

**BILLIARD CHAMPION**  
Willie Hoppe, 18.2 ball line billiard champion of the world for the past fourteen years, who on December 17th will play Welker Cochran the final match for the championship.

## From The Masthead

By THE LOOKOUT

—PORT UNION.  
It will hardly be supposed that Bishop Edgar Blake, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who is head of that church for all southwestern Europe, with headquarters at Paris, is a Bolshevik. It will be conceded by all men that Bishop Blake is a fair-minded, honorable, Christian gentleman. Other kinds of men do not find themselves occupying the position of bishop of a great church, especially bishop of half a continent, as Bishop Blake does.

Yet Bishop Blake has been saying many things which have won for him the name of Bolshevik. He has in a few weeks become one of the most respected and at the same time most hated men in the United States, of which country he is a citizen. He is just back from a visit to Russia, where he made extensive investigations of his own. The story that the bishop has been telling about Russia is not at all like the story we have been hearing these past five or six years. It is not a story of killing, murder, destruction that he tells; it is not a story of murderers, blood-thirsty ruffians, anarchists that he tells. He describes a Russia where the government is composed of honest, if mistaken, men; a government which honestly and sincerely has been and is doing its best for the people of Russia.

Bishop Blake believes that the Soviet government is now the strongest government in Europe, and the most stable; that it has the support of the Russian people; and that "there can be no permanent settlement of Europe's and the world's affairs without Russia. We may not like the Soviets—but we cannot ignore them. The sooner America and Europe recognize this obvious fact the better it will be for Russia and for the world."

"In so far as the Soviet government seems to uplift the masses of the Russian people, who for centuries have been exploited and oppressed," says Bishop Blake; "to do away with their poverty and distress; to secure for them the full and rightful fruits of their own toil and to bring them the blessings and benefits that nature intended for all men, I am in sympathy with the Soviets."

Bishop Blake says that the Soviet government is educating 6,000,000 people; six million adults, mark you, not children. Children also are being educated in millions. Every soldier who passes thru Russia's army is being taught to read and write, to debate and take part in discussions, and generally to be an intelligent citizen.

Should the Russian government fall tomorrow, and I don't believe it will, this one achievement, the greatest educational achievement in the history of the human race, will outweigh all the bad points of that government, and cause it to go down in history as the best government which Russia ever had.

In this connection it is interesting to note the statements made in London by Dr. Percy Nunn, who spoke of the great importance of education. Speaking of national culture he urged the importance of fostering special traits of English character at its best, and giving English literature the chief place among the studies of youth. He did not, however, I am glad to see, preach the doctrine that what was foreign should be excluded, nor did he urge that what was one's own was necessarily the best.

Speaking of industrial life Dr. Nunn said that the bulk of the population was cut off from the "sweetness of life," and to place the true dignity and grace of life within the reach of all qualified to achieve them, must now be the aim of a system of education which brings the things of enduring worth to the doors of the common people.

This, the professor said, had been done already by many an elementary teacher with scant assistance from public opinion. Unless it was done increasingly and the national hunger for knowledge and beauty was satisfied, no material prosperity could save the social body from degradation and disaster.

I have recently had the great pleasure of making the acquaintance of one of the most interesting men I have ever met in Newfoundland. He is Robert Young, a fisherman of nearly seventy years. I am always



**A NEW WOMAN UNITED STATES OFFICIAL WAR DEPARTMENT**

Miss Anita Phipps, leaving the State, War and Navy Building, in Washington after having been appointed by Secretary of War Weeks to the important post of Director of Women's Relations of the U. S. War Department.

Interested to meet fishermen, especially old fishermen. I was specially interested to meet Mr. Young. He comes from King's Point, N.D.E., having been a delegate to the F.P.T. Convention, where he made some fine speeches. Mr. Young is one of the best informed men, so far as foreign affairs are concerned, in this country. I found, to my great surprise, that he was minutely informed of the great American labor movement, and had followed the career of labour in many countries. He told me that he subscribes to several labor papers published in the United States. One of these, Life and Letters, I heartily recommend to any of my readers who can afford the fifty cents a year. It is published at Girard, Kansas, U.S.A., and is the best value of its kind in the world.

Another man I had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know, while I was at Shoal Hr. for two days, was Mr. Herbert Elliott, from Port Albert, near Herring Neck, N.D.E. He, too, was a delegate to the Convention, and during our stay at Shoal Hr., where we lived at Mr. Tulk's hotel, we held a little convention of our own. Mr. Elliott is a splendid type of man, one who is observant and wide awake and thinks for himself and is not afraid to form his own conclusions about things. We had some fine chats together. Comrade Job Elliott, who was also waiting at Shoal Hr., was a fine type of man. I only wish my friends in St. John's could know these and other men of the F. P. U.



Clara Bow, eighteen-year-old actress, who attracted wide attention in "Down to the Sea in Ships." She will have important parts in "Maytime" by Rida Johnson Young and "Poisoned Paradise," Robert W. Service's recent novel of Monte Carlo.

EXIT 1923  
ENTER 1924

"Ring out the old, ring in the new;  
Ring, happy bells across the snow;  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true."  
Nineteen hundred and twenty-three with silvered locks and bent form is tottering off the stage of life. At the other end 1924 will soon enter. But let us pause a little while before we say "Good-bye" to the old year, and take a look backward.

Since we stood here a year ago, and joyfully welcomed the New Year in, many are the changes in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. The friends who were near and dear to us a year ago are far away in other lands. Some whose paths lay in the same direction as we were going, are treading new and different ways. And others whom we held dearest to our hearts have gone into the far country "from whence no traveller returns."

But what of us? Is the page upon which we have written during the past year always been fair? No, not always. There are pages blotted and blurred; there are unfinished pages; there are high resolutions broken, and we have trailed our banner "Excelsior" in the mire. Is our page all black? Here and there is a gleam of gold and a burst of sunlight; here and there is a deed of mercy; here and there is a prayer for strength of purpose. Is there no hope for us? "Ring out the false, ring in the true."

We are holding our pen over a new leaf, and there is nothing written upon it but 1924. Each day we must place our mark upon it. The old year, with all our mistakes, lost opportunities and failures, will soon be dead, and it is for us to lift once more our torn banner and place it upon the hilltop of truth. The Creator desires Truth in the inward parts. We shall be there on the hilltop waiting for the summons into the land of eternal light if we obey God's commands.

"Art thou a mourner? Rouse thee from thy spell!  
Art thou a sinner? Sins may be forgiven.  
Each day gives wings to raise thy soul from Hell;  
Each night a star to guide thy feet to Heaven!"  
—Ray Roberts Guardian.

**IRISH FREE STATE URGES GOVERNMENTAL ECONOMY**

DUBLIN, Dec. 10.—(A.P.)—The Free State Government is confronted with serious financial problems, and the finance minister has announced that the balancing of the budget can be accomplished only by practicing strict economy, as taxation has reached the limit. The Dail has endorsed the economies on salaries of school teachers and old age pensions on the assurance that cuts are to be enforced in other departments.

Criticism has been directed at the expenditure caused by the change of government and the consequence that the Free State is now obliged to pay pensions to displaced British officials as well as the salaries of those appointed to succeed them.

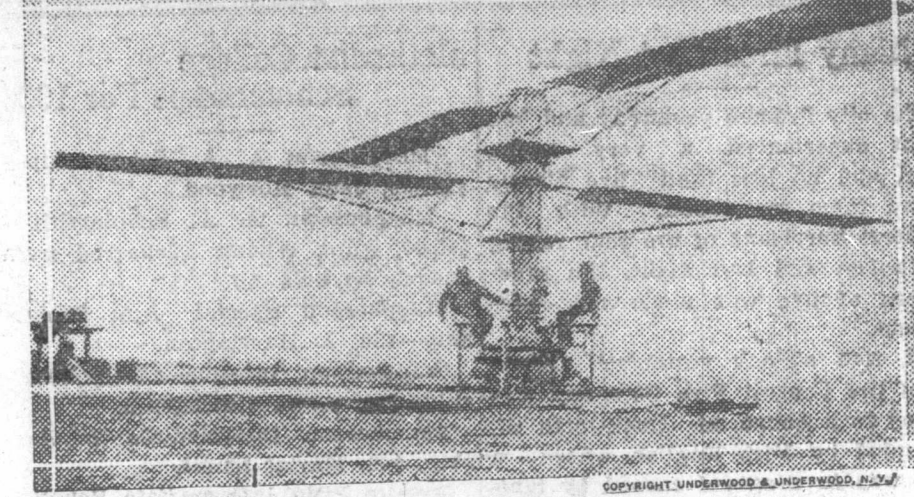
It is hoped to effect a large saving in the expense of the army by reducing the present cost of more than fifty million dollars to about twenty million. It has been urged that Ireland does not need an army larger than that of Canada, which costs seven and a half million dollars. The British government has allocated seven and a half million dollars to provide for the ex-soldiers. The fund is to be administered by a board of five members, three to be named by the British Government and one each by the northern and southern governments of Ireland.

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**WILL IT FLY UP? DOWN? AHEAD? BACKWARD? SIDEWAYS? OR STAND STILL?**  
The Perry Helicopter, recently completed at Lombard, Ill. During a recent test it lifted 3,500 pounds of dead weight directly off the ground and straight up into the air. The helicopter has two pairs of airplane wings, one pair superimposed on the other, and they revolve in opposite directions. The wings spread is 44 feet and the central portion of the craft stands 16 feet above the ground. It is claimed the machine can rise or land in a ground space of 100 feet and can hover in the air and stand still over one spot while about to make a landing.

### No Need Always to Borrow at Home

A great deal of self-congratulation is indulged in by speakers and writers in Canada because so many of our Dominion government bonds are held at home. It is a favorite theme that the payment of interest on Canada's debt is merely a process of taking the money out of one pocket and putting it in another. It is a good thing that this is so in the case of our war debt. We shall be paying for the war for many years, but shall be paying the interest to our own citizens. And, as the war debt represents a colossal dead loss and not capital invested in revenue-producing enterprise, Canada is fortunate in not having to send millions of dollars abroad each year to meet the burden of interest.

We should be careful, though, in our discussion of this question not to get the idea that we do not want any foreign holdings of our government bonds. Foreign hold-

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