

Decatur, Indiana, Thursday, December 24, 1925.

## CHRISTMAS SPIRIT PREVAILS IN CITY

ENGLAND ENJOYS  
BEST CHRISTMAS  
SINCE WORLD WARAtmosphere More Cheerful  
And Jolly This Year;  
Things On the AmendSEASON NOT WITHOUT  
HARDSHIPS, HOWEVERFailure To Attend  
Church Causes Man To  
Get Trip To Prison

South Bend, Ind., Dec. 24.—(United Press)—Failure to attend church services today cost Donald Blackburn, 24, convicted forger, his liberty.

Judge C. E. Patten, of the St. Joseph circuit court revoked a suspended sentence and ordered Blackburn taken to prison to serve a two to fourteen year term when he learned the man was not attending church.

Atmosphere More Cheerful  
And Jolly This Year;  
Things On the AmendPLAN CHARACTER  
EDUCATION MEETState Superintendent Of In-  
struction Announces  
Plans For Meeting

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 24.—(United Press)—Dr. Henry N. Sherwood, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has completed plans for a state-wide conference on the subject of, "Character Education," to be held in Indianapolis on Wednesday, January 13. The conference will be open to the public and it is believed that many religious leaders of the state in addition to almost all of the leading educators will attend the meeting.

The royal family, following its custom, is spending the day at Sandringham but it is as quiet as a family party, conscious of a vacant chair, and the usual banquet which King George gives on Christmas eve to the servants of Sandringham House will, of course, be omitted. The Christmas dinner of the royal family will be very simple in order to release as many as possible of the servants for their own little family parties.

London itself if not boisterous, is distinctly cheerful, due chiefly to the widespread conviction that the European mess is slowly but surely getting straightened out. The shops have done an enormous business and the streets have been congested with happy throngs. The theatres, especially those which produce the traditional "Christmas pantomime" for the British public, report heavy bookings.

Following a strange British custom, a vast flood of "red demand notes" from the Income Tax authorities, threatening summary action against all belated taxpayers, poured yesterday and today into the stream of Christmas mails but this grim bureaucratic device does not seem to cause widespread depression.

With more than a million Britons still unemployed, and with strike difficulties close at hand in mining, railway transportation, shipbuilding and heavy engineering, the season can not be described as one of unalloyed good cheer, but there is at least optimism in the air which is more than can be said for Christmas days of recent memory.

The belief that the Locarno pacts, signed early this month, mark the beginning of a new period of normal European trade relations is at the bottom of the almost universal cheerfulness.

The old English Christmas famous in story and poem of the family gathered in the oak beamed ancestral dining room with the cheerful fire crackling merrily while the round rosy lord of the manor three sheets under the wind sang songs and noisily shouted his orders, is rapidly becoming a thing of the past.

Instead, we find the English family of today, celebrating its Christmas dinner in the spacious dining rooms of hotels. The extremely heavy drinking that characterized bygone Christmases, according to hotel proprietors have been considerably moderated, owing to the great popularity of dancing which requires a certain amount of equilibrium and also to the average Englishman's disinclination to stagger.

## THE NIGHT BEFORE—

Hundred Homeless  
Children Conduct  
Raid In Moscow

Moscow, Dec. 24.—(United Press)—A hundred homeless children, part of the vast herd which have roved in bands since the war, today organized a Christmas raid upon shops in the heart of Moscow.

Police intervened and repulsed the ragged urchins, arresting four 13-year old leaders.

GEOLOGICAL  
SURVEY MADEReport Is Of Interest To  
Quarrymen, Gas, Coal And  
Oil Operators Of State

Indianapolis, Dec. 24.—(United Press)—A report of interest to the quarrymen, gas, coal and oil operators of southwestern Indiana was made public today by Dr. W. N. Logan, of the state department of conservation.

The report was made as the result of a survey conducted during the last summer in Knox and Gibson counties.

In his report, Logan points out, that "in the Wabash river valley the bedrock formations are concealed by an alluvial and glacial covering of sand and gravel about 100 feet in depth. Beneath this formation are about 1,000 feet of sandstone, shale and coal, sometimes with thin limestone of the Pennsylvania age.

In Gibson and Pike counties, two of the Pottsville sub-divisions have yielded some petroleum and natural gas. In West Princeton, Davidson shallow the McRoberts and Monroe city gas sands of the Pennsylvania area are found.

"The rocks which underly these rocks are of the Mississippian age. The limestone formations are harder to penetrate but may be split up by the shale partings."

The report also urges drillers and operators to furnish the state conservation department with samples of drillings from the various wells.

Pastor Finds New Car  
In Place Of Old Flivver

Frankfort, Ind., Dec. 24.—Rev. H. L. Crain, pastor of the Presbyterian church here is driving a new automobile today.

When he sought his old Ford car he found a new Overland six sedan parked in its place with a card which read "To Rev. Crain and family from members of his congregation."

Thief Steals Police  
Badges From Office Of  
Greencastle Mayor

Greencastle, Ind., Dec. 24.—(United Press)—Members of the Greencastle police were shown today of the visible sign of their authority.

A thief broke into the office of Mayor Zeis and stole every police badge owned by the city.

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS

is the wish sent to every-

one of the readers of

this paper by the

## NEWSBOYS

who deliver the

## DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

## GREETINGS

With kindest feelings towards all  
we wish the readers of the  
Home PaperA MERRY AND JOYOUS  
CHRISTMAS

## DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

in public.  
So when England tomorrow forgets  
a day its debts and doles, and gives  
itself unreservedly over to Christmas  
it will be in the fashionable hotels  
rather than in ancestral mansions that  
the Christmas dinners of the prosper-  
ous will be held.Before the war, Christmas was one  
of the dullest days of the year," said  
the head waiter of the Hotel Metro-  
politan today, "but to show how times  
have changed, every available table  
we have, has been booked for weeks  
in advance for tomorrow. Christmas  
dinners are elaborate, but not extra-  
ordinarily so. Turkey is almost uni-  
versally ordered; also Christmas pud-  
ding and mince pie."We still make quite a fuss over the  
pudding," he continued, "turning the  
lights out and covering the pudding  
with burning rum—real rum y'under-  
stand, not synthetic stuff.""Champagne of course is the favorite  
drink and as you see there is quite  
a wide range of brands to choose from"  
—saying which he produced a wine list  
calculated to make a thirsty American  
green with envy. The champagne list  
alone listed fifty-nine choices of cham-  
pagne, including Mumms, Pol Rogers,  
Heidsiecks, Krugs, and many others at  
prices ranging from twenty-two shill-  
ings per quart bottle to 51 shillings  
per magnum.The Meritole's greatest specialty a  
champagne of the vintage of 1830 was  
listed at 90 shillings per quart or 4  
shillings per liqueur glass."Some, of course, will like a bit of  
Bordeaux wine—business of turning  
five pages of Bordeaux wines, fourteen  
wines to the page—"some a little Bur-  
gundy" (two pages "Some Port" (two  
pages) "with probably a considerable  
number wanting a bit of whiskey"running his finger down a list giving  
a choice of Buchanan's Black and  
White, Dewar's White Label, Peter  
White, John Haig's, Walker's Red  
Label, "Sandy Mac's," Nicholl's Scotch  
Cream and "Our Own Special Blend."Pre-war strength," "All genuine stuff  
—too" he remarked carelessly."England has its debts" he conclud-  
ed.Pope Makes Plea For  
Regality Of ChristRome, Dec. 24.—A plea for parlia-  
ments and international gatherings  
to recognize the regality of Christ  
was voiced today in the Pope's  
encyclical which renewed the sugges-  
tions contained in his recent allocu-  
tion and demanded for the church  
"full liberty and independence from  
civil powers, as its own right.""England has its debts" he conclud-  
ed.Slippery Streets Cause  
Accidents In South BendSouth Bend, Ind., Dec. 24.—Auto  
accidents, resulting from slippery  
streets had taken a toll of one dead  
and twelve injured here during the  
last 24 hours.Mrs. G. Burdette Stapples, 22, died  
from a fractured skull sustained  
when an automobile driven by her  
husband skidded from the road and  
overturned.Population Of New York  
State Shows IncreaseAlbany, N. Y., Dec. 24.—(United  
Press)—New York State's population  
today was fixed at 11,162,151, a gain of  
776,924 in the last five years, it was  
announced by Mrs. Florence E. S.Knapp, secretary of state, as the state  
census bureau completed its compilation.Of this population New York City  
supplies 5,873,356, a five year growth  
of 253,308, the federal census of 1920  
having shown 5,620,048.Selling Of Race Horses  
Not Profitable BusinessColumbus, Ind., Dec. 24.—(United  
Press)—The selling of race horses  
isn't a profitable business these days,  
W. B. Daugherty said following his  
return from Chicago, where he sold  
five horses for \$125, less than enough  
to pay his transportation to the Illinoian  
metropolis.Hamilton County Jail  
Empty After 11 MonthsNoblesville, Ind., Dec. 24.—Memor-  
ies today alone filled the Hamilton  
county jail. It was empty for the  
first time in more than eleven  
months.Probably no other jail in the state  
had the attention of public focused  
on it more during the year than the  
local bastile, which for seven months  
was the home of D. C. Stephenson,  
Earl Klenck and Earl Gentry.Want Farm Bureau To  
Probe Highway CommissionShelbyville, Ind., Dec. 24.—(United  
Press)—An investigation of the state  
highway commission by the Indiana  
Farm Bureau Federation was demand-  
ed in resolutions approved today by  
the Shelby county organization.The resolutions condemned the state  
organization for its endorsement of  
the commission.