SECTION TWO

THE CAMDEN CHRONICLE

PAGES Nine to Sixteen

VOLUME XXXI. CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1919. NUMBER 37.

REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

Once Spoken of as "The Treasure House of The World."

Washington, Dec. 9.—Pertinent geographical facts about Mexico are given in the following bulletin in the National Geographic Society:

"Prior to 1836, Mexico, as a Spanish colony, and the United States covered approximately equal areas of North America, but the Texas secession and as a result of the Mexican war added nearly a million square miles to our territory, and the extent of Mexico now is less than one-fourth that of continental United States," says the bulletin, which is based on several communications to the Society.

"But our neighbor Republic still has territorial expense equal to the aggregate of Austria, Hungary, Germany, France, Great Britain, and Ireland.

"The total area of the Republic of Mexico (767,000 square miles) is less than that of our five largest States—Texas, California, Montana, New Mexico, and Arizona—combined, all of these except Montana having been a part of New Spain 75 years ago. None of the political subdivisions of our neighbor is as large as any of the five States named, but four Mexican states continuous to the United States aggregate an extent greater than that of Texas.

"Chihuahua, the largest Mexican State, approximates in area (87,000 square miles) that of Utah, Sonor (77,000 square miles) of Nebraska, Coahuila (63,000 square miles) of Georgia, and Durango (44,000 square miles) of Kentucky. Nine subdivisions of the United States (excluding Alaska) are larger than Chihuahua, 15 of greater magnitude than Sonora and 32 larger than Durango. The rugged and desert character of the Mexican border States support sparse population and cities resulting therefrom have concentrated settlement.

"The melting snows from the San Juan and Sangre de Christo ranges of the Rocky Mountains in southern Colorado form the genesis of the Rio Grande, which, after flowing south through New Mexico, bends southeast at the western extremity of Texas, courses between it and Mexico for a distance to that of Saint Louis from New York, and descends in 1,100 miles from an elevation of 4,500 feet to sea level at the Gulf of Mexico.

"Except when in flood, the Rio Grande is apparently an unimportant stream and readily crossed, for the normal flow is well utilized for irrigaation in both countries; but it has carved in a part of its course canyons difficult of exploration. The changes wrought by freshets, which shift the chanel, demanded the attention of an international commission, which has adjusted the boundary along the Rio Grande to meet the varying conditions. The uncertainty of this is illustrated by a claim some years ago that a portion of the important city of El Paso, was Mexican soil. The remaining 700 miles of the international boundary to the west separating our neighbor Republic from New Mexico, Arizona, and California, is through an arid desert section, much of which is mountainous. This is not a direct line, but has five changes in alignment, which have been acurately surveyed and established by 258 permanent monuments easily distinguishable.

"Mexico has an area approximately one-fourth of that of the United States, a fourth of whose area once belonged to Mexico. It has a coastline some 6,000 miles long, although its greatest length is less than 2,000 miles and its greatest breadth only 750 miles. Although its area is only one-fourth that of Brazil, its population is approximately equal to that of the largest republic of the southern contingent.

"Some 15,000000 souls live within its borders, of whom more than two-thirds can neither read nor write.

"Of the total population, only 19 per cent are white, 43 per cent are mixed parentage, while 38 per cent still maintain their Indian blood uncorrupted. The foreign population in 1912 numbered 100,000 souls, of whom 30,000 were Americans, 20,000 Spanish and 5,000 British.

"Mexico probably has a greater range of remarkable vegetation than any other country in the world.

"No other country in the New World, south of the Rio Grande, was so well supplied with railroads as was Mexico prior to the Madero revolution. Then it had 20,000 miles of up-to-date American railroad. At six different points lines crossed the frontier from the United States, and Laredo, Eagle Pass, and El Paso gateways handled much traffic to and from Mexico. The Mexican railroads carried 11,000,000 passengers annually at that time, and handled about 11,000,000 tons of freight. Their total revenues amounted to about $40,000,000.

"Humboldt once pronounced Mexico "the treasure-house of the world". Before the world war it produced one-third of the world's silver, a considerable percentage of its gold, one-ninth of its lead, and one-twentieth of its copper. The country's mineral production, exclusive of iron, coal, and petroleum, amounted to $158,000,000 in 1910. With the exception of Campeche, Tabasco, and Yucatan, every State in the Mexican republic possesses mines, of which there are 21,000 covering 633,000 acres of mineral lands, and giving employment to half a million men. Yet probably less than one-fourth of the mineral possibilities of the republic have been exploited. Prior to the outbreak of the Madero revolution, upward of 5,000 mining claims were registered each year."

Georgia Papers Will Raise Rate.

Macon, Ga.—Publishers of country weekly and daily newspapers of Georgia, members of the Georgia Press Association, on Saturday voted at the final day's session of a special business meeting to increase advertising rates and subscription rates and to curtail the consumption of white paper to meet the shortage of paper, the shortage of labor and the rapidly increasing cost of operating their plants.

The association dealt a body blow to so-called "press agents" who have been "putting over" advertising matter or political propaganda in guised news stories, when it adopted a policy to consign all such matter to the waste basket unless paid for at full advertising rates for such matter.

CHRISTMAS BELLS

Hark! Hark! I hear a distant bell,
And now a chime—they softly ring;
What joyful tidings do they tell
As back and forth they swing.

'Tis mid of night—who rings those bells?
Perhaps some doves there nestling;
And while each little bosom swells,
And warm, they touch with gentle wing
The tuneful metal, and it feels
So incubated it would swing
To life, and wake the world with peals
Of gladness as for new-crowned King.

Those midnight bells, how sweet they chime;
The welkin vibrates with their sound;
To hearts attune they are sublime,
Nor spread they dread alarm around.

Lo! now I see, from East afar
A light shines through the steeple's frame.
'Tis brighter than the brightest star,
It gilds the bells with golden flame;
There, too, I see some cherubs cling
Fast hold the ropes. How fair they be!
They swing the bells and sweetly sing
"This is the Christ's nativity."

Wake every heart, join in their song
Of praise to Christ, our new-born King;
To him our sweetest strains belong,
And his, our richest offering.

When wakes the god of day, and shines
Athwart the heavens, what of glee
Will wake as well? With box and pines
And flowers gay, yon house will be
Adorned, and while the anthem swells
With organ's voice, all Christendom
Will vibrant be as are those bells
That Christ's nativity has come.

—J. William Pope.

ANCIENT CHRISTMAS TOYS

Dolls That Delighted Children of Rome and Greece in Early Days Recently Excavated.

Rag dolls are as old as the hills and so are dolls with movable arms and legs, toy dogs, rocking horses and a host of other things that bring delight to the children on Christmas morning.

Recent excavations in the ruins of ancient Rome, Greece and Egypt have placed the British museum in possession of an interesting assortment of these relics of early Christian days, some of which may possibly have been given to the children of the followers of Christ at a time when the observation of Christmas day was an innovation.

In the nursery of a newly excavated house at Behnesa, Egypt, a fairly well preserved rag doll was found with arms and legs still intact and painted face. The doll is by no means a beauty and does not compare with the Christmas dolls of today, but nevertheless it must have brought joy to a little girl's heart nearly 2,000 years ago.

The jointed dolls of long ago were made to sit down, stand up and move their arms, but they didn't close their eyes or squeak "mamma." Among the toy dogs, horses and donkeys are some made of stone and baked clay and others carved out of wood.

A CONVENIENCE.

"So you think the Santa Claus myth is a good thing?"

"Yes, it's a great convenience to have some imaginary person to take the responsibility when the children are disappointed Christmas morning."

A Christmas "Suppose."

We would not change the children's Christmas. But suppose all the grown-up people were to say to one another: "This year, instead of my giving you a present and your giving me a present, let us club together and give our present to some poor child who will not have any Christmas. There are hundreds of them somewhere. Or, if we do not know of such a child, let us give our present to a hospital for children, a home for crippled children, for incurables, for the aged, the blind, the feeble-minded." This to be, of course, in addition to what we usually give to charities at this season. Why could we not try this as an experiment, and see what the result would be?—Christian Register.

Trolley Dirigible.

Trolley dirigible system, electric motor driven, is proposed for the carrying of mails, particularly for over sparsely settled territory. The pipe from car to gas bag carries electrically heated air for regulating the buoyancy. The trolley cable is wound on a drum, allowing adjustment of altitude.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

A CHRISTMAS STORY

And a Plea For The Starving Children of The Near East.

My Dear Reader: I wish you to regard this little Christmas story as a personal letter.

It happened one cold, crisp, Christmas Eve five years ago. I was standing in front of a brilliantly lighted toy store in a city not necessary to name. Within was arranged in splendid masses every type of toy to gladden the heart of childhood. Coming and going in eager, anxious haste were mothers and fathers clad in stylish, as well as comfortable clothes, their faces smiling because they knew the joy they were making ready for the coming morrow. There were also little ones in that throng who in their childish cunning knew full well that many of those self same toys would hang on their Christmas trees, placed there by a mysterious Santa Claus, and they were glad.

But all seemed to fail or refuse to see a poor, thinly clad mother, whose face showed that she had known brighter and better days. Clinging to her hand was a little girl of six, whose only Christmas joy would be the view of the toys which tomorrow would be the actual possession of thousands of happy children. I watched her for a few minutes and realized that this was only too true. Presently a man attired in his every-day working clothes modestly slipped into the mother's hand a crisp five dollar bill with the request that she spend it for the little one's happiness. I then and there discovered that there is no eloquence on earth to compare with a tear drop glistening in a mother's eye, placed there because of gratitude.

Now, my dear friend, as this Christmas season approaches there are two hundred and fifty thousand hungry, homeless and helpless orphans, whose eyes are filled with tears—not tears for Christmas toys, but tears for bread to satisfy the gnawings of hunger and to keep their starved and emaciated bodies from falling by the wayside and becoming dry bones to mingle with the thousands of others who have already fallen. There is no father to hear their cries because he has been killed by the cruel Turk. Neither is there any mother, nor will there be, to wipe away their tears, for they have been scattered into the mountains and deserts, in many cases never to see their loved ones again. Fifty thousand of these mothers are unwilling victims in Turkish harems where a brand has been burned into their flesh and the threat of death placed over their heads should they escape. How many of these will ever see their little ones again, God only knows.

Now my friend, I call upon you to assist in bringing Christmas to these little ones. I call upon you in the name of Him, who made Christmas possible for us all and said "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these ye have done it unto me." I call upon you whether you recognize Him as the Christ or not I call upon you in the name of suffering humanity. You may not see the tear drop of gratitude come into their eyes as I saw it come into that mother's on that Christmas eve, but their gratitude to you will be far greater and you shall not lose your reward.

Simply fill out your check for whatever amount your heart may prompt, and forward the same to W. Banks Dove, State Chairman, 211 Liberty National Bank Building, Columbia, S. C.

Gas Bomb Shields Safes and Vaults.

Poison gas foils would-be robbers who blow open safes or vaults equipped with a new protective device described in the January Popular Mechanics Magazine. A thin glass bottle, filled with chemicals, is placed in a metal holder inside the doors. When an explosive is used to break them open, the concussion shatters the flask and releases its contents. Exposed to the air, the chemicals form a gas which suffocates and causes temporary blindness.

Cruelty to Baldheads.

The fashionable haircut runs the back of your neck all around your head, and reaps the last hope of the baldheaded man.—Minneapolis Journal.

F. B. Shackelford Co.
Smart Apparel
For Women and Misses

The largest and most exclusive exhibit in South Carolina

Handsome Coat Suits

PLAIN AND FUR TRIMMED

Distinctive New Dresses

FOR STREET OR EVENING WEAR

Original models and and adaptation by famous American and foreign Artist-designers. Undeniably the most attractive apparel for women to be found in all South Carolina now offered in a GREAT

HALF PRICE SALE

$50 Coat Suits reduced to . . $25.00
$65 Coat Suits reduced to . . $32.50
$75 Coat Suits reduced to . . $37.50
$100 Coat Suits reduced to . . $50.00
$150 Coat Suits reduced to . . $75.00
$20 Dresses $10 $25 Dresses $12.50
$30 Dresses $15.

A Wonderful Stock of Exclusive Gifts That Women Will Appreciate

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HERE

"The Store of Courteous Attention"

1513 Main Street Columbia, S. C.

Money Helps to Make a Merry Christmas!

Here's the Way to Have Both

Christmas Savings Club

Hundreds flocked to join our Christmas Savings Club, which started December 17, and you should not let the chance go by.

Costs nothing to become a member — no fees, no fines, nothing to lose.

CLUB NOW FORMING---JOIN!

It will enable you to save when you couldn't do it otherwise.

You'll have money for Christmas or other use and wonder how you accumulated so much!

A little each week regularly and watch your savings grow!

It's a great co-operative plan. You get your share of the general benefit.

Call for full particulars. Save for your family and friends. Get others to join. Save for any special purpose. But hurry, while you're thinking about it!

The First National Bank
OF CAMDEN, S. C.