

ONE WORLD'S BIGGEST STORES CLOSE DOORS IN BANKRUPTCY

New York, June 25.—A friendly petition in equity for receivers, immediately followed by two involuntary bankruptcy suits against the H. B. Clafin Company, probably the largest drygoods concern in the world, with big branches in many large cities of the East and Middle West, caused a sensation throughout business circles here today.

Federal Judge Hand immediately appointed Joseph B. Martindale and F. A. Juillard as receivers. The company's liabilities are said to be about \$25,000,000.

There was very little effect on the stock market.

It was stated that the United Drygoods Company and the Associated Merchants' and controlled companies were not directly involved in the receivership.

The claim was made that much of the difficulty confronted by the firm resulted from the competition of retail stores organized by John Clafin, head of the H. B. Clafin Company.

At the offices of the company an official declared it was impossible to say at this time anything as to whether any stores controlled by the company in other cities would close as a result of the receivership.

POLICE HUNT FOR GIRL—FEAR WHITE SLAVERS

Chicago detectives today began a search for Pearl Harris, 14-year-old Burlington, Ia., girl, who left her home at 4308 Somers street, Burlington, on June 12, and whose mother believes she may have fallen into the hands of white slavers.

The Harris girl, according to her mother, Mrs. J. H. Daniels, wanted to earn enough money to buy a school graduating dress and answered an advertisement in a Burlington paper, calling for the services of two young girls who were to be paid \$3 a day to travel with "a manager and wife." She returned home the following day,

packed a grip and announced that she had accepted a position soliciting magazine subscriptions. Mrs. Daniels wrote the local police that she received a letter from the girl, who declared she was being held prisoner in Chicago.

THIS GALLANT GENT FELL HARD —HE'S SHY SOME COIN

Answering the call of beauty in apparent distress cost George Legg, 809 Wells street, \$11 early today.

"Can you show me the way to Fullerton avenue?" asked a dashing blonde, piloting an electric automobile, of Legg, who was en route home shortly after midnight.

Sure Legg could. He climbed in and the blonde beauty piloted the electric out to a lonely spot on Lake Shore drive, where she stopped. Two men armed with revolvers appeared from the curb and emptied Legg's pockets.

"Good night. You were so accommodating—and so easy," shouted the blonde as her two confederates piled into the car.

REPORT FINDING BODIES IN A MANURE PILE

Tulsa, Okla., June 25.—An unconfirmed report that eight human bodies had been found hidden in a trash pile in the Cushing oil field aroused the police into sudden activity today. While Chief of Police Towne of Cushing denied the finding of any bodies, an attache of his office confirmed the story.

An oil man who came to Tulsa from Cushing said the bodies were found in a manure pile by a party of government officers searching for concealed liquor near a round-house on the line between the old Indian Territory and Oklahoma.

Cushing was the scene of a wild oil boom recently and for a time lawlessness reigned in the fields there.

About 1,400 earth tremors were felt in Japan last year.