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JENNIE BAXTER: JOURNALIST

BY ROBERT BARR.

VI.—The Explosion in the Treasury

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The princess was waiting for her, wild with curiosity to know what had happened.

"Oh, Jennie," she cried, "who fired the mine, and who robbed the government?"

Jennie laughed merrily as she replied:

"Dear princess, what a compliment you are paying me! Do you think that in one afternoon I am able to solve a mystery that has defied the combined talents of all the best detectives in Austria? I wish the director of police had such faith in me as you have."

"And hasn't he, Jennie?"

"Indeed he has not. He watched me every minute he was with me, as if he feared I would disappear into thin air as the treasure did."

"The horrid man! I shall have my husband speak to him and rid you of this annoyance."

"Oh, no, princess, you mustn't do anything of the kind. I don't mind it in the least; in fact, it rather amuses me. One would think he had some suspicion that I stole the money myself."

"A single word from the prince will stop all that, you know."

"Yes, I know; but I really want to help the director, he is so utterly stupid."

"Now, Jennie, take off your hat and sit down here and tell me every incident of the afternoon. Don't you see I am just consumed with curiosity? I know you have discovered something. What is it?"

"I am not going to take off my hat, because I am going out directly again; but, if you love me, get me a cup of that delicious tea of yours."

"I shall order it at once, but dinner will be served shortly. You are surely not going out alone tonight?"

"I really must. Do not forget I have been used to taking care of myself in a bigger city than Vienna is, and I shall be quite safe. You will please excuse my absence from the dinner table tonight."

"Nonsense, Jennie! You cannot be allowed to roam round Vienna in that Bohemian way!"

"Then, princess, I must go to a hotel, for this roaming round is strictly necessary, and I don't want to bring the Palace Steinheimer into disrepute."

"Jennie, I'll tell you what we will do—we'll both bring it into disrepute. The prince is dining at his club tonight with some friends, so I shall order the carriage and you and I will roam round together. You will let me come, won't you? Where are you going?"

"I am going to the Graubenstrasse to see Herr Feltz."

"Oh, I know Herr Feltz, and a dear old man he is! He will do anything for me. If you want any favor from Herr Feltz, you had better take me with you."

"I shall be delighted. Ah, here comes the tea! But what is the use of ordering the carriage? We can walk there in a very few minutes."

"I think we had better have the carriage. The prince would be wild if he

"May I take some of this with me?" she asked.

heard that we two went walking about the streets of Vienna at night. So, Jennie, we must pay some respect to conventionality, and we will take the carriage. Now tell me where you have been and what you have seen and all about it."

Over their belated decoction of tea Jennie related everything that had happened.

"And what do you expect to learn from the analysis at the chemist's, Jennie?"

"I expect to learn something that will startle the director of police."

"And what is that? Jennie, don't keep me on tenterhooks in this provoking way. How can you act so? I shall write to Lord Donal and tell him that you are here in Vienna, if you don't mind."

"Well, under such a terrible threat as that I suppose I must divulge all my suspicions. But I really don't know anything yet; I merely suspect. The weight of that dust, when I picked up a handful of it, seemed to indicate that the gold is still there in the rubbish heap."

"You don't mean to say so! Then there has been no robbery at all?"

"There may have been a robbery planned, but I don't think any thief got a portion of the gold. The chances are that they entirely underestimated the force of the explosive they were using, and, unless I am very much mistaken, they are dealing with something a hundred times more powerful than dynamite."

"And will the chemical analysis show what explosive was used?"

"No; it will only show what the debris is composed of. It will settle the question whether or not the gold is in that dust heap. If it is, then I think the government will owe me some thanks, because the director of police talked of carting the rubbish away and dumping it out of sight somewhere. If the government gets back its gold, then I suppose the question of who fired the mine is merely of academic interest."

"The carriage is waiting, your highness," was the announcement made to the princess, who at once jumped up and said:

"I'll be ready in five minutes. I'm as anxious now as you must be to hear what the chemist has to say, but I thought you told me he wouldn't have the analysis ready until 4 o'clock tomorrow. What is the use of going there tonight?"

"Because I am reasonably certain that the director of police will see him early tomorrow morning, and I want to get the first copy of the analysis myself."

With that the princess ran away and presently reappeared with her wraps on. The two drove to the shop of Herr Feltz on the Graubenstrausse and were told that the chemist could not be seen in any circumstances. He had left orders that he was not to be disturbed.

"Disobey those orders and take in my card!" said the princess.

A glance at the card dissolved the man's doubts, and he departed to seek his master.

"He is working at the analysis now, I'll warrant," whispered the princess to her companion. In a short time Herr Feltz himself appeared. He greeted the princess with most deferential respect, but seemed astonished to find in her company the young woman who had called upon him a few hours previously with the director of police.

"I wanted to ask you," said Jennie, "to finish your analysis somewhat earlier than 4 o'clock tomorrow. I suppose it can be done?"

The man of science smiled and looked at her for a moment, but did not reply.

"You will oblige my friend, I hope?" said the princess.

"I should be delighted to oblige any friend of your highness," replied the chemist slowly, "but, unfortunately, in this instance I have orders from an authority not to be disputed."

"What orders?" demanded the princess.

"I promised the analysis at 4 o'clock tomorrow, and at that hour it will be ready for the young lady. I am ordered not to show the analysis to any one before that time."

"Those orders came from the director of police, I suppose?"

The chemist bowed low, but did not speak.

"I understand how it is, Jennie. He came here immediately after seeing you home. I suppose he visited you again within the hour after he left you with this young lady. Is that the case, Herr Feltz?"

"Your highness distresses me by asking questions that I am under pledge not to answer."

"Is the analysis completed?"

"That is another question which I sincerely hope your highness will not press."

"Very well, Herr Feltz. I shall ask you a question or two that you will not be frightened at. I have told my friend here that you would do anything for me, but I see I have been mistaken."

The chemist made a deprecatory motion of his hands, spreading them out and bowing. It was plainly apparent that his seeming discourtesy caused him deep regret. He seemed about to speak, but the princess went impetuously on.

"Is the director of police a friend of yours, Herr Feltz? I don't mean merely an official friend, but a personal friend?"

"I am under many obligations to him, your highness, and, besides that, like any other citizen in Vienna, I am compelled to obey him when he commands."

"What I want to learn," continued the princess, her anger visibly rising at this unexpected opposition, "is whether you wish the man well or not?"

"I certainly wish him well, your highness."

"In that case know that if my friend leaves this shop without seeing the analysis of the material she brought to you the director of police will be dismissed from his office tomorrow. If you doubt my influence with my husband to have that done, just try the experiment of sending us away unsatisfied."

The old man bowed his white head.

"Your highness," he said, "I shall take the responsibility of refusing to obey the orders of the director of police. Excuse me for a moment." He retired into his den and presently emerged with a sheet of paper in his hand.

"It must be understood," he said, addressing Jennie, "that the analysis is but roughly made. I intended to devote the night to a more minute scrutiny."

"All I want tonight," said Jennie, "is a rough analysis."

"There it is," said the chemist, handing her the paper.

She read:

Calcium	25
Iron	4
Quartz	
Feldspar	27
Mica	
Gold	36¼
Traces of other substances	8½
Total	100

Jennie's eyes sparkled as she looked at the figures before her. She handed the paper to the princess, saying:

"You see, I was right in my surmise. More than one-third of that heap is pure gold."

"I should explain," interrupted the chemist, "that I have grouped the quartz, feldspar and mica together without giving the respective portions of each, because it is evident that the combination represents granite."

"I understand," said Jennie, "the walls and roof were of granite."

"I would further add," continued the chemist, "that I have never seen gold so finely divided as this is."

"Have you the gold and other ingredients separated?"

"Yes, madame."

"I shall take them with me, if you please."

The chemist shortly after brought her the components in little glass vials, labeled.

"Have you any idea, Herr Feltz, what explosive would reduce gold to such fine powder as this?"

"I have only a theoretical knowledge of explosives, and I know of nothing

The chemist shortly after brought her the components in little glass vials.

that would produce such results as we have here. Perhaps Professor Carl Seigfried could give you some information on that point. The science of detonation has been his life study, and he stands head and shoulders above his fellows in that department."

"Can you give me his address?"

The chemist wrote the address on a sheet of paper and handed it to the young woman.

"Do you happen to know whether Professor Seigfried or his assistants have been called in during this investigation?"

"What investigation, madame?"

"The investigation of the recent terrible explosion."

"I have heard of no explosion," replied the chemist, evidently bewildered. Then Jennie remembered that while the particulars of the disaster in the treasury were known to the rest of the world no knowledge of the catastrophe had got abroad in Vienna.

"The professor," continued the chemist, noticing Jennie's hesitation, "is not a very practical man. He is deeply learned and has made some great discoveries in pure science, but he has done little toward applying his knowledge to any everyday, useful purpose. If you meet him, you will find him a dreamer and a theorist. But if you once succeed in interesting him in any matter he will prosecute it to the very end, quite regardless of the time he spends or the calls of duty elsewhere."

"He is just the man I wish to see," said Jennie decisively and with that they took leave of the chemist, and once more entered the carriage.

"I want to drive to one more place," said Jennie, "before it gets too late."

"Good gracious!" cried the princess. "You surely do not intend to call on Professor Seigfried tonight?"

"No, but I want to drive to the office of the director of police."

"Oh, that won't take us long!" said the princess, giving the necessary order. The coachman took them to the night entrance of the central police station by the Hohenstaufengasse, and, leaving the princess in the carriage, Jennie went alone to speak with the officer in charge.

"I wish to see the director of the police," she said.

"He will not be here until morning. He is at home. Is it anything important?"

"Yes. Where is his residence?"

"If you will have the kindness to inform me what your business is, madame, we will have pleasure in attending to it without disturbing Herr Director."

"I must communicate with the director in person. The Princess von Steinheimer is in her carriage outside, and I do not wish to keep her waiting." At mention of the princess the officer bestirred himself and became effusively polite.

"I shall call the director at once, and he will be only too happy to wait upon you."

"Oh! Have you a telephone here? And can I speak with him myself without being overheard?"

"Certainly, madame. If you will step into this room with me, I will call him up and leave you to speak with him."

This was done, and when the chief had answered Jennie introduced herself to him.

"I am Miss Baxter, whom you were kind enough to escort through the treasury building this afternoon."

"Oh, yes!" replied the chief. "I thought we were to postpone further inquiry until tomorrow."

"Yes; such was the arrangement, but I wanted to say that if my plans are interfered with, if I am kept under surveillance, I shall be compelled to withdraw from the search."

A few moments elapsed before the chief replied, and then it was with some hesitation.

"I should be distressed to have you withdraw; but, if you wish to do so, that must be a matter entirely for your own consideration. I have my duty to perform, and I must carry it out to the best of my poor ability."

"Quite so. I am obliged to you for speaking so plainly. I rather surmised this afternoon that you looked upon my help in the light of an interference."

"I should not have used the word 'interference,'" continued the chief, "but I must confess that I never knew results to follow amateur efforts which could not have been reached much more speedily and effectually by the regular force under my command."

(To be continued.)

SOMETHING ABOUT SALARIES.

The convention of the American Federation of Labor did a graceful thing when it raised the wages of its officials. No men rendering similar service are as poorly paid as the heads of labor unions. Take the United Mine Workers, for instance: President Mitchell receives $1,800 per year. There is not a corporation of any size in the United States that would not gladly pay ten times that amount to any person doing for it what President Mitchell does for the miners. Sheets like the New York Sun rave about "labor leaders fattening on the earnings of their dupes." Examine how much per capita President Mitchell receives from "his dupes." The cost to each member in the present membership to pay President Mitchell's salary is a little over one-half penny per year, to be exact, 6 mills is all it costs each member to pay him. It does not take quite one-half penny from each member to pay either Vice-President Lewis or Secretary Wilson. In other words, at the present price of mining it takes three good shovelfuls of coal from each member a year to pay their three national officers. Secretary Wilson, handling millions of money, receives about what a junior bank clerk does. These facts ought to silence the carpers and those tearful editors who are so disturbed lest labor leaders are overpaid.—Mine Workers' Journal.

Geo. Fred Williams, of Massachusetts, has launched a political organization, not as an independent party, but as a party within parties, to promote direct legislation, public ownership of public utilities, and opposition to the abrogation of jury trial by means of injunctions. The name of the organization is "The People's Rule."

MR. FLETT DISCOURSES.

Mr. John A. Flett discoursed in an interesting manner to a Kingston Times reporter recently. The reporter's questions and his replies were as follows:

"Is the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada," asked the reporter, "a part of the labor unions of Canada?"

"Allow me to explain," answered Mr. Flett, "as I cannot answer that question in a word. The American Federation of Labor is just what its name implies. It is a federation of national and international bodies of labor, who at their annual conventions elect representatives to voice the sentiments and ideas of their particular trade or craft. The representation is by population; for instance, the United Mine Workers' Union, of which John Mitchell is the head, is the largest union represented in the Federation, and they are entitled to the largest number of delegates at the annual conventions of the American Federation of Labor. The Federation of Labor is for the purpose of preventing dual organizations of the one craft, and also to proclaim one trade mark or design for that trade or calling, this being commonly known as the union label, and while speaking of the union label, personally, I am of the opinion that it is one of the best devices ever adopted by the organized toilers of the world. It is the olive branch between the employer and the employed. It stands as the emblem of fair conditions; it is more powerful than the boycott, and if the general consumers of the nation would only insist on having it on all commodities which they purchase, it would soon bring about the peaceful evolution in our industrial conditions. This emblem stands to the initiated in the ranks of labor, and we hope soon to educate the people along these lines so it will be recognized as an invitation to patronize the fair employer against the unscrupulous and the skinflint. We have now thirty-seven labels, representing as many callings, upon the market. We have never been able to have these properly recognized by the Government in the sense of a trade mark and design, although all of them have been registered at Ottawa in the Department of Agriculture. This year an effort will be made to secure special legislation protecting these trade marks or labels, and this will be done through the Executive Committee of the Trades and Labor Congress, which is composed of representatives from local organizations, whose international unions are in the American Federation of Labor. The object of the Congress is for legislation purposes, and is composed entirely of delegates representing Canadian unions."

"How many unions are there in Canada?"

"We have in the vicinity of 1,500. Ontario has the largest number of any of the provinces, having nearly one-half as many as the whole of Canada."

"Do you attribute the large increase in labor ranks during the recent years to the prosperous times?" was the next question asked.

"Well, yes," was the reply, "in a measure. We thrive better as times are better, but I want to tell you, and make this emphatic, that trades unionism has come to stay. It is one of the twentieth century conditions, and the great mistake that those individuals who continue their wealth in manufacturing in industrial pursuits for profit, make is in not recognizing this as one of the conditions of our times. If it is right for capital to combine, there can be no logical argument presented why the laborer, who produces all the wealth of the nation, should not combine for mutual protection and collective bargaining."

"What do you think about the situation at the Locomotive Works?"

"It is one of those industrial wars, barbarous in the act, a waste of capital and energy, and a result of mismanagement and false notions of superiority, and might have been averted, on the give and take plan, had cooler heads and wiser judgment dominated those who are managing the works."

"For what relief does the Trades and Labor Congress intend to interview the Government?"

"Organized labor through their representatives will interview the Federal Government the latter end of this month or the beginning of next month, asking for legislation that will protect their interests, such as the importation of foreigners who displace the native workmen by foreign transits who are brought in for the time being to reduce their standard of living. We want also the introduction of railway acts to prevent the awful slaughter that annually occurs through the penuriousness of the officials managing the roads; better appliances and more men to man the trains, etc. We also want the exclusion of the Chinese and the Japanese; an improved immigration law; more rigid factory inspection; better sanitary conditions and comforts where women are employed, and the prevention of child labor."

While in the city Mr. Flett devoted his time to attending to several little matters in connection with local labor.

NOTES AND NOTELETS.

The papers of the different countries keep boasting of the tremendous amount of goods which pass over the national boundaries. If a person were to judge by the attention to the figures that are thus quoted by the press, one might be led to imagine that these were the only figures worthy of our attention. On the other hand, they are the figures to which we need give the least heed. If we leave producers to choose the place their best judgment decides, they will invariably choose far better than any government can do for them. The imports and exports might multiply many fold and the toilers might still be slaves. If we leave the foreign trade to take care of itself it will do so far better than the politicians can possibly do. All it requires is a good letting alone.

The figures that are really worth consideration are centrally conspicuous by their absence. It is no matter of importance to the public what value of goods may pass the boundary between the States and Canada; but it is a matter of first importance to know how much the producers of the wealth get out of the wealth they produce, and which is theirs by right. At present we know that the owner of an acre in New York can secure a rent of five hundred thousand dollars yearly for doing nothing but "hold the land," while the farmer who holds not merely a hundred acres of land but holds the plow besides, may be thankful if at the end of the year he finds that he can pay the interest on his mortgage.

Most governments have very little scruple in trying to increase the burdens of the people, especially if it is done in an indirect way; but it is worse than drawing teeth to get them to remove a burden. The suffering in consequence of the coal famine in some cases is severe. One would imagine that the government would not hesitate for one moment to do its best to mitigate the calamity by removing the duty. Instead of doing that, however, they delay and delay. One report says that they have no intention of removing the duty. It is marvellous. When a man or a combine owning millions asks to have a burden imposed, then the government is all compliance, especially if the request is accompanied with a liberal contribution to the campaign fund.

To the men who are called the owners of the mines of Nova Scotia, this duty brings larger dividends, while to the men who toil in the darkness and danger digging the coal, it means larger obligation. This duty, instead of encouraging industries, acts in the opposite direction. It places a handicap on the manufacturer, the railroader and the gas producer. It makes it dearer to make and transport goods in this country than in the States. The C.P.R. has to pay about $400,000 and the G.T.R. about $700,000 yearly for fuel. For the government to keep such a duty as this is a fatal mistake, especially as it simply adds to the power of extortion of the man who produces nothing, and to the tribute of the man who produces everything. It is the old story, crush the poor to help the rich.

The Venezuela affair is assuming a strange aspect. The Germans are actually bombarding the forts and killing the Venezuelan soldiers, thus carrying on hostilities. The object of the German Government in doing this is in order to compel the people of Venezuela to pay a public debt. As to the right of any government to plunge one part of the people in debt to another, the question is not so much as discussed. Under a just system of government there would be no necessity for these government debts. The whole of this trouble can thus be traced originally to a vicious system of government.

The papers have scarcely ceased to tell us of the wonderful extravagances of the Durbar at Delhi till they tell of the processions of hungry men out of work in the city of London. It is possible that the "nobility" in that country may be living on the brink of a volcano. The terrible wickedness that allows the lands of the large cities to be used as agents to despoil industry, is the greatest crime of to-day. It begets a civilization of monstrosities, the castle with its luxuries and glories maintained by the destruction of the toilers. Then the papers boast that the war tax on the sugar and grain realized nearly forty millions of dollars without any suffering to the people. If by the people they meant the dukes, then their statement was unquestionably true.

So far as the meagre reports by the cable have reported the settlement of the Irish land question is an agreement between Herod and Pilate. The landlord is to receive the price he wants for his estate; the tenant is to obtain the land at the price he offers, or thereabouts; the difference between is to be taken out of the pocket of the taxpayer, who will not own an inch of the land. The landlord is still to collect his princely income for doing nothing; the tenant imagines he is to become the owner of the land while he is still paying rent in a roundabout way, and the mass of the toilers can still grind at the wheel and be despoiled of the product of their industry. Oh, idleness, but great are thy rights! Oh, industry, when wilt thou rise and assert the rights of thy manhood?

Strong attempts are being made to blacken the character of the coal miners' union. They are charged with diabolical crimes against the owners of the mines and also against the strike-breakers. Suppose all this is true, what is the cause of this calamitous condition? Had those men been treated with any approximation to fairness, would we have ever heard any suggestion of a strike with its inevitable lawlessness. Which is the greatest crime, to place one set of men in extort systematically millions of unearned wealth and thus inevitably crush hundreds of thousands of industrious men into the depths of bitter poverty, or for a few of these toilers in their wrath to commit a few crimes of entirely exceptional character under terrible provocation? Stop the larger crime, and the smaller will disappear.

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