

SPIES IN ALL LANDS

Busy Prying Into Secrets of Foreign Governments.

England's Excitement Over Conviction of Bernard Stewart in Germany—Army Officers Prefer Work to Barrack Life.

Kansas City, Mo.—A new game has caught the fancy of Europe. It is played in the dark with dangerous weapons. Sometimes the reward is money, sometimes it is honor, more often it is imprisonment and occasionally it is death. It is the game of espionage.

In times of war spies are numerous. Any soldier knows that they are selected for their coolness in times of danger, histrionic game and loyalty. A spy plays his game alone. If he wins, he aids his country; if he loses, it is death.

But in times of peace, and all Europe is at peace except Italy and Turkey, espionage has not been considered good form. Of course all governments have had their secret agents. They were men trained in that business. They were detectives. But of late army officers, naval officers, noble men and persons of high repute have entered the espionage game and apparently just for the zest of the mission.

Even national feeling toward the spy seems to have undergone a decided change. Take the case of Captain Lux of the French army. He had been imprisoned at Glatz, Prussia, serving a four years' sentence. One night he escaped and after a week's dangerous travel reached France. He was received as a hero. People went wild at the mention of his name. A purse of gold was subscribed. Officially France frowned and ordered Captain Lux back to duty, but it cannot be disputed that he was the man of the moment.

Russia and Germany have almost placed spies of peace on the basis of prisoners of war. A few weeks ago these two governments made a formal exchange of spies, just as prisoners would be exchanged in war.

Now England is in the midst of a popular demonstration against Germany. It results from a four and a half years' sentence a German court gave Bertrand Stewart, a London lawyer and officer in a territorial regiment. British newspapers are assailing Germany bitterly. Demonstrations are being held and probably the British foreign office will recognize the affair and make a formal request that Stewart be set free.

In England a half dozen or more Germans and Russians have been tried on spying charges. But a few days ago Helarich Grosse, an officer of the German merchant marine, was tried at Winchester and sentenced to three years.

And so it goes in most all the nations of Europe. The game apparently appeals to the officers. It gives them a chance to get a little adventure in lieu of humdrum life at a barracks.

FIND 100 TACKS IN STOMACH

New Jersey Workman Has Swallowed Brads for Years; X-Ray Discloses Walls of Organ Covered.

Burlington, N. J.—Abraham Leoney, a shoemaker at Delaware, was taken to a Philadelphia hospital suffering from stomach ache. All the home remedies failed to relieve him and the puzzled doctors finally proposed an X-ray examination.

The light revealed about a hundred brass tacks sticking in the walls of the shoemaker's stomach. He admitted that for several years he has used his mouth for a temporary tack box, while at work at his bench, and said he remembered swallowing a few brads at various times during the last ten years. Surgeons say one section of Leoney's stomach has more tacks in it than the sole of a boot.

It is hoped that an operation may relieve him.

Pheasant-Grouse a Plump Bird.

Portland, Ore.—A bird that is a cross between a China pheasant and a blue grouse was received by the state game warden from Eugene Simpson, superintendent of the state game farm, at Corvallis. It is much heavier than a China pheasant and as large as the biggest blue grouse, and for this reason the game warden thinks it would prove a better game bird than the native blue grouse. "I have for years known that in certain places these birds have crossed," he said. "I have known of one or two other specimens that have been obtained, but this is the first one that I have ever examined."

His Hero Game Was a Failure.

Blackfoot, Idaho.—Running breathlessly into the station, Louis West, formerly a brakeman on the Oregon Short Line railroad, said that some one in the yards had been tampering with a switch, which he threw just in time to save a passenger train from wreck. On close questioning West admitted that he had thrown the switch in order to have the honor of saving the train.

Were Shocked by Dance.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Shocked by an illustration of the "Grizzly Bear" dance, Judges Reid and Haymaker refused to grant a preliminary injunction allowing the opening of a dance hall, ordered closed by the McKeesport mayor.

"WOMAN FROM WOLVERTON"

Wife of a Congressman Relates Her Experience in Official Life at Washington.

Washington.—Put a plain, simple, honest little woman from the west into the whirl of officialdom at Washington, photograph her thoughts and impressions of it all, and you get an unprejudiced view of the lives of our national law-makers and statesmen lead at the national capital. Isabel Gordon Curtis has accomplished the photographic process, and in her book, "The Woman From Wolverton," she presents a vivid picture of Washington life as it is rather than as we usually hear of it.

Wolverton is a village of the far west and the woman is Mrs. Lemuel Shippe, whose husband has been elected to congress. Plain, simple, home-loving people, they go to the capital city all ignorant of its customs and manners, and many a heart-ache comes to the lovely little woman despite her courage, education and inborn gentility. She tells her own story, with a keen sense of humor when dealing with the female snobs who sought to squelch her and the grafters who sometimes got the better of her, and with real pathos when relating such incidents as the visit from old Uncle Sil, the worshipper of Lincoln's memory, or the death of Mrs. Daggett, who had done so much to make her life there endurable.

Lemuel once called his wife "a congressman's conscience," and that is the key to a number of situations, for the little woman in her simple honesty could not comprehend the tortuous ways of politics, or when she did comprehend them, could not tolerate them. So with gentleness she steered Lemuel out of some complications that would have been troubling memories. Through a trying but successful campaign for his reelection she gave him invaluable aid, and proved that they had lost no whit of the affection and esteem of the home town folk, and when two years later Lemuel was defeated, the entire population of the village met them at the station, with a band playing "The Conquering Hero" and they felt that they had indeed conquered though they had lost.

ITCH IS TOWN'S PROBLEM

Milton (Minn.) Children Refuse Medicine Because of Religious Belief.

St. Paul, Minn.—The Milton (Minn.) board of health is puzzled over the question of what to do with several children afflicted with "straw itch." Dr. H. M. Bracken, secretary of the state board of health, received a letter from Milton saying that the children had been provided with medicine with which to cure themselves, but that they first refused to use it on the theory that the Lord would cure them. Later, when more medicine was supplied and they poured some of it on the afflicted skin, it smarted and they and their parents took this to mean that the Lord disapproved the lotion.

Therefore the parents refuse to direct their children to use the medicine, the children refuse to use it and the Milton school and health boards are unable to decide what to do. Dr. Bracken was advised by Assistant-General Hilton to put the question up to the state superintendent of schools.

CHECK SPONGING POLICEMEN

Atlanta Officials Decide to Make City Guardians Pay for Doctors' Services.

Atlanta, Ga.—"Sponging" on the city of Atlanta by policemen, who are alleged to have summoned city physicians to their homes in cases of illness when they were able to pay for such services, no longer will be allowed if a recommendation of the board of health to the city council is adopted. At a meeting yesterday the board decided to petition the council to forbid city physicians rendering such services in the future.

This action was taken after charges were made that some of the policemen had "sponged" on the city in this way.

TO FENCE LEPER ON LAND

John R. Earle and Family Will Be Confined on Acre Tract at Summit, Wash.

Tacoma, Wash.—Shunted about from place to place as the result of the long government investigation to determine whether he was a leper, John R. Earle, formerly of Washington, D. C., has been located at Summit, near here, and will be fenced in on an acre of land. Earle's wife and three small children live with him.

Woman Carries Mail 40 Years.

Lancaster, Pa.—Mrs. Samuel Walters of Florida, this county, for more than 40 years has been carrying the mails between the postoffice and the railroad station, and has never missed a train or a mail. She is one of the few women carriers along the Pennsylvania railroad lines.

Angered, Boy Stabs Self.

Fremont, O.—Angered when his mother corrected him, Alec Domsaki, aged ten, seized a paring knife and slashed himself in the abdomen. He will die.

Voice Gone Years, Sings.

Santa Barbara, Cal.—After being speechless for 15 years, Mrs. Charles Curtis, wife of a rancher of Carpinteria, now can talk.

TIED BRIDEGROOM TO CHAIR

Brian G. Hughes Was at Wedding in Harlem and Is Under Suspicion.

New York.—Some wag with a propensity for playing practical jokes at unwonted times is the subject for censure in a sordid circle of Harlem's usually unruffled precincts. The controversy nearly caused a row and did result in some feeling when the men friends of the bridegroom, Edward A. Macquire, set out to discover the man who tied his dress suit coat-tails to the chair at the wedding supper a few days ago at the home of the bride's father, John J. O'Keefe, 18 E. One Hundred and Twenty-ninth street.

Mr. Macquire, who belongs to the Seventh regiment, was in the company of his bride, Miss May Arsonia O'Keefe, surrounded by his regimental friends, and had replied to numerous toasts, when his bride gave him the signal that they had better leave the table and slip out of the house quickly to start on their honeymoon. Some of his friends were eagerly watching for the attempt to escape. Mr. Macquire made several struggles to stand up, but sank back, pale.

William tried to lift the chair to one side to get closer and discovered that the bridegroom's coat-tails were tied securely to the chair legs in such a way that it was impossible for him to attain his feat.

Somebody remembered that Mr. Brian G. Hughes, of 1934 Madison avenue, was a guest at the wedding. He was found in another room, far removed from the scene of Mr. Macquire's discomfiture. He solemnly declared his innocence. However, he was under guard for the rest of the evening.

The factional feeling arose when many women present declared it a shame for anyone to accuse such a benevolent looking gentleman of doing any such prank.

65 YEARS MAKES AN OLD MAID

This Is Opinion of Woman Who Disagrees With Judge's Opinion.

St. Louis, Mo.—At what age does a woman drift into old maidhood? Asked this question, more than a score of women ranging in age from 14 to 40, and then some, became peevish.

The younger set refused a reply, undoubtedly in silent defense of older sisters, and the older lost its temper somewhat, for obvious reasons.

But one was brave enough to speak. Miss Caroline Thummel, attorney and school teacher, declared a woman was not an old maid until she has passed 65 years. She also added a woman can make herself an old maid at almost any age.

Justice J. F. Boyer of Chicago, Ill., sets the age of entry into the old maid class at 25 years.

"He is off in his judgment," said Miss Thummel. "Why, no woman should marry until she is more than 25 years old and is sure she has sense. It takes a woman of experience to pick a tolerably satisfactory man nowadays, and few women have practical experience until they are much beyond 25 years old."

THEY WANT WIVES BY MAIL

Westerners Besiege Postmaster at Bennington, Vt., to Act as Matchmaker.

Bennington, Vt.—Each of the four mails arriving here has brought to Postmaster Collins M. Graves from three to five letters requesting that official to send the writer a wife. Each of the letters incloses a clipping mentioning Bennington's dearth of men, taken from papers in Pacific coast cities all the way from Vancouver to San Diego.

Each one of the writers gives personal specifications and describes the kind of a wife he thinks will meet his needs, but none has as yet forwarded a photograph. Inasmuch as only seven days have elapsed since the publication of the story Mr. Graves sees much hard work ahead.

Burglar Asks for Kiss.

Aberdeen, Wash.—"If you will give me a kiss I will call it square and you can keep your money." This was the parting statement of a well-dressed man who entered the home of Mrs. Mary Dowling at 105 F street. While awaiting the return of her husband, who owns a small confectionery store in this city, Mrs. Mary Dowling answered a rap on the front door.

A stranger entered and, placing a revolver to the woman's face, ordered her to give him her purse. While in her bedroom the man placed the gun on the dresser and began counting the money in the purse. While thus engaged Mrs. Dowling secured the weapon and forced the unwelcome visitor from the house.

Cows Dislike His Red Cap.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Charles Porter, city milk inspector, has refused to wear the red cap provided for him by the municipal government. He asserts that the female of the bovine species has almost as strong an aversion to the glowing hue as the male, and says that unless the cap is dyed he will resign.

Imprisoned Rabbit Freed.

Mohrnsburg, Pa.—A partly hollow log, coated with ice and snow, was hauled by Charles Geachwindt, five miles to his sawmill. As it was seen in twain, out hopped an imprisoned rabbit, which escaped.

END TRUANCY IN LOS ANGELES

Plan of Small Classes, With a Little Expert at the Head of Each, Makes High Attendance Record.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Through an entirely original idea of teaching work and play the board of education is fast reducing the work of the juvenile court in passing on truancy cases. The idea, as suggested by Professor E. J. Lickley, has reached the stage where there is now an average attendance of 95 per cent for the entire year, in special ungraded schools made up of obtrusive boys.

The schools were started as an experiment following the assertion of W. L. Bodine, supervisor of compulsory education in Chicago, that there were more truants in Los Angeles than any other city in the United States.

"We had to do something to reduce the number of boys going before the juvenile court," said Professor Lickley, head of the department of compulsory education.

"There seems to be but one cure for the trouble, and we have at last found it. The remedy for such cases lies in grouping the boys in small classes, never more than 15 to a room, and putting them in charge of a man instructor who is in sympathy with the work. Not only must he know how to deal with boys, but he must be proficient in athletics to the extent that he can educate the boys in play as well as work."

COSTS MONEY TO BE MAYOR

English Officials Have to Be Satisfied With Glory and Honor—Liverpool Executive Well Paid.

London.—The mayors of London find their executive dignity much more expensive than the provincial mayors. In most of the cities and towns of the United Kingdom an amount is voted by the council sufficient to cover the ordinary expenses of the mayor. But in London it is different.

The lord mayor, of course, is in a class by himself. He gets an allowance of \$50,000 for his year of office, and the average amount he has to add to that out of his own pocket is another \$50,000. Outside the city of London proper, which is the lord mayor's district, London is divided into 28 metropolitan boroughs.

Of the provincial cities Liverpool is the most generous to its mayor, giving a fixed salary of \$10,000, which is added to when extraordinary expenses are incurred. The Liverpool council also pays about \$4,000 a year for horses and carriages. Birmingham, now the second largest city in the United Kingdom, made a grant for the mayor last year for the first time, fixing the sum at \$5,000. Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds and Leicester, all places where the position of mayor necessarily entails a very considerable expense, make no grant.

CHANGE IN WEDDING RITUAL

New Amendment Agreed to by the Lower House of Convocation at Canterbury.

London.—The Canterbury lower house of convocation agreed to a modification of the marriage service by substituting the words, "Bestow, we beseech thee, upon these two persons the heritage and gift of children" for the existing too plain spoken form.

Some objection was made to the change, but the general sentiment of the convocation was in favor of it.

The Dean of Winchester remarked that many passages of scripture would bring out higher ideals than are expressed in the words of Peter and Paul, who had ideas about wives that Christianity has largely altered.

The house of convocation of York has called upon the government to forbid the disseminating of Mormonism in the United Kingdom.

Too Giddy at 70.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Robert Aspinwall, 70 years old, took out a license to marry Mrs. Mary Pope, 60, but before the prospective bride would sign her name to the application she turned to her aged wooer and asked:

"Robert, are you willing to keep your promise that you will not run around nights after we are married?"

When he had promised Mrs. Pope explained to the marriage license clerk:

"I have been married twice before, and my other husbands used to wander from their own firesides. I am getting a little old now and I don't propose to be alone at night."

Mr. Aspinwall said that he also had been married twice before, and said he didn't care to run around much any more.

Mocking Dog can Crow.

Evansville, Ind.—Noble Stallings, living at New Harmony, has a dog that imitates the crowing of a rooster closely. When the dog was only a few weeks old he began to take notice of the crowing of roosters early in the morning and he began to imitate them.

Calla Son Laziest Boy.

Chicago.—Denounced by his mother as the laziest boy in Chicago, Herman Davis, 17 years of age, who eats, sleeps and attends nickel shows, has been turned over to the juvenile court.

Orders Replica of Diplodocus.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Andrew Carnegie has ordered a replica made of the monster diplodocus in the Carnegie museum here, to be presented to King Alfonso of Spain.

NEVER WEDS TALK

Mountclair, N. J., Turns Out En Masse to Hear Reasons.

But They Wore Masks, Even Voices Were Changed—Rumor Says Story Tellers Are All Married or Engaged.

Mountclair, N. J.—There is a lot of unsatisfied curiosity in Mountclair, but it has been demonstrated how to fill a church.

The other night was the time set for the appearance of the Never Weds. Don't know 'em, do you? Well, neither does any one in Mountclair, but there is a lot of guessing on.

The never Weds were seven spinsters and seven bachelors who were to come right out in public, like they were "saying a piece" in school, and tell why they had never married. They were to reveal the awful secret to a waiting world in the First Methodist church, and for the first time on record in Mountclair, an S. R. O. sign was necessary at a church.

The crowds piled in, expecting to meet the unwedded ones face to face. They did, but the faces of the unwedded were covered. In other words, the seven couples were disguised. Their own mothers wouldn't have known them.

"We'll know 'em when we hear their voices," complacently declared the curious ones in the audience. But they didn't. In addition to masks, wigs, false beards and fantastic costumes, the spinsters and "old bachelors" used such clever elocution nobody could size them up.

The first old maid explained that when she played the ingenue the men treated her like a doll, when she became an athletic girl they treated her like a chum. She had tried prayer and got no response unless the blessing was in not getting a man, so she had concluded she would nixtry hypnotism or mental science.

The first bachelor declared he was good looking, had enough money to support a home and wanted to marry. But he had never met a girl who inspired him with enough assurance he would not be turned down if he proposed to her.

The next speaker said she was single because there were so many men like the one who had just spoken. "You want us to propose to you," she said. "Nothing venture, nothing win. I want to be carried by storm."

The next batch declared that he had loved only once. He was one of the daring sort, but after interviewing the girl's father they carried him home on a shutter. Never again!

The next "girl" explained that she spent so much time learning to cook and sew for a prospective husband he had lost interest in her before she became efficient, and she had never had another chance.

Then a suffragette gave her testimony. She would willingly wed provided her husband would let her live her own life. The next three bachelors said she could as far as they were concerned, and that it was her kind that had scared them off.

The last "old maid" naively admitted she was unmarried because no one had ever asked her. Each of the explanations brought forth roars of laughter and kept everybody trying to guess who the speaker was, but not a disguise could be penetrated.

It was said after the seven couples had giddily waltzed off the stage arm in arm, singing, "I'm seeing Nellie Home," that one of the couples is engaged, and—worse still—that the other six are married!

RAZE HOME IN SHAM BATTLE

Field Artillery and Squadron in Target Practice in New York State.

New York.—The old Carroll homestead in Westchester county, was recently battered and razed to the ground as part of the program of a sham battle of the Second battalion of field artillery, supported by members of squadron A. The "enemy" consisted of the old house, which had been purchased by the artillerymen for the purpose of the sham battle. Firing began at 1,500 yards and was gradually cut down to 1,150, when the approach was advanced 600 yards, and the members of squadron A opened a rifle volley. The artillerymen were able to pick off the foundation stones of the old homestead one by one with their shots at that distance.

Dig Up Coin Dated 1630.

Grant's Pass, Ore.—A coin nearly 300 years old has been found in the Galice mining district in this county. It was uncovered in building a road near Galice Creek and the Rogue river. The coin bears the mark "Columbia, 1630," and was probably brought to the neighborhood by early Spanish adventurers from California and Mexico, who were in search of gold.

Pastor Grows Mushrooms.

Kansas City, Mo.—To prove his theory preached from the pulpit that success depends on a man's efforts, Rev. Dr. A. T. Osborn has developed a mushroom bed from which he derives an income of \$35 a day.

Mother Smothers Babe.

Columbus, O.—Frustrated over the recovery of the body of a relative, drowned in a river, Mrs. Clinton Daw huggled her infant to her breast so tightly that the baby smothered to death.

WITHIN SIGHT OF MILLIONS

Easy Fortune Seekers Almost Get Century Old Treasure, When Weather Discourages Them.

New York.—With more than a million pounds sterling in gold and silver bullion in sight, which treasure was part of the cargo of the British frigate Lutine, when that vessel foundered off Terschelling, in the Zuyder Zee, in 1799, the salvage steamer Lyons was compelled a few weeks ago to return to Amsterdam because of bad weather. This was the statement made by C. H. Miller, second officer of the Lyons, who is at the Broadway Central hotel on his way to Philadelphia to visit relatives.

"We discovered the wrecked frigate in about four fathoms of water last July," said Mr. Miller, "and we at once began to pump out the sand that covered the hulk. We pumped out a large amount of sand before we were able to get at the interior. We located the bullion, which lies beneath a mass of cannon balls, and which have been welded together by the chemical action of sea water. We dynamited much of this mass and the pumps sucked up many silver and gold coins, proving that the vessel was the Lutine. Bad weather forced us to give up salvage operations, but we will renew work about March 1."

The National Salvage association of London was formed some time ago, with the duke of Teck and Lord Dunraven as stockholders, to attempt the recovery of the treasure contained in the Lutine.

SHOT BY QUEER WEAPON

Weapon for Palm of Hand Discovered in Auto After Man is Wounded.

New York.—Through the accidental shooting of a machinist, the police came into possession of a peculiar spring gun, evidently made to be carried in the palm of the hand. George Burnett, of 702 E. 138th street, was repairing the side door of an automobile in a garage at 204 W. 49th street, when he was shot in the right hand. He was taken to the Flower Hospital.

Employees of the garage were mystified, as it was not apparent just how Burnett had been shot. After a search they found the weapon, in a pocket of the door. It was like a bottle. The neck could be unscrewed, and when this was done an exploded cartridge, and also a full cartridge, were found in the single chamber. By holding the weapon in the palm of the hand, springs could be pressed. The weapon is about five inches long. It does not bear the maker's name.

TO TEACH COUNTRY PASTORS

Course for the Poorly Equipped Will Be Offered at University of Missouri.

Columbia, Mo.—A course designed especially for poorly equipped country pastors will be offered at the University of Missouri next summer. Instead of theology, however, instruction will be given in agricultural and economic conditions in rural communities, rural sociology and other points regarding the life of farmers.

The new course is a result of a suggestion made to Dean Charters of the department of education by Rev. Warren H. Wilson of New York city, superintendent of the department of church and country life in the Presbyterian church.

Instruction will be offered to preachers of Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, the church paying a large part of the expenses of forty or fifty preachers who desire to study.

WOMAN RUNS TOWN JAIL

Claims Distinction of Being Only Feminine Prison Keeper in America.

Boston.—In a little frame house in East Greenwich, R. I., separated by a narrow passage from the grim bars and strong masonry of the Kent county jail, lives Mrs. Evelyn Smith, America's one and only woman jailer. Mrs. Smith is just completing her thirtieth year in her present official capacity, and the sixty-fifth year that the office has remained undeputed in her family.

"In all the years that I have officially been jailer," said Mrs. Smith, "I never have had any trouble. I lock and unlock the cells myself and no indignity ever has been offered me. There have been many attempts to escape, but only once was an attempt successful. Three young men got away for three days and then were rearrested."

FIND LOG UNDER GROUND

Farmer Encounters Walnut 350 Feet Below Surface—Was on Lake That Covered Kansas.

Topeka, Kan.—A walnut log in a fine state of preservation has been found 350 feet under the surface of the ground on a farm in McPherson county. C. W. Bachelor, a farmer, was drilling a well when the log was encountered. The tree, more than a foot in diameter, is supposed to have grown on the banks of the big lake that once covered central Kansas.

The only part of this lake remaining is the basin west of McPherson. The tree was not fossilized, but was just as natural wood as if it had fallen recently. It must have taken thousands of years, local scientists say, for the 350 feet of soil, sand and shale to accumulate above the log.