

# WORLD HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume Most Important Daily News Items.

COMPILED FOR YOU

Events of Noted People, Governments and Pacific Northwest, and Other Things Worth Knowing.

While Vancouver, B. C., police searched a house in Chinatown for hidden drugs, a carrier pigeon flew in bearing a tube of narcotics. Two men were arrested.

Four masked outlaws held up a jewelry store at Independence, Kan., early Tuesday night and escaped in a motor car with diamonds valued at \$15,000, according to a report made by Wichita police.

President Harding was re-elected a director of the Pendergast Lumber company at the annual meeting of stockholders in Marion, O., Monday. He has been a director of the company for a number of years.

Reports received by the treasury indicate that out of the \$700,000,000 of victory notes called for redemption last Friday, which were outstanding at the beginning of the month, less than \$300,000,000 has been presented for redemption to date.

If the Christmas rum fleet reported to be bound for New York from the Bahamas succeeds in running the blockade of the dry navy, it should find New Yorkers amply supplied with receptacles for toting the forbidden liquor, says a dispatch.

A memorial from the board of supervisors of San Francisco petitioning for light wines and beer was presented to the senate Tuesday. It stated that at the last election the people, by referendum, voted two to one for such an amendment to the present prohibition act.

Madam Bernhardt passed a comfortable night and her physician said Tuesday no serious consequences were expected to follow her fainting spell. She will be obliged to rest several days, but it is considered certain that she will be able to resume her work on the Paris stage soon.

While the first floor of a frame building on Spruce street in Pittsburg was being swept by fire Tuesday, a child was born to Mrs. Peter Kraterinski on the second floor. Mrs. Kraterinski and her baby were carried out by the firemen. The physician followed. None suffered any serious injury.

Declaring that United States prohibition agents violated the fourth amendment of the constitution in making raids without proper search warrants, Judge Thompson in the United States district court of Philadelphia Tuesday dismissed two liquor cases involving several hundred thousand dollars.

Twenty officers and stock salesmen of the Waterloo Creamery company in Omaha, Neb., were indicted Monday by a federal grand jury for alleged use of the mails to defraud in connection with the promotion and financing of that company, now in receivership. Bonds were fixed at \$5000 for each of the defendants.

Announcement was made that the Palestine government has arranged for a loan of \$2,500,000 to be floated in London. Pending conclusion of arrangements for the loan, the crown agents in England advanced considerable sums at various times; thus £1,250,000, or half of the loan, already has been expended.

May Walker Olive Homestead, a Holstein cow, owned by the Minnesota Holstein company at Austin, Minn., has broken the world's record for a year's production of butter. Her figure for 365 days ending at midnight Monday night was 1217.27 pounds of butter fat, the equivalent of 1521.5 pounds of butter, according to L. E. Eberhardt, president of the company and manager of an Omaha packing plant.

Twenty men who were aboard the tug Reliance, wrecked on the rocks of the Lizard islands in Lake Superior last Wednesday and who spent five days on the islands with scant shelter from the sub-zero temperature and with scarcely any food, arrived in Sault Ste. Marie Tuesday night. Three others are aboard the tug Gray, now engaged in taking off Lake Superior light keepers, and will be brought in later this week.

## INDUSTRY DRILLS FOR WAR

Secretary Weeks Gives Out Plan for Organization of All Labor.

Washington, D. C.—How the war department is working toward a plan of industrial preparedness, capable of marshalling American material resources in orderly support of American man power should a national emergency demand it, was revealed by Secretary Weeks in an article prepared for the January issue of the Nation's Business, official organ of the chamber of commerce of the United States. Already, the secretary wrote, 13 ordnance districts have been marked out as a part of the industrial mobilization plan, in each "a civilian leader, a man high in the business life of his community," has volunteered to serve as a point of intimate contact between the government and business interests which could be of service in war time production. Progress also has been made toward establishing a similar contact with airplane producers and a uniform fixed price contract has been drawn in tentative form for use in future war purchases.

The logical development of this project, Mr. Weeks added, would be the creation of a civilian general staff to control war-time industrial mobilization. He suggests that in furtherance of the plan it may be advisable to place from year to year "small educational orders" to fill peace-time needs and to maintain a skeleton organization readily convertible to war arrangements.

"There are being established between the war department and American industrial life everywhere," said the article, "points of contact that should bring the American people into this business of making ready in peace for the task that the American people alone can accomplish in war."

"It is in our ordnance problem we have been able to make the most headway thus far. The ordnance districts marked out in relation to the peacetime industrial establishment available in each district for ordnance production are 13 in number and are known, respectively, as the Baltimores, Boston, Bridgeport, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rochester, San Francisco and St. Louis districts.

"The chief of the districts so far appointed are as follows (The military titles, where used, indicating reserve commission): Colonel C. H. Tenney, at Boston; Colonel B. A. Franklin, at Bridgeport; E. A. Russell, Chicago; C. L. Harrison, at Cincinnati; Colonel Bascom Little, at Cleveland; F. J. Robinson, at Detroit; Colonel John R. Delafield, at New York; J. C. Jones, at Philadelphia; R. M. Dravo, at Pittsburgh, and M. E. Singleton, at St. Louis. "These men will have the war-time job of procuring 90 per cent of ordnance material, as government arsenals can produce at most but 10 per cent. It is to be noted that this entire project rests upon the patriotic willingness of civilians, be they reserve officers or not, who have volunteered to undertake this work."

### Fall to Go, Says Rumor.

Washington, D. C.—The dull days immediately preceding the holidays in Washington are always fruitful of rumors of expected resignations of cabinet members. This time, according to a report broadcast Friday, Albert Bacon Fall, secretary of the interior, is to resign soon and is to be succeeded by Carmi Thompson of Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Thompson was assistant secretary of the interior during a part of the Taft administration and later secretary to President Taft. He also was the unsuccessful candidate for governor of Ohio in the November election.

### Soviet Claims Victory.

Moscow.—After six months of watchful waiting the United States suddenly has arrived at the conclusion that soviet Russia was a real factor in world economics and must be reckoned with, according to an assertion made by M. Kameneff, president of the Moscow soviet, at the opening of the all-Russian congress Saturday.

M. Kameneff spoke in the place of M. Lenine, the premier who, he announced, had prepared an extensive report, but deferring to the advice of his doctor would not leave his home for several days, owing to the fact that he was ill from overwork.

### Many Offenders Freed.

Rome.—The amnesty decree just signed by King Victor Emmanuel covers all civil and military crimes committed in connection with national movements or aims and also crimes caused by disturbances due to economic or social causes, with the exception of those for which imprisonment for more than three years had been imposed. It does not apply to offenses committed for exclusively personal motives.

## AMERICA IS ASKED TO FIX INDEMNITY

Plan Emerges From Effort to Find Solution.

COMMISSION WANTED

Negotiations Kept Out of Government Channels; Action Carried on Behind Scenes.

Washington, D. C.—A plan under which an American commission would determine how much Germany should be required to pay the allies in reparations has emerged from the effort to find a way for extending American aid toward solution of the economic troubles of Europe.

Although discussions of the proposal have been kept thus far outside the formal channels of diplomacy, the exchange of views has developed a thorough understanding in authoritative circles that the United States, Great Britain and Germany are willing to consent to the creation of such a commission.

The plan now is before Premier Poincare of France and he is expected to make a decision after conferences with industrial heads of his own country and of Germany. It is assumed that it will be communicated later to all the nations interested in reparation payments.

Officials of the Washington government Thursday refused to discuss the plan for an American commission. Secretary Hughes, however, issued a statement saying that the "government" had presented no "proposal" on the subject.

The procedure by which all of those directly interested are sounded out before any definite "proposal" is submitted with government authority behind it is the usual method employed in negotiations of great delicacy. The secretary's statement recalled an assertion made a few days ago by a White House spokesman, who said, in discussing the American attitude toward Europe, that it would not be proper to display on the stage all that was taking place behind the scenes.

The plan for an American commission first was disclosed early Friday in a dispatch from London, where the proposal has been actively under discussion. The dispatch credited the chamber of commerce of the United States with having first laid the suggestion before Secretary Hughes and it was learned here that much of the actual discussion which has taken place since that time has been conducted on behalf of the American industry by officials of the chamber.

At the state department there was a disposition to draw a sharp line of distinction between the activities of American and other business men in regard to the problem and the moves made by government officials themselves. It became clear, however, that the two groups had kept in close touch and that not only Secretary Hughes, but Secretary Hoover and others high in the administration were fully advised of efforts made by President Julius H. Barnes of the chamber of commerce and men in England, France and Germany who hold similar posts in the industrial world, to find a formula for solution of the reparations problem.

### Klan Garb Prohibited.

Harrison, N. J.—Instructions to arrest any one appearing in the city wearing the regalia of the Ku Klux Klan and orders to have the sanity of all such persons determined by physicians, were posted Friday by Chief of Police Walsh.

The orders, adopted by the common council, also include the unmasking of hooded individuals and ten days' imprisonment.

### Ford Buys Big Tract.

Chicago.—The Ford Motor company has closed a deal for a 70-acre tract of land at Hegewisch on the Calumet river and Nickel Plate railroad, where the company expects to build an automobile manufacturing and assembling plant employing 15,000 men and costing \$6,000,000 when completed.

### Georgia Hit By Winter.

Atlanta, Ga.—With one section covered with sleet and ice and forecasts for snow, and another section slushing through rain with temperatures slightly above freezing, the south Friday was in the grip of its first blast of winter. Miami and points on the Florida peninsula, however, still were bathed in sunshine, with average temperatures of 70 degrees.

# The Mardi Gras Mystery

By H. BEDFORD-JONES

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## FELL AND LUCIE

SYNOPSIS—During the height of the New Orleans carnival season Jachin Fell, wealthy though somewhat mysterious citizen, and Dr. Anselmy, are discussing a series of robberies by an individual known as the Midnight Masquer, who, invariably attired as an aviator, has long defied the police. Joseph Maillard, wealthy banker, is giving a ball that night, at which the Masquer has threatened to appear and rob the guests. Fell and Anselmy, on their way to the affair, meet a girl dressed as Columbine, seemingly known to Fell, but masked, who accompanies them to the ball. Lucie Ledanois, recently the ward of her uncle, Joseph Maillard, is the Columbine. At the ball, Bob Maillard, son of the banker, again proposes to her and is refused. He offers to buy some of her property. A Franciscan monk interests her. He turns out to be Prince Gramont. In his library Joseph Maillard and a group of his friends are held up and robbed by the Midnight Masquer. Lucie Ledanois, the last of an old family, is in straitened circumstances. Joseph Maillard's handling of her funds has been unfortunate. Fell is an old friend of her parents and deeply interested in the girl. Henry Gramont, really the Prince de Gramont, is enamored of Lucie.

## CHAPTER IV—Continued.

"You saw him?" repeated the girl, quickly. "What was he like? Do you know who he is?"

"Certainly I know," replied Fell, still smiling at her.

"Oh! Then who is he?"

"Softly, softly, young lady! I know him, but even to you I dare not breathe his name until I obtain some direct evidence. Let us call him Mr. X, after the approved methods of romance, and I shall expound what I know."

"The bandit did not enter the house during the evening, nor did he leave, nor was he found in the house afterward," he went on, tonelessly. "So, incredible as it may appear, he was one of the guests. This Mr. X came to the dance wearing the aviator's costume, or most of it, underneath his masquerade costume. When he was ready to act, he doffed his outer costume, appeared as the Midnight Masquer, effected his purpose, then calmly donned his outer costume again and resumed his place among the guests. You understand?"

"Well, then! Maillard yesterday received a note from the Masquer, brazenly stating that he intended to call during the evening. I have that note. It was written with an extremely hard pencil, such as few men carry, because it does not easily make very legible writing. Last night I asked Mr. X for a pencil, and he produced one with an extra hard lead—mentioning that he had borrowed it from Bob Maillard, as indeed he had."

"What! Surely you don't mean—"

"Of course I don't. Mr. X is very clever, that's all. Here is what took place last night. Mr. X brought us another note from the Masquer, saying that he had found it planned to the library door. As a matter of fact, he had written it on a leaf torn from his notebook. I took the note from him, observing at the time that the paper had no pin holes. Probably Mr. X saw that there was something amiss; he presently went back downstairs, took the remainder of the torn leaf from his notebook, and pinned it to the door. A little later I met him and mentioned the lack of pin holes; he calmly referred me to the piece on the door, saying that he had merely torn off the note without removing the pins. You follow me?"

"Of course," murmured the girl, her eyes wide in fascinated interest. "And he knew that you guessed him to be the Masquer?"

"He suspected me, I think," said Fell, mildly. "It is understood that you will not go about tracing these little clues?"

"Don't be silly, Uncle Jachin!" she broke in. "You know I'll do nothing of the sort. Go on, please! Did you find the airplane?"

"Yes," Jachin Fell smiled dryly. "I was thinking of that as I left the house and came to the line of waiting automobiles. A word with one of the outside detectives showed me that one of the cars in the street had been testing its engine about midnight. I found that the car belonged to Mr. X."

"How simple, Lucie, and how very clever! The chauffeur worked a powerful motor with a muffler cut out at about the time Mr. X, inside the house, was making his appearance. It scarcely sounded like an airplane motor, yet frightened and startled, people would imagine that it did. Thus arose the legend that the Midnight Masquer came and departed by means of airplane—a theory aided ingeniously by his costume. Well, that is all I know or suspect, my dear Lucie! And now—"

"Now, I suppose," said the girl, thoughtfully, "you'll put that awful Creeds of yours on the track of Mr. X? Ben Chachere is a good chauffeur, and he's amusing enough—but he's a bloodhound! I don't wonder that he used to be criminal. Even if you have rescued him from a life of crime, you haven't improved his looks."

"Exactly—Ben is at work," asserted Jachin Fell. "The gentleman under suspicion is very prominent. To accuse him without proof would be utter folly. To catch him in flagrante delicto will be difficult. So I am in no haste. Besides, I can as yet discover no motive for his crimes, since he is quite well off financially. Well, no matter! Now that I have fully unbosomed myself, my dear, it is your turn."

"All right, Uncle Jachin." Lucie took a large morocco case from the chair beside her, and extended it. "You lent me these things to wear last night, and I—"

"No, no," intervened Fell. "I gave them to you, my dear—in fact, I gave them to you two years ago, and kept them until now! You have worn them; they are yours, and you become them better than even did poor Queen Hortense! So say no more."

Lucie leaned forward and imprinted a kiss upon the cheek of the little gray man. "There! that is all the thanks I can give you, dear uncle; the gift makes me very happy, and I'll not pretend otherwise. Only, I feel as though I had no right to wear them—they're so wonderful!"

"Nonsense! But all this isn't why you summoned me here, you bundle of mystery! What bothered you last night, or rather, who?"

Lucie laughed. "There was a Franciscan who tried to be very mysterious, and to read my mind. He talked about all, about a grasping, hard man, and mentioned you as my friend. Then he warned me against a proposal that Bob might make; and sure enough, Bob did propose to buy what land is left to me on Bayou Terrebonne, saying he'd persuade his old company that there was oil on it, and that they'd buy or lease it. I told him no. The Franciscan, afterward, proved to be Henry Gramont; I wondered if you had mentioned—"

"Heaven forbid!" exclaimed Mr. Fell, plausibly. "I never even met Gramont until last night! Do you like him?"

"Very much." The girl's eyes met his frankly. "Do you?"

"Very much," said Jachin Fell. "Lucie's gray eyes narrowed, searched his face. "I'm almost able to tell when you're lying," she observed

"And we'll take a look at the Proteus ball afterward, if you like. I'll send Ben Chachere for you with the car, if you're not afraid of him."

"I'm not exactly afraid of him," Lucie responded, soberly, "but there is something about him that I can't like. I'm sorry that you're trying to regenerate him, in a way."

Fell shrugged lightly. "All life is an effort, little one! Well, goodbye."

Jachin Fell left the house at three-thirty. Twenty minutes later the bell rang again. Lucie sent one of the servants to admit Henry Gramont; she kept him waiting a full fifteen minutes before she appeared, and then she made no apologies whatever for the delay.

Not that Gramont minded waiting; he deemed it a privilege to linger in this house! He loved to study the place, so reflective of its owner. He loved the white Colonial mantel that surrounded the fireplace, perpetually alight, with its gleaming sheen of old brasses, and the glittering fire-set to one side. The very air of the place, the atmosphere that it breathed, was sweet to him.

The Napoleon bed that filled the bow window, with its pillows and soft coverings; the inlaid walnut cabinet made by Sheraton, with its quaintly curved glass that reflected the old-time curios within; the tilt tables, the rosewood chairs, the rugs, bought before the oriental rug market was flooded with machine-made Senna knots—about everything here had an air of comfort, of long use, of restfulness. It was not the sort of place built up, raw item by raw item, by the color-frenzied hands of decorators. It was the sort of place that decorators strive desperately to imitate, and cannot.

When she made her appearance, Gramont bent over her hand and addressed her in French.

"You are charming as ever, Shining One! And in years to come you will be still more charming. That is the beauty of having a name taken direct from the classics and bestowed as a good fairy's gift—"

"Thank you, monsieur—but you have translated my name at least twenty times, and I am weary of hearing it," responded Lucie, laughingly.

"Poor taste, mademoiselle, to grow weary of such beauty!"

"Not of the name, but of your excesses upon it. Why should I not be displeased? Last night you were positively rude, and now you decry my taste! Did you leave all your manners in France, M. le prince?"

"You ask anybody on the inside if they ever heard of Memphis Izzy Gumbert!"

ten or spoken rather frankly, perhaps. Also, Bob may have blabbed to him. Bob still drinks—prohibition has not hit him very hard!"

"No," agreed Fell, gravely. "Unfortunately, no. Lucie, I've discovered a most important fact. Joseph Maillard did not own any stock in the Bayou Oil company at the time your land was sold them by him, and he had no interest at all in the real estate concern that bought your St. Landry swamp lands and made a fortune off them. We have really blamed him most unjustly. I do not believe that he has profited in the least from you. His investments in the companies concerned were made afterward, and I am certain he sold the lands innocently."

Lucie drew a deep breath. "I am glad you have said this," she returned simply. "It's been hard for me to think that Uncle Joseph had taken advantage of me; I think that he honestly likes me, as far as he permits himself to like anyone."

"He'd not loan you money on it," said Fell. "Friendship isn't a tangible security with him."

"Well, who really did profit by my loss? Anyone?"

Fell's pale gray eyes twinkled, then cleared in their usually wide innocence. "My dear Lucie, is there one person in this world to whose faults Joseph Maillard is deliberately blind—one person to whom he would refuse nothing, in whom he would pardon everything, of whom he would never believe any evil report?"

"You mean—" Lucie drew a quick breath—"Bob?"

"Yes, I mean Bob. That he has profited by your loss I am not yet in a position to say; but I suspect it. When I have finished with the Masquer, I shall take up his trail."

Jachin Fell rose. "Now I must be off, my dear. Will you dine with us tomorrow evening, Lucie? My mother commanded me to bring you as soon as possible—"

"Oh, your mother!" exclaimed the girl, contritely. "I was so absorbed in the Masquer that I forgot to ask after her. How is she?"

"Quite as usual, thank you."

"I'll come tomorrow night gladly, Uncle Jachin."

"And we'll take a look at the Proteus ball afterward, if you like. I'll send Ben Chachere for you with the car, if you're not afraid of him."

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(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Daily Thought.

Virtue is bold and goodness never fearful.—Shakespeare.

