

TREMENDOUS BIG ATTRACTION AT THE MAJESTIC TO-DAY

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— AND —

JOHN BUSS

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Venezelos is Non-Committal.

Re-union of the Churches makes but little Progress in Britain--Federalists Claim Control of the Greater Part of Mexico--American Polar Expedition to Establish a Base at Nome.

MESSAGE OF VENIZELOS FLEXING.

ATHENS, Dec. 26. The decision of former Premier Venezelos to pay a visit to Greece without, however, returning to the political arena, as he says in the telegram announcing his prospective return, is variously commented upon in political circles. The Liberals are highly gratified believing that Venezelos can be induced to take up the reins of Government. The Republicans are perplexed for they do not know the real purpose of his return. The reunion of the Greek nation is regarded as a difficult task which only a politician of Venezelos's ability can perhaps achieve.

UNFORTUNATE SUICIDE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. Despondency seemingly made more unbearable by scenes of Christmas cheer on all sides caused eight persons to attempt suicide during the holiday, police said to-day. Four men inhaled gas, one woman leaped from a roof, another woman drank poison, and an unidentified man threw himself beneath a subway train. The official records state that five died immediately and the others are said to be in a critical condition.

HOPE AT VANISHING POINT.

PARIS, Dec. 26. Indications that hope of rescuing the missing airship Dixmude is approaching vanishing point were seen to-day in the action of the ministry of marine in issuing a list of the fifty officers and men on board, which is seldom done in France until the craft is considered lost. The airship has now been out more than eight days. She carried eight days' rations and water a plenty, but only a limited amount of gasoline. The principal hope fostered here is that the Dix-

mude has landed in the Sahara desert. The airship's wireless has been silent for several days.

MAKING SMALL HEADWAY.

LONDON, Dec. 26. The question of re-union of the churches, especially the Anglican and Roman Catholic, which was advocated in resolutions at the famous Lambeth Conference in 1920, has made the smallest headway, according to a Christmas letter which the Archbishop of Canterbury has issued from Lambeth Palace to the dignitaries of the Anglican communion.

ANOTHER STORY.

EL PASO, Dec. 26. Federal troops now control the entire Republic of Mexico except a small locality held by Generals Sanchez and Estrada, according to advices received to-day by the consul of Mexico here.

DOUCETTE MUST STAND TRIAL.

SYDNEY, Dec. 26. John W. Doucette, charged with the murder of Edith Mary Brailford, a young English working girl, who was shot through the head in the Fortune home at Dominion on Nov. 24th, was to-day committed to stand trial in the Supreme Court. No startling evidence was adduced at to-day's hearing, but the magistrate stated his opinion that the circumstances were such as to warrant a trial.

THE POLAR FLIGHT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26. Recommendations that the navy's Polar exploration flight be attempted during the coming summer with the

dirigible Shenandoah, and using Nome, Alaska, as the main operating base, are contained in a report of a special board of naval officers headed by Rear Admiral William T. Moffett, Chief of Naval Aviation.

WILLING HELPERS.

WORCHESTER, Mass., Dec. 26. More than one hundred persons in every walk of life answered the appeal of little 9-year-old Ralph Orcutt, at the City Hospital, for skin to be grafted to his body to heal the terrible burns suffered last July. The surgeons recently decided that Ralph's future as a cripple might be spared if twenty inches of skin could be grafted to his limbs.

GARCIA JOINS REBELS.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 26. General Alfred Garcia, former military commander in Seseotecas, has joined the rebel forces of General Estrada, according to travellers from the South.

POLICE DISPERSE K. K. K.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 26. Police, using clubs as weapons, forced their way through a crowd of more than 2,000 persons gathered at a Ku Klux Klan ceremony here just after midnight and extinguished the burning cross which had been set up on the steps of the building. The police arrived at the conclusion of the ceremony held by men said to be leaders of the K. K. K. in Detroit.

Obituary.

JOHN VINCENT DUCHEY.

Our little town was greatly saddened on Friday, the 7th December, by news of the death of one of our most promising young men, in the person of John Vincent Ducey. The deceased, who was the eldest son of Benjamin and the late Cecilia Ducey, had been for two years mate of the schooner "General Byng," of which vessel his brother Patrick was master. On one of her recent voyages to Portugal he contracted a chill, which speedily developed into tuberculosis. During the past summer he received the best of medical treatment from doctors in St. John's, Burin and Grand Bank, but got steadily worse, and a few weeks ago he went to the sanatorium at St. John's. Here, everything possible was done for him by doctors and nurses alike, but all to no avail, and feeling himself that the end was near he expressed a desire to return home to die. His brother and sister-in-law, Captain and Mrs. P. J. Ducey, hastened to the city, and found him very weak, but full of eagerness to reach home. After a journey painful both to himself and those who took care of him en route, he arrived here by the S.S. Argyle on Thursday at noon. On Friday at 10 a.m. he breathed his last, twenty-two hours after his arrival at the home he so longed to reach. He was attended by the parish priest, Rev. Dr. McGrath, who administered the last rites of the church. Jack, as he was called by his many friends, was of so happy and cheerful a disposition that even at the times he was feeling worst, would look on the bright side of things, and his early passing is deeply regretted by all. He was always happiest when at home, and besides numerous relatives he leaves a large number of friends here and elsewhere. He is survived by a father and step-mother, Mr. and Mrs. B. Ducey; three brothers, Patrick at home and Bernard and Don in St. Paul, Minn.; and four sisters, Mrs. Capt. W. P. Walsh at home, Mrs. Leo Walsh in New York, Mrs. Victor Baker and Miss Cecilia, both in St. Paul, Minn. The gathering at the church and graveside on Sunday afternoon was one of the largest seen here in years. The services were conducted by the Rev. F. J. McGrath, Ph.D., and the members of the Holy Name Society, of which the deceased was a member, paraded in a body. In spite of the rain, young and old followed the remains to their last resting place, and just at the close of the burial service the glorious sun shone out, reminding us of the resurrection morning, when there shall be no more

Decline in Exchange

The steady decline which took place in exchange rates on European currencies throughout October reached a climax in a sharp break which occurred early in November and extended roughly up to the 20th of the month. Sterling declined in Montreal from 4.54 on the first of November to 4.38 on the 17th. French francs experienced a similar movement, declining from 5.95 on the 1st of the month to a low point of 5.32 on the 17th, and Italian lire dropped from 4.56 to 4.22 during the same period. Other European rates, for the most part, experienced similar movements, said the Royal Bank in its "December Letter."

Various causes have been assigned for this sudden break in rates. Undoubtedly both economic and political factors have entered the situation. Such a decline would naturally be facilitated by the fact that the period concerned is the one in which Britain makes arrangements for heavy purchases of American cotton, Canadian wheat and so on, and these purchases react against sterling. There is a possibility also that the government is collecting dollar exchange pending its December payment to the United States on debt account. Furthermore, the general uncertainty which existed in Europe caused a transfer of foreign balances to the United States. The threatened severance of the triple entente led to serious uncertainty with regard to the future, and this undoubtedly reacted unfavourably on the exchanges. One of the factors in the British election, discussion which carried no weight in London, but possibly had some influence abroad, is the "capital levy" plank in the Labor platform. The reactions which occurred in the above mentioned exchanges are not apparently the result of any fundamental change in the economic situation of these countries, but are due to current conditions. A study of the statistics of the circulation of the countries concerned, immediately dispels any fears which might exist that the governments concerned are resorting to inflation of the currency, as was the case in most of the central European countries. The outstanding currency of Great Britain, France and Italy in October 1920 and 1923, is given in the following:

1920--Great Britain: £481,000,000; France: 38,596,733,000 francs; Italy: 15,238,709,000 lire.
1923--Great Britain: £404,000,000; France: 37,870,009,000 francs; Italy: 12,929,538,000 lire.

The rapid decline of the German mark to the point of utter worthlessness is now an old story. The futility of endeavoring to carry on business with such a medium of exchange had led to various efforts to return to gold mark quotations; such attempts up to the present, have been only partially successful--Saturday Night.

League Shows Interest in a 50-50 Marriage

Geneva, Nov. 30. (AP.)--Everybody connected with the League of Nations is interested in a pretty little romance between modest League workers which has joined together in matrimony the impoverished son of a former great Russian magnate and a beautiful young noblewoman, descendant of one of the oldest families of the former great Russian empire, both of them exiles from Russia as a result of the Soviet revolution. M. Pastoukhov, the bridegroom, whose father was the fabulously wealthy owner of the Donetz coal mines in southern Russia, has a humble position as interpreter at the League and there he met and wooed Countess Ounarov, of a family of ancient lineage, despoiled of title and fortune, who does not scorn to labor daily as typist and Slavic secretary in the political section.

Just Folks.

By EDGAR A GUEST

FAITHLESS. Poor is the man who counts this life By days of pleasure and of strife Who thinks this paltry gift below Is all that he shall ever know. And waits no poverty is worse Than is the poverty of purse.

He has no faith to lean upon. No source of strength when hope is gone. He feels the winds of winter blow. He sees the cruel ice and snow. And thinks men suffer grief and pain. Love and are loved, and all in vain.

Yet he who cannot see the snow. Is poorer and more wretched than The pale, decrepit beggar man. With all their beauty at the gate. He shares the common fate of men. And one he loves is called away. If all his joy was housed in clay And he has seen no spirit there. Then he is fated to despair.

No God to turn to with his prayer. None for his absent ones to care. No life beyond this stretch of years No future hope to dry his tears. Then, in his darkest hour of need. The faithless man is poor indeed.

Wedded, both these young Russians will continue their League work, for the countess must support her aged grandmother, now an exile in Jugoslavia.

MAY HAVE BEEN A COINCIDENCE.

A paper that prints a good many alleged photographs of unusual people had three all on one page, and all three were of men who wore those grotesque, deformed, drawish apologies for a real mustache, consisting of a tuft of hair on the upper lip. It might have been a coincidence, but one was a fellow who served ten years in a German prison for murder, one claims to have made a cannon that will shoot around a corner and the third was a man who paid \$50,000 for a strawberry plant.

Famous Woman Criminal

"BLONDE ALICE THE QUEEN OF CROOKS."

A woman whose criminal adventures in two continents earned her the title of "Queen of Crooks" has been sentenced at Durham to three years' imprisonment. She openly vaunted that in crime she was the equal of any man, no matter how daring the venture. "Blonde Alice" was the sobriquet by which this amazing crook was best known in the underworlds of London, New York, and Paris, but her real name is Alice Mary Smith. She was sentenced at Durham Assizes for stealing diamond rings.

Began at 18. Born of respectable American parents, "Blonde Alice" was persuaded to take to a life of crime by the evil influence of her husband, whom she married when she was 18. Beginning as a pickpocket in the more sordid Bowery haunts, she transferred her activities (says the Daily Sketch) to the West-end of London, having parted from her husband.

Her specialty was to engineer pleasure jaunts, usually taxicab rides to distant suburbs, with wealthy acquaintances, whom she robbed during the journey. A skilled linguist, she could imitate almost any dialect at a moment's notice, and this enabled her to form rapid friendships with wealthy dupes on the strength of "coming from the same home town."

"Took" £5,000 a Week. To assist her in rapid disguises, she kept half a dozen or more resorts in the West-end, where she could rely on obtaining a complete change of costume.

If her victims subsequently recognized her, she would disclaim her identity and adopt a different brogue. This was usually sufficient not only to disarm suspicion but to provide a substantial sum of money as compensation for being falsely accused of theft. In her more successful moods, her week's takings have averaged £5,000.

Lavish With Her Daughter. Americans and Canadians were her favorite prey, and the war provided her with a fine opportunity for roguery. In contrast to her criminal life was the passionate devotion "Blonde Alice" showered on her daughter, whom she succeeded in keeping in ignorance of her mother's exploits. She lavished money and luxury on her daughter, and had her educated at Girton.

Overcoats for Animals

Amusement was caused at the recent dairy Show by a white Runner duck dressed in a check coat tied around its breast with ribbon. Certain animals, such as horses, have long had their special clothing, but in these days, when so many costly animals are bred, the question of clothing them appropriately is a matter of real importance. Just as racehorses have their suits cut and made to measure, so do racing dogs. No greyhound would last long if it had not a warm blanket-coat ready to slip on after it had finished a hard course. A greyhound's coat is made of very warm stuff lined with fleeces of soft woolen material. Clothes for toy dogs cost up to £5 a suit, and include waterproof coats for wet weather. Some dog-lovers keep a waterproof coat for each animal. There is, however, no necessity to spend a lot of money on such a garment. A piece cut from a worn-out waterproof or from a remnant of oilcloth can easily be adapted by means of a couple of straps. Monkeys and other animals brought from the tropics require clothing of some sort during the winter unless kept in specially warmed rooms, and the writer once saw an elderly parrot which had lost most of its feathers dressed in a home-made jacket of red flannel.

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