MAIL SERVICE

Routes to Be Established In The Alaska and Massachusetts.

Plan Is To Create More Interest In Aviction in Connection With Preparedness-Six Weeks For Trip Now.

Washington.-Aerial mail service to Isolated points in Alaska and Massachusetts is contemplated by the Post-

office Department. Bids were asked for service on eight routes, seven of them in Alaska. October 1 is named as the date for their

The routes will be established, the department announced, as much to stimulate development of aviation, because of its relation to military preparedness, as to improve the mail service. The department believes that efforts already begun to finance an aerial patrol of the Atlantic Coast indicate ready capital will be found for

If the service is successful a gradual expansion will follow to other routes where transportation is alow and inadequate.

the mail service undertakings.

The Massachusetts route is from New Bedford to Nantucket, 56 miles and return, partly by land and partly by water. Trips would be made 13 times a week during the summer months and six times in the winter. An aeroplane would have to be able to carry a weight limit of 3,000 pounds. The present cost of the service is \$23,-

The Alaskan routes form a connecting link from Seward to Nome, thence to Fairbanks and back to Valdez, Most of them call for a service twice a week throughout the year.

On some of the routes the cost now is as high as \$100,000 a year and in winter s.x weeks is required to make the trip. The aeroplane contracts allow two days for most of the trips. The longest route, Valdez to Fairbanks, is 358 miles. The extreme time limit of six weeks on some of the routes is required because mail some times has to be routed via Seattle.

SIX MORE BODIES FOUND.

Total Dead in Ernest Mine Explosion Now Reaches 25.

Indiana, Pa .- Six bodies were added to the 19 already recovered from the mine of the Jefferson and Clearfield Coal and Iron Company at Ernest. This brings the total known dead to 25, and engineers from the Pittsburgh station of the Bureau of Mines, conducting the search, expressed the belief that no more bodies would be found. The men were buried under masses of earth and coal blown down by the ex- the time, but all managed to escape. been settled in accordance with the plosion near the face of the entries. It | with the exception of 37, who were | contentions of the United States. This was said that exploration of that part | trapped by falling rock and debris. the mine affected by the explosion had been completed.

DANIELS RETURNS DIME.

Declines To Accept Ald From Patriotic Young Girl.

New York.-Marjorie Sterrett, the Brooklyn girl who started a contribution to build a battleship for the cents in postage stamps to a newspaper and calling upon other children to contribute a dime each, has received a letter from Josephus Daniels, Secre tary of the Navy, returning her 10-cent contribution forwarded by the news-

Mr. Daniels wrote that the revenue required for naval construction "will be obtained by taxation in the usual manner," and that he believed individual contributions unnecessary.

CLEVELAND BAPTISTS LEAD.

First To Complete Their Portion Of

Cleveland.-Cleveland Baptists an nounced they have completed their campaign for \$500,000 for permanent relief for aged pastors, begun May 1915. It is the first block of \$2,000,000 to be raised in the United States. Ambrose S. Wazey gave \$200,000.

KAISER'S SON TO MARRY.

Emperor William Sets March 11 As Date For Ceremony.

London.-A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Amsterdam says that Emperor William has announced his decision that the marriage of Prince Joachim is to take place at Potsdam on March 11.

WASHINGTON.

Speaker Clark issued a statement characterizing as nonsense talk of ousting Representative Kitchin from the House majority leadership because of his opposition to the preparedness program and other administration plans.

Information about submarine warfars and the limitations of submersibles will be given the House Naval Committee this week by Rear Admiral A. W. Grant.

A demonstration of radio prepared ness will be given by the 25,000 amateur licensed operators in the United States next Monday.

Secretary Garrison's resignation last week has had far-reaching results upon Congress, in the opinion of administration leaders.

Census Bureau experts estimate that the population of the United States on January 1 last was 101,208,215.

Andre Dahl found the dahlia in Peru.

FIRST REAL STEP BY AERCPLANES TO STOP WORLD WAR

Permanent Committee Meets at Berne.

EURLESONEXPECTS SUCCESS | TWO WEEKS' TRUCE SOUGHT

Pacifists Believe If They Can Bring This About, Fighting Will Not Be Resumed - Leaders Are Encouraged.

Berne, Switzerland, - The first definite move to end the world war was made here when the permanent committee to established lasting peace met to formulate proposals for an armistice.

Peace advocates from several neutral countries were in Berne for the meeting.

The committee hopes to obtain the consent of the belligerents to an armistice of at least two weeks before the spring campaigns bring fresh slaughter in Europe. They believe if the guns can be silenced for two weeks the fighting will never be renewed.

Several peace leaders said they were encouraged by the German Chancellor's recent Reichstag speech to be lieve that Germany will give benevolent consideration to any plans for an armistice. If they fail in their plans for a truce, they hope at least to sug gest a program to the belligerents designed to eliminate some of the more A TIME LIMIT TO MARCH 1 AIMED AT MUNITIONS TRADE horrible features of the war. One suggestion is that the belligerents pledge themselves to conduct no more air raids upon cities behind the battle

Prince von Beulow, former German Chancellor; Prince Hobenlobe and Baron von Kraft have arrived at Lucerne. It was reported they are in touch with the peace movement here.

German Peace Offer Deniad. London.-Reports that Germany had made peace overtures to the Belgian Government were officially denied by the legation. The following statement was issued by the British Government Press Bureau:

"The Belgian Government issued a statement that rumors which have been circulated to the effect that peace proposals have recently been made by Germany to the Belgian Government are devoid of foundation."

37 CAUGHT IN MINE EXPLOSION.

One Man Killed, Three Badly Hurt and Score Entombed.

Indiana, Pa.-One man was killed, six miles from here.

The explosion occurred in an entry just off the main shaft of the mine.

after the explosion. A number were not legally claim the right to sink unseriously hurt.

182.622 BOY SCOUTS IN U. S.

Membership Last Year Grew 46 Per duct of submarine warfare.

Washington -- An increase of 46 per cent, in membership last year was announced at the annual meeting of the lty, now may be warned that they with trade in munitions and prevent National Council of the Boy Scouts of | will take passage aboard armed mer-America. The increase to 182,632 boys chant ships at their own risk and be two tunnels on Canadian roads. and scoutmasters made the year the most prosperous in the six years' history of the movement.

Among the significant items of the in almost every church denomination in the country, and that the 7,067 scoutmasters included clergymen, physicians, lawyers, teachers and other professional men.

MINISTER, AGED 70, ELOPES,

Marries 21-Year-Old Girl Against Her Parents' Wishes.

Huntington, W. Va.-Details have reached here of the elopement from the Beaver Creek section of the Rev William Moore, Methodist minister, 79 years old, who has been doing mission ary work in that section for nearly a year, and Miss Jennie Alley, 21 years old, a school teacher. The aged minister has been courting the girl for some time against the wishes of her parents, and the couple eloped to Prestonburg, making most of the distance over

Representative Randall Offers Resolu. and vice-president two years #go. tion in House.

Washington.-A resolution to authorize President Wilson to negotiate with Mexico for the purchase of Lower California was presented to the House by Representative Randall, of Califor-

GREATEST SUBMARINES.

Germany Has Three Carrying Crews | Daniels Approves Board's Order For of Sixty Men.

The Hague. - Three super-submarines, superior in speed and equipment to any underwater craft built by board of the Naval Academy, which any nation, have just been finished by ordered dismissal of \$2 midshipmen German workmen at Kiel, according for failure to make grades of 621/2 to reports that reached Dutch naval per cent, in examination, officials. Each is cald to carry a crew of 60 men and seven torpedo tubes and to be able to proceed 7,000 miles without replenishing fuel

HOOPS-DAME FASHION'S LATEST DECREE



TEUTONS WARN FOREIGN SHIPPING

Will Treat Armed Merchant German and Turkish Officials Vessels as Warships.

Indicted in San Francisco.

began.

General.

INVOLVED IN THE

MUNITION PLO

Canada Among Accusations-Turk-

Ish Consul-General Accused Of

Helping Supply Warships.

von Schack, Vice-Consul of Germany,

Consuls Not Immune.

persons. The indictments voted to-

day, however, are the first which the

Federal Government has attempted to

secure against any foreign represen-

tative. This fact was taken to mean

that hereafter the Administration in-

tends to prosecute, wherever prosecu-

Bopp and von Schack are charged

with complicity in the plot which was

first uncovered several weeks ago with

the arrest of C. C. Crowley, alleged to

be a pro-German, who had undertaken

to cripple the American output of

munitions of war and in other ways

to help the cause of the Teutonic

allies. Bopp is accused of being the

accomplish this end by interfering

ing railway shipments by blowing up

The indictment of the Turkish Con-

Chilean Government many months

T. R.'S PORTRAIT GIVEN FRANCE.

Painting By Cousin To Hang In

Luxemburg Gallery.

Paris .- A portrait of Theodore

Roosevelt, painted by Samuel Mont-

gomery Roosevelt, his cousin, has been

accepted by Albert Dalimier, Under

Secretary of State for Fine Arts, and

SAVED NINE PERSONS.

W. O. Allen, Of Des Moines, Gets Hero

Des Moines, Ia.-W. O. Allen, a Des

Medal and \$1,000

Moines West High School teacher, re

ceived a Carnegle hero medal and

nine persons from drowning at Athens,

Ohio University at Athens when the

everything before it. Allen and a com

panion, using a small skiff, rescued

RECORD TRIP FROM CUBA.

Three Days and Nine Hours.

et, salled on her maiden voyage from

New York to Cuba on Decmeber 3 last,

nine persons.

American neutrality

German Government Gives Out List Plot To Blow Up Railway Tunnels In Of Armed British Merchant Vessels That Fired Upon

Submarines.

Washington.-Germany and Austria have formally notified the United States that, beginning March 1, commanders of their submarines will consider armed merchant ships of the Entente Allies to be warships and will treat them accordingly.

Under such instructions commanders would be at liberty to sink without warning any armed vessel. whether passenger or freight carrying. The notifications were presented orally to Secretary Lansing by Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, and Baron Erich Zweidinsk, charge of the Austro-Hungarian Em- and Maurice Hall, the Turkish Consulbassy here. Notes from their governments are to follow.

The intention of the Teutonic Allies is considered in official and diplomatic circles here to be a development of the memorandum proposing the disthree were seriously injured and a arming of merchant ships, which Secscore entombed by a gas explosion in retary Lansing recently sent to the Mine No. 2 of the Jefferson and Clear- Entente Powers. High officials of the field Coal and Iron Company at Ernest, State Department seemed disposed to consider the development broad enough to warrant the claim that the fundamental questions involved in the More than 100 men were at work at conduct of submarine warfare have is based on the belief that with Ger-Rescue parties were at once organ- many and Austria giving notice that ized and 13 of this number were they will sink without warning all brought to the surface several hours armed ships, the two governments canarmed vessels. That is the principle for which the United States has so vigorously contended since the beginning of the negotiations over the con-

At Their Own Risk. In view of this situation American head of a conspiracy which hoped to citizens, it is stated by high authorentitled to no more protection from the United States than if they had sul-General was voted in connection embarked upon a belligerent warship, with the use of the steamer Sacra-Officials seemed not to be able to con- mento to supply German ships of war chief scout executive's report were ceive that any issue could arise in the in the South Pacific which ended in that scout troops had been organized luture from a submarine warfare con- the internment of that vessel by the

ducted under these rules. It was said in Teutonic diplomatic | ago. According to officials here, the circles that the effective date of the Sacramento case is one of the clearest instructions was postponed solely for that has come to their notice of the the reason that the Central Powers use of an American port as a base of desired to give enemy merchant ships supplies for belligerent warships and an opportunity to disarm and so that of false clearance papers to get the he Entente Allies might have the supply ship past the customs authorichance to make their views conform ties. to the suggestions put forward by the United States in its memorandum,

BELVIDERE BROOKS DEAD.

Was Vice-President Of Western Union

New York.-Belvidere Brooks, vicepresident of the Western Union Telegraph Company, died at his home here of heart trouble. He had been in poor will be placed in the Luxemburg Art. health for several months. His death | Gallery. The portrait shows Colonel was sudden. Mr. Brooks had been in Roosevelt in hunting costume. It was the rough mountain country on foot. the service of the Western Union for offered to the French Government as 40 years, starting as a telegraph opera- a token of the artist's friendship for WOULD BUY LOWER CALIFORNIA. tor in Texas. He was elected general France. manager of the Western Union in 1910

POSTOFFICE FLOATS AWAY.

Flood Dumps Postmistres and Carries

Building Off. Memphis, Ten.-White River, Ark, nia. Such a purchase, the resolution a small town near the mouth of White \$1,000 in cash for bravery in saving recites, would protect irrigation work river, is minus a postoffice on account in the Imperial Valley. The resolu- of the high waters. "My postoffice is O., in 1907. Allen was a student at tion was referred to the Foreign Af- now floating down the river and unless fairs Committee. Various proposals it lodges against some trees it will be Hocking River overflowed and carried for the sale of Lower California always a total loss," said an appeal from the have been repudiated by General Car- postmistress received at the local office of the railway mail service.

£2 MIDDIES WILL GO.

Their Digmissal.

Washington.-Secretary Daniels approved the report of the academic

According to French statistics, only one fourth of the aviation accidents are due to defects in seroplanes.

7 SEC. GARRISON QUITS CABINET

Gives Up When Continental Army Plan Fails.

BRECKINRIDGE ALSO OUT

War Department Officials Resent Action Of Senate In Accepting Clark Amendment Extending Further Self-Government To Natives.

Washington.-Secretary Garrison resigned because President Wilson would not "irrevocably" support the continental army plan, and because he opposes the Administration's program of setting a definite time for Philippine independence.

President Wilson accepted the resignation and has not selected a successor. The President himself probably will take personal charge of the Administration's national defense plans in Congress.

Assistant Secretary Breckinridge also resigned as a mark of loyalty to his chief, whose views he shared. The President accepted his resignation. Both take effect immediately.

Major-General Scott, Chief of Staff of the Army, automatically becomes Secretary of War ad interim.

Garrison Insistent On Plan.

It is known that one of Secretary Garrison's principal reasons for his conviction that only a Federal contitental army, instead of a reorganized National Guard, could be the main military dependence of the nation was his bollef that some day the United States Washington.-Weeks of investigamay be called upon to defend the tion by agents of the Department of Monroe Doctrine, and in that event he Justice resulted in the voting of indict- foresaw that the National Guard might ments by a Federal grand jury in San not be available of use outside of the Francisco against prominent figures in United States before a declaration of what are considered here to be two of | war.

the boldest plots involving questions Upon the contention, on the one of American neutrality that have been hand, that the continental army or uncovered since the European war ultimately universal service was the nation's only reliance, and the position Among those against whom indicton the other that no one plan could ments were voted, according to a mes- be enforced upon Congress, President sage received here, are Franz Bopp, Wilson and his Secretary of War German Consul-General: Baron E. H. parted official company.

Third To Leave Cabinet.

Mr. Garrison is the third member of President Wilson's Cabinet to resign. The first, Justice McReynolds, re-Consular officers do not enjoy the signed as Attorney-General to accept diplomatic immunity which ambassa- a seat on the Supreme Court. The dors, ministers and attaches are given second, William J. Bryan, resigned as by international law, but are subject Secretary of State because of differto the jurisdiction of the country in ences with the President over the conwhich they are resident and may be duct of the submarine warfare contreated by the law as are any other troversy with Germany.

Garrison's Resignation Curt. The letter of Mr. Garrison follows:

War Department, Washington, Feb. 10, 1916. My Dear Mr. President: I am just in receipt of yours of February 10th, in reply to mine of February 9th. It is evident that we hopelessly disagree upon what I conceive to be fundamental principles. This makes manifest the impropriety of my longer remaining your seeming represen-

tative with respect to these mat-I hereby tender my resignation as Secretary of War, to take effect at your convenience. Sincerely

LINDLEY M. GARRISON.

The President. WILSON EXPRESSES REGRET.

In acceptance of the resignation, the resident sent the following letter to Mr. Garrison:

The White House, Washington, Feb. 10, 1916.

My Dear Mr. Secretary: I must confess to feeling a very great surprise at your letter of today offering your resignation as Secretary of War. There has been no definite action taken yet in either of the matters to which your letter of yesterday referred. The whole matter is under debate and all the influences that work for clarity and judgment ought to be available at this very time.

But since you have felt obliged to take this action, and since it is evident that your feeling in the matter is very great, indeed, I feel that I would be only imposing a burden upon you should I urge you to retain the Secretaryship of War while I am endeavoring to find a successor. I ought to relieve you at once and do hereby accept your resignation because it is so evidently your desire that I should do

I cannot take this important step, however, without expressing to you my very warm appreciation of the distinguished service you have rendered as Secretary of War, and I am sure that in expressing this appreciation I am only putting into words the judgment of our fellow-citizens far and

With sincere regret at the action you have felt constrained to take, sincerely yours,

WOODROW WILSON. The Hon. Lindley M. Garrison, Secretary of War.

U. S. STEEL ORDERS PILING UP.

7,922,767 Tons On Books At Close The Munamar Makes 1,280 Miles In Of January.

New York .- The unfilled orders of New York.-The steamer Munamar arriving here from East Cuban ports, the United States Steel Corporation on January 31 amounted to 7,932,767 tons. made the trip of 1,280 miles in record time of three days and nine hours, ac- according to the monthly statement cording to Capt. McDonald. The just issued. This is an increase of 116,-Munamar, a new vessel of 2,180 tons 547 tons over December,

The highest waterfall in the world She completed her third round trip to. is the Sholock cascade, in the Yosemite, which is 2,364 feet high.

STATE NEWS

Latest Happenings Gleaned From All Over the State.

LIVE NOTES AND COMMENTS

Miners at work in the Harleigh workings of the G. B. Markle Coal Company, brought to light the bones of two men entombed in that mine in 1876. They were James Murhis and Joseph Pearson. The cave was very extensive, it being impossible for the company then operating the mine to rescue them or even recover the bodies. The officials are gathering the bones carefully and will turn them over to relatives.

Hearings held before a Burgess on Sunday are illegal, according to an opinion handed down by Judge Charles McKenna in Allegheny County Court. The decision was in the case of a railroad detective who was arrested as he was about to arrest an alleged trespasser, and who was fined by a Burgess who heard the case on Sunday.

Figures just made public by the State Department of Agriculture show that despite the rapid increase in the number of automobiles in the rural districts, forty-four counties show an increase in farm horses over last year. There also is a steady increase in the number of mules.

After being closed for three years, the rolling mill of the Kittanning Iron and Steel Company, will be reopened February 21. Three hundred and fifty men will be given employment, orders sufficient to keep the plant in operation for a long period having been

In order to spur lazy pupils or those tacking in ambition, the Pottsville School Board decided to publish the standings of the pupils as an advertisement in the daily papers. It also was decided to enforce discipline at all hazards and the old-time birch rod may be resorted to.

frog near Lakeside, two Reading Railway freight trains collided, wrecking eight cars and blocking traffic four hours. Fireman Frank Neifert, of Tamaçua, sustained a fractured leg and probably a fracture of the skull by jumping. Presence in Middletown of Maxi-

milian Groten, of Petrograd, a mem-

ber of the Russian Royal Trade Com-

Due to a car becoming derailed at a

mission, gave rise to the report that the Middletown Car Works was about to land a big Russian war order. The company is making steel cars for The women of Marietta and vicinity held a meeting in the rooms of the

Town Improvement Club and organ-

ized for preparedness. Bandages, arm

slings and all kinds of war utensils for

the injured will be made.

The Shipman Coal Company was censured by a coroner's jury for negl! gence in not having the gates closed at the Colbert shaft when Joseph Pachutka started to work. He fell 100 feet down the shaft and was killed.

While Frank Ross, fire boss at the Surquehanna Coal Company's Scott shaft, was ascending a breast at the colliery, a cloud of gas rolled over him, causing instant death. His body was recovered by a rescuing force.

The postoffice at Red Hill was robbed of \$150 in cash and \$200 in postage stamps. A new safe bought by the new Postmaster, George Welker, was wrenched by dynamite.

ty streams between 4,000 and 5,000 brook trout, about four inches long, furnished by the State. Harry P. Hiltner, town clerk, has been chosen by Town Council to act

as temporary treasurer of Norristown,

The Fish and Game Protestive As-

sociation placed in Montgomery coun-

Metcalf, deceased, is elected. Commissioner Cenningham revoked three automobile licenses when payments made by checks were returned to the department because of insufficient funds in the banks.

Livingstone Saylor, of Pottstown, was appointed factory inspector by Commissioner of Labor John Price Jackson to specialize in boiler inspec-

In an address at the Altoona Chamber of Commerce luncheon, State Highway Commissioner Cunningham made a plea for support of a proposed \$50,000,000 bond issue for highway improvement which likely will be submitted to the people again in 1917.

The State Department of Agriculture has instructed its agents throughout the State to immediately begin the prosecution of dealers violating the new meat hygiene law providing for the protection of meats displayed in stores and markets from handling.

A decree was issued designating the suburb of Glenside, in Bern Township, annexed to Reading by resolution of Council, as the Sixth Precinct of the Fifteenth Ward, which it adjoins. This is the third suburb which has been annexed to Reading within the past year or 50.

The hatching of eggs by artificial heat has been practiced in China and Egypt since prehistoric times, huge brick ovens being used in the latter country.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFLY TOLD SUNDAY SCHOOL

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LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 20

CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD.

I.ESSON TEXT-Acts 6:22-5:16. GOLDEN TEXT-Love one another from he heart fervently.-1 Pet. 1:22 R. V. The Sanhedrin had tried threatening upon the disciples and this is generally pretty weak business.

their threat meant danger and the disciples were not unduly puffed up over their deliverance. With all their believing friends they prayed and in response the Holy Spirit came upon them in still further measure (4:23-31). I. The Spirit-Filled Believers, 4:32-

37. The two sections of this lesson are really one and are designed to bring out sharply the contrast between the Holy Spirit-filled church and an avil spirit-filled man. The communism of the early church was (a) Christian communion (see 2:44): and it was (b) for a special occasion; (c) it was benevolent-each had ac cording to his "needs" (4:34, 35); (d) it was voluntary (5:4), and (e) it recognized the right to private property (see 5:4, 9). He, the Holy Spirit, does bring that unity, that altruism, those active social relations and services of which Pentecostal communism is tha type. Unity and love are seen in genuine Christianity in all ages, but the forms of their expression may differ. The power of the Holy Spirit was manifested, not merely in love and unity which it produced, in the brotherhood thus evidenced, but also in the testimony given for the Lord Jesus Christ, "with great power gave the apostles witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." There is much witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ in our day, but not always "with great power." When we are filled with the Holy Spirit it is of Jesus, and especially of his resurrection, that we will bear witness. Another result of being fified with the Holy Spirit was that grace was upon all. "Grace" means favor. We are not told whether it was God's favor or man's favor that was upon them. It seems to imply both (see Luke 2.52). No man looked upon his own interests, but "every man on the things of others." Distribution was made according as each had need, not according to his ability, not according to his notable service. The pre-eminent illustration of Christian love in the brotherhood at Jerusalem was Barnabas. If we had more of such

today we would have less of union

labor troubles and missionary deficits.

We do well to consider carefully the

six distinguishing features of this

early church: (1) A praying church

(4:24-30), (2) a Spirit-filled church

(31), (3) a united church (32), (4) a

witnessing church (33), (5) a minis-

tering church (34, 35), (6) a multiply-

II. The Devil-Possessed Unbeliever

5, 1-16. Barnabas had received great

praise for what he had done at the im-

ing church (36, 37).

pulse of the Holy Spirit in his life. It is an exceedingly fair picture, but the scene of the early church had been from foes without, now it faces the greater peril of foes within. And when this great question, regarding the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit. is first brought to light God. through his church, dealt with it in a stern manner. The devil is always presenting his imitations of everything good and holy. Ananias and Sapphira were not willing to make a like sacrifice. They, too, "sold a possession." but they secreted a part of the price and brought the rest with the intent to deceive the church. The Holy Spirit quickly informed the church of this hypocrisy and, Spirit-guided, they were not deceived. For Ananias to lie in the atmosphere of love and consecration engendered by the Holy Spirit made his crime the more unpardonable. The same words are used in describing his actions as those used in describing the actions of Barnabas up to a certain point. But what a difference we see subsequently. In the case of Barnabas his act was a deed of self-forgetting love; in the case of Ananias it was one of calculating byuntil a permanent successor to Edwin poerisy. We thus see that the early church was not as perfect as some would have us imagine it to be. To pretend to a full consecration which he did not possess is thus revealed, and for us to pretend to a consecration we do not possess is to lie to the Holy Ghost. In the case of Ananias and Sapphira it brought swift and awful judgment. Peter's question seems to imply that the plan had originated with Satan, but Ananias was none the less responsible, for he had given place to Satan and permitted him to "fill his heart." The fact is his sin originated with Satan, but that did not lessen-but rather aggravated-his guilt, for he had entered into partnership with the devil, and this is what every liar is doing (John 9:44, I John 2:22). The heart that is open to the Holy Spirit he will fill; the heart that is open to Satua he will fill. The one who pretends to an entire consecration, which does not exist, is "tempt ing the spirit of the Lord" (v. 9), and it is a dangerous thing to do it may not bring physical death, for God gives us other examples of his dealings towards sin, but there will be the ultimate judgment that comes upon all liars and deceivers.

The second section of this para graph (vv. 12-16) is a record of what the results of this vindication of the Holy Spirit were. First the Spirit came upon the apostles and literally overflowed upon all those about them. In the second place those who were thinking of joining the church for mercenary motives were held back from

so doing (v. 13). If the Holy Spirit were present in such power today there would be fewer hypocrites who would dare to join

themselves to it.