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New York City Attempts to Stop White Slavery

Thirty-Five Hundred People Disappear Every Year in New York Alone—Most of Them Become White Slaves.

NEW YORK, Mar. 6.—Gotham, the Gobbler of Girls, is to see a great spring drive against the port of missing maidens, in which society will attempt to salvage 1,000 girls who have disappeared from their homes in the past three years and never been found.

So serious has this problem of the metropolis become police and pulp are about to unite in a mighty effort to kill the system that is dragging young women away from their families and friends.

Thirty-five hundred persons are reported 'missing' to the New York police in the course of a year, and of this number, fully 800 never are found.

Fully half those permanently missing are girls; the rest are about evenly divided between mature women.

Disappearance of Ruth Cruger is the latest to attract wide attention. While the city was wondering where he Cruger case, a remarkable demonstration occurred of the fact that women may be forcibly abducted in this town in the midst of crowds, and nobody will lend a helping hand.

This was the "arrest" in a subway station of Mrs. L. T. Smith, wife of a hotel man, by a man who tied himself as a detective and insisted that Mrs. Smith was Dorothy Arnold. He dragged her four blocks, to a police station, where Mrs. Smith was released and the "detective" was sent to an asylum for observation of his sanity.

An apathetic crowd watched Mrs. Smith being dragged away, had she been dragged to some other place than a police station the man who seized her evidently would have succeeded in his purpose.

Dorothy Arnold disappeared in 1916, and has since been 'identified' several times, while search has been made in various places for her body. The mystery of her disappearance is as deep as ever.

One of the most famous cases was that of Jessie McCann. Her body was found off Coney Island months after she went away. No explanation of her disappearance or her whereabouts in the meantime ever has been found.

Other girls who never have been traced are Florence Whittier and

German Reservist Attempts to Assassinate President Wilson

HOBOKEN, N. J., Mar. 5.—A plot against President Wilson's life was uncovered here, according to detectives, who today arrested a German reservist from Mexico in a hotel where the German had engaged a room. Two bombs were found, which the detectives said were to have been sent to the President.

PARIS, Mar. 5.—A violent attack was made yesterday by the Germans on the Verdun front. Today's official announcement says that the repeated German losses were heavy.

French fire, although north of Caurieres wood the attackers obtained a foothold in advance positions. The German losses were heavy.

Messrs. J. B. McCormick and A. A. Wright of Parkton were in the city yesterday.

CAPE FEAR RISING

The Cape Fear river here has reached 35 feet which is five feet above flood level. The government reports predict that it will reach 43 feet.

TAFT TO TOUR COUNTRY INTEREST OF PREPAREDNESS

NEW YORK, Mar. 4.—Former President Taft, it was announced tonight, has cancelled all his paid lecture engagements from March 18 to April 4, so that he may tour the South and Southwest in behalf of preparedness. His trip will be under the auspices of the league to enforce peace, of which he is president. He will urge universal military training in his talk.

Helen McCarthy.

Fate of the girls who are traced gives a hint of those who never appear again. They were Anna Aumuller, murdered by Hans Schmidt; Marian Odell, abducted by a lover who was arrested; Alma Myers, who merely left town after failing to find work, was found in Port Jarvis.

White slavery was the fate of Helen Kelves and Carolina Kaufman as their testimony revealed; and this evil is believed to lie back of a good share of the disappearances. In 1916 the district attorney's office successfully prosecuted five white slavers.

Systematic search of the "port of mission maidens"—the cabaret belt of the Great White Way—is to be made in the spring, to aid in solving the mysteries which time has failed to clear.



Woodrow Wilson, Statesman, Scholar and Patriot, who was inaugurated yesterday the second time as President of the United States.

Boycott Lowers the Price of Foodstuffs In New York City

NEW YORK, Mar. 6.—Leaders in the housewives' boycott felt tonight that they had won a victory. The consensus today among produce dealers and city officials having to do with the market was that prices would drop within two days on all boycotted edibles. Whether the lowered prices would remain none would venture to predict.

The desperation of the retail dealers was evidenced today by plans made at a secret meeting of the directors of the Hebrew Retail Grocers' association. It was agreed to close 6,000 groceries in New York. The scheme would be passed upon at an open meeting Monday. It proposed to close the stores on Tuesday.

The produce dealers of the metropolis have experienced for the first time the effect of demand on the business law of supply and demand. In some branches of trade the experience has bordered on ruin. Dealers today complained to city officials that if the boycott on chickens was not raised in the East Side district they would face business ruin. They asked that the city act as a mutual party in making peace with the housewives' leagues.

A committee representing the poultry dealers offered to guarantee the housewives a price of 19 to 19 1/2c. Through Joseph Hartigan, commissioner of weights and measures, the

poultry dealers' committee conferred with Mrs. Jacob Panken, president of the Women's Anti-High Price League. She expressed doubt if the dealers could keep their pledge.

Dealers in vegetables are not in such a critical position. But it was admitted today the boycott soon would lower the prices of the two forbidden vegetables—onions and potatoes.

There is little going today but chiefly through lack of opportunity. The picket lines of the women's leagues were drawn as close as on the day before. A few push-cart dealers were mobbed on their way to the zone where they are given police protection.

In Newark, N. J., about 1,000 women marched to the city hall bearing a banner which said: "Our children are starving." Mayor Richmond told the women that he would do all within his power to lower prices. The women sought aid from the city with the request that the municipal government buy and sell food.

The biggest drop in prices within the next few days probably will be in eggs. It was predicted today that they would be selling for forty cents a dozen. Large supplies are arriving one large store today offering potatoes at \$3.60 a bushel, a drop of twenty cents since last week; eggs at 45c and butter at the same figure a pound.

SAYS GERMAN RETIREMENT IS DUE MAINLY TO DEFEAT

Staff Correspondent Writes of Britain Drive in Gommecourt Region

From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press, British Headquarters in France, via London, March 4.—Whatever may be the ultimate strategy lying behind or claimed for the German retirement between Gommecourt and Le Transloy, even most casual inspection of some of the evacuated lines near Espume plainly reveals the immediate reason for the abandonment. They have been smashed to pieces by the incessant and ever-increasing British artillery fire.

Communication trenches, built for the purpose of bringing up food and ammunition, had been flattened almost beyond recognition and had long since ceased to serve their purpose.

The wide belt of area back of the German lines had been lashed by bursting shells until it had become virtually impassable. For hours at a time, often for days, the drum fire of the British guns made it impossible for any man to reach or leave the trenches.

Some of the prisoners recently taken said they had been cut off from food for forty-eight hours by the barrage back of their trenches.

ROOSEVELT NOT TO DEBATE PREPAREDNESS WITH BRYAN

NEW YORK, Mar. 4.—Theodore Roosevelt will not debate the subject of preparedness with William Jennings Bryan because he does not believe the subject is debatable. The colonel gave that as his reason for declining an invitation from the representatives of the Congress of Forums to participate in such a debate in New York City. Bryan accepted, but said he thought the proposed debate should not be confined to one city, and suggested that he and the colonel travel the country over, each pay their own expenses and charge no admission.

FEMALE HIGHWAYMEN HOLD UP AND ROB GOLDSBORO OFFICER

GOLDSBORO, Mar. 4.—Two female highwaymen held up and robbed Deputy Sheriff John Toler, of this city, on his way home Saturday night about 10 o'clock and secured \$35 in cash. The robbery occurred in a unique way, according to the story given by Mr. Toler to a reporter this morning.

In describing the women Mr. Toler stated it was his belief that they were negroes, but he was not sure; that while he was passing near the Goldsboro Grocery Company store, in the rear of the Wayne National Bank, two women suddenly came forward from the alley without uttering a word, one of the women grabbed him around the neck and proceeded to try to kiss him. The officer claims he flung the woman from him and at this juncture both females ran down James Street. Mr. Toler says he proceeded on his way home and later learned that his pocket book containing \$35 was missing. He hurried back to the city hall and, securing aid of another officer, inaugurated a search and endeavoring to locate the two women, but their efforts were futile.

BELGIAN INDUSTRY MENACED BY GERMAN GOVERNOR GENERAL

HAVRE, Mar. 4.—The German Governor General of Belgium, according to a declaration by the Belgian Government here, has by a decree issued February 27, prohibited the Belgian industries with certain exceptions, thus increasing considerably the number of deserted Belgian workers.

"Beginning March 1," says the declaration, "the Belgian industries, as well as the Belgian banks and industries, must be abandoned to the German authorities. The Belgian Government will not be allowed to maintain in operation except night work in the country by agreement of the chief of the German army and administration. Requested by the authorities to continue the operation of a plant must indicate the estimated stock of coal, coke, iron and steel on hand and the value and destination of the present and future output of the plant; also the quantity of raw material which will be necessary monthly, the number of freight cars required for transporting raw material, as well as the value and destination of the products."

President Seeking Legal Advice as to Arm-Ships

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 4.—President Wilson has referred to his legal advisors his doubts of his power to arm American ships in the absence of direct authority from Congress. Some decision is expected from the attorney-general within the next 24 hours.

WAR SUMMARY

Again the British have advanced their front on the right and left wings in the Somme and Ancre regions of France. On the left flank, east of Gommecourt, the Germans gave up ground over a front of two miles to an average depth of 1,200 yards. On the right flank, east of Bouchavesnes, an attack gave the British terrain on a front of 1,200 yards and 173 prisoners, according to the London war office. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans in several counter attacks.

The recent ceding of ground by the Germans in the Ancre and Somme regions evidently was not carried out for strategic reasons, but because of necessity, according to a staff correspondent. A visit to various points of the line showed that the guns of the British had torn up trenches and communication trenches and searched out thoroughly the ground on a wide area behind the German line, where later found.

In the Meuse districts the Germans north of Eix, in an attack preceded by a heavy bombardment, succeeded in entering the French trenches but were driven out in a counter attack. Reciprocal bombardments, especially severe east of the Meuse in the Bois Caurieres sector, have taken place.

Along the Russian front and in Roumania no fighting of moment is taking place. In the Austro-Italian theatre an Austrian attempt to storm Italian positions east of Gorizia was frustrated, according to Rome. Minor infantry operations and artillery duels continue on the other sectors of the front.

With the important town of Hamadan already in their possession, the Russians are keeping up their offensive against the Turks in Persia. Eighty miles northeast of Hamadan they have captured the village of Bijar and Khanikal.

The loss of the British torpedo boat destroyer with all hands, is reported by the British admiralty. The vessel went down in the North Sea and is believed to have struck a mine. Berlin in a statement regarding vessels sunk by the submarines mentions the sinking of the bottom in the Mediterranean of an armed transport steamer of 34,494 tons. It is stated that some of the troops on board were lost. The largest vessel ever built was the steamer Lusitania, of 30, 296 tons.

MONROE, La., Mar. 6.—In a running fight between a horse and two bandits who had robbed the Bank of Collinston, La., 20 miles north of here, H. W. Vaughn, mayor of Collinston, was shot and killed.

Vaughn was shot and struck during the fight, and was captured and rushed to the Monroe hospital. A bullet wound about \$3,000 worth of property taken from the bank was recovered.

Vaughn was killed, according to reports, after the capture of the horse and during an exchange of shots between the second horse and the mayor. Vaughn, it was stated, was wounded on a first night of the fight. The other bandit, who was shot and killed, was Vaughn's brother-in-law. Vaughn's death was a great loss to the community. A posse from here headed by the chief of police assisted in the search.

FOUR TURK SHIPS TAKEN

LONDON, March 6.—British pursuit of the Turkish forces out of Kut-el-Amara continues. It is announced that four Turkish steamships have been captured or destroyed.



GEN. VON HINDENBURG and GEN. LUDENDORFF, the two chief of the general staff and the other chief of staff, were taken to Berlin from the eastern front and today von Hindenburg has become a greater hero in Germany than the Kaiser. Von Ludendorff is hardly less popular.

THOUSAND ODD AMERICAN REFUGEES NOT AT BEIRUT

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 6.—A dispatch dated February 20, and received at the State Department today from Ambassador Elihu, at Constantinople, stated that the 1,000-odd American refugees understood in Washington to have been concentrated at Beirut awaiting passage home, are not there. They are divided up between Jerusalem and Jaffa.

GERMANS USE CHURCH BELLS

COPENHAGEN, Mar. 6.—via London.—Germany is drawing upon the church bells for war requirements. An order appropriating bronze bells after March 1 is published in the German press. One bell in a church may be retained if needed.

STUDENTS ADVISED NOT RUSH TO ENLIST IN RANKS

Greater Service Foreseen in Field of Industry and Research

BOSTON, Mar. 6.—Students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are advised not to rush to enlist in the ranks of the army or navy in the event of war, in the opinion of an undergraduate preparedness committee. Such a rush of technically trained men, it is stated, would be a mistake.

Undergraduates would be rendering a better service to the country, in the opinion of the committee, by remaining at their studies until the demands of the fields of industry and research have been defined by war conditions.