

A CASE FOR 3 DETECTIVES

By LEO BRUCE



"REALLY, Plimsoll," I said, after Lord Simon had taken the photographs of all of us from his man Butterfield.

"Don't worry, Townsend. We had to have snaps of everyone within the age limit. Embarrassing, of course. Have much difficulty in getting them, Butterfield?"

"None at all, my lord. I found a vantage point from which they were framed nicely, one after another, my lord, and I just waited."

Lord Simon inquired no further. Then Lord Simon and I started toward the village of Sidney Sewell in his Rolls-Royce.

Presently I began telling him about the odd questions which Sergeant Beef had put to Williams and me last night, after he had gone. I said that we could not understand what he was getting at.

"You don't know the police as I do," chuckled Lord Simon.

"But he seems pretty certain that he knows who is guilty."

"Of course he does. He has to. The police are always certain, till it is proved that they're wrong."

"I wonder who it is that he suspects."

Lord Simon sighed with some ennui. "Probably Norris, I should say."

"Why Norris?"

"Well—one can only have dim glimpses at the official mind. But I should guess it was Norris. You see, Beef doesn't know how the murderer got out of that room. But Norris was at the door when you and Thurston and Williams reached it. He, according to Beef's point of view, was nearest to the crime. Therefore he was guilty."

"Do they really think like that?" I asked.

"My dear chap, when you've seen as much of them as I have you'll know that they don't think at all. They just guess."

"Good heavens!" I said, with visions of all the murderers in England being arrested, tried and hanged by guesswork.

"Of course," conceded Lord Simon, "here and there in the Force you find a glimmer of intelligence. But something more than intelligence is needed in a case like this. A modicum of imagination, for one thing."

"Just so," I agreed. "I suppose you had to have imagination to know that there was a rope in the water tank?"

"I suppose so."

I had, as a matter of fact, almost forgotten those ropes, and now that I remembered them they seemed, in the light of last night's inquiries, more mysterious than ever.

"But, Plimsoll," I said, "about those ropes. How can they have been used? I swear to you that it was impossible for anyone to have climbed up from Mary Thurston's room and pulled the rope after him in the time. From the moment of the last scream to the time Williams pushed the window open was scarcely a couple of minutes. You can't tell me that a man would have had time to murder Mary Thurston, cross the room, climb onto the rope, close the window, climb the rope to the window above, crawl in, and draw the rope after him. It couldn't have been done."

"I dare say not. But who said anything about climbing the rope?" asked Lord Simon.

"Well, if he dropped down it," I went on decisively, "he must have had an accomplice in the room above to haul it up after him. And even then I doubt if the two ropes together would have been long enough. Besides, what about footprints? There was a

flower bed under that window. Are you going to tell me he stopped to rub out his footprints in the soil? And if this was how it was done, who could it have been? Stall, Fellowes, Norris and Strickland all got to the front door of the room too quickly to have come in by the front door. It only leaves the vicar—or conceivably Miles, if his alibi was not as good as it sounded. And then he would have to have had an accomplice in the apple room."

Lord Simon smiled. "You've got hold of the wrong end of the rope," he said.

He drove violently fast, of course. It was not to be supposed of him that in speed, of all things, he should show an uncharacteristic moderation. So I leaned back in the seat of the Rolls, and comforted myself with the somewhat selfish reflection that most other cars were smaller, lighter, and more easily crumpled than this one.

"Strange name for a village—Sidney Sewell," I observed.

"Not really," replied Lord Simon; "it only seems so because when you first heard it you assumed that it was the name of a man. Almost any place with a double name would seem like that. Horton Kirby, for instance, or Dumton Green. Chalfont St. Giles might easily have been the villain of a Victorian novel, and I see no reason why Compton Abdale (a village in Gloucestershire) should be thought to be the name of a place more than Compton Mackenzie, who is a writer. It just depends on how you hear of them first."

"But what made you think of Sidney Sewell as a village?"

"I didn't. I just tried it in all the reference books I could lay hands on. There chanced to be an out-of-date telephone directory which I got from the postoffice, and a Times Atlas which I found at the hotel."

We purred quietly over a narrow bridge at 50 miles an hour, and 10 minutes later I was relieved to catch a glimpse, as we shot by, of the name of Sidney

It was something to have got as near as that without disaster.

WHITEHEAD UNDER SURGEON'S KNIFE

Rocky Mount, Feb. 19 (AP)—Burgess Whitehead, second baseman of the New York Giants, went under a doctor's knife early this afternoon for an acute case of appendicitis.

Whitehead complained of stomach trouble in the beginning of the week, but came here this morning from his home in Lewiston, N. C. for an examination. Doctors advised immediate operation which was started shortly after noon.

The second baseman of the National League's champions was accompanied by his brother, Lewis, who is pro-

Lawmakers Want To Go Home for Political Fights

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drastic alterations of the proposed \$1,000,000,000 naval expansion program. Secretary Wallace appointed three directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, an agency authorized by the new farm act to insure wheat growers against losses from drought, floods and other natural causes.

Compliance with the administration's new farm program, officials estimated that it would put about \$250,000,000 in the pockets of the nation's cotton growers.

Britain Seeking Closer Ties With Mussolini Regime

(Continued from Page One.)

war began to get foreign fighters out of Spain, Italy, with a large number of Italians fighting for the Spanish insurgents, has been reluctant. Italy Britain has charged, has spread radio propaganda harmful to Britain among the Arabic nations of the Near East. To combat this, Britain recently began Arabic news broadcasts in her own and plans for broadcasts in other languages have been formulated.

JIMMY ADRMIC LIKELY FACTOR IN COMING HEAVY RANKS

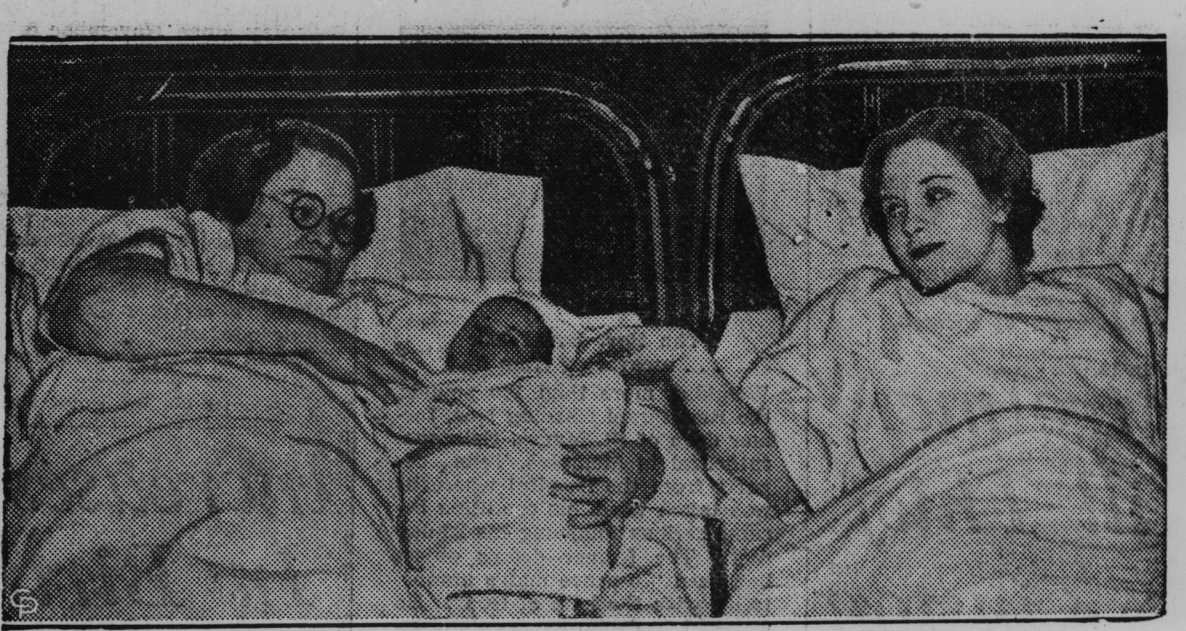
New York, Feb. 19 (AP)—A year from now, if he doesn't happen to have an accident like fighting Joe Louis or Max Schmeling in the meantime, young Jimmy Adamic, is likely to be a potent factor in the heavy ranks. In localistic fraternity, which was more than a little skeptical of the Detroit boy, passed that verdict after watching him beat tough Harry Thomas by a fair margin in his Eastern bow last night at the Gardens.

Angry Mob Riots in Attempt to Lynch Child-Slayer



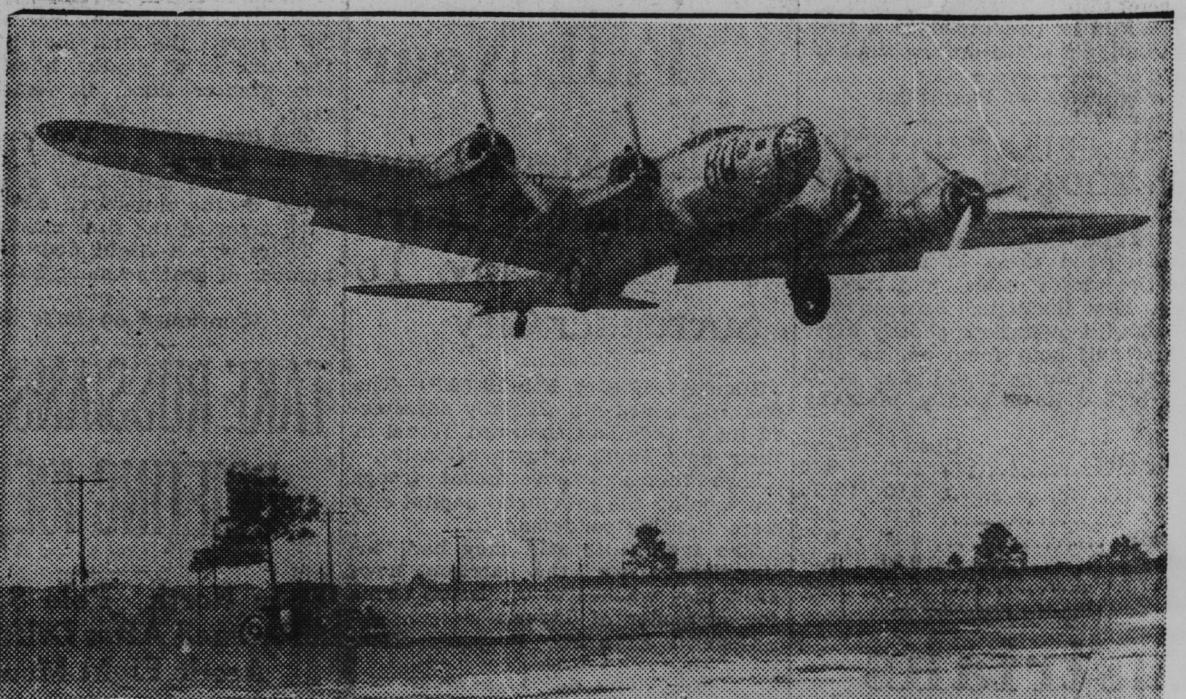
Top, rioters at Tia Juana, Mexico, smash down doors of federal building; below, jail following riot. In a futile attempt at Tia Juana, Mexico, to lynch a young soldier held as the confessed attack-slayer of an eight-year-old girl, a mob of 800 men and women burned a jail fired the federal building, fought with soldiers and forced declaration of martial law in the town. Six persons were wounded in the rioting and the jail and federal building were badly damaged. The photos above show a rioter kicking in the door of the federal building and the smoke-riddled jail after the rioting.

Mother, Daughter Give Birth to Sons Together



Mrs. Harry Miller, left, and Mrs. Leonard Orrey. A mother and daughter give birth to sons within 48 hours of each other in a Duluth, Minn., hospital. The daughter, Mrs. Leonard Orrey, 17, whose baby died shortly after birth, is at the right. The case was unprecedented in Duluth. —Central Press

A Flying Ambassador of Good Will



One of the army's mightiest war planes, a giant four-motored flying fortress, is pictured, her wing flaps dropped to slow down for a landing, after a 1,000-mile flight from Langley Field, Va., to Miami, Fla. The trip was made in slightly more than five hours, and was the first leg of a flight of six of these ships to Buenos Aires, to take part in the inauguration of President Ortiz, of Argentina.

COURT DECIDES 'BABY' WILL



Mrs. Alfred Smith, Mrs. Arthur H. Timleck and Mrs. John Nagle. Long-awaited decision of the courts on the Miller "baby race" will at Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is handed down. Three of the claimants to the \$500,000 left by the eccentric benefactor to the mother who had the most children in the 10 years after his death are shown outside the courtroom awaiting the decision on disposal of the money. They are, left to right, Mrs. Alfred Smith, Mrs. Arthur H. Timleck and Mrs. John Nagle, each claiming to have had nine children born in the specified time. —Central Press

O. K.'d by Nazis



Dr. Guido Schmidt ... friendly to Germany, retained. Dr. Guido Schmidt, Austria's minister of foreign affairs and always regarded friendly to Germany, is retained in the Austrian cabinet shakeup directed by Fuehrer Adolf Hitler of Germany. —Central Press

Wife Preservers



A handful of salt in the rinsing water will prevent biting from streaking clothes in freezing weather.

A Texas Ranger



Pictured during a visit to New York is Mrs. Frances Haskell Edmondson, deputy sheriff of Bexar County, Texas, and the first and only woman Texas Ranger. She is also chairman of the women's division of the Texas State Democratic Executive Committee. She's in New York to study law enforcement methods. (Central Press)

Freed in Amnesty



First of more than a hundred Nazis freed in Austria under the general amnesty forced on Chancellor Schuschnigg of Austria by Hitler, is Dr. Anton Rintelen (above), leader of the 1934 Nazi putsch which culminated in assassination of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss. (Central Press)

Your Income Tax in a Nutshell

WHO? Single persons who had net income of \$1,000 or more or gross income of \$5,000 or more, and married couples who had net income of \$1,000 or more or gross income of \$5,000 or more must file returns.

WHEN? The filing period begins Jan. 1 and ends March 15, 1938.

Income Tax Don'ts
DON'T prepare your return without first studying the instructions accompanying the form.
DON'T procrastinate. Early assembling of data permits a careful consideration of all tax problems.
DON'T destroy the memoranda from which your return was prepared.
DON'T omit explanation when such information is essential to an intelligent audit. Attach memoranda to your return.

WHAT? Four per cent normal tax on the amount of net income in excess of the personal exemption, credit for dependents, earned income credit, and interest on obligations of the United States and obligations of instrumentalities of the United States. Surtax on surtax net income in excess of \$4,000.

WHERE? Collector of internal revenue for the district in which the person lives or has his principal place of business.

HOW? See instructions accompanying Forms 1040A and 1040.

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