

Russia, the paradoxical empire, full of dark mysteries and easy-going, lovable people! Arthur Ruhl writing from Petrograd describes it in a colorful article about his visit to the Eastern front in this week's issue of

Collier's THE NATIONAL WEEKLY

FIREMEN LOOK TO PUBLIC FOR AID

Mary Doran's Letter the Signal for Petitions in Their Behalf

COUNCILS READY TO ACT

The Fireman's Christmas; How He Will Spend It

MEN in the Bureau of Fire, after more than twenty years' service, have yet to enjoy their first Christmas Day off duty. Chief Murphy in his twenty-two years' career as a fireman has had only one Christmas Day at home. Reorganization of working conditions, as submitted to Councils, would give every fourth Christmas Day to every fireman. Councilmen declare they will vote to pass the necessary legislation if their constituents desire it. A personal appeal to members of the Finance Committee can effect such relief immediately. Do you favor a system that holds firemen on duty at their station for twenty or more consecutive Christmas Days? If not, it lies within your power to change it. Your Councilman is willing, if you only let him know that he has a function, to better the fireman's condition.

Mary Doran's letter to Chief Engineer Murphy, of the Bureau of Fire, is reproduced in these columns today. Publication yesterday of the eight-year-old West Philadelphia girl's appeal for her fireman father has not been altogether without result.

Chief Murphy has promised to answer it and, as he expresses it: "I am a sort of father to a thousand boys of my bureau. It may be taken for granted that the chief will act in accord with the spirit of the season and of the request of little Mary. Friends of the firemen of more mature years are becoming inspired to renewed effort by the example of the little girl who wasn't afraid to write to headquarters for what she wanted.

Petitions are being circulated by persons not connected with the Bureau of Fire among really owners and taxpayers, asking consideration of the fireman's financial condition. These papers are addressed to Chairman Gaffney and his associates in Councils Committee on Finance. This body, whose favorable opinion controls municipal appropriations, has been approached in behalf of the firemen's campaign for better working conditions.

Members individually have expressed themselves as heartily in favor of the movement and ready to give their aid if asked for. But they have suggested that if the citizens of Philadelphia desire their firemen to be better remunerated and relieved of their virtually continuous duty, the request for reorganization should be made by the citizens and taxpayers whose money the Councilmen must apply to the purpose.

The petitions now circulating make positive reply to this suggestion. They also answer the plea of little Mary Doran. They call upon Chairman Gaffney and his committee to make such change in the conditions prevailing in the Bureau of Fire as will render unnecessary future appeal from applicants of such tender years to enable them to enjoy the companionship for even a little while of their fireman-fathers on Christmas Day.

MARY'S CASE NOT UNIQUE Little Mary's letter has gone a bit further in its effect. It has revealed instances too numerous to quote of men grown old in the service who have yet to experience the joy of a single Christmas Day off duty. At best, under existing conditions, the one day off in six will permit a man to enjoy the holiday on each sixth Christmas Day. Inquiry in some of the engine and truck companies shows that in every one of the stations visited at least one of the members of the company whose connection with the department extended over a period exceeding five years had never enjoyed the privilege of a Christmas Day away from his station. In one case a man eligible to the pension fund had been at his post on every December 25 since he entered the service, more than a quarter century ago.

Chief Murphy himself has been a fireman twenty-two years, and his record of Christmas Days off duty totals just one. Other officials declare that they recall but one or two Christmases off duty in a career that rivals that of the chief in duration.

Explanation of how it happens that men

FIREMAN'S LITTLE DAUGHTER MAKES PLEA TO FIRE CHIEF

Dear Mr. Chief My papa is a fireman. He is an Englewood. He has been a fireman for ten years. I'm eight years old and I have two little brothers. I want Papa home for Christmas. He is always at the firehouse and only see him once in a while. We haven't had him home with us on Christmas that I can remember. Sometimes he comes if he can't get to work so we don't see him like other little girls do their papa. You are the chief, can't you let us have Papa home with us when Christmas comes. I get like the other little girls in our street. I don't seem like Christmas ought to be without Papa. He just hummelin and goes right out again, and never has time to play with us. We want him to see our tree and have dinner with us and all that. Won't you let him home for Christmas just this once.

Maybe you have little girls of your own and know how much they like to have you home for Christmas, I like presents and candy, but Oh! I'd rather have Papa home with us just this one Christmas than all the rest. Please Chief, won't you do it? Yours respectfully, Mary Doran No. 24 1/2 N. 11th St. West Phila.



DANIEL DORAN JR.



MARY DORAN AUTHOR OF THE LETTER



DANIEL DORAN EDWIN DORAN

In the Bureau of Fire do not enjoy even every sixth Christmas Day off duty was explained at headquarters today. A man enters the service and is assigned to fill a vacancy in a company. He takes the tour of duty formerly held by the man whose position he fills. That man may have been entitled to a day off on the following Christmas day. Before that date arrives circumstances may compel the transfer of the new appointee to another company.

Upon arrival at the new station the transferred fireman assumes the place just vacated. He may find that his predecessor was off duty last Christmas day, and that his turn for enjoying the greatest of holidays is yet five years away.

The prospect brightens somewhat as the succeeding years pass, but just as he is planning, perhaps, for his first Christmas day among his loved ones comes a second transfer, entailing likewise a change in "days off." The prospective Christmas at home becomes once more remote, and it comes to pass, as in the case of little Mary's papa, that his children grow to eight and even more mature years without a single instance of a Christmas day with their father at home to see their tree and their presents and to share in the companionship. As little Mary puts it: "He is always at the firehouse, and we only see him once in a while. We haven't had Papa home with us on Christmas that I can remember. It don't seem like Christmas to be without papa."

There are more than 800 hose and ladder men in the Bureau of Fire. More than one-half of them are in the plight of Mary's papa.

COUNCILMEN READY

Members of the Finance Committee declare they will remedy the condition if the citizens of Philadelphia desire it. They say the necessary appropriation only needs the sanction of their constituents to secure its early passage.

Mary's question: "Won't you let him home for Christmas just this once?" can be answered immediately in the affirmative, say these Councilmen, if popular will demands it. Revelations resulting from little Mary's letter prove the general condition of hardship besetting the fireman who is married or the father of a family. The firemen, through their campaign committee, are now appealing to the citizens of Philadelphia to ask if they are content that conditions should continue to exist, when a word from their constituents will bring unanimous betterment through their Councilmen.

"Wolf of Wall Street" Asks Liberty ATLANTA, Dec. 13.—Application for the release on a writ of habeas corpus of David Lamar, known as the "Wolf of Wall Street," now serving a two-year term in the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta for representing himself over the telephone to J. P. Morgan as being A. Mitchell Palmer, of Pennsylvania, has been made to United States District Judge Newman by A. J. Orme, Lamar's local counsel. Judge Newman reserved decision.

Colonel Krag, Rifle Inventor, Dies PARIS, Dec. 13.—Colonel Ole Herman Johannes Krag, former chief of ordnance in the Norwegian army and inventor of the Krag-Jorgensen rifle, died here yesterday. He was seventy-nine years old.

CHILD DESERTED ON TRAIN

Four-Year-Old Girl Left by Woman Near Tyrone

ALTOONA, Pa., Dec. 13.—Mrs. Martha Cupples, of Juniata, reported to the police here that while she was coming from Tyrone to Tyrone over the Pennsylvania, a woman left on the train a four-year-old girl, who was turned over to the matron at the Tyrone station.

The child says she is Alberta Forrester, adopted daughter of Chauncey Weakley, of Sayre, Bradford County.

AMERICANS OFF FOR WAR

Canadian Legion Sails Under Command of Young New Yorker

CHICAGO, Dec. 13.—The American Legion of the Dominion of Canada, under command of Lieutenant Colonel W. M. Sage, has sailed for Europe, according to a statement made here today by a official of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Lieutenant Colonel Sage was born in New York city thirty-two years ago.

Other officers are Major Le Clerk, formerly auditor of a New York bank; Captain D. Trainer, Pennsylvania, a former rough rider in Cuba; W. K. Turner, medical officer; E. R. Edeen, Seattle, Wash.; Captain H. R. Sanborn, California and Washington; Lieutenant E. Yale Smith, Massachusetts; Lieutenant Floyd K. Beach, Michigan; Lieutenant V. Heydenhain, Providence, R. I.; and Lieutenant H. H. Jones, Buffalo, N. Y.

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"3 LITTLE GIRLS IN BLUE" CAUGHT AS SHOPLIFTERS

Start on Tour With 15 Cents and Take \$100 in Goods, Cops Say

"Three little girls in blue," the eldest only ten and the youngest eight years, will be arraigned in the House of Detention today as shoplifters. Detectives say they are the youngest ever arrested on that charge in this city. They were caught in a store near Tenth and Market streets and according to the police, in special pockets sewed in their coats two muffs, several dolls, a necklace, toys and Christmas ornaments were found.

"We are going to give them away as Christmas presents," one of the three is said to have told the police. The children gave the names of Julia Melch, nine years old, of 115 Bainbridge street; Annie Mansky, ten, of 502 Crossed street, and Helen Puhast, of 232 Bainbridge street.

The articles found by the police are valued at more than \$100. When put through a minor third degree Young Bridges hearing started on their "shopping" tour with fifteen cents which they begged from the mother of one. They were all dressed in blue.

CITY EMPLOYEES ACCUSED

Three Electrical Bureau Men Held for Theft of Wire

Charged with thefts of thousands of dollars' worth of copper wire from the storeroom of the City Electrical Bureau at 1517 Filbert street, Leo Unterkofer, Twenty-ninth and Thompson streets; William J. Young, Bridge and Bridesburg, and John Dougherty, Corlies and Master streets, were arrested by Detectives Beckman and Fraund. The men are employees of the bureau and are accused of systematically robbing the storeroom for several months.

The detectives hid in a vacant house near the rear entrance of the storeroom and say the men threw bundles of copper wire into the yard of the house. When one of the men climbed over and carried the wire into the house the detectives arrested him. His companions were caught later. The men were held in \$400 bail for a further hearing on Saturday.

TODAY'S MARRIAGE LICENSES

Charles Baum, Detroit, Mich., and Anna Bierling, 1416 N. Myrtlewood st. George H. Selzer, 327 N. 11th st., and Mary Eckert, 1017 Calowhill st. Victor A. Blinn, 2222 Latona st., and Mary A. Blinn, 504 Wilder st., and Della Lippold, 1237 7th st. Abe Seigel, 1312 W. Cumberland st., and Ida Edward, 1244 Boulevard st. Edward G. Bernhardt, 6146 Spruce st., and Barbara M. Alexander, 414 Spruce st. Benie Baraksho, 1429 N. 9th st., and Lona Gollberg, 1429 N. 9th st. Harry Cohen, 1452 N. 7th st., and Anna Malin, 404 Fulton st. Charles L. Moore, 2103 Tiosa st., and Mary R. Martin, 2541 E. Colorado st. Robert M. Alexander, 2124 Sanson street, and Marretta Johnson, 1337 Opal st. Gertrude Brown, 418 E. Walnut st., and Ernest Hunt, Bridge town, Va., and Sallie E. McMath, Center st. Henry O. Springler, Jr., 863 N. Juniper st., and Katharine H. Hammer, 3514 N. 7th st.

Fined For Shooting-Up Mail Box READING, Pa., Dec. 13.—Shooting into a rural letter box in lower Berks County cost W. S. Seelye, a Posttown rabbit hunter, \$5 fine in the United States District Court.

Hanscom's Finest Fruit Cake Plain 40c Lb. Decorated 45c Lb. You're liable to pay double elsewhere 1232 Market St. & Branches

JUDGE BROWN URGES REFORMS FOR WOMEN

Report to Mayor Smith Says Prisoners at House of Correction Are Not "Corrected"

Women committed to the House of Correction are neither "corrected" nor "reformed," according to a report made to Mayor Smith by Judge Brown, of the Municipal Court. Recommendations were made for remedial measures for the benefit of society generally and the possible uplift of the inmates.

The report represents a study of the institution made for the Municipal Court by Dr. Louise Stevens Bryant. She says: "There should be developed a full system of parole, embracing these features—indeterminate sentence, preliminary investigation of all first offenders, investigation of all cases while serving time, the planning for each case before discharge, which shall include aid in securing employment, a place of refuge while seeking work and help in going to place of work."

Dr. Bryant contends there should be legal provision for the automatic transfer of all inmates and mental incompetents to institutions for permanent custodial care.

Other reforms she deems "either in or officially connected with the institution," says Dr. Bryant, "some one with authority to act on behalf of the city without the intervention of private individuals. In other words, permanent custodial care for all the socially incompetent should be compulsory, and the burden of obtaining it should rest upon society through governmental agencies."

Dr. Bryant declares that the most serious defect in regard to commitments to the House of Correction is the failure to obey the law regarding increasing the length of the terms with successive commitments. Reformation, she urges, is a work of time, and a benevolent regard for the good of the criminal and the protection of society requires that the sentence be long enough for reformatory processes to take effect. A formal trial by jury or in a court of record, it is suggested, might be a wise alternative to commitments by magistrates.

Will on Fly Leaf of Book

By his will, written on the fly leaf of a building association receipt book, James J. Kelly, who died in St. Agnes Hospital last June, left an estate valued at \$2800 to Kathryn A. Manion. Relatives of the deceased contested the will, which was finally admitted to probate today.

A bequest of \$100 to the Chestnut street Baptist church is contained in the will of Elizabeth Fitzgerald, 2124 Sanson street, who left an estate of \$700. Other wills probated were those of Eliza A. Rhoads, who died in the Episcopal Hospital, leaving to relatives property valued at \$600; Louisa Johnson, 1542 East Chestnut street, \$500, and Christian Schotte, 1229 North Third street, \$2300.

DR. E. E. MONTGOMERY WILL WED IN FEBRUARY

Member of Jefferson Faculty Announces His Engagement to Miss Alice Jeans, Tarrytown, N. Y.

The marriage of Dr. E. E. Montgomery, of 1436 Spruce street, professor of gynecology in Jefferson Medical College, and Miss Alice Jeans, daughter of Doctor Jeans, of Tarrytown, N. Y., will take place in February. Doctor Montgomery has announced his engagement informally to a few of his friends.

Miss Jeans is about forty-two. Doctor Montgomery is sixty-seven. The engagement follows a long friendship between Doctor Montgomery and Doctor Jeans.

Doctor Montgomery is one of the foremost gynecologists in the United States. He is a native of Newark, O., and was graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1876. Two years later he married Miss Helen M. Buckley, of this city, who died several years ago.

Sturgh's Assassin Found Sane VIENNA, Dec. 13.—The court alienist who has been observing Doctor Friedrich Adler, the publisher who shot and killed Count Karl Sturgh, the Austrian Premier, last October, has declared that he is mentally sound and responsible for his acts.

The court to which Doctor Adler was committed, however, has postponed the trial in order that an opinion from the medical faculty of the university might be obtained.

Z. J. PEQUIGNOT JEWELS 1331 Walnut St. Enamelled Clocks Delicate Tints In Traveling Cases For the Bureau Minute Repeaters and Plain Time \$55 to \$350

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