POOR DOCUMENT

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KIMBERLEY'S DIAMONDS.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FAMOUS JEM DISTRICT OF AFRICA.

The Boers Want Kimberley and Rhodes—They Say "If You Want Our Gold Fields We Will Take Your Diamond Mines," and They Would Like to Have Them.

The Boers' isolation of Kimberley and Cecil Rhodes—or had we not better say, Cecil Rhodes and Kimberley? For it is an open secret that the Boers would pay handsomely if they could get Rhodes into their power, to them the cause and impersonation of all their troubles. The investment of Kimberley was not expected so soon by the English, but by it the Boers seem to say:—

"You want our gold fields in the Transvaal. We will take your diamond mines at Kimberley."

There doubtless are many questions at issue between the British and the Boers, but after all is said most outsiders regard the question very much as this threat put it. The British wanted to control the gold fields as they do the diamond mines, and they intend to accomplish their purpose, while the Boers say—

"We were here years before you thought of coming and have the first right of ownership."

The history of the diamond mines may furnish some clew to an understanding of the situation, if nothing more. Diamond dealers say that the precious gems have increased seventy-five per cent since the beginning of the war. The mines of Kimberley are the greatest diamond producers in the world, furnishing from ninety to ninety-five per cent of all the diamonds sold. Even more could be put on the market, but the mines are controlled by the richest trust on earth, which limits the output so as to keep up prices.

DISCOVERY OF DIAMONDS.

Yet the discovery of diamonds in South Africa goes back only a little more than thirty years. One day in 1867 the children of a Boer farmer, who lived on a farm seventeen hours' ride west of Hopetown, on the bank of the Orange River, were playing with some stones they had found in its bed.

An ostrich hunter named O'Reilly happened to pass, and the Boer farmer, Van Niekerk, called his attention to an especially brilliant stone that a Griqua boy had found. O'Reilley was startled. He scratched on a pane of glass with the stone, and immediately decided that he had a diamond in his hand. He promised the Boer half of whatever it proved to be worth, and wanted to follow up the search at once.

After many wanderings he went to an English physician in Graham's Town, a Dr. Atherstone, who was the first to recognize the great value of his "find." He recognized it as a diamond in a moment, and estimated its weight at 21 3-16 carats. A little later this stone was sold to Sir Philip Wodehouse, then governor of Cape Colony, for $2,500. O'Reilly soon brought another stone from the same locality, which weighed 8¼ carats, and it was sold to the same person for $1,000. One of the most beautiful of the South African diamonds later came from Van Niekerk's farm on Orange River, the so-called "Star of South Africa," weighing 83½ carats, found by a Kaffir. The brilliant later cut therefrom came into the possession of the Earl of Dudley for $125,000.

INRUSH OF MINERS.

Immediately after the first report of these discoveries the Orange River was crowded with white, black and yellow Europeans, Kaffirs and Hottentots, and here and there they succeeded in finding a few diamonds. Thence the search spread to the bed of the River Vaal, and here, on the property of the Berlin Missionary Society, at Pniel, camps were pitched and the work began in earnest.

In 1870 new diamond diggings were discovered, again by children playing with stones. This was not on the banks of the river, but on the high table land where their existence had not been suspected. It was on the farm of Du Toits Pan, between the Vaal and the Modder rivers. It was in the mud which had been used to build his house that the children saw a shining object, and dug out a diamond. In pulling up a plant another child found a diamond weighing eighty carats clinging to the roots.

The richest mine of all, however, was found in July, 1871, on the Kolesberg-Kopje. The old mines were abandoned, and then came De Beers New Rush. The town of Kimberley was later founded in the neighborhood of this mine, being named after the British colonial secretary at that time, Lord Kimberley, and the mine was known as the Kimberley mine. Later some small diggings were found in the Orange Free State, Koesifontein and Jagersfontein, from which some of the diamonds of the first water have since been taken.

DISPUTE OVER OWNERSHIP.

The confusion and disorder of the frenzied fortune hunters was tremendous, and political confusion followed in the claim of the Orange Free State to Kimberley and the mines around it. The British government held that this was British territory, and to make its claim good purchased the claim of an old Griqua chief to this land.

The British referred the matter for arbitration, notwithstanding the protest of the Orange Free State, making a British officer the umpire. He decided in favor of Great Britain, and meanwhile, with a huge rush, thousands of miners had come into the country. The Free State protested against the decision in vain, for England claimed that its power was necessary to preserve order, and the Free State was obliged to accept $450,000 for its claim. This incident has not been forgotten by the Free State Boers, and is no small incentive to them to aid their brothers of the South African Republic.

Several of the wiser miners began to combine for the formation of companies to purchase machinery that they might go to the deeper levels where the famous "blue ground" lay, filled with diamonds. By 1885 many of these companies were at work, and then a further combination of their interests took place in the formation of the De Beers Consolidated Company, Limited. The moving spirits in this combination were the redoutable Barney Barnato and Cecil Rhodes.

Under the able financial management of the latter, this company now pays a dividend of $10,000,000 annually on a nominal capital of $20,000,000.

The latest improvements in mining machinery have been of course adopted, and the best engineers are engaged in conducting the work. The "yellow earth" of the surface in which the early prospectors found their wealth has been dug through and the "blue ground" is being worked to unprecedented depths. This peculiar formation appears to be practically inexhaustible, for soundings have never been able to get beyond it.

METHODS OF MINING.

Nowhere else on the earth is this peculiar blue quartz to be found, so it has been called kimberlite. It is very hard, but alters and softens under moisture and air. The miners have taken advantage of this, and the large companies haul the blue ground to the surface and spread it out to disintegrate naturally. It is spread out on floors surrounded by armed guards night and day, and there it is first harrowed by two engines some 500 yards apart dragging the harrows over it.

There it stays for six months or a year, and is then sent to the crushing works, where it is washed and rolled by machinery until every bit of foreign matter has been removed and the diamonds alone remain. Some bits that do not pulverize under the harrow are called hard blue, are picked out by hand and carefully treated separately, for large stones are sometimes in these hard masses of rock.

The work in the mines is done chiefly by Kaffirs, who wield the drills and use the dynamite for blasting with little inconvenience. They are engaged for a specified number of weeks, during which they are kept in a well guarded compound, fed, and if ill, treated by the company. Only at the end of their term of service are they paid and permitted to leave, when they return with what seems to them untold wealth, to buy a wife and set up housekeeping in their home, some weeks' journey away.

All kinds of precautions are taken to prevent them from stealing diamonds which they find while at work. As each man leaves the mine he must strip to the skin and submit to a search of mouth, ears and nose. Even if he were to swallow a diamond he would be caught. The companies try to prevent stealing by offering premiums for the finding of large stones, but, strange to say, all of the precautions have not prevented the largest diamonds from reaching the market through private persons.

The diggings at Kimberley have done much to explain the formation of the diamond itself, for kimberite is recognized by all authorities as being of eruptive origin, and the diamond in it must have been formed by the tremendous heat generated at the time of the eruption. In fact, the mines look like chimneys or "pipes," as they are called, the blue ground running down toward the centre of the earth like a huge waterpipe.

DEPTH OF THE MINES.

The depth of the mines is very great a level in the Kimberley being 1,520 feet down and in the DeBeers, 1,200 feet. Most of the mining now is done under ground by galleries running to the central shaft. This prevents many accidents, and is a great economy in space and time. To give some idea of the amount of work done in the mines, at the De Beers, during 12 working days in November, 1897, eight and three-quarters tons of dynamite, 65,100 feet (twelve and one-third miles) of fuse and 32,500 fuse caps were used. This mine never yields less than 900 pounds of diamonds annually, washing 2,409,030 tons of blue ground for them.

The sorting of the stones is an art and science in one. Good eyes and judgment are necessary. Here are found some with deep tints of brown, pink and yellow, which are most valuable, being classified as fancy stones. Those with slight shades are least valuable, and the pure white rank next.

The largest diamond ever found in the world was discovered here in 1893, and is known as excelsior. It weighed 971¾ carats, and was discovered at Jagersfontein. It far surpassed the De Beers, found some time before, which weighed only 428½ carats, yet was quite a diamond itself.

A BORDER FIGHT.

More Trouble at Naco, Where Mexican Police and American Cowboys Fought Saturday.

EL PASO, Texas, Oct. 24—Advices from Bisbee, Arizona, describe the situation at Naco as critical. It has been learned that James Ryan, killed by the Mexicans yesterday, was a British subject, and steps are being taken by British subjects at Naco to have the affair investigated by their government. Joe Rhodes and George Marts, captured by the Mexicans, are still in jail on the Mexican side of the line, and are kept in Communicdo. The cowboys learned that the prisoners would be removed to an interior town for trial, and they are determined not to let the removal take place, as they fear to trust their friends to the Mexican guards, believing it means certain death.

An effort will be made to rescue the the prisoners unless they are released. Fully 100 cow men armed with Winchesters are assembled at Naco and threats of vengance are heard on every side. The Mexican garrison has been reinforced by 200 Rurales, 50 Coradors and a number of guards.

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THE CHURCH HEARD FROM.

REASONS GIVEN WHY THEIR PHILIPPINE POSSESSIONS

Should Not Be Confiscated as General Funston is Reported to Have Recommended—The Priests Are Now Uunder the Power of the Natives.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 — Archbishop Chappelle, of New Orleans, apostolic delegate to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, today gave out the following statement to the Associated Press:—

"In answer to General Funston's statement made in an address to the students of Stanford University that "if congress would drive out the friars and confiscate every inch of church property the bottom would drop out of the insurrection within one week. The inhabitants of Luzon are completely under the church," I deem it proper to make the following public statement:—

"Knowing what I do from most reliable authority, General Funston's broad-mindedness and sense of fairness, I do not believe that he has been quoted correctly. He may have stated that the insurgents demand this as a condition of peace, but that he gave them as his own sentiments I cannot credit. From my own experience, I know how easy it is to be misquoted. All I can say is, if General Funston did make this statement, he manifested a dense ignorance of the work done by the religious orders in the Archipelago. On the very face of it, however, it shows quite plainly that it did not come from one as well posted as General Funston should be on affairs in Luzon. He is quoted as saying: "The inhabitants of Luzon are completely under the church." Now, I would ask how can this be possible when every priest (with the exception of a few natives) in the island of Luzon outside of the walled city of Manila, is a prisoner of the insurgents. For the past 18 months this state of affairs has existed, and during all this period more than 350 friars have been undergoing unheard of torture in insurgent dungeons. This being a fact, it is hard for me to see how the islands can be "under the friars." It looks as though just the opposite were the case.

That the insurgents have asked as one of their terms of peace the expulsion of the friars and the confiscation to the insurgents of all the church property is a fact well known; but we are told by the government of this (and I know it to be a fact from other reliable sources) that the insurgents represent only one tribe out of the 85 tribes peopling the archipelago; so the sentiments voiced by the insurgents about the friars and church property cannot be taken as the sentiments of the great body of the natives. No more can they be taken as the sentiments of the natives towards our people and government. What the natives are or have they owe to the friars. By them they were lifted out of savagery and brought under the blessed and refining influence of Christianity. But they were educated, not only in the schools, but in the fields and the work shops, were taught by them the very industries which are now the source of their prosperity. Mr. Peyton, the agent of the Episcopal foreign Mission Association tells us that "The natives are the most moral and religious people on the face of the globe." Now the men who taught them to be so cannot be such as some narrow minded people would try and have us believe. Rev. Dr. Abbel, a Scotch Protestant missionary, also testified that "Nearly the whole population of the Philippine Archipelago has been converted to the Catholic faith by the Spanish monks, and a wonderful improvement in their social condition has been the result."

He then goes on to show that if anyone doubts this improvement it can easily be made manifest by comparing the Christian native with his southern neighbor of the same blood—the fanatic Moro.

As to the confiscation of the estates, you might as well talk of confiscating the estates of the Vanderbilts, the Astors and other millionaires whose estates have, in the course of years, grown so wonderfully. There would be just as much right and justice in one case as in the other. The estates of the religious orders have been acquired in the usual way by purchase and in the course of nearly four centuries have naturally grown large, but if even unbiased Protestant witnesses are to be credited, large as they are, all are used for the betterment and uplifting of the natives.

A former British consul (a Protestant), writing on this subject, says: "It was by means of these estates the friars introduced agriculture and settled habits of life among tribes originally nomadics.

"It was by means of these estates that that they got them to live in villages, and introduce amongst them the arts of civilization. It was by means of these estates that they acquired the power of inducing them to labor with a certain amount of regularity and method—the safe guard against a relapse again into their original state of savagery."

The natives, he says are, with some rare exceptions, in need of tutelage without which they would fall back to the customs of their ancestors, a tutelage that no one can exercise better than the friars. Within the precincts of the monasteries are to be found carpenter shops, forges, brick and tile yards, etc., to teach the natives various trades. The villages formed around them presented a pleasing picture of happiness and content, in startling contrast with those who were still Pagan and uncivilized."

In a short time I will start for the Philippines and I will personally investigate all charges made against religious orders, titles of property, etc. Until I have completed my work I would ask the good people of the United States not to be too ready to swallow as facts the opinions of gentlemen whose previous training and lack of opportunities to get at the real facts do not warrant their statements concerning the Catholic ministers of religion, the intellectual capacity the moral and social condition of the people of the Archipelago to be taken as undisputed facts by reasible and just minds; nor can they, therefore, be taken as an exact presentation of a condition of things in the Philippines upon which the United States government could prudently and equitably base its policy with regard to this Archipelago. The church asks only justice and I will not countenance the retention of one inch of property which is not now legitimately held.

One word now on another subject. I see that it is said that the object of my visit to the White House on Saturday was to protest against the looting and desecrating of the churches in the Philippines. This was not the case. As to the looting and desecration of these churches, I am informed by a person whose word I cannot doubt, that this looting was not done by our American soldiers, but by the insurgents and the Chinese.

(Signed) P. L. CHAPPELLE,
Archbishop of New Orleans,
Delegate Apostolic."

LIPTON DINED.

Will Send Another Challenger When Fife Gets Well.

NEW YORK, Oct. 24—An informal luncheon in honor of Sir Thomas Lipton, owner of the Shamrock, was given today in the rooms of the Transportation club, in the Manhattan Hotel. A number of railroad and steamboat transportation officials were present. Senator Depew, president of the club, was selected to receive the guest of honor.

The senator, in an address, said:—

"No man has contributed so much to the speed of England and done so much to exhilirate the speed of this country as Sir Thomas. He wanted that cup. We stopped twisting the lion's tail a year ago and this year we had to stick pins in the eagle. The result has been satisfactory to the eagle.

It is the sporting spirit in its best sense that carries England's flag and the spirit of England over the world, and it is the sporting spirit in its best sense that carries our flag to the other side of the world. The same feeling that stirred us when we received the news of the battle of San Juan stirred us two or three days ago when we received news of the fighting in the Transvaal."

In reply Sir Thomas said he was deeply moved by the sincere greeting extended him.

"I have been asked," said Sir Thomas, "If I would challenge again. Unfortunately Mr. Fife, the designer of the Shamrock, has been ill, and we have not had the benefit of his advice during the whole series of races. After the last race he was too ill to be told, although I suppose he knows now.

"Now, gentlemen, I am prepared to make another challenge when Mr. Fife regains his health and I can discuss the matter with him."

Major Eustice Jameson said that if Sir Thomas had had the cheesing of lifting the cup or securing the respect of the American people he would have chosen the latter."

Supreme Court of Canada.

OTTAWA, Oct. 24—In the supreme court today in the case of the Queen vs. Grenier, judgment was given allowing appeal. This was the case where the widow of an employe on the Intercolonial brought an action for damages for negligence which caused the death of her husband at King's siding.

The case of Wood vs. the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. was heard. The plaintiff was injured on the railway when taking a car onto a siding on which grass had been allowed to grow. In coupling the cars his foot caught in the grass, whereby he fell and a car wheel went over him. The case was framed merely to raise a question of law, namely, whether or not the company was liable for the defective state of the road notwithstanding that the same was due to the negligence of a fellow servant of the plaintiff.

The maritime list will be taken up Monday, November 6.

ST. STEPHEN NEWS.

Dr. Seymour, of Calais, Hurt—Enlarging the Cotton Factory.

ST. STEPHEN, Oct. 24—While Dr. Seymour, of Calais, was driving to St. Stephen on Monday morning, an empty kerosene barrel on a truck ahead of him fell from the load and frightened his horse. The doctor was thrown from his carriage and was severely injured by his head coming in contact with the sidewalk.

The St. Croix Shoe Factory Company are feeling the effects of the good times and will at once build an addition to their already large factory. The annex will be 56x32 feet, two stories high.

The revisors are in session today and will make the final revision of the voters' lists.

Death of Elenor A. White.

SUSSEX, Oct. 23.—The death occurred here yesterday of Elenor A. White, aged 79 years, relict of the late Gilbert White. The deceased has been ailing for some time and her death was not unexpected. She is survived by one son, the Rev. G. J. Colter White. The remains will be interred at the Kirk Hill cemetery tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon, at 2 o'clock, the funeral taking place from the residence of her stepson, George H. White

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REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Drainage of Gold from New York to the Interior Has Had a Favorable Effect on the New York Market—London Holding Fast to All Her Gold.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21—The Wall street horison looks somewhat brighter. Extensive coverings of "short" contracts and readier buying by the large operators indicate a change of tone, and on the whole the tendency of the week has been towards bull ascendancy. There has been no notable increase in the volume of transactions, and as yet the gain is chiefly seen in increased snap and confidence; which is perhaps all that could be expected in the first moments of escape from a protracted depression. This recovery is largely due to the improved aspects of the local money market. The drain of currency to the interior is abating, and the near prospect of the reflux of money to this centre is trusted to bring about an early revival in speculative securities.

An ultimately active and much higher market is almost universally accepted as a foregone conclusion, and for manifest reasons. Upon a wide range of stocks, prices are low as compared with such an extraordinary activity in trade as now exists throughout the country. All accounts from the west represent the prosperity among the farmers as surpassing everything in past experience. The manufacturing centres also present an activity exceeding all precedent. Everywhere, industrial plants appear to be running to their full capacity, and in many cases day and night. Labor was never so fully employed and never, as a rule, received such high wages; the effect of which must appear in a large increase of general consumption among the working masses. The recent increase in the foreign demand for our manufacturers—now amounting to $339,000,000 per year against $158,000,000 six years ago—appears to be losing none of its remarkable progress, in spite of the enlarged home consumption. The mercantile classes are being benefited by a continuous rise in the value of their stocks of goods, and their profits are in welcome contrast to the unsatisfactory results of the last five years of depression. All this reflects the release of enterprise from the restraints of the depression consequent upon the silver craze and the over-production of the last five or six years. It means that, for that period, the demand of the country, in every department of consumption, has been restrained to the last point of endurance; and that now, with common consent, the people are in the act of compensating their past curtailments in supplying their wants. It also means that, during this contraction of consumption, some nine millions of new population has come into existence with its large additions to the wants of the national consumption. It is doubtful whether, even among keen observes of Wall street, there is any adequate conception of what this change conditions implies as to the magnitude of the demands now pressing upon the markets and the industries of the country. True, it is nothing new to have a period of trade depression followed by a run of prosperous activity; but we have never before witnessed a situation in which this kind of revival has existed upon a scale of such magnitude as we now witness. We are now only in the beginnings of this reaction; and for that reason it may be expected that the movement will run on for a considerable period before it reaches the point of over-doing. During the interval, the excitement attending such a condition of things can hardly fail to develop bull speculations in every direction, but especially in Wall street. The profits of business will naturally drift to where speculation has its chief market; and the stocks of prosperous industries and the securities of railroads reporting unprecedented earning will afford material enough for a boom on the Stock Exchange sooner or later surpassing anything recorded.

This is the picture of the future of business and of its early effects upon the speculative interests as it presents itself to the Wall street imagination; and the expectation must be conceded to be backed by no small degree of probability. But while all this is very generally regarded as likely to be realized at no very distant stage in the future, the disposition to make speculative purchases is less pronounced than might have been expected from the strength of the inducements presented. Within the last two or three months there has been a good deal of disappointed ardor. Operators have found that before buy-stocks it is very prudent to say to the money lenders, "With your permission;" and, having suffered the penalty of neglecting that condition precedent, they are disposed to make sure that "Barkis is willin'" before they take in large lines of stocks. Under all the circumstances it seems reasonable to expect that when a steady money market has become assured beyond question there will be a rush for buying stocks which will cause a quick and sharp advance in prices.

So far as respects domestic movements, the money market is working towards an easier condition, and bankers' western correspondents report that their money wants have been for the most part satisfied, while others report a probable early turn of exchange in favor of New York. So far as respects foreign factors affecting this market, the prospect is uncertain enough to keep the local banks still cautious in respect to time loans. London appears bent upon holding its control of the yellow metal well in hand; and, with exchange here so near the gold exporting point, it might be no difficult matter for the Bank of England to get a few millions from us. Such an effect, however, would come through manipulation rather than as the natural outcome of international balances. The trade balance is now even more in our favor than it was a year ago. For the three months July, August and September the exports of merchandise, gold and silver combined were 107 millions in excess of the like imports, while for the same quarter of 1898 the surplus of exports was only 77 millions. This fact does not imply that we are exposed to any early shipment of gold; it rather indicates the opposite. But it is not easy to say what is impossible under the exigencies of a great national bank.

DEATH OF FATHHR McCABE,

Who Assisted John Boyle O'Reilly to Escape From Australia.

WASECA, Minn., Oct. 23—Rev. P. M. McCabe, a well known Roman Catholic clergyman, is dead of Bright's disease, at St. Mary's, a small mission near Waseca. His death recalls an exploit of international interest in which he was a conspicuous actor. It was Father McCabe who was instrumental in liberating the political prisoner, John Boyle O'Reilly, who afterwards became the noted American poet. O'Reilly was detected propagating Fenianism in England. He was arrested and sentenced to penal servitude. Father McCabe was stationed at the Australian prison as chaplain and to him O'Reilly confided his intention of making his escape. The priest offered to aid him. On a dark night in 1869 the two met by appointment and the priest and the prisoner exchanged clothes. In this disguise O'Reilly departed in an open boat without food or drink. After three days of terrible exposure to the perils of the sea, O'Reilly was picked up by an American whaler and carried to Liverpool. Thence he made his way quickly to the United States. The priest reported to the prison officials that he had been waylaid by the convict, who compelled him to make the exchange of clothing. When the truth leaked out later on, Father McCabe was obliged to make a hasty departure from Australia. He came to this country and applied to Bishop Ireland for a charge in his diocese about 18 years ago. He had remained in Minnesota ever since.

PARRSBORO BARK LOST.

The Steamer Philadelphia Arrives at Boston With the Crew of the Iodine.

BOSTON, Oct. 22—Steamer Philadelphia arrived today from Liverpool with the captain, four passengers, and seven of the crew of the British bark Iodine, Greenland for Philadelphia, abandoned in mid ocean on Oct. 18 after a hurricane. Two of the crew were swept overboard and lost. The Iodine, Capt. Hillgrave, left Ivigtut, Greenland, on Oct. 4, with a cargo of cryolite. She had good weather until the 14th instant when a storm came up and soon developed into a hurricane.

For three days the vessel was at the mercy of the waves, during which time two of the crew, Louis Thompson and John M. Peterson, both of Sweden, were swept overboard and lost.

On Oct. 18th when in lat. 47.20 N, and lon. 46.10 w, the Philadelphian was sighted and all hands taken off and landed here this morning.

The Iodine hailed from Parrsboro, N. S., was of 295 tons register and was built at Eatonville, N. S., in 1885.

A HUNTER SHOT.

Frank Morse Killed Himself While Partridge Hunting.

FREDERICTON, Oct. 23—A sad shooting accident occurred at Southampton on Sunday, by which Frank Morse, a young man 29 years of age, lost his life in a terrible manner. He was shooting partridge with a friend. They became separated and Morse was heard to fire a shot. When his friend returned to the spot he found Morse dead and it is supposed that the unfortunate man had fired at a partridge and that the gun hung fire, when he removed the gun from his shoulder and proceeded to examine it and must have been pointing into the muzzle as he had received the whole charge in the face, killing him instantly.

German Embezzler Sentenced.

DRESDEN, Saxony, Oct. 24—Herr Hopfe, former treasurer of the Albert Verein, a charitable organization under the patronage of the king and queen of Saxony, was today sentenced by the high criminal court to imprisonment for four years and nine months for misappropriation of 250,000 marks of the society's funds. Hopfe, who had held high official positions, is a millionaire.

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