmas spirit—and it's that that gives presents and makes us feel toward one another, and makes Christmas what it is.—Harvey J. O'Hara.

FORESTS AND NAVIGATION

Equality of Water Flow Dependent on Forest Cover

It has been urged that in the interests of navigation the Dominion Government should purchase such denuded forest land in the Eastern Provinces as might be necessary to reforest in order to prevent floods and the filling up of streams with sediment. In this connection the report on the Trent Watershed Survey, published by the Commission of Conservation, is of considerable interest. In this region of Ontario, as a result of fires, 150,000 acres are practically a desert and the report urges a policy of forest conservation under Dominion, provincial or municipal control in order to preserve the usefulness of the Trent Valley canal, in which over \$10,000,000 is invested. There are many such barren areas in the eastern provinces, which with the assistance of the Dominion Government might be made to produce valuable forest crops.

In Canada disastrous floods and low-water stages have been largely prevented by the timely action of the Dominion Government in setting aside as forest reserves the wooded slopes where the great rivers of the interior of the Dominion have their origin. On the east slope of the Rocky Mountains over 20,896 square miles of non-agricultural land have been thus reserved, for the double purpose of regulating the run-off and of providing a perpetual supply of timber to meet the ever-increasing needs of the prairie settlers. In the Railway Belt in British Columbia smaller reserves have also been set aside, chiefly for the purpose of maintaining a steady flow in the streams on which the fruit-growing industry is absolutely dependent.



The Manger.

RADITION declares that within the stone manger there was another one of wood, and that the stone manger in the Chapel of the Nativity is, indeed, the outer manger. Splendid is that humble stone trough now with white marble, softly rich with costly draperies, and radiant with a silver star, which is surrounded by 16 lamps, ever alight. But yet more glorious is the wooden manger at Rome, held to be the veritable manger in which the Christ-child lay. It was removed to Rome in the seventh century, during the Mohammedan invasion of the Holy Land, and there it is preserved in a strong brazen chest, from which it is brought forth on Christmas days, when it is placed on the Grand Altar. It is mounted upon a stand of silver, which is inlaid with gold and gems, and the shrine in which it rests is of purest rock crystal. In the days in which this was accomplished men, whatever they may have been their occupations in other directions, gave magnificently to the Church visible.



SEAL BRAND
Satisfies The Longing for a Perfect Cup of Coffee



The Work of The British Navy

The British Board of Trade on November 26 issued a statement showing the state of British and German shipping respectively after sixteen weeks of war. The total number and tonnage of steamships exceeding 100 tons, gross owned by the two countries at the outbreak of war were:—

	Ships.	Tons.
British	10,123	20,523,706
German	2,090	5,134,720

Of these the following by November 23 had become unavailable to their owners for various reasons:—

To the British:—	Ships.	Tons.
Captured	49	
Detained in German ports	75	
Held up in Black Sea and Baltic ports	71	
	195	585,55

The proportion of ships rendered unavailable was 1.9 per cent. The proportion of tonnage affected was 2.9 per cent.

To the Germans:—	Ships.	Tons.
Captured	80	
Detained in British or allied ports	166	
Seeking refuge in neutral ports	646	
In German ports	329	
	1221	4,584,926

The proportion of ships rendered unavailable was 58.4 per cent. The proportion of tonnage rendered unavailable was 89.3 per cent.

The number of British ships plying on November 26 was 9,928 or 98.1 of the whole. Their tonnage was 20,122, 173 gross tons, or 97.1 of the whole.

The statement of German merchant ships either plying or not accounted for is as follows:—

	Ships.	Tons.
Known to be at sea	10	
Ships over 500 tons not accounted for	125	
Steam trawlers not accounted for	353	
Small coasters not accounted for	381	
	869	549,794

The proportion of ships plying or not accounted for is 41.6 per cent; of tonnage only 10.7 per cent.

Only ten German steamers known to be at sea, as against ten thousand British steamers.

A REMARKABLE CAREER.

Gen. Adza R. Chaffee, who died recently in Los Angeles, Cal., was in the fullest sense of the term a self-made man. He was a farm hand when the American Civil War broke out and enlisted in the regular army as a private. Step by step he advanced until, before he retired eight years ago, he had reached the highest position in the service. What is more remarkable still, through his own efforts, without the guidance of college or West Point, he made himself a well-educated man, an ornament to the service on the intellectual side.