

# "HANG HANGMAN! NOT ME!" CRIES RUSSIAN SPY

And the People Very Nearly Did That Very Thing.

## AMAZING TALE FROM RUSSIA

**Escape From Death of Man Whose Plotting Cost 3,000 Lives—Acts as Secretary of Meeting While Question Is Debated Whether He or the Executioner Shall Be Hanged—Later Gets Jail Sentence.**

The provincial newspaper *Pravsky Krai* publishes an amazing account of the escape of a Russian military prisoner who had been sentenced to be hanged for selling military secrets to Germany and plotting explosions in two powder factories which caused the death of 3,000 persons.

When a squad of soldiers and government agents had assembled to watch the hangman do his work, the condemned man started them by a proposal that, instead of hanging him, they give to him a vote of approval. In the debate which ensued the executioner narrowly escaped hanging in place of the prisoner. The convicted man was elected secretary of the meeting and escaped while the vote whether to kill him or the executioner was being taken. The meeting then voted to sentence the executioner to imprisonment for failing to do his duty.

Smiling contemptuously, the prisoner was led to the scaffold. When the sentence had been read, he raised his hands and demanded to be heard.

"No," objected the prosecuting attorney. "It is too late now. You should have spoken before, at the trial."

One of the squad of soldiers stepped out and said in a tone of amazement: "What? Why too late? Is not speech free? Thank God there's no Tsarist regime to keep our mouths closed. Speak, comrade, speak!"

The condemned man began: "Comrades! Do you know who has condemned me? A court constituted entirely of lower middle class capitalists inspired by the imperialists of the allied countries. The prosecutor, as I know absolutely, was a masquerading Kornilovist! Comrades! Shall not democracy itself speak? Shall it not say, 'Hands off the creators and inspirers of the international?'"

### Outbursts of Oratory.

"Comrades! Can you possibly recognize a decision of this counter-revolutionary, antidemocratic court as binding on you?"

"Bravo!" shouted a guard. "Let me also speak!"

The condemned man yielded the floor to the guard, who began:

"Comrades! Can anything be more atrocious than for us to permit the hanging of this man, who speaks as an apostle and champion of the international? Comrades, I propose a vote of want of confidence in the executioner."

"I demand the right to speak," said the executioner.

"Comrades, I solemnly protest against this universal condemnation of all executioners. I am just as good a revolutionary as any of you, and if the revolutionary people have imposed on me this sad duty I am bound by my conscience. I demand, comrades, that you pass a resolution confirming the lawfulness of my acts. I hope that you understand that it is better to deprive one dangerous individual of his life rather than sacrifice thousands of useful lives."

"I move to discontinue your speech, Comrade Hangman," broke in the condemned man.

"And by what right, Comrade Exploder of Powder Magazines, do you constitute yourself the chairman?" replied the executioner, vehemently.

"Chairman! Chairman! Let's elect a chairman," came from several parts of the audience. The election proceeded fast. It took only half an hour, and the condemned man had the office thrust upon him of secretary of the meeting.

At this point an unfortunate divergence arose among the soldiers' and workmen's delegates. One of them, a minimalist, demanded the instant hanging of the prisoner; another, a social-revolutionary-internationalist, suggested getting explanations from the government; the third, a maximalist, proposed that they should release the prisoner and in his stead hang the executioner as a servant and agent of the counter-revolution.

The drummer got up to declaim against the third suggestion, but after his first sentence he began talking, not to the point, but to demand the transfer of all the land without purchase to the masses. A vote of closure was invoked to cut his speech off.

### Solving the Problem.

An eloquent speech was made by the secretary of the garrison committee, although it was not much to the point. He said that the revolutionary government was now organized, that there was no reason now to fear German spies or explosions at powder magazines, and, therefore, in the name of the garrison, he called for the disclosure of all secret treaties!

The chairman here turned the discussion to the actual subject, putting two questions to vote. First, the fate

in store for the condemned prisoner; second, the fate in store for the executioner.

The voting showed a two-thirds majority in favor of executing the sentence, whereupon the condemned man expressed dissatisfaction as to the accuracy of the voting and demanded a formal division of the house. Thus the matter was carried to the prison court yard, and the eyes and noses were requested to line up on opposite sides of the gates. The result was still the same, but when they looked around for the secretary, who was also the condemned prisoner, he was nowhere to be seen.

It was explained that he had voted by marching out at the gate and had fallen to return.

After some discussion the meeting decided that the disappearance of the prisoner had disposed of any necessity of further discussing question No. 1, and that there remained before the meeting only question No. 2, namely, the fate in store for the executioner.

This time the vote was unanimous, and the following resolution was passed:

"In consequence of the fact that the revolutionary people on February 28 to March 12 gained its freedom, no in order to down civil liberty; also in consequence of the fact that Executioner Demochkin neglected to execute sentence on the condemned man, the meeting has decided to condemn Demochkin to three months' imprisonment. Long live the self-determination of the peoples on the basis of Russia, federative and indivisible."

## SAVE THE POTATO BY MAKING USE OF IT

To Eat Them as Often as Possible Is Duty of Every Man, Woman and Child.

The estimated surplus of the 1917 potato yield is about 90,000,000 bushels. In patriotic response to the war emergency appeal there was over 700,000 more acres in potatoes in 1917 than in 1916.

To take care of this bumper crop so that not one bushel goes to waste should be the patriotic duty of both farmer and business man. To serve them in as many different ways as possible should be the war-time tactics of every housewife. And to eat them as often as is wholesome is the duty of every man, woman and child who has volunteered in the work of the United States food administration.

For by just that much will products equal in food value, but more easily transported, be released to the army and allies.

Potatoes are highly nutritious, but take up too much room to be shipped abroad, and are likely to spoil in transit. The housewives of the country must study how far and in how many ways the potato can be used as a substitute of those concentrated foods that are needed in Europe.

Potatoes are easy to cook, and there are more than one hundred ways of cooking them. Besides furnishing energy-producing material, they counteract the acid condition which the highly protein foods often create. Because of their lack of protein value, they may not be used to the exclusion of meat; but they can be served in a much larger proportion than has been customary.

## Around the World.

Many of the ostriches of South Africa are incubator hatched.

Most of the inhabitants of Bagdad live in the cellars during the day.

The potatoes of Greenland seldom grow larger than the marbles used by the small boy.

Rabbit hair is supplanting wool in the felt hat making industry of Australia.

El Paso's jail has steel "sun parlors" in which prisoners may get fresh air and sunshine without possibility of escape.

The wreck record of the Baltic sea is greater than that of any other body of water in the world. The average is one a day throughout the year.



"So you and Fred don't speak? What's the trouble?"  
"We had a dreadful quarrel about which loved the other most."  
"She won't."  
"That's very wrong. To think that she will wait for long."

## OPERATOR FOILS GERMAN RAIDERS

Kaleidoscopic History of Vessel Which Flew Two Flags.

## FOOLS GERMAN RADIO MAN

Youth Shortened Length of Sound Waves So That No Vessel Could Pick Up Messages He Made Pretense of Sending—His Life Threatened by Officers of Enemy Ship.

A dramatic incident of the sea, in which a young wireless operator fooled the enemy, was related in the prize court in London recently, when the steamer *Edna* on the ground of unneutral service and enemy ownership.

The attorney general, Sir Frederick E. Smith, described the kaleidoscopic history of a vessel which flew two flags. The plucky operator was "one Smith, an Englishman," who since has received a commission in the R. N. A. S.

Frederick Jebson, a German, said Sir Frederick, was a prominent man in San Francisco shipping circles. He chartered the vessel and was believed to have perished afterward in a German submarine. The vessel was built at Bergen in 1902 and in those days sailed the seas as the *Jason*. Jebson used the vessel for his Mexican business. He had been in the German navy and was in the naval reserve.

Jebson purchased the vessel, the ownership of which was vested in the Lloyd Mexican Societe Anonyme, in which he held the bulk of the shares. Finally he managed to get back to Germany disguised as a Scandinavian seaman.

Vessel Was Disguised. The *Edna* took on board wireless and gun-sight apparatus and tried to communicate to the German cruiser *Leipzig* the dates when British vessels left port—an attempt which was frustrated by the resourcefulness, ingenuity and courage of Smith.

In an affidavit read by the attorney general, Guy Duncan Smith, the wireless operator, said that he was on board the vessel when the war broke out. He awoke one night at midnight and heard the steamship *Arctec* announce that war had been declared between Russia and Germany.

At this time the vessel had "*Hamburg*" painted on the stern. After the announcement that war had begun "*Hamburg*" was removed from the vessel, "*La Paz*" was painted in the Mexican flag was run up.

Before leaving San Francisco he had heard that the coal taken on board was intended for the *Leipzig*. Information was sent to the British consul, and the authorities at San Francisco demanded that the coal should not be delivered to the cruiser.

Deceived German Operator. A German wireless operator was taken on board and Smith was told that if he refused to do his duty the German would take his place. The German operator, however, did not understand the Marconi system. Smith shortened the length of the sound waves, and though he appeared to be sending out calls for the *Leipzig* no vessel could pick up the message.

The German operator spent three nights and three days trying to call up the *Leipzig*. Smith returned later, and then occasionally called up the German cruiser, putting the wireless in order to ally suspicious, but the wireless was always out of gear when the German operator tried to use it. At *La Paz*, Smith forwarded a message to the admiral on the American cruiser *California*.

Some of the officers threatened to shoot Smith and throw him overboard if he did not send a code message to the German cruiser, and he then pretended to send it.

The only thing that Smith sent to the *Leipzig* was an inquiry as to where she was, which brought forth the reply that she was hanging around waiting for the *Edna*. Finally the *Edna* was commanded by the Mexican government, which put an officer on board, and Smith said that "after that things were more comfortable."

## FISH BITES BACK

Turns on Man Preparing It for Table and Nibbles Wrist.

A fresh water fish which was about to be prepared for the table by Nicholas Koll of Wilmington, Del., recently rebelled and before the astonished man knew what had happened he had been bitten on the wrist by the fish.

He rushed wildly into the Delaware hospital for treatment and was reassured only when the physicians there explained to him that the fish was not related to the snake family and that there was no danger of him dying from its bite.

To the best of their knowledge, the physicians stated, it was the first time they ever had a patient suffering from a bite from a fish.

Women Like Work. Woman engine wipers at Spokane, Wash., and at other division points on the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific railroads in this state like their work and prefer it to housework. C. H. Younger, state labor commissioner, declared after an inspection trip to the railroad shops of the state.

## IRELAND'S VICERINE POPULAR SOCIAL LEADER



While political affairs in Ireland are somewhat troubled, the social side of life in Dublin proceeds under favorable auspices under the leadership of the beautiful and popular hostess at the Viceroyal lodge. As the wife of the lord lieutenant, Lady Wimborne is, of course the moving spirit of official hospitalities, and is deeply interested in the welfare of the country.

She is the younger daughter of Lord Ebury and before her marriage to Lord Wimborne, in 1902 was known as the Hon. Alice Katherine Sibell Groevenor. Her son Ivor Gueset, was born in 1908 and her daughters Rosemary and Cynthia, in 1905 and 1906 respectively. Lord Wimborne served with the imperial Yeomanry in the South African war. He became lord lieutenant of Ireland in 1915.

## RUSS OFFICER PRIVATE HERE

Warsaw Academy Graduate Enlists in American Army.

Anthony J. Boyarsky, graduate of the Warsaw Military academy, the West Point of Russia, is serving as a private in the National army at Camp Upton, New York. It became known recently. After receiving his commission as a Russian army officer he was assigned to the One Hundred and Seventy-fifth fuziliers and had gone to the front not long before the revolution. His sympathies were against the emperor, and he was warned the secret police knew he favored an uprising. He fled to Archangel with other subalterns and escaped to Philadelphia. He came to New York and was drafted, not claiming exemption as an alien. He previously had tried to enlist in the regular army.

## LEFT \$120,000 TO NURSE

Wealthy Atlanta Banker Remembers Her in His Will.

Announcement was made recently that Charles E. Currier, for many years president of the Atlanta National bank of Atlanta, Ga., left in his will approximately \$120,000 to Miss W. M. Belenger, who nursed him for a year and a half and was with him at the time of his death.

This part of the estate had originally been left to his "next of kin," but this was changed by a codicil. Another nurse, Miss Cecilia Valentine, was left \$10,000. She had nursed Mr. Currier for some time, but recently married and is now Mrs. Robert Wynne.

The rest of his estate, valued at \$180,000, is left to friends, distant relatives and to charitable institutions.

## WAR COST 1-14 OF OURS

Germany Musters 14 Men for What It Costs Us to Keep One.

Germany in putting 14.8 soldiers into the field for the same amount of money which the United States is paying for a single fighting man, according to calculations today of government experts. They said the same general proportion was true also of maintaining the armies in the field, or in other words, America must raise \$14.80 where the enemy nations raise only \$1 to carry on the war.

The difference was said to be due to the higher pay of United States soldiers and the greater cost of supplies in this country, and the contrast was used as a text for admonitions that resources alone would not win the war, but that strict economy was necessary.

## \$1,000 FOR THE POPE

Barber Also Left \$700 for Clock in Church Tower.

The will of Engelbert Metzger, a barber, who was found dead the other morning on the floor in a room in the rear of his shop in St. Louis, has been filed for probate. One of the bequests was \$1,000 to Pope Benedict XV or his successor, and another was \$700 for a clock in the tower of St. Henry's German Roman Catholic church. He also left \$300 to the pastor of that church for masses.

To his children, Mrs. Elizabeth Moser, John, Frank, Joseph and Henry Metzger, he left \$1 each; to his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Catherine Metzger, \$1,000, and the residue of the estate to the children of his sister, Mrs. Veronica Doid of Springfield, Ill.

## MORE MARRIAGES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Statistics Show Big Increase as Result of War.

## NOT SO WITH THE ENEMY

Germany and Austria Show Marked Decrease in Births and Weddings—Proportion of Male Births in England Noticeably Increases—Population of Great Britain Increases, While Decrease is Shown by Enemy.

Crudely stated, said Sir Bernard Mallet, in his presidential address to the Statistical society, according to the London Daily Chronicle, the war had resulted in 200,000 persons in the United Kingdom being married between August, 1914, and June, 1917, who in the ordinary course would not have married. The marriage rate for 1915 was the highest recorded—19.4 the previous maximum being in 1893, which was 17.9.

Referring to the marriage statistics in enemy countries, in Hungary the effect of the war had been that more than 600,000 persons who in the ordinary course would have married had not done so. In Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Hesse, Hamburg and Bremen, six states containing more than 80 per cent of the German population, the total number of marriages in 1913 was 484,106 and in 1914 262,458, a decrease of 41,050, or nearly 10 per cent, in spite of a great outburst of war marriages during the first month of the war.

### The Birth Rate.

The loss of potential lives to the belligerent countries by the decrease in the number of children born was, perhaps, the most important effect produced by the war on vital statistics. In birth the United Kingdom had suffered far less than Germany and Hungary, the United Kingdom having lost 10,000 per million of the population, Germany 40,000 per million and Hungary 70,000 per million. As regards infant mortality, the rate during 1914-1916 had been lower both in the United Kingdom and in Germany than in any previous period of like duration, but the summer mortality in 1917 appeared to have been extraordinarily high in several German cities, and the German rate all through remained at some 50 per cent higher than in this country.

### More Boy Babies.

Some curious results were noted: An alteration in the sex ratio of birth appeared to be established by the figures of the United Kingdom, especially by those of England, the proportion of male births having noticeably increased. Contrary to expectation, the war had produced no effect upon the figures of illegitimate births. Decline in suicides was another interesting feature.

Comparison between the natural increase or decrease of the populations showed that whereas the population of the United Kingdom was now somewhat greater than at the beginning of the war, in spite of all losses of life in the army and navy Austria-Hungary and Germany had each suffered a decrease of some 600,000, in addition to losses in the field outside of these countries—perhaps a total decrease of at least four millions.

## LIVING LAWN MOWERS

Sheep to Cut Grass in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Little Ho-Peep may be seen in various sections of the Rocky Mountain National Park system next summer, if a plan being advocated by those interested in "conservation" programs is accepted. It is pointed out that sheep can be used to good advantage in the vicinity of Estes Park, as well as in the numerous municipal parks of Denver, for "mowing lawns."

Great expense is involved in keeping the grass cut in Denver's beautiful parks and sheep are said to be excellent "lawn mowers." The city fathers of Denver have also been much impressed with the suggestion that snow-white sheep attended by dainty misses dressed as Dresden shepherdesses would greatly enhance the picturesque landscape.

## PLEASURE MOTORS STOPPED

British Petrol Regulations Stop Non-essential Driving.

The complete suppression of pleasure riding by automobile and the restriction of gasoline consumption to strictly necessary purposes is aimed at in a series of new petrol regulations just issued in England. It is now illegal for any automobile owner to drive his car merely for his private convenience.

If a policeman sees an automobile standing outside a hotel or theater and investigate the use he is making of his car. If the car is being used for any purpose other than those provided in the new regulations the owner will be prosecuted.

## May Keep U. S. Prisoners in France.

Germany captured by United States troops may be kept in France to do farming and other necessary work in that nation. France has made this request of America, and, as the expense of transporting prisoners will be great, the request doubtless will be granted.

## FRENCH WOMEN THROW PERSHING HANDSOME

Commander of the American Army is Popular With People in France.

General Pershing, with his military bearing, his manly air and his deferential courtesy toward women, is a never-ending source of interest to the French people. Especially his last mentioned trait has impressed itself upon the French writers. One of the important Paris dailies has devoted a series of articles to the American commander's life history with idealistic as to how he is looked upon in France, and a personal description of the general.

It is as follows: "Tall, erect and confident, he wears his uniform with an air of genuine 'competence' that attracts the admiration of the entire feminine populace of Paris. 'What a handsome man!' the women cry as he passes by surrounded by his staff officers."

"And, if we mistake not, nothing could be more flattering to his honored soldier. In the official receptions, the banquets that are tendered him, it is the noble courtesy of his manner, the succinctness of his words, the spirit of the man that captures the admiration of the French people. Not one who talks a great deal, but what he says, he says well."

"When the first American troops disembarked on our shores we cannot forget the words with which the general received them. 'For the first time in history American soldiers find themselves on the soil of Europe. The good name of the United States demands that our conduct be irreproachable. We must, every one of us, show toward the Frenchmen, and more particularly the Frenchwomen, the most perfect courtesy and our respectful deference. The least reprehensible act would be doubly so here, because it would be a breach of hospitality.'"

"Nothing more! No promises of epic glory! No laurel wreaths distributed in advance! No flags waving over rose-crowned heads! But his soldiers understood these few brief words and showed a tactful discipline. That is Pershing!"

## WE WHO STAY AT HOME

By Robert Grant of The Vigilantes

We shall conquer the ruthless Hun only by self-denial. If our millions there is not one not now on trial. So let us serve, we—we who stay at home. That those who die in the dark trench can hold us not to blame; else ours the endless shame. Let each forego his pleasure. Let each banish his leisure. These hang on our behavior. The greatest issue that ever faced a high. Either we prove the patriot. Or freedom we fall beneath the heel. Of a perfidious tyrant girl with her steel. And we be numbered with the countless dead.

Pay heed ye shepherds, alone who shepherd upon the safety of their personal safety. There cracks no whip, and no. Where wages must be paid. Give of your money, but you know how often. Before the invading Hunner callings. And you become the nerve you want. Awake and serve the cause that makes you free. We must be victors if we have your aid.

## HORSE CLIMBS STAIRS

Gets Up Into a Haymow and Nips Himself.

William Fulton, a farmer living northwest of Noblesville, Ind., has a horse that performed an unusual feat recently. When Mr. Fulton went to do his feeding he missed one of his horses and could not find it until attention was attracted by a splash in the haymow. He went up there and found the horse eating hay and perfectly contented. There is only one opening in the mow, and in order to get up there the animal had to climb a narrow stairway 25 feet long. The veterinarian was called and they led the horse down to the lower floor via blocks and tackles.

## RAILWAY COMPANY SUED

Acid Spattered in the Grass Along Line Killed the Cattle.

The Southern railway has been made defendant in an action at law at Chattanooga which charges the company with cruelty to animals.

The railway company recently operated a "tank train," carrying acid from a sulphuric acid plant. The "tank" leaked and the acid flowed to the ground and spread out in the grass. Cattle along the right of way ate the grass and died in large numbers.

The railroad company made settlement with the owners of the stock, but the Chattanooga Humane society has brought suit.

Banker Gives Whole Income to U. S. The entire income of Otto E. Kahn, New York banker, will be used for war service. Mr. Kahn recently announced that he would continue to make large profits, but that every cent, after the deduction of household expenses, would be used for charity. Not even his own food.

## Will Not Help.

Staying awake nights contemplating the wonderful things that you are doing to do doesn't pay the taxes on your household goods.