

CURTAIN DOWN FOR HENRY C. BARNABEE OF ROBIN HOOD FAME

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
 BOSTON, Dec. 17.—Henry Clay Barnabee, familiar to thousands of playgoers as the "Sheriff of Nottingham" in De Koven's comic opera, "Robin Hood," died at his home in the Jamaica Plain district today after a long illness. He was 84 years of age.

A number of years ago Henry Clay Barnabee was one of the most popular operatic comedians on the American stage. His career as an entertainer spanned practically all of his long lifetime, but his chief work was in the opera as a leading member of the Boston ideals, a company which became famous all over the country in the production of light opera, and its success, the Bostonians, which he helped to organize. Barnabee appeared in innumerable roles, serious as well as comic, and for two decades after the Civil war period his name was always one of the "headliners." For 70 years of age, he continued to exercise his fascinating talents in vaudeville.

"I have played the Sheriff of Nottingham nearly nineteen hundred times," he said recently, in recalling the phenomenal run which the Bostonians made of De Koven's opera, "Robin Hood." This role was one of the most profitable of his career, and perhaps next to it his earlier appearance as Sir Joseph Porter in "Pinafore." The Boston ideals took this up at a time when forty-odd companies were touring the country to present it, outdistancing all their rivals in it, as well as the other Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Barnabee appeared in them all.

He was known to thousands through his singing of "The Cork Leg," the ballad of the merchant of Amsterdam whose patent cork leg was equipped with such perfect mechanism that it walked on and on after the old man had carried his skeleton. According to his own statement, Barnabee sang this song some 3,000 times, and often as a curricular encore gave "The Patent Arm." These two songs, together with a number of others which he gave in his "Patchwork of Song and Story," are the best remembered of many individual successes.

Barnabee was born at Portsmouth, N. H., November 14, 1833, "the day following the birth of Edwin Booth," which he regarded as "another exemplification of the fact that Mirth follows close on the heels of Tragedy." Barnabee's father was then driving some high-stepping steeds which pulled the stage coach from Boston to Port-

TEUTONS REPULSED ON ALBANIAN FRONT



1.—Rome reports repulse with heavy losses of Teuton attacks ten miles northeast of Avlona at the confluence of the Suisa and Voussa rivers.

2.—Avlona, principal Albanian port on the Adriatic, possession of which would give the central powers a base from which to dispute the allies' control of the Straits of Otranto, the entrance to the Adriatic sea.

(According to recent reports the fighting in Albania has been growing more intense and some war experts hold this is a part of a prelude to an attempt by the Teutons to open an offensive against the allies in Macedonia.)

land via Portsmouth, and later was an innkeeper at Portsmouth.

Instead of seriously contemplating a stage career, young Barnabee set out in life as a dry goods clerk. He found a position in this line first in Portsmouth, then in a big house in Boston. On the side he indulged from the first in an amateurish display of his talents. He could tell a story, sing a song, speak a piece and run the whole gamut of grimaces. In Boston in 1854 he became a member of the Mercantile Library association which gave many semi-public entertainments at which several men who later became actors received their first stage training. For a number of years he was a choir singer in Boston churches. In 1855 he gave up mercantile life and made his formal debut on the concert stage in Boston, and during the next fourteen years he appeared in lyceum and entertainment courses in many parts of the country. In a book of reminiscences which he published in 1912, he recalled his training.

"If today," he said, "you were to place before me the score of 'Robin Hood' or 'Pinafore,' I couldn't for the life of me tell whether a given note was A or G, or what key it was in. At the same time I believe I could sing it correctly." He sang only by ear, so-called, which is the more remarkable when it is recalled that he appeared not only in light roles but in many of the more classical operas.

He also told of his incurable case of

ADVERTISING SIGNS DIMMED IN DENVER

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
 DENVER, Dec. 17.—Not an electric advertising sign was lighted in Denver tonight and Curtis street, usually bright as day with thousands of lights from motion picture shows, was dark on the first of the lightless nights proclaimed by the national fuel administration.

Although Denver's light and power is furnished from water power plants, the ban on lights was made effective to make power available elsewhere and to bring to the public a consciousness that the nation is at war.

One theater maintained its lights for several minutes after 7 o'clock, the hour fixed for shutting off the current. A representative of the state fuel administration was informed and the lights were promptly dimmed.

GIFTS DUTY FREE

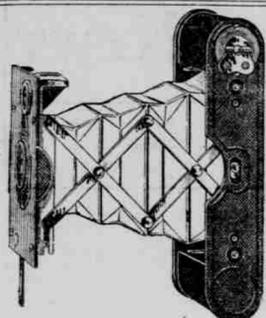
[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
 WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The British government has advised the state department that gift parcels containing dutiable goods for American soldiers or sailors in Great Britain may be delivered duty free by parcel post if properly addressed and specifically described. Parcels for sailors should be addressed to their ships and those for soldiers to their regiments. When for Americans serving with British or Canadian armies or for American officers serving in British hospitals, parcels should be addressed in care of the "Committee for American Soldiers and Sailors of the American Red Cross, 54 New Bond street, London, England."

CHAVEZ' BODY ENROUTE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
 EL PASO, Dec. 17.—The body of General Guillermo Chavez who was killed by Villa followers at Laguna Station on the Mexican Central railroad November 26, was brought here from Juarez tonight and sent to Nogales, Ariz., where it will be reshipped to Hermosillo, Sonora, for burial. The body of the general was escorted by an officer of his staff, a representative of the Chihuahua state government and a bodyguard of soldiers.

CONTROL VITAL STATISTICS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
 WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Federal control and supervision of birth and death registration to supplant the present state and municipal systems is recommended in the annual report today of Sam L. Rogers, director of the census.



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