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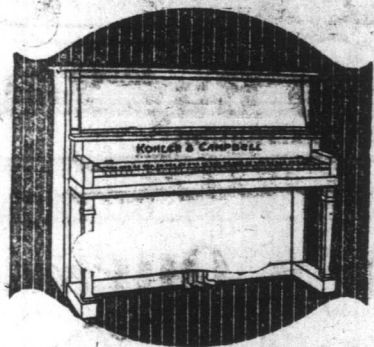
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Pope Pius Again Seals Holy Door Amid Great Pomp

MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS VISITED
BASILICA DURING PAST YEAR.

ROME, Dec. 24.—(A.P.)—Pope Pius XI. picturesquely clad in pontifical robes of rich medieval designs and surrounded by ecclesiastical dignitaries, whose sumptuous attire for such occasions, is famous the world over to-day performed the ceremony of closing the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter, the mammoth mother church of Roman Catholicism. The ceremony officially brought to a close, the year of penitence and pardon, specially marked on the Catholic calendar once every quarter of a century.

The Holy Door has remained open since one year ago to-day, when the Pope was the central figure in a similar opening ceremony. Since that time more than 3,000,000 Catholic pilgrims from every corner of the world had crossed the sill and kissed the door posts as a sign of devotion and humility. Most of them likewise kissed the celebrated fisherman's ring on the right hand of their supreme spiritual leader and received medals commemorative of the Holy Year from the Pontiff's own hands.

Several thousands of pilgrims, together with multitudes of men occupying high positions of state and members of the historic Roman aristocracy composed the 70,000 persons who filled the great basilica and its massive portico to-day, to bear witness to the time honored solemn ceremony. Other thousands without number, congregated in the spacious St. Peter's Square, covering virtually every flagstone between the weather worn cloisters designed by Bernini, which skirt two sides of the square, knowing they could never see any part of the ceremony but hoping to receive some vicarious spiritual benefit from such close proximity.

At least they could feel a thrill from the deep-toned bell of St. Peter's, which tolled the knell of parting jubilee year and at the same time permeated the air with Yuletide vibrations.

Except for the touch of modernity, lent by the lay participants the ceremony to-day was an exact reproduction of the first Holy Door ceremony of 1300, when Dante and St. Francis of Assisi were numbered among those present.

A spirit of medieval grandeur and pomp seemed to pervade the very atmosphere.

The main portico, with its white and gold ceiling, was decorated with priceless tapestries mellowed by centuries of use and with crimson velvet. The tribune erected specially for a privileged few, including the members of visiting royal families, the family of the Pope and the diplomatic body, was richly draped with crimson damask. These decorations gave to the scene an appearance of solemnity and warmth in the midst of cold massive marble pillars and floors. The Papal throne had been erected only a few feet from the Holy Door and was draped with tapestries bearing the Papal coat of arms.

While the crowds gathered and the scene was being made ready, the Pontiff repaired to the Ducal Hall of the Vatican to don his ceremonial garments. He was accompanied by his religious and secular court by Princes Orsini, Boncompagni, Massimo, and Aldo Brandini, wearing the picturesque uniforms of the various hereditary offices which they fill; by the Major-domo, Master of the Chambers, the Papal Almoner, Sacristan and secret chamberlain, all dressed in crimson silk and old lace.

On the way to the Basilica, the Papal procession was joined by members of the Noble Guard, the Knights of the Cape and Sword, dressed in Elizabethan costumes, with the traditional ruff; by all the Cardinals present in Rome, bearing their long red silk trains and wearing white Ermine capes; by Oriental Patriarchs, their heads glittering with jewelled head-dresses; white-mitred Abbots and Canons of St. Peter's in purple robes, trimmed with white lace; special corps of Swiss and Palatine guards in full dress uniforms and the Swiss Guards bearing aloft their axe-like halberds.

Trumpets Sound.

At the entrance of the portico, the Pope was raised in the Sedia Gestatoria and was borne into the admiring audience. His coming was heralded by the sounding of six silver trumpets in a specially erected balcony, overhead.

At the first appearance of His Holiness there was a ripple of applause, but almost immediately all those present knelt and crossed themselves as a sign of obedience. The Pope was taken to the throne, near which had been placed the silver trowel, studded with rubies, lapis-lazuli, emeralds, aquamarines and other precious gems, he used in the door closing ceremony.

Before proceeding with the actual ceremony the Pope immersed the silver trowel in holy water and dried it with specially blessed linen towels.

Going up to the door the Pontiff took the trowel and placed mortar in the crevice of the door at the bottom. Twice more he repeated this, each time chanting in Latin. Afterwards the Pope placed in a special opening, left for the purpose, several medals, com-

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memorating the Holy Year of 1925 and
laid over them three rectangular
stones.

Then, amid intense silence, the Pope pronounced a special benediction upon the stones he had just put into place and remounted the throne. Thereupon the major penitential Cardinal placed another stone at the foot of the Holy Door as the choir sang the solemn hymn signifying the closing of the door.

Gives Benediction.

Since only a small part of the vast crowd in the basilica were permitted to see the ceremony in the portico, the Pope was carried on the Sedia Gestatoria through the main nave of the basilica holding a lighted candle in his left hand while with his right he waved the Apostolic benediction to the kneeling multitude. After chanting a special Te Deum in St. Peter's, the Pope was borne away to the Vatican in the same manner as he was brought down.

The big St. Peter's bell then boomed the news that Holy Year had come to a close. And then all the bells in Rome's 400 churches began to peal the same tidings.

Ladies' Ribbon Trimmed House Slippers for \$1.00, at F. SMALLWOOD'S.—dec17.11

Russia's Wheat Crop

FOOD COUNCIL DISCLOSES SPECULATION AND CREDITS TRICK.

The revelation of the enormous exaggeration by the Soviet Government of the size of the wheat crop in Russia and the exportable surplus that would be available was dealt with largely in the evidence at a public inquiry by the Food Council into the recent big rises in the price of wheat. These rises led to the price of the 4-lb. loaf increasing to 10d.

The false figures issued by the Soviet caused the world markets to slump, with the result that buyers held off and are now having to purchase at greatly enhanced prices. The Bolshevik Government gave the speculators for speculative purposes, and their action coincided with an effort to establish credits and the despatch of a trade mission to Britain to obtain agricultural and manufacturing machinery and other goods.

Representatives of four large grain importing houses, were heard by the Council and each testified to the effects of the Soviet's misrepresentation.

Sir Herbert T. Robson, of Messrs. Ross T. Smyth & Co., Ltd., stated that whereas in August and September it seemed that there would be more wheat in the world than could be used, at present it appeared that unless the world economized in the use of wheat there would be barely sufficient to go round.

In August and September, Sir Herbert said, the Soviet Government issued most glowing reports of the Russian crops. They made many contracts to various European countries at low prices and they chartered many steamers to load the wheat. The estimates of the Soviet Government had proved entirely wrong.

Sir Gilbert Gurnsey: Was the Soviet forecast, an intelligent one? No, most unintelligent.

The estimate was actually made by the Soviet Government? Oh, yes. Several members: Why? They wanted to get as much credit as they could. They wanted machines, boots,

clothes, and so on. The best way to
buy them was to issue a report of
this kind.

So it was a false report? I don't
like the word "false." It was—well,
incorrect. (Laughter).

It was very intelligent from their
point of view? That may be.

3,500,000 Tons Wrong.

Sir Herbert read a despatch from
Russia in which Sokoloff, the Soviet
Finance Commissioner, actually ad-
mitted that the Government had
crop-estimated the crop by more
than 3,500,000 tons. The message
continued:

The Government is busy re-
organizing the Grain Trust. Accord-
ing to Commissioner Derinski, the chief
of the State Police, more than 3,000
employees of the Grain Trust have
been arrested charged with graft.
Practically all the heads of the Grain
Trust have been imprisoned.

Mr. F. Gumburg, of Messrs. Louis
Dreyfus and Co., said that while a
few months ago Russia was talking
of an export of 10,000,000 or 15,000,
000 quarters of wheat (the Soviet's
official figures indicate 20,000,000
quarters), it had since been realized
that the figure was entirely incorrect.
The realization by the trade of the
failure of Russia was the first turning
point in the market.

Mr. Gumburg said that the Soviet's
contracts (most of which had had to
be cancelled) had been made in Brit-
ain by the Russo-British Grain Ex-
port Company.

Mr. A. H. Hobley, the principal
wheat buyer of the Co-operative
Wholesale Society, which is a share-
holder in and is very friendly with
the Russo-British Grain Company,
attributed the Soviet's failure to
storms and the state of the roads
and the railways. Another factor
was that the peasants could get
higher prices in Russia than by ex-
porting, and they were disappointed
when they did not get goods in ex-
change for their wheat.

Mr. Hobley stated that his ex-
planation of the Soviet's failure had
been obtained from a director of the
Co-operative Wholesale Society who
had just returned from Russia.—
Daily Mail.

Hockey Boots with Ankle Supports, for Men, Women, Boys and Girls, at SMALL- WOOD'S.—dec17.11

British Conservatives Gaining Strength

LONDON, Dec. 24.—That the Con-
servative party has maintained its
position and prestige while the Lib-
eral party is torn by internal dissen-
sion is the conclusion reached by most
Tory writers in summing up the work
of the session that has just closed.
They assert that Premier Baldwin
has recovered from his earlier disap-
pointments, which caused his follow-
ers to grow discouraged and Tory
unity is stronger and more compact
than ever to-day. Labor writers, of
course, hotly challenge this view,
saying that the Labor opposition is
confident and vigorous and that the
dissensions which they claim to see
in the Tory ranks are a sign of the
vigilance which they have persistently
brought to bear.

It is certain that the Tory stock has
risen during the past few weeks, par-
ticularly because of the successes which
the Government has scored, especially at
Locarno and partly through the dis-
sentiments of the Opposition. Liberal
hostility to Lloyd George has kept
him out of the limelight, where he
hoped to stand, and he is gambling
the whole success of his future career
on the success of the Land campaign.
For the purpose of directing this new
movement offices have been opened
in Westminster.

Nevertheless Lloyd George still re-
mains the greatest figure in the Op-
position and the most feared by the
Government.

CONFEDERATION LIFE— nov23.11

Sir Arbuthnot Lane

SAYS BRITISH DOCTORS ARE BE- HIND CANADIANS.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The medical pro-
fession of England is lagging behind
"its more progressive brethren of
Canada and the United States" in the
opinion of Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, who
has just returned from a trip to North
America and the noted British phys-
ician, writing to the London Times,
says he does not believe the Old Coun-
try can afford to stand still.

Dr. Lane, in his letter, contrasts the
attitude of the British medical men
toward the public unfavorably with
that of the North American countries.
He says of his trip:

"What struck me most was the
very intimate relationship and close
association which has sprung up be-
tween the medical profession and the
lay public in the last few years. The
barriers between our professors and
the public because of the autocratic
attitude assumed by a section of the
medical community, fortunately has
now quite disappeared in Canada and
the United States. The struggle is
taking place here, and if a similar de-

The Nickel---Thursday



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MUTINY IN THE HOLD

free of intelligence is exhibited on
this side of the Atlantic our profession
will join hands with our American
colleagues in carrying forward the

CONFEDERATION LIFE— nov23.11

Brokers in Rubber Make Big Fortunes

Profits of \$5,000,000 Said to Have Been Made.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Rubber brokers
are beginning to retire with well filled
pockets and the public is wonder-
ing whether they foresee a collapse
of the boom and are standing from
under.

Baiss and Rogers, who have an-
nounced they have decided to close
down their business have been in rub-
ber brokerage for less than four
years and are said to have made \$1,
000,000 in profits. Several other firms
say they will retire with the end of
the year.

Baiss and Rogers have often han-
dled more than two million rubber
shares for as many as 2,000 custom-
ers in a single day.

The firm had to reserve a large
number of rooms in a hotel adjoining
its offices in the city and its employ-
ees slept in relays. Some times they
are able to get only a few hours of
sleep because of the press of business.
Work was kept up Sundays as well as
week days.

Many rubber brokers in the city
have seldom been able to close their
offices before midnight of recent
months, and the pressure continues
with new issues of rubber plantation
stock offered constantly in the papers.

It is the custom of the many bro-
kers to give Christmas bonuses to em-
ployees in proportion to their yearly
profits, and the sums disbursed this
way this year are said to total tens
of thousands of pounds. The Daily
Mail says one firm is giving each em-
ployee a bonus equivalent to one
year's salary while sums ranging
from £10 to £100 each are common.

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