

ESCAPED BRITON TELLS FULL STORY OF AFGHAN PLOT

Late Amir's Murder Planned by Younger Son, Aminullah, Now Ruler, and War Party.

OFFICER MADE SCAPEGOAT

Usurper, Supported by Uncle, Denounced Guiltless Rightful Heir to Nobles as Coward.

Bombay, May 30.—J. W. McLoughlin of the Joust Engineering Company, who has been at Jolababad, Afghanistan, since June, 1918, superintending an important electrical installation there, and who escaped from Afghanistan at the outbreak of hostilities, arrived here late Friday night in response to my invitation. He gave me a full account of the progress of events in Afghanistan which led to the violation of British territory.

The first subject that Mr. McLoughlin dealt with was the assassination of the late Amir. This, he declared, had its origin largely in the discontent of a number of people who had been anxious that Afghanistan declare war upon Great Britain while her attention was fully occupied with Germany and her allies in Europe. These people formed themselves into a party, one act of which was to prepare for and carry on a war against British India. The great obstacle to the carrying out of any plans which they might mature was, of course, the existence of the late Amir Habibullah Khan, and they decided to assassinate him quietly.

The leaders of the plot were Aminullah Khan, the present Amir, a son of the assassinated ruler; his uncle, Nasrullah Khan, and a number of officers of the bodyguard belonging to the powerful Shahiban family, of which the present commander in chief is the principal member.

When the death of Habibullah was compassed it was intended that Nasrullah should seize the throne, while Aminullah should become Governor of Kabul and use all his efforts to restrain any active discontent which the assassination might arouse.

Plot Suspected by Amir. Meanwhile three officers of the bodyguard implicated had each been promised by Habibullah that he should marry one of the Amir's daughters by his favorite Queen, Ulli Hazrat. The fulfillment of this promise continually being deferred owing to continued procrastination on the part of the Amir, the conspirators surmised that he had suspicions of what was afoot. Accordingly they hastened the preparations for the crime and carried it out at an earlier date than was at first intended.

After the assassination of the Amir the details of which were published last March, Nasrullah proclaimed himself Regent pro tem. Nasrullah, the late Amir's eldest son, had acquiesced in this dispensation because all about him were supporters of Nasrullah and his gang.

The plotters later had the body of the murdered man taken to Jolababad, and they proposed to bury it in a waste place of ground hidden upon by every passing coolie and grazed over by every stray animal. At considerable personal risk his eldest son protested against this proposed indignity. A slight concession was made as the result of this protest, and the body was buried on the roof course. There was in this a certain grim irony. The late Amir had been an enthusiastic devotee of golf. He played it constantly, and had insisted upon it as one of the members of his court playing it also.

To a man the courtiers detested the game like poison, and the fact that the late Amir's body had been buried on the golf course now makes the playing of the game impossible, for no one would dare to molest the last resting place of Habibullah with a barrow and bucket.

The body having been disposed of, Aminullah, according to program, gathered the nobles of Kabul to gether and announced the death of his father. He also told them his uncle, Nasrullah, must henceforth be looked upon as ruler of Afghanistan.

His audience not unreasonably asked why the uncle and not the late Amir's eldest son. Aminullah pretended ignorance, and the nobles then asked whether any steps had been taken by the eldest son and uncle to find the assassin. "None," replied Aminullah, to which the nobles replied:

"The eldest son must be a coward." In this conclusion Aminullah acquiesced, and the eldest son having been dismissed in the minds of the nobles as a coward, they suggested to Aminullah that he was the proper person to be Amir. Aminullah jumped at this suggestion, and at once had himself installed on the throne.

McLoughlin's Narrow Escape. During the days that followed both McLoughlin's escort and all his baggage disappeared. When he reached Dacca, which had become the advanced headquarters of the Afghan forces, they tried to detain him on the pretext of having search made for the missing escort and baggage. He dissuaded them from this course, and was enabled to continue his journey.

On the way down from Dacca to the Indian border McLoughlin was subjected to hostile demonstrations by crowds of Shawjee and Afridi who gathered at the roadside, and he was copiously, but inaccurately, sniped at from the hills. In the end, after eight hours of travelling from Dacca, he reached the British advanced post in the Khyber Pass, whence he was transferred to Peshawar. There he was received by Sir George Rose Keppel and treated with the utmost kindness and courtesy.

While this had been going on at Kabul the soldiers at Jolababad, who had been deeply attached to the late Amir, and, moreover, having been in charge of his person at the time of the assassination, felt that his death reflected upon their honor and that it

PRINCE OF WALES WILL VISIT THE UNITED STATES AND BE NEWPORT GUEST IN AUGUST

Son of King George and Heir to English Throne to be Entertained by Mrs. Ogden Goelet Following Trip to Canada.

(New York Herald.)

While the Prince of Wales publicly announced several days ago his intention of making his initial visit this summer to America the fact that the future King of England would include the United States in his itinerary did not definitely become known until recently.

It may be said that the son and heir of King George will include several cities of the United States in his tour, and that he will participate for some time in the mid-summer gayeties at Newport.

The Prince will reach Newport during August, and while there it is said, he is a guest of Mrs. Ogden Goelet, at Ochre Court, her beautiful villa. Even as far in advance as this, arrangements are being made for his entertainment in Newport and it is said that one of numerous social courtesies to be extended to Britain's future ruler will be by Brigadier General and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, brother-in-law and sister of Mrs. Goelet.

Lady Herbert's Arrival.

The arrival of the Prince will be coincident with that of the Honorable Lady Herbert, who is the widow of the late Right Honorable Sir Michael Herbert, brother of the Fourteenth Earl of Pembroke. The Honorable Lady Herbert was Miss Leibel, B. Will, daughter of Mrs. Goelet and Mrs. Vanderbilt.

Others in Newport at that time, it is expected will be the Duchess of Marlborough and her son, the Marquis of Blandford, and it is quite possible that Messrs. Michael and Sidney Herbert, sons of the Honorable Lady Herbert, will be with her.

When the Prince of Wales arrives in America, he will be accompanied by his wife, the Princess Mary, and a number of his friends. The Prince is expected to arrive in America in August, and it is quite possible that he will be in Newport during the mid-summer gayeties.

Prisoners Freed and Honored. When the prisoners arrived at a place called Jidda within the sphere of influence of the Khalut troops, who had by this time become attached to the fortunes of Aminullah Khan, they were taken to the men, and they entered Kabul not as suspected murderers but as ill-used martyrs. Shortly afterward they received their entire liberty and Aminullah paid them public calls and gave them 20,000 rupees (over \$65,000) to be given in charity to a sign that they were guiltless in his sight.

Nasrullah, the uncle, finding that Aminullah had apparently firmly established himself on the throne, abdicated his claims, and signed allegiance to Aminullah, a course which was followed by Aminullah's elder brother, Nasrullah Khan, who was taken to prison on the charge of complicity in the murder of the Amir. The elder son, who was also interned on the ground that he had made no effort to trace the murderers of his father. Thus, the Amir's son, left on this unsatisfactory basis. Some sort of murderer had to be found, tried and condemned, otherwise the Afghan people might prove restive under the new regime. Accordingly, the Colonel of the regiment which had been protecting the late Amir was selected for the honor of being the scapegoat. After a mock trial he was cast into prison. The only evidence advanced against him was the testimony of Aminullah, who declared his father had appeared to him in a vision at night and had told him the Colonel had murdered him.

Aminullah held a durbar at which he announced that the Colonel had been found guilty of the murder, which he had committed under instructions of Nasrullah. The Colonel was there and then sentenced to death, taken outside and quietly bayoneted. Thus the Colonel owed his martyrdom to his supreme unpopularity. He belonged to an influential family which could not in any way retaliate.

The matter of the murder being now settled, temporarily at least, preparations for a move against the British were hastened. Aminullah proclaimed Afghanistan a free and independent kingdom in no way bound by agreements entered into by former monarchs. Being apparently somewhat lacking in originality, he plagiarized the German methods and sent to Turkey a mission consisting of students of Habibullah College, supported by an escort to buy arms.

The commander in chief, by virtue of his superior abilities and the needs of the moment, had now become virtual ruler of Afghanistan. All orders came through him and all policy owed its origin to him. As soon as possible he began a movement of his forces toward Jelalabad toward the frontier. He installed his headquarters staff at Jelalabad, and himself occupied Baghishah.

Bought to Dissuade Army Chief. After great difficulty, McLoughlin obtained an interview with the commander in chief, to whom he pointed out the absurdity of going to war with Great Britain when his army lacked all modern weapons of war, such as airplanes, armored cars, machine

guns, and heavy artillery. The commander answered that all fighting would be at close quarters, at which the British had no big guns at all; that they were tired of fighting and would not fight, and that the British would welcome the Afghans as rulers.

Nothing could shake his conviction that things would be as he said, and seeing the leader's determination on the suicidal policy of war McLoughlin decided to try to leave the country. On his application, horses were provided for his baggage on more than one occasion, but no sooner had he obtained them than officers would come along and commandeer them for war purposes. Eventually he was left with very few horses and an escort of seven men instead of the regulation number of twenty-four, which is supposed to be the minimum number for safety in travelling in Afghanistan.

He also found at Peshawar a Tonga driver who was even more anxious than McLoughlin to return to India. For the driver Mr. McLoughlin procured a passport and set out on his journey.

British Repeal Attack on Thal. London, June 1, (via Montreal).—The Afghan main offensive against Thal under General Nadir Khan, the Amir's Commander in Chief, is developing into a series of setbacks. The latest official information from Simla received on May 29 and 30 shows that all attacks on Thal have been repulsed. The Fort was bombarded throughout Wednesday last and the Afghan occupied the loot-baz outside the Fort.

Air reconnaissance disclosed about 3,500 of the enemy near Thal. Their camps were effectively bombed. At the capture of the Afghan fort of Baldak, opposite Thal, the British took 169 prisoners and killed 320 of the enemy. Smart work was displayed in the assault and capture. The latest official information from the walls and the fort was finally reduced by a flanking and frontal assault.

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TURKS TORTURED, BURNED AND SLEW CHRISTIAN RACES

Armenians Herded Like Cattle, Flesh Cut, Wounds Seared, Declares Bishop.

Rome, June 4 (by the Associated Press).—The people of Armenia, Syria and Turkey are most eager that the United States should take the League of Nations mandate for their country.

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HE KEPT WEDDING TOO SECRET; BRIDE WINS ANNULMENT

Even After Marriage They Met Only as Acquaintances, Avers Mrs. V. B. R. Warner.

(New York Herald.)

Rather than continue living as the secret bride of a husband who looked upon marriage as a test of how long affection would endure, Mrs. Virginia Blair Reeves Warner, member of the younger society set of Washington and Philadelphia, has disclosed her romance with Henry H. Warner, an inspector at the Hog Island shipyards, and now wants the chapter forever closed.

Disappointed by the attitude her youthful husband displayed soon after the marriage, Mrs. Warner confident that her parents and upon their advice sued for annulment. Instead of proceeding in Washington, the young woman began her action here and convinced Alfred H. Townley, referee, that she was entitled to her freedom.

Her report was filed with the Supreme Court yesterday, making that record of her marriage to the shipyard inspector. She had graduated from the Cathedral School, Washington, and the Corcoran School of Art.

Concealed Wedding From Friends. When they were married Mrs. Warner was nineteen and her husband eighteen. From their friends and Mrs. Warner's parents they had concealed their courtship, which began at the Hog Island shipyards. In June 15, 1917, the young couple made a hurried trip in an automobile from Montreal to this city and obtained a spot of dispensation from Mgr. Lavelle permitting the marriage, which was performed by the Rev. James P. Heaton of St. Andrew's Church.

Warner accompanied his bride back to Montreal, where she was visiting the Misses Helena and Margaret Williams. Nothing was said of the marriage and Warner bade adieu to his bride, returning to the shipyards. Later Mrs. Warner went to Philadelphia, where she called upon a friend, Miss Agnes Reppel, without revealing her alliance with Warner.

Both the bride and her husband continued to keep the affair a clandestine one, even when they met in the home of parents at No. 1870 Wyoming avenue, Washington. For fear of exciting the suspicions of Commander Parsons or his wife Warner, says the young woman, refrained from kissing her.

These meetings were formal and so well managed that for two years, says Mrs. Warner, none of her acquaintances knew of the marriage. Although her husband often called while she was stopping with Miss Reppel, the latter never suspected them.

"Where did you spend the hours with your husband while he was at the Reppel home?" Mrs. Warner was asked.

"In the parlor and no place else," she replied. "If ever even took the wife with him. Then later, in Washington, I saw him at the Powhattan Hotel, where my parents were staying, but I only saw him in the lobby. We met again at the Chevy Chase Club and had breakfast there."

Mrs. Warner said she talked with her husband over the proposition of having their own home, and when he indicated the topic was an unpleasant one she then decided to inform her parents of the secret marriage.

"Wouldn't Go to Housekeeping." "What was the reason you did not live together?" she was asked.

"He said he simply could not," replied the young society lady. "He explained that he did not have enough money to support me. His salary at first was \$20 a week, but that was later increased to \$35 a week. I made a family budget after his salary was increased showing how we could keep house nicely on \$150 a month."

"Yes, I suppose that families can live together on \$150 a month, but for personal reasons and for lack of interest in you I could never live with you," Mrs. Warner said her husband replied.

"I told him that my position in society was intolerable. I was married, yet I was not his wife. I told my parents then."

"Did he ever ask you to live in the same house with him?" was another question.

"No, but I would gladly have done so, despite the money situation," responded Mrs. Warner.

"You understand what obligations that would call for?"

"Yes, and I would be willing at all times to be the mother of his children," was her answer.

The action for annulment was not contested by Warner, though he was represented by counsel, who questioned the young bride about her willingness to maintain a home.

My love is the flaming sword, to fight through the world; Thy love is the shield to ward And the armor of the Lord. And the banner of Heaven unfurled. Let my voice ring out, and over the earth, Over all grief and strife, With golden joy in a silver mirth. Thank God for Life!

Let my voice swell out through the great abyss, To the azure dome above, With a chord of faith in the harp of bliss, Thank God for Love!

Let my voice thrill out, beneath and above, The whole world through. O Love and Life, O Life and Love, Thank God for you. —James Thomson.

Do not look for wrong or evil— You will find them if you do; As you measure back to you, He will measure back to you. —Alice Carey.

FREDERICTON G. W. V. A. OBJECT TO CITY VALUATION

Claim Ex-Alderman Burnett Was Unpatriotic During War and Oppose His Election to Office.

Fredericton, N. B., June 10.—Because of his alleged unpatriotic attitude during the war, ex-Alderman Charles Burnett's removal from a position on the board of valuers of Fredericton was demanded in a resolution passed by the executive of the Veterans' branch of the Great War Veterans' Association last night.

The resolution which was passed expressed "strong disapproval" of the appointment of Mr. Burnett to the board of valuers owing to his alleged unpatriotic attitude while the war was in progress, and the City Council will be asked to have him removed from the above-mentioned board.

The executive also decided to wait upon the police commission at their next meeting to urge the appointment of returned soldiers to positions on the police force.

The route to be followed is by way of Alexandria and Singapore, at which places the competitors are to report for the identification of their machines. The airman will presumably follow the course already successfully traversed as far as India-across France, down the Mediterranean to Alexandria, thence to Bagdad, and on to Singapore.

From Singapore to Australia the route will lie across the islands of the Malay Archipelago, and nowhere will the expanse of sea exceed a few hundred miles.

The offer will remain open until Dec. 31, 1920, by which date the flight must have been completed. The whole route must be covered inside 720 consecutive hours (thirty days). The competing machines must be entirely constructed within the British Empire. The pilots and crew must be of Australian nationality. The same machine must be used throughout the flight.

A prize of £10,000 is offered by the Commonwealth Government for a flight from Great Britain to Australia on a machine manned by Australians.

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BEER RAIDS IN NORTH ENGLAND

Thirsty Ex-Soldiers Storm Public Houses and Help Themselves.

Extraordinary scenes are taking place in Lancashire owing to the shortage of beer.

Speakers for a deputation of local publicans told M. P.'s at Westminster that the continued restrictions on the output of beer and the recommendation of the Liquor Control Board that publicans should ration their available supplies of beer have been received with anger and disturbances.

The consumers have taken the matter into their own hands. They have in many cases broken into the public houses when shut, taken the beer there, ignoring remonstrances, but paying for what they took or, when the publican stated that he had no more beer available, the consumers have insisted on a search party visiting the cellars of the tavern to verify the statement, and have taken all beer found—again paying for it.

In some cases where resistance has been offered by the publicans doors have been broken down and the matter carried through by force.

The police authorities of Manchester and Salford in these circumstances have suggested that, in the interests of the public peace, publicans who have supplies of beer should sell them and not try to hold them with a view to maintaining an equitable rationing scheme.

The deputation urged that it was necessary that the supply of beer should be increased.


A typical scene was witnessed at a public-house in Wedlock-street, Manchester. At 2.15 there was talk of stopping the tap, when the customers—mainly discharged soldiers—scrambled across the counter and served themselves until the usual closing hour.

No damage was done, and all the liquor was paid for.



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