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News flashes from round-the-world 11th January 1955

Japanese New Year

Japan: Annual pilgrimage in Tokyo - as a vast multitude (200,000 strong) CROSSED the bridges to the Imperial Palace to convey loyal New Year greetings to Emperor Hirohito and the Empress Nagako.

Since the war, the wellwishers have been allowed to enter the Royal grounds: the custom began about fifty years ago.

Italian Police presents

Italy: Twelfth Night in Rome - with the traditional "Good Fairy" leading a goodwill cavalcade - that is bringing seasonal gifts for the traffic police of the Eternal City.

An age-old custom - it roughly corresponds to A LATE Christmas Box - an appreciation OF a year of good service.

CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT A LONDON BOBBY WOULD SAY TO THIS!

Dutch storm

Hollland: Winter gales of great severity batter the Dutch coasts - whipping up enormous seas against the defences - already weakened by previous storms.

Along miles of coastline - the dyke-watchers keep an anxious eye on the threatening seas.

Some flooding has already occurred, VILLAGES AND farmland tell the same tragic story - of the relentless battles, waged by the PEOPLE of the Netherlands - against their age-old enemy - the sea...