

STRANGE, IF TRUE

The Amazing Story of Sir Bfazil Zaharoff, the "Millionaire of Mystery."

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
D'you ever hear of Sir Basil Zaharoff, G.C.B., G.B.E.? Neither did we. But the London correspondent of the Sun and New York Herald says that he is one of the most remarkable and interesting men in the world, and he makes out a pretty good case for it, too, unless he is drawing upon a highly hetic imagination. According to him Sir Basil is the "Millionaire of Mystery," one of the wealthiest men in the world, whose various art collections can compare with those of any American millionaire, and whose philanthropies are as vast as they are eccentric. He is about to visit this continent on a special mission for the British Government. His visit has to deal with finance, of course, for it is in the realm of finance that Sir Basil shines with purest ray serene. The fact that he was born about 65 years ago of obscure parents and in the intervening years has made himself an amazing fortune, and was able at more than one critical moment in the war to throw his tremendous resources on the side of the Allies would seem to qualify him particularly for a financial mission.

How He looks.
Sir Basil was born of a Greek mother and a Russian father in Athens and reared amid squalor. At the age of sixteen he went to Paris with five francs in his pocket. We now skip over the next fifty odd years and find him dwelling in a palace, one at a time, but having half a dozen other palaces to dwell in when he gets tired of one. We quote from the correspondent: "He enjoys the fellowship of the great, the homage of beauty, the adulation of statesmen and the esteem of scholars, and if there is anything else to enjoy he probably enjoys that too. He is described as short, wiry but distinguished looking, with kindly blue grey eyes, white hair, mustache and imperial. He has never been known to appear without a red carnation in his buttonhole, from which one would infer that he is an intellectual. In addition, he has an intellectual face. Despite this his character has some quaint links. For instance, though a bachelor, he hates the opposite sex, and his narrow escapes from matrimony have been thrilling, his fame and wealth having made him an extraordinary interesting lure to the ladies. He has had other escapes, too. In the war the Germans are said to have put a price of \$100,000 on his head, for they recognized in him a determined and influential enemy. Rather a stiff fence.

The Sun correspondent, Edgar C. Middleton, tells us in an interview with Sir Basil that he had with a former Chancellor of the Exchequer in one of the dark days of the war, and though we disbelieve the anecdote, we repeat it. At the time, munitions of every kind were directly needed, but the necessary credits to purchase them were not forthcoming. Matters were almost desperate when one day the Chancellor happened to unbend himself to a friend. "X-million pounds," remarked the friend, naming the huge sum required. "That's nothing. I know a man who could guarantee you that amount within twenty hours. He's in London now. I'll ask him to drop round." And he did, with the result that within the stipulated time the British Government was guaranteed the required sum. If you believe that a Greek, who, up to this time, was unknown to the British Government, could raise money for munitions that the British Government could not raise when the very existence of the Empire was at stake, you may accept this story.

Tricked Them.
Here is another one that does not so severely tax credulity. In the opening stages of the war, Germany was keenly anxious to secure the co-operation of Sir Basil, and at this time Greece, through its king, was Germany's unofficial ally. Strong representations were made through important Greek personages that Sir Basil should have a conference with German financial experts. To the astonishment of his friends, who knew that Zaharoff was strongly French by adoption, he consented and the meeting took place. The Germans thought that their credit was about to be aided by the untold millions of the Greek financier. Some of hundreds of millions of dollars were mentioned respectfully but confidently. Zaharoff was told certain things. He went away, and he did not come back, but it is said that as a result of his information he all but doubled his fortune in two days. It was after

this unfortunate incident that the German government put a price on his head. The bitterest reflection for the Wilhelmstrasse financiers was that this huge sum of money, which their own stupidity had permitted Sir Basil to make, would probably be put at the disposal of the Allies.

Helped the Allies.
Nor were they mistaken, for through the war he gave or lent colossal sums to various allies, and nearly every case his name being withheld at his request. Thus it is that Sir Basil Zaharoff is practically unknown, while men with a title of his money and a decimal nationally. He is a philanthropist, with his own ideas of giving money. He has established a Chair of Aeronautics in Paris, and another at the London University. Mr. Middleton says that he has also established a Chair of French at Oxford, a statement that makes a further pull on our credulity. He established a radio telegraph station at Athens. His benefactions are made without fuss. He asks, how much is wanted, when it is required and how long it is to be spent. If the answers satisfy him he produces his fountain pen and signs on the dotted line with a single gesture. He refuses to use a typewriter. He has never ridden in an automobile, nor in a flying machine, despite his powerful encouragement to this sport of science. Altogether he would appear to be an interesting enough character to invite to open the National Exhibition. (Attention of Mr. Joe Hay.)

GROCERY REPORT FROM THREE CITIES OF THE DOMINION

The following comment on the market situation as regards foodstuffs appeared in Canadian Grocer last week: The feature of the grocery business now costing the retailer two per cent more which has already been put on by some manufacturers and jobbers. The sugar situation shows no improvement. Supplies are short and it is almost a positive fact that supplies will be two cents per pound higher. Business is reported in a healthy condition.

Montreal.
There is a distinct feeling of uncertainty in the Montreal market at the present time. The merchants and manufacturers are slow to make quotations or transact any large business until the government's recent budget demands are more clearly understood. As a result the market is inclined to be quiet for a time. On the other hand the produce and fruit and vegetable market is lower this week with the increased home production. Vegetables, except potatoes, are much cheaper and oranges have experienced a sharp decline. Potatoes are here this season. Seven dollars per bag is asked. Cereals are higher, an increase of twenty-five cents on cornmeal and rolled oats. Japan teas are quoted two cents a pound higher. Flour, wrapping paper, canned peas and peaches are higher.

Toronto.
The markets generally are firm with advances registered on evaporated milk, cocoa, lemonade and orange powder, piles of granulated sugar remain scarce and refiners now state that it will probably be about June 5 before supplies are rolling freely. Redness also state that an advance around two cents per lb. A strong market is noted for syrups and molasses. Corn flour, fancy corn meal and split peas are higher. Flaked wheat and cracked wheat are also higher. The cereal market is ruling quiet. Cooked peas in packages have declined six cents per case. Wheat flakes, corn meal, farina, pancake flour, hominy and barley in packages have advanced 20 to 30 cents per case. The spice market is firm. Jamaica ginger and pure mustard are quoted higher. Nutmegs are scarce and slight advances have occurred. The trend of the primary coffee markets are firm to higher. Importers are experiencing some difficulty in getting supplies due to the poor transportation.

There is an active demand for canned goods and dried fruits. Canned peas are scarce. Figs are cheaper owing to the jobbers desiring to clean up stocks before the warm weather. There is an unsettled condition developed in the nut market. Nuts in the shell at New York have declined about 40 per cent. Shelled almonds, walnuts and filberts are very unsteady and quite a spread is noted in quotations. Potatoes continue scarce and are selling at higher figures. Other vegetables are arriving freely and a brisk demand is noted. The plum and apple season is in full swing and dealers are of the opinion that the lowest prices have been reached. There is an easier tendency to most produce and provision markets. Dressed

For The Holiday At The "Busy Bee"

In order to accommodate buying, for June 3, The Busy Bee will remain open Wednesday till 9 p. m. A full line of Coffee, Cakes, Buns, Parker House Rolls, Tea Biscuits, Cakes, Cookies, Pastries, etc., is here for your consideration.

THE BUSY BEE 143 Charlotte St.

TO-MORROW Who Could Resist These Blouse Bargains?

Besides some special lines of Voile Blouses offered tomorrow, attractive prices have been put on Crepe-de-Chine, Georgette and Silk Blouses.

- The Latest Style of Voile Blouses at Only \$3.50
Extra Special Crepe-de-Chine Blouses Tomorrow at \$6.50 and \$7.50
A Striped Silk Blouse at Only \$7.50
Suit Blouses Will be Cheap Tomorrow
To be Cleared at \$6.50, \$8.50, \$9.95

EIGHTEEN STORES IN CANADA D'Alairds BLOUSES 10 KING SQUARE

It will pay you to buy the small piece of Cake, Pie, Cookies, etc., you need, cooked by the Woman's Exchange, in connection with this Library. P. KNIGHT HANSON "His Master's Voice" Dealer 10 Germain Street

CAR DRIVEN BY VETERAN IN PARADE KILLS A WOMAN
Palmer, Mass., June 1.—Mrs. Grace A. Allen, a member of the women's relief corps, was killed during the Memorial Day parade yesterday, when she was struck by an auto in the parade carrying civil war veterans and driven by Captain H. E. W. Clark, aged 85.

COFFEE
We have recently installed a machine which not only steels cuts the Coffee Bean, but also removes the chaff which makes our Special Fresh Ground Coffee at 65c, a pound the best on the market.

Dr. Frank Boyaner DENTIST 74 Germain Street (Between King and Princess) Phone Main 4211

BRITISH STEEL PLANTS WANT OUR RAW MATERIAL
When Mr. J. W. Norcross, president of the Canada Steamship Lines, visited Port Arthur at the end of last week with his touring party, inspecting the shipyards and ships on the Upper Lakes to be affected by the steel and ship merger, a luncheon was given at that city, at which one or two interesting things were said. Sir James McKeachnie, head of Vickers Ltd., one of the largest manufacturing plants in the British Isles, said: "We are looking for the time when we shall be able to get our raw materials from Canada. We are short of slabs and pig iron at the present time. At Sydney we have a vast store we can draw upon, and there is no reason why we should not avail ourselves of it."

Brass Beds
are recognized as the most healthful, most stylish, most modern, cleanest, and altogether the most desirable. We are showing a beautiful display of Brass Beds, which are now offered at old prices. Handsome All Brass Beds at \$48, \$50, \$53 and upwards, and are rare bargains. LINOLEUMS AND OILCLOTHS In two and four-yard widths, at last summer prices. BLINDS, FELTOL, ETC. Amland Bros., Ltd., 19 Waterloo Street

Trying To Economize?

We can assist you in a practical way

It isn't very difficult surely to equip yourself and the kiddies for the selections below.

Dad, Mother, all the family c

All this week--Unt

- \$1.85 Juniors' Straw Hats, in black dies' hats too.
\$2.85 Kiddies' Straw Hats, in white
\$4.85 For a Knox Straw Sailor. Th mends them.
\$4.85 \$9.85 Women's Fresh Summer Wool divided into these two tempting l
\$10.85 A French Silk Plush Hat can now be for this economical price.
\$15.85 For any serge wrap or cape. There six.
\$17.85 For a Knox Trimmed Hat worth twi amount.
\$29.85 For a choice of seven Summer Weight ( in navy, sand and combinations.
\$29.85 An almost unbelievable price—for a choic a Betty Wales Dress, in satin, tafetta, sill georgette.

November Prices Will Not Be As Inviting
It does seem warm to talk of furs, doesn't it? But if you so desire—and we believe you will—your fur coat for next winter may be purchased from these following model garments for next season at no small saving to yourself. We store and insure free all garments purchased until required, too.

- \$238.50 and tax instead of \$300.00 will buy a model Sealine Coat with skunk trimmings.
\$318.50 and tax instead of \$400.00 will purchase a choice of either a Taupe, Lynx or Australian Opposum trimmed Near Seal Model Sport Coat for next season.
\$278.50 and tax will enable you to purchase one of the newest model garments in a new fur—Nutria Opposum—for the coming season. The original price is \$350.00. Its a very uncommon bargain too.

HUDSON SEAL MODEL SPORT COATS

- 1 Garment with Scotch Mole shawl collar and cuffs. For \$585.50 and tax, instead of \$750.00
1 Garment with Natural Grey Squirrel shawl collar and cuffs. For \$388.50 and tax, instead of \$450.00
1 Garment with Natural Beaver shawl collar and cuffs. For \$438.50 and tax, instead of \$550.00

Men's and Boys' Department

- Summer Tweed Caps For 85c. each
Summer Outing Hats of Silk For \$1.15 each

- Summer Weight Soft Hats \$1.85 each
Felt Pocket Hats Each \$1.65
Summer Caps of Silk Each 85c.
Leather Motor Gauntlets A pair for \$3.60 Instead of \$4.50
Leather Motor Coats For \$78.50 each and tax The legitimate price is \$100.00. Men's and Women's Models.

D. Magee's Sons Limited Since 1859 in St. John

At the First Taste You Know Post Toasties are the best CORN FLAKES made They have a crisp substance and superior flavor immediately recognizable, and when you get to the last serving in the package, you find the last as satisfying as the first. There's no waste to Toasties. Each package is full of satisfying goodness at a fair price. In ordering, be sure to specify Post Toasties. That will insure your getting the very best in corn flakes. Sold by Grocers Everywhere! Made by Canadian Postum Cereal Company, Ltd. WINDSOR, ONTARIO