SAY MERCER CONFESSED. | VICTIMS OF 'QUAKE THEN DENIED

her, who said it was taken by her. the presence of the County Prosecu-one of the defendants' attorneys a New York detective named Fitz-

Attorneys for Mercer, while cross-examining the stenographer, hinted that the District Attorney had made a prom-ise to Mercer that sentence would be suspended provided he would plead guilty, but Miss Miller denied that, say-ing that no such agreement had been suggested or even hinted at so far as she knew.

she knew.

The police in three other cities have lodged detainers against Mereer, so the authorities here say, and another detainer has been entered against LeBrun. It also is said here that Mereer is wanted in New York-City to testify in a case involving a member of the New York here.

The Alleged Check Transactions

The Alleged Check Transactions
The defendants are charged with having had two \$1,000 bogus checks, one on each of two Jacksonville, Florida banks, and depositing them,—one in the Mechanics Trust Company and the other in the Dauphin Deposit bank in this city,—taking out accounts and later drawing checks on the local banks, which, however, were too wide awake to be duped and communicated with the Florida institutions from which they learned the \$1,000 checks were worthless.

It is charged that Mercer and It is charged that Mercer and La-Brun arrived in this city from Philadel-phia in the early morning of November 7, last, deposited the checks with the local banks and were arrested at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of the same day, for trying to check against the de-posits. They were taken into custody less than two hours after complaint had been lodged with the police by one of the local banks which had been in-formed that the Florida banks would not honor the \$1,000 checks. Mercer, in hig confession, according

not honor the \$1,000 checks.

Mercer, in his confession, according to the testimony, began by describing his partner LeBrun, saying LeBrun is a non-English speaking Frenchman, and that he gave up a profitable cigar business in Chicago Ill., to join Mercer in the manufacture and sale of a certain type of automobile tire.

Wanted Cash et al. [14]

Wanted Cash to Tide Them Over

Mercer then went on to say, it was eged, that they had met a stranger in alleged, that they had met a stranger in Philadelphia on November 5, last, and induced him to give them a number of blank Florida bank checks. Later, he said, Mercer and LeBrun got this same stranger to draw up the \$1,000 checks. Mercer said he knew the checks were fictitious, but he "deposited them in the flarrisburg banks for collection to tide over a temporary embarrassment." Before the banks would learn that the checks were bad, Merser said in effect, he thought he could get money to "fix matters up" and to make the checks good. What we wanted to do,' said Mer

according to the statement as read, as to locate permanently in Harris-z, begin the manufacture of the was to locate permanufacture of the burg, begin the manufacture of the auto tires and our aim was first to es-tablish credit with the business men, more than anything else. We gave checks for articles we purchased at the stores. We didn't need the goods:

we just wanted them."
Continuing, Mercer explained that he got a batch of Harrisburg bank blank checks on the counter of the Commonwealth Trust company, "just because we thought we would need them, since before we had suffered business losses because we did not have proper bank checks at hand."
Further on Mercer said the stranger from whom he obtained the Florida checks in Philadelphia was a stock salesman, named Clairmont, and that "so far as I know Clairmont did not have a rep."

Miss Miller Enlightens Court

The statement that the bond sales man does not have a "rep" was made after Mercer was asked by Fitzsim mons, the detective, if Clairmont "has a police record?" Several times, while the stenographer was reading her notes of the alleged confession, it wasn't altogether clear to the court and attorney, Detective Fitzsimmons or Mercer,—was represented as doing the talking.

Each time Miss Miller was called upon to offer enlightenment and she did so. One of the many questions put to Mercer was:

"What in the devil did you draw against that \$1,000 secount for?"
It wasn't clear who had asked the question, but before Miss Miller could be asked to explain the District Attorney had remarked:

"That was Fitzsimmons who asked the college of the distribution of the fitz of the disturbance, according to this correspondent, was situated in the dry and ancient lake Fuecino, which was drained in 1875 by Prince Alexander Torlonia at a cost of about \$8,000,000. As to the cause of the disaster, the "Petit Parisien" correspondent quotes an eminent meteorologist as saying:

"The most likely hypothesis is that continuous heavy rains resulted in filtrations which formed great bodies of steam by contact with incandescent matter. This hypothesis seems confirmed by the fact that the spring at Management and seem to the court and the disturbance was more violent than that of Messina, had it not been for the fact than that of Messina, had it not been for the fact into been for the fact into the disturbance, according to this correspondent, was situated in the dry and ancient lake Fuecino, which was adrained in 1875 by Prince Alexander Torlonia at a cost of about \$8,000,000. As to the cause of the disaster, the "Petit Parisien" correspondent quotes are into the disturbance, according to the disturbance, according to this correspondent, was situated in the dry and ancient lake Fuecino, which was drained in 1875 by Prince Alexander Torlonia at a cost of about \$8,000,000.

As to the cause of the disaster, the Petit Parisien" correspondent used The statement that the bond sale The statement that the bond salesman does not have a "rep" was made after Mercer was asked by Fitzsimmons, the detective, if Clairmont "has a police record?" Several times, while the stenographer was reading her notes of the alleged confession, it wasn't altogether clear to the court and attorneys, just of the trio,—the District Attorney, Detective Fitzsimmons or Mercer,—was represented as doing the talking.

torney had remarked:

"That was Fitzsimmons who asked that."

After making the statement to the District Attorney, Mercer filed with him a copy of what purported to be a story of Mercer's former conviction. It was to be a story of Mercer's former conviction. It was to be a story of Mercer's former conviction. It was to be a story of Mercer's former conviction. It was to be a story of Mercer's former conviction. It was to be a story that Mercer had served three years of the Missouri State Penitentiary on the Missouri State Penitentiary

James E. Madigan, a bookkeeper and hand writing expert, connected with the Barnett National bank, of Jacksonville, Florida, one of the institutions on which one of the alteged bogus checks was drawn, this morning testified that the fictitious checks were signed by one and the same person. One was signed by C. E. Williams and the other by J. T. Redman.

The Florida banks have no depositors by that namé he said.

Several packs of blank checks, bank books and several receipted bills were offered in evidence at the trial this morning. Among the Harrisburg merchants who accepted the defendant's checks in payment for goods purchased were the Regal Umbrella Company, W. N. Knisely and the Harrisburg Harness and Supply Company. At the Kelly shoe store and the store of J. Harry Messersmith, the defendant's checks were refused.

LAWYERS' PAPER BOOKS

Printed at this office in best style, at lowest prices and on short notice.

MAY BE 100,000

Continued From First Page.

It is still comes in slowly but enough is known to show that the disaster closely appears that which befel Messina six years ago. Estimates of the killed and injured vary from 25,000 to 50,000, and if will probably be days before exact figures are available.

Avezzano, sixty miles east of Rome, and Sora, 15 miles south of Avezzano, were the worst sufferers, so far as loss of life is concerned, but about sixty towns and villages in all suffered either total demolition or serious damage.

Reports to-day from the north say that the shock was felt as far as the Swiss frontier and that in the Alps in that region there were numerous avalanches, the result of the earthquake. This would make it appear that the earthquake extended throughout the entire length of Italy with the exception of the extreme southern end. The Italian government and people have quickly responded to the call for

The Italian government and people cation have quickly responded to the call for help from the stricken people. Thou- HEAD OF APPROPRIATION sands of troops have been sent to the scene and the work of rescue and relief scene and the work of rescue and relief is going on night and day. Supplies of food, clothing, blankets and medicines part of the Republican leaders to cohave been despatched by train where operate for the present at least possible and by motor cars where the

ITALY'S KING BRINGS BACK TO

Paris, Jan. 15, 4.15 A. M.-King Paris, Jan. 15, 4.15 A. M.—King Victor Emmanuel arrived in Rome from Avezzano at 9.30 last night, says the Rome correspondent of the Havas Agency. He had three cars attached to his special train, in which forty badly injured persons had been placed. Three of them died on the journey. Premier Salandra and other members of the ministry and the Mayor met the King on his arrival and dove with King on his arrival and drove with him to the palace.

him to the palace.

The Havas correspondent at Avezzano wires that Deputies Biasolati, Chiaraviglio, Federmeoti and Celli have arrived there to examine the situation. They found that all the streets had been blotted out and that the principal square alone was distinguishable.

CAUSE OF ITALY'S DISASTER

it Parisien's' Rome correspondent says that the number of earthquake victims exceeds 30,000 and that this list would

torney had remarked: "That was Fitzsimmons who asked AMBASSADOR PAGE PLACES

HIATT SECRETARY TO NEW COVERNOR AFTER CLOSE OF BIG WAR President's Private Secretary Throws

ROME 40 EARTHQUAKEVICTIMS tees of that body. The leaders have taken over the motto "safety for

city to-night from Harrisburg and de-vote the greater part of to-morrow in considering the few appointments ex-pected to accompany his inauguration. The selection of a chairman for the

The Havas correspondent at Avezzano wires that Deputies Biasolati, Chiaraviglio, Federmeoti and Celli have arrived there to examine the situation. They found that all the streets had been blotted out and that the principal square alone was distinguishable.

POPE VISITS INJURED WITHOUT TOUCHING ITALIAN GROUND

Rome, Jan. 15.—Some of the newspapers announce that Pope Benedict in the last session this important committee was headed by Senator Kline, now President protem, and consequently out of the race. The place is sought by Senator Kurtz, of Jefferson, the ranking member, and Senator Buckman, of Bucks, who has the backing of Joseph R. Grundy. A lively rivalry has been in progress as a result. It was yesterday suggested as a solution that Senator Snyder, of Schuylkill, who ranked after Kurtz on the old committee, be made chairman,

Rome, Jan. 15.—Some of the newspapers announce that Pope Benedict in visiting the wounded at the Santa Marta Hospital, left the Vatican, thus interrupting the traditional imprisonment of the Pope always adhered to by Popes Pius IX. Leo and Pius X., after the fall of the temporal power, meaning thus to protest against the occupation of Rome.

In reality the Pontiff did not leave the Vatican but passing through the Apostolic palace inside of St. Peter's he reached the hospital without touching Italian soil. His predecessor did the same thing when he visited the wounded brought to Santa Marta Hospital after the earthquake in Messina.

CAUSE OF ITALY'S DISASTER ect investors in building and loan as-

selves pledged \$524 to start the ball rolling.

E. J. Hockenbury, State Y. M. C. A. secretary, gave his services without recompense in the conducting of the campaign. The committee in charge of the canvass consisted of the Rev. George W. Hartman, pastor of the church; Dr. G. W. Hartman, F. G. Mock, J. W. Dechant, G. W. McWilliams, H. J. Fornwalt, Mrs. Carrie Miller and Mrs. L. A. Faunce.

hams, M. J. Forhwait, Mrs. Carrie Miler and Mrs. L. A. Faunce.

The captains of the four teams of ten members each were Mrs. A. L. Garman, Mrs. H. M. Weaver, C. L. Hoak and H. W. Keitel.

National Rifle Matches in Florida

Washington, Jan. 15.—The National Board for the promotion of rifle practice, now in annual session here, has selected the Florida State range near Jacksonville for the biennial national rifle matches between army, navy, marine corps and National Guard teams which will begin October 15.

Artistic Printing at Star-Independent

George S. Atwood, Secretary of

been maintained in Berlin since the beginning of hostilitie.

'The theatres are all open and well
attended, although many of them have
reduced their prices and most of them
are giving patrictic plays or such bearing on some event in German history.
The moving picture shows are going on
as usual and, as usual, are packed.
The retail stores, especially the great
department stores, are still doing a good
business.

Factories, other than those for military needs, are working on half time. half wages and half force. The great retail houses, including American firms. are paying half wages during the war, but not a murmur is heard on the part of the employes. Those working for the army, in any capacity, are making hay while the sun shines, and the average shoemaker, saddler and petty tailor has for years not reaped such golden harvests as at the present time. No landlord has the right to evict a tenant during the war, and should some refuse to pay who can afford to do so, the matter is submitted to an umpire and his decision is generally abided by and his decision is generally abided by We must also bear in mind that both We must also bear in mind that both officers and privates receive double pay during the war, and each year of service counts double. Never was Germany so united as at present, all party differences are in abeyance and all are working to defend their country. The mines have contributed no men to the army. The copper mines in Eisleben, Manfeld and Hettstadt are working to their full extent and there will be no

is evidenced by the large total they reached, so far above their expectations. There were in all 455 subscriptions made. The canvassers themselves pledged \$524 to start the ball rolling.

E. J. Hockenbury, State Y. M. C. A. nouncement to this effect was issued to-day by the British War office. Herecompense in the conducting of the canvass consisted of the Rev. George W. Hartman, pastor of the

Cabinet to Hold Night Sessions Caolinet to Hold Might Session?
Washington, Jan. 15.—President
Wilson has broken another precedent
and will hold night cabinet meetings.
Beginning to-night the cabinet will meet
in the President's study every Friday
at 8 p. m. for informal discussion of
government's business.

CERMANY AN EXPORT FIELD ALL LEMONS FOR TUMULTY

Up Hands in Despair When Prohibition Tale Is Told

By Associated Press.

Baer's almanac holds that winter, should have been ushered in this season on or about December 22, last, and should continue for three months. The goosebone man, early last fall, prodicted that winter would be a trifle tardy in its beginnings but he gave

ed that winter would be a trifle tardy in its beginnings but he gave assurance that there would be plenty of cold weather before the close of the season to make up for lost time.

Coinciding with the goosebone man, grandfathers declared that the latter part of the winter season would be the more severe, they basing their prognostications on "readings of the woolly"

Cabinet Guessing

Cabinet Guessing

Capital Hill guesting on the Brummore severe, they basing their prognostications on "readings of the woolly worm." These overgrown caterpillars, they say, have light brown heads and black bodies this year, the inference being that the black is the danger sign.

With all these cold weather signs at hand now comes the spring bird with the early chirp. A number were heard singing and chirping this morning and the aforesaid prognosticators are at a

the aforesaid prognosticators are loss to know how they stand on vanced weather forecasts.

FAVORS POLITICAL WORKERS

Secretary Bryan Not Averse to Rewarding Them for Services

Muhlenberg Heberlig
Muhlenberg Heberlig died yesterday
the State hospital aged 60 years,
ndertakers T. M. Mauk & Son took
the remains to his home in Carlisle toty where the burial will be made

has been sent to Germany by way of the United States.

May Amend Colombian Treaty
Washington, Jan. 15.—Senators
Root, Swanson and Hitchcock were named to-day members of a foreign relations sub-committee to confer with Secretary Bryan on amending the pending treaty to pay Colombia \$25,000, 000 for the partition of Panama. There is some sentiment for reducing the sum and to strike out the clause in which the United States would express "sincere regret" to Colombia.

Cabinet to Held States would express "sincere regret" to Colombia.

Cabinet to Held States would express "sincere regret" to Colombia.

State De Carranza Tampico, Octobre A Pennsylvania railroad brakeman, who was taken ill last Friday and who died early last night, will be held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Rev. Amos Stamets, pastor of the Augsburg Lutheran church, and the Rev. Robert W. Runyan, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist of 227 to 96. It already has been daughter, Margaret.

Kost is survived by his wife, Mary, and daughter, Margaret.

Cabinet to Held States would express "sincere regret" to Colombia.

Cabinet to Held States would express "sincere regret" to Colombia.

State De Muncy. Phillips escaped after being Muncy. Phillips e

CAPITOL HILL

SUIT AGAINST COMMISSION

The Public Service Body Will Meet

Capitol Hill guesting on the Brumbaugh official family to-day included James Scarlet, of Danville, and former Speaker George W. Alter, of Pittsburgh, as being considered for Attorney General

BIRTHDAY THIS EVENING

vanced weather forecasts.

One of the chirping spring birds was perched on a sapling in Royalton this informing. Another made Camp Hill residents believe that the grass suddenly had become green and that warm weather again had arrived.

Both persons claiming to have heard these birds out of season youch for it that they are not nature fakers.

BIRTHDAY THIS EVENING

Interesting Program Will Be Rendered in P. R. R. Y. M. C. A.—Harrisburg Artists Will Participate—Judge McCarrell to Speak

(Special to the Star-Independent.) Enola, Jan. 15 .- A tenth anniversary celebration, commemorating the open-ing of the big classification yards of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Enola,

The control was a second of the control of the cont

Fatally Wounded by Son-in-Law
By Associated Press.
Williamsport, Pa., Jan. 15.—Emanuel T. Leib, aged 70 years, a veteran
of the Civil war, was shot and fatally
wounded by his son-in-law, Charles
Phillips, aged 56, in an argument over
money that the latter owed Leib. The
shooting occurred in Leib's home near
Muncy. Phillips escaped after being
wounded, probably fatally, by Leib's
son.

Garrett H. Evert

The funeral of Garrett H. Evert, 98 years old, who died yesterday morning at his home, 1429 North Front street, was held from the home this morning at 10.30 o'clock. He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. H. A. Robinson, this city, and Garrett B. Everts, of Reading.

FINANCE

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS.

Furnished by H. W. Snavely, Broker. Arcade Building, Walnut and Court Streets New York, Jan. 15

a Martinor Table 17 You.

Mart

r cent. Ex-div. U. S. Rubber 11/2 per cent. Philadelphia Closing Prices Philadelphia, Jan. 15 .- Stocks closed Lake Superior Corporation
Lehigh Navigation Phila Company Phila Rapid Transit Reading do General Mortgage . Storage Battery
Union Traction
United Gas Improvement ...

Chicago Grain Market Closing

Protests Against Carranza Embargo

Washington, Jan. 15.—The British mbassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, Ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, made urgent representations to the State Department to-day against the Carranza embargo on oil exports from Tampico, from which the British navy draws some of its fuel.

By Associated Press.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 15.—After four years of Republican administration in Tennessee, the Democrats resumed control to-day with the inauguration of Thomas C. Rye as Governor. In the Legislature the Democrats have a large majority.

Queen Victoria Has Scarlet Fever

By Associated Press.

Madrid, Jan. 15, Via London, 5.30
P. M.—It was made known in Madrid
this afternoon that Queen Victoria of
Spain is confined to her apartments
with scarlet fever.

IT PAYS TO USE STAR-INDEPENDENT WANT ADS.