

HELENA.

HOW HUMBERTS GAINED MILLIONS

Swindle of the Century Now Exposed—Peasant Girl Secured \$14,000,000 and Left Trail of Misery.

made it a rule to... about these occasions... a short religious... fond of getting... and was... if asked to sign... of his photo... sign that I think... hundreds of his... ver the world.

though not aver... photograph, object... attaching his auto... and to obtain... extremely difficult... to draw on... approaching the... to inform you that... talk on that mat... very popular on... as a very courteous

aining the address... governor and res... to the king was... of workmanship... a Boer prisoner... and the Boer pris... of terms, and it... to see twenty or... working in the hills... the camp in charge... without arms at

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batch of released... the band of... giment accompanied... to the wharf and... staff met them and... down to the boat... parting with sev... and men.

the late Emper... (Wood House) during... island was an obje... to the prisoners and... almost there have... kept all the Boer... on the island.

of the Boer arm... in Jamestown... favorite with the... built man of med... the true military

ing for the want... ers was a most... have been to as... government. Most... about £4,000 stier... this the outlay for... butter, bread... etc., and it will... et over £1 per man... camp (Broad Bot... for the ground as... was placed was... a month. So that... done John Bull... tidy sum to pay... of fire" on the... y. What a contrast... gary three shillings... to our own poor

prisoners were... declared, as they... old time in their... to do and every... even billiard tabl... from Johannesburg... South African town... go back to where... work or starve.

the Pr-tender... co, Jan. 16. — Four... have left Fox... s brother commis... of the war minist... previously report... demand of another... received here from... operations against... nenced January 11... nation has been... date, but comm... cate that fresh... taken the impress... numbers are consid... ible, because of the... capacity of the cou... are entrusted with... tribal outbrea... continue, but the... are taking streng... ess them, which... be adequate to cop... in this quarter.

nder why it is... with the magnific... to be happy? ... use the pinnacle... the top of a partic... ing rod with a partic... pint, and those who... ing temporarily... that they are targ... lightning.—Two

As a result of the conference between Premier Coombes and Minister of Justice Valley, complete arrangements have been made for the reception of the members of the Humbert family arrested in Madrid December 26, but precaution has been taken not to disclose what prison the fugitives will occupy, as a popular demonstration is feared. The authorities are showing great activity in preparing for the prosecution of the prisoners, thus overcoming the popular prejudice that the accused enjoy the favor of those in high authority.

M. Hennion, the chief of detectives, who had gone to Madrid, is accompanied by four civil guards, four police inspectors and two of the best detectives in the service. It is expected that they will occupy a special car with the prisoners, whose arrival in Paris is awaited with intense interest. The affair continues to be a universal topic for discussion, and even affects the Christmas rejoicing, many of the holiday novelties depicting phases in the famous case. One of these is a miniature Humbert sale as empty as that which induced bankers and others to lend millions to the Humberts. The nature of the legal proceedings has not yet been definitely settled. The statement in the extradition papers that the accused are charged with swindling and irregular bankruptcy proceedings gives a general idea of the lines of the prosecution. The creditors are chiefly interested in rescuing the remnant of their assets, and plans are on foot for a meeting of the creditors, with the view of arranging for an equitable division.

Paris, Dec. 29.—The members of the Humbert family, who were recently arrested in Madrid in connection with the great safe frauds, in this city, arrived at the Orleans Railroad station here, at 7.40 o'clock this morning. There was no demonstration. The prisoners were conducted to the conciergerie prison.

The arrival of the famous fugitives was devoid of sensational incidents, as the French police had chosen an hour for their return when Paris was only half awake. The crowd at the railroad station was comparatively small, but a large force of police and soldiers, mounted and on foot, was drawn up in front of the station and guarded all the street approaches in order to prevent the possibility of a popular demonstration. A number of the chief functionaries of the prefecture were on hand to personally superintend the prisoners' arrival.

The men and women of the Humbert party were kept separate during the trip from Madrid to Paris, and they were brought from the train in two separate parties. The women came first, leaning on the arms of officers. Madame Humbert was dressed in black and veiled, but she was readily recognized by her stout figure. Her young daughter, Eva, was the most pathetic looking of the trio. She was followed by her weeping sister, Marie, who played the leading role in Madame Humbert's fabric. Mile Marie did not show the bravado which she exhibited at Madrid, but was pale and appeared to be disconsolate.

Frederick Humbert, Madame Humbert's husband, looked completely broken down. Romain D'Aurignac and his wife, Emile, maintained the same defiant attitude they had shown throughout. The party passed through double lines of police to the arranges in waiting. Detachments of mounted police officers surrounded the vehicles, which were driven at a rattling pace through the gathering crowds to the conciergerie, where preparations had been made to receive the prisoners.

The return of the Humberts to Paris is the absorbing topic for discussion throughout the city, indeed, throughout France, as no event since the return of Dreyfus has aroused such intense interest. All classes of society are equally interested; as the Humbert's operations were so colossal and so interwoven with the foremost personages in France that their return was viewed with apprehension and awe. Crowds from all parts of the city were ready to assemble at the station and give the prisoners a disorderly reception, but the secrecy of the police baffled the mobs, and permitted the Humberts to be landed silently and swiftly inside the grey walled conciergerie. During the morning a crowd gathered in front of the prison, but detachments of police prevented any disorder.

The present surroundings of the prisoners are in striking contrast with the magnificence of their former palatial residence on the Avenue de la Grande Armee, where for a century the Humberts entertained cabinet ministers and presidents and swayed French finances. The public had doubted the sincerity of the government in ever attempting to bring back the fugitives, owing to the political shock which was sure to follow, but the arrival of the prisoners is now generally accepted as showing the purpose of the authorities to spare no means for the prosecution and punishment of the accused. The choice of the conciergerie as a place of confinement is a further indication that swift justice will be meted out,

as this prison is part of the palace of justice, where only prisoners awaiting immediate trial are confined. The plans for the prosecution of the Humberts have not yet been announced. Owing to the belief of the authorities that Eva Humbert was the innocent victim of her mother's operations, they proposed to entrust her to the custody of her grandmother, Madame Gustave Humbert, widow of the former minister of justice in the De-fleynein cabinet, but Mile. Eva positively declined the proposal, declaring her purpose to remain with her mother in prison. The attitude of the girl excites universal sympathy.

Later.—The aged grandmother made a personal appeal to be given charge of Eva. Two judges summoned the girl, and, after a formal interrogatory, committed her to the care of the grandmother. They were driven to the Rue Conde, where the modest home of the late minister of justice is situated. The judges during the day also interrogated Romain D'Aurignac and other members of the family. This was confined to questions of identity. The judges did not enter upon the merits of the case, as Mile. Humbert and the other chief figures were too overcome with excitement and fatigue. Mme. Humbert complained of feeling sick, and a doctor was hastily summoned, but he said there was nothing serious in her condition. The police continue their strict precautions against the possibility of a suicide.

In spite of her indisposition, Madame Humbert was subjected to preliminary interrogation. She said she had not yet chosen counsel. Chief of Detectives Hennion deposited with the judges Madame Humbert's jewels, which were seized at Madrid. They are valued at \$10,000, and form only an insignificant remnant of her once princely possessions of jewelry. He also turned over the bonds and securities seized.

HISTORY OF THE FRAUD. To coin \$14,000,000 from an empty safe supposed to contain the treasure left by a mythical American millionaire and to keep up swindling operations for years, were the achievements of the Humberts just arrested in Madrid, who fooled Parisian bankers, statesmen, and tradesmen. In the history of all swindling games there was never so daring a method of raising vast sums of money, as the safety of the culprits depended at all times on a seal which could have been broken by a thumb nail.

When the swindlers started to work, their asset was a safe located at 65 Avenue de la Grande Armee. The opening of that safe, years after the wealth of the "American millionaire" was supposed to have been deposited therein, revealed the greatest swindle of the century. Women, with money borrowed upon the strength of that empty safe, had been courted by the society leaders of Paris. Bankers, gullible to a degree that hardly is credible, had loaned millions of francs year after year on a fraudulent estate and an empty iron box. The gigantic swindle owed its existence to the fact that the civil courts of France are permitted to place their seals on property in liquidation without examining the property or making an inventory of it.

The story of the great hoax begins with the alleged death of one Robert Henry Crawford, an American millionaire. He departed this world— if he ever live in it—between 1878 and 1883. It was after the latter date that Mme. Humbert, having already purchased the Branicki mansion in the Avenue de la Grande Armee, Paris, and two other fine estates, the Chateau des Vives Eaux, near Melun, and the Coteran property near Narbonne, produced a copy of an alleged will left by the supposed Robert Henry Crawford. By the terms of this will Therese d'Aurignac—Mme. Humbert's maiden name—was made the sole legatee of the Crawford estate, said to be valued at 100,000,000 francs. Soon afterward a second will, dated the same day as the first, was produced, which divided the estate of the "American millionaire" between Marie d'Aurignac, a young sister, and two nephews, of the testator—with the provisions that these persons should invest enough in Paris to provide an annuity of 30,000 francs per month for Therese d'Aurignac—Mme. Humbert. The second document was dated Nice, Sept. 6, 1877.

Not long after the purchase of the Parisian mansion, Mme. Humbert produced a third document binding the heirs of the "American millionaire" to preserve intact the title deeds and securities and sequestering them and placing them in charge of M. and Mme. Humbert until Mile. d'Aurignac attained her majority, when an amicable distribution of the property was to take place. The safe was duly sealed by the authorities, and on the production of the three documents by Mme. Humbert, the fraud was started on its long and prosperous career. During the years of the swindling operations the shadowy phantomlike Crawford's were only referred to. No real Crawford in flesh and blood ever appeared to claim a share of the money or

to protect their rights. In fact, it is now known that the existence of the Crawford-nephews was entirely in the imagination of the Parisian swindlers.

Mme. Humbert said she never had to borrow any money. She had an immense private fortune outside of the vast wealth bequeathed to her by the kind-hearted American, but of course, if Parisian bankers wanted to lend money at reasonable rates on the title deeds and securities left by Crawford, Mme. Humbert was satisfied. The Crawford nephews were very obliging. They wanted the will of their uncle to be carried out and the families of Humbert and Crawford united. Documents from the nephews were produced, giving Mme. Humbert, guardian of the fortune, the right to invest in French rents, and to take therefrom a yearly revenue of 365,000 francs.

Marie d'Aurignac, however, showed no desire to unite the Humbert and Crawford families by marrying one of the nephews when she became of age, so on behalf of the mythical brothers an injunction was obtained which forbade Mme. Humbert to make use of the Crawford millions, which were then supposed to be locked in the safe in the mansion of the Avenue de la Grande Armee.

After the banking operations were started, of course the wealthy Mme. Humbert could not be a seeker after loans, so Maitre Parmentier had charge of the negotiations.

It is not likely that the entire history of the swindle—or rather the hundreds of swindles which were evolved out of the original myth—will ever be written. Only Mme. Humbert herself is able to disclose all the details, and she is hardly likely to do so. One of the best accounts yet written of the whole affair has been contributed by T. P. O'Connor, M. P.

Mr. O'Connor says that the swindle of the safe is believed to have led directly to no less than ten suicides, while as to those ruined by Mme. Humbert they are to be counted by the hundred, if not by the thousand, and range from the once rich banker, or retired millionaire merchant, to the servant and the poor village priest. In this connection Mr. O'Connor says:

"Profound, indeed, must have been the sleep, and splendid the nerves, and of marble impenetrability of conscience, of the woman who could go through the day and night without waking to the shrieks of Girard, who put a bullet in his brain; or Paul Bernart, who asphyxiated himself with prussic acid; or Schotsmans, who was found assassinated in a train; or any of these ten victims who saw in self-inflicted death the one outlet from their ruin and their mad confidence in this woman's word and honor."

The Girard referred to was a small banker whom Mme. Humbert obtained loans amounting to \$1,125,000, and who even when at last he shot himself, believed in her good faith absolutely. And Mme. Humbert, far from being affected by this man's death, furnished her dining room with objects bought at the sale of his property.

It is even hinted that murder may have been employed by the Humberts or their agents. The Schotsmans referred to was found dead in an express train between Paris and Lille, with several wounds upon his body. He had loaned large sums to Mme. Humbert, while Paul Bernard loaned her more than \$500,000.

Mr. O'Connor's book is called "The Phantom Millions," and not only describes the swindling operations of Mme. Humbert, but gives some remarkable facts about her early career obtained with a good deal of trouble. It says of the arch swindler:

"Therese d'Aurignac was a born liar and a born thief. Her known exploits show her in these characters from an early year. It is related that at thirteen she had already forged her father's name. She used to carry hidden in her corsets securities, obtained heaven knows where. She had a passion for luxury and display, and whenever she could she borrowed their jewels from her school companions and displayed herself in them with great satisfaction. She had been brought up as a peasant, and she remained a peasant to the end of her days. She never succeeded in speaking grammatically, and she had the dreadful pronunciation and accent of the Gascon peasant. She had only to open her mouth and you knew that she was common in origin, common in mind, common in everything. She herself was so conscious of this that now and then she laughed—be it little grimly, perhaps—but she laughed at her own defects.

"Her conversation, like her person, was common, and, perhaps, commonplace, it was vulgar, turbid, facerent; it revealed brutality of ideas and of character, the fish-bag evidently lay near the surface, and when the occasion required the fish-bag burst forth, and there gushed out a torrent of defiant vituperation which shocked, horrified, and often abridged."

It seems that, once the swindle was well started, Mme. Humbert had an "intelligence department" of her own,

which, so it is declared, might put to shame that of many a war office. Wherever in France there was a man who was likely to lend money she seems to have become aware of his existence, his desires, his weaknesses. Immediately this information was obtained by her, she swooped down on the victim, made use of her marvellous gifts of persuasion, and usually came away with the man's savings in her pocket.

The most detestable of all Mme. Humbert's operations was the Rente Viagere, an insurance concern she founded, and which received in deposits about \$100,000,000. It was the thrifty poor who were robbed by this concern, and when the final crash came, it was the one thing in Mme. Humbert's career which the cynical Parisian found it impossible to forgive. As Mr. O'Connor says: "The sight of these poor old, bent dressmakers and porters standing in tears and with the prospects of starvation before the closed doors of the splendid office in the Rue Auber was the climax of the tragedy; it was the final proof of the utter villainy of the woman."

Visiting the Czar. St. Petersburg, Jan. 16.—The German Crown Prince, Frederick William, arrived here today on a visit to the Czar.

The crown prince was welcomed at Tears-oe-Selo by the czarwitsch, Grand Duke Michael, as the Czar was confined to his apartments, suffering from a severe cold. A number of grand dukes, Foreign Minister Lam-dorf and other ministers and a number of high officials also were present at the railroad station, where there was a liberal display of Russian and German colors. On the approach of the train, the German national anthem was played. The crown prince, wearing the uniform of the St. Petersburg Life Guards and accompanied by the czarwitsch, inspected the guard of honor and subsequently drove to the palace through streets decorated with flags, heartily cheered by the assembled crowds.

On his arrival at the palace the crown prince was welcomed by the czar and zarina. The crown prince has been appointed honorary colonel of the Little Russian Dragoons, the regiment formerly commanded by Prince Albrecht.

"Yah there!" angrily exclaimed Saymold Störey, who had curled himself up and gone to sleep on the sunny side of an ash barrel in the alley. "Wot ye pokin' me that way fur?" "Oxcuse me, please," said the rick-picker, dropping his iron hook in astonishment. "I did not know dere vos a man inside of dem!"

See Mr. J. L. Cowan as "Frederic" in the opera "Pirates of Penzance" at the Auditorium on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18-23.

WHY HE HURRIED.

"Oh, yes, we do care. We care a great deal." There was a suggestion of heat in the tone of the junior member of the law firm of Gray, Green & Gilbert as he thus refuted the assertion that criminal lawyers became callous and cared nothing for the feelings of individuals.

"For instance," he continued, "last term of court I was trying a case of a young man charged with murder committed in a west side lodging house. The state had a strong case against him but the evidence was entirely circumstantial. I was convinced of the boy's innocence, judging from his face and from his straightforward story. The sympathies of our entire firm were with the boy and his little, gray-haired mother. I worked like a demon to clear my client, but things were looking pretty black when I received a telegram announcing the serious illness of my mother down in Missouri. I was obliged to hand over the case to Green of the firm.

"After the crisis in my mother's illness had passed I prepared to return at once to the city, but just a few hours before train time I had occasion to go to the office of my mother's doctor for some medicine he had neglected to bring with him when he had made his morning call. While waiting for him to prepare the medicine I noticed on the doctor's desk a photograph of a wedding party taken just as the bridal pair were about to board the train amid a shower of rice. Something impelled me to search the faces of the onlookers in the little group and my eye fell upon a familiar figure leaning on the brake between two cars. I looked closer and with a start recognized my client of the murder case. There was no mistaking him, as the photograph was a very clear one. On the margin was the name of the photographer and his address—Kirkville, Mo. I thrust the photograph upon the doctor's attention and asked him if he knew when it was taken. As the groom was his brother, he knew the exact date and his reply completed the nearest alibi I ever heard of—one that could easily clear my client. For all that was necessary to prove the boy's story that while on his way from his home to Chicago he had obeyed a sudden impulse to look up an old teacher in Kirkville and he had stopped off, taking a later train again and arriving in Chicago three hours after the murdered man had been discovered.

"I immediately sent a telegram to the office of the firm. The case had not been concluded, as I had feared, and Green was still in court. The senior member had his coat off and was washing his hand at the little washbasin beside the door, when the telegram was brought in. He did not

stop long enough even to lay down the towel, but made a bolt for the elevator. "Green told us afterward about the dramatic entrance of the old death man into court. A hush like death had fallen upon the courtroom. The evidence was all in; the instructions had been handed to the foreman of the jury and the jury was rising to retire, when the senior member burst into the room and rushed down the aisle brandishing the telegram and the towel in the direction of the judge. As soon as he could get his breath he electrified the court and spectators by putting in a motion for a new trial on the ground of the discovery of important evidence. The matter was stayed.

"After it was over some one asked the old gentleman why he was in such a desperate hurry, when he knew he could reopen the case anyway and save his client. "Tell you the truth, gentlemen," he replied, "I knew the case was about to go to the jury, and my one thought was to save that boy and his little gray-haired mother the agony of hearing the verdict guilty."—Chicago News.

ENGLAND VS. CONTINENT.

In comparing Britain with the continents of Europe and America, much is even unfavorable to Britain's industrial position and to the comfort and happiness of her people, both employers and employed. The former fails to give business the unremitting attention and to display the energy and enterprise of the founders of the practical monopoly of the past. They generally regard it only as a means to give entrance to another rank of society. The employed think too much of how little they need to do, too little of how much they can do. Both classes still take life easy in this day of established monopoly. could support. Employers would find it much to their own interest to give to their ablest employes shares in the business. The more given in this form the more would flow to the employer. The great secret of success in business and of millionaire-making is to make partners of valuable managers of departments.—The contest between the old and the new lands today resembles that between professionals and amateurs. It is in their workmen that the continent has one of its chief advantages over Britain, and America, over the continent, for even the German has to yield the palm to the compound, British-German which makes the man of the more stirring New World. He could not be more thorough or methodical than the German, but he is more active and more versatile. Wages of skilled labor, though higher in Britain than in Germany, are not so much so as to rank in importance with factors stated; the difference between the two is



WHERE IS THE DOG THAT IS BARKING AT THE TRAMP? In yesterday's puzzle the cat may be found by using the upper part of the picture as base. It is then towards the right, formed in the foliage.

All-Canada Exhibition. Montreal, Jan. 8.—The Montreal branch of the Canadian Manufacturer's Association at a meeting today endorsed the proposal for the holding of an all-Canada exhibition at Toronto, and Mr. Robt. Mento was appointed to represent Montreal in the delegation which will go to Ottawa at the coming session to ask for a grant for the exhibition.

"A Black Sheep"—Auditorium. See Mr. A. M. Thornburgh as "Samuel" in the opera "Pirates of Penzance" at the Auditorium on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18-21.

I hope Rockefeller won't give away any more millions for a while. "Why?" "Because I am paying all I can afford for oil now."—Houston Post.

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