

# MASTER CON MAN FLEECED THE POOR

Horatio Bottomley Duped Many in England.

## BOASTED HE SAVED COUNTRY

Former Journalist, Member of Parliament and Owner of Race Horses, Posed as Champion of Former Service Men While He Was Planning to Rob Them—Former Employee and Business Associate Finally Brings Him to Justice.

The conviction of Horatio Bottomley is an important event in English history, says Arthur S. Draper in the New York Tribune. This journalist, member of parliament, financier, owner of thoroughbreds, who has just been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for misappropriating large sums collected from ex-soldiers and servants and other persons with modest incomes, has been a leading figure in English life for many years and an almost dominant personality right through the war and down to the date of his action against Reuben Bigland, whom he charged with criminally libeling him.

People—thousands of them—swore by Bottomley. Parsons quoted him from the pulpit. Government ministers feared him. Hundreds of Britons considered him an arch rogue and hypocrite, but such was his cleverness that few dared to cross his path. It remained for a former employee and associate in his enterprises to bring about the downfall of this British idol. Bottomley, a born crusader, swollen with power and fearless in spirit, started to fight Bigland, hesitated, and eventually landed behind prison bars at the age of sixty-two years.

### Losses Claim to Sympathy.

It is impossible to feel any sympathy for Bottomley, because he was a consummate hypocrite. He paraded as the possessor of all the virtues—honesty, cleanliness and fair dealing—and yet he did not hesitate to use the money of the poor for his own purposes—for paying the expenses of his racing stable, for buying magnans of champagne, for buying newspapers to give him more power. His office contained busts and pictures of the leaders of humanity. His articles in "John Bull," of which he was editor, contained frequent Biblical quotations. His speeches were full of idealism. His friends say that during twenty years he developed a religious streak, but if that is so then he mixed it with an amazing recklessness of other people's hard-earned money.

Through his various bond clubs he collected upward of \$4,000,000. Briefly his scheme was to issue certificates, buy war bonds and then hold lotteries. The government authorities refused to sanction the drawing of those so-called premium bonds. Then he transferred his club headquarters to Paris, ran afoul of the French authorities, but, according to his own statement, he did hold one draw in London, a tailor being the winner. Bottomley had advertised to refund money at any time. The bonds depreciated in a falling market. There was an avalanche of demands and finally receivers had to be appointed. Meanwhile Bottomley had sold many of the bonds and used part of the money for his own purposes. The court records showed that his accounts were in hopeless confusion. In fact, the evidence proved that the more confused they were the better they covered his complicated transactions. It might be that Bottomley fully intended to make good the money he took from the clubs, but that charitable interpretation would not clear him in the eyes of the law, and his long record in various courts, extending from 1893, was calculated to weigh against him.

Bottomley's life is fascinating. His parents intended he should become a painter, but instead he obtained a place in the city. He spent a short time in a law office. It was there that he gained his first insight into the law. He was called "England's greatest lay lawyer," and time after time the bench was compelled to compliment him on his masterful handling of his case. Bottomley might have made a fortune at the bar, but instead he elected to try his luck in finance and journalism. He had marvelous success in both, but on several occasions his speculations almost ruined him. In 1906 he was elected to parliament, and six years later he was forced to resign because he was declared a bankrupt.

### Plunged Into War as Patriot.

The most interesting phase of his life was that beginning in 1914, when he plunged into the war as a super-patriot. He is a gifted actor, a powerful orator and extremely clever in sensing public opinion. Unquestionably he was a huge asset to this country during the trying war period. He was a most prolific writer and a tireless speechmaker. Millions read his weekly articles, extraordinarily bombastic, and his halls were packed whenever he spoke. His trial has shown that he was something of a war profiteer despite his later attacks on this class. Bottomley was no "dollar-a-year" man; his fees were always large.

Bottomley posed as the typical Britisher. In personal appearance he did resemble the Briton as he is often pictured in cartoons, but Bottomley was in a class by himself. No other Eng-

lishman would write this paragraph: "Three men named Horatio saved England—Horatio Lord Nelson, Horatio Lord Kitchener and (modestly forbids the editor to name the third)."

In his weekly Bottomley was always fighting the battles of "Tommy and Jack"—the very men who subscribed to his clubs at a later date. He was always picturing the hamstringing of the last Hun before the next issue appeared. He elected himself to try and hang the kaiser. He was imploring the country, especially the men in the trenches to "hold fast"—while he collected £200 for a war lecture. One week he was damning the government and the next he was telling his readers that he and Lloyd George were now in full agreement. Still the public did not know him then as a humbug and hypocrite, and he undoubtedly did much to keep up British morale.

Always appearing as the "friend of the people," Bottomley had a tremendous following. His brain was so nimble that he must have been sickened at the gullibility of the public. An editorial writer in "The Daily Telegraph," says:

**Became Drunk With Power.**  
"Bottomley's story, if we met it in the pages of Balzac, would seem to us rather a masterpiece of grandiose fancy than persuasively real. For he was not only such a chief among gamblers and cheats Balzac loved to imagine; he had a singular power of demagoguery, he was a chevalier d'industrie and a tribune of the people in one, and in both parts supreme."

Bottomley became drunk with power; he was such a hypocrite that in his heart he undoubtedly had a huge admiration for the kaiser until his downfall. Both grew to think they were above ordinary mortals. Today it is a rare German who would have Wilhelm II return to the throne, however strong his monarchial views might be. Bottomley could speak as the cockney gamin or the inspired patriot, and he fooled the people until he finally fooled himself. Utterly without principle, he employed virtuous rhetoric or dropped into vulgarities as he thought the occasion demanded. He hypnotized himself in believing that he was more powerful than he was. His oratorical skill made his persuasive personality and also gave him an absolutely false perspective.

**Played With Money and Lives.**  
This man had the generosity as well as the recklessness of the gambler. He was kind to his friends; he was equally callous. He drank champagne and bet heavily. He played with money and with lives. And finally a jury of "common people" found him guilty.

The spectacular had an irresistible appeal to him and his whole life is a record of extremes. A typical incident is his purchase after the war of the submarine Deutschland, which made two trips to the United States during the period of American neutrality. The Deutschland was to some extent a cargo carrier and her successful breaking of the allied blockade, although without any real value, was an exploit which won admiration even from Germany's enemies.

Great Britain took over the Deutschland as part of the spoils of war and Bottomley bought the ship from the government and exhibited her at various seaside resorts. The avowed purpose of the exhibition was for the benefit of a patriotic fund for the support of wounded soldiers and sailors, but it appeared during the trial that no money had been turned over by Bottomley, who claimed that his Deutschland venture had been a financial failure and that the proceeds did not balance his expenditures. On the day that Bottomley was sentenced the admiralty court ordered that the boat be sold to meet a claim against the convicted editor for \$17,000 for repairs.

### BOBBED HAIR STRIKES SOUTH

Australian Women Take Up Fad, Which Men Resent.

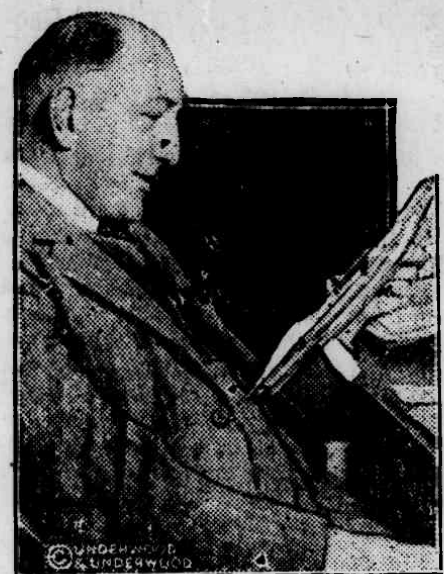
Bobbed hair among the young women of Australia is causing as much discussion and comment as in America. Until the craze started barber shops in Sydney were patronized only by the men. There are so many bobbed-haired women in Australia now, that they have two or three perfumed tonsorial parlors of their own. When the bobbed hair craze hit Australia it was tried first by women of the theatrical profession. Then magazines from the United States arrived with discussions by various people on bobbed hair. Soon bobbed hair became a topic of public discussion in Australia. The men will never get over the shock of seeing the other sex invade shops heretofore exclusively their own and demanding haircuts. Some people will never admit that the women have a right to choose their own methods and manner of conducting themselves.

### JAP DEBT \$1,771,933,980

Finance Department Reports \$678,507,500 Represents Foreign Loans. Japan's total national debt amounted at the end of March to 3,543,867,961 yen (normal value \$1,771,933,980), of which 1,359,015,000 yen represented foreign loans, according to figures published by the department of finance. As compared with figures for the preceding month, the March totals show an increase of 22,886,000 yen in the domestic loans and a decrease of 3,355,000 yen in foreign liabilities.

**Giddy Old Bird Out All Night.**  
Gust Witham's five hens and old rooster were reported stolen at Muskegon, Mich., but they came home a few hours later after being out all night. They located a neighbor's mash, Witham reported, and showed marked effects of the night's spree.

## REAL SOURCE OF MOST OF THE "LIKKER" JOKES



Said to be the real source of all the flood of jokes on the bootlegger and "likker" that have been so prevalent since the beginning of prohibition, is Sherman A. Cuneo, live-wire publicity man for the prohibition office of the bureau of internal revenue.

### LOSES \$4,000 GEMS IN SHOE

Jewels Disappear When Shoes Are Taken to Repair Shop.

When Dr. Gustave P. Hoffman of 14 Kingman road, South Orange, N. J., remarked casually to his wife that he had taken a pair of old shoes to the repair shop, both he and his wife received the shock of their lives.

Mrs. Hoffman—as soon as she was able—told him that the day before she had put her entire collection of gems, diamonds worth \$4,000, in the toe of one of the shoes. Both Doctor Hoffman and his wife hurried out to the repair shop. Anthony Palermi, proprietor, said nothing had been found in the shoes. The police are investigating.

### Ink Squirtier Stirs London Women.

An ink squirt fiend, with a particular spite at light colored dresses, is arousing women of London, Eng., and is giving police a job that is proving a puzzler. Police think the squirtier is a man dressed in women's clothing.

Ambassador Herick in Paris was host to nine "queens of beauty." Even three queens have often cost a pile of money.

Denmark has cut the size of her army from 11,500 to 6,500, and the neighboring nations may breathe easy once more.

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July 5 and 19, August 2, 16 and 30.  
Via Baltimore & Ohio Railroad:  
July 13 and 27, August 10 and 24.  
Stopovers permitted on return trip, not to exceed 10 days, within final limit of ticket:  
Via Pennsylvania Railroad, Buffalo, N. Y.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Harrisburg, Pa.; Washington, D. C.  
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