CHINA'S PREMIER IS NOW WAVERING

REPORTED TO FAVOR REVOLUTIONARY PLANS

National Assembly Will Decide a Future Form of Government.

Shanghai, Dec. 26.—Premier Yuan Shi Kai's decision to submit the proposal for a meeting of a special national assembly to decide on the future form of government in China to the consideration of Manchus, on becoming known here caused considerable satisfaction. According to the revolutionary leaders now in Shanghai, Premier Yuan Shi Kai's consent is tantamount to the admission that he himself favors a republic. It is understood that Tang Shao Yi, who is representing Premier Yuan Shi Kai here, had already informed the revolutionary leaders at the peace conference that Yuan Shi Kai personally was in favor of a republic.

Tang Shao Yi now admits that Yuan Shi Kai is in full agreement with the revolutionary plan and is only seeking to secure assurances regarding the future treatment of the Imperial clan and the Manchu people and also to avoid an outbreak in Pekin when the final announcement is made.

When Tang Shao Yi had fully realized the true situation in the south, he telegraphed to Premier Yuan Shi Kai, suggesting that an order be issued, having the decision as to the form of government to the people of China through a national council.

The leaders of both parties here say that the convention will be purely a formal affair. There can, in their opinion, be no question regarding the result of such a convention, which they assert can be called within thirty days.

The present situation is said by revolutionary leaders to have been fully anticipated. Every detail of the plan was already complete for the organization of a provisional government and the eventual promotion of stable government.

As no reply has yet been received by Tang Shao Yi to his report to Premier Yuan Shi Kai, pointing out that the acceptance of the idea of a republic is the only means of securing peace, the revolutionaries are demanding vigorously the immediate election of a president of the republic and also that the government shall proceed without any fruther notice between them and Pekin. A conference held yesterday between Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the proposed president, and Wu Ting Fang, the chief of the revolutionary delegates at the peace conference, resulted in a complete agreement between the two leaders and the revolutionaries, and they are now showing a more united form than ever. Nanking is regarded as a suitable place for the capital of the new republic.

Leaders Protest.

London, Dec. 26.—A special dispatch from Shanghai says the revolutionaries are incensed at the imperialists for the capture of Tao Yuan Fu in Chan Shi province, and have protested to Tang Shao Yi, representative of Yuan Shi Kai at the peace conference, against the repeated breaches of the armistice. They have demanded an indemnity, the withdrawal of the troops and punishment of the officers upon whom the responsibility rests.

The revolutionary leaders insist that unless Yuan Shi Kai replies at once to the demands of the conference they will elect Dr. Sun Yat Sen president. Tang Shao Yi explained that the imperialists had occupied Tao Yuan Fu only after the rebels had deserted the town. He forwarded the demands to Pekin.

Premier Submits Proposal.

Pekin, Dec. 26.—Premier Yuan Shi Kai has submitted to the more prominent Manchus here the proposal emanating from Shanghai for the meeting of a special national assembly to decide the future form of government which shall be adopted for China. This step by the premier practically means that he asks the court to decide its own fate, because the members of such a national assembly would decide in favor of a republic.

Word comes from Pao Ting Fu, one of the important military centers, that the hospitals there are making preparations to care for many wounded, expected to be brought there soon. This, along with other signs, is taken to indicate that the imperial government intends to renew hostilities.

An edict issued in the dignified terms that have characterized such documents since Yuan Shi Kai assumed the premiership confers posthumous honors on the imperialist commander, who committed suicide when the city of Soachow was captured by the rebels.

This is one of many such honors recently bestowed by Premier Yuan, which the former regent did not dare to bestow, and it means that Yuan Shi Kai has not been intimidated.

Thirty-four queueless rebel prisoners have reached Pao Ting Fu. This has aroused comment because prisoners are seldom taken in China. The Chinese have difficulty in understanding the western idea of capturing and caring for prisoners.

A reliable Chinese report has been received from Chungking that Tuan Fang's head is being taken to Hupeh for ransom. Tuna Fang formerly was director general of the Hukwang railroad. He had been recently appointed viceroy of Szechuen province, and, according to information reaching the missionaries, Chung King was killed by his own soldiers at Tzechow. Tuan Fang discovered that his troops were disloyal, and, after attempting to bribe the officers, tried to escape with his brother, but the soldiers hacked him to pieces.

WOMAN KILLED IN STREET CAR WRECK

SCORE OF PERSONS SUSTAIN INJURIES

Motorman Loses Control of Car, Which Strikes Open Switch.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—One woman killed and a score of persons injured, some fatally, was the tragic result of a Christmas eve street car accident in Toronto shortly before 7 o'clock Sunday night. A westbound Yonge street car, crammed to capacity, with church-going passengers, got beyond the motorman's control on the slippery rails while descending the steep grade of the new bridge and dashing past the accustomed stopping place at the King street barns, struck at open switch at St. Lawrence street. The car veered south, but its speed was too great to make the turn safely and it crashed over its side.

The panic-stricken passengers, piled in heaps and amid snowers of broken glass and splintered wood, struggled desperately. The men clambered out of the uppermost windows above their heads, while the women and children made their way to the doors and windows at the ends of the car. As the car capsized, some of the passengers went through the windows underneath and were pinned under the car, one of these being the first victim, Mrs. Alfred Deacon, of 23 Elmer avenue.

The workmen from the carbarns, who were first to the rescue, jacked up the rear end of the car to remove some of the imprisoned passengers and it is believed that this threw the weight on the other end, crushing Mrs. Deacon to death. Her husband was slightly injured. Two police ambulances were called and the most seriously injured persons were taken to the general hospital. Those suffering from minor hurts were treated in nearby houses and then removed to their homes without their names being learned by the police. The motorman, William J. Moore of 38 West Market street, escaped injury and is held by the police pending the fixing of the responsibility for the accident.

Traffic was resumed early yesterday morning on the section of the line where the accident occurred. All cars had been diverted for two weeks to allow the construction of new tracks and switches, and it is possible that same condition created by this work had a bearing on the cause of the accident.

The circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs. Jessie Deacon are particularly sad. She was the wife of Captain Alfred Deacon, commander of a training ship in the British navy, and had come to Toronto with her husband on a Christmas visit, only to witness the death of Captain Deacon's mother, a sufferer from cancer, who died on Saturday at her home, 23 Elmer avenue, and whose funeral was fixed for Tuesday. Captain Deacon, doubly bereaved, is expected to be sufficiently recovered from his injuries to attend the double funeral which will now be held.

The car fatality is being taken seriously by the public and by the police and street railway officials. To-day an inquest was opened by Coroner Geo. Graham on the body of Mrs. Deacon. The proceedings were formal, the jury viewing the body, taking identification evidence and then adjourning until Thursday next. The first evidence will probably include that of Captain Alfred Deacon, husband of the victim, as he has to leave to rejoin his ship at Plymouth, England, his leave having expired.

After the opening of the inquest, Coroner Graham proposed that the jury visit the scene of the tragedy, where an interesting test was being carried out by the street railway officials. A car of the same type as that which was wrecked was weighted with iron bars and run at full speed over the route taken by the ill-fated car, the motorman, however, lost his nerve as the car struck the curve, and applied the emergency brake, causing a full stop. Experts who watched the test said that with the weight of passengers the test car would have gone over, reproducing Sunday night's accident. Car No. 1052, the wrecked vehicle, was removed last night by street railway employees to a spot where it would not obstruct the traffic. A special policeman was detailed by the coroner to see that its mechanism was not tampered with pending an investigation by experts.

Coroner Graham to-day engaged two consulting engineers, J. F. H. Wyse, of the Ontario railway board, and James Bannon of Toronto, city engineer's department, to report on the condition of the wrecked car's equipment.

At the hospital to-day it was stated that Robert Hall, 726 Gerrard street, was sinking and was not expected to live through the day. The base of Hall's skull was fractured. Arthur Blow of 77 Victoria street, who has a severe scalp wound and internal injuries, is also in a critical condition. The other injured persons are doing well and are expected to recover.

Moore, the motorman, held on a charge of manslaughter, is still detained at the Walton avenue police station, bail being refused him because of the absence from the city of Crown Attorney Corley. It is probable that he will be released on bail to-morrow.

FATAL STRUGGLE.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 26.—David Stetty, floorwalker in a local ten cent store, was instantly killed in the presence of a throng of Christmas shoppers during the rush Saturday evening. The killing was done in a scuffle with a shopper and is believed by the police to have been the result of an accident. Stetty was thrown to the floor. His neck was broken.

INSTANTLY KILLED.

Dawson, Dec. 26.—On the verge of a precipitous declivity 1,000 feet above the Yukon, Victor Szarnoski, of Dawson, was shot under the heart with his own shotgun recently. He plunged forward as though he might go to the bottom of the long hill, but doubled and fell in a slight depression, dead. Evidently death was instantaneous. It would seem that his gun must have slipped from his hands while he was walking along the rocky slope and slid down in such a way that the hammers were struck or the triggers pulled.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN OTHER CITIES

HOW WINNIPEGGERS OBSERVED FESTIVAL

Outdoor Sports Largely Patronized—Racing on Ice—Day at Toronto.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—Christmas Day in Winnipeg was an ideal winter day. The general celebration was made memorable for all the sick, poor and prisoners. The Salvation Army fed nearly 1,000 at the Citadel with regular Christmas fare, while a score of prisoners at the police station and about 100 at the provincial jail enjoyed turkey and goose dinners with tobacco relish afterward, a boon strictly prohibited throughout the year. At the hospitals the invalids were not only regaled as much as doctors' orders allowed, but musical treats were furnished by the best local talent.

A notable scarcity of Christmas drunks makes this year's feast an exception. Several who had indulged too freely had to be sent to the hospital with broken limbs or other injuries as a result of their being unable to negotiate the slippery sidewalks.

The skating rinks, theatres, concerts and even the open-air sport, ice racing on the Red river, were patronized as never before. A surprise was furnished at the races, where Prince Erie, the horse that got within a half second of the half mile ice record a few weeks ago, was only second to the Dude in the free for all.

At Toronto.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—Christmas in Toronto to-day was supremely a home festival, a day of family re-unions. They day broke grey and sullen and the real Christmas atmosphere, the gleaming white snow and the crisp sparkling thrills of frosty air was lacking. In homes where there were children the day was given up to rollicking enjoyment. Many grown-ups, more soberly inclined and with due appreciation of the significance of the day, joined in the devotions which were observed in the Anglican churches and in some of these or other denominations. Others spent the day in a renewal of the ancient custom of calling on friends and leaving gifts.

The amusement places were favored with a heavy patronage, especially at the evening performances. The nickel shows as usual reaped a goodly harvest.

The old English custom of the servants' ball usually held on Christmas night in clubs and other large establishments seems to be falling into disuse in the country. The Toronto and Albany clubs alone remained faithful to the tradition, while those where it was not observed included the York, National, Military and Ontario.

ITALIANS REPULSE ATTACK BY ARABS

Fighting Lasts Six Hours—Another Attack on Ginzara Imminent.

London, Dec. 26.—The Malta correspondent of the Chronicle sends a letter received from Tripoli describing the recent surprise and attack by 16,000 Arabs with artillery, on Ainzara.

The attack was so fierce that the Italians were able to repulse the army only after six hours of hard fighting, during which they repeatedly required reinforcements.

Other reports from Tripoli say another determined attack on Ainzara is imminent. No serious fighting has taken place during Christmas.

From Massowa, capital of the Italian colony of Erithrea, comes an account of the seizure by an Italian cruiser in the Red Sea of the Turkish hospital ship Kaiserich. The vessel was flying the Red Cross on the mast, but it is said she was being used for a transport. This suspicion was confirmed by the discovery that there were no medicines or surgical instruments on the vessel.

Seventy-five Turks Killed.

Tripoli, Dec. 26.—General Trombi reports that in an engagement at Derna on December 18 the Turks had 75 men killed. At Torbruk on Friday an Italian detachment, protecting the construction of a fortification, was fiercely attacked. The fighting continued for six hours, with the Italian loss seven killed and fifteen wounded.

MORE PATRONS FOR CITY'S LIGHT SYSTEM

Manager of Private Company at Winnipeg Predicts Failure for Civic Plant.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—So popular has the civic power and light service proved in Winnipeg and so large a number of patrons of the private company have gone over to the city that the private company is resorting to page advertisements in the local papers calling attention to the weak spots in the civic system and forecasting ultimate ruin for the civic system. Manager Phillips devotes considerable space to asserting that he is the greatest electrical expert in the world, though admitting that his private company has been forced to reduce the price of light some 60 per cent. since the civic plant began operations. He cites the recent increase in the price of government telephones as an indication that public ownership of public utilities is a failure and declares that the private company will continue to meet all cuts of the civic system.

The civic system has paid for itself to the ratepayers already in the reduced price of light even if it closed to-morrow.

REV. DR. DUVAL REPLIES TO PRIEST

Ex-Moderator of Presbyterian Church on Ne Temere Decree.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—The Tribune, which last Saturday published a somewhat sensational statement by Father Comeau on the church's interpretation of the Ne Temere decree, gives prominence this afternoon to a reply by Dr. Duval, ex-moderator of the Presbyterian church of Canada. After saying that it is impossible to pass over in silence this deliverance, Dr. Duval discusses the hypothetical case advanced of a Catholic who had married a Protestant without permission and wished to make another marriage.

"We find here," says the Presbyterian divine, "first, not simply a despising of Protestant marriage, which we could pass by with dignity, but, secondly, there is a despising of the law of the state which authorizes the marriage; thirdly, it implies that the Protestant wife has no rights of conscience which the Roman Catholic need respect; fourthly, in this the Roman church outrages the natural law and the natural rights of man. The common law, which gives the protection of a 'common law wife,' is better than such church law. The lower animal instinct teaches a better ethic when it influences the noble male beast to stand by the mother in defence of the young. But, further, the priest says that this truant husband, after leaving his Protestant wife may take up what seems to common judgment an adulterous relation with another woman, and by and by go to the priest and get a secret marriage which shall be good in 'the eyes of God and the Church.' To people of natural moral instincts this is a blasphemous defamation of God, a putting of an arbitrary authority of the papal system in the place of the spirit of God to the cursing of humanity."

Dr. Duval closes with an appeal "to our more intelligent Roman Catholic fellow citizens," against submitting to a teaching that in itself is morally degrading and may open the way for conscienceless creatures to degrade Protestant women and then leave them to their fate.

COLD WAVE SWEEPS OVER MANITOBA

Telegraphic Communication With Eastern Canada and States Interrupted.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—Winnipeg is almost entirely cut off from telegraphic communication with eastern Canada and United States points to-day, the cause being the severe cold spell which has tightened up wires so suddenly as to snap them in places. The C. P. R. cannot get any point further east than Kenora, Ont., although the Canadian Northern has maintained communication with head of the Lakes.

To the south the Western Union is in trouble this side of Fargo, N. D., and the Postal is working one wire under difficulties.

The C. P. R. is running light engines with repair outfits over lines affected and control is expected shortly. The wires working west are in better shape.

The cold spell was ushered in on Christmas eve, the barometer standing at from ten to twenty below in Winnipeg all Christmas day and dipping to thirty below at some points in the province last night. It is milder in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

TO CLOSE ITALIAN BANKS.

Constantinople, Dec. 26.—The Turkish government announces its intention to close all the Italian banks and similar establishments operating in Turkey.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Rome, Dec. 26.—As a result of a decree of the pope issued in July in reference to holy days, St. Patrick's Day was struck off the list of Irish obligatory holy days on which Catholics are called upon to hear mass and abstain from unnecessary work. At the request of the Irish Catholic hierarchy, however, the Holy See has just issued another decree which is interesting to Irish people throughout the world. According to this, the feast of St. Patrick will continue to be a holy day in Ireland without, however, being preceded by a day of fasting or abstinence.

TWO STEAMERS FOUNDER IN STORM

SERIOUS LOSS OF LIFE IN BAY OF BISCAY

Seven Survivors of British Vessel Picked Up By Passing Steamer.

Glasgow, Dec. 26.—The British steamer Guillemot, from London for Genoa, foundered in the Bay of Biscap on December 21. The captain and fifteen of her crew were lost. Seven survivors were picked up by the British steamer Lincairn and landed here to-day.

Immediately after rescuing the survivors the Lincairn sighted a Spanish steamer, whose name she could not disclose, in distress. Before the Lincairn was able to proceed to her assistance the Spanish vessel foundered with all hands.

PIONEER MISSIONARY DEAD.

Rev. C. Cockman Passes Away at Age of Seventy-One.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—Rev. Christopher Cockman, an aged minister of the Methodist church, passed away yesterday at his home at Weston. Mr. Cockman was 71 years of age and had preached for over 45 years. He entered the ministry in 1868, and his first circuit was at Drayton, Ont. During his ministry among other places he had charge of Berlin, Trafalgar, Watertown, Niagara and Port Arthur. During his earlier career he was a pioneer missionary in the southwest.

BOY FROZEN TO DEATH.

Quebec, Dec. 26.—Frozen to death a short distance from his parents' home, was the fate which overtook Alexis Talbot, a lad of 16 years, at Lavall, Montgomery county. The young man had left on a hunting expedition. On Thursday morning he saw a splendid caribou pass through the fields and took to the wood near the farmhouse and did not return. A search was organized and his body discovered.

RELEASED ON PAROLE.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—Charles Warren, sentenced recently for forging street-car tickets of the Winnipeg Electric Railway Company, has been released on parole. The prisoner was in such delicate health that it was feared that he would not live out his term of twelve months in jail.

MAY DIE FROM INJURIES.

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 26.—Pitched head first from a sleigh in a runaway at 6 o'clock last evening, George Hudlow, 18 years old, struck a stump with terrific force, fracturing his skull. He is unconscious at St. Luke's hospital and his life is despaired of.

LIBERAL POLICY PROVES POPULAR

Alberta's Premier Outlines Programme for Present Session.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—Hon. A. L. Sifton, Premier of Alberta, who is spending Christmas with his father, Hon. J. W. Sifton, states that the extensive railway policy of the Alberta government, the extension of municipal powers to rural districts, the adoption of single tax principles for all municipalities and the placing of absolute equality so far as the franchise is concerned, are the principal matters which were discussed at this session of the Legislature of Alberta. He says that all of them appear to be favorably received by both the people and the House.

The Alberta House having adjourned till January 22, Mr. Sifton expects to visit Ottawa during the recess in connection with the application made for the disallowance of the railway legislation of last session, but he does not anticipate any interference, as the trial court has given judgment in favor of its validity.

DIES SUDDENLY.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—Mrs. Frances Wood, wife of S. T. Wood, of the editorial staff of the Globe, died yesterday morning after a few hours' illness at the family residence, 229 Beverley street, of heart failure. Mrs. Wood was in her usual health on Christmas eve and was taken suddenly ill in the morning.

PERSIANS MASSACRED BY RUSSIAN TROOPS

Five Hundred Persians, Including Many Women and Children, Reported to Have Been Slain at Resht—Officials Killed During Bombardment.

London, Dec. 26.—A massacre has been going on in Resht since Saturday, according to official Persian telegrams received in London today. These state that on Sunday five hundred Persians were killed by the Russians, many of them being women and children. The people, it is said, have been exhorted not to fight and not to give the slightest provocation, but the massacres continue.

Resht is the capital of the province of Ghilan and has 40,000 inhabitants. The government house has been bombarded and many government officials and police have been killed. Private houses have been demolished.

According to other dispatches, the Russians killed four unarmed Armenians in the Armenian quarter of Tabriz, during the fighting in that city.

"The people of Persia," says a dispatch, "are stupefied at the attitude of Russia, especially as these outrages have followed immediately upon the acceptance of the Russian ultimatum, and when Persia has shown every desire and disposition to conciliate Russia and establish friendly relations."

The proclamation of martial law at Teheran following the dismissal of W. Morgan Shuster by the Persian cabinet and the fragmentary reports received as to a bloody massacre by Russian soldiers at Resht, are causing serious apprehension.

Additional information regarding the reported massacre has been received. The main trouble occurred last Sunday when the killed at Resht are said to have numbered 500, including some women and children. Direct dispatches from Teheran made no reference to these casualties and a report from the Russian consul at that point states that order has now been restored, although he is preparing for further outbreaks.

The strategic point of Tabriz, 350 miles to the northwest of Teheran, is another centre of constant collisions between the Russian and Persian elements. One report says the Russian army swept the streets, while another through Russian sources says a reign of anarchy exists, even the banks being without adequate guard.

Appalling Picture.

Teheran, Dec. 26.—The cabinet yesterday notified W. Morgan Shuster, the American treasurer-general of Persia, of his dismissal from that office. This follows the decision of the national council and the ministry to submit to the demands contained in the Russian ultimatum.

The cabinet intimated to Mr. Shuster that they would communicate to him later their plans for turning over his accounts to a successor.

An indignation meeting was held after the announcement of Mr. Shuster's dismissal was made to protest against the so-called coup d'etat, but the crowds were dispersed by the police without disorder. Further demonstrations are expected.

All the opposition newspapers have been suppressed and martial law will be proclaimed.

The Russian consul, who has assumed charge of the government office at Resht, reports the town quiet today, but looks for further outbreaks after yesterday's reported massacre.

It is reported from Shiraz, capital of the province of Fars, that Persians fired on a body of Indian troops who were proceeding to meet the British consul, one of the Indian soldiers being killed.

There has been considerable trouble at Shiraz on account of the boycott instituted against the Indian troops by the mullahs.

A telegram from the vice governor of Tabriz gives an appalling picture of the situation in that city as a result of Russian aggression. He says:

"I swear before God that innocent women and children are being butchered in cold blood."

The vice governor estimates the number of Persians killed in Tabriz as 500, and adds:

"The Russians ignore our overtures for the cessation of hostilities."

The regent, Nazir el Mulk, on Sunday, acting in agreement with the cabinet, declared the national council dissolved. The war minister sent troops to prevent the deputies from entering the parliament building.

Rushing Troops Forward.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 26.—As the result of a long conference between Premier Kokovsff and Foreign Minister Sasonoff, heavy re-enforcements have been ordered from the Caucasus to Tabriz. The director of the Persian department of the Russian foreign office said today:

"Russia will take justice at Tabriz, Resht, and Enzoli into its own hands, and will show no mercy to the Fidas and revolutionary dregs who are shedding Russian blood.

"The lesson which we intend to give will long be remembered."

The viceroy of the Caucasus has telegraphed Premier Kokovsff that all the reinforcements dispatched by Russia on December 23 will arrive at Tabriz on December 28. The arrival of two companies by automobile today is believed to have improved the situation, but the re-establishment of communication with the detachment of troops regularly stationed at Tabriz has not been reported, and the extent of the Russian losses are not known.

Americans Safe.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—Further than a message from American Consul Paddock at Tabriz, stating the entire American colony there was assembled on Christmas Day and that everyone was well, the state department has heard nothing from Persia. Officials attribute the lack of reports from Teheran to the fact that the legation there has assumed that this government is being kept informed by the press dispatches.

KILLED IN TRAIN WRECK.

North Bay, Dec. 26.—A serious freight wreck occurred on the Canadian Pacific railway, 30 miles west of Pembroke. Two freight trains which left North Bay about noon eastbound came together in a rear-end collision near Bass Lake.

The leading train had stopped for some purpose at the foot of the grade and in the darkness and by some evident mistake in back-flagging, the second train thundered down the grade, crashed into the standing train, wrecking the caboose and demolishing ten cars and a locomotive

Engineer William Packer of North Bay was badly injured, and Fireman McKay of Chalk River, killed. The other trainmen escaped with minor injuries.

TRAVELLER'S WILL.

Toronto, Dec. 26. — The sum of $41,643.04 was the estate of Charles Francis Douglas, a traveller who died November 16 at Penticton, in the Okanagan Valley, B. C. Commissions owing to the deceased are estimated at $5,000; land sale agreement in Victoria, B. C., and Moose Jaw at $7,250; stocks, $8,520; cash on hand, $208.25; cash in bank, $414.79; two shares in Prentice Train Control Syndicate, $200; automobile, $300; equity in Brandon, Man., property, $4,500; equity in Fort William business block, $13,250 and equity in Vancouver real estate, $2,000. The will leaves everything to the deceased's widow, Mrs. Margaret Janet Douglas.

SAVES TWO LIVES.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Adrian S. (Captain) Anson, veteran of the baseball diamond, saved two young boys from drowning in a lagoon at Jackson Park yesterday afternoon. Anson was playing golf when he saw the two boys break through the thin ice of the lagoon and sink from sight. Plunging into the lagoon, Anson rescued and swam to shore with one boy at a time. While making his two trips into the icy water Anson was severely chilled, but said he expected no bad effects from the exposure.

TWO FIRES.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—According to reports received here to-day, several buildings were destroyed by fire at Kenora, Sask., yesterday. The loss is $50,000. At Shoal Lake, Man., several buildings, including the Jubilee hotel, were burned. The loss is $60,000.

CONFESSES MURDER.

Nelson, Dec. 26.—The confession of Albert P. Balsom has solved the mystery of the double murder which occurred in the early hours of Saturday morning, when Caleb Barton and Jack Gould were shot to death in the Manhattan saloon.

The sound of shots attracted the police to the saloon about 4 o'clock. They found Barton lying dead, with a bullet wound in his head and two in his stomach, and Gould was also dead, with two wounds. A revolver lay beside the dead men. The place where the bodies lay was swimming with blood, which also bespattered the walls.

Across the room lay Balsom, drenched in blood and bleeding profusely from wounds in his arm. He appeared to be almost insensible, and said to the police, "it was the nigger who did it," afterwards explaining that a big negro had entered the saloon, demanded $20 and had immediately emptied the revolver at the three men upon being refused.

The police detained Balsom, and immediately arrested a negro who was in bed asleep at the time. The negro was afterwards released, and it developed that Balsom's story was untrue. He was then charged with murder, and soon afterwards made a written confession.

Balsom had been in the saloon on Friday evening, and he had attempted to borrow $20, but was refused. He waited outside until Barton and Gould locked the doors of the saloon and went to supper. He then apparently took an axe and broke open the door and rifled the till. Turning his attention to the safe, he broke off the hinges and was opening the door when Barton and Gould returned. He opened fire immediately, wounding Barton and shooting Gould in the head. A struggle then commenced, in which Barton was killed and Balsom was injured.

The prisoner is a recent arrival from England and has a wife in Nelson. He worked for some time in a mine and earned $200, which he spent.

CONVICTED OF MURDER.

Golden, Colo., Dec. 26. — Guilty of murder in the first degree, with a recommendation of life imprisonment, was the verdict returned Saturday by a jury in the case of Mrs. Angelina Garramone, charged with killing Mrs. Maria Laguardia, August 20, 1910.

Mrs. Garramone has long been known as the "Gasste Chadwick" of Little Italy, because of the many financial deals in which she was a principal promoter.