

CARDINAL MERCEIR FUND ANNOUNCED

By a Committee Including Several Americans for Relief of Belgians.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—A new fund in the interests of the distressed people of Belgium, to be known as the "Cardinal Mercier Fund," is announced by a committee which includes a number of prominent American women, who have been stirred by the fact that the suffering in Belgium is spreading among "hundreds of thousands of families heretofore wealthy," and to educational and charitable organizations whose work is being abandoned or curtailed because their formerly wealthy Belgian patrons are unable to render their usual aid.

The committee of patronesses includes Mrs. Gerald Borden, Mrs. C. G. K. Billings, Mrs. Joseph H. Choate, Mrs. Edwin Gould, Mrs. E. H. Harriman, Mrs. Otto H. Kahn, Mrs. J. P. Morgan, and a number of other well-known women. Headquarters have been established at the Belgian bureau, 10 Bridge street, New York, where the work will be directed.

The announcement says the fund will be formed under auspices of the Belgian minister at Washington, Emmanuel Havenith, the Belgian minister of state, Louis de Sadeleur, who is in New York, and the Belgian consul general at New York, Pierre Mail. The committee's statement reads, in part, as follows:

"From many authoritative sources we learn constantly of the extremely miserable conditions of Belgium. Millions of men, women and children are in abject poverty. Hundreds of thousands of families heretofore wealthy or at least in comfortable circumstances have lost everything. Included among these are owners of destroyed or idle factories and stores, business men, professors, teachers and artists. Many of them have generously contributed of their own money to their less fortunate countrymen, but, owing to the long duration of the war, they are now, in their turn, compelled to seek assistance. And besides these individuals, many most popular educational institutions, charitable organizations, orphan asylums, day nurseries and societies for the protection of young girls, which rendered immense services, are at present powerless to render their usual services, for lack of sustenance. From such institutions, organizations and individuals without number, desperate appeals reach Cardinal Mercier every day, because he is the principal figure in authority now remaining in Belgium, to whom the suffering people can confidently appeal for aid."

The per capita wealth of our country, says one of the unquenchable statisticians, was \$398 in 1859 and is now \$1,965.

GREAT HOLD ON THE TRADE HAVE BRITISH

So Far as Norway is Concerned as Country is Dependent on Them for Coal.

Correspondence of the Associated Press. CHRISTIANIA, Norway, Dec. 17.—Since Norway is at present dependent upon England for its supply of coal and coke, that country has a great hold on Norwegian trade. Dealers in coal and coke are told by their English business connections that if they sell bunkers to steamers destined for Germany or with cargo supposed to find its way to Germany, they will no longer be furnished with English coal.

The other day the American freight steamer Maunee of New York, had to leave the place however without coal as all the dealers were warned by British authorities that if this steamer with supplies alleged to be destined for Germany, by way of Sweden, got bunkers by them, English coal sellers at once would stop trade connections with them.

England also has threatened to stop the great import to Norway of olive oil from Italy and Spain and sheet metal used in the canning industry, unless the Norwegian importers guarantee that no canned products to which such oil or tin is used, shall be exported to any of England's enemies and enemy-carrying plants had to yield to this.

The country is full of "mercantile" spies, keeping watch of the export and import, reporting through their embassies or consulates or directly home to the foreign office. It happens that old Norwegian firms, who for years have been trading in England, got letters from their English business connections that they have "assisted German trawlers" or something like that, even though the report can be proved to have been without any foundation.

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MULE FEED

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has warned the British authorities against this trade policy, toward the Scandinavians and also says that "when Great Britain is neutral itself the Briton always is the first to claim the right for neutrals to do business with each other and with belligerents and always has protected against an extension of the contraband list to provisions and raw materials."

DARING DEATH DAILY TO GIVE PHOTOPLAY FANS A THRILL



THE photo play fans know her as "the girl who won't take a dare." Helen Rose Gibson is her name, and, judging by the photographs shown on this page, she is fully deserving of her sobriquet. Once a day, six times a week, over 300 times a year, this eighteen-year-old miss grins her teeth, mutters an involuntary "Do or die" and then for many long minutes stands on the brink of death—just that you photo play fans may have the sensations you crave.

But no common daredevil is Helen Gibson. She describes herself as "a specialist in thrills," with railroad hazards the particular specialty. Helen rides on a private road that boasts of its official report of "an accident a day." The reason for the boast is that all the accidents are carefully planned beforehand; they are evolved by a scenario writer in the vicinity of an office, prepared for by a motion picture director and then, when the danger comes, executed by "the girl who won't take a dare."

Her story is one of the many true ones of "stars made overnight" uncovered in the fascinating screen world. Years ago the Kalem Company, one of the pioneers in the picture producing field, discovered that stories of railroad adventure were unusually popular with photo play fans. The series of railroad tales they then originated had much to do with the Sunshinest of the time worn cowboy and Indian picture. One day a distracted director was running about the company's California studio with an air approaching that of a madman. "The company has sent me a corking story," he said, "but I can't find a girl with nerve enough to play the leading part. Guess I'll have to send it back and tell the author to curb his imagination. It's a shame to waste such a good story though."

"Well, I want a girl to pursue a runaway engine in an automobile and then leap from the machine to the engine and stop the train. But, then, you can't do it anyway. You don't know how to run an engine."

"Oh, yes I do." The little known girl was gradually gaining confidence. "I can handle the throttle with any one. Give me the chance."

A few more questions brought out the fact that the girl was Helen Gibson, the daughter of a railroad engineer, and a telegraph operator before entering the film world. It was the railroad series that inspired her with the ambition to be a photo play star. She had been quietly biding her time, waiting for the opportunity that she was sure would come, because of her thorough knowledge of railroads and her daring spirit.

"The director's despairing search for a 'girl with nerve' gave Helen the opportunity, and she was made a star from that time. So daring were the exploits which she performed in each succeeding picture that they became known to picture followers as the "Hazards of Helen." And hazardous they certainly were, for the leap from the auto to train which gave her the much wanted opportunity was only an ordinary feat to many that followed, though the thought alone of that one is sufficient to startle the average man.

HELEN GIBSON AND SCENES FROM "THE HAZARDS OF HELEN."