

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 residence of Sir Thomas Henry Grattan Esmonde, a free state senator, at Gorey, county Wexford, Ireland, was burned to the ground Saturday.

A Reuter dispatch from Helsingfors Tuesday said Premier Lenine of soviet Russia had an apoplectic stroke Monday. His condition, the message added, was said to be serious.

A woman with her head almost severed from her body and the body of a man with two bullet wounds in his head were found Monday by the housekeeper of an apartment building in Mount Auburn, a suburb of Cincinnati. A bloodstained hatchet was found on the floor near the bodies.

Formal demand that impeachment charges be brought against State Treasurer Thompson and State Auditor Turner were made to the Kansas legislature Tuesday in a special message by Governor Davis.

The state supreme court upheld Tuesday the validity of the Iowa bonus law. Affirmation of the lower court's decision that the bonus law is valid practically assures soldiers, sailors, marines and nurses who served from Iowa in the world war adjusted compensation at the rate of 50 cents a day.

The village of Braschi, in the province of Piacenza, is threatened with burial under a landslide caused by the infiltration of water from the upper slopes of the Apennines. The movement of the earth already has engulfed several houses and buried some livestock. The population has evacuated the village.

The German population of the Recklinghausen district has been warned by General Laignelot, commanding the district, it was announced Tuesday, that if any further French troops are assassinated or ambushed, the burgo-master of Buer, who is held as a hostage, together with four other town officials, will be shot at once as a measure of retaliation.

Brigadier-General Frank T. Hines, the new director of the veterans' bureau, said Monday his policy for operation of the bureau would be based on elimination of "red tape" in handling veterans' claims, preventing the "hard-boiled" methods in treatment of veterans and a speeding-up of hospital work so as to give immediate relief wherever needed.

The request from China for the abrogation of the Sino-Japanese treaty of 1915 was received in Tokio Monday by the Japanese foreign office. The Japanese reply to China has been drafted for submission to the cabinet next Tuesday. The nature of the reply may be judged by the government's repeated statements that such a request will be flatly refused.

President Harding was reported here Tuesday to have had a hand in the publication by the Washington Post of the names of prominent citizens of Washington, officers of the army and navy and officials of the state department which were found listed in papers seized by prohibition officers in a recent raid on premises of a capital bootlegger. The list is now being referred to as Washington's "Booze Who."

In an effort to determine the truth of numerous reports in the last two years that the alkali lake near Hay Springs, Neb., is inhabited by a hideous, prehistoric monster, citizens of that place have begun preparations to drag the lake in the near future. A large crowd is expected to gather for the event. The "mysterious monster" has been seen by a half dozen prominent citizens of this community, according to reports.

Claims of material reductions in appropriations for the fiscal year 1924 under those of 1923 were made in statements inserted Tuesday in the Congressional Record by Chairmen Madden and Warren of the house and senate appropriations committees. At the same time Representative Byrnes of Tennessee, ranking democrat of the house committee, asserted that when the deficiencies for the next year were totaled the outlay would amount to more than that of 1923.

GERMANY'S NOTE IS SECRET

What Result Will Be Still In Doubt. Ruhr Evacuation Is First.

Berlin.—Whether Germany's last memorandum on the Ruhr situation and the reparations question will prove a useful contribution to possible early endeavors through third parties to force a breach in the Franco-German impasse, so far has brought out only a limited amount of speculative discussion in German political and financial circles.

The memorandum, delivered in Washington and London last Friday, while addressed to the American and British governments, to inform them of the German view of the situation, incidentally was intended to be made available to France and Belgium through diplomatic channels, it was officially explained Monday. The American government has decided to keep the contents secret. Official quarters declined to comment further, except to declare that it was up to France to create an atmosphere, which would be conducive to negotiations and that the memorandum could be in nowise regarded as a formal attempt to obtain the intervention of an Anglo-Saxon power in the Ruhr situation.

Foreign Minister Baron Von Rosenberg has not suffered from lack of counsel, which is being showered on him from many quarters, semi-diplomatic and otherwise—a circumstance which is continually stimulating rumors of impending negotiations.

Parliamentary leaders who are regularly consulted by Chancellor Cuno and Baron Von Rosenberg continue to concur in the current interpretation of the government's position that no basis for negotiations can exist until tangible assurance is given Germany that the Ruhr will be definitely freed from military occupation the instant a new understanding with respect to reparations is reached. Any suggestion that the occupation be reduced by zones will be promptly rejected by the German government, it is declared.

On this point the government, it is declared, has the complete support of the reichstag, the socialists in particular contending that every vestige of Franco-Belgian armed control or occupancy would be a detrimental factor to the fulfillment of any reparation programme.

It was emphasized again that Germany must go to the conference table unfettered, and that any resumption of reparations negotiations must proceed from a new starting point as the German government considers the London schedule of 1921, which is now supposed to be effective, not only obsolete but practically incapable of enforcement.

Russia Taxes Aliens.

Moscow.—The government has decreed that all foreigners residing in Russia, with the exception of diplomats, consular officers and persons who have made special arrangements through their connections with a concession, are subject to the same taxes as are levied on the Russians.

The present income tax takes 80 per cent of all salaries of more than \$100 monthly.

Quake Joits Dalmatia.

Belgrade.—The earthquake felt in several cities in southeastern Europe Thursday caused considerable damage along the Dalmatian coast, especially at Ragusa and Cattaro. The Catholic cathedral and other buildings at Sarajevo suffered, while a tobacco factory at Mostar was so badly damaged that it was unable to operate. So far as is known there were no casualties.

Lenine Still on Mend.

Moscow.—The general health of Premier Nikolai Lenine was reported by the attending physicians Monday as good. The bulletin issued by the doctors said there had been a further improvement in M. Lenine's arm and leg, while speech had remained unchanged.

Farm Situation Better.

Kansas City, Mo.—The conditions of the farmer in the middle west are on the upward trend, Henry C. Wallace, secretary of agriculture, said here Monday. The farmers' purchasing power is greater today than it has been for the last 2½ years, he said.

Earl of Carnarvon Ill.

Cairo, Egypt.—The earl of Carnarvon, who has been supervising the excavations at the tomb of King Tutankhamen, is suffering severely from blood poisoning. His ailment presumably is the result of an insect bite.

TURKEY PACIFIST, DELEGATE AVERS

Peace Counter-Proposal Pointed To As Evidence.

ACCEPT SOME TERMS

Possible Differences in Interpretation of Text, According to Nation, Is Possible.

Paris.—The Turkish counter-proposals to the Lausanne peace treaty draft are "replete with evidences of Turkey's pacifism, all the conditions conforming to the Ankara government's desire for peace and independence," declared Hussein Raghib Bey, the Ankara representative here.

Raghib Bey, who sat up throughout Saturday night digesting the text of this lengthy document, which reached Paris by courier, forecast possible differences in the interpretation of the text, according to which nation was doing the translation. His digest divides the Ankara project into two parts, the first being given over to those parts of the Lausanne treaty which are acceptable to the Turks, and the second to the sections which their propositions have modified.

In the first part is included Turkey's acceptance of a delay in the solution of the dispute over the Mosul oil fields between Turkey and Great Britain for one year and its reference to the league of nations for settlement if no agreement is then reached; the granting of Karagatch, the Adriatic suburb, to the Greeks; the draft treaty solution for the freedom of the streets, and the treaty's adjustment of the minorities problem. Turkey likewise accepts the appointment of three neutral judges of Turkish courts for five years and agrees to reorganize the department of justice, these stipulations being in line with the allied plan for solution of the question of the status of foreigners in the Turkish courts.

In the second part of the digest the modifications noted include the request that the frontier line between Greece and Turkey run through the middle of the river Maritza instead of along the left bank and for the possession by Turkey of the island of Castellorizza, part of the Dodecanese group, thus leaving Italy 11 of the islands. Turkey claims that Castellorizza practically belongs to the Anatolian coast.

The Turks further propose to distribute the "public debt" among the allied governments which by the treaty are confirmed in their possession of territory which belonged up to the time of the armistice to the Ottoman empire. It is argued that it is unjust to ask the Anatolian faction of that empire to sustain the burden of the entire pre-war debt. This proposal includes the debts contracted in the name of the empire during the war.

BLIZZARD WORST DURING 35 YEARS

Omaha, Neb.—The worst blizzard since 1888 struck Nebraska and western Iowa late Sunday night. The temperature dropped to 9 degrees below zero at Omaha. It is feared that there was loss of life in the state. Highways are blocked with snow drifts, towns snowbound and many trains stalled in snow-filled cuts.

At the height of the storm here fire broke out in the block at Fourteenth and Douglas streets and swept through half a block, causing a loss estimated in excess of \$250,000. The entire business district of Omaha was endangered. One fireman was hurt. The firemen experienced unprecedented difficulty in fighting the fire which, whipped by the gale, appeared several times almost beyond control. The intense cold turned the water to ice and all the men became encrusted with it. The blinding snow added to the difficulty.

The flames swept through the Beddoe Clothing company, Dan's Shoe and Clothing company and the Virginia cape.

Child Burned to Death.

Great Falls, Mont.—A 3-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rabik perished and the parents were burned terribly in a fire which destroyed their home at Scooby, Mont., early Saturday. Robik, ill of influenza, rescued one infant, saved his wife and made a vain attempt to save the other child. Cut off by flames, Rabik himself was rescued by a 10-year-old daughter. Rabik and his wife are in a critical condition at a hospital.

The Mardi Gras Mystery

By H. BEDFORD-JONES
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CHAPTER XI—Continued.

"Tell him yourself," Gramont laughed, good-humoredly. "Gumbert is coming out day after tomorrow, is he? That'll be Friday. Hm! I think that I'd better bring Fell out here the same day, if I can make it. I probably won't see Gumbert until then—I'm not working in with him and he doesn't know me yet—but I'll try and get out here on Friday with Fell. Now, I'll have to beat it in a hurry. Any message to send?"

"Not me," was the answer. Gramont scarcely knew how he departed, until he found himself scrambling back through the underbrush of the Ledanois place.

He rushed into the house, found the fire had died down beyond all danger, and swiftly removed the few things they had taken from the car. Carrying these, he stumbled back to where he had hidden the automobile. He scarcely dared to think, scarcely dared to congratulate himself on the luck that had befallen him, until he found himself in his own car once more, and with open throttle sweeping out through the twilight toward Paradise and Houma beyond. A whirlwind of mad exultation was seething within him—exultation as sudden and tremendous as the past weeks had been uneventful and dragging.

Gramont, in common with many others, had heard much indefinite rumor of an underground lottery game that was being worked among the negroes of the state and the Chinese villages along the gulf coast. And now he knew definitely.

Lotteries have never died out in Louisiana since the brave old days of the government-ordained gambles, laws and ordinances to the contrary. No laws can make the yellow man and the black man forego the get-rich-quick heritage of their fathers. On the Pacific coast lotteries obtain and will obtain wherever there is a Chinatown. In Louisiana the days of the grand lottery have never been forgotten. The last two years of high wages had made every negro wealthy, comparatively speaking. The lottery mongers would naturally find them a ripe harvest for the picking. And who would gravitate to this harvest field if not the great Gumberts, the uncaught Memphis Izzy, the promoter who had never been "mugged!"

Here, at one stroke, stumbling on the thing by sheer blind accident, Gramont had located the nucleus of the whole business!

Gradually his brain cooled to the realization of what work lay before him. He was through Paradise, almost without seeing the town, and switched on his lights as he took the highway to Houma. Sober reflection seized him. Not only was this crowd of crooks working a lottery, but they were also managing a stupendous thievery of automobiles, in which cars were looted by wholesale! And the man at the head of it all, the man above Memphis Izzy and his crooks, was Jachin Fell of New Orleans.

Did Lucie Ledanois dream such a thing? No. Gramont dismissed the question at once. Fell was not an unusual type of man. There were many Jachin Fells throughout the country, he reflected. Men who applied their brains to crooked work, who kept themselves above any actual share in the work, and who profited hugely by tribute money from every crook in every crime.

To the communities in which they lived such men were patterns of all that wealthy gentlemen should be. Sedate, except perhaps in gossip of the underworld, was their connection with crime ever suspected. And—this thought was sobering to Gramont—never did they come within danger of retribution at the hands of the law. Their ramifications extended too far into politics; and the governors of some Southern states have unlimited powers of pardon.

"This is a big day!" reflected Gramont, dismissing the sinister suggestion of this last thought. "A big day! What it will lead to, I don't know. Not the least of it is the financial end of it—the oil seepage! That little iridescent trickle of oil on the water means that money worries are over, both for me and for Lucie. I'm sorry that I am mixed up with Fell; I've enough money of my own to drill at least one good well, and one is all we'll need to bring in oil on that place. Well, we'll see what turns up! My first job is to make sure Hammond is safe, and to relieve his mind. I'll have to leave him in jail, I suppose—"

Why did Fell want to "get something" on Hammond? To this there was no answer.

He drove to Houma to find the town abuzz with excitement, for the news of the sheriff's murder had stirred the place wildly. Proceeding straight to the courthouse, Gramont encountered Ben Chacherre as he was leaving the car.

"Hello, there!" he exclaimed. "Lost my road. Where's Hammond?"

Chacherre jerked his head toward the courthouse.

"In yonder. Say, are you going back to the city tonight?"

"Yes," Gramont regarded him.

"Why?"

"Take me back, will you? I've missed the last up train, and if you're going back anyhow I won't have to hire a car. I can drive for you, and we'll make it in a couple of hours, before midnight sure."

"Hop in," said Gramont, nodding toward the car. "I'll be back as soon as I've had a word with Hammond."

No danger of his getting lynched, I hope?"

"Not a chance," said the other, conclusively. "Six deputies up there now, and quite a bunch of ex-soldiers comin' to stand guard. You goin' to fight the case?"

"No," said Gramont. "Can't fight a sure thing, can you? I'm sorry for him, though."

Chacherre shrugged his shoulders and got into the car.

Gramont was much relieved to find that there was no danger of lynching, which had been his one fear. It was with much persuasion that he got past the guard and into the courthouse, where he was received by a number of deputies in charge of the situation.

After conferring with them at some length, he was grudgingly taken to the cell occupied by Hammond. The latter received him with a wide grin, and gave no signs of the grueling ordeal through which he had passed.

"Listen, old man," said Gramont, earnestly. "Will you play out the game hard to the end? I'll have to leave you here for two days. At the end of that time you'll be free."

The listening deputies sniffed, but Hammond merely grinned again and put a hand through the bars.

"Whatever you say, cap'n," he rejoined. "It sure looks bad—"

"Don't you think it," said Gramont, cheerfully. "A lot of things have happened since I saw you last! I've got the real murderer right where I want him—but I can't have him arrested yet."

"It's a gang," said Hammond. "You watch out, cap'n, I heard 'em say somethin' about Memphis Izzy—re-



"Will You Play Out the Game Hard to the End?"

member the guy I told you about one day? Well, this is no piker's game! We're up against somethin' solid—"

"I know it," and Gramont nodded. He turned to the deputies. "Gentlemen, you have my address if you wish to communicate with me. I shall be back here day after tomorrow—at least, before midnight of that day. I warn you, that if anything happens to this man in the meantime, you shall be held personally responsible. He is innocent."

"Looks like we'd better hold you, too," said one of the men. "You seem to know a lot!"

Gramont looked at him a moment.

"I know enough to tell you where to head in if you try any funny work here," he said, evenly. "Gentlemen, thank you for permitting the interview! I'll see you later."

The coroner's jury had already adjudged Hammond guilty of the murder. Returning to the car, Gramont had Ben Chacherre drive to a restaurant, where they got a bite to eat. Twenty minutes later they were on their way to New Orleans—and Gramont learned for the first time of Joseph Maillard's murder by the Midnight Masquer, and of the arrest of Bob Maillard for the crime.

CHAPTER XII

The Ultimatum.

Upon the following morning Gramont called both Jachin Fell and Lucie Ledanois over the telephone. He acquainted them briefly with the result of his oil investigation, and arranged a meeting for ten o'clock, at Fell's office.

It was slightly before ten when Gramont called with the car for Lucie. Under the spell of her smiling eagerness, the harshness vanished from his face; it returned again a moment later, for he saw that she, too, was changed. There was above them both a cloud. That of Gramont was secret and brooding. As for Lucie, she was in mourning. The murder of Joseph Maillard, the arrest and undoubted guilt of Bob Maillard, dwarfed all else in her mind. Even the news of the oil seepage, and the fact that she was probably now on the road to wealth, appeared to make little impression upon her.

"Thank heaven," she said, earnestly, as she drove toward Canal street, "that so far as you are concerned, Henry, the Midnight Masquer affair was all cleared up before this tragedy took place! It was fearfully imprudent of you—"

"Yes," answered Gramont, soberly, reading her thought. "I can realize my-

own folly now. If this affair were to be laid at my door, some kind of a case might be made up against me, and it would seem plausible. But, fortunately, I was out of it in time. Were we merely characters in a standardized detective story, I suppose I'd be arrested and deluged with suspense and clues and so forth."

"Your escape was too narrow to joke over, Henry," she reproved him, gravely.

"I'm not joking, my dear Lucie. I learned nothing about the tragedy until late last night. From what I can find in the papers, it seems agreed that Bob was not the real Masquer, but had assumed that guise for a joke. A tragic joke! Since he was undoubtedly drunk at the time, his story can't be relied upon as very convincing. And yet, it's frightfully hard to believe that, even by accident, a son should have shot down his own father—"

"Don't!" Lucie winced a little. "In spite of all the evidence against him, in spite of the way he was found with that aviation uniform, it's still awful to believe. I can't realize that it has actually happened."

"According to the papers, poor Mrs. Maillard has gone to pieces. No wonder."

"Yes. I was there with her all day yesterday, and shall go again today. They say Bob is terribly broken up. He sent for his mother, and she refused to see him. I don't know how it is all going to end! Do you think his story might be true—that somebody else might have acted as the Masquer that night?"

Gramont shook his head. "It's possible," he said, reluctantly, "yet it hardly seems very probable. And now, Lucie, I'm very sorry indeed to say it—but you must prepare yourself against another shock in the near future."

"What do you mean? About the oil—"

"No. It's too long a story to tell you now; here we are at the Malson Blanche. Just remember my words, please. It's something that I can't go into now."

"Very well, Henry! Do you think that it's possible your chauffeur, Hammond, could have learned about the drinking party, and could have—"

Gramont started. "Hammond? No. I'll answer for him beyond any question, Lucie. By the way, does Fell know anything about Hammond having been the first Masquer?"

"Not from me," said the girl, watching him.

"Very well. Hammond got into a bit of trouble at Houma, and I had to leave him there. It was none of his fault, and he'll get out of it all right. Well, come along up to our oil meeting! Forget your troubles, and don't let my croakings about a new shock cause you any worry just yet."

He was thinking of Jachin Fell, and the girl's closeness to Fell. Had he not known that Fell was responsible for Hammond's being in jail, he might have felt differently. As it was, he was now forewarned and forearmed, although he could not see what animus Fell could possibly have against Hammond.

It was lucky, he reflected grimly, that he had never breathed to a soul except Lucie the fact that Hammond had been the first Masquer! Had Fell known this fact, his desire to lay Hammond by the heels might have been easily fulfilled—and Hammond would probably have found himself charged with Maillard's murder.

They found Jachin Fell dictating to a stenographer. He greeted them warmly, ushering them at once into his private office.

Gramont found it difficult to convince himself that his experiences of the previous afternoon had been real. It was almost impossible to believe that this shy, apologetic little man in gray was in reality the "man higher up!" Yet he knew it to be the case—knew it beyond any escape.

"By the way," and Fell turned to Gramont, "if you'll dictate a brief statement concerning that oil seepage, I'd be obliged! Merely give the facts. I may have need of such a statement from you."

Gramont nodded and joined the stenographer in the outer office, where he dictated a brief statement. It did not occur to him that there might be danger in this; at the moment, he was rather off his guard. He was thinking so much about his future assault on Fell that he quite ignored the possibility of being placed on the defensive.

Within five minutes he had returned to Lucie and Jachin Fell, who were discussing the condition of Mrs. Maillard. Gramont signed the statement and handed it to Fell, who laid it with other papers at his elbow.

"I suppose we may proceed to business?" began Fell. "I have drawn up articles of partnership; we can apply for incorporation later if we so desire. Lucie, both Henry Gramont and I are putting twenty-five thousand dollars into this company, while you are putting in your land, which I am valuing at an equal amount. The stock, therefore, will be divided equally among us. That is understood?"

"Yes. It's very good of you, Uncle Jachin," said the girl, quietly. "I'll leave everything to your judgment."

The little gray man smiled. "Judgment is a poor horse to ride. Here's everything in black and white. I suggest that you both glance over the articles, sign up, and we will then hold our first meeting."

Gramont and Lucie read over the partnership agreement, and found it perfectly correct.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

A good husband is one who lets his wife get her fall clothes before he lays in the winter supply of coal.