

Washington, Jan. 3 .- Neither the American ambassador to France nor the like official at Berlin could treat of the like official at Berlin could treat of the situation which now exists between France and Germany in any report which could be published here without involving him in trouble. But it is be-lieved that the explanation of this last German movement is to be found in the fact that last July, when the Mo-rocco situation developed an acute phase, the French general staff discov-ered the entire army, and especially the transportation facilities, were not in a condition justifying France in adopting an aggressive attitude. So the negotia activity, which has given rise to alarm-ist reports, was due mainly to a change from the military methods of M. Ber-teaux, the late minister of war, to those of M. Ettenhe, the present war minister. M. Berteaux belonged to the Socialists, whose cardinal principle is opposition to war and a reduction of military expenditures. This naturally resulted in inactivity in military prep-aration. M. Ettenhe, on the contrary,

GOUNOD'S FAUST SUNG

print.

WITHOUT A CHORUS

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WESTERN

INTENTION OF RESIGNING.

New York, Jan. 3 .- Senator Depew in level-headed man in Russia would at-tach importance to the allegation, which the minister of marine, he said. he had no intention whatever of re-signing from the United States senate. He added, however, that with the ap-proach of his seventy-second birthday anniversary, April 23 next, he intended to resign from a large number of the companies in which he is trustee or

an aggressive attitude. So the negotia-tions suddenly assumed a mild tone and have dragged along up to this time. Meanwhile the general staff went to

work with great assidulty to correct the evils which had developed, with the re-sult that within the last 10 days it was suit that within the last 10 days it was discovered that in the opinion of milli-tary experts the French army is in better condition than at any period in its history. The weakest point last summer was discovered to be in the mobilization, and this has been strengthened so that the vast bodies of troops can be collected at the popular centers and transported to the frontier posts in an incredibly short period of posts in an incredibly short period of time.

It is believed here by officials who have kept close watch on the situation that the Germans have likewise been quietly and as far as possible secretly increasing the efficiency of their army. But when the internal resources failed in the matter of producing a sufficient number of military railway cars, and it became necessary for the German gov-ernment to go to foreign countries for the needed supply, it was patent that such an order could not be concealed. So to make the best of the situation this news of the placing of the vast order for transportation material was boldly announced from Berlin as an answer to the French unofficial statekept close watch on the situation answer to the French unofficial state-ments as to the preparedness of France for military action

As to the part the United States is to play in the approaching Moroccan con-ference, it may be stated on the best of authority that Messrs. White and Gunnere, the American delegates, will go into the conference absolutely uncommitted to either the French or the German contentions. The government's view is that America has, by virtue of her ancient interest in Morocco, rights even superior to those of any European state in deciding the critical questions which will come before the conference. The basis of this statement is that Am-erica, single handed, made war upon the Barbary states, wiped out piracy in Mediterranean waters and concluded the first treaty of any civilized nation the first treaty of any civilized nation with those states, a treaty which has formed the basis of the demand of ev-ery other nation for favored-nation treatment at the hands of Morocco.

astrous effects of this powerful min-

aration. M. Etienne, on the contrary, is not affiliated with the Socialists, but represents the energetic element which maintains that the country should prepare to meet every eventu-ality. M. Berteaux's precipitate resig-nation has brought M. Etienne in control of the military administration and he immediately adopted a vigorous pol-lcy, not for belligerent purposes, but in true execution of the general desire to have the army in a perfect state of efficiency. He appealed to the budget committee of the chamber of deputies for exceptional military credits, the defor exceptional minuary credits, the de-tails of which were discussed behind closed doors, and he also instituted careful inquiry into the requirements of the frontier defenses, which the last inspection of Gen. Negrier disclosed to be in a lamentable state of efficiency. be in a lamentable state of efficiency. M. Etienne proceeded systematically to remedy these and other defects, thus relacing the army and all the equip-ments and defensive works in a proper state of efficiency. This coming con-cident with the Franco-German issue over Morocco, led to a widespread im-pression that the military premations pression that the military preparations were designed to meet eventualities arising from the Moroccan controversy. While Morocca may have accentuated the need for military alertness, yet the chief cause of the recent military ac-tivity is the adoption of M. Ettenne's energetic policy of having the army ready to fulfill its functions whenever required

CROP CONDITION REPORT.

required.

Washington, Jan. 3.-The weather bureau's monthly summary of crop conditions says:

The month was abnormally cold, with less than the usual precipitation. throughout the Pacific coast states. As a whole the weather conditions were mild and favorable to agricultural interests throughout the northern portion of the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. While the winter wheat re-gion for the most part was without snow protection, winter wheat has suffered very little from the effects of alternate freezing and thrawing, and generally is in satisfactory condition.

NOT CURES

was sung at the Metropolitan opera-house tonight without a chorus, the re-sult of a strike of the recently organized chorus union. The union on M day had demanded that salaries The union on Mon-Heinrich Conried met the representa-tives of the union and told them it members of the chorus would come to him as individuals he would use his best efforts to better their condition, but would refuse to treat with them as members of a labor union.

Tonight when the usual hour for re-porting came some of the chorus put r, an appearance. The opening of the opera was delayed until \$:25 o'clock, when the members of the ballet wera when the members of the ballet were grouped on the stage to make the scenes as effective as possible under the circumstances. Mr. Conried au-peared and addressed the audience, tell-ing briefly of his dealings with the chorus union's representatives and stat-ing that a new chorus would be organ-ized on speadily as possible no perized as speedily as possible, no per-formance being omitted in the mean-time. Mr. Conried told the members of the chorus that no one who went on strike in violation of an individual contract would be re-engaged for a Metropolitan chorus. The chorus numbered about 150 persons.

YOUNG BANDITS CAPTURED.

Committed Highway Robberies and Perhaps Murder.

San Francisco, Jan. 3.-Arthur Chap-nan and Thomas Murray, each 17 years old, committed two highway robberids in Market street early today, fractured one man's skull and cruelly beat the other. One of the victims, Charles Aman, aged 61 years, is likely to dle. The other, A. T. Jaffin, was not serious-ly hurt. The young robbers, who secur-ed very little booty, are in the city prison. FAMINE IN NORTH OF JAPAN.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 3,-The famine Victoria, B. C., Jan. 3.—The famine in north Japan is causing thousands to starve, according to advices received today by the steamer Empress of Ja-pan. A government report says May-agi, Fukushima and Iwate provinces, with a population of 2.821,557, are con-fronting the worst famine since the deadly one of 60 years ago. So great is the calamity in Miyagi, that famine investigators report: investigators report: "The sentence of death has been pass-ed on one-third of the people of the

ovince Already thousands in these threa provinces are reduced to shrub roots and bark of trees to sustain life, and millions of people are in extreme conditions. The misery arising from the famine is indescribable. Committees of foreign residents have been formed to arrange systematic relief.

OREGON LAND FRAUDS.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.-A sensation de-veloped today in the trial of A. T. Kel-liher, accused of obtaining state lands liher, accused of obtaining state lands by fraudulently obtained certificates, when the indictment against H. H. Turner, notary public, who made ac-knowledgements of the original appli-cations for purchase was dismissed. Turner was placed on the witness stand and confessed that the signatures to the applications were forgeries, the names having been written by himself. Kelliher had subpoenaed expert hand-writing witnesses to prove the signat-A chiner had subpoensed expert hand-writing witnesses to prove the signa-tures were written by different persons, but it is now thought these witnesses will not be called upon to testify. The defense objected to Turner being allow-ed to give evidence because he was under indictment and the indictment was dismissified to that his evidence could was dismissd so that his evidence could become of record. To all intents Turner turned state's evidence.

New York, Jan. 3 .-- Gounod's "Faust' position with that company as an hon-orary one. Senator Depew is listed as a director or trustee of 79 companies. OUT OF TOWN CHECKS. Illinois Manufacturers' Ass'n Objects



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