



PLOT OF MAFIA

Infernal Machine on a Steamer.

FOUND IN NICK OF TIME

Secret Society Will Blow Up British Boats.

DECLARES WAR ON THAT NATION

Italian Order Writes New York Police of Its Plans and Warns the Public Not to Travel on British Craft.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MAFIA. Following are extracts from Mafia Society's letter: "The society has declared war against England, and has ordered the destruction of every steamer flying the British flag out of New York."

NEW YORK, May 9.—An infernal machine connected with 100 pounds of dynamite was found in a box on the Cunard pier today. According to the expert opinion of the superintendent of the Bureau of Combustibles, the box was found and put into the river just in the nick of time to prevent it from exploding and demolishing the pier and the Umbria, which was alongside and about to sail.

Letter to Police. The discovery of the box was due to the following letter received at police headquarters today, addressed to Commissioner Greene:

"Dear Sir: The Mafia greets you and wishes you well. At the Cunard dock is a box containing 100 pounds of dynamite. Inside also is a machine, properly set, which will explode itself any time within 24 hours. The society has declared war against England, and has ordered the destruction of every steamer flying the British flag that sails out of New York Harbor."

"The undersigned received orders to begin operations by sinking the Oceanic, but so many women and children took passage on that boat that the plans were changed at the last minute. The machine in the box, the first made, and a crude affair, is enclosed simply to show how easy it is to sink a steamer and to convince those interested that the society is not making idle threats. The society has undertaken to clear New York Harbor of British ships, and it will succeed."

"The reason for this movement the society does not wish to disclose; suffice it to say that the society, in order to protect itself, must carry the war into the enemy's country, and it goes without saying that it proposes to wage it as fiercely as it knows how."

"PIETRO DE MARTINI. "P. S.—The battery is not attached, fuses without caps and lighters not set. Consequently there is no danger in handling the box."

The Search for the Machine.

The letter was mailed at the general postoffice this morning. Detectives were at once sent to the pier, and the search was begun for the box, arrangements being made that the Umbria was not to sail until the box was found or it was proved that it was not on the pier or in the vessel. After a search of the passengers' baggage the box was found in the middle of a large pile of baggage near the gangway of the first-class passengers. Two detectives carefully picked up the box and carried it to the end of the pier. The passengers had no intimation of what was going on, and therefore no one was frightened. The box was opened and found to contain clockwork that was in motion. A rope was fastened about the box and it was gingerly lowered into the water.

Box Raised and Examined.

After the Umbria had sailed the pier was cleared of every one except the men from the Bureau of Combustibles, and the box was raised and placed carefully on the pier. It was found to be 40 inches long, 20 inches wide and 20 inches deep, made of new pine, unpainted, of good workmanship and strongly built, the top being fastened with a heavy staple and padlock. A slight examination of the box at the pier showed it contained 100 pounds of dynamite, and that the fuse in the box had been ignited at some time. When the box was examined later at the Bureau of Combustibles it was found to contain 200 sticks of dynamite, each weighing half a pound. There were also two dry batteries and three fuses, two connecting with the dynamite and one with an electric cigar-lighter, the bulb of which was filled with alcohol. A train of clockwork was so arranged that at a set time a lever would be released that would strike the trigger of the cigar-lighter and ignite the fuse. The superintendent of combustibles is posi-

tive that the fuse was burning when the infernal machine was lowered into the water, and that it would probably have exploded within a few minutes.

The box was left at the pier by two men, apparently Italians, who drove a light wagon, and who told the baggage-master that it would be claimed by a passenger.

Inspector George McCuskey, of the Detective Bureau, said tonight:

"I am satisfied that this is not the work of the Mafia or any other secret society. The fact that the letter received at headquarters is undoubtedly the work of an intelligent person, and that the machine itself is the product of some intelligent person, may mean that both were the work of one. The writer is evidently accustomed to writing much and hurriedly. That is only one detail.

"All right we have been working on the assumption that it would dynamite the box contained. Inspector Murray, of the Bureau of Combustibles, reported to me that it was dynamite.

"On the receipt of the information from the superintendent of the Cunard pier that the men who delivered the box on Friday said that they came from Thirty-ninth street, we have made a house-to-house search from river to river for the express wagon and the two men said to be in charge of it. This search has been entirely unrewarded. It is impossible to find any representatives of the manufacturers whose name was on the supposed dynamite, for their New York office was closed. The only clues we have are a cigar-lighter, the box, the dynamite, dry batteries and the clockwork. Of course we shall try to find where these came from.

"If that box contained dynamite, that is the most horrible and damnable thing about it all. I hope that it is not so. I do not see, if it is dynamite, how there could be any joke or 'plant' in it."

Chief of Police Indicted.

COLORADO SPRING, Colo., May 9.—The grand jury, which is investigating city and county affairs, returned indictments this evening against Chief of Police Vincent King and Detective Joel Aglione, charging each with suffering the escape of prisoners.

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OFFER OF CASH

For Favorable Report on the Hamill.

JOHNSTON TELLS HIS SIDE

Heath Said McGovern Would Act Handsomely.

ENGINEER BALL GIVES OPINION

City Should Build Stern-Wheeler or Buy Hamill—Board of Trade Protests Against Purchase of Hooded Tug.

Status of the Fireboat Matter. Although the Willamette Iron & Steel Works has offered to build a fireboat for \$45,000, the company's chief engineer, R. C. Ball, strongly favors the purchase of the Hamill, unless a stern-wheeler be purchased.

F. A. Ballin, although he has been employed to prepare designs for a boat to be constructed at a cost of \$60,000, favors the purchase of the Hamill.

Both these gentlemen would seem to be unselfishly acting against their personal interests. J. H. Johnston, an expert, who examined the Hamill, makes the deliberate statement that he was offered remuneration if he would report favorably.

In spite of many assertions that no attempt was made to bribe J. H. Johnston, one of the experts who examined the Ernest A. Hamill with a view to her availability as a fireboat, Mr. Johnston himself made a statement yesterday in which he stated directly that he was assured remuneration for a favorable report. He recounts the occurrence in detail as follows:

"Mr. Gilman, R. C. Ball and myself left Portland on April 23 to inspect the Ernest A. Hamill, which was then on the ways at Fairhaven. At Seattle we were met by Mr. McGovern, one of the receivers of the Pacific Navigation Company, which owns the Hamill. He accompanied us to Fairhaven, at which place we arrived at noon. That afternoon Mr. Ball and myself inspected the tugboat completed our notes, and that evening our party left Fairhaven on the steamer Utopia for

Seattle. On this trip we were accompanied by Mr. McGovern and F. Heath, chief engineer of the company.

"Shortly after the Utopia sailed Mr. McGovern told me that the steamer was overcrowded and asked if I would object to sharing my stateroom with Mr. Heath. Naturally I agreed.

"Before Mr. Heath and I retired Mr. Heath told me that his company was very anxious to sell the boat, as they were hard up and needed the money to carry on the business. Mr. Heath said he hoped I would make my report a favorable one, and that if I did so Mr. McGovern would remember me handsomely.

"To this I replied very briefly that I could not discuss that matter and the subject was temporarily dismissed.

"A few minutes later Mr. Heath once more reverted to the matter, saying that if I could conscientiously make a favorable report on the Hamill, Mr. McGovern would remember me for doing so.

"This matter I also refused to discuss and there it ended.

Reluctant to Contradict Teal. Mr. Johnston was rather reluctant to talk of the matter. "I see by the paper," he said, "that Joe Teal has a telegram in which it is stated that I was approached on the matter. That ought to end it. Mr. Teal is a remarkably honorable and immaculate gentleman."

It was suggested to Mr. Johnston that as Mr. Teal was acting as the agent of the company, which desires to sell the Hamill, the public did not have that implicit confidence in his utterances that Mr. Teal would wish.

"Well," replied Mr. Johnston, "there are others. Mr. MacMaster, Mr. Gilman and Mr. Ball have denied the story. They are all very reputable citizens. Why should I attempt to place my statement against theirs?"

It was again suggested to the reluctant shipbuilding expert that he was present when the alleged attempt at bribery was made, while the other gentlemen were not. And, finally, in order that the statements in this effect made by his friends might be sustained, Mr. Johnston consented to relate the story as told above.

Ball Says Fund Is Too Small. B. C. Ball, chief engineer of the Willamette Iron & Steel Company, is firmly of the opinion that the Hamill has been much maligned. As between the Hamill and the boat designed by Mr. Ballin, Mr. Ball can see nothing in the comparison favorable to Mr. Ballin's boat.

"I believe, of course," said Mr. Ball, yesterday, "that any fireboat designed for use on Portland's water front should be a stern-wheeler, and it was a boat of this type which we offered to build in eight months for \$45,000. But the Hamill is without doubt a much better boat for the city to buy than would be the craft which Mr. Ballin proposes to construct. The Hamill is a perfectly satisfactory and efficient fireboat, when properly equipped, costs about \$100,000. Mr. Ballin has been compelled to bring his estimate down to \$60,000, the sum which Portland is willing to pay. As a consequence, his specifications have necessarily been lopped and trimmed to the danger line and beyond it. The city cannot expect to get a \$95,000 boat for less money.

"On the other hand, while I have seen statements made that the Hamill cost less than \$30,000 when she was built in 1838,

BRYAN WARMS UP

Cleveland Can't Be the Nominee.

PLAYING TO THE GALLERIES

Ex-President Seeks Salve for His Bruises.

SCORES DEMOCRATIC PAPERS

Nobody Suits the ex-Candidate, but Geography Need Not Be Considered—Too Early Yet to Indicate Platform.

BOTH SIDES OF THE CASE. W. J. Bryan—There is not the remotest possibility of Mr. Cleveland being the nominee. Even his staunchest friends will not risk him as a candidate.

Grover Cleveland—At no time since the close of my last administration have I been desirous of carrying the Democratic banner for the fourth time in a Presidential contest.

NEWARK, N. J., May 9.—The News has the following from its Lincoln, Neb., correspondent: William J. Bryan received the News correspondent very cordially today at his country residence, four miles from this city. A typewriting machine was clicking busily in an upstairs room, and the farm hands were at work in the adjoining fields. Mr. Bryan's red brick house is more modern and much more pretentious than the somewhat old-fashioned home of Grover Cleveland at Princeton. Mr. Bryan would not submit to an interview unless the questions were written and the answers were recorded verbatim as he spoke them.

"Have you met Grover Cleveland in recent years, Mr. Bryan?" was the first question.

"Not since I was a member of Congress," he replied. "You were invited to the dedication exercises of the St. Louis World's Fair, were you not?"

"Yes, I went to St. Louis, but I went to attend the Good Roads convention,

and left there one day before the dedication ceremonies began."

"The seat assigned you for the dedication was not on the grandstand with President Roosevelt and ex-President Cleveland, but on the annex to the grandstand."

"No, it was not on the grandstand. It was on the annex. But I look at that kind of an invitation as one to be accepted or declined without any particular importance being attached to it. I simply declined the invitation."

Cleveland Will Not Be Nominee. "Is it possible for Grover Cleveland to receive the Democratic nomination next year, Mr. Bryan?"

"There is not the remotest possibility of Mr. Cleveland becoming the nominee. Even his staunchest friends will not risk him as a candidate," said Mr. Bryan.

"But Mr. Cleveland has apparently come out of retirement and many suppose he is seeking the nomination," remarked the News man.

"I am not in Mr. Cleveland's confidence," said Mr. Bryan, "and, therefore, cannot give any inside explanation, but as an outsider I venture to say that his purpose is to positively refuse to be a candidate after a while, and then allow his friends to say that he would have been nominated and elected had he not refused to run. This might afford Mr. Cleveland some satisfaction as a salve for the bruises which he has nursed since 1896. There is a tall of the Democratic party which was very nearly pulled out seven years ago, that is just as monopolistic in its tendencies as the Republican party is."

Democratic Papers in Name Only. "There are also a number of newspapers calling themselves Democratic that are as monopolistic, and I will name a few of them: The Chicago Chronicle, Nashville American, Philadelphia Ledger, New York Times, Brooklyn Eagle and some others. This class of newspapers can be relied upon to support any Republican policies the financiers of the country are interested in. They keep up an attack on minor things, and sometimes attack individual Republicans, but they are so closely allied to organized wealth that they simply deceive the people. If there were a law compelling these newspapers to carry the names of the men who dictate their politics at the head of the editorial page, the people would know that the supposed editors had little or no voice. These so-called Democratic newspapers can be depended upon to defend any Democrat who betrays his party and his constituents, and abuse any Democrat who cannot be corrupted. This class of newspapers represents as public sentiment that which they desire the people to think is public sentiment."

Mr. Bryan said this in a way which made it plain that he thought this was just what was done in the extensive comments on the swatting given Mr. Cleveland at St. Louis on the dedication day.

Mr. Bryan also made it plain that he did not consider the reception given Mr. Cleveland as being conducted, so far as the people who made the noise were concerned, in the least with a Presidential boom for the sake of Princeton.

Savior of Party in 1904. "Who is to be the savior of the Democrats in 1904, and from what section of the country must he come?" Mr. Bryan was asked.

"I cannot discuss an available individual for the nomination," he said. "The geographical position of the candidate will not figure in the advantages. It matters not what state he is from. He must be in sympathy with the masses of the people, and possess the moral courage to defend their rights, and the integrity to resist temptation."

"On what issues will the Democratic party base its hopes for success next year?"

"A party platform cannot be outlined so far ahead. Conditions are constantly changing, and something is liable to arise to place an entirely new phase on the situation from what it appears today."

"What do you think of the idea in some quarters that the powerful Wall street interests are to oppose President Roosevelt as the Republican nominee?"

"There is no evidence of it outside of the news that is controlled by Wall street. The Bureau of Commerce and the Elkins bill, which is said to have been drafted by the president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, are an insignificant response for anti-trust legislation."

Praise for Roosevelt. "What do you think of President Roosevelt's efforts toward a settlement by arbitration of the coal strike?"

"I think they are commendable. I have always believed strikes should be settled in that way."

"How do you feel about the merger decision in the Northern Securities case?"

"The merger does not scarcely touch the trust question. It is a fact that the people are paying tribute to a large number of trusts today, and this is conclusive evidence that the present law is not adequate or not properly enforced."

The merry voice of Mr. Bryan's children were heard at play, and the correspondent asked Mr. Bryan what he thought of President Roosevelt's sound of alarm regarding race suicide.

He answered, with Mr. Dooley, that race suicide was in spots, and that it depends largely on the street whether families are perceptibly small. Mr. Bryan detailed one of his children to show the correspondent his carriage, horses, cattle, hogs, chickens and the farm. Pointing to three fine specimens of the swine family, the little guide said:

"The name of that one is Sixteen to One, and the mother of this litter, and the other, the father, is named Mark Hanna."

CLEVELAND NOT A CANDIDATE. Ex-President Has No Desire to Head the Ticket in 1904.

ATHENS, Ga., May 9.—In a reply to a letter from R. F. Holder, Jr., editor of the Athens Banner, in which was given the result of a poll of the business men of Athens, showing a strong sentiment for the nomination of Mr. Cleveland, and which contained this question, "Are you now considering or would you consider making the race for the Presidency next year on the Democratic ticket?" ex-President Cleveland writes as follows: "Princeton, N. J., May 8.—B. F. Holder, Jr.—Dear Sir: I thank you for your letter of the 4th inst., and for the editorial clipping from your paper which accompanied it. I cannot fail to be gratified by the

RUSSIA IS OUT

Manchuria Is Again Evacuated.

HAY ADVISED BY CONGER

Situation Lapses to Its Original State.

ASSURANCES TO COUNT CASSINI

Congress Representative at Washington Earnestly Contends That His Government Has Lived Up to Its Agreement.

EXPLANATION OF RUSSIA. ST. PETERSBURG, May 9.—The Foreign Office here strongly deprecates the excitement concerning Manchuria. It believes mischief-makers are responsible for the reports, and says the arrival of troops at Niu Chwang was due to the retirement of troops from Moukden Province southward instead of northward. The troops depart by sea.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—The State Department, late this afternoon, received word from Minister Conger that the Russians had retired from Manchuria. This advice brought relief to a strained situation, and it was decided by the department that there was no longer occasion for action, even diplomatically, at this stage. Count Cassini, in the course of a talk with Secretary Hay today, earnestly impressed upon the Secretary his conviction that the Russian government had lived up to its agreement, and in view of these representations, Secretary Hay did not hesitate to dispense the impression that might have existed that there remained any need for diplomatic action relative to Manchuria by the United States, Great Britain and Japan.

The situation consequently lapses to where it was after the original Russian disclaimer, which followed the demands upon China two weeks ago, and for the present, the attitude of the United States Government will be simply one of observance.

OCCUPATION ONLY TEMPORARY.

Russia Remained in the Forts Only a Short Time. PEKIN, May 9.—The official at Niu Chwang, who sent yesterday's news of Russia's alleged action at Niu Chwang and elsewhere in Manchuria, telegraphs today that the occupation of the forts at the mouth of the Liao River was temporary, and that the Russians have now withdrawn.

Official circles at Pekin are mystified. Their subordinates at Niu Chwang have not reported the reoccupation of that place, hence there is a disposition to question the correctness of the information, although the author of yesterday's story is considered to be one of the ablest and best-informed foreigners in China.

Our Interests Fully Protected.

PARIS, May 9.—Commenting on the Manchurian situation, the officials here say the French Ambassador at St. Petersburg has had an interview on the subject with Foreign Minister Lamondorf, which brought out a repetition of the statement that Russia had given positive assurances to the United States that there would be no interruption of the open-door policy in Manchuria, and also the assertion that the mission of General Kurapatkin, the Russian War Minister to Manchuria, was pacific.

The view held here is that Russia's assurances fully protect the United States' commercial interests. The reoccupation of Niu Chwang by Russian troops is claimed to be a wholly political issue between Russia, Great Britain and Japan, and as not involving American commerce or any other American interest.

No Change in German Attitude.

BELIN, May 9.—There has been no change in the German official attitude in the matter of Manchuria since April 25, when it was said that the Foreign Office here was indifferent to Russia's purposes in Manchuria.

ASSAILS RUSSIA'S DEFENSE.

Japanese Minister Contends His Country Has Acted in Good Faith. WASHINGTON, May 9.—Mr. Takahira, the Japanese Minister, had a long interview with Secretary Hay at the State Department today. He manifested deep concern over the Manchurian situation, but declared that the legation was without official advice, in the absence of which he did not care to discuss the matter.

There is an intimation that Japan is disappointed at the character of the support she has received from other powers up to this time in her efforts to stop Russian alleged aggression. Upon leaving the State Department the Minister took occasion to single out the following statements printed this morning:

"It is pointed out that Russia employed a saving clause in the promise to withdraw from Manchuria, the language being, 'provided, however, that the action of other powers shall not stand in the way.' And the further statement that 'Russia, it is understood, now contends that this proviso was violated by Japan when she mobilized her fleet and other wise showed signs of military preparation which was construed as a menace to Russia.'"

Commenting upon the latter statement, he said:

"Such a contention, if made, is un-

"DON'T WORRY, GENTLEMEN, I'M ONLY SCRATCHING HIS MAP A LITTLE."



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