

toys. They go from door to door, They buttonhole pedestrians; and usually their appeals are granted.

NO LESS QUAIN'T a custom is the practice of members of families throughout Germany, on St. Nikolaus eve, to place shoes under their beds or before their doors. In some sections plates and stockings are used. During the night, members of the family surreptitiously place gifts in them. The next morning the shoes, plates and stockings are eagerly examined.

In some families, large bundles are exchanged. The unwrapping of these packages arouses keen curiosity, and finally laughter. Supposed to have been sent by St. Nikolaus, the package is addressed to a member of the family. Upon removal of the wrapper, a second one is found underneath, addressed to another family member. This goes on until the final wrapper is removed.

The contents usually consist of a solitary button, a shoe string, or a nipple. The gift is a gentle reminder of the recipient's failings. The button, for instance, might denote his or her habit of losing such articles. Persons who break shoestrings usually receive one as a gift. The nipple is reserved for the incessant pipe smoker.

A custom similar to the appearance of "Old Man Christmas" is observed in some sections of Germany after dark on St. Nikolaus day. A knock is heard on the door, and in comes "St. Nikolaus", clad like "Old Man Christmas". He carries a sack over his shoulder and a birch rod in his hand. After the usual admonitions, and recitations, "St. Nikolaus" hands out nuts, apples, and sweets from his sack. Then he leaves.

HOW DID CHRISTMAS customs originate? They go back to ancient times, when peoples built great bonfires at about the same period Christmas now is observed, in order to give the winter sun-god strength, and to restore his life. Rejoicing was great when it became noticeable that the days were growing longer. Thus the central idea of the winter solstice

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German Border Problem

AT THE MOSCOW session (of the Foreign Ministers) the United States proposed the creation of a special boundary commission which, under the direction of the deputies, would consider and make recommendations to the Council concerning the Polish-German frontier. On the suggestion of other members of the Council, the United States is willing to enlarge the scope of this work, which could still be undertaken under the direction of the deputies, to include a study of all frontier proposals.

With regard to the Saar, the United States supports the claim of France to the economic integration of the Saar territory. The political status of the Saar should be based, we think, on the principle of political autonomy and local self-government. I urge that at this session we approve the French proposal of economic integration of the Saar territory into that of France. After this, the details, including territorial limits, can be worked out.

With regard to the Polish-German frontier, the starting point for our consideration must be the Potsdam Protocol, which provided that 'the final delimitation of the western frontier of Poland should await the peace settlement'. Mr. Molotov presented the view that the decision regarding the western frontier has been taken. This is clearly not the case as the quotation just referred to indicates.

A just settlement of this frontier, as I stated at our meeting in Moscow on April 9, 1947, requires that we give careful

The US view that the German-Polish boundaries remain to be fixed and that a special boundary commission to study the issue should be set up was reiterated by US Secretary of State Marshall in a statement to the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in London. Secretary Marshall's statement also supported the French claim to the economic integration of the Saar Valley into France. His statement is reprinted here.

consideration to the needs of the populations which will be directly affected, and keep equally in mind the importance of this frontier for the economic and political stability of Europe.

No line, however carefully drawn, can entirely satisfy the desires and aspirations of all the peoples concerned. We must take the broader view and seek to establish a frontier which reduces irredentist sentiment to a minimum and promises to be lasting. At the same time the frontier should not be permitted to become a barrier to economic and cultural intercourse. We believe that frontiers between nations should cease to divide and embitter, and in drawing new frontiers we should promote this objective.

IBELIEVE such a frontier is possible between Poland and Germany. Poland is justly entitled to compensation for her wartime losses and the United States Government wishes to honor this obligation. We must bear in mind that much of the territory now under Polish administration has long been German and contains agricultural resources of vital importance to the German and European economy.

In seeking to create a democratic and peaceful German state we must avoid a decision which would deny hope to the moderate forces within Germany and, by violating the principles of the Atlantic Charter to which we have all agreed, would fail to win approval in the court of enlightened world opinion. In considering cessions of territory to Poland, we should also make provision

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