

BOUND FOR ORIENT ON SECRET MISSION

Colonel James Hamilton Lewis Believed to Be Delegated for Important Work
Former Congressman Thought to Have Been Intrusted With Delicate Diplomatic Task

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 26.—Colonel James Hamilton Lewis of Chicago, when asked regarding the report that he is on his way to Japan and China on a secret mission from the United States government, refused to discuss the matter in detail or admit that he was delegated on important work in the orient for the government. Colonel Lewis said, however, that he would leave Los Angeles for San Francisco tomorrow and that he would probably sail from there for Japan, China and the Philippines in a few days, provided he was able to make a satisfactory arrangement of some personal matters.

"I may say," said Colonel Lewis, "that I am not engaged on a mission that is at this time of any immediate importance to the public. It is true that I have some letters from Secretary Root and some others given me by direction of the president, but they are nothing of any public interest. If something develops later in connection with this matter which may be of concern to the American people and it can be made public, I shall be glad to give it to the press."

Colonel Lewis declined to say to whom his letters were addressed or anything regarding their import. It is believed, however, that matters of very great importance having to do with the relations between this country and Japan and China have been entrusted to Colonel Lewis. The matter has nothing to do with the immigration question of the orient. Colonel Lewis would not say how long he expected to be absent on his trip. He expects to sail directly for Yokohama from San Francisco.

Deny Secret Mission

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—In reference to a report from Chicago that Colonel James Hamilton Lewis, who is now in Los Angeles, will go to Japan and China on a secret mission for the government, the authoritative statement was made at the state department that James Hamilton Lewis is not going to the far east on any mission for the government. Such letters as he may have from the officials are those of a nature commending him to the good offices of the diplomatic and consular representatives abroad and perhaps to foreign officials.

BOARD WRITES MAYOR ABOUT FUNDS WITHHELD

Police Commission Retains Dancehall License Fees Pending Suit
To Mayor Taylor's letter of inquiry asking the police commission why its secretary was accepting and retaining "dancehall license" fees, the board yesterday sent an answer which the mayor will lay before the supervisors Monday. The commission says that the money, \$1,425 in all, had been collected from the dancehall owners for the quarter beginning April 1, 1908, and that Deputy Tax Collector Low would not accept the fund unless it was deposited as payment for the quarter beginning January 1, 1908. The validity of the ordinance making the \$75 charge per quarter is now being tested in the superior court.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The twenty-first annual Christmas tree festival and entertainment of the First English Lutheran Sunday school will be held Tuesday evening, December 29, commencing at 7:45 o'clock. The program will be even better than the entertainments of previous years. Arrangements have been made to take care of a large crowd in the church hall in Geary street near Octavia. It is expected that quite an attendance of friends of the church will be present.

CREDIT DID IT!
1909 will look upon a "greater and grander" San Francisco, with thousands upon thousands of old homes re-established and new ones started. To have done this the people needed **CREDIT, and FRIEDMAN'S Extended It**
When money was tight and most every one was short, Friedman's patiently carried their people along until things looked brighter and times grew better.
This is the kind of credit that is a real service and this is the kind of credit that the
"Biggest Furniture House on the Pacific Coast"
will extend to every man who is seeking to establish a home for himself.
DRESSER \$24.40
In rich Mahogany, Birdseye Maple and Quartered Golden Oak. A superb Dresser, massive in appearance; unusually richly finished, and has graceful serpentine front. Regular \$41.50; now \$24.40.
Wm. Friedman & Co.
OFARRELL AT POLK

Miss Ruth Ohlson, Who Made Shorthand Record



YOUNG GIRL PROVES SHORTHAND WIZARD

Ruth Ohlson, Aged 14, Writes and Reads 850 Words Dictation in Five Minutes

Ruth Ohlson, a 14 year old San Francisco girl, established the world record for her age for rapid shorthand writing by writing in shorthand before Judge Thomas E. Graham, judge of the superior court, 850 words in five minutes and reading the same back correctly. The statutory requirements of the courts of this state are 750 words in five minutes.
Miss Ohlson's record is phenomenal, as the matter read to and written by her was taken from a transcript of proceedings that the judge produced from the files of his office, and was entirely strange to her.
Miss Ohlson used the California system of shorthand reporting, adopted by the courts of this state, and which is rapidly coming into favor in the eastern states. Miss Ohlson lives with her parents at 246 Fifth avenue.

PHI CHI FRATERNITY PLANS BIG REUNION

Annual Dance Given by Organization Will Be Held in St. Francis on New Year's
The members of the Phi Chi fraternity will entertain at their annual dance, to be given Monday evening, in the colonial ballroom at the St. Francis. About 600 invitations have been sent out for the dance, and an enjoyable reunion is anticipated by the members and their guests. The annual banquet of the organization will be given New Year's day at the St. Francis.
The patronesses of the dance will be: Mrs. J. E. Abbott, Mrs. F. H. Allen, Mrs. William Cannon, Mrs. George L. Gray, Mrs. F. S. Osgood, Mrs. R. W. Osborn, Mrs. E. Parrish.

WAITER IS BLOODTHIRSTY

Policeman T. F. Meehan saw a man running across Twenty-second street with a long knife in his hand Friday night and started after him. Just as the man was entering the poolroom of French Hubbard at 2195 Twenty-second street Meehan caught him. The prisoner gave his name as William Fox and his occupation that of a waiter. He said he wanted to carve Hubbard. His case was continued till December 28 by Police Judge Weller.

PANTOMIMES HOLD BOARDS IN LONDON

Usual "Boxing Day" Entertainments Produced at Theaters in Gorgeous Style

Revivals of "Peter Pan" and Other Plays Captivate Holiday Pleasure Seekers

LONDON, Dec. 26.—"Boxing day," as always, was marked by the production of big pantomimes, the management of the Drury Lane again excelling with the gorgeous spectacle, "Dick Whittington," in which half a dozen of the leading vaudeville stars provided the comedy and an army of chorus girls the picturesque. The Americans, Marie George and Truly Shattuck, have the leading parts.
"Cinderella" is the attraction at the Adelphi, while similar performances hold the boards at the Lyceum and the suburban and provincial theaters.
In addition to pantomimes, the week has seen several notable revivals. "Peter Pan," which was revived at the Duke of York's theater, received an enthusiastic welcome, a society known as Peter Panites keeping up continuous applause and showering the performers with flowers.

"What Every Woman Knows," another of the plays, has been transferred to the Hicks theater to make way for "Peter Pan," and continues to be the most popular play of the year.
Other revivals are "Dorothy" at the New theater, with C. Hayden Coffin, Arthur Williams and Miss Louie Pounds in their original parts, and the ever popular "Charley's Aunt" at the Aldwych, which theater Charles Frohman has just given up, his lease having expired.

SUBSCRIPTION DANCE AT ST. FRANCIS IS HELD

Many Dinner Parties Precede Ball and Artistic Decorations Mark Occasion

About 250 guests attended the first subscription dance given last evening in the colonial ballroom at the St. Francis. The ballroom was effectively decorated in red berries, wreaths and holly, and the refreshment table and gold room was also appropriately decorated for the supper that followed.
The second dance will be given in February and promises to be as successful as the initial dance last evening. A number of dinner parties preceded the ball.
Among those who acted as patronesses were Mrs. L. B. Levinson, Mrs. Leon Greenbaum, Mrs. Abraham Stern, Mrs. Leon Sloos, Mrs. William Fries, Mrs. Marcus S. Koshland, Mrs. Albert Ehrman, Mrs. Walter Stethelmer, Mrs. Moses Heller and Mrs. Alexis Ehrman.

MEETINGS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

An interpretation of "The Servant in the House," the popular play, with illustrative readings, will be the subject of an address by Mary Russell Mills in Golden Gate hall at 8 o'clock this evening. Mrs. Mills is the wife of Benjamin Fay Mills and has recently come to this region to assist her husband in the development of the new religious organizations, called the Fellowship, in San Francisco and Oakland. This will be Mrs. Mills' first public address in San Francisco this winter. Mr. Mills will speak in the same place at 11 o'clock today on "The Unknown, the Mystic Future," a New Year's sermon. There will be no charge for admission to either of these gatherings.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Following is the program of music in Golden Gate park today:
PART I
Anthem, "Star Spangled Banner".....Gonard
March, "Queen of Sheba".....Gonard
"Russian Peasant Dance".....Acher
Overture, "Jubal".....C. M. von Weber
"A Muselman Astray in the Forest".....Herman
Grand march, "Benediction des Polonois".....Meyerbeer
PART II
Overture, "Mignon".....A. Thomas
Serenade and finale, "Rigoletto".....Verdi
Germans from "Elderiana".....Strauss
Waltz, "Trot Paris".....Aldenfeldt
March, "Olympic".....Henneberg
"America".....

ROCKEFELLER JR. TO PRESS LIBEL SUIT

Hearing of Charges Against a Hearst Newspaper Is Called in Court

Case Is Outcome of Publication of Story About Peonage Camp Near Chicago

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Hearing in the criminal libel suit brought by John D. Rockefeller Jr. against S. S. Carvalho, Bradford Merrill and E. A. Clarke, respectively president, secretary and treasurer of the Star publishing company, which prints the New York American, was postponed until Tuesday by Magistrate Finney in the Tombs police court today. The charge against the newspaper publishers followed the publication by the American about ten days ago of a story under a Chicago date line in which Rockefeller was accused of being responsible for the alleged practice of peonage in a labor camp near Chicago.

Nuts form the principal diet of the Somali soldier.

FORMER TELLER WANTS DAMAGES

Fitzgerald Sues Subtreasurer and a Private Detective for \$50,000

Action Is Outgrowth of Arrest and Acquittal on Charge of Theft

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—George W. Fitzgerald, former assenting teller of the United States subtreasury at Chicago, began suit today for \$50,000 against William Boldenweck, who is in charge of the subtreasury, and H. F. Young, a private detective.
The suit is an outgrowth of the sensational arrest of Fitzgerald last spring charged with stealing \$173,000 from the subtreasury.
Fitzgerald's acquittal promptly followed Boldenweck's refusal under orders from Washington to testify in the case.

Do You Want \$5.00?
Read The Call's weekly offer on page 12.

AMERICAN IN PARIS SENTENCED TO JAIL

Husband of New York Actress Buys Automobile With Check That Is Worthless

Mandeville de Marigny Hall Pleads He Is No Adventurer, Showing Papers

PARIS, Dec. 26.—Mandeville de Marigny Hall, an American living in Paris, who recently was extradited from London on the charge of having obtained an automobile on a worthless check, was today sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. Evidence was produced to show that Hall had succeeded in passing two worthless checks on the Credit Lyonnais.
In 1904 Hall married an American woman. They were soon divorced, however, and Hall married an actress in New York. The couple came to Paris.
The defense pleaded that he was not an adventurer and produced documents to show his worthy character and that he was well connected in America.

URGES HASTE IN OKLAHOMA SUITS

Senator Owen Appeals to the President to Expedite Pending Cases

Governor Haskell and Many Other Prominent Men Are Among Defendants

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Senator Owen of Oklahoma, who is one of several defendants in suits brought by the government to clear up titles to Indian lands in that state, is urging President Roosevelt to have these cases settled at the earliest possible moment by Attorney General Bonaparte taking them straight to the United States supreme court if possible.
Governor Haskell and many other prominent men in these suits, for which the government has been preparing for two years.
Senator Owen says that the slow dragging of the cases, of which there are 23,000, is damaging to business and development generally.

\$1.00 TO CHARITY
Voting Ends Dec. 31
YOU can help the institution that you favor to secure some of this money by writing the name of the charity on the back of your sales slip when buying here. Each 10c purchase counts one vote.
Livingston Bros
INCORPORATED
FILLMORE AND GEARY STS.
SATEEN LININGS
25c Quality, 15c Yard
In all best colors, including pink, light blue, greens, tans, grays, browns, cream and black; 36 inches wide; 50 pieces in the January Clearance at yard..... **15c**

Beginning Tomorrow, Dec. 28—Greatest of All January Clearance Sales

THIS twice yearly event—the Great Clearance Sale begins tomorrow morning. This Sale is started a week earlier than usual, in order to hurry it to a conclusion, because we've planned some wonderful sales of new merchandise for January. In pursuance of our fixed policy of not carrying the goods of one season into the next, and to dispose more quickly than usual of the surplus and broken lines of all winter goods, we've made reductions that eclipse all previous records. Doors open at 8:30 a. m. and close at 6 p. m. With extra help and extra deliveries we hope to give you our usual good service. Every department participates, although below are but a few of the many good offerings.

Any Suit in Store Half Price or Less

EVERY Winter Suit must go quickly now. It is a well known fact that we do one of the largest (if not the largest) women's garment businesses on the Pacific Coast. It is not surprising, therefore, that many broken lines accumulate. The present accumulation comprises hundreds of suits and coats, none of them more than six weeks old, which we've grouped into eight large lots, as briefly described below. Phenomenal reductions have been made, utterly regardless of cost or real values. Besides the items briefly described below, there are \$75 to \$100 gowns for \$49.75; \$22.50 woolen coats for \$12.50; separate skirts for \$1.50 and \$5.95, etc.

- One-Piece \$18.50 Broadcloth Jumper Suits—\$7.75**
black, navy, smoke, Copenhagen, olive green and cat-tawba; were \$18.50. **January Clearance Price.....**
- Broken Lines \$18.50 to \$28.50 Suits—\$9.75**
Of chevrons, diagonals, fancy serges and mannish mixtures; hardly any two alike. **January Clearance Price.....**
- Many \$25 and \$28.50 Tailored Suits—\$13.75**
Broadcloths, fancy wool mixtures and one-piece Princess dresses. All colors. **January Clearance Price.....**
- Regular \$35 and \$45 Tailored Suits—\$19.75**
Plain broadcloths, worsteds and serges, some strictly tailored, others trimmed. **January Clearance Price.....**
- High-Class Suits Worth to \$50.00—\$26.75**
Three-piece tailored suits as pictured, all of finest broadcloth, many styles and colors. **January Clearance Price.....**
- \$55 to \$65 Suits, Costumes, Princess Dresses—\$35.75**
Of broadcloth, silk voiles and satins, beautifully trimmed and braided. **January Clearance Price.....**

Extraordinary January Clearance of Waists

AT NO other time of the entire year can the best waists that are made be bought at such extraordinary prices as we now quote for all broken lines and surplus lots. Thousands of waists, all models and materials, are involved in this surpassing offering. Included are several sample lines, new style spring waists.

- Several Hundred Lawn and Lingerie Waists—**
Short lots from a great season's business—not all sizes in each style, but all sizes in the lot, are offered at the most amazing reductions ever made.
Lawn Waists worth up to \$1.50 and \$2.00 now.....50c
Lawn Waists worth up to \$2.50 and \$3.00 now.....95c
Lingerie Waists worth up to \$3.50 and \$4.00 now...\$1.45
Lingerie Waists worth up to \$4.50 and \$5.00 now...\$2.45
- \$7.50 Lace Net and Silk Waists \$2.45**—Black Taffetas, Silk, Mull, heavy Nets and pretty Laces—worth up to \$7.50 each—now all at..... **\$2.45**
- \$10.00 Messaline Net and Lace Waists \$4.85**—An assortment of pretty models of which two or three of a kind are left. Values to \$10.00. All in one group now at..... **\$4.85**
- Messaline, Net, Chiffon and Lace Waists \$8.95**—In white, colors and black. Mostly samples. Up to date charming styles, worth up to \$25.00 each. All now at..... **\$8.95**

Other Strong Bargains Briefly Described

Sensational January Sale
High Grade Manchester 18c Galatea Cloth 12 1/2c
Silk Petticoats \$3.85
Actual Values \$7.50
YOU'LL pronounce them the greatest Petticoat values you've ever seen. Quantities are large, but prices are so absurdly low that it is hardly possible that any will be left at 6 o'clock tomorrow night.
Striped Silk Taffeta Petticoats—Cut full width—made with deep flounce of three sectional ruffles; regularly \$7.50 each, beginning Monday..... **\$3.85**
Hercules Taffeta Silk Petticoats—In all the leading shades, including blues, browns, old rose, reseda, white, pink, grays, black, etc. Some with deep accordion pleated ruffles, others trimmed in shirtings and tucks; regularly \$7.50 each. Beginning Monday. **\$3.85**
Fleece Tennis Flannels—Pink, blue and cream, stripes and checks, 8 1/2c value, this sale, yard..... **6c**
36-in. Bleached Muslin 6c yd—Soft finished, good wearing, 8 1/2c quality, Monday, yard..... **6c**
Best 36-Inch Silkolines—Fancy figures, floral and Persian patterns and plain colors, 12 1/2c kind..... **9c**
This sale, yard.....
Fleece Back Wrapper Flannels—Figures, floral effects, dots and stripes, fine 12 1/2c goods, this sale, yd..... **7 1/2c**
\$2.00 Square Veils 50c
A FEW dozen only, 1 1/4 yard square, Chantilly Net Veils—with large dots or rings and ribbon borders, brown, Alice blue and white. Monday, while quantity lasts, to close, each..... **50c**
75c, 85c and \$1.00 Curtain Ends 25c
A manufacturer's Curtain Ends and Mill Samples are offered in this sale at one-quarter to one-half usual prices. If you have doors, small windows or windows needing half curtains, come early, as there are only 300 in this exceptionally fine lot. Among them many samples of high grade lace curtains. Worth 50c, 75c and \$1.00 each. Your choice at **25c**
85c Pongee Silks on Sale at 48c Yard
FULL 36 inches wide—in ecru coloring only—a fine, dependable silk for dresses, waists and underwear; five pieces only in the January Clearance Sale at, yard..... **48c**
50c Albatross 29c Yard—38 in. wide, all wool, for tea-gowns, wrappers, waists, etc. Colors, pinks, blues, rose, tans, grays, browns, cream, black, etc.; always 50c regularly; this sale, yard..... **29c**
\$1.35 Silkoline Covered Comforters
—White cotton filling—choice patterns—double bed size—January sale price, each..... **95c**
White Wool Blankets \$2.95—Double bed size, California make—fleece and warm. \$4.00 values. This sale, pair..... **\$2.95**
65c Sheets 50c each—A special bargain that house and hotel keepers will appreciate. Made of heavy quality, soft finish sheeting; size 81x90 inches; hemmed, ready to use. Each..... **50c**
15c Pillow Cases 10c—45x36 inches—good quality. Each..... **10c**