EX-PREMIER OF BELGIUM IS CHALLENGED TO DUEL

Cabinet Minister Incensed by Altercation in Chamber

Brussels, Dec. 20. — (By A. P.) — Minister of the Colonies Franck has challenged former Premier Paul Hymans to a duel. Mr. Franck sent his seconds to M. Hymans yesterday after sharp words had passed between them in the Chamber of Deputies.

The altercation came in the course of a stormy period of the session which followed passage of a measure making Ghent University a Flemish institution. The vote is expected to bring a Cabinet crisis, as the Liberal Ministers recently announced they had resolved to quit the Government if the bill was adopted.

Close voting marked the end of the debate on the question, the bill being adopted by 85 votes to 83. After the Chamber voted to make the university Flemish it voted on a proposal that the institution should be bi-lingual, using the French and Flemish languages, but this was rejected.

Norfolk Conditions Good

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 20. — Owing to the higher price of cotton and to the fact that a large crop has been produced, the territory of which this city is the trading center is enjoying greater prosperity than a year ago. Cotton growers in eastern North Carolina materially reduced the handicap ordinarily put upon them by the boll weevil, and with less adverse weather this season, have produced from 15 to 20 per cent more cotton than they did a year ago.

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Wool-and-Lisle Hosiery—Val. $1.25 **95c**

Full length, well made, seam up the back; not a cheap stocking; two-thirds wool; in gray, black, tan, mode, brown, camel's-hair, etc., with clox or drop-stitch.

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Sweaters, $6 to $12 *Scarfs, $7.50 to $12.50*

French Chemise Step-In Gowns, $2.75 to $7.50

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Boys', Girls', Men's and Women's

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Swiss, Irish and French Linens
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Due to lack of space, we are closing out
Our Entire Stocks of
Lingerie & Negligees
At Cost and Less

Many attractive Christmas Gifts at remarkably low prices. These few are typical of the values that prevail throughout.

Philippine Underwear

Nightgowns of sheer batiste, beautifully embroidered. *They were up to $6.95* — $1.95 & $2.95

Envelope Chemise, also of batiste, embroidered in various designs. *Were up to $3.95* — $1.95

Silk Underwear

Glove Silk Vests, bodice top, excellent quality; flesh only. *Were $1.95* — $1.35

Bloomers of satin and glove silk, flesh or suit shades, that were $3.95, *reduced to* — $2.45

Envelope Chemise, in flesh, white and pastel shades, of crepe satin, crepe de chine and radium, *that were up to $6.90, now* — $3.45

Suit Blouses

All our Remaining Stock, including the most desirable colors and styles, to be closed out in three groups.

They were up to $24.50

$5.75, $8.75 & $11.75

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N. J. PRISON BOARD WARRING ON 'GRAFT'

Commissioner, Answering Edwards' Criticism of Secret Inquiry, Promises Clean-Up

FIGHT 'INFECTION AT TOP'

Trenton, Dec. 20.—Exclusion of reporters from sessions of the State Board of Control, which is investigating conditions at the State Prison, prompted Governor Edwards yesterday to ask Burdette G. Lewis, commissioner of the Department of Institutions and Agencies, why the inquiry was a secret one. The Governor declared the investigation should be open to the public.

Because of the nature of the testimony, Mr. Lewis told the Governor, he felt the board was justified in keeping newspapermen out. He added, however, that he was not responsible for the action of the State Board. Many alleged irregularities, he said, existed previous to the present administration. He added that some of the testimony was fragmentary, and if given to the public piecemeal it might work an injustice to innocent persons.

The suggestions of the Governor will be communicated to E. P. Earle, president of the State Board, by Mr. Lewis.

Purpose of Investigation

The purpose of the prison investigation was given out by Mr. Lewis today, as follows:

"Surgical operations are never pleasant for the operators or for the patient. We are getting ready to amputate, graft, corruption, brutality, crass stupidity, rank favoritism, smuggling, disrespect of authority and deliberate deception of the press and public at the New Jersey State Prison. The patient's body has been toned up, the physical aspects of modern reformatory organization, which have been transplanted, are functioning vigorously there. The patient's illness is now chiefly, though not entirely, psychological. The press has been deceived about the causes of the so-called riot last August. Peaches were a clever subterfuge.

"The State Board's investigation has revealed a splendid but improperly led rank and file of officers. There are a few very poor ones at the top. They are the foci of infection. We are counting upon the helpful co-operation of the Board of Managers, the principal keeper, lovers of fair play and good sports everywhere to help put the ringers out of the game. The final report of the Morrow Prison inquiry described them, and the State's path of duty in its report to Governor Edge and the Legislature in 1918 as follows:

States Path of Duty

"That the method of discipline in force until quite recently in the State Prison has been marked by a general attitude of severity toward the inmates and an indifference as to the conditions under which they have been required to live, a condition resulting in the infliction of cruel punishments and not infrequent affrays; that the exact degree of criminal responsibility for the outcome of such affrays can only with difficulty be ascertained in criminal proceedings; that irrespective of whether or not the acts of individual keepers involved in such affrays in the past have or have not gone beyond the proper bounds of self-defense as permitted by the laws of the State, there can be no doubt in the mind of any one who has carefully examined the recent history of the prison that many of the men who have passed years of their lives in controlling prisoners under the repressive conditions that have existed at Trenton, constantly conscious of the necessity of self-defense under the conditions which they were themselves helping to create, have by their very training become temperamentally unfitted to serve in the important capacity of a prison keeper; that it is one of the first duties of a new management of the prison to carefully consider the prison personnel and by a proper exercise of the procedure of the civil service law to provide for the discharge or retirement of those who are upon examination found unfit for the performance of their duties.

"That, notwithstanding recent noteworthy improvements, the State Prison is still not sufficiently reformatory in character, and that the present crowded site in the city of Trenton and the present buildings and equipment are wholly inadequate to furnish the proper environment and facilities for a reformatory institution."

ORDER LICENSES FOR BUSES

Board Rules Jitneys Must Have Certificate of Public Convenience

Harrisburg, Dec. 20. Hundreds of motorbus operators running over the State highways and plying between towns and towns must secure a certificate of public convenience from the Public Service Commission, it was learned here, according to a ruling of the Public Service Commission, which is being enforced by the State police.

News of the drastic action comes yesterday during a fight between Paul Buchness in Hamburg, Berks County, over right to convey passengers for fare between the railroad stations and the State Sanatorium.

Attorneys for the Elva Buchness sought a postponement whereby an agreement would be reached and suggested that the rivals continue to operate meanwhile.

That will not be permitted, said Examiner Vale, presiding at the hearing. "State policemen are requiring all operators of busses and hacks to show a certificate of public convenience or quit operation."

Few of the small town operators are aware that they are required to have a certificate. Many of them are farmer liverymen.

WALLACE OPTIMISTIC

Sees Marked Improvement in Agricultural Conditions

Chicago, Dec. 20.—A marked improvement in agricultural conditions of the country during 1923 was predicted by Secretary of Agriculture Henry C. Wallace, in an address here last night.

While agricultural prices remain lower relatively than the prices of other things, the farmers of the Nation will get between one and one-half and two billion dollars more total money for their crops this year than last, he said.

"Perhaps the chief reason for the low prices the farmers have been receiving is that they have been over producing," he said. He added that the large advance in cotton prices has put the South in better shape than for many years.

GEORGIA BANKER INDICTED

Albany, Ga., Dec. 20.—S. C. Watson, formerly president of the First National Bank of Colquitt, Miller County, Georgia, and formerly Mayor of Colquitt, yesterday was indicted by Grand Jury in United States Court here on thirty-two counts, alleging embezzlement of funds totalling nearly $100,000.

GLOOMY BIRTHDAY FOR PRINCE GEORGE

British King's Youngest Son Undergoes Appendicitis Operation

TO SPEND CHRISTMAS IN BED

Special Wireless Dispatch. Copyright, 1922

London, Dec. 20.—Prince George, the fifth and youngest living child of King George, who expected to celebrate his twentieth birthday today hunting with his pals, instead is a patient in a hospital, where yesterday he was operated on for appendicitis. The members of England's royal family are not robust and the health of the youngest Prince has been unsatisfactory for some time.

The attack of appendicitis was not acute, however, and Prince George was able to attend a dance last week, ride horseback and yesterday walked in the park, later going to the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, where his appendix was removed.

The navy was selected as the career for the youngest Prince of the blood, and after passing through the Royal Naval College at Osborne he cruised in Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean waters. He now is a midshipman attached to the Queen Elizabeth, from which he was granted leave to visit his parents, but the operation will prevent him from joining the royal Christmas celebration at Sandringham House.

Prince George's royal rank opens no avenues of favoritism nor will it bar him from promotion if he makes good as a sailor. King George, who adopted the navy as a profession and worked his way to a captaincy, has let it be known he would discountenance favoritism to the Prince because of his rank. He wants his son to advance strictly on his individual merits and at the admiralty it was said King George wishes have been strictly adhered to.

Having gone early to sea, Prince George's tastes and recreations are those of the sea, although he plays some golf and likes to shoot with the Prince of Wales. He is extremely fond of music and is an accomplished pianist. Very slight in build, he is the tallest member of the royal family and bears a strong resemblance to his older brother, the Duke of York, for whom the crowd mistook him at a "rugger" match last week.

COLLEGE STUDENT'S CAR KILLS AGED PEDESTRIAN

Newton Freed, Home for Holidays, Held on Homicide Charge

Lansdale, Dec. 20.—Home from State College for the holidays, Newton Freed, twenty-two years old, of North Wales, is under bail on a charge of homicide. Driving his automobile, young Freed struck and killed J. Howard Moore, of Lansdale, killing him instantly. The accident occurred shortly before 11 o'clock Monday night.

The Moore home is on the Lansdale Speedway, just beyond the borough limits. Moore had met his wife at a trolley crossing and was walking with her to their home. Freed says he was blinded by the light of a passing machine and did not see Mr. and Mrs. Moore until virtually on them.

Following the crash, young Freed carried the body into the Moore home and then drove into Lansdale and gave himself up to Magistrate J. Howard Beerer. The justice held him under bail for a hearing Friday.

Young Freed's father, Rhine Russell Freed, has a responsible position at the United States Mint in Philadelphia.

DEATH CLAIM IS DENIED IN OTRANTO DISASTER

Test Case, Filed Too Late, Is Outlawed by British Court

London, Dec. 20.—Relatives of the American soldiers who lost their lives in the Otranto disaster may expect nothing in the way of damages from the British steamship line if the decision of the British court, just promulgated, stands. The court previously had held that the Peninsular and Oriental Line, owner of the Kashmir, which collided with the Otranto, was liable for approximately $500,000.

Last May the United States Government brought an action in the British courts on behalf of Mary Fringe against the Peninsular and Oriental Line for damages for the loss of her son Julius. The court ruled that under the Wartime Conventions Act and limitation of decrees the case had no standing in court, in that it was filed too late, but the judge granted "liberty of appeal."

LIFE TERM GIVEN MURDERER

Easton Man Sentenced in Court at Newton, N. J.

Easton, Pa., Dec. 20. Joe Mesaline, of Easton, who pleaded guilty to a charge of murder in courts of Sussex County, N. J., at Newton, yesterday was sentenced to life imprisonment by Justice Minturn in New Jersey State Supreme Court.

He was one of three men charged with being implicated in the murder of Albert Koster at Cut Swamp, near Newton, a year ago last June, following the theft of a truck loaded with silk. Tony Turco, convicted of murder in the first degree several weeks ago on his second trial, was not sentenced, as the Commonwealth desires to use him as a witness against John and Ignatz Salso, of Easton, also charged with murder.

GERMANY TO BOOST FARES

Railway Passenger Rates Will Still Be Lowest in World

Berlin, Dec. 20.—The State railways will introduce new passenger rates on New Years Day, doubling the third-class fares and tripling the first-class. The object is to place the traffic on a paying basis.

Travelling in Germany, nevertheless, remains the cheapest in the world, the third-class fares corresponding to American smoker accommodations being about one-eighth of a cent per mile.

The first-class or luxury class accommodations are one-half cent per mile. Express fares on fast trains are from 30 to 40 per cent higher, depending on the distance.

BIG NEW STEEL FIRM IN WEST

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—Organization of a $20,000,000 corporation known as the Columbia Steel Corporation to consolidate the plants of the Columbia Steel Company in Pittsburgh, California and Portland, Ore., and the Utah Coal and Coke Company of Utah, was announced yesterday.

SPROUL NAMES JUDGE

Harrisburg, Dec. 20.—Clarence Edinger, Stroudsburg, yesterday was appointed Associate Judge of Monroe County by the Governor to fill a vacancy.

MAY ADOPT U. S. PLAN

In a special dispatch from Lausanne, Clarence K. Streit intimates that Turkey may adopt U. S. plan to help Levant minorities. The page devoted to Foreign News abounds in special dispatches of this nature every morning in the PUBLIC LEDGER. "Make it a Habit."—*Adv.*

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HAVE you planned all your Christmas gifts?

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You can give her no greater pleasure than the gift of a pretty finger-ring. Our stock, which is unusually large, includes everything from the plain gold signet ring to the elaborate jeweled ring of platinum. A few moderately priced rings are illustrated.

14-kt. green gold, tastefully pierced, two diamonds and sapphire in platinum settings—$50.

14-kt. green gold, beautifully pierced, two diamonds in square platinum settings—$100.

14-kt. green gold, dainty design, two diamonds and sapphire in platinum settings—$65.

14-kt. green gold, pierced design, three diamonds in octagonal platinum settings—$100.

14-kt. green gold, beautifully pierced, platinum top, diamond and sapphire—$75.

14-kt. green gold, neat design, three diamonds in platinum settings—$85.

14-kt. green gold, artistic design, amethyst of rich color—$22.

14-kt. green gold, new design, beautiful tourmaline—$30.

14-kt. green gold, tastefully pierced, fine aquamarine—$31.

Our catalog, which contains more than 4000 photographic illustrations, includes hundreds of rings of latest fashion—call or write for a copy.

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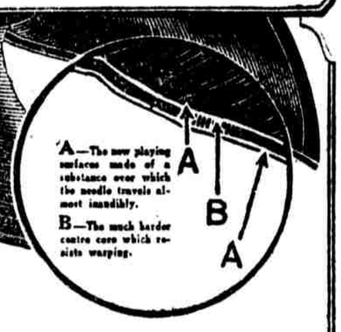

OUT TODAY

DANCE MUSIC

All Muddled Up. Fox-Trot.
Waltzing the Blues. Waltz.
Paul Specht and His Orchestra. A-3740 75c

Carolina in the Morning.
Silver Swanee. Fox-Trots.
Eddie Elkins' Orchestra. A-3737 75c

Boes' Knees.
Lovin' Sam (The Sheik of Alabam'). Fox-Trots.
Ted Lewis and His Band. A-3730 75c

Choo-Choo Blues. Fox-Trot.
That Barkin' Dog (Woof Woof). Intro. "Walking the Dog." Medley Fox-Trot. *Frank Westphal and His Orchestra.* A-3743 75c

Four o'Clock Blues.
Hawaiian Blues. Fox-Trots.
Johnny Dunn's Original Jazz Hounds. A-3729 75c

I Found a Four Leaf Clover. From "George White's Scandals."
Time Will Tell. Intro. "Oh, How I've Missed You, Mary." From "Sally, Irene and Mary." Fox-Trots.
The Happy Six. A-3741 75c

Sixty Seconds Ev'ry Minute (I Think of You). Intro. "Sweetheart Lane." Medley Fox-Trot. *The Columbians.*
To-morrow Morning. Fox-Trot.
Eddie Elkins' Orchestra. A-3745 75c

Three o'Clock in the Morning.
La Golondrina. Waltzes. *Prince's Dance Orchestra.* A-3724 75c

Fate. Fox-Trot.
Ted Lewis and His Band.
A Dream of Romany. Fox-Trot.
Paul Specht and His Orchestra. A-3738 75c

POPULAR SONGS

All for the Love of Mike.
You Can Have Him, I Don't Want Him, Didn't Love Him Anyhow Blues.
Van and Schenck. A-3735 75c

Lost (A Wonderful Girl).
Al Jolson.
If You Don't Think So, You're Crazy. *Frank Crumit.*
A-3744 75c

You Need Some One, Some One Needs You. From "Queen o' Hearts."
Mammy's Carbon Copy. From "Queen o' Hearts."
Nora Bayes. A-3742 75c

Mississippi Choo-Choo.
'Way Down Yonder in New Orleans. *Blossom Seeley.*
A-3731 75c

INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL SELECTIONS

For the Sake of Auld Lang Syne.
My Buddy.
Edwin Dale. A-3734 75c

Orientale. (Cui)
Simple Aveu, Op. 25. Flute, 'cello, harp. *Trio de Lutece.*
A-3727 75c

Western Stars.
Neapolitan Polka. Accordion Solos. *Guido Deiro.*
A-3728 75c

Maui Girl. Waltz.
Meanalua Hula. Ukelele Solos.
Frank Ferera. A-3739 75c

I Know I Have Another Building.
I Want to be Ready. Male Quartet. *Fisk University Jubilee Singers.* A-3726 75c

Yale Songs; Medley No. 1—Yale Boola, Whoop It Up; Good-night Harvard; Bingo Eli Yale; Down the Field.
Yale Songs; Medley No. 2—Wake, Freshmen, Wake; Amici; Brave Mother Yale; Bright College Years.
Shannon Four. A-3723 75c

SYMPHONY AND CONCERT SELECTIONS

Manon Lescaut, "In quelle trine morbide." (In These Soft Silken Curtains.) (Puccini)
Rosa Ponselle. 79971 $1.00

La Gioconda—"Cielo e Mar." (Heaven and Ocean.) (Ponchielli) *Charles Hackett.*
98040 $1.50

Homing. (Del Riego)
O Promise Me. (De Koven)
Carmela Ponselle. A-3732 $1.00

Tannhauser March. (Wagner)
Soldiers' Chorus. From "Faust." (Gounod) *Metropolitan Opera House Orchestra.*
A-6224 $1.50

Robin Adair. Scotch Air.
When I Was Seventeen. Swedish folk song. *Florence Macbeth.*
A-3733 $1.00

Where the Morning Glories Twine Around the Door.
I Wonder How the Old Folks Are at Home. *Oscar Seagle.*
A-3725 $1.00

Spanish Dance, Op. 21. (Sarasate)
Canzonetta. From "Concerto in D Major," Op. 35. (Tschaikowsky) Violin Solos.
Sascha Jacobsen. A-6223 $1.50

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THOSE grinding, scratching surface noises that have so insistently made themselves heard through the music you love will now annoy you no more. Because Columbia has discovered a process which produces a phonograph record surface so fine in texture, so marvelously smooth that the needle travels over it almost inaudibly.

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And among them are two you'll want at the very first whirl—"All for the Love of Mike" and "You Can Have Him, I Don't Want Him, Didn't Love Him Anyhow Blues." Both are by Van and Schenck—singing in their happiest of happy harmonies. And they are deliciously free from irritating scratch or scrape.

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