

SUSPICION FLOWED HIM UP TO THE DAY OF HIS DEATH

Captain George Boynton, American Soldier of Fortune, who Died a Short Time Ago, in New York, was Believed to Have Blown up the U. S. S. Maine.

Capt. George B. Boynton, the American soldier of fortune whose career has been the subject of countless wonderful stories, revealed to a few intimate friends shortly before his death in New York a few months ago, the fact that for some time he was under suspicion of being the man who blew up the battleship Maine in Havana Harbor on Feb. 15, 1898. He succeeded in showing the secret service men he said, that at the time of the explosion he was in Venezuela, as chief of the secret service for President Cresson, whose life he saved on more than one occasion.

The story on which the United States secret service sought to connect Capt. Boynton with the explosion was substantially as follows:

"The Spaniards were entirely unprepared for the visit of the Maine, which was sent to Havana to engage and without warning. Consequently there was no mine attached to the buoy at which she was moored, though it was stated that one had been placed there if it had been so much as suspected that she was coming. Once in the harbor she had the city and its defenses at her mercy, for all the modern guns in the surrounding fortifications faced the sea and none of them could be brought to bear on her.

Capt. General Blanco and his staff did not relish having a hostile warship in such an advantageous position in the event of war with the United States, which they regarded as a possibility, if not a probability, and it was decided, as a military precaution, to blow her up under conditions which were intended to make it appear that she had been destroyed by an accidental explosion of her own magazines. It was concluded that a mine might be enough damage, and, besides, it might leave traces that would be found by the divers who would investigate the disaster, so a large boiler from the navy yard was taken to the arsenal and filled with powder. It was provided with a mechanism by which it could be exploded by electricity, and hermetically sealed.

"It was impossible to place the improvised mine under the Maine, for every vessel or boat that approached the warship was closely watched, so the men in charge of the operation were ordered to place it in such a position that the battleship would swing around over it when the wind shifted. The boiler was lashed to a sling under a lighter, which was towed across the bow of the Maine at night and at close quarters as it dared to go.

"When the lighter was directly in front of the battleship, the lines which carried the boiler were cut and it dropped into the mud. The Maine was then headed northeast, into the

trade wind, and the mine was about 75 feet away from her. The wire by which the mine was to be exploded was led to the end of the Machina wharf, one of the Government docks, and it was then a question of waiting until a shift in the wind brought the warship over the boiler and of selecting some one to throw the switch that would set it off at the proper time.

"The Spaniards conceived the idea of having the mine fired by an American, which conformed to the conception of justice. The American named in the information that was given to the Secret Service was Capt. Boynton, who, it was said, had been captured shortly before while conducting a filibustering expedition for the Cubans, whom he had aided during the Ten Years' war, and who was imprisoned in Cabanas fortress. According to the story, he was at once tried and sentenced to death, but his life and liberty were offered him if he would press the button that was to destroy the Maine, and swear never to reveal the secret. He accepted these terms and on the night of Feb. 15, 1898, when a change in the wind swung the Maine around till her bow was directly above the mine, which was only three or four feet away from her keel, he was taken to the Machina wharf and threw the switch that produced the explosion, after which he was released.

The Secret Service worked on this story for a long time, but was unable to establish Capt. Boynton's connection with the alleged conspiracy. Chief Wilkie has never revealed the source of his investigations. Light may be thrown on its probability when the wreck of the Maine has been raised, which is expected to be accomplished by July 4th.

John G. Meehan, who has an international detective agency in this city which has been employed by many governments, including Colombia, Hayti, Nicaragua and other south and central American governments, has a sheet of confidential reports showing the revolutionary activities of Capt. Boynton. Beginning with 1890 Mr. Meehan received numerous requests from practically all of the Latin-American presidents to locate the captain, who they feared or suspected, was stirring up some trouble for them. They did not want him arrested, chiefly because it was seldom possible to get conclusive evidence against him before he was ready to strike, but they were very anxious to be advised as to where he was and what he was doing.

Capt. Boynton was born of New England parents who lost track of him in 1872. According to his biography, his real name, which he would not permit to be revealed, until after his death, was George Boynton Stone.

SOME OLD SUPERSTITIONS REGARDING WATERSPOUTS

In the waterspout the medieval mariner saw a malevolent living monster, a sea dragon. There were various means of combating them. Once all sailors carried black handled knives which the monster was believed to hold in special abhorrence.

When a spout made its appearance, these knives were produced and pointed in its direction, waved in the air so as to make the sign of the cross, or according to the recommendation of certain contemporary authorities, driven several times into the side of the ship. Certain passages from the Gospel of St. John were recited as charms against waterspouts.

A loud noise of any kind was also believed to be efficacious against them—shouts, the clash of swords, the beating of drums, and gongs, etc. The custom of firing cannon against waterspouts, says the Scientific America, dates back at least as far as the sixteenth century. The original idea appears to have been to frighten them away by the noise of the report, but in later times it was believed that the watery column could be cut in twain by the cannon ball and the spout thus dissipated. It would be interesting to know whether the cannonading of waterspouts is still sometimes practised. It was certainly common much less than a century ago. It is hardly necessary to say that it is entirely futile.

In French they are called trombes (from the Italian tromba, a trumpet, or the Spanish trombo, a top, in allusion to their visible form.) There is no essential difference between the waterspout and the landspout; in both the visible "spout" is a mass of watery vapor, the condensation of which is due to the expansion of moist air under the diminished pressure within a vortex in the atmosphere; but in the landspout this vapor is mingled with dust and other terrestrial objects sucked up by the spout from the surface over which it passes.

Dust whirls occur only when the surface of the ground is excessively heated, and during their brief existence they are fed by the inflow of the lower air. The sharp contrasts of temperature that produce them are characteristic of a land surface as compared with a water surface; yet it is over the latter that spouts are most frequent. Here, then, is one point of difference between the dust whirl and the spout.

Another is the fact that no surface inflow of the air is observed about a spout except immediately within it. A waterspout may pass within a few hundred feet of a vessel when the latter is absolutely becalmed. Both of these circumstances prove the inaccuracy of the common statement that spouts are due to an unstable condition of overheated air at the earth's surface.

Both theory and observation indicate that the vortex of a spout originates at a considerable altitude above the earth, viz., at the level of the middle or lower clouds—and is thence propagated downward. The explanation of its origin must be sought in the contrasts of temperature occurring at high levels, on the margin of a large cyclone, the zone in which spouts originate being identical with that in which squalls are also common.

It is hardly necessary to state that

a waterspout does not consist of water in the ordinary sense of the term. A vortex in the air, formed as described above, is gradually pushed downward. If it reaches the surface of the ocean the latter will be violently disturbed; the water will be dashed upward in the form of waves and spray to a height of many feet, forming the characteristic broad base of the spout.

Extending above this to the level of the clouds the centrifugal action of the vortex causes, within its core, a rarefaction of the air—a region of diminished pressure—in which water vapor, previously gaseous and invisible, is condensed, by the cooling due to its expansion, into a column of mist. This column is often a mere watery film, so that vessels, mountains and the like, lying beyond the spout can be distinctly seen through it.

When a waterspout suddenly breaks, owing to a cessation of its vertical motion, its moisture may be discharged downward in the form of a torrential rain. This has sometimes happened over a ship, and the water was observed to be fresh, not salt, proving that no considerable part of it was drawn directly from the ocean.

The forms of waterspouts are various. Sometimes they are seen singly, sometimes in groups. As many as twenty have been observed at one time. Their height, in extreme cases, may reach nearly a mile.

Some of the most interesting descriptions and pictures of waterspouts are to be found in a memoir published in 1838 by the late H. C. Russell, government astronomer of New South Wales. In one case cited by this author fourteen complete spouts and six others more or less incomplete were seen within the space of five hours. Russell also records a case in which the shaft of a waterspout formed a complete loop, a phenomenon that has occasionally been mentioned by other writers.

If mariners were once the prey to a superstitious dread of waterspouts, on the other hand the sailor of today is perhaps inclined to go to the other extreme. Sea captains have been quoted as saying that they would not be afraid to run their vessels into any waterspouts they have ever seen. There are, however, several cases on record of much the worse for involuntary record in which vessels have come encounters with waterspouts. In 1895 the German bark Ceylon, Capt. Niemann, bound from Antwerp to Philadelphia, met a waterspout in about 31 degrees north latitude, and 71 degrees west longitude.

Most of her canvas was furled at the time, as she had recently encountered a thunder squall and hence it was not possible to sail out of the way of the spout when it was seen rapidly approaching. The spout struck the vessel on the port side and heeled her over until the starboard yardarms nearly touched the water. At the same time she was swung around from north northwest to south southeast and thrown over to port on her beam ends with such violence that her mainmast and mizenmast went by the board.

On the coast of Guinea in 1674 a sixteen sun man-o-war of 360 tons was similarly mishandled by a waterspout, losing her foremast and bowsprit in the encounter.

With The Cartoonist On Reciprocity



AUNT PATERSON—"Nice business; Mother Fielding going to the Coronation and she knows baby's got cholera infantum."



SIR WILFRID—"He can't come too soon."



MR. FIELDING—"Mur. Bull, he's a beaver hound imported from Washington."



The figure of Laurier, but the voice of Bourassa and Monk.

ON LEAVING FROM RUSSIA

Changes in Russian Government's Attitude Toward the Young Turks—Turkey Seems to be in Hard Way.

St. Petersburg, May 27.—From the tone of the leading newspapers and the talk of official and military personages here on the subject of Turkey it is evident that there has been a change in the government's attitude. There is no longer even the pretence of approval of the self-styled union and progress Young Turks. The mood is rather that of thirty years ago, and we have this week the Novoye Vremya printing the opinion that "Turkey must be wiped off the map of Europe."

So far the only factors that impel Russia to take a strong hand at present in southeastern Europe are of a national nature. From the Czar downward among the political personages in Russia there is a whole-hearted willingness to give Austria a rebuff, and the quickest way to effect that has seemed to be the dragging of the Turkish government, with the implied taunt to Austria that she dare not interfere.

A plausible case has been built up in the last two or three years for holding that Austria-Hungary with the bunch of Slav nationalities at the end of Francis Joseph's empire should be the actual protecting guardian of those other Slavs who live on the borders of or inside Turkey's European province of Macedonia. Russia was to be dislodged from her traditional eminence which she won by her war with Turkey on the ground that she had neither the nerve nor the authority to make her protectorship of any value. This slight has been deeply resented in Russia even among the political opposition.

The Austrian, otherwise Aehrenthal, pretension has no defenders in Russia, but even so there is something left to be accounted for in the stiffly worded warning addressed by the Russian State Department to the Turkish government to cease provoking the Montenegrins by parading Turgut Pasha's army within rifle range of their frontier.

For nearly a year past the belief has been held among usually well-informed people here that Russia and England have come to an understanding hostile to Turkey. They have adopted the policy which they agreed on in the summer of 1908 when King Edward met the Czar at Reval, a policy that was the immediate cause of the Turkish revolution in that interference in the internal affairs of the Ottoman Empire offended enough politico-military sentiment in Turkey to enable the committee to overthrow Abdul Hamid.

That policy was left in abeyance until time should show whether the Young Turks and their constitutional parliamentary system could produce a decent administration. The verdict of a Russian and apparently of the British government is hostile.

England, according to the view taken here, has completely reversed her old time policy toward the Turkish Empire. Toward the end of his career the late Lord Salisbury said that in the Russo-Turkish problem, England had put her money on the wrong horse. Now she has stopped even heading on her stake and gone over to the Russian and the original Constantinople policy that the Turk as a political administrator must get out of Europe bag and baggage. How soon, how easily and by what steps can this end be reached?

Presented graphically, the process now being applied resembles the upper and lower millstone at work and Constantinople being ground between them. Russia in the Macedonian north and England in the Arabian south are regarded as engaged deliberately in destroying the authority of the Turkish central government at Constantinople.

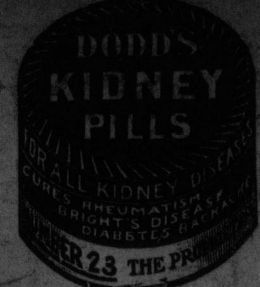
The motive for the present inflexible hostility of the new Turkish regime is by no means based on altruistic sympathy with oppressed Christian nationalities nor even on treaty rights. It springs from the conviction held by Russia and England that Turkey is not to be trusted. Moreover they think that she is not to be feared.

Her sole strength in the way of prestige is the German organization of her army, and since the present year began this newly modeled army has been subjected north and south to continuous humiliation. Many Russians go so far as to hold that the present will be relegated to Asia Minor with its capital at Bagdad, and that it will rank approximately with Persia among the political powers.

There is a marked want of confidence in the conjunctures as to what consideration has induced Germany to stand by in not unfriendly silence while Russia steals a march on Austria in the region where Austria brought off her coup three years ago. It is known that Emperor William dislikes Count Aehrenthal as a spectacular person who overplays his part at the expense of the supreme inspirer of the Triple Alliance, and in Russia Aehrenthal is always the sham strong man who was to be toppled over at the first convenient opportunity.

Germany's attitude is traced back to the Potsdam negotiations, which so far as they have been officially alluded to addressed themselves ostensibly to Persia because she is a negligible fifth rate power, but which really had in view Turkey, although she would not be publicly affronted by having that put on official record. The inference is that the German government, accepting the experienced judgment of her Ambassador at Constantinople, Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, has also come to the conclusion that the new Turkish regime has hit the elements of lasting stability in it and that it is wise to proceed by anticipation, each power earmarking for itself what it thinks it needs most, and what it will be allowed to take at the breaking up of the estate.

This presupposes an eclipse in the prestige of Mahomud Sherif Pasha, hitherto held up as Turkey's one statesman and general. It would seem to be abundantly proved that the new course in Turkey has failed signally to bring to the top any man of the calibre and authority needed to save the Ottoman Empire from foundering.



MADE WELL AND STRONG

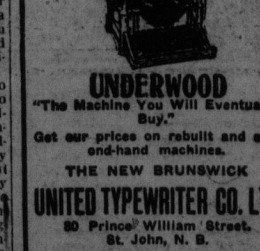
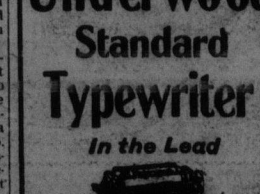
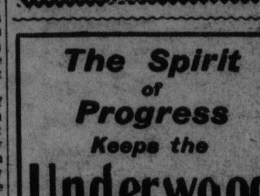
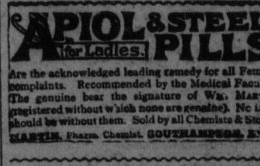
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