

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.

The lower house of the Michigan legislature Tuesday voted down a capital punishment bill. The vote was close, the measure losing 51 to 46.

A slight earthquake was felt in El Paso, Texas, at 10:05 o'clock Tuesday night. Buildings were slightly shaken and windows rattled, but no damage was reported.

Egyptian vases and sculptured figures dating from a period 3000 years before Tutankhamen have been purchased by the joint board of the Montreal theological colleges, it was announced Tuesday.

Andrew J. Vojtead, retiring chairman of the house judiciary committee, Monday met with his colleagues for the last time around the table on which the prohibition enforcement act was drafted. He received a gold watch as a token of esteem.

Burglars who used the hoisting crane of the establishment carried off the safe of the Grandma Cookie company in San Francisco Monday night, took it to a vacant lot, broke it open and appropriated the \$350 it contained. The safe was found in the lot.

A Reuter dispatch from Constantinople quotes the Turkish News Agency with reporting a revolt in the neighborhood of Aleppo, northern Syria, against "French oppression." The dispatch says five French soldiers were killed in an encounter with rebels.

The alien population of the United States increased 24,541 during January. Labor department figures show that 28,773 immigrant aliens were admitted during the month and that 4232 left the country. Aliens denied admission numbered 1569 and 284 were deported.

Ten thousand gallons of fine wines, whiskeys, champagnes and other liquors, seized at Keefer's hotel in Boston in the south end a year ago, were returned Tuesday to the owners by the federal court. It was the largest lot taken by prohibition enforcement officials in New England.

The Turkish national assembly at Ankara has rejected the Lausanne treaty, according to a Constantinople dispatch. An official telegram from Ankara, it was announced, stated that the assembly gave its decision Tuesday afternoon that the draft treaty of Lausanne was unacceptable, as it was contrary to the national pact.

Twenty-three of 35 mail clerks arrested last fall in connection with mail thefts at the Union Pacific transfer mail terminal in Council Bluffs, Ia., Tuesday were fined \$1000 and costs each by Federal Judge Wade, who remitted half of the fine of each man and gave each of them six months for the payment of the balance.

The competition of the open seas has driven so many privately owned American ships into the coastal trade that the shipping board's bureau of research Monday characterized the increased coastal movement of cargoes as "the most marked development in the employment of ships under the United States flag during the past year."

The biennial programme of Washington state highway construction and maintenance, including an appropriation of \$10,314,248 out of the motor vehicle fund for the two years' work and apportioning that amount over the state highway system, which was passed by the senate Tuesday, was adopted by the house with only a minor amendment.

In order that every ex-service person of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, believing that he or she has a just claim for government compensation because of war disabilities, may take advantage of the United States veterans' bureau service, American Legion posts, disabled veterans' organizations, Veterans of Foreign Wars and all welfare organizations are urged to notify the Seattle district office of the bureau when such cases come to their attention.

FARM LOANS TO BEGIN SOON

Machinery Being Erected to Finance Early Spring Planting.

Washington, D. C.—The federal farm loan board, at the conclusion Saturday of a three-day conference with the federal land bank presidents, gave assurance that farmers of the country would have the benefit of the government's financial aid, authorized in the recently enacted rural credits legislation, by the time the spring planting begins. While it appeared that not all of the new credit machinery would be in operation at the time indicated, it was declared that the government-financed intermediate credit banks would be ready to receive applications for and to make loans in about two weeks.

The land bank heads, together with the loan board, spent part of the day discussing with members of congress ways and means of getting all federal agencies having to do with farm credits into closer co-operation. The bank officials also called on Secretary Wallace and plan to see Secretary Mellon and the war finance corporation directors early next week.

It was indicated that an early announcement might be made by the farm loan board regarding the methods it will employ in extending to the farmers the aid contemplated in the new laws. It was said some "rough places" might have to be smoothed out by new legislation.

Commissioner Lobdell of the farm loan board said the board and the land banks, which are charged directly with the administration of the new intermediate credit banks, were bending every effort to put the necessary machinery into operation.

47 LIVES IS TOLL IN FIERCE STORM

Chicago.—A harvest of 36 deaths was reaped by the unprecedented March storm which swept the country Sunday night and early Monday, paralyzing wire communication, stalling transportation systems, wrecking buildings and causing a property damage running far into the millions. Two of the fatalities were in Chicago.

Although the south was the worst sufferer, the blizzard spread itself over the whole territory lying between the Rocky mountains on the west and the Appalachian range on the east. Some sections were pelted with a driving sleet, while others were subjected to a torrential deluge of rain, whipped by a gale reaching a velocity as high as 80 miles an hour.

Rail Earnings Increase.

Washington, D. C.—Railroad earnings during January were more than twice those in January, 1922, according to tabulations of interstate commerce commission reports made public last week by the association of railway executives. They amounted to \$69,654,700 against \$29,486,000 last year and represented, the association's statement said, an income of 5.54 per cent annually on the value of property investment in transportation service.

These returns include practically all the class 1 carriers owning 90 per cent of all the country's rail mileage. The earnings resulted from a record-breaking increase of business given the roads during the month.

In addition to operating expenses, taxes, rentals and other charges not shown in the executives' expenses are subtracted from the total revenues before the net income is estimated.

Thieves Wear Uniforms.

Seattle.—Two men dressed as sailors early Sunday night robbed a cigar store in the heart of the main business district of more than \$1000. One of the men covered the clerk with a pistol while the other jumped over the counter, opened the door of the safe, which was unlocked, and scooped out the currency which he stuffed into the pocket of his jacket. The two men walked quietly out of the store and were lost in the crowd.

Torch Starts Big Fire.

Pittsburg.—A spark from a torch used by a structural worker Monday caused a fire which, fanned by a 52-miles-an-hour gale, swept through the plant of the Federal Enameling & Stamping company at McKees Rocks, a suburb. Many small homes adjacent to the scene were destroyed. Loss was estimated at \$250,000.

"Flu" Rages in Japan.

Tokyo.—Influenza is again claiming a large number of victims in Japan. Since January 1 the number of deaths from this disease has exceeded 7500 in Tokio alone, according to official reports, and the number of new cases is increasing daily.

Tokyo.—More than 120 persons were murdered in Tokio during the six weeks ending February 14. This is a record. In most of the cases there were several victims, who were murdered by robbers or lunatics.

2 FRENCH SLAIN IN GERMAN CITY

Feeling Is Running High in Recklinghausen.

BURGOMASTER HELD

100,000,000 Marks Penalty to Be Imposed on Town by Invading Army—Police Arrested.

Recklinghausen.—Two Frenchmen, one an officer and the other a civilian railroad man, were slain Saturday night in the streets of the mining town of Buer, near Recklinghausen.

Each body when found had five bullet wounds in it. One of the victims was Lieutenant-Colonel Tim of the chasseurs and the other M. Joly, chief of the Buere station.

Unrest and discontent among the population of the Recklinghausen district have been smoldering for several days. Feeling was running high on both sides. The slaying of the Frenchmen is considered the most serious affair since the occupation of the region began.

General Lalngelot, commanding the district, ordered the arrest of the burgo-master of Buer, the assistant burgo-master, the chief of police and two other town officials. All of them are being held by the French as hostages.

The French authorities asserted that a penalty of at least 100,000,000 marks would be imposed upon the town of Buer and public places. No trace has been found of the slayers of the two Frenchmen.

Indications of renewed active resistance among German individuals were reported by the French intelligence officers during the last week. Several German secret organizations with headquarters here are said to have been formed to oppose the French in every way possible.

The mines in the Recklinghausen district, three of which are state mines, continue in operation, but with the production greatly reduced. The French say that a limited number of miners go down the shaft daily, but work only three hours, spending the remainder of their time playing cards or in other amusements, notwithstanding they are receiving full pay. The sending of the men to the mines is said to have been adopted in order to keep them off the streets.

Several persons have been arrested in Bochum in connection with the discovery of a box of hand grenades in the German prison.

Rice Poisons 250 in Chinese School.

Shanghai.—A report received here from Hangchow, capital of the province of Cheking, said 200 students and 50 teachers were poisoned, 11 students and two servants having died, as a result of eating supper at the first normal school Saturday, on the first day of the new term. Scores are reported to be desperately ill, many thought to be dying. It is believed poisoned rice was served at the supper. All available physicians are at work trying to save as many victims as possible. No motive for the reported poisoning has been discovered.

Six Die in Storms at Sea.

Halifax, N. S.—The Gloucester fishing schooner Elizabeth Howard limped into this port Sunday with 18 of the crew of the lost Nova Scotia fishing schooner Helen M. Coolen safe on board, but with news of the loss of six lives during the terrific storms of last week. The Elizabeth Howard reported that the Helen M. Coolen foundered on the banks. In the same storm a huge sea struck the Howard, carrying off four men.

Pirates Loot Schooner.

Halifax, N. S.—Pirates held up and robbed the British schooner Eddie James of 600 cases of whisky and \$6000 in cash and also carried off the supercargo of the schooner when she was at anchor off New York on March 2. Captain Mosher of the James reported the robbery when the schooner arrived here Sunday.

Spanish Leader Slain.

Barcelona.—Salvador Segur, leader of the syndicalist party and known as "Noy del Sucre" was shot and killed in the street Saturday night by a band of unidentified assassins. The shooting caused a panic and shopkeepers fled in the belief that the syndicalists had once more started a revolution.



The MARDI GRAS MYSTERY

by H. Bedford Jones

Illustrations by Irwin Myers

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CHAPTER XI

—16—

The Gangsters.

Gramont left the covert and walked forward. He was thinking about that odd mention of Jachin Fell—had Chacherre lied in saying he had come here on his master's business? Perhaps. The man had come in Fell's car, and would not hesitate to lie about using the car. For the moment Gramont put away the circumstance, but did not forget it.

He walked openly toward the Gumberts buildings, thinking that he would have time for a good look around the place before dusk fell; he would then get off for Houma and attend to Hammond's defense.

As for the place before him, he was convinced that it was abandoned. Had any one, other than Chacherre and his two friends, been about the buildings, the late excitement would have brought out the fact. No one had appeared and the buildings seemed vacant.

Gramont's intent was simple and straightforward. In case he found, as he expected to find, any evidence of illegal occupation about the place—as the sheriff seemed to have discovered to his cost—he would lay Chacherre and the other two men by the heels that night in Houma. He would then go on to New Orleans and have Gumberts arrested, although he had no expectation that the master crook could be held on the murder-accessory charge. If this place were used for the lotteries, even, he was fairly certain that Memphis Izzy would have his own tracks covered. The men higher up always did.

He walked straight in upon the barn. It loomed before him, closed, lurid in the level rays of the western sun. The doors in front had been only loosely swung together and Gramont found them unlocked. He stood in the opening, and surprise gripped him. He was held motionless, gazing with astonished wonder at the sight confronting him.

Directly before him was a small roadster, one which he remembered to have seen Jachin Fell using; in this car, doubtless, Ben Chacherre had driven from the city. He recalled the fact later, with poignant regret for a lost opportunity. But, at the present moment, he was lost in amazement at the great number of other cars presenting themselves to his view.

They were lined up as deep as the barn would hold them, crammed into every available foot of space; well over a dozen cars, he reckoned swiftly. What was more, all were cars of the highest class, with the exception of Fell's roadster. Directly before him were two which he was well aware must have cost close upon ten thousand each. What did this mean? Certainly no one man or one group of men, in this back-country spot, could expect to use such an accumulation of expensive cars!

Gramont glanced around, but found no trace of machinery in the barn. Remembering the motor that he had heard, he turned from the doorway in frowning perplexity. He strode on toward the long shed which stood closer to the house. At the end of this shed was a door, and when he tried it, Gramont found it unlocked. It swung open to his hand, and he stepped inside.

At first he paused, confused by the vague objects around, for it was quite dark in here. A moment, and his eyes grew accustomed to the gloomer lighting. Details came to him: all around were cars and fragments of cars, chassis and bodies in all stages of dismemberment. Still more cars!

He slowly advanced to a long bench that ran the length of the shop beneath the windows. A shop, indeed—a shop, he quickly perceived, fitted with every tool and machine necessary to the most complete automobile repair establishment! Even an air-brush outfit, at one end, together with a drying compartment, spoke of repair jobs.

Comprehension was slowly dawning upon the mind of Gramont; a moment later it became certainty, when he came to a stop before an automobile engine lying on the bench. He found it to be the engine from a Stutz—the latest multi-valve type adopted by that make of car, and this particular bit of machinery looked like new.

Gramont inspected it, and he saw that the men had done their work well. The original engine number had been carefully dug out, and the place was carefully filled and leveled with metal. Beside it a new number had been stamped. A glance at the electrical equipment around showed that these workers had every appliance with which to turn out the most finished job.

As he straightened up from the en-

gine Gramont's eyes fell upon a typed sheet of paper affixed to the wall above the bench. His gaze widened as he inspected it by the falling light. Upon that paper was a list of cars. After each car was a series of numbers, probably comprising the original numbers of the engine, body, radiator and other component parts, followed by another series of new numbers to be inserted. That sheet of paper showed brains, organizing ability, care and attention to the last detail!

Here was the most carefully planned and thorough system of automobile thievery that Gramont had ever heard of. He stood motionless, knowing that this typed sheet of paper in itself was damning evidence against the whole gang of workers. What was more to the point, that paper could be traced; the typewriting could be traced to the man higher up—doubtless Memphis Izzy himself! These men ran in cars by the wholesale, probably from states adjacent to Louisiana. Here, at this secluded point on the bayou, they changed the cars completely about, in number, paint, style of body, and then probably got rid of the new product in New Orleans.

Gramont stood motionless. Surprise had taken hold of him, and even a feeling of slight dismay. This was not at all what he had hoped to find there. He had thought to come upon some traces of the lottery game—

"Seen all you want, bo?" said a voice behind him.

Gramont turned. He found himself gazing directly into an automatic pistol over which glittered a pair of blazing eyes. The man was a stranger to him. The place had not been deserted, after all. He was caught.

"Who are you?" demanded Gramont, quietly.

"Me?" The stranger was unsmiling, deadly. In those glittering eyes Gramont read the ferocity of an animal

at bay. "I s'pose you would like to know that, huh? I guess you know enough right now to get all that's comin' to you, bo! Got any particular business here? Speak up quick!"

Gramont was silent. The other sneered at him, viciously.

"Hurry up! Turn over the name and address, and I'll notify the survivin' relatives. Name, please?"

"Henry Gramont," was the calm response. "Don't get hasty, my friend. Didn't you see me here a little while ago with Chacherre and the other boys?"

"What's that?" The glittering eyes flamed up with suspicion and distrust. "Here—with them? No, I didn't. I been away fishing all afternoon. What the b—l you doing around this joint?"

"Your best scheme," said Gramont, coldly, "is to change your style of tone, add to do it in a hurry! If you don't know what's happened here this afternoon, don't ask me; you'll find out soon enough when the other boys get back. You'd better tell them I'm going to get in touch with Memphis Izzy the minute I get back to the city, and that the less talking they do—"

"What the b—l's all this?" demanded the other again, but with a softening of accent. The moniker of Gumberts had its effect, and seemed to shake the man instantly. Gramont smiled as he perceived that the game was won.

"I never heard of no Gramont," went on the other, quickly. "What you doin' here?"

"You're due to learn a good many things, I imagine," said Gramont, carelessly. "As for me, I happened on the place largely by accident. I happen-

to be in partnership with a man named Jachin Fell, and I came out here on business—"

To Gramont's astonishment the pistol was lowered instantly. It was well that he ceased speaking, for what he had just said proved to be open to misconception, and if he had said any more he would have spoiled it. For the man facing him was staring at him in mingled disgust and surprise.

"You're in partnership with the boss!" came the astounding words. "Well, why in b—l didn't you say all that in the first place, instead o' beefin' around? That's no way to butt in, and me thinking you was some dick on the job! Got anything to prove that you ain't pullin' something cute on me?"

"Do you know Fell's writing?" asked Gramont, with difficulty forcing himself to meet the situation coherently. Jachin Fell—the boss!

"I know his mitt, all right."

From his pocket Gramont produced a paper—the memorandum or agreement which he had drawn up with Fell the previous afternoon, relating to the oil company. The other man took it and switched on an electric light bulb overhead. In this glare he was revealed as a ratty little individual with open mouth and teeth hanging out—an adonoidal type, and certainly a criminal type.

It crossed the mind of Gramont that one blow would do the work—but he stood motionless. No sudden game would help him here. The discovery that Fell was "the boss" paralyzed him completely. He had never dreamed of such a contingency. Fell, of all men!

Jachin Fell the "boss" of this establishment! Jachin Fell the man higher up—the brains behind this criminal organization! It was a perfect thunderbolt to Gramont. Now he understood why Chacherre was in the employ of Fell—why no arrest of the man had been possible! Now he perceived that Chacherre must have told the truth about coming here on business for Fell. Reaching farther back, he saw that Fell must have received the loot of the Midnight Masquer, must have turned it over to Lucie Ledanols—

Did she know?

"All right, Mr. Gramont." The ratty little man turned to him with evident change of front. "We ain't takin' no chances here, y'understand. Got quite a shipment of cars comin' in from Texas, and we're tryin' to get some o' these boats cleaned out to make room. Bring out any orders?"

Gramont's brain worked fast. By overcoming this guttersnipe he might have the whole place at his mercy—but that was not what he wanted. He suddenly realized that he had other and more important fish to fry in New Orleans. Gumberts was there. Fell was there. What he must do demanded time, and his best play was to gain all the time possible, and to prevent this gang from suspecting him in any way.

"Did you see Ben Chacherre?" he countered.

"Uh-huh—seen him just after he come. Gumberts will be out day after tomorrow, he said. The boss is frammin' some sort of deal on a guy that he wants laid away—some guy name o' Hammond. Chacherre is running it. He figgers on gettin' Hammond on account of some car that's been bunted up—"

Gramont laughed suddenly, for there was a grin humor about the thing. So Jachin Fell wanted to "get something" on poor Hammond! And Chacherre had seized the golden opportunity that presented itself this afternoon—instead of "getting" Hammond for the theft of a car, Chacherre had coolly fastened murder upon him!

"Ben is one smart man; I expect he thinks the pods are working for him," said Gramont, thinly. "So you don't know what happened today, eh? Well, it's great news, but I've got no time to talk about it. They'll tell you when they get back—"

"Where'd they go?" demanded the other.

"Houma. Now listen close! Chacherre did not know that I was in partnership with the boss, get me? I didn't want to tell all the crowd in front of him. Between you and me, the boss isn't any too sure about Ben—"

"Say, I get you there!" broke in the other, sagely. "I tells him six months ago to watch out for that Creole guy!"

"Exactly. You can tell the boys about me when they come back—I don't suppose Ben will be with them. Now, I've been looking over that place next door—"

"Oh!" exclaimed the other, suddenly. "Sure! The boss said that one of his friends would be down to—"

"I'm the one—or one of them," and Gramont chuckled as he reflected on the ludicrous aspects of the whole affair. "I'm going to Houma now, and then back to the city. My car's over next door. Mr. Fell wanted me to warn you to lay low on the lottery business. He's got a notion that some one's been talking."

"You go tell the boss," retorted the other in an aggrieved tone, "to keep his eye on the guys that can talk. Who'd we talk to here? Besides, we're workin' our heads off on these here boats. Memphis Izzy is attending to the lottery—he's got the whole layout up to the house, and we ain't touchin' it, see? Tell the boss all that."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

'Twould Seem So.

New York man wooed and won his bride by mail, which is the most expensive correspondence school course known.

Richard Wagner, the great composer, was the youngest of nine children.