THE WEATHER
Washington, Dec. 31.—Fair today; cloudy tomorrow, probable rain.
TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR
8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5

Evening Public Ledger

NIGHT EXTRA FINANCIAL

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3 AUTO BANDITS, AIDED BY WOMAN, HOLD UP JEWELER

Girl Customer Felled With Pistol as Storekeeper Struggles With Robber

1503 SUSQUEHANNA AVE. SCENE OF DAYLIGHT RAID

Shots Are Fired to Disperse Gathering Crowd as Stolen Motor Speeds Away

A woman and three men, automobile bandits, held up the jewelry store of Sydney Weissman, 1503 Susquehanna avenue, at 10:40 o'clock this morning.

Weissman and a woman customer were beaten. The robbers, who escaped, dropped their only booty, a tray of rings, in their flight.

It is believed that two of the men in the Weissman hold-up attempted to rob a pawnshop at the northwest corner of Gratz street and Susquehanna avenue, fifteen minutes earlier.

The desperadoes arrived at the Weissman store in a stolen limousine. The woman was well and quietly dressed. Her companions looked like moderately prosperous business men.

Two of the men entered the store, one carrying a suitcase. The third man and the woman remained in the automobile.

After looking at a watch the men in the shop asked to see cut glass. They were nervous and irritable.

Woman Customer Enters

The arrival of a woman, said to be Mrs. Ruth Kusler, of 2136 North Thirteenth street, a customer, did not improve their mood.

While he was examining a dish one of the men criticized it to Weissman. His companion moved slowly toward the woman.

Suddenly the man talking to Weissman flashed out a revolver.

"Throw up your hands," he commanded the jeweler. Mrs. Kusler backed toward the door in terror.

"I'll kill you if you scream," snapped the bandit nearest her.

Weissman held his hands high. The bandit who had "covered" him reached swiftly with his left hand toward a tray of watches.

The jeweler fell forward as if about to collapse, but his hands clutched the throat of the armed visitor. The men fell to the floor in a desperate grapple.

Fight on Floor

As the men fought on the floor Mrs. Kusler, with a revolver thrust close to her face, screamed. The man standing by her struck her on the head with the butt of the revolver and knocked her down.

He then went to the aid of his partner, who was losing the fight with Weissman. He struck viciously at the jeweler with the butt of the revolver.

As the plucky Weissman tried to rise, two more blows knocked him back to the floor.

Three shrill blasts from the horn of the limousine then warned the robbers that police were coming.

One of the men ran from the store, while the other seized a tray of rings he tried to throw into a suitcase. His aim was bad. The rings rolled over the floor and the steps of the shop. The man rushed outside.

Crowd Fired On

A score of persons, attracted by Mrs. Kusler's screams, tried to close in on the bandits. The man who acted as lookout in the automobile ordered them back, showing his revolver.

One or two persons showed a tendency to push forward, and as a warning, the robbers fired several shots over the heads of the crowd, then escaped.

The woman crouched down low in the car as it sped out Susquehanna avenue.

Patrolman Kravitz came sprinting up just as the limousine vanished. He sent Weissman to the Woman's Homeopathic Hospital and took Mrs. Kusler to the office of Dr. John A. Boger, 2213 North Broad street.

The jeweler had received two deep cuts on his head and face, and after being patched up, left the hospital. Mrs. Kusler had a slight cut on her head.

Descriptions Are Vague

The vague description of the robbers it has been possible to obtain has been flashed to police stations all over the city and in the suburbs.

The car in which the bandits rode carried Pennsylvania license No. 4790, and was stolen by the bandits this morning. It was found this afternoon abandoned at Thirty-first street and Baltz avenue.

The car belongs to Cuyler C. Hazlett, of 1729 North Felton street.

Mr. Hazlett is a young salesman employed in the wholesale department of a Market street store. His work lies in the central part of the city, and he uses an automobile to make his rounds among the trade. He has several customers in the vicinity of Fifteenth street and Susquehanna avenue.

"He was at the house about 9 o'clock this morning," his wife said, "to get his sample cases. Fortunately his car is fully insured."

The police believe that he left the machine outside of one of his customers' stores while he went in to show his goods.

One of the clues to the robbers is a brown velour hat, size seven, which one of the bandits dropped.

The pawnshop at Gratz street and Susquehanna avenue, which it is believed Weissman's assailants had planned to rob, is conducted by John Phillips.

This morning two men, one wearing a brown hat, entered suddenly. They seemed astounded to see a policeman there.

"We just wanted to pawn a ring," faltered one of the men who produced a diamond ring he valued at $200, but he didn't leave the ring and the men hurried out.

Get Hotel Booze as Dividends

Pittsburgh, Dec. 31.—(By A. P.)—Distribution of its large stock of wines and liquors as a dividend to its shareholders was announced today by the Pittsburgh Hotels Co., operating the William Penn and Fort Pitt Hotels here.

When you think of writing, think of WRITING.—Adv.

Description of Bandits in Jewel Store Hold-Up

Bandit who fought with Sydney Weissman, five feet eight inches tall, about thirty-five years old; has large nose and gray hair.

Man who drove the car and acted as lookout is thin and pale.

Third bandit is about forty years old and five fet three inches in height. Is of swarthy complexion and has a quick nervous manner.

Woman was well-dressed and not unattractive.

TRAIN HITS TRUCK; 1 KILLED

P. R. R. Express Wrecks Auto at Moorestown, N. J.

A Texaco Oil Co. gasoline tank truck was demolished, the driver killed and a Pennsylvania Railroad locomotive smashed at 9:26 o'clock this morning when a train for this city hit the truck at Moorestown, N. J.

The train was going sixty miles an hour. There was no flagman at the crossing.

The truck was being driven across the tracks at the Stanwick avenue station when hit. The locomotive struck the truck squarely, driving it along the rails ahead of it until the engineer could bring his train to a stop. The driver, Henry Becht, thirty-five years old, of East Riverton N. J., was decapitated. His body was thrown many yards away.

Fear that the spilled gasoline might become ignited caused railroad officials to halt all trains as they approached the scene of the accident.

WOMAN DIES FROM POISON

With Borrowed Dime Buys Solution and Ends Life, Police Say

With ten cents which she borrowed from a neighbor, Mrs. Tekla Ezbutowich, 2543 North Mutter street, bought poison to end her life, police say. She was found dead at her home last night by Stanley Gritzen, a boarder.

Before drinking the solution, according to the police, which she bought at a nearby drug store, Mrs. Ezbutowich donned her best clothes and put her home in spick and span order. She then drank the mixture and waited for death. For many months Mrs. Ezbutowich had been suffering from heart disease. She was forty-two years old.

23 WARS NOW BEING WAGED

Mott Tells World Convention of Need for Christian Leaders

Des Moines, Dec. 31.—(By A. P.)—The call of Christianity to the colleges and universities of the world today is for "leadership," John R. Mott, chairman of the executive committee of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, said at the opening of its first international convention in six years here this afternoon.

"Twenty-three wars are now actually being fought as an aftermath of the great war," Doctor Mott asserted, appealing for "builders of the new order."

REITERATE JENKINS CHARGE

Mexicans Testify U. S. Consul Was Friendly With Kidnappers

Mexico City, Dec. 31.—(By A. P.)—Reiteration of the charge that W. O. Jenkins, United States consular agent at Puebla, was seen in company with Federico Cordova, the bandit said to have abducted him, during the period that Mr. Jenkins says he was being held by the outlaw was contained in a telegram from the governor of Puebla given out by the Interior Department here today.

Government witnesses, it is said, have "proved" that "friendly relations" existed between Mr. Jenkins and his alleged captor while they were at the villages of Santa Maria and San Barnabe. Mr. Jenkins, it is declared, was not blindfolded and was aware of the location of the place where he was hidden in spite of Mr. Jenkins's claims to the contrary. The telegram added that the second Puebla criminal court was continuing its investigation of the case.

MR. KANE STEPS LIVELY

But Not Without Angry Glare at Motorist

Francis Fisher Kane was stepping precisely across Chestnut street at Ninth this morning when suddenly a touring car poked its long nose out from the far side of a standing trolley, and aimed directly for him.

The federal district attorney gave a nervous clutch at his leather brief case and executed a delicate shimmy, instantly followed by a neat end run.

Sprinting wide, he escaped the fender of the touring car by a margin of inches, and with a ninety proof glare of reproach at the offending vehicle, resumed his way to the Federal Building, somewhat ruffled.

CHARGE MURDER AGAINST BAD BOOZE MEN, SAYS CORONER

Knight Would Go the Limit in Prosecuting Venders of Wood Alcohol Concoctions

FOUR MORE DIE HERE FROM POISONED LIQUOR

Unscrupulous Ring in City, Profiteering in Death, Is Belief of Officials

The charge of murder should be lodged against all peddlers of wood alcohol whisky, Coroner Knight declared today in announcing his belief there is an unscrupulous ring here—profiteers in death—selling the poison at high prices.

The coroner's condemnation of illicit booze vendors was coupled with his announcement that an autopsy would be held in the deaths of four persons, three of them women, at 1029 Columbia avenue.

The contents of two partly filled bottles found in the Columbia avenue apartment are being analyzed by the city chemist. Police believe the fiery potions were brought from New York city.

Believes Potions Made Here

"I believe there is an unscrupulous organization here distributing bad booze," Coroner Knight said. "I also believe a whisky substitute is being made here with wood alcohol as a base. If the persons responsible are captured they should be charged with murder."

As Deputy Coroner Paul and city detectives were investigating the deaths on Columbia avenue, other detectives were searching for men said to be offering "whisky" to saloonkeepers.

The four persons found lifeless at the Columbia avenue apartment had apparently been dead since Sunday. They were identified as:

Mrs. Amelia Davis, sixty-five years old, who lived in the apartment.

Mrs. Emily Hirley, thirty-five years old, New York city.

William P. Oats, forty years old, 1743 North Park avenue.

Miss Mary Wilson, about twenty-five years old, of New York. She was visiting Mrs. Davis.

Last Seen Alive Saturday

The four were last seen alive late Saturday by Charles F. Cohen, owner of the apartments. He conducts a grocery store next door. Late Saturday night, Cohen said, Oats showed him a bottle of whisky as he was entering the apartment.

Mrs. Davis occupied the apartment on the first floor rear and the entire second floor. A number of visitors came to the apartment Sunday and knocked, but got no response. Yesterday the suspicions of Mrs. Harry Sterling, who lives on the third floor, were aroused and she notified the police.

Patrolmen Doyle and Brennan, of the Eighth and Jefferson streets station, forced the door of the apartment. They found the two older women on a bed, the younger woman on a couch and the man sprawled on the floor as if he had stumbled into the room and dropped in his tracks.

Says He Saw Drinking

At 11 o'clock Saturday morning Richard Hirsh, plumber, at 1130 Columbia avenue, was called to the Davis apartment to repair a stove. The four were drinking at the time he called, Hirsh stated last night. Hirsh accepted two glasses of the potion.

"It drove me crazy," Hirsh said. "I went home wild and sick. I had to run around. Never did I have anything like that stuff," he exclaimed. "I tried to work and couldn't see what I was doing."

Papers found in the apartment aided in the indentification. Mrs. Davis has had a life replete with tragedy. Her husband was Dr. William N. Davis, of Reading, Pa., who died in 1885 leaving an estate of $3000, which was left in trust with Mrs. Davis for her three children. These three, Jacob, Emily and William, died within a short time of each other in 1907.

Collector of Internal Revenue Lederer announced today his office is investigating all cases where it is suspected wood alcohol has been sold for beverage purposes. All offenders detected will be prosecuted, he said.

One explanation for the illegitimate possession of wood alcohol, Mr. Lederer believes, is that employes of barbers, perfumery makers and others licensed to obtain wood alcohol may be stealing the poison for home-made drinks.

Three federal investigators, the collector stated, have been assigned to probe the four deaths in a Columbia avenue apartment, believed to be due to wood alcohol.

MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO WED IF YOU VISIT HER TONIGHT

With the Dawn of Leap Year on the Horizon, Fair Philadelphia Girls Will Exert All Their Wiles to "Save" Themselves

Proposals will be accepted tonight by an unusual number of hitherto "disengaged" Philadelphia damsels.

In many a darkened parlor, fair hearts will palpitate while maiden brains devise ways and means to bring "him" to his knees in appeals to link her fate in entangling alliance that shall lead to the hymeneal altar to last "until death do us part," or the divorce court intervenes.

For "watch night," in more senses than one, is the eve of the year of grace, 1920. Enthroned upon a cozy, pillowed settee, many a fair daughter of this city of homes will await with trepidation the touch of the finger and the responsive ring of the bell that foreshadows a ring on the finger of the belle.

Must Work Fast

For unless she contrives or connives to bring him "in suppliance bent" at her feet within that "darkest hour just before dawn" of a new year she lays herself open to the charge of "popping" the question herself.

And what self-respecting, up-to-date young woman would wish to be classed as having usurped male prerogative to the extent of a marriage proposal? In these days of sex equality, which is synonymous with feminine superiority, "popping the question" "see pop," as the Century dictionary quaintly lists it—is one of the few very few, masculine prerogatives retained by the male of the species.

Tomorrow Brings Leap Year

With tomorrow's advent enters a leap year, and while the sobriquet of "leap year bride" may not be distasteful, perish the thought that any occupant of a "beauty corner" in the heart of a gallant swain would permit herself to be dubbed a leap year proposant.

If she cannot make him understand what she wants him to say and counsel his acquiescence in her wish tonight, small chance has she of controlling his thought, word and action hereafter, when the two have been made one, and she is that one.

So tonight is the night of nights for the hopeful maiden, and woe betide her who lets her matrimonial fate "wait until next year."

AUTOMOBILE FROZE UP LAST NIGHT
You can prevent it. One of many new ideas for the motorist in January Popular Science Monthly. All news stands.—Adv.

Coroner Issues Warning to New Year Revelers

"New Year celebrators tonight should exercise great care if they plan to drink any strong liquors. Supposed whiskies or wines, bought from bootleggers, may be the 'liquid death' which is spreading blindness and death over the country. Unless great care is exercised, Philadelphia may have a long list of fatalities tomorrow. The last night of the dying year may be the last night on earth for many 'wet' celebrators."—Coroner Knight.

1919 BANK CLEARING SETS RECORD HERE

Total of $22,094,588,655, Net Gain of 10.76 Per Cent, Is Shown

$2,202,197,860 IN DECEMBER

Bank clearings for December and for the year 1919 broke all records in the history of the Philadelphia Clearing House Association.

The turnover of checks through the clearing house for the business month ended today reached the unprecedented total of $2,202,197,860. This was the second time the Philadelphia bank clearings exceeded the $2,000,000,000 mark. The previous biggest total was $2,094,679,000 in October.

Compared with December, 1918, the bank clearings show an increase of $429,779,089, or a gain of 19.52 per cent.

The clearings for the full twelve months reached the grand total of $22,094,588,685, compared with a total of $19,716,992,483 in 1918, and $17,197,755,388 in 1917. The increase over last year was $2,377,596,172, or a net gain of 10.76 per cent.

The payment of the last instalment on Federal Taxes figured in the record-breaking turnover for the month, while the high values for commodities swelled settlements all the year.

It is a striking illustration of the tremendous volume of business done throughout the year, and shows what a big share of it was taken by Philadelphia business and banking interests.

The following table shows the clearings by months during the present calendar year compared with those of 1918:

	1919	1918	Inc.%
Jan....	$1,832,170,234	$1,529,827,616	16.84
Feb....	1,457,413,912	1,229,369,065	16.04
March..	1,730,286,526	1,427,175,557	17.51
April...	1,636,320,067	1,579,825,264	3.45
May....	1,728,567,113	1,711,945,429	0.84
June...	1,850,481,910	1,709,306,173	8.11
July....	1,935,468,998	1,765,812,781	8.77
Aug....	1,911,994,474	1,610,611,612	16.56
Oct....	2,094,679,000	1,886,419,913	9.94
Nov....	1,918,907,593	1,781,704,327	7.10
Dec....	2,202,197,860	1,772,418,771	19.52
Total..	$22,094,588,655	$19,716,992,483	10.76

REV. DR. H. F. GRAVATT DIES

Camden Pastor Served First M. E. Church Fourteen Years

The Rev. Holmes F. Gravatt, pastor of the First M. E. Church, Camden, for the last fourteen years, died at the parsonage early today of heart disease.

The Rev. Mr. Gravatt had the distinction of holding one pastorate longer than any other Methodist minister in Camden. He was recently invited back for his fifteenth year.

He was an active member of the New Jersey Conference and chairman of the city draft board of Camden. His work during the influenza epidemic is said to have been the cause of his physical breakdown.

He leaves a widow and two sons. He entered the ministry in 1890. In 1905, after holding pastorates in Delanco, Red Bank, Atlantic City and Millville, he came to Camden.

MISSING, LEGALLY DEAD

Heirs of Woman Who Vanished in 1912 Seek $13,000 Estate

Morristown, N. J., Dec. 31.—(By A. P.)—Under a New Jersey law which provides that a person can be declared legally dead seven years after disappearance, about twenty heirs of Mary O'Neill, this city, are today awaiting division of her estate, valued at $13,000. She disappeared in July, 1912, and Surrogate William H. Thompson has decided that she now is legally dead.

Miss O'Neill, an elderly woman, disappeared under circumstances which never have been explained. Pocahontas Lake was searched for her body, the house in which she lived also was searched, but failed to yield any trace of her. It was suspected that she had been killed to gain possession of the money she was known to have, but the appraisal shows that if she was killed for her money the guilty persons failed in their purpose.

AUTO KNOCKS DOWN MAN

Driver Held Without Bail—Victim in Hospital

While trying to cross Broad street at Filbert this morning, Herman Dorsheimer, sixty-three years old, 1700 Green street, was knocked down by an automobile. His skull was fractured and several of his ribs were broken. He was taken to the Hahnemann Hospital.

Arthur A. Marshall, 6433 North Twentieth street, was arrested by Reserve Patrolman Leslie. He was held without bail by Magistrate Meeleary in the Central Police Court.

CHECKS STOLEN FROM MAIL

Two men employed by W. Fraser Horton, of Callowhill street, were arraigned in Central Station today, charged with opening Mr. Horton's mail and taking checks. They are [illegible] Warz, Race street near Thirty-second, and Edward Gail, a negro, Hickory street near Tenth. It was alleged that the two men cashed two of the checks—one for $45 and the other for $52. They were held under $600 bail each for court.

Good-by, Old Year!

Increasing cloudiness, followed by rain,
Or snow.
This dope for tomorrow just gives us a pain
You know.
Warmer tonight while the south winds blow.

INDEPENDENTS WILL AGREE ON COUNCIL HEAD, SAYS MOORE

Mayor-elect Predicts Friendly Choice of Weglein or Burch

MOORE SUPPORTERS IN NEW BODY OF 21 GO INTO CAUCUS

Bribe Case in "Status Quo" and Eleven Are Still Loyal, Next Executive Declares

"It begins to look as if the councilmen will probably determine the issue between these two men," commented Mayor-elect Moore this afternoon, referring to Richard Weglein and Francis F. Burch and the presidency of the new Council.

"It looks like a fair and friendly contest," Mr. Moore added shortly before the eleven Independent members-elect went into caucus to agree on a Council president and other officials.

"What about the bribery rumors?" he was asked.

"That is in status quo and the eleven are solid," he replied.

The Mayor-elect held a series of conferences today with Thomas W. Cunningham, president of the Republican Alliance; David J. Smyth, next city solicitor, and members of the Council, including William R. Horn and Robert J. Patton.

Horn Is Disappointed

Councilman - elect Horn professed mock disappointment because no bold, wicked briber had tried to cross his palm with gold. "I went through City Hall courtyard with my palm open and held behind my back. But nothing happened. I even hung my overcoat up and it did no good."

The Mayor-elect impressed on his councilmanic callers that they must settle the Council presidency and other questions among themselves.

A deadlock over the presidency of the new Council was said to exist this afternoon.

Richard Weglein, of the Seventh district, and Frank F. Burch, of the Fourth district, are contenders for the Council presidency. Five of the eleven are reported to favor Weglein and an equal number are said to be for Burch.

The deciding vote will be cast by the eleventh man, who, before entering the caucus, said he had an open mind, and had not decided definitely which candidate he would support.

Ratification Monday Night

Whatever choice is determined on this afternoon by the Independents will be ratified Monday next, when the Council organizes. The administration supporters among the members-elect have a majority of one in the Council.

The alleged attempts to "reach" at least three Independent councilmen-elect, discussed by Mayor-elect Moore, were said to have been planned to split the administration majority and make a majority caucus impossible.

The publicity given the bribery rumors by Mr. Moore, it was asserted today, drove would-be "corruptionists" to the tall timbers. The charges are now in the hands of William Findlay Brown, first assistant district attorney.

Various Rumors Afloat

Little credence was given today to rumors that efforts might be made to "lure away" some of the Independents to prevent their appearance when the Council organizes on Monday next.

Senator Vare, who stated he did not believe the bribery rumors, later explained the reason for his disbelief. He said he didn't see many politicians around with money enough, or interest enough in the situation to go around buying up councilmen.

The eleven Independents have agreed to adopt the "unit rule" in voting on administration measures, a councilman said today. This will assure Mayor-elect Moore unbroken support in his plans for a furtherance of the city's interests.

ZONE-FARE CASE DISMISSED

Governor Runyon Absolves Utilities Board of Montclair Complaints

Trenton, Dec. 31.—Charges of neglect and misconduct in office submitted by the officials of the town of Montclair to Governor William H. Runyon against the Public Utilities Commission in relation to the issuing of authority to the Public Service Railway Co. for the installing of the concern's original zone-fare system, with a demand that the members of the commission be ousted from office, were dismissed today by the governor.

In brief the charges were failure to consider the public interest, arbitrary approval of the zone fares without hearing and notice to the municipalities and approval of zone fares without appraisal of the property of the utility and before the submission of evidence of value by municipalities.

HOLD REINSTEIN'S WIFE

Lusk Committee Orders Arrest. Husband Alleged Propagandist

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 31.—(By A. P.)—Dr. Anna Reinstein, wife of Boris Reinstein, at one time reported to be a member of the Lenine-Trotsky cabinet and said to be in charge of propaganda in foreign countries, was arrested here today by officers acting under direction of the Lusk legislative investigating committee.

After being questioned by District Attorney Moore she was taken to the county jail.

PLAN BRYAN "COMEBACK"

New Yorkers Want Him to Speak There Before Spring Primaries

New York, Dec. 31.—(By A. P.)—William Jennings Bryan has been invited by the New York Bryan League to arrange a date prior to the spring primaries upon which he can address a mass-meeting in Madison Square Garden, Frank H. Warder, secretary of the league, announced last night.

According to reports, it is hoped by Mr. Bryan's adherents to make the 1920 gathering something on the order of the "comeback" demonstration in the Garden thirteen years ago when he returned from a year's absence abroad.

Dr. Witmer Doubts Spirit Photographs Taken Abroad

U. of P. Professor Says People Must Be Shown Before They Will Believe in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Pictures.

Dr. Lightner Witmer, head of the department of psychology, University of Pennsylvania, in a statement written for the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER, says in substance that people are from Missouri and need "to be shown" before they can believe that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle has received actual photographs—"psychographs" is the official word—of his dead son.

Recent dispatches from London have brought word that Sir Arthur has had spirit photographs of his son taken by a certain William Hope, an English artisan, with a remarkable clairvoyant power and an equally remarkable camera.

Doctor Witmer's statement reads:

"Sir Arthur Conan Doyle firmly believes that a real ghost was really photographed. It is difficult to believe in ghosts, it is more difficult yet to believe they can be photographed.

Hard to Believe

"Psychology is too cautious to assert that any reported occurrence is impossible. Fifty years ago the report that a man had flown from New York to Washington would have been too improbable to be credible. Today the report is accepted without question. To photograph the spirit of one who is dead is at the present time too improbable to be lightly believed.

"According to Sir Conan Doyle, a ghost, though without a body, leaves a picture of his body in lieu of a visiting card on the photographic plate of a camera; in other words, a spirit, an immaterial thing, produces a material effect. Men have sought to prove the power of spirit over matter ever since we have had human records, but without success. The Indian mystic still suspends a ball by a string from the ceiling and then claims to set the ball swinging by a mere act of will.

"Spirit photography, if accepted, would carry us far. If a ghost can produce a photograph of himself, why can't he explode a bomb? If spirits have become more active in human affairs since the war, as some assert, perhaps they are responsible for the recent bomb outrages which the police have not been able to explain, but attribute to radicals. If a ghost can come into the room and shake you by the hand, why can't he wring your neck?

Is No Joking Matter

"This is no joking matter, for mankind at one time believed that spirits, both good and bad, interfered very extensively in human affairs. Three hundred years ago in some countries if you did not believe that witches were witches and ought to be burned you were likely to be tortured and burned yourself. If some spirits are guardian angels, others are demons, of which the chief is his satanic majesty. The devil has appeared to very many people in material form, and there is even a very detailed report of his having contracted a marriage with a human being.

"If everybody were to believe reports like this of Conan Doyle's, we should soon get back to the unreasoning credulity from which we have so lately emerged. Indeed, the witch doctor who will put a spell on your neighbor's cow or charm away the evil spirit that is milking your cow dry is still with us. He is only waiting for mankind to give credulity a free rein in order to earn again an honest livelihood instead of a meager pittance tainted with fraud.

Offer Was Refused

"It is not likely, however, that the witch doctor will ever come into his own again. The world conflict between reason and unreason is probably settled so far as ghosts are concerned, but the same battle now rages in the field of economic politics.

"Some years ago I saw a mind

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DAMAGED TAG ON BANDITS AUTO WRONG CLUE

The motorcar used by the armed bandits who tried to rob Samuel Weissman's jewelry shop at 1503 Suesquehanna avenue this morning was not stolen from Cuyler C. Hazlett, department store salesman, as the police first supposed. The car, found abandoned at Thirty-first street and Baltz avenue, bore a mutilated license tag. The numbers left on the tag were "4790," the number of Mr. Hazlett's license. The police have not yet identified the machine used by the bandits.

BRAZIL REFUSES TO TAX FOREIGN CAPITAL

RIO JANEIRO, Dec. 31.—The bill levying a 5 per cent tax on foreign capital invested in Brazil was rejected by the Senate.

ROTARIANS ADOPT SONS FOR TODAY

Mr. Chevalier Plays Dad to Sixty Boys and Expects to Carry Off Prize

EATS WERE BIG FEATURE

Who wouldn't be a proud and happy father with thirty such kids as Charles W. Bainbridge, superintendent of the Germantown Boys' Club, supplied for Albert E. Chevalier to take to the Rotary Club's luncheon today?

It was a "father and son" affair, and Mr. Chevalier, who is general manager of the Barrett Manufacturing Co., hasn't any sons of his own. Each member of the club who had a son over five years old was invited to bring him to the luncheon at the Bellevue-Stratford, and if he hadn't a son he was to go out and borrow one.

The man with the greatest number of sons will get the prize. And Mr. Chevalier had sixty of them there, thirty from the West Philadelphia Boys' High School, and the thirty Germantown kids.

The West Philadelphia schoolboys were a bit grown up, but the urchins from Germantown were at what their mothers would call "a troublesome age." Which means they have as much pep as any three men.

Three of these kids were red-headed, one of them so red it hurts your eyes, according to Mr. Bainbridge. There was a fat boy in the collection, "skinny" was there, and there was a long tall boy too, and some little short ones.

It was a job feeding those kids, that is, getting them fed right, with no corners for any more, and the Rotary Club was prepared to undertake the contract. There were dozens of kids there, real sons and borrowed ones. In fact, Thomas Trotter, sales manager of the Scott Paper Co., brought thirty of his kids along from the paper works.

The daddies listened to two speeches, one by Edward V. Conwell, general attorney of the New York department of the American Railway Express Co. His theme was "Sidelights on the Express Business." The Rev. Carter Helm Jones, the chairman, spoke upon "Dad and Son." The affair was under direction of C. Edwin Bartlett.

LIVE WIRE KILLS YOUTH

While cleaning a lightning arrester in a substation of the Public Service Electric Co., of Camden, early today, Boyd Norcross, nineteen years old, of 1428 Broadway, Camden, came in contact with a live wire and was electrocuted. He was taken to the Cooper Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

$50 CASH FOR INFORMATION
on "What Can You Do with an Electric Fan in Winter?" in January Popular Science Monthly. All news stands.—Adv.

POMERENE SEES HOPE FOR TREATY

After Conferring With Lodge, Says "We Are Going to Get Together"

MAY INFLUENCE WILSON

By CLINTON W. GILBERT
Staff Correspondent of the Evening Public Ledger

Washington, Dec. 31.—Prospects for a treaty compromise have apparently been brightened as a result of Senator Lodge's conference with Senator Pomerene. The Ohio senator appears to be a go-between Lodge and Hitchcock and this is the nearest the principals in the treaty fight have come together.

After seeing Senator Lodge, Senator Pomerene said: "We are going to get together."

He refused to discuss details, saying that it was premature. Apparently no agreement has been reached, but Senator Pomerene, who is acting with the full knowledge of Senator Hitchcock, after conferring with the Republican leader has reached the conclusion that the differences between the two are reconcilable.

Many persons familiar with the views of both leaders have felt this to be the case for a long time, but the big obstacle has been that the two men could not be brought to deal with each other. Each was engaged in a six-month' effort to split the party of the other and win over enough votes to make up two-thirds of the Senate.

That effort is still going on. But the meeting between Mr. Lodge and Mr. Pomerene is more promising. At last, through an agent, the two principals in the fight are being brought together.

The plan of Mr. Hitchcock is when he has obtained the best terms he can to go to the President and urge their acceptance by the President. No one knows what the President's real attitude is. A fear that he would prove obstinate and that he would disavow the work of any Democratic senator making concessions to the Republicans has stood in the way of Mr. Hitchcock's dealing with Mr. Lodge. And probably in this instance the use of an unofficial agent like Mr. Pomerene is an act of caution.

If Mr. Hitchcock reaches an understanding with Mr. Lodge through Mr. Pomerene or directly, the general belief here is that the President will have to accept the rsul. If he does not the prompt passage of the Knox resolution repealing the declaration of war will follow. If the President rejects that the Republicans will go into the national campaign blaming the President for having caused the defeat of peace.

Suggestions made to Senator Hitchcock by Senator McNary, of Oregon, a leader of the mild reservationist group

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DEMOCRATS IN ROW OVER 'FAVORITISM' SHOWN TO PALMER

Marshall in Letter Resents Boost Given by Administration and Committee

BITTERNESS ENGENDERED IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Fight Against 'Southern Party.' President Remains Silent on Third Term

By CLINTON W. GILBERT
Staff Correspondent of the Evening Public Ledger

Washington, Dec. 31.—Feeling is growing in the Democratic party over the favor the administration and the Democratic national committee is alleged to be showing to the candidacy of Attorney General Palmer for the Democratic nomination for the presidency. This sentiment is likely to come to a head at the Jackson Day dinner here, or immediately afterward.

Vice President Marshall has written a letter to the chairman of the Democratic national committee protesting against the machinery of the party being used to aid the candidacy of Mr. Palmer. The Vice President, his friends say, has done this, not because he is a candidate for the nomination himself, but because he thinks the bitterness being engendered by the aid to Mr. Palmer is full of danger to the Democratic party.

McAdoo and Clark Bitter

Two Democratic candidates who are reported to feel bitterly about the favor being shown to Mr. Palmer are ex-Secretary McAdoo and Congressman Champ Clark. The friends of both these candidates here in Washington are bitter in their comments upon the attitude of the Democratic national committee and some members of the administration toward the Palmer candidacy. Mr. McAdoo's absence from the coming Jackson dinner is attributed to his irritation against the Democratic national committee. This may be only a guess, however, for Champ Clark, who is equally aggrieved, is on the list of speakers at the dinner.

Rumor attributes to Bernard M. Baruch and Thomas L. Chadbourne, the two most active supporters of Mr. McAdoo's candidacy, the intention to make a fight after the Jackson dinner on any favoritism anywhere, either in the Democratic national committee or in the administration. They, according to this report, will insist upon a free field and no favor for any candidate. They will, it is said, make this fight openly, if necessary.

McAdoo-Palmer Clash

A sharp jealousy has grown up between the McAdoo candidacy and the Palmer candidacy. This has led to curious clash. The attorney general has refused to proceed in the courts against the packers. The southwestern cattle raisers are bringing suit against them, asking that the government take action and that the proceedings be removed from the hands of the attorney general as an improper person to conduct them. Mr. McAdoo appears as counsel in this suit for the cattle growers, attacking Mr. Palmer's fitness as the public representative.

Moreover, it is clear from various circumstances that the Democratic national committee, or at any rate its chairman, Homer Cummings, is actively engaged in trying to prevent the Democratic party from entering the national campaign as a southern party. Mr. Cummings, it will be remembered, used his influence last fall to procure the removal of Postmaster General Burleson, the strongest political influence surrounding the President, from the cabinet.

A later instance of the national committee's activities of a similar sort is its interference in the leadership fight in the Senate where its influence has been cast for Senator Hitchcock against Senator Underwood on the ground that the party could not afford to enter the campaign with a southern leader of its forces in the Senate.

Oppose Southern Dominance

Apparently the national committee is determined to oppose southern dominance in the party wherever possible. This may explain its preference of Attorney General Palmer's candidacy to that of Mr. Adoo. Mr. Palmer is the chief northern candidate for the Presidency.

Mr. McAdoo, though now a New Yorker, is a Georgian by birth and a southerner in his political association.

So far as the administration is concerned, the utmost charge that is likely to be made is that during the President's illness various subordinates of his have been active in Mr. Palmer's behalf. It will be recalled that one of the alleged grievances of Secretary Lane, when he decided to resign, was the existence of a cabinet cabal, of which Attorney General Palmer was the head.

President Wilson's personal preference of Mr. Palmer as his successor has not been indicated. And the fact that the President does not intend to take himself out of the race for the presidency shows that he means to control the nomination himself. There will doubtless be a reckoning for a great many political doings that took place during his illness and on the theory that his day was done.

Drive Against Cummings

The letter of Vice President Marshall and the talk of the friends of various candidates indicate that there will be after Jackson Day something of a drive upon the Democratic national committee and especially upon its chairman, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Burleson and Mr. Underwood.

An anti-southern policy in the Democratic party, while bold and perhaps at this time politically expedient, has its dangers for the man who heads it.

President to Send Letter

The President will, in all probability, send a communication to the Jackson Day gathering. This letter will discuss issues, particularly the treaty and the league of nations, but it will avoid all reference to a third term.

The President has been advised to follow this course and probably his own instinct leads him to it. It is felt that once he had eliminated himself as a possibility, his remaining power in his

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