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LA LIBRE BELGIQUE

By Don E. Chamberlain.

(United Press Staff Correspondent)

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.—How the famous mystery paper of occupied Belgium—La Libre Belgique (Free Belgium)—deled the German Government, and told the truth of the war right under the nose of the German officials in Belgium, was told here today by Pierre Goemaers, one of its staff of reporters.

Goemaers, who is only 25, is accompanying the Belgium rulers on their tour of the United States, and today for the first time he told the United Press some of its history. Goemaers, who acted as one of the twelve contributors of the famous newspaper, has written a book on his experiences which is shortly to be published.

"The Libre Belgique was founded at the beginning of 1915 by the aged Brussels journalist Victor Jourdain, who gathered around him several devoted collaborators," said Goemaers. "Together this group of friends wrote the articles for the paper. To do this they retired with their chief to a secret chamber, where an electric bell had been installed to warn them of danger. While waiting to send articles to the printer, the writers hid the manuscripts in the pipes of the radiators.

"The day on which the paper had to be printed saw the manuscripts transferred to the hollow interior of several walking sticks, and thus were they transported through the streets.

"Where was the paper printed? is a question often asked. The Libre Belgique had no less than sixteen printers (they were all thrown in jail one after another, so it can be imagined that the place of publication changed often. The Germans believed the printing place was in an automobile, but the Libre Belgique was often printed in the cellar of abandoned houses or in secret underground spots.

"If the work of printing was dangerous there was another part of the task of publication even more perilous—that of distribution. Here is how managers generally proceeded:—

"When the paper had been printed—fifty thousand were run off at a time—they were carried to certain places known to the men in charge of distribution. To enter these places pass words were required, such as 'For the King,' 'Praise God,' 'Princess Marie Jose,' or 'Long Live America.'

"After thus obtaining their supplies the distributor went about the even more perilous task of giving them to the people. To give an idea of the audacity of these distributors it is well to remark that one man invariably found a way of placing a copy of the paper on the desk of the German military governor of Brussels, who raged and fumed, but never found the guilty one. The distributor learned that at a certain hour each day the Governor went into a room adjoining his to dictate letters. He chose this hour to enter through a window. After several times, German detectives were out on the job, but they never succeeded in catching this man.

"The Germans were highly enraged. Their pride could not support the thought of thus being mocked. But the more the lion roared the more the mouse tickled. Street urinals took great delight in pinning the secret paper to the backs of dandy German officers.

"When the Libre Belgique had reached its first anniversary a humorous cartoon was published under the title 'The Woe of Lofe.' It showed the German governor seated in an arm chair, with an air of desolation. Before him were the records of all the searches which had been made to discover the publishers of La Libre Belgique, also the bills paid to detectives. Above the governor's head was the indication of his dream: an automobile rushing about in a cloud, with the poor official wringing his hands and crying: 'For a year now I have searched for thee night and day, O beloved, but always thou hast escaped me.'

"Another time the Libre Belgique published the portrait of the governor, and under it these words: 'Our dear governor has done us the honor of sending his autographed photograph, and we thank him heartily.' The alleged autograph was as follows: 'I thank you sincerely for all the compliments you have not ceased to shower on me, but I ask you please to treat the animals with gentleness.'

"I regret not to be able to recount all the ruses employed by the courageous collaborators of La Libre Belgique in the moment when they were on the verge of ruin through discovery. But I can tell one of the thousands. One day the German detectives learned that one of the reporters for the paper lived in a paper store and, with revolvers in hand, they burst into the place. The man's wife was behind the counter. 'Where is your husband,' demanded the

German. 'He will return for lunch,' answered the woman. 'We will wait here,' the detectives said. 'Do not leave the place.' Then they hid in the store.

"But the woman had made an agreement with her husband that if the Germans ever arrived during his absence she would place on the door the sign: 'Closed.' Without losing any of her nerve she said to the Germans, 'I had better put this sign on the door, to keep away customers who may come in and annoy you by their presence.' The detectives conferred and decided it was a splendid idea. 'But o not budge yourself,' they said, 'We will put up the sign ourselves.' And so they did.

"Wren noon came the husband approached his store and seeing the sign walked nonchalantly down the street, and was saved.

One day the Germans made a tremendous effort to capture the collaborators of the Libre Belgique. One hundred and twenty-two persons were thrown into prison. Everything had been discovered. The secret office had been in a printing house and the paper.

"That night the German governor gave a banquet to celebrate the death of La Libre Belgique. At dessert, the governor thanked everybody who had anything to do with the discovery of the paper and its editor. Then raising his glass, he said, 'I drink to the end of our nightmare and the death of the Libre Belgique.'

"But at that moment a German officer came in and threw a paper on the festive board. The governor, consternated, beheld a new issue of La Libre Belgique, in which appeared a photograph of all the detectives who believed they had discovered the editors and plant.

"The legend was: 'These men think they have killed La Libre Belgique. As they see, it still exists. However, they must not despair, and to stimulate their zeal, we offer a prize of 100,000 marks to anyone of their number who will come to visit us in our office.'

"THE NAUGHTY WIFE"

A small audience witnessed the presentation of "The Naughty Wife," a Selwyn production, at The Arcade last night, despite the rainy weather. It was an enjoyable entertainment, presented by a company



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SOUTHERNERS URGE STAND ON PEACE PACT

SAY RESOLUTION OFFERED HAS NO BACKBONE

Episcopalians will Have Lively Fight—Charge of Muzzling Free Speech

DETROIT, Mich., Oct. 18.—Determined that the triennial general convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church shall take a definite stand on the League of Nations issue, the Southern delegations are marshalling their forces against the resolution adopted by the House of Bishops that the United States enter into "a covenant of nations." Dr. G. Gordon Smeade, of Jackson, Miss., characterizing the resolution which was fathered by Bishop Brewster of Connecticut, as "spineless, colorless, and meaningless," declared today that he would wage a fight to prevent its adoption in the House of Deputies. With him are aligned the Southern delegations, almost solid, he stated. Dr. Smeade has before the House of Deputies a resolution endorsing the League of Nations covenant in its present form.

Ostensibly to prevent delay in legislative action of the House of Deputies because of the heavy pro-

in connection with the visit here of James Moore Hickson, Church of England exponent of apostolic healing of disease by "laying on of hands."

NEW RADIO CONTROL POLICY

Station to Be Opened to General Public Correspondence

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—A new policy for control and development before Congress today by Secretary Daniels.

It provides for the maintenance of both naval and private stations, with the latter under control of a national radio commission, and proposes to open existing stations to general public correspondence at rates to be fixed by the Navy Department and Congress. General public transoceanic correspondence through naval stations would not be permitted, however, except during temporary suspension of private service.

Private radio stations would be licensed by the national radio commission, and their corporate affairs, "apparatus," operators, and transmission rates would be under supervision of the commission, which would be composed of four members and a secretary appointed by the President, with representatives from the Navy, War, Commerce, and Post Office Departments. The Secretary would be an active line officer of the Navy.

Under a new bill, aliens or other persons are prohibited from operating the new Richards.

ten interests could not be taken into account from the commission, and all officers and directors of private radio companies would have to be American citizens. A majority of stock of each of such companies also would have to be held by Americans.

SERVICES AT THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH AS FOLLOWS:

10:15 A. M. Sunday School meets, H. M. Fearnside superintendent, E. H. Collier assistant.

11:30 A. M. Preaching, The Road to Greatness.

7:15 P. M. Meeting of the B. Y. P. U. Mrs. E. H. Collier presiding.

8:15 p. m. Sermon, A Business Talk to Young Men and Boys.

Wednesday prayer meeting 8:15 p. m. Devotional and Bible study.

A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend these services.

J. F. SAVELL, Pastor.

Opened For Business

BUICK Service Station and Sales Room, Corner Tenth and Lemon, opened for business on Monday, October 13, 1919, with NEW BUICKS on the floor. First class mechanics, and men to wash and grease cars.

Bring your cars to us and we will take care of your wants.

We have come to your city to stay and will appreciate your business. We are sure that we can please you.

This will be the only authorized Buick Service Station in Putnam County after the above date.

J. R. FOWLER
BUICK DEALER

ANNOUNCEMENT

We beg to announce that we have opened our funeral parlors for business at No. 117 N. Second street and offer to the people of Palatka and Putnam County unexcelled service. We have engaged the services of a graduate embalmer, supply auto hearse service and will make a specialty of out-of-town orders

We are painstaking and careful in all the tender of service and supply all necessary equipment for such service

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