

# GREEK BISHOP CONSECRATED

## First Ceremony of the Kind Ever Held in America.

NEW YORK, March 13.—In accordance with the decision of the Holy Synod at St. Petersburg, a third bishop was added today to the Russian Orthodox Church in America, when Raphael Hawaweeny Archimandrite, pastor of the Syrian Arabic Church of St. Nicholas of Brooklyn, became Bishop Raphael, the first of his faith to be consecrated in America.

At least 2000 worshippers and sightseers so jammed the building that with the heat of hundreds of burning tapers, three women fainted just before the actual consecration of the new bishop. Bishop Tikhon, of North America, and Bishop Innocent of Alaska, attired in robes heavy with gold and silver designs in needle-work and wearing their miters of gold studded with jewels, sat together upon a throne facing the altar. To the right, representing the Czar, head of the church, were A. N. Bobroff, Imperial Russian Embassy, and Count Nicholas de Todygensky, Consul-General at New York.

Previous to the reading of the gospels, Archimandrites Toth and Tudkeevitch, wearing the Imperial orders of St. Vladimir and St. Ann, led the nominated bishop to the enthroned bishops. They, taking him by the hand, led him to the holy table through the royal gates to the inner temple. There he knelt while the bishops placed their hands on his head and invoked the Holy Ghost to descend and bless him.

As the nominated bishop knelt at the inner table of the sacrament, Bishop Tikhon, bearing upon his head the only gospels, placed them upon the head of the kneeling priest, who rose to be questioned three times as to his belief in the creed of the church. His replies being satisfactory, the priests took from him the priestly vestments and robed him in the insignia of the higher office, these being seven, including the golden bracelets, called manuples, symbolic of the fetters binding the church.

His crown was placed upon his head and he walked from the inner sanctuary through the golden gates to meet his fellow bishops, who sang in unison the axions "He deserveth." The three bishops kissed each other and jointly blessed the clergy, acolytes, and assembled people who sang the axions.

Bishop Raphael ranks as the Bishop of Brooklyn and second prelate in the Aleutian diocese.