

### Former Premier of Albania Regains His Position By Force of Arms.

### Powder Explosion in Japanese Harbour Causes Several Hundred Casualties—Homeless in New York Seize a Church

#### NEW YORK'S UNEMPLOYED SEIZE CHURCH.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. An army of unemployed, under the leadership of Urban Ledoux (Mr. Zero) which captured an East Side church for sleeping purposes and has threatened to take several more for barracks, now faces condemnation by the authorities. Some city officials threaten to have the firemen bathe the army with high pressure streams of water, claiming there is no justification for their act as municipal residences furnish ample accommodation for all the jobless. More humanitarian organizations propose that all non-New Yorkers be furnished with fares to their home towns. Ledoux declared to-day that his army would make their next objective the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. Mark's, in the Bowery where eurythmic dances were recently staged. On this occasion, he said, the dance would be staged by fifty unemployed carrying sticks and shovels.

#### ALBANIAN EX-PREMIER MASTER OF THE SITUATION.

BELGRADE, Dec. 28. With the occupation of Tirana, ex-Premier Ahmed Zogu, leader of the Albanian Insurrectionists, has become master of the situation in the entire country and has summoned the members of his former Government to the capital city, according to press despatches.

#### \$1,500,000 FIRE.

CORINTH, Mass., Dec. 28. An entire business block on the west side of Court House Square here, was to-day destroyed by fire, with damages estimated at a million and a half.

#### HEALTH IMPROVES SINCE HEROISM RECOGNIZED.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 28. The Belgian sluice keeper, who opposed the dykes in November, 1914, flooding the Yser and stopping the German advance, was given the Cross of Knight of the Order of Leopold, as a day on what was thought his death bed, Christmas Day. So cheerful was he made by the belated recognition



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### With the Boxers Throughout 1924.

(By T. S. ANDREWS.)

The year 1924 goes out with a record of many boxing matches held during the twelve months, but not such a successful year financially as during 1923. There was no Dempsey match to swell the receipts and add "another million dollar" purse, such as the Dempsey-Firpo battle in New York in the fall of 1923.

During the year there were over 11,440 boxing contests held, an average of 220 every week during the entire year. That comes pretty near topping all sports with the possible exception of baseball. There were probably just as many contests held in England during the year and at least 3,000 in Australia.

Boxing, like other amusements, suffered on account of money shortage and so many young men being out of employment. The high prices at some of the clubs, too, had much to do with keeping the attendance down. That was proven in New York state. In the big metropolis, the fans fell off at an alarming rate, but in Buffalo, where the promoters kept to the old standard of prices—\$1 to \$3—the fans stuck to their guns and patronized as always.

Then again in many places the fans demanded new faces and a better class of attractions, at the same time making it plain that they also wanted reasonable prices of admission. It is all right in New York for high prices, where there is a floating population of 100,000 strangers seeking pleasure every day, but in the smaller cities the patrons will not "cough up" so readily. That is why the promoters cannot hang up the big purses that are dished out in New York, where crowds of 50,000 to 100,000 can be taken care of without trouble.

While America has advanced rapidly in everything pertaining to boxing the Mother Country of the fight game—Great Britain—has gone backward.

Ever since the war, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland have not shown the class of boxers they previously boasted. They need a new crop of young fighters with some good clever American instructors to help them along with the newer style of boxing. Just now Tex O'Rourke of New York has two young English boxers whom he is training under the American system, with the hope of developing them into championship possibilities. Both are heavyweights and fairly promising.

Australia, too, has not been holding up her own in a boxing way. Three decades ago she had some wonderful fighters; in fact almost led the world in that respect. Bob Fitzsimmons, Tom Tracey, George Dawson, Young Griffo, Joe Goddard, Jim Hall, Billy Murphy and others of that time were in a class by themselves. The late Les Darcy was a near approach to Fitzsimmons, but the grim reaper took him just at a time when he appeared ready to startle the world in the boxing line. Now they have a new one in Harry Collins, a young welterweight, but whether he can stand against our own Mickey Walker remains to be seen.

Since the passing of Georges Carpentier, France has not flashed so greatly in the mitt game. Georges, Ledoux and Criqui made a great trio—one that France will not duplicate in some time. Italy is coming rapidly to the front now with young boxers and so is Germany, Holland, Sweden and Belgium. Even South America and Mexico have the fever and are developing youngsters for the mitt game. Luis Firpo's downfall in the States, however, made him lose prestige in his own country.

California came into the fold during the fall of 1924 as a legalized state for the fight game. Twelve rounds are permitted and decisions can be given if desired by the promoters. That means a strong rival to New York state for championship matches, for it was California that had a monopoly on title bouts before the law was killed some 8 or 10 years ago. Big boxing arenas are being erected in Los Angeles and San Francisco with the object of bidding for some of the big title events.

There were few championship events during the year. Jack Dempsey, world's heavyweight title holder, and Benny Leonard, world's lightweight champion, were without opponents of real class in their respective divisions. Johnny Dundee feather

and junior lightweight champion, lost the latter and gave up the former, having convinced himself that he could no longer make the stipulated weight, 126 lbs.—and he is strong. There is no doubt that Johnny hurt himself when he made the weight for Eugene Criqui of France in 1923, and the thought of "starving" himself for a defense of the same made him give it up.

Ted Lewis, who once held the welterweight title in the States, losing it to Jack Britton, is returning to America again for the purpose of challenging Mickey Walker for the crown. While in England Ted won all three titles at one time—welter, middle and light heavy—but lost the latter two afterwards, and just recently lost his welter crown to Tommy Milligan, a new comer from Scotland.

Young Stribling, the school boy fighter, is a challenger for Gene Tunney's light heavyweight title and so is Tommy Gibbons. If it is a peculiar thing about the Gibbons boys, Mike and Tommy—both are admitted the best in their classes, but still neither one has ever held a championship. Mike McTigue holds the world's title in that class, but he has side stepped all four for the time being, although Mike assures me that after he gets a couple of matches under his belt he will take on the entire bunch of challengers. Stribling is a much improved lad over what he was a year ago and is a real contender now.

Fancho Villa, the little Filipino who holds the flyweight title, has gone to Manila for a visit and his crown is safe for a time. When he returns he will have Kid Carlin of New Orleans on his trail again. The latter is fast improving and will make a formidable opponent unless he outgrows the class before Pancho returns.

Abe Goldstein hangs on to the bantam crown he got from Joe Lynch, but he has Carl Tremaine, Buddy Taylor and Johnny Brown to reckon with, any one of whom will make it interesting for Abe.

Harry Greb remains supreme in the middle class, but new faces are appearing who may make Harry sit up and take notice before long. Jimmy Delaney and Jimmy Slattery are both good boys, but a bit too heavy for the 160 pound class. However, they will qualify for the light heavies this season.

Benny Leonard is king of the lightweights; but he is ready and willing to enter the welter ranks for a big match with Mickey Walker. The two were matched during the past summer, but it is understood that refusal to give Benny the tickets he demanded for his friends—that is ringside tickets—had much to do with the show being cancelled. Benny did not intend to have his friends pay big prices to scalpers for the best seats, so the story goes. It is certain that Leonard will not defend his lightweight title unless his opponent is card enough to warrant a big gate. There are several after the chance among them Luis Vicentini, Alex Hart, Bobby Barrett, Joe Benjamin and Tommy O'Brien. Of the list, O'Brien is apparently the most sensational fighter of the bunch.

The National Boxing Association, at its regular meeting, gave recognition to the junior welterweight class and also to Pinky Mitchell of Milwaukee as champion of the division. Mitchell broke his arm in a bout with Joe Anderson at Cincinnati last summer, but it has mended nicely and he will be ready to defend the championship by February. Anderson has challenged for the title and so has Sid Barbarian, Johnny Mendelsohn, Basil Galliano, Johnny O'Donnell, Joe Benjamin and others.

Milwaukee boxers followed in the footsteps of the New York brethren by forming a Boxers' Union. They will affiliate with New York and endeavor to organize similar unions in other boxing centers. It is the intention of the leaders to fight against the practice of some clubs holding

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#### Entertainment at C. of E. Orphanage

At Shannon Munn Memorial Orphanage, on Saturday evening, about 50 children took part in the annual Christmas Tree and entertainment. Many friends of the orphans were present. Canon Bolt introduced Lady Allardice to those who had not met her before. Lady Allardice then gave a short address, wishing all a very happy New Year, and presented the gifts from the Tree. Each child received five or six gifts consisting of skates, hockey sticks, dolls, toys, slide and sweets, also each received something to wear, after which all proceeded to the dining hall where a splendid repast was waiting, to which they did ample justice. At the termination of the programme refreshments were served to the guests. The evening's entertainment was voted a great success.

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#### Wesley Adult Bible Class MAKES PRESENTATION.

A pleasing event took place yesterday afternoon when Miss G. Nicholl, the organist and Mr. M. E. Bursey, the esteemed leader of Wesley Adult Bible Class were each presented with suitable and serviceable gifts from the members of the Class. The presentation was made by Vice-President Mr. Wilfred Whitmarsh, who on behalf of the Class eulogized the faithful services which the recipients had so freely given and voiced a wish that they may be long spared to work in the interests of the Wesley Adult Bible Class. Both Miss Nicholl and Mr. Bursey, agreeably surprised at the unexpected presentations, expressed their thanks for the gifts and kind words and wishes in well-chosen words.—B.S.

Beef that has boiled from bones can be made into well-seasoned meat balls and cooked in bacon fat.

#### Old Timers Ball

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. C.P.—"D.B.H." in the Free Press writes entertainingly of the annual festivity of the Old Timers: "The Old Timers' Ball is now a well-dressed affair; the rude forefathers of the hamlet that once danced the Red River jig in cowhide moccasins and homespun suits have taken on quite a polish. Men and women who have built a nation are wondering when the Red River jig is going to start. The fiddler takes his place on the chair in the centre of the room, tunes a string and lets her go. The audience gathers round and sways to the quick jig time of the strings. Two dancers step into the circle, Mrs. Charles Brown and James Siddell, Old Timers? Fifty years in Winnipeg? Bah! The fiddle chases the years into the corner and vibrant youth slips in and sets the feet going. Winnipeg is again Fort Garry. "Each supper plate was garnished with a choice piece of venison. Bear meat is pretty good stuff, according to the old timers; a good deal like pork if it is cooked right. A beaver steak not so bad if you were hungry. The dance is over. It should have taken three days and the dancers should have worn out a couple of pairs of moccasins. But those days are no more."

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# Christmas Greetings!

IT is with a great deal of pleasure that we take this opportunity to wish each and every one a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. At the same time will you kindly accept our thanks for the generous measure of support you have given us during the year which is just closing. It is indeed gratifying the way in which our efforts to give the utmost in value and quality have been received. We will certainly do our best to merit a continuation of your business.

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By CY HUNGERFORD

