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## GREAT FRENCH MARSHALS WERE MEN OF LOWLY ORIGIN

Office, Thrice Abolished and Revived for Gen. Joffre Recently, First Conferred Upon Nobles But in Napoleon's Time Merit Determined Selection.

The conferring of the distinction of Marshal of France on Gen. Joffre, revives an old and famous military title that France has three times abolished. The Marshals of France have played a distinguished and memorable part in French military history and the honor has been eagerly coveted from time immemorial by French army officers. The rank appears to have been first conferred by Philip Augustus, for under him the Marshal of France figures as Commander in Chief. The rank was first conferred on one Alberic Clement and also fell to Alberic's son Henri.

At first there was only one Marshal, but Francis I. raised the number to two, while Henry III. increased it to four and Louis XIV. to 20. Though Louis XIV. had some great Marshals, like Turenne, Condé and Luxembourg, promotion in his time seems to have been governed mainly by birth, but under Napoleon merit determined the selection. Napoleon's greatest Marshals were all men of lowly origin. New was the son of a poor tradesman, Lannes of a poor mechanic, Murat of a country tavern keeper, while Masséna was an orphan sailor boy.

The rank of Marshal was first abolished during the Revolution, to be revived by Napoleon after he had made himself Emperor. Abolished again after the downfall of Napoleon, it was restored during the Second Empire, to be discarded for the third time at the establishment of the Republic, and now the Republic itself has returned to this monarchical and imperialistic distinction.

**Fame Began With Turenne**

The fame of the Marshals of France may be said to have really begun with Turenne. He was of noble birth, but also endowed with noble talents. His father was Henri, Duke of Bouillon, and his mother a daughter of the famous "William the Silent," Prince of Orange. He began his military career as a private in the bodyguard of Maurice of Nassau, during the Dutch war of Independence. Richelieu made him a Colonel. At the siege of La Motte, under Marshal de la Force, his brilliant courage in assault won him immediate promotion to the rank of "Maréchal de Camp," equivalent to the modern grade of Major-General.

In 1638, under Duke Bernhard of Saxe-Weimer, he directed the assault of Breisach, considered the strongest fortress on the Upper Rhine. That action marked him as one of the foremost younger generals of France, and Richelieu sent him to Italy, where, on Nov. 19, 1639, he fought the famous rear-guard action designated the "Battle of the Route de Quiera." Four years later, after taking Trono, he was made a Marshal of France. He fought at different times with and against Condé, defeating him in turn being defeated by the latter.

Eventually he won a great victory on the dunes near Dunkirk and made practical the peace of the Pyrenees in 1659. Louis XIV., on taking the reins of government in his hands, in 1661, made Turenne Marshal General of his armies and official successor to his grandfather, the office of Constable of France if he would become a Catholic; but Turenne, who was a Calvinist, declined. After a brilliant campaign by which he wrested Alsace from the allies, he was killed at the battle of Salschach, July 27, 1675. Napoleon regarded Turenne as one of the greatest captains and recommended all soldiers to read his campaigns.

**Condé Earned Spurs Young**  
The great Condé, a Prince of the House of Bourbon, was a contemporary of Turenne. Known as the Duc d'Enghien during his father's lifetime, he took part in the campaigns of 1640-1641 in Northern France before he had reached the age of 20. At 22 years of age he defeated the Spaniards in the great battle of Rocroy and won his place among the great captains. During the internal dissensions of France between 1649 and 1650 he was at one time on one side and then on the other.

In 1650 he was imprisoned by Anne of Austria, but she was forced to liberate him about a year later. Then he joined the Spaniards in France. At the battle of the Faubourg St. Antoine, July, 1652, Condé and Turenne met before Paris and the former was driven into the city, whose gates were opened to him at the dictate of "La Grande Mademoiselle," the daughter of the Duke of Orleans. After the peace of the Pyrenees Condé received a pardon and from then on he rendered loyal service to Louis XIV. In 1668 he submitted to Louvois, Minister of War, a plan for seizing Franco-Compte, and its execution being entrusted to him, he brilliantly carried it out.

At the battle of Seneffe, where he was pitted against William of Orange afterward King of England, he had three horses killed under him. His last military exploit was to save the army imperiled by the death of Turenne and repel the invasion of the death of Turenne and repel the invasion of the Austrian army under Montecuccoli.

Another famous and really great Marshal of Louis XIV's time was the Duke of Luxembourg. He was a dwarf and a humpback, ordinarily indolent and dissipated, but on the battlefield he was the embodiment of activity, vigilance and coolness. His most brilliant operations were conducted against William of Orange, who once surprised him at revelry in his camp, yet was driven off. He was also distinguished for prudent will. Being told that William had said: "I never

can beat that cursed humpback," he retorted: "How does he know that I have a hump? He has never seen my back."

Another famous holder of the title at a later date was Marshal Saxe, who won great fame by defeating the English under the Duke of Cumberland. But the most famous Marshals of all were those of Napoleon. Chief among them were Ney, Murat, Macdonald, Lannes and Masséna. Ney, whose tragic fate profoundly moved Americans, began his military career under Gen. Kleber during the stormy times of the Revolution. Kleber placed him at the head of 500 partisans, who received no pay, but were expected to live on plunder. Not much is said of the achievements of that band, but Ney as their commander won the sobriquet of the "Indefatigable."

His notable exploit was the capture by surprise of the City of Mannheim. In 1804 Napoleon made him a Marshal, and the following year, Duke of Elchingen, in recognition of his gallant conduct on that field. By his invincible and conspicuous gallantry under Gen. Kleber during the stormy times of the Revolution, Kleber placed him at the head of 500 partisans, who received no pay, but were expected to live on plunder. Not much is said of the achievements of that band, but Ney as their commander won the sobriquet of the "Indefatigable."

He led the Old Guard in the last hopeless charge at the Battle of Waterloo. After Napoleon's downfall he was tried for treason in violating his oath of allegiance to the new regime. It was at first proposed to try him by court martial, but the officers of France refused to sit in judgment on him. He was, therefore, tried by the House of Peers, who condemned him to be shot. It has been asserted that he was not executed, but made his escape and ended his days in America.

**Murat Was Napoleon's Great Cavalry Leader.** He had rendered Napoleon some trifling service, and so was appointed a member of his personal staff when the future Emperor was given the command of the Army of Italy. He distinguished himself in various actions, and finally at Abukir by a headlong charge drove many of the Turks into the sea. Later, he made Mustapha Pasha a prisoner with his own hands. He married Caroline Bonaparte, the youngest sister of Napoleon, and was made King of the Sicilies. He was shot at Pizzo, Oct. 13, 1815.

**Macdonald's Great Service**  
Macdonald first greatly distinguished himself by leading a division of 20,000 men through a defile in the Valley of the Tiber against more than double his number. He made the passage of the Spingione, in the Alps, in the dead of winter despite the difficulties of blizzards and avalanches. Subsequently he saved the day at Wagram by a desperate and heroic charge. He was made a Marshal of France on the field of Wagram. Subsequently he was made Duke of Tarentum. He refused to violate his oath of allegiance to the Bourbons, who consequently made him a peer of France.

Lannes, immortalized himself by leading the charge across the bridge of Lodi. He was the first man across and Napoleon was the second. At the further end his horse was killed under him and he was surrounded before he could rise. Nevertheless he fought his way out of the melee, sprang upon a horse behind an Austrian officer, killed a rider, tossed the body aside and rode off to safety. At the Battle of Montebello he made such a gallant and decisive charge that Napoleon created him Duke of Montebello. He was killed at Sessling, near Vienna. Napoleon said of him: "I found him a dwarf and lost him a giant."

Masséna was noted more for his sound soldierly qualities than for the reckless daring of brilliant associates. Napoleon placed great dependence on him and made him Duke of Rivoli. The Marshals of the Second Empire failed to distinguish themselves like those of the first. Bismarck was a Prussian, not a Frenchman, and his failure in the hour of need, and MacMahon, though incurring no suspicion of unfaithfulness, lost the prestige he had won in the war with Italy.

### BAPTIST PASTOR RESIGNS.

Special to The Standard.  
Hopewell Hill, Jan. 31.—Rev. Herbert E. DeWolfe, pastor of the Baptist church, has tendered his resignation to take effect at the end of three months.



## Girls' Winter Coats

At Special Sale Prices

A final clearance of all Girls' Winter Coats, all warmly lined and splendidly tailored. Materials are Chinchilla, Whitney, Curl Cloths and Fancy Tweeds.

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**OAK HALL** SCOVIL BROS., LTD.  
ST. JOHN, N. B.



## FOUR CHARGED WITH PLOT TO KILL BRITISH PREMIER

(Continued from page 1)

No Formal Defense.

The prisoners made no formal defense move at today's appearance before the court, merely pleading not guilty. They did not demand release on bail, apparently realizing that the charges were too serious for consideration by the court of such a request. They were returned to their cells. Owing to lack of accommodation here for such important prisoners they will be taken to Birmingham jail to await resumption of the case next Saturday. For the man in the street the case was a great sensation, particularly as the accused persons belonged to two classes against which there is much feeling—sufragettes and conscientious objectors. Both Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Henderson are known as very democratic and accessible. Re-sentencing there has been some agitation for better protection of the nation's leaders.

### Precautions Taken.

Ample precautions were taken here to protect the prisoners, and the conservative British law, circumscribing matter which the newspapers may print in advance of court proceedings, insures against any efforts in the press to arouse feeling against them. Police witnesses today described, in a cut and dried manner, the arrest of the accused.

Harriet Ann Wheelton was arrested at Limestone school, at which she has been teaching. Her only comment was: "I know nothing about this charge." Winifred (Mrs. Alfred) Mason was arrested at Fawcett Lane school, Southampton, where she has been employed as a teacher. She said: "I do not know what it is all about."

She added that her husband also was innocent. He is a druggist clerk who has been seeking employment. Mrs. Alice Wheelton said, on being asked in court if there was any reason why she should not be remanded: "This is just a trumped-up charge to punish because my dad is a conscientious objector. You brought up an unfounded charge against him, and he went to prison for it. Now that he is out of the way you are trying to punish him through me."

Information laid by an inspector of Scotland Yard charged "that the defendants on divers dates between December 25 and the date of laying this information did amongst themselves unlawfully and wickedly conspire, confederate and agree together against the Right Honorable David Lloyd George and the Right Honorable Arthur Henderson, wilfully and with malice aforethought to kill and murder, contrary to the offenses against persons act of 1841 and against the peace of our lord the king, his crown and dignity." The information is signed by A. H. Bodkin, prosecuting on behalf of the crown.

Mrs. Wheelton, who is 50 years of age, resides with her daughter Ann, aged 27, who is a school teacher here. Mason, who is 24, is a chemist of Southampton.

It is understood the charge will be made that the defendants purposed to use poison.

**McKenzie-Knowlton.**  
A wedding took place yesterday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. B. M. Knowlton, 173 Duke street, West Side, when her daughter, Beulah Evelyn, was united in marriage to J. O. McKenzie, of Sibbald, Alberta. Rev. E. A. Westmorland officiated. The happy couple left by evening train for their home in the west, stopping off en route at some of the larger Canadian cities.

The Hungarian military expert, M. Belas Tibor, strongly disapproves the manner in which the Central Empires have conducted the war. He says: "We are nearly everywhere on the defensive, and the offensive against Roumania has not a strategic objective, but, on the contrary, an economic objective. It is not known why the offensives against Verdun and against Italy were undertaken."

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