

POPE ORDERS ECONOMY

Vatican Denies Receipt of \$9,000,000 from Cardinal Gotti.

Finances of Holy See in Poor Condition

—By Terms of Leo XIII.'s Will Present Pope Received \$8,400,000 on His Accession.

ROME, Dec. 19.—The statement of The Tribuna yesterday that Cardinal Gotti, Prefect of the Propaganda, had handed Pope Pius X. \$9,000,000 in banknotes, said to have been confided to Cardinal Gotti by Pope Leo XIII., with instructions to turn the money over to his successor after a period of four months had elapsed, was denied to-day at the Vatican.

The other statement, also made by The Tribuna yesterday, to the effect that an electrician while removing the hangings in Pope Leo's chamber, in order to get at the electric light wires, found in a hole in the wall \$1,850,000 in gold, was denied by the same authority.

The Associated Press is authorized to announce that the present Pope, immediately after his accession to the Papal chair, received \$8,400,000, as indicated in the part of the late Pope's will which was not made public.

The delivery of the money was effected by Cardinals Gotti, Rampolla, and Cretoni, Pope Leo's executors, who brought the larger part of the bonds from the Propaganda, where they were kept.

The financial condition of the Holy See is somewhat unsatisfactory and causes the Pope preoccupation. When the temporal power fell, Pius IX., partly because he was generous and partly because he sincerely thought the occupation of Rome would not last long, maintained the salaries of all the clerks, officers, and soldiers who did not take service under the Italian Government, which represented a great outlay for years. Recently salaries and pensions were diminished, but even now the annual expenditure of the Vatican amounts to about \$1,400,000.

It is further denied that Pope Leo left less money than was found when he assumed the tiara. At the death of Pope Pius IX. the amount at the disposal of the Holy See did not reach \$8,000,000. Pope Leo might have left much more if several financial enterprises undertaken with the object of permanently placing the Pontiff in a position in which he would not be dependent on the charity of the faithful had not failed.

In addition, the subscriptions known as "Peter's Pence," which have been one of the chief resources of the Holy See, have gradually diminished, especially where the Catholics did not approve of the political attitude of the Papacy, as in France.

A priest of one of the most aristocratic French parishes was in the habit, while in quest of "Peter's Pence," to call yearly on a devout lady and receive \$4,000 from her. After the Papal adhesion to the republic the priest paid his annual visit to the lady, who remarking that it was her duty to assist the Holy Father, gave the priest \$4. In a Jesuit church here, one of the most fashionable in Rome, it has been difficult to collect \$20 for "Peter's Pence."

Such a situation rendered it necessary to use the capital of the Holy See, which is a matter of most serious thought on the part of Pope Pius, who has ordered that the strictest economy be observed.

Some of those who were received in audience by the Pope to-day congratulated his Holiness upon his receipt of the unexpected millions alleged to have been taken to him yesterday by Cardinal Gotti. In answer the Pontiff smiled and said:

"While it is almost to the contrary, I wish it were true, as it is most difficult to settle the finances of the Vatican so that there will be enough for all needs."

There was found in the apartment of Pope Leo after his death the sum of \$160,000, which is being kept for emergencies.

The Tribuna to-day insists on the correctness of its story regarding the finding of the money, but says that it may have been mistaken as to the figures. The paper also says that behind the hangings in

the late Pope Leo's bedroom was found the ring given Leo by the Sultan of Turkey at the time of the late Pope's jubilee. The ring, the paper says, cost \$240,000.