

THE NEW YEAR ROUNDS OUT 250 YEARS OF CHAMPAGNE, CALLED THE WINE OF KINGS

Pop! Pizz! Clink! Welcome to 1916! In spite of the fact that the Champagne district of France has for many months resounded to the sullen roar of big guns, the spiteful crack of death-dealing Maxims, the blare of martial music, and the groans and shrieks of the dying, there will be no lack on this side of the Atlantic of the wine which has long been considered the appropriate beverage for a proper celebration of the New Year. Little 1916 will be properly christened with the wine of kings—and Americans—in the gilded restaurants of every big American city. There will be the sound of revelry by night, and, more seductive than the music of the spheres.

RUSSIA SEEKS TO CONTROL TERRITORY NEAR ITS RAILROAD

Chinese Towns of Slav Appearance on Line of Siberian Line Harbin, Manchuria, Jan. 7.—Russia's desire to control that portion of northern Manchuria through which the Trans-Siberian Railway runs is uppermost in the minds of all Russian officials here, and they are constantly expressing the hope that the European war will result in such a readjustment in the affairs of the Far East that Russia may gain actual possession of the territory through which its railway passes. Although Harbin has an immense Chinese population, it is almost a Russian in its architecture and in the manner of its customs, and it is a city in the very heart of Russia. The other cities and towns along the Trans-Siberian line in Manchuria are also practically Russian in every detail. The Russian assumption of authority, in fact, is such that the German prisoners who have escaped from Siberia are frequently seized in Chinese territory by Russian soldiers. The Russians have even taken the escaped German prisoners away from Chinese soldiers who were protecting them in Chinese territory. This has called forth bitter complaints from Germans in Manchuria.

ECONOMIC STATUS OF JAPAN BETTERS AS RESULT OF WAR

Specie Reserve Increases Following Jump in Exports Total Tokyo, Jan. 7.—Although the depression caused in Japan by the war has not been removed as yet, the economic situation here has greatly improved according to T. Taketomi, minister of finance, who submitted his budget for 1916 to the Diet yesterday. In view of possible decrease in revenue the government had inaugurated a policy of retrenchment since the beginning of the war would end, the minister said, and when normal financial conditions were restored Japan would start new enterprises. Activity in various lines of industry has been restored already, indicating that the effects of the war were beginning to pass. The minister estimated the total receipt for the year at 523,504,254 yen or about \$276,752,132. This would be a decrease of 154,897,281 yen or \$77,438,145 compared with 1915. The expenditure would show a decrease of 183,651,346 yen or \$91,789,673. As the result of the increase of exports, chiefly war supplies but with the movement of silk to the United States an important item, the Japanese specie reserve increased up to the end of November to 505,000,000 yen. Compared with the amount of last year, 328,000,000 yen, there has been an increase of about 177,000,000 yen. The minister said: "Such an example had never been shown before of the specie reserve having been increased without resorting to loans. The government is planning to increase the specie reserve all the more and to decrease our debts abroad. Owing to this increase of specie reserve there has been a tendency towards inflation of the market and a fall of interest, resulting in the rise of bonds and other negotiable instruments. All these things are a result of the war, mainly. While short term capital is plentiful and of low interest, long term capital is lacking. This shows how careful the financial circles are." Mr. Taketomi concluded: "It is important not to act carelessly in the financial matters. We shall plan to develop development of economic conditions calmly and in a practical manner in order to prepare ourselves for the time when peace shall have been restored."

REV. W. A. KEEFE GREET'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HERE

State Lecturer Plans Greater Dissemination of Principles of the Order Rev. William A. Keefe of Plainfield, state lecturer of Connecticut for the Knights of Columbus, in sending his New Year's greetings to the Connecticut councils of the order, takes occasion to make his message something that will be practical in the way of helping those organizations to realize the ideals which they are striving for. Rev. Keefe, who was formerly assistant at St. Augustine's R. C. church. He is an orator of marked eloquence and has spoken here for the Knights of Columbus, Sons of Veterans and other organizations. Following is a copy of his letter, sent to all the councils in the state: "Night: While presenting my best wishes to you and your council for a prosperous New Year, I take occasion to inform you that, in accordance with the plan proposed by the K. of C. National Lecture Bureau, I shall be pleased, at any time, to supply speakers for the Knights of Columbus lectures, banquets, open meetings, etc. Whenever you feel that I can render your council a service, write to: Yours fraternally, REV. W. A. KEEFE. Within the past few years the order of the Knights of Columbus has emphasized most forcibly through its leaders and in its national and state assemblies, the great importance which they attach to the formation of lecture bureaus in every state in which the organization is established, with a view of inspiring the members with a greater zeal for the extension of the principles of the order and the dissemination of a broader knowledge amongst those outside the ranks of the high purposes for which the order of the Knights of Columbus stands. Probably no fraternal organization has had its objects more often mis-stated and its membership more maliciously criticized than has this progressive order which was founded in the city of New Haven a little more than 30 years ago and now has a membership of more than 300,000 and is established in practically every state and territory of the United States, in Canada, Mexico and our insular possessions in the Philippine Islands. Hence the conception of the necessity for the organization of lecture bureaus in every state as a means to counteract this widespread feeling of hostility which it was believed existed, to some extent, because of a lack of knowledge of the underlying principles which the order was founded to promote. Here in Connecticut, under the direction of Rev. W. A. Keefe, state lecturer, and with the co-operation and assistance of the state officers, United States, in Canada, Mexico and State Deputy William J. Mulligan and

LEAP YEAR OFFERS DELUGE DASHING COUNTRY LAWYER

He's Willing to Give His Heart And Antiques Away New York, Jan. 7.—Clinton B. Smith, Jr., dashing young lawyer, of Flushing, L. I., who is willing to give his heart and antique furniture to any eligible young woman who can use either, was deluged yesterday with letters, telegrams, notes and telephone calls. All types of beauties, from ink pencil and from alto to bass, sought Mr. Smith without so much as calling on or of his eyes, whether they were crossed and other details which go to make a bridegroom what he is today. Mr. Smith, who has an office at No. 62 E. Flushing, is the partner of his father, Judge Clinton B. Smith. On New Year's Day he astounded Flushing, which is not so difficult to do, by sending the following notice to his admirers: "I am a bachelor. His antique furniture goes with him." The mention of the furniture might be considered a jest by those unfamiliar with Mr. Smith's collection; but those who have looked over the splendid pieces are of the opinion that many a collector might marry Mr. Smith without so much as noticing him, in view of the beauty and worth of the examples of various periods. But, along with this important item, Mr. Smith is himself quite a suitable young man, although he has not paid a farthing for this brief advertisement. He plays golf, owns and operates an automobile, dances like a whirl, smokes a pipe, and smokes through his nose and has all the accomplishments which a young man needs in Flushing—more than enough, in fact, when one stops to consider Flushing. Anyway, his mail has been tremendous since he spoke up on the New Year's greeting. Sopranoes call up and ask him whether he has a temper, and vertical writing bear witness take pen in hand to ask whether he has ever won a case in his long and, they trust, not altogether idle career. Other persons, having small sized runabout souls, ask about the future and inquire whether Mr. Smith can be depended upon to keep quiet while they arrange it and seat him where he will show up the house beautiful to its best advantage. Altogether, Mr. Smith has made himself a very busy young man, and after a life in Flushing that is in no sense objectionable. Colonel E. M. House, confidential envoy of President Wilson, arrived in London and visited the American Ambassador Page.

AL DAVIS LOSES POINT IN ACTION

New York, Jan. 7.—Al Davis, former Broadway wine agent, who married Eugenia Kelly, heiress, following the death of her father, who held the attention of the bright light district, yesterday lost the first round in the suit for \$100,000 that he brought against his mother-in-law, Mrs. Helen M. Kelly. Davis alleged that Mrs. Kelly had damaged his reputation to that extent by telling stories about him that found their way into the newspapers. He wanted \$50,000 because, he charged, Mrs. Kelly had declared that a diamond pin was missing after he had secretly met her daughter at Mackinac, Mich. The other \$50,000 was due him, Davis said because Mrs. Kelly had told stories to newspaper men that were highly derogatory. The action was brought to the attention of Supreme Court Justice Hotchkiss when arguments were heard on two demurrers to the Davis complaint filed by Mrs. Kelly's attorney. The court agreed with Mrs. Kelly's counsel that the complaint did not contain sufficient evidence to warrant the suit and sustained the demurrers. Davis, as a result of the decision, will have to forego his chance of winning the \$100,000, unless he files an amended complaint. There is little chance of this, John H. McIntyre, Mrs. Kelly's counsel believes. Asks Cost of Army Posts. Washington, Jan. 7.—Secretary Garrison yesterday was directed by the Senate to furnish full information as to the original cost, maintenance and general usefulness of every army post in the United States. Because of grain congestion at lake ports, the Canadian railroads have established emergency rates to permit grain shipments to Montreal and Quebec.

DECREASE IN RATES OF AUTOMOBILE FATALITIES

Washington, D. C., Jan. 7.—Is the deadliness of the automobile increasing or decreasing? This question seems to be answered in a very conclusive manner by the Bureau of the Census, in making public some preliminary mortality statistics for the year 1914, which indicate that during the five years from 1909 to 1914 the number of automobiles in use in the United States increased more than twice as rapidly as the number of fatalities caused by them. At the close of 1909, according to figures compiled by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, of the automobile registrations, the number of automobiles in use in the United States was approximately 200,000. At the close of 1914, the number of automobiles in use in the United States was approximately 1,270,000; and a year later, at the end of 1914, it was 1,750,000. In the meantime the number of deaths due to automobile accidents and injuries increased from 42 in the death-registration area in 1909, containing 55 per cent of the population of the United States, to 2,623 in the same area in 1914; and the increase from 1913 to 1914, for the registration area, was 1,191, for the population of the country, was from 2,488 to 2,795. Thus a five-year increase of 775 per cent in the number of automobiles, as compiled by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce—in number of machines has been accompanied by an increase of 315 per cent in automobile fatalities; and a one-year increase of 38 per cent in the number of machines has been accompanied by an increase of 12 per cent in fatalities. Perhaps a more reliable comparison, from the statistician's point of view, can be made between the increase in number of automobiles in use and the increase in the rate per 100,000 population for deaths caused by them. This is because, with a given number of matches in use in a given area, fatalities due to them tend to be proportional to the population of that area. When the comparison is made on this basis, it appears that a five-year increase of 775 per cent in the number of automobiles has been accompanied by an increase of 258 per cent—from 1.2 to 4.3 per 100,000 population—in the death rate resulting from automobile fatalities. Similarly, a one-year increase of 38 per cent in the number of automobiles has taken place along with an increase of only 10 per cent—from 3.9 to 4.3 per 100,000—in the death rate charged to them. One cause of this proportional decrease in the destructiveness of the automobile is undoubtedly to be found in a reduction in average annual mileage per machine; but, after due weight is given this factor, and a suitable margin is allowed for possible error resulting from inaccuracy in the estimated portion of the automobile statistics, the figures still appear to furnish ample justification for the contention that the automobile today is being driven with more care and more regard for public safety than it was a few years ago.

Teacher's Murderer Must Die

Albany, Jan. 7.—A motion for a special trial for Antonio Ponton, the Porto Rican sentenced to be electrocuted at Sing Sing this week for the murder of Miss Bessie Kromer, Schenectady school teacher, was denied by Supreme Court Justice Van Kirk at Greenuch yesterday.

CHINESE SELECT AMERICAN TO HEAD CHINESE SOCIETY

Peking, Jan. 7.—Dr. Paul G. Reinsch, American Minister to China, was elected first vice-president of the Chinese Society and Political Science Association, which was formally organized yesterday at a meeting held in the foreign office and attended chiefly by Chinese and American officials and scholars. The president of the new association is Lu Cheng-hsing, the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs. Tsao Julin, vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, is the secretary of the new organization, and Wu Chao-chiu, councillor for the Foreign Office and the son of Dr. Wu, the former Minister for China to the United States, was made treasurer. Among the members of the executive council are Dr. W. F. Willoughby, legal adviser to the Chinese government, who was formerly treasurer of Porto Rico, and Ronald Macleay, Councillor of the British Legation. Dr. Reinsch and Wellington Koo, the present Chinese Minister to Washington, first suggested the association and initiated the plans which resulted yesterday in the formal organization. Dr. Y. T. Tsui and all the members of the faculty of the Tsing Hua College, which is supported chiefly through American benevolence money which the American government refunds to China, are active members. Dr. Henry C. Adams of the University of Michigan, who is temporarily in China reorganizing the system of accounting for Chinese railways, has also assisted in organizing the association. Dr. Reinsch was the chief speaker at yesterday's meeting, and outlined the plans of the association, which he believes will result in much benefit to the Chinese government through a scientific study of law, politics, sociology, economics and administration in China. The association will publish a magazine in which the original work of members will appear. Dr. Reinsch predicted that this magazine in English will do much to familiarize the world with China's internal problems, and result in a general inter-change of ideas, which will be beneficial to Chinese political systems.

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