

# Count Boni de Castellane

Character Study of the "Noble" Spendthrift Who Has Been Cast Adrift by His American Wife

Known as the Best Dressed Man in Paris, Who Buys His Suits by the Dozen and Is a Connoisseur on the Fit of an Overcoat—He is a Flat Failure as a Husband

HIGH finance is bad, high nobility is worse, and a combination of the two is the limit. For proof—if proof be needed—there is the divorce suit brought by the daughter of Jay Gould against Count Boni de Castellane. That is enough to make folks laugh and wisdom weep. What is there in the tree of civilization that it bears such fruit? What is there in representative government that the principals in this affair should hail from the two chief republics of the world? After nineteen centuries of Christianity, after all that science and discovery have done for the world, have we come to this—a riot of extravagance and scandal, the matrimonial purchase of titles reduced to an absurdity?

**Eleven Years in the Limelight.**  
On March 4, 1895, at the home of George J. Gould, New York city, his daughter Anna was married to Count Paul Ernest Boniface de Castellane, otherwise known as "The Powder Puff." Eleven years have passed. Now, as in so many cases where American heiresses have married foreign titles, the courts are asked to annul that marriage. During those eleven years the Castellanes have been in the limelight, kept there by the count's expenditure of money, his election campaign methods, his duels and his grotesque performances generally. Once he was expelled from the French chamber of deputies on the charge of buying his seat to that body. Once his debts reached an enormous figure that George J. Gould was forced to step in and be appointed trustee of his sis-

ter, wears at least three a day and never wears one more than three or four times. His theory of dressing evidently is that a man who has no inherent qualities to recommend him necessarily must make the most of appearances. One thing can be said in his favor—his clothes are never loud.

Herein is suggested the second good thing that can be said of him. He is a duelist. His buying of palaces and bric-a-brac and his manner of furnishing his Paris palace have evidenced this quality. That palace, by the way, is exactly modeled on the Trianon, which was built by one of the dissolute monarchs of France to house his mistress. Count Boni not only had his building itself after this model, but got all his furniture from special makes of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, paying fabulous prices, of course. Most of these furnishings are those actually used by royalty. For example, a bed presented to the Countess Anna is said to be one of the most expensive beds in the world. It was made at the order of some French monarch for his mistress, possibly the same one for whom the Trianon was built. There were so many of these cases it is impossible to speak with exactitude. No wonder the French were driven to revolution.

A word further as to this matter of alleged good taste. It is an open question whether such display, however refined, is not based on vulgarity.

### An Opera Bouffe Ducl.

The third thing that has been claimed in Count Boni's favor is that he is a fearless duelist, a rather equivocal

vanced in his own behalf is that he likes America. And why shouldn't he? Has it not furnished him with all the money he has squandered and made it possible for him to cut some figure in the world, even though it is but a sorry one? Are not travelers, shippers and consumers in this country putting up for earnings on Jay Gould's watered railroad stock the funds that this little foreign tailor's dummy is throwing to the winds? Why shouldn't he like America?

These constitute the list of questionable credit marks. Out of the whole bunch only three can be mentioned with any genuine warmth of approval. They are that Boni sought to protect the name of a woman, that he turned a joke and that he fought for his seat in the chamber of deputies. That is the extent of Count Boni's virtues. Honestly, after diligent search, the writer has been able to find no more. Is it not pitiful? As for the other side of the ledger, it is of sufficient extent to produce nausea. But let it speak for itself.

### Fisher of Heresses.

Count Boni's first appearance in this country was a dozen years ago. They went fishing at Newport—a fisher not of men, but of heiresses. It is on record that he first cast his bait for Miss Virginia Fair, who is now Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt. Failing to land her he next angled for Consuelo Vanderbilt, now the Duchess of Marlborough. Fisherman's luck again. It was while at Newport that he got the name of "The Powder Puff."

Perhaps it was on account of depleted finances that he now left the watering place of the Four Hundred and traveled through the west for a wine house. But the matrimonial campaign was by no means abandoned. Returning to New York, Count Boni gave a dinner. Mr. and Mrs. George J. Gould were among the guests; also their sister Anna, then a young girl budding into womanhood. The impressionable Boni's heart was again smitten—or was it his pocketbook?—and the Goulds were invited on a hunting trip to Canada. Six weeks after the initial meeting the engagement was announced. The count, who had been living very modestly in rooms on East Thirty-second street, promptly moved to the Waldorf-Astoria and began to cut a swell. The announcement of the betrothal had evidently improved his credit. The wedding followed in due course and was of course sumptuous.

### Cherries at \$4 Each.

The fortune which Anna Gould brought to her husband is estimated at about \$17,000,000, but bound up in such a way that she could only enjoy the income from it, \$600,000 a year. Boni promptly began to burn this. His expenditures were so lavish and the swell he cut was so joyous that Paris first gasped and then laughed. As a sample, it is related that he paid \$4 each for cherries. Other things were in proportion. In five years he had become so involved that a London firm of jewelers brought suit. George J. Gould here had to step in. Prior to that time Boni had sold George at a fabulous figure a fine pair of Sevres vases. George found them in the Londoner's bill still unpaid for. Since then there has been a decided coolness between the head of the Gould family and his titled brother-in-law.

Suit was at once begun by George J. Gould to sequester his sister's estate. Then Boni's transactions came to light. In these five years he had not only spent \$3,000,000 or more, but was in debt to the tune of \$4,400,000. As a result Anna's allowance was henceforth cut to \$200,000 a year, the other \$400,000 going to liquidate the count's liabilities. But it is known that Boni has been making debts since wherever he could get credit. Still he has not down quite so high. An expensive yacht he bought has been sacrificed for one thing. In connection with this yacht there is a story. At the Countess Anna's order it once put to shore and a high society woman to whom Boni had been unduly attentive was landed, bag and baggage. There were many other stories of this sort.

As for Anna Gould, only sympathy is expressed for her both in this country and in Europe. Perhaps she is not entitled to too much of it, as sympathy is too precious to be squandered and she has got what she paid for, but she was only a young girl when she married, and evidence is not lacking that she truly loved her scapegrace of a husband. She has borne much. She has overlooked all the little peccadilloes many of which the world has heard whispers concerning and many more of which doubtless the public has known nothing. As long as only chorus girls and women in like station were concerned the aggrieved wife bore in silence, but when women were involved whom she had to meet in her own social set she drew the line. It is said that three have been named in the divorce suit. One of them, a baroness, the wife of a man with a worldwide reputation, precipitated the scandal. Count Boni was warned by his wife that the affair must be broken off, and he promised. Thereupon the baroness out of revenge laid a trap for him, and from this grew the suit. That is the story. Pitiful is the only word that describes it.

The Castellanes have three sons—George, Boni and Jay. Of these the mother has control—mercifully. In the last quarter of a century over 150 American heiresses have married titled foreigners. It is estimated that the fortunes which they have handed over to their husbands have aggregated over \$200,000,000.

Perhaps the Castellane divorce suit may serve to awaken people to the enormity of this matrimonial tuft hunting and commercialism.

J. A. EDGERTON.

## THE WORLD'S NEWS OF TODAY IN BRIEF

Philadelphia, March 14.—McGovern is somewhat under the required weight this morning and his trainers say he is in fit condition. Nelson continues the favorite at 3 to 1.

St. Petersburg, March 14.—The elections for a representative assembly are slow, the people generally being afraid to vote. Many liberals elected were immediately banished to Siberia.

Hongkong, March 14.—Kwangsai, the rebel leader, and three followers have been beheaded for an attack on the home of Dr. Andrew Beattie, an American missionary, at Fati. At the time of the attack clothes and jewelry to the value of a thousand dollars were stolen.

Washington, March 14.—It is understood that Spooner will be secretary of war in case Taft retires. The canal will be placed under the state department, with Assistant Secretary Bacon to direct control.

Paris, March 14.—The Algeiras conference is unable to proceed on account of a deadlock between the French and German representatives, each bound to allow no more concessions. King Edward is exerting his influence for peace.

Portland, March 14.—The storm which has raged throughout the Northwest for the past four days is subsiding and the sun is out in Eastern Oregon. Snow from half a foot to three feet covers the entire region east of the Cascades. A thaw has begun in the Palouse valley and no serious damage to fruit trees has been done. It is still snowing at Ashland. The snow in the Siskiyou mountains is the deepest ever reported. Sheepmen have suffered severely.

St. Petersburg, March 14.—A conspiracy among the reactionaries to oppose Witte by inciting counter revolution has been discovered. Witte at today's cabinet meeting insisted upon the suppression of the Black Hundred. The conspirators include Treppoff, Durnovo and others of the highest official. The plan of the reactionaries is to provoke riots and Jewish massacres in order to justify to the czar the necessity of still more repressive measures to set at naught the liberal manifesto of October. Witte's opponents in the cabinet control the governor generals throughout the empire, and through them the soldiers. Meantime the proletariat is organizing another general strike. An outbreak about Easter seems certain.

Kansas City, March 14.—Commissioner Prouty, in the inquiry on oil freight rates, would not allow the railroad attorneys to combat his statement that rates forced the independents out of business, but declared the fact was well established. A witness told of the Standard's private telegraph system, and said communication with Rockefeller's private office could be established with any part of the system in a minute.

New York, March 14.—Prince Tee and his fellow Chinese commissioners sailed for Europe today. He believes the friendly attitude of the two nations will produce a good understanding and settle differences.

Manila, March 14.—Fire broke out on board the battleship Ohio, Train's flagship, in the harbor here today. Before the flames were extinguished the battleship had been damaged to the extent of \$4000.

Portland, March 14.—Roy Kisor, age 12, and Ray Yelton, 14, were arrested this morning. They confessed to over a dozen robberies carried out by a system of their own devising. Both carried loaded revolvers.

Pendleton, Or., March 14.—In a raid last night forty gamblers were arrested by the chief of police, inaugurating a campaign for a closed town. The gamblers were arraigned this afternoon.

Boise, March 14.—Judge Stewart, in the district court this morning, granted the writ of habeas corpus and ordered the discharge of St. John, holding that the probate judge ceased to have jurisdiction after March 2, when the preliminary examination should have been held. As St. John stepped into the corridor he was arrested again on a warrant issued by

the justice of the peace at Caldwell, charging him with murder. He was placed in the county jail and will be taken to Caldwell for a preliminary examination tomorrow. Sheriff Rutan, of Telluride, Colorado, is expected to arrive at Boise this afternoon with a warrant for St. John, charging him with the murder of Superintendent Collins, of the Smuggler-Union mine.

New York, March 14.—Cornelius H. Bliss, treasurer of the Republican national committee, was in conference with Jerome for an hour this morning. It is supposed to be in relation to political contributions from insurance officials.

Rochester, March 15.—Susan B. Anthony's funeral was held this afternoon. There was a big crowd and many addresses were made, paying tribute to her great work.

Chicago, March 15.—The probate court today issued a decree to prevent Mizner or his wife from drawing money from the Yerkes estate without first consulting the court or Louis Owsley, who was given letters testamentary this afternoon.

Tokio, March 15.—The lower house adopted a bill for nationalization of railways today.

Corvallis, Or., March 14.—Benton county is out of debt. The last outstanding warrant was called in by Treasurer Buchanan in a call issued this morning. There were 426 of such warrants, and their aggregate, including interest, was but \$8700. Every year for the past three years, about this time, all standing warrants are called in, and for a period of four or five months the public business is transacted on a cash basis.

Colfax, Wash., March 15.—Fire this morning gutted the new Hotel Colfax, the finest in the Palouse country, and the First National Bank. The fire originated from an overheated furnace. The loss amounts to \$10,000.

Indianapolis, March 15.—Former State Auditor Sherrick was found guilty today of the misuse of state funds. The penalty is an indeterminate sentence of two to twenty-one years. He will seek an appeal.

Indianapolis, March 15.—The miners' first session assembled this morning. Patrick Dolan is present and will oppose the Ryan resolution, which he declares is an insult to the operators.

Washington, March 15.—The Jolo battle was described in the house today by Jones, of Virginia, as a "massacre." Bacon, of Georgia, in the senate, hoped the slaughter would prove to be justified. Lodge declared it was "not time yet to condemn the American soldiers."

Baker City, Or., March 15.—Today is the coldest known for years, the thermometer registering ten degrees below zero. There is a great shortage of hay, and stock will suffer.

Ashland, Or., March 15.—The thermometer is eighteen degrees above zero, the coldest weather of the winter. Much of the fruit is injured.

San Francisco, March 15.—It is announced authoritatively that the Selby smelter concern will soon commence the construction of a big copper smelter near this city, probably at San Bruno on the ocean shore. The Guggenheims have already announced they will build a \$3,500,000 smelter at Port Costa. Daniel Guggenheim will be here tomorrow in connection with the plan.

Washington, March 15.—Wood cases that Henry B. Rodebrough, of the hospital corps, was also killed at Jolo, and Roderick McDonald, of the hospital corps, was killed in an action at Cebu on March 8. This is the first mention of the Cebu fight.

Washington, March 17.—Agent Crist, of the department of commerce and labor, has returned from a tour of Japan and Northern China on an investigation of trade conditions, and is encouraged by the prospects for American commerce. The boycott didn't take root in the province of Tien Tsin. He says: "American trade has grown and will continue. In neither the manufacture of cloth nor machinery can the Japanese equal Americans, but the Japanese are improving."

New York, March 15.—A blizzard seized this city today and crippled all transportation, and many wires are down. Many deaths from exposure are reported. More snow and colder weather is predicted.

## COLORADO RAILROAD COLLISION

Denver, Colo., March 16.—At 2:20 this morning the Utah and California Express doubleheader on the Denver & Rio Grande, collided in a snow-storm with the Leadville local near Florence. Forty are reported killed and many injured. It was due to a miscarriage of orders. The majority of the dead were in the forward coach, westbound, but how many is not definitely known as the car, with ten others was entirely consumed by flames. Many pinned fast in the wreckage were burned to death in sight of the rescuers. Nothing remains but blackened timbers and twisted rods and human ashes.

The trains were running at a high rate of speed and met with terrible force on a curve. The locomotives, baggage cars and smokers on both trains were overturned and the rest piled up on them in awful confusion. The gas tanks exploded and in a few minutes the entire mass of wreckage was in flames. Those who escaped threw snow over the victims in the vain effort to extinguish the fire. Relief trains have been rushed to the scene.

Engineer William Hollis, Firemen Consullette and Hugh Sadduth and Express messenger McCartland were killed. Engineer Kellker and Fireman J. H. Smith escaped by jumping and were badly injured. All the sleeping cars were saved and the occupants uninjured. But for the fire the loss of life would have been small. The survivors state that the wreckage seemed to burst into flames as the crash occurred. Nine members of the Hewitt family, of Lebo, Kansas, are among the dead.

Among the injured are Myron Phillips, Salt Lake, ankle hurt; W. F. Paul, Portland, Or., foot injured; L. C. Barabian, San Francisco, neck injured; S. H. Swenney, Trenton, Mo., died from injuries.

The railroad officials, who were present within two hours, estimate the dead at 30 and the injured at 25.

Pueblo, Col., March 17.—The Adobe wreck, while the exact loss of life will probably never be known, is certain to be recorded as one of the worst wrecks in the railroad's history. Conservative estimates this morning place the number of dead at 30. Seventeen bodies are at the morgue, unidentified. Several others are known to be dead. Possibly a score were burned to ashes. This morning the names of Captain Patrick Murphy, of Florence, Col.; Lay Field, Keystone, Wyo., and Mrs. Belle Webb, Keystone, Wyo., were added to the list of dead.

LaGrande, March 17.—The Hewitt family of eleven, of which nine were killed in the Adobe wreck, were enroute to Oregon to settle on a homestead in Wallawa county. Mrs. Hewitt's parents reside in Elgin, Union county.

## SENATOR GEARIN RETURNS TO REGISTER

Portland, March 15.—Senator Gearin arrived this morning to register in order to go on the ticket as a candidate for re-election. He states that he did not leave Washington until he was assured of the passage of the appropriation of \$400,000 for the Columbia river by the house.

He predicts the passage of the railroad rate bill after an extended debate. The railroads are making little objection.

## STORM SEVERE ON RANGE STOCK

Prineville, Or., March 14.—A severe storm of wind and snow, accompanied by clouds of dust, commenced blowing on Saturday morning and caused the thermometer to go lower than at any time during the past winter. This storm following so closely on the long spell of fine weather, is quite severe on range stock, some of which had been turned out. In some instances it was necessary to return them to the feed yards.

Snow is said to be one foot deep at Bend. The Silver Lake mail is delayed by a storm south of Bend. A very cold wind, with dust and a small amount of snow, is reported by telephone from the country around Madras, Haystack, Culver and Warm Springs.

Morgan Watson has been elected captain of the high school basketball team.



COUNT AND COUNTESS DE CASTELLANE AND THEIR PALACE IN PARIS.

ter's estate. Twice Count Boni fought with editors for printing scandalous concerning him.  
Count Boni is a royalist. He wants a distinctly understood. The assent is hardly necessary, as his would proclaim that fact, but the of popular government will require the definite announcement with a flourish. The mere fact that he is under it is something of a rebuke to democracy, but his opposition to popular rule serves to remove much of the stigma. The incident is still remembered of the manner in which his countess led a mob of titled featherweights in a demonstration against President Loubet and for no other reason apparently than that Loubet came from the common people and represented them. The Paris papers charged at the time that Count Boni was concerned in that affair. One of the most commendable things about the republic of France is found in the leniency of its enemies.

It is not a pleasant task to write of a man without being able to say something good of him. From that aspect a subject like Count Boni de Castellane is discouraging. There are a few things, however, that can be said and those modified commendation even in this case.

**Best Dressed Parisian.**  
For one thing he is said to be the best dressed man in Paris, whatever commendation that may be. He wears his suits and overcoats by the dozen, with a slight variety of shade cut in each. His speciality is overcoats. These he has in all varieties and styles, of the best workmanship and the most expensive material. His whole wardrobe is on the same elaborate and costly line. For example, he never wears a pair of gloves more than once. As for shirts, he pays \$7

virtue at least. Even the bravery involved is questionable, as French duels nowadays seldom or never eventuate fatally. As for Boni, he has fought four times and has never been wounded. Three of his opponents, he wounded slightly—one he shot in the wrist, one he gave a slight sword thrust in the chest, and the third received a trifling puncture of the throat. Very much in the line of opera bouffe dueling, is it not? The first of these affairs was a farce altogether. Boni had heard a slighting remark concerning a lady with whom he was smitten, whereupon he upset a table and made hostile demonstrations against the man who uttered the scandal. The other challenged him, and the fight took place on the bank of a river. Boni thought the thing was in earnest, but all the others involved knew it to be a joke. The pistols were loaded with pellets of black bread. As Boni fired his antagonist dropped like a stuck pig, and the young count ran up in great trepidation, asking if the man was killed. "Yes," said the supposed corpse, sitting up and grinning. The whole situation flashed on Castellane's mind, whereupon he cried, "I will bury him, then," and, seizing his opponent's ankle, dragged him to the river bank and rolled him over. As the dripping figure emerged he probably had some doubts as to whom the joke was on.

The fourth thing that can be said in the little count's behalf is that when he was thrown out of the deputies for corrupting the electorate he showed spunk enough to fight. As he left the chamber he cried defiantly, "Gentlemen, you will see me again." It was a dire threat, and he made it good. Going back to his province in the Basse-Alpes, he was elected by an increased majority. The house has never been able to shake him off since.  
Yet one more thing the count has ad-