

DIPLOMAT SHOULD BE REALTY BROKER SAYS AMBASSADOR

ROME, Dec. 23.—One of the most essential and imperative requisites for an American diplomat in Europe is that he possess all of the qualifications of an expert real estate dealer. This, at least, is the present opinion of Thomas Nelson Page, the new United States ambassador to Rome. And the author-ambassador knows whereof he speaks.

"A new American ambassador in Europe," says Mr. Page, "may have all the diplomatic acumen and finesse of a Metetrach, but unless he is also enough of a practical real estate man to solve the problem of finding a house in which to locate his embassy he is not likely ever to get far enough along to really begin as a diplomat."

Up to several weeks ago, when Mr. Page finally found a house, his diplomatic career was by force of necessity, confined largely to house hunting. His experience has even been a little bit harder than that of most of the other new American ambassadors to European capitals where unlike most of the governments the United States does not own its own embassy. Despite the fact that in all of his efforts Mr. Page had the constant aid of his cousin, Commendatore George Pace, director of the Commercial Bank of Rome, who grew up from boyhood here and knows every foot of Roman real estate, he had a difficult time solving the problem.

CHRISTMAS TREE 50 FEET HIGH IN CLEVELAND SQUARE

CLEVELAND, Dec. 23.—When Clevelanders awoke today the stage was set for one of the greatest public celebrations the city has ever known. The celebration is to be known as Community Christmas and Cleveland has the honor of being one of the first big cities in the country to inaugurate the idea.

A Christmas tree almost fifty feet high, decorated profusely with toys and vari-colored electric bulbs, has been placed on the big public square in the center of the city. Band stands have been erected about it and tonight the ceremonies will start.

The object of the Community Christmas is to combine the activities of various charitable organizations and make the giving of Christmas cheer to the poor and needy a matter of civic duty. In the past the Associated Charities, Salvation Army, Volunteers of America and other charitable societies have separately ministered to the needy.

This year a committee of thirty-five prominent citizens including Mayor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Greenland, took charge of all charitable activities and they boast that not a person in this city of over 600,000 souls will be without a good meal and warm clothing on Christmas Day.

GUNBOAT SMITH TRYING TO INCREASE WEIGHT FOR FIGHT

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 23.—Gunboat Smith, who is scheduled to meet Arthur Pelkey in a twenty-round contest at Daly City on New Year's afternoon, has reversed the usual order of things at his training camp. Instead of attempting to reduce his weight, the Gunner is trying to build it up.

"After my day's work yesterday," said the Gunner, "I weighed but 180 pounds, which is rather light. I am figuring on building up to 185 pounds, but I will not go over that mark for fear of slowing up my speed. I am to meet a fellow who will weigh over 200 pounds, and I don't want to give him too much of a handieap."

"Every day is going to be a tough one with me now until Friday. I am going to put on full steam and get into shape. From Friday on I will eliminate the heavy graft and just do enough to keep on edge."

The Gunner put in a hard day's work yesterday. After tramping for an hour over the slippery roads of Marin county he boxed twelve rounds with sparring partners and then worked for nearly an hour in the gymnasium.

As a result of his strenuous day on Sunday, Pelkey took a day off. Accompanied by his manager, Tommy Burns, and his trainer, William Morris, Pelkey came to San Francisco and enjoyed a day of rest. He was back in his camp today, however, and will continue with his boxing all week.

The betting continued today at 10 to 8, with Smith on the long end. However, the betting was light and the betting commissioners believe the heavies will enter the ring at even money.

ing the sidewalks. The severe weather caused much suffering, however, and charitable organizations were swamped. Incoming trains were almost all late, especially from the west.

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TAUGHT DOG TO STEAL FROM SHOPS

PARIS, Dec. 23.—Convicted last week of a series of thefts which he inspired his dog to commit, Wilhelm Volkamp, a German baker, today began serving a sentence of thirty days. At Volkamp's trial it was shown that he had subsisted for eight months on choice cuts of beef, poultry, fish and sausages which he had taught his dog to steal from neighboring shops. The dog has been adopted by the gendarme who arrested its master. An effort will be made to reform it.

GOVERNOR THREATENS TO CLOSE SALOONS

SALEM, Or., Dec. 23.—"I will close the saloons in Copperfield myself, and I will close any other saloons in Baker county that need closing," is the declaration today of Governor West following the refusal of Sheriff Rand of Baker county to close the saloons in Copperfield. The governor declared he had the authority to order the saloons closed, regardless of Sheriff Rand's claim that he had no legal right to do so. The governor has not yet decided what course he will pursue.

FOUR INCHES OF SNOW AID TO CHICAGO POOR

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Four inches of snow had fallen here today—a God-send to the unemployed. Hundreds of them were given work clear-

Cut Flowers and Potted Plants for Christmas

Fine line of Cyclamen, Specimen Ferns of all kinds, Pointsettas, Azaleas, Primroses.

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