

SINNERS' PRAYER AMUSES RIDDLE, THE 'OPEN' MAYOR

Atlantic City Head Holds to Creed of Giving, Not Praying

PLEASED AT SOLICITUDE

Not Bothered by Pleas That He Be Converted in Stough Revival

By a Staff Correspondent

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 27.—It feels good to be prayed for, according to Mayor William Riddle, of this city, for whom the Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Men's Association which will participate in the Stough revival campaign, opening here next Sunday.

"Have you ever heard that expression of 'Bob Ingersoll's'?" Mayor Riddle said when questioned in his private office.

Ingersoll said: "The hand that giveth is better blessed than the lips that pray." That's all the interview you will get out of me. Print it over my picture and in type an inch high."

At this point a messenger came into the office and handed the Mayor a package. "Huh!" he muttered. "Another Christmas present. You don't have to do anything to get presents. Just sit and wait and they come pouring in, some of them from people you never heard of before."

The messenger of the present seemed to be Mayor Riddle in a better humor and he was soon talking easily of politics, religion and all sorts of other things.

"The fact that so many people are praying for me," he said, "is received by me with humility and gratitude. I never before that they cared so much for me."

The Mayor chuckled at the thought. Then turned to the consideration of religion as he views it.

MAYOR RIDDLE'S CREED.

"Christ had a heart full of forgiveness and love. But the bitter hatred of the modern Philistines is appalling. My favorite text in the Bible is that part where they were giving Mary Magdalene a stone to roll away from the tomb. 'Who is without sin cast the first stone.' It is to be noted there were no stones thrown."

"Now as for myself, I was born in Philadelphia and so were all my people. When I was a kid, I lived in Cynwyd and I used to tramp four miles every Sunday to Ardmore and carry my shoes that they would be clean when I got to the Sunday school room. I got a prize there for being the only kid that had a perfect attendance for a year."

"Later, I sang at Saint Mark's, in Philadelphia and after that I blew the organ in the Church of the Apostles. I was born and raised an Episcopalian and I always heard that 'once believe and you cannot lose.' I have been for the Episcopal and Catholic churches. They don't mix in politics or other things with which they have no business. That's why they are the only churches I will give to."

FAVORS OPEN TOWN.

Mayor Riddle was then asked if he had been correctly quoted in saying that he was in favor of a "wide-open Atlantic City."

"I favor a sane but sensible Sunday," he said. "The saloons should be allowed to be open at 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon. The churches should have Sunday morning and let the others have the afternoon. As for 12 o'clock closing laws, let us have what the majority of people want."

"I have been correctly quoted by the newspapers in some of the things I have said, but there has been a great deal written that was false. In one account the words 'hell' and 'nigger' were purposely interpolated to hurt my good name."

"I said I had just learned to play crap. The negroes who come into my office have taught me, and I find it a very interesting game."

"Then my remark about booze being 25 per cent. of life was all twisted. I said that life should be 25 per cent. home happiness, 25 per cent. music and 25 per cent. good booze. If your stomach will stand for it, I made that statement in a public address. But I wish I had said something about good booze. Still, I guess they are included in home happiness."

"Is it true that you have five Bibles in your home?" the Mayor was asked.

"I never counted them," was the reply.

THE WEATHER

The white Christmas arrived late, but with somewhat of a vengeance at that. Santa Claus must have been in a strange predicament Saturday night. How in the world do you suppose he got back to the North Pole anyhow? He could not possibly have used that blue-ribbon rubber team of his on Christmas Eve and an automobile must have had heavy going on the way back. If he is back all right without a doubt he used a Zep. How he got here or how he got back is not of first importance at any rate. The fact remains that he did about the best of his career during the night. He visited, and if all his little charges are not happy they must have been bad boys or girls during the year. For the older ones of new there is already the thought in mind of what will be the status of things general when the world's greatest birthday anniversary rolls around again.

By that time "out of the trenches by Christmas" will be something more than a string of words.

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity: Generally fair and warmer tonight; Tuesday increasing cloudiness, probably followed by rain; moderate southerly winds.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST: A small, dark, Irish terrier, in neighborhood of 10th and Cedar ave., answers to name of "Fido." Owner, J. J. O'Connell, 1000 Overlook, 10th and Cedar ave., Philadelphia, Pa. Reward \$5.00.

FOUND: A small, dark, Irish terrier, in neighborhood of 10th and Cedar ave., answers to name of "Fido." Owner, J. J. O'Connell, 1000 Overlook, 10th and Cedar ave., Philadelphia, Pa. Reward \$5.00.

GREECE FIRM IN NEUTRALITY, GOUNARIS SAYS

Foreign Policy Unchanged Despite Result of Recent Elections

PREMIER TO KEEP OFFICE

Greece Does Not Want to Plunge Into War That May End in Catastrophe

ATHENS, Dec. 27.

Ex-Premier Gounaris, who is expected to succeed M. Skouloudis as Prime Minister, declared in an interview today that Greece is determined to remain neutral.

"We do not want to mix ourselves in this war unless events force us to depart from our policy of neutrality," declared M. Gounaris. "The foreign policy of the Government remains unchanged despite the outcome of the recent election. Greece is a small State and does not want to be dragged into a war which might result in a catastrophe for her similar to that suffered by Belgium and Serbia. We are just Greeks, and I am neither pro-German nor pro-French."

It is stated here that ex-Premier Gounaris, as leader of the majority in Greece, has informed King Constantine that he will support the present Cabinet and that the King has expressed his advice to make no change in the Government. M. Skouloudis will remain Premier.

It has virtually been decided that the Skouloudis Cabinet shall remain in power for the present. Premier Skouloudis has deferred to King Constantine's desire to make no change, at least before the Chamber reassembles on January 4. This information was given to the Times' correspondent at Athens by the Premier, who also said that should events render it advisable the Chamber would be convoked before that date.

The latest reported Greek move is the prohibition of the export of food supplies from Greece to the Franco-British army at Salonica.

GREECE OFFERS OPEN ROUTE TO BULGARS AND TEUTONS

LONDON, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from Rome today says the correspondent has learned in reliable quarters that the Germans have completed their diplomatic maneuverings with the Greek Government guaranteeing that Greek territorial integrity will be respected and in turn receiving Greek assurance that no aid will be afforded to the Allies.

He adds that the Greek Government has consented to Bulgarian and Turkish cooperation in the Austro-German offensive against the French and British forces. If this news is correct and it is reliably reported, it means that the hope of the Allies to enroll the Greeks with the Bulgars is lost.

BIG BRITISH LINER SUNK BY MINE OFF ARCHANGEL

News Suppressed by Censor Reaches New York

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.

The big British liner Arlanza was sunk off the Russian port of Archangel, probably by a floating mine, on December 10, according to authoritative information reaching shipping circles here today.

The news is said to have been suppressed by the British censor for fear that neutral shipowners might become alarmed at the possible dangers in Russian waters.

Excepting the Lusitania and the Arabic, the Arlanza is the largest steamship sunk by mines or submarines since the beginning of the war. She was owned by the Royal Mail Packet Company, displaced 15,044 tons and was 570 feet in length. She was built in 1912, and it is believed here she was commanded by the British Government at the outbreak of the war.

Man Accused of Embezzlement

A charge of embezzlement was preferred today against E. Edward Norton, of 6229 Ogontz avenue, a real estate dealer who has his place of business in Trenton. He was held under \$400 bail by Magistrate Pennock in the Germantown police station for a further hearing Wednesday.

He was accused by Mrs. Mary Davis, of 6133 Norwood street, of not turning into the Chew Building and Loan Association \$30 she had given him. Mrs. Davis said this was discovered when the building association foreclosed a mortgage on her house.

FIRE DESTROYS TOWER ON RACE STREET PIER

Blaze Threatens Entire Structure, Much Freight and Nearby Craft

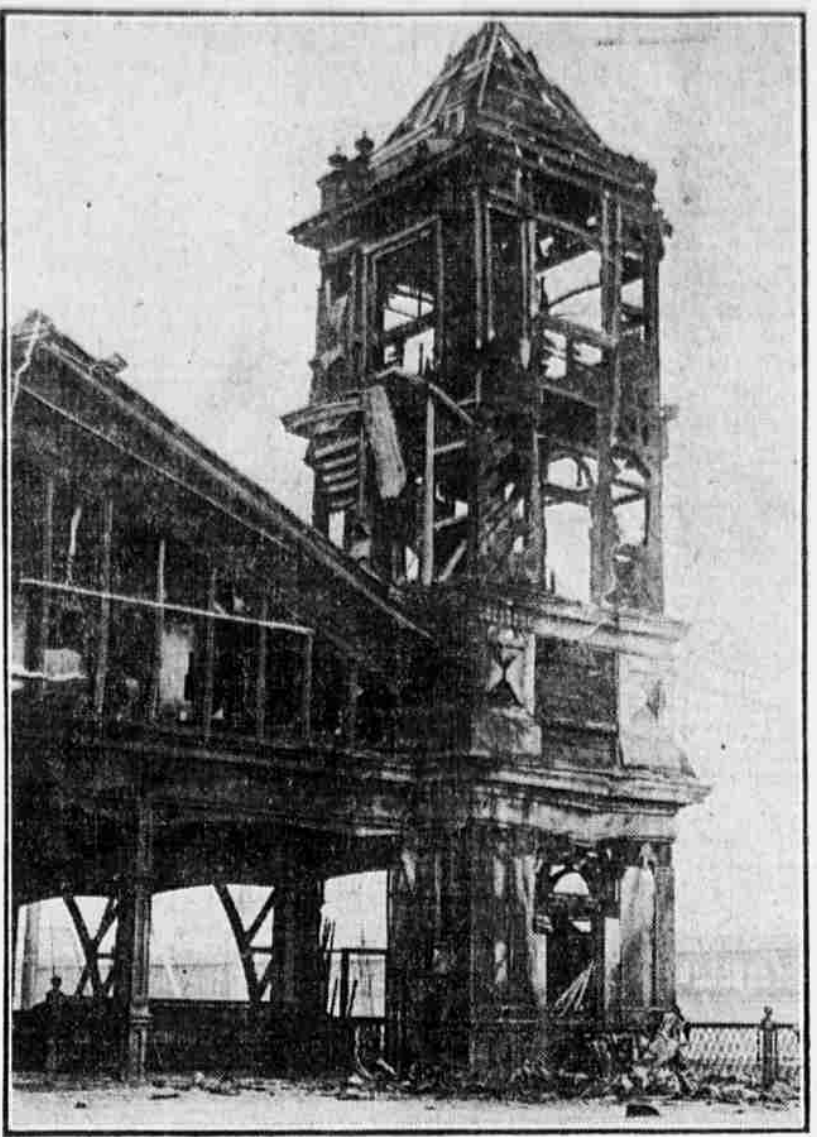
The entire water front was illuminated when flames last night destroyed a tower on the upper deck of the Race street pier. Hundreds of persons attracted by the blaze rushed toward the water front and the firemen had difficulty in clearing a way for their apparatus to fight the flames.

Every pane of glass at the recreation end of the pier was broken, while hundreds of dollars' worth of copper was ripped from the tops and sides to get at the flames that were eating the woodwork. Only the prompt action of the firemen saved the pier from destruction. The barges were the property of the Trenton Transportation Company. A tug of the same company threw a strong stream of water on the boats when the flames reached their highest point.

The tug Meteor was lying near the pier, directly beneath the flames, when the firemen reached the scene. Less than ten pounds of steam was registered on the tug boilers and the firemen were compelled to push and pull the boat until it was out of danger.

Freight valued at thousands of dollars was piled high on the lower deck of the pier and for a time it was thought it would have to be moved to Race street. Deputy Chief Davis, who directed the firemen, ordered every available stream of water on the pier and soon announced that the fire was under control. The loss is estimated at between \$50 and \$700.

FIRE DAMAGES RACE STREET PIER



The second or left-hand tower was ruined by flames last night which drew thousands of people. The blaze crept up from a watchman's shanty on the second floor.

HAIG'S APPOINTMENT PLEASES BRITISH MILITARY ARISTOCRACY

New Commander-in-Chief Proved Ability in Retreat From Mons—Robertson, Who Rose From Ranks, Only Other Considered

By WILL IRWIN

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When, during the operations of last spring, well informed British officers speculated on who would be the head of the army "in case anything happened to French," they mentioned only two names—Haig and Robertson. Haig was at that time commander of the first army under French, and Robertson was Chief of Staff. There was a little mention of Ian Hamilton. At that time he was leading, with what looked like a prospect of ultimate success, the drive on the Dardanelles. That situation has changed since. Hamilton got no further than the Dardanelles, and was ultimately recalled. The field then narrowed to Haig and Robertson. Probably no one else has been considered.

In spite of a great dissimilarity in social origins, these two men, both of whom have made very good, resemble each other in their attitude toward their profession. They are both of the modern type of soldier—the close student of his profession. Robertson began life as a footman, enlisted as a private in the army and worked his way up from the ranks, thus proving the great exception to the general rule that no one but a gentleman-born can hold command in the British forces. From the moment when he put the uniform on Robertson has been studying to perfect himself as a soldier. As a cavalryman he used to hire a comrade to read to him while he was carrying his horse. He learned not only military strategy and tactics, but also foreign languages. He had a thorough speaking knowledge of both French and German before, as a young officer, he took service in India. Once there he set himself at once to learn the native dialects. His scholarship in his profession got him, a man without pull, his position on the General Staff, where he was when the war opened, by common consent the leading "paper strategist" of the army. As Chief of Staff in this war he has increased his reputation. He is a man of iron—stern, commanding, living wholly in the army.

ST. CLAIR MERCHANT SLAIN AFTER QUARREL IN SALOON; 3 ARRESTED

State Police Seek Other Men Said to Have Been Implicated in Killing Joseph Burchill

SHOT THROUGH HEART

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 27.—Joseph Burchill, a merchant of St. Clair, is accused of killing three men in a saloon, charged with being implicated in killing him, while other suspects are at large, with a detail of State police searching for them. It is alleged that the murder is the result of a quarrel in a saloon in St. Clair, late last night. A bullet passed through Burchill's heart, and a cut from his shoulder to the groin on his right side was inflicted with a knife.

The crime was committed upon a corner of a street in the heart of the town. The police have learned that the men had been quarreling and Burchill left for his home. He was overtaken by his assailants and attacked. Burchill tried to get to his home, but died on the porch of a neighbor.

A companion of Burchill, a Tyrolean, whose name is not known, sustained a wound in one of his legs. The report of the shots awoke persons in the neighborhood, some of whom arose and went to the scene, but the assailants had disappeared.

STORM HITS WATER GAP

Damage Wrought to Property by Freakish Winds

STROUDSBURG, Pa., Dec. 27.—The freak windstorm which swept this locality left in its wake much damaged property in the rural sections. Various structures standing exposed to the storm were wrecked. The brick castle inn garage at Delaware Water Gap, of which Dumnick D. Drake is the owner, was almost completely blown to the ground on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. Only the front part of the building, used as an office and postoffice, remains standing.

The loss is estimated to be about \$5000. Five cars and two motorboats which were stored in the buildings were damaged to the amount of about \$150. The roof of the Saw Creek Rod and Gun Club was torn off by the gale.

REV. H. C. STONE'S POST AT TRINITY CHAPEL FILLED

The Rev. J. Ogle Warfield, of St. Peter's, Germantown, Is Appointed

REVIVES RESIGNATION

Head of Stonemen Fellowship May Devote All His Time to That Work

Announcement was made today that the Rev. J. Ogle Warfield, recently assistant at St. Peter's Church, Germantown, had been appointed assistant rector of Holy Trinity Church. This is the position held by the Rev. H. C. Stone, head of the Stonemen's Fellowship, and the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Warfield is taken by the thousands of Stonemen in the city to mean that the Rev. Mr. Stone has resigned his position as assistant rector of Holy Trinity, in charge of the Holy Trinity Chapel, 22d and Spruce streets, to devote all his time to the affairs of the club of which he is the head.

It has been rumored for six weeks that Mr. Stone intended to give up his work in Holy Trinity Chapel and devote himself exclusively to the Stonemen, and the appointment of Mr. Warfield is regarded as bearing out that rumor.

The name reluctance to discuss the matter was evident when the rumor that Mr. Stone was to resign his assistant rectorship first began to circulate is manifest today. Definite information, it was said, cannot be obtained until the next meeting of the vestry of Holy Trinity Church, scheduled to be held shortly after the first of the year.

If Mr. Stone is to withdraw from Holy Trinity parish his resignation will be acted on at that meeting. The indications are, the knowing ones say, that Mr. Warfield will take up the work of Mr. Stone at Holy Trinity Chapel, co-operating with the Rev. George Blair, who is now assistant to Mr. Stone. There have been rumors that Mr. Blair would also withdraw from Holy Trinity Chapel and continue his work with the Stone Club, but

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NEW "DRY" STATES PREPARE FAREWELL TO OLD KING BOOZE

Stocks of Rum Being Sold Out With Feverish Haste and at Cut Prices—Temperance to Rule January 1

CROWDS STORM SALOONS

Seven States Will Go on Water Cart January 1

Six western States bought liquor at high speed today in preparation for the extension of the water-wagon route to Colorado, Iowa, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Arkansas, January 1.

The six States, voted dry by Legislature, are preparing to enforce the laws which will become effective at midnight December 31.

With South Carolina, which also becomes dry on January 1, and Virginia, where prohibition is effective November 1, 1916, 19 States will be in the dry column. Nebraska, California, Michigan, South Dakota, Vermont, and the Territory of Alaska will vote on prohibition next year, they have already announced, and several other States are expected to ballot on the question.

The seven States which board the water cart next Friday (January 1) add a population of \$254,043 to the dry ranks, according to the 1910 census.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 27.—Police were called in today in many counties to aid in handling the crowds which are storming the dispensaries before their closing under the State dry law, January 1.

In many counties the shops were greatly overstocked and as a result whisky, beer and wine are being sold at bargain prices. All dispensaries must go out of business January 1. What to do with the

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L'ESERCITO SERBO E' PRESSO CHE INTATTO

Il Generale Popovic Giunge in Italia con Una Colonna di Prigionieri Austriaci

Ad eccezione di duelli di artiglieria, specialmente nel settore della serra, niente di Lardaro, nella valle Giudicaria, e del rotolamento di grandi masse dall'alto delle montagne, da parte degli austriaci, sui villaggi della Val Sugana, non si ha nulla di nuovo sul fronte italiano. Sembra invece che vada avvicinandosi quella crisi nella situazione a Salonicco per cui gli alleati si sono preparati per un certo periodo di tempo. Nel golfo di Salonicco si sono concentrate gran parte delle navi da guerra inglesi e francesi che operavano nella zona del Dardanello e si hanno notizie contraddittorie circa i propositi del governo greco. Corre voce che questo si opporrebbe con tutte le sue forze ad una invasione del suo territorio da parte di bulgari e turchi, ma si dice pure che il Kaiser avrebbe convinto il Constantino a lasciar fare.

Un telegramma da Roma dice che e' giunto colà il generale serbo Popovic, il quale ha dichiarato che l'esercito serbo e' quasi intatto, nonostante che abbia perduto una grande quantita' del suo materiale di guerra. Il generale ha accompagnato in Italia alcune centinaia di prigionieri austriaci che erano custoditi in Albania. Disposti da Atene dicono che le truppe italiane del corpo d'armata di Valona sono giunte al confine della Grecia, nell'Albania meridionale.

(Largire in la pagina le ultime e piu' dettagliate notizie sulla guerra, in italiano.)

WANTS TO CHANGE HIS NAME

James W. Holmes Prefers to Be Known as William W. Gaynor

James William Holmes, of 219 Madison square, has petitioned Court of Common Pleas No. 1 for permission to change his name to William Weldon Gaynor, the name he adopted when he left home at the age of 17 years.

Holmes, who is employed at Fenton Beach, N. J., has been known as Gaynor ever since he left his home at Newark in 1844 for "an independent career." He was born there September 7, 1837, according to his petition.

QUICK NEWS

SEEKS RECEIVER FOR TEXAS AND PACIFIC R. R.

DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 27.—The Bankers Trust Company, of New York, today filed receivership proceedings against the Texas and Pacific Railroad for failure to pay interest on bonds. Federal Judge Weeks set the hearing for January 31, 1916.

SLAVS SILENCE FOE'S ARTILLERY ON RIGA FRONT

PETROGRAD, Dec. 27.—"On the Riga front we silenced German batteries," said the War Office. "South of Ikseul the Germans used gas in an attack. On the Dvinsk front the enemy attempted an offensive, but was driven back."

GREEK KING REPORTED GRAVELY ILL

PARIS, Dec. 27.—The Athens correspondent of the Midi wires to his paper that King Constantine is suffering from virulent pleurisy and that his condition is serious. The dispatch says:

"Recent reports describe King Constantine's illness as grip and say he is out of danger, but such is not the case. Although the world at large has been much mystified as to the nature of the King's malady, it is well known to physicians here that the sickness of the Greek monarch is, unfortunately fatal. It is no secret among Greek physicians that the King is a victim of virulent pleurisy, which is conceded to be incurable. Constantine's death is regarded as certain within three years."

BERNHARDT REPORTED SINKING RAPIDLY

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Sarah Bernhardt is sinking rapidly, and her physicians do not believe she can live long, according to a cablegram received from Paris today by the Universal Film Company.

"Bernhardt sinking very rapidly. Relatives state condition not hopeless. Physicians believe she cannot live long," the cablegram given out by the film company stated.

Mme. Bernhardt appeared in the Universal films after the operation in which her leg was amputated.

This latest report as to the condition of the noted French actress is at variance with a personal message from Mme. Bernhardt to the United Press last week. In this message Mme. Bernhardt said she was improving and expected to leave for England as soon as her doctors would permit.

FOUR CHINESE PROVINCES IN REVOLT

PEKIN, Dec. 27.—Simultaneously with the promulgation of an order sending 60,000 Government troops to stamp out the revolution in Yun-Nan Province, reports reached Peking today that the revolt had spread to the adjoining provinces of Kwan-Si, Kwei-Show and Szech-Wan and that General Tsai-Ao, the revolutionary leader, had enrolled under his banner 200,000 fully equipped soldiers. The Government forces sent to Yun-Nan probably will be largely increased.

250,000 POLES AID IN BUILDING ROADS

BERLIN, Dec. 27.—The London Times in November published an article about the misery caused by the German authorities in the occupied parts of Russian Poland," says an item given out by the Overseas News Agency. "In reality, the German authorities did everything in order to restore economic activity and furnish food to the occupied districts. The grain harvested there was used entirely for the population. Since it was impossible to bring raw materials for the reopening of factories, the German authorities began road building in order to give work to the population. Now 250,000 Poles are occupied in this way. Besides, the authorities instituted employment offices for those willing to work outside their home districts."

RUSSIANS IN CAUCASUS DEMORALIZED, TURKS SAY

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 27.—The Turkish military authorities report that the Russian forces in the Transcaucasian theatre of war are demoralized. The Russians are said to be poorly equipped and to be suffering from the intense cold weather, while their ranks are being ravaged by cholera. Many Polish soldiers, it is said, are deserting the Russians.

TURK ATTACKS ON TIGRIS REPULSED

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The Turks have begun a new offensive in Mesopotamia. An official dispatch from General Townsend states that the Turks began a fresh series of attacks against the British positions at Kut-el Amara, on the Tigris River, on Saturday. The assaults were repulsed with heavy losses for the Turks.

FRENCH CRUISER DESTROYS TURK BATTERY

PARIS, Dec. 27.—The Ministry of Marine today announced that a French cruiser had bombarded the North African coast of the Gulf of Sollum, destroying a Turkish battery. The Gulf of Sollum touches the northwestern part of Egypt and the northeastern coast of Tripoli. It was also announced that the armed trawler Paris II found itself on the Ottoman coast in the vicinity of two large submarines equipped with artillery. The French trawler opened fire on the vessels, which, by using their superior speed, kept themselves at long range. After a cannonade of two hours the submarines fled.

TEN SOCIALISTS ARRESTED IN BERLIN

LONDON, Dec. 27.—An Amsterdam dispatch to the Central News Agency says that ten Socialists have been arrested in Berlin for attempting to incite disorder.

BERLIN ALARMED BY KAISER'S ILLNESS, SWISS HEAR

LONDON, Dec. 27.—Alarming rumors, probably of an exaggerated nature, are being circulated in Switzerland today concerning Emperor William's illness, according to the Zurich correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company. The rumors state, says the correspondent, that the Emperor's condition is causing profound anxiety in Berlin.

CHINESE BANDITS BESIEGE AMERICAN MISSION

PEKIN, Dec. 27.—Missionary Friedstorff has telegraphed to Dr. Paul Samuel Reisch, the American Minister, that the American-Scandinavian mission at Patebolong, Mongolia, was surrounded by bandits and that the Chinese troops were unable to furnish protection. The Foreign Office is urging the local officials to act.

BULGAR CZAR HONORS HINDENBURG

LONDON, Dec. 27.—Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria, according to an Amsterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, has instructed his military attaches in Berlin to drive 50 golden nails into the wooden statue erected in honor of Field Marshal von Hindenburg. Each nail is to cost \$35, and the proceeds are to be devoted to charities.

BERLIN WANTS CABLE TO U. S. REOPENED

BERLIN, Dec. 27.—The American Association of Commerce and Trade of Berlin has sent wireless messages to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at Washington, urging the pressing need of re-establishing cable connections with Germany under control of the American Government on account of the vital issues involved and asking Congressional action toward this end. The association believes the desired result can be accomplished either by taking advantage of Germany's earlier offer to turn over the severed German-American cable to the American Government to repair and operate or by laying a purely American cable between the United States and neutral Scandinavia or Holland.

300 ALBANIAN VILLAGES DESTROYED, SAY REFUGEES

ROME, I 27.—The American schooner Albania, with William Willard Howard, of New York, secretary of the Albanian Relief Fund, on board, has arrived at Brindisi.

Albania came from Durazzo, having transported the Austrian and Bulgarian Consuls and the Austrian colony, numbering 44 persons. From these refugees it was learned that the Greeks destroyed 275 villages in South Albania and that the Serbians razed 25 others, driving out the population. Mr. Howard distributed flour in Durazzo to all needy persons, irrespective of nationality or creed.