

CURRENT EVENTS.

HALDANE FAMILY CHAPEL.—It is announced that the old chapel of St. Mungo, in the Pass of Gleneagles, Perthshire, is to be restored by the Haldane family and a memorial window erected in memory of members of the family who died in the Great War. The chapel was founded in the reign of King David, 1149. Gleneagles Castle, near which the chapel is situated, was once the home of the Haldanes.

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SECURITIES AND CHAMPAGNE RESTORED TO MUMM CONCERN.—An opinion holding that \$1,600,000 worth of negotiable paper and seventy-four cases of champagne seized as alien property during the war must be returned to G. M. Mumm & Co. of Rheims, France, has been handed down in the District of Columbia Supreme Court.

Assets of the company at Rheims and elsewhere in France were seized similarly during the war by the French Government. Justice Hoehling, however, held the concern was not domiciled in an enemy country and that its property in the United States had been seized unlawfully.

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LAWYERS ACCUSED OF CONSPIRACY.—Leonard W. Horton, fifty, attorney and Standing Master in Chancery for the Superior Court, and Francis P. Dougherty, attorney, who occupy joint offices in Providence, R.I., were arrested recently charged with conspiracy to obtain divorces and also with false making of depositions in a divorce case.

The arrests followed investigations by Attorney-General Sission of divorces in which Mr. Dougherty appeared as counsel and in which the depositions were taken before Mr. Horton as master. Headquarters in New York, where many of the applicants first took steps to obtain a divorce in Rhode Island, are declared to have been maintained by Mr. Horton.

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BOOM IN CRIME.—A survey of seventy-seven municipalities in the United States, conducted by insurance statisticians, shows an average of 9.9 murders per 100,000 of population. The figures are about double what they were twenty-five years ago and indicate an annual murder toll of 11,000. Just what affect advocacy of the abolition of capital punishment, and the growing disinclination of juries to convict in murder cases, have in increasing the volume of crime, we leave to our readers.

FREAK LEGISLATION.—Law making in the United States appears to be enjoying a boom period. According to the report of Mr. M. J. Hickey, Assistant Secretary of the National Industrial Council, during the past year in thirty-eight States nearly 11,000 new laws have been placed on the statute books. There were in all 38,844 bills offered for adoption to the legislatures of these States. It is said that the freak legislation sought to be introduced ranged in subject from the taxation of bachelors, spinsters and aliens at the sum of \$4.00 a head in Connecticut, to the attempted prevention in Iowa of the sale of "canned heat" so that users might not drink the alcohol in it as a stimulant. Mr. Hickey stated that while the volume of introduced legislation in the last year did not equal the previous record of 50,000 bills offered to the State legislatures in 1923, the percentage of actual enactments was much higher in 1924. He suggested a nation-wide campaign of public education to prevent the flood of new laws becoming a menace to the nation's institutions.

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"HOSTILE" FIRES IN DAMAGE CASES.—In the case of *Hansen v. Le Mars Mutual Insurance Association* the Supreme Court of Iowa recently decided that in a suit for damages from smoke and soot suffered by the plaintiff it was necessary for the insured to prove that the damage came from a "hostile" rather than from a "friendly" fire. Evans, J., in delivering the opinion of the court said:—"Close questions may arise over the dividing line between a 'hostile' and a 'friendly' fire. In the case before us we think it cannot be said that the evidence was sufficient to justify a finding of a 'hostile' fire within the contemplation of the policy. It was manifestly a case where the wick of an oil stove had been turned too high, from which cause smoke and soot was inevitable from the beginning, and which was at all times subject to control by merely turning back the wick. The only burning or charring of any kind done by the flame was upon the wick. So far as appears, all the smoke and soot came from the wick."
