

Bluebeard Of Gambais Sent To Guillotine For Murders

Defended by His Attorney as White Slaver But Not an Assassin, Jury Declares Him Guilty, Landru Smiling and Refusing to Sign Request for Clemency.

Versailles, Dec. 1.—(By the Associated Press)—Henry Désire Landru, the "Bluebeard of Gambais," smiled last night for the first time since his trial opened. A flickering expression of amusement crossed his face as he listened to the words of Judge Gilbert, sentencing him to the guillotine for a series of the most heinous crimes in the history of French jurisprudence.

"Thank you, gentlemen," said Landru, flourishing his weather-beaten hat in a mocking bow to the jury, and disappeared through the little door leading to the Versailles jail.

While the verdict was awaited, the convicted slayer of ten women and a child, was surrounded by a crowd of admirers, some of whom were shouting words of encouragement to his counsel, M. Moro-Giafferi, who tried and won out after his strenuous efforts to save his client from death.

He refused to be a party to a petition asking President Millerand to commute the sentence to life imprisonment, which was signed among others by the jurors. "I refuse to ask for mercy," he told the latter. "A man like me wants justice, not mercy. You think I am guilty; then let me die."

His remarks after reaching the cell also were characteristic of this strange character, the record of whose deeds as unfolded in the dingy Versailles courtroom has drawn the attention of all France and of thousands of persons in other countries.

WAS A GREAT SHOW.
"It has been a great show," he said. "I hope the public is satisfied. I give you a rendezvous for the beginning of February or the end of March to show you how an innocent man dies."

The courtroom ever seen in Versailles. Pickpockets began operations in the press of the gathering while the jury was out and three men complained that their wallets had been taken.

"If the trial lasted another day, I would be unable to find a seat myself," Landru told the gendarmes as he surveyed the throngs struggling to enter after the recess.

Landru seduced his women victims through promises of marriage. After luring them to his villa at Gambais, the prosecution charged that he killed them and disposed of the bodies by burning them in a small stove, after first cutting them into small pieces and crushing the skulls. The stove was one of the principal exhibits at the trial.

The motive ascribed to Landru was that of robbery, various entries in a notebook being cited to prove that he kept account of the amounts derived from each crime. The victims were mostly married women with small properties who had been separated from their husbands. The evidence was principally circumstantial, the only direct testimony being about a pound and a half of bones, some of the fragments of which were so small that they had to be viewed under microscopes.

M. Moro-Giafferi, counsel for the defense, in an eloquent plea, finished his summing up yesterday, after which Judge Gilbert read 48 questions to the jury. The first of these was whether Landru was guilty of murder with premeditation in the case of Mine. Cochet.

Questions also were put as to the mentality of the prisoner. M. Moro-Giafferi in his address, cast doubt on all the evidence produced by the prosecution. He reminded the jury that a person could be proclaimed legally dead only when they had been missing thirty years. In

support of his client, he cited cases of persons who were missing having returned years afterwards, when hope for them had been abandoned. He also referred to notable cases of alleged miscarriage of justice based on circumstantial evidence.

WAS WHITE SLAYER.

"A white slayer, yes; an assassin, never," exclaimed M. Moro-Giafferi, pointing toward Landru. He added that the possession by the prisoner of papers identifying his alleged victims corroborated the theory that Landru probably had sent the women abroad with false papers in "white slave" traffic.

"These women all are alive," said M. Moro-Giafferi, "but they are ashamed to make their whereabouts known. Make a thorough search of the United States and Brazil, Argentine and other South American countries and I am confident you will find Landru's so-called victims."

"I am innocent," Landru shouted to the jury. This was the first time in the thirty-two months since he was arrested that the prisoner had used the word "innocent" in public. Heretofore he had contented himself with saying: "Show me my guilt, make out your case." Yesterday, however, he showed more emotion than at any time during his trial.

During the short address he made to the jury, lasting barely a minute and a half, Landru declared: "I have never killed anyone; I am innocent. Jurors, do your duty."

FORT MILL LUMBER PLANT IS BURNED

Fort Mill, S. C., Dec. 1.—The Fort Mill Lumber Company sustained the loss of its big lumber shed and warehouse by fire which was discovered about 7 o'clock Tuesday evening, the loss of buildings and contents being estimated at \$25,000, which is partially covered by insurance.

The building was located at the corner of Depot and Spratt streets, in a section which is thickly built up with warehouses for cottonseed and cotton, some of them not 50 feet away, but owing to the stillness of the air at the time of the fire and the effective work of the local fire department, the latter being assisted by the department from Mill No. 2 of the Fort Mill Manufacturing Company, the flames were confined to the one structure.

The high power lines of the Southern Power Company pass along the street within five feet of the building and, on account of the possible danger from falling poles and wires, the current from the dam was cut off, and the town was in darkness for about two hours. However, there was no loss from fire to the poles and lines. Some loss was sustained from piles of rough lumber stacked in the adjoining yards.

NEGRO IS LYNCHED.

Balling, Texas, Dec. 1.—Robert Murture, 15-year-old negro, charged with attacking a nine-year-old white girl, was taken from deputies here yesterday and lynched.

WOMAN ELECTED TO HIGH OFFICE

New York County Elects Woman Register at a Salary of \$12,000.

By LEO T. HEATLEY, International News Staff Correspondent.

New York, Dec. 1.—To be of the greatest service to her community and her country, the married woman should keep herself informed on questions of public interest and never allow herself to become indifferent to politics.

This was the opinion of Miss Anne Mathews, Democrat, elected to the highest-salaried office a woman has ever held in this country. She was the successful candidate in New York county for the office of Register, a post paying \$12,000 a year. The salary of Alice Robertson, Congresswoman from Oklahoma, is only \$7,500 a year.

Miss Mathews ran on a platform the chief plank of which called for "a business woman for a business job." She was elected on the strength of her political positions, but has no patience with the society dilettanti that have invaded the realm of women's politics. The butterfly woman is useless in politics, she said.

OFFICE NOT PICTURESQUE

The office of Register is not picturesque. Miss Mathews will have jurisdiction over a force of 144 workers, the majority of whom are men. The Register's office records transactions in real estate and other activities requiring official records and keeps a file of notaries public signatures.

"I do not propose to change the policies now being followed in the office," she explained.

"Women have the inherent ability which fits them to discharge any public function as well as men can do it. Frequently they are handicapped by lack of business experience. Women since the beginning of time have been keeping the home and raising the children, while men have had unlimited opportunity to engage in civic affairs. A business training is the greatest asset for any public officer—man or woman. The person who has been employed understands best how to give the people full value for their money and how to get the greatest quantity and best quality of work from those under him."

CHANCE FOR MARRIED WOMEN

"People who are compelled to work, especially if they like their vocation, are the ideal public officials. I believe there are great possibilities for the married woman in political roles—the woman who has raised children that have gone their way, who retains her youth and enthusiasm, but after years is isolated domestically, is out of touch with current events. Many medical men told that the female brain, under such circumstances, retrogresses beyond recovery. This theory is ridiculous. I can't refute it scientifically, but I know many women who have 'come back' after raising families. Children should broaden a woman, never cramp her. Of course, the mind becomes flabby through disuse, but the married woman's mental sluggishness is no greater than that which afflicts anyone after years of inactivity.

"Married women, though occupied with their homes, should keep abreast of affairs from the moment of the ceremony. Thus they will be of great service to their children as well as their community."

Mrs. Mathews was for twenty years a fashion designer and has traveled extensively.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY IS TO CUT FREIGHT RATE

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 1.—An announcement was made by Southern Railroad officials here yesterday of a 10 per cent freight rate cut on carload lots of commodities, to take effect some time in December.

It is proposed by the railroad to make the reduction apply to an experimental period of six months on carload shipments of wheat, corn, oats, grains, our and meal, hay, straw, alfalfa, unmanufactured cotton, tobacco, cottonseed and products, except cottonseed oil and cottonseed meal, citrus fruits, potatoes, dried fruits and vegetables, horses, mules, cattle and calves, sheep and goats, hogs, poultry, eggs, butter, cheese and wool.

FEAR RENEWAL IRISH FIGHTING

Spark of Combat Probably Would Start Smouldering Conflagration Anew.

London, Dec. 1.—(By the Associated Press)—The possibility of renewed bloodshed in Ireland stares the British Isles in the face in consequence of the virtual collapse of the peace negotiations, which have proceeded under a truce for the last five months.

The Sinn Fein has stood firm on its demand for an all-Ireland Parliament as the basis of settlement, at the same time refusing to concede allegiance to the British Crown. Ulster has refused point blank to scrap her own Parliament to enter an all-Ireland Parliament under present conditions, on the ground that she will come directly under control of the numerically superior south.

The latest plan, that for an all-Ireland Parliament, under which Ulster might retain her existing rights until, or unless, she changed her mind, failed with the formal statement by the Sinn Fein delegation here that it cannot be considered.

As a result, in both Government and Irish circles the opinion is expected that nothing short of a miracle can avert collapse of the negotiations and resumption of the warfare in Ireland.

The Government heads are bending their entire efforts to seeking some unexplored avenue of negotiations, but it is believed all possibilities of settlement have been exhausted during the lengthy parleys which seem now to have ended.

As to how long the truce will last under present conditions there is no indication. The Sinn Feiners have expressed the view that there will be no formal denunciation of the pact by either side, and this leads to the belief that any spark of combat set off in Ireland with the peace movement apparently checked may start the conflagration anew.

HALF MILLION FIRE DAMAGE.

Philadelphia, Dec. 1.—Fire today damaged the plant of the F. W. Co. Company, manufacturers of art materials, 1220 Buttonwood street to the extent of \$500,000. A number of firemen were overcome by smoke.

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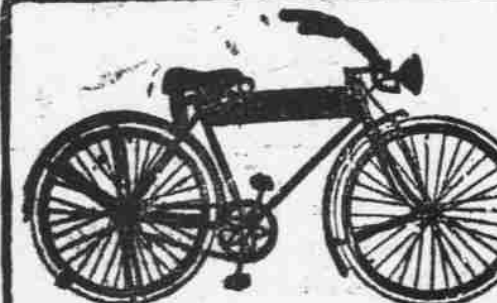
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