

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1920

200,000 IN BONDS BURNED BY THIEVES

Negro, in Confession, Implicates Mail Driver in Disappearance of Securities.

The mysterious disappearance on July 6 of railroad bonds, valued at \$200,000, mailed from Milwaukee, Wis., to Payne, Nebber & Co., stock brokers, of New York, was cleared up by the admission of Thaddeus Joseph Van Buckley Rainow Starkey, a negro, of 416 West Thirty-sixth street, New York, that the bonds were stolen from a mail sack and turned when it was realized that an attempt to sell them might lead to the arrest of himself and his brother-in-law, James Johnson.

According to the confession Starkey alleged to have made, his brother-in-law, who was the driver of a mail wagon up to a few weeks ago, when he was arrested for rifling the mails, gave him the package of bonds at Seventh avenue and Twenty-ninth street on the night of the arrival of the securities in New York, the branch office of the brokerage firm in Milwaukee.

They did not know what the package contained until they opened it, according to Starkey, and they immediately turned the bonds to prevent detection. Johnson also gave him several other parcels taken from the mails, and the police and post office officials now are endeavoring to trace them, although Starkey said they were destroyed.

Johnson was arrested on Aug. 12, following the finding of several empty mail pouches in a lake at New Rochelle by others. Post office inspectors discovered that the pouches had been entrusted to Johnson for delivery from the general post office to a branch post office. He was arraigned before United States Commissioner Hitchcock and sent to the Tombs in default of bail. The police learned that Starkey was a brother-in-law of the prisoner and when he called at the Tombs to see Johnson they arrested him. After being questioned Starkey is alleged to have admitted that he not alone received the bonds, but that on July 28 last Johnson gave him two mail pouches and instructed him to take them to New Rochelle, where Johnson later met him. They took the mail pouches to a woods, ripped them open and extracted several hundred letters, in addition to packages containing an assortment of jewelry and two badges issued by the license bureau of the Secretary of State. Starkey declared that he received only \$30 from his brother-in-law as his share of the loot.

CANADIAN WORK SUFFERS BY SHORTAGE OF CEMENT.

St. Catharines, Sept. 11.—So acute has become the situation with regard to cement that for the work on suburban road pavement between this city and Port Dalhousie the Canada Cement Corporation, with a big plant at Port Colborne, announces that it cannot guarantee to fill orders. The work on the Welland Ship Canal construction is likewise being held back by the shortage of cement. It may be necessary to close down work on the Ship Canal.

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LONG GRUELLING OF HENRY LANDRU

Man Whom French Police Call Bluebeard and Who Is Suspected of Several Murders.

(A. P. Correspondence.) Paris, Aug. 23.—Henri Landru, whom the police call the Gambais Bluebeard and hold responsible for the disappearance of eleven women to whom he had promised marriage, shows no sign of weakening under the continual and gruelling eighteen months of examination and preliminary investigation which Judge Bonin has conducted. "You seem wan and tired today," he said to Judge Bonin solicitously when he last appeared before the judge. "Don't you think you will be able to take a vacation this year?" It was a fine bit of irony, as last summer Judge Bonin, after six months of examination of the alleged bluebeard, gave up in despair and went to the country for four weeks. In the lobbies of the courthouse the



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other day Landru, accompanied by his lawyers, met Madame Bessarab who is being examined by Judge Bonin, concerning the disappearance of her husband and the subsequent finding of his body in a trunk at the Nancy railroad station. The lawyers introduced them. Saluting with a flourish of his weather beaten hat and bending low, Landru said simply: "My homages, Madame."

PORTUGAL IS FEELING COAL SHORTAGE KEENLY Lisbon, Aug. 22.—(Associated Press Correspondence)—A coal shortage is being keenly felt in Portugal owing to the prohibition of coal exportation from England and the absence of any good coal producing districts in this country. All coal for industries was imported

chiefly from Cardiff and Newcastle, and since that has ceased and orders placed in the United States have been cancelled, the situation threatens to become serious and people are looking forward with alarm to the coming winter. Abnormal conditions exist as a result, all restaurants, cafes and places of amusement must close promptly at midnight and external illuminations are prohibited.

There is but little coal produced in Portugal, which has been entirely dependent on imported coal. For domestic purposes charcoal is chiefly used all over the country in small earthenware stoves specially made for its use. Now, however, even that has disappeared as the price of fuel rose to such an extent that the government was obliged to enforce fixed prices. In consequence, although

there is plenty of charcoal farmers are not sending it to the market, hoping to obtain ever increasing prices for wood. In the mean time all Portugal is suffering from utter absence of coal and people are obliged to buy wood when it is obtainable. Middleclass and poor people burn sawdust in small iron stoves expressly invented during the war for that purpose and also use impervious boxes lined with straw that finish cooking the food, after it is removed, boiling from the stove. Many families unable to cook at home are having their meals at the restaurant.

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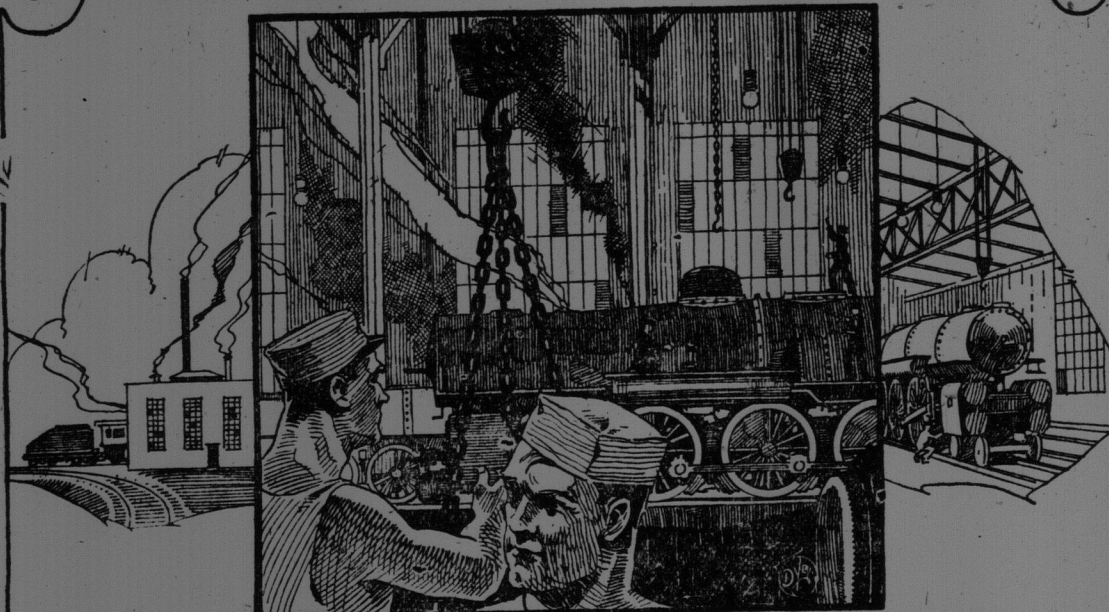
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