

BUCKET SHOPS CATCH 100,000 VICTIMS HERE, ASSERTS PROSECUTOR

Twenty More Cases to Go to Grand Jury This Week for Indictment—American Cotton Books Inspected—Many Tales of Losses Recounted—Reputable Brokers Blamed for Not Starting Inquiry.

More than 100,000 persons have been victimized by bucket shop operation in this city in the last year, according to an estimate yesterday by District Attorney Banton. He reached the decision that because of the constantly increasing pressure of such cases it would be necessary to have evidence of bucketing presented to two Grand Juries this week.

The victims, as was clear from a study of the crowd about the office of Jerome Simmons, Assistant District Attorney, in the last two days, range from the poor and uninitiated to the moderately wealthy and well informed, who probably would not have fared as badly as they did had not the stock market been so favorable to operations of the bucketeers.

Only since the comparatively recent turn of the market has evidence of bucketshop operations come to light so forcefully, as it is exceedingly difficult for the bucketeers to continue this film-fam game in a rising market.

On Tuesday it is possible that some indictments will be found in six cases partly presented to the Grand Jury by Mr. Simmons. At the same time a beginning will be made in the presentation of the other twenty-odd cases in which complaints of a nature to warrant immediate action have been made. The six cases are before the Supreme Court Grand Jury. Other cases will be presented to that body or heard by the General Sessions Grand Jury.

Each Faces Several Indictments. Mr. Simmons and Benjamin J. Schreiber began the active preparation of the cases, which will be presented first. In many instances several complaints have been made against the same firm, the character and strength of the complaints varying considerably.

Mr. Banton explained that it will be the policy of the District Attorney's office to take up complaints separately, but that he will seek three or four indictments against each firm, utilizing the complaints which seem the strongest.

There are, in some instances, fifty or sixty complaints against a single firm. It is on the basis of the number of complaints against single firms that the estimate of 100,000 victims in all is based. There is, of course, no way of ascertaining how many people have been fleeced, and it is realized by Mr. Banton and Mr. Simmons that the greater number of persons keep still when they are "stung."

It has been a matter of surprise to Mr. Banton and his assistants that so many people have come forward. They take this fact as evidence that the evil of bucketing was widespread and highly successful—from the bucketeers' point of view.

Reputable Brokers Silent. It being clearly established that bucketshop operations have been going on for many months, some surprise is expressed that the reputable brokerage houses did not take notice of the condition and move to stop the practice, or at least to curtail its growth.

"I cannot understand how these bucket shops could have been permitted to flourish when reputable brokerage houses must have known of them. It seems impossible that literally hundreds of thousands of people could be robbed and nothing leak out about the robbery. I am convinced that the list of fraudulent operators now in our hands comprises only a small proportion of the actual number of firms which have engaged in bucket shop activities in this city. I am convinced that the total number of firms must be large and I propose to get the names of all the others possible in order that the city may be cleared of such concerns."

Mr. Simmons was asked whether he thought stock exchange firms might be implicated. He replied: "I do not intend to make any pronouncements on the magnitude of the general frauds by unscrupulous brokers has already far exceeded anything we might have expected when we began our investigation. It is highly probable that the list we have of firms will be added to and in virtually all of the cases we now have before us the evidence is such that I believe it warrants indictments by the Grand Jury."

Exchange Books Inspected. Mr. Simmons said he had begun examination of books and records of the American Cotton Exchange of 81 Broad street, against which complaints of bucketing have been filed with Mr. Banton. He said the examination would be thorough and searching, but he declined to say anything as to what the examination so far might have disclosed.

Of course, the books and records of other concerns under investigation are being examined and, in fact, there has already been received at the District Attorney's office a great load of account books, stock sale slips, records, customers' lists and an amazing collection of glittering prospectuses and circulars calculated to lure the unwary into parting with their money.

Some of the tales told to Mr. Simmons have been pitiful. One which came to light demonstrated that in some instances the bucketeers are shoe-string operators, doing business with little or no capital of their own.

In this particular instance the person fleeced was a woman, a janitress, who had about \$1,000 saved. A young man in the bank where she kept her money persuaded her to withdraw her cash and invest it in bonds through a "brokerage" concern at which he was one of three partners. She found that her \$1,000 had never been spent for bonds, but had gone almost as soon as she turned it over to pay salaries and other expenses of the firm. The day after she made her disclosure.

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40,000 WILL STRIKE IN WAGE CUT WAR

New England Textile Workers to Protest on Hours and Reduced Pay.

OPEN SHOP TO BE ISSUE

Large Plants Announce Intention of Going Ahead in Defiance of Unions.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. BOSTON, Feb. 11.—Fully 40,000 workers will go on strike in the New England textile centers Monday morning when the 20 per cent. reduction in wages and the shift from the forty-four to the fifty-four hour week will go into effect. The large majority of the cotton and woolen plants have posted notices to this effect and most of them have announced their intention to go forward on an open shop basis.

Nearly 25,000 hands will continue at work in plants that are not involved in the present controversy. In Lowell and Lawrence, two of the most important centers, some of the largest mills have declined to join the movement to alter the wages and hours. William M. Wood, president of the American Woolen Company, has announced that wages will not be cut in the American plants. At Lowell, which big plants as the Boot Mills, the Lawrence Hosiery Mills, the Merrimack Manufacturing Company and others have declared "no chance," and in fact these men will be at the looms as usual.

Full River's cotton manufacturers thus far have refrained from announcing their intention to readjust, and there, too, the men will be at their places.

The strike has been under way for two weeks in Rhode Island in the important Blackstone and Pawtucket Valley manufacturing sections. About 12,000 employees have quit work in this important area and the majority of the cotton plants of the section are closed. Pickets are already on duty at such places as the Rhode Island mill, which has kept the wheels moving. Relief preparations are under way under direction of union officials. The authorities are awake to possibilities, particularly in Rhode Island, where State troops are held in readiness for disturbances.

Scores of important mills have posted notices declaring their intention to operate, beginning Monday morning, under the open shop principle.

Important textile union organizers and officials are on the field. James Starr, second president of the United Textile Workers' Union, is making his headquarters at Manchester, N. H., and Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers, is at Providence, directing the situation in the Pawtucket and Blackstone sections.

At Manchester is located the largest cotton mill in the world, the Amoskeag, employing 15,000 hands, and there also notices have been posted of the new scales to go into effect Monday, together with the plants at Nashua and elsewhere in the Granite State.

It is predicted that many hands in Maine plants including Biddeford and Saco may remain at work. Many meetings have been held in the last few days and officials are at work among them. In certain points in Maine, however, the workers are expected to walk out with the others.

Elaborate preparations for picketing have been made in every strike center and it is feared the split will result in a "settling down" into a prolonged deadlock, due to the limited demand for goods, which the employers maintain is a strong weapon in enabling them to "sit tight."

BANDIT KILLED ROBBING PHILANTHROPIST'S HOME

Police Warned, Lie in Wait and Shot One Robber.

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 11.—Motorcycle police lying in wait in anticipation of a robbery in the home here of Sol Rosen, well-known philanthropist, opened fire when several men attempted to gain admittance at the back door to-night, killing one and capturing another.

FLORIDA AND SOUTH—Trains daily. Also beach board Florida Limited—6:20 P. M. Beachboard Air Line—11:20 A. M. Will arrange all details.—Adv.

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FARMERS TO START NATIONAL WIDE STRIKE TO DEFEAT BONUS

National Grange Protests to Fordney, Attacking House Program.

MOTOR MEN FIGHT IT

Agricultural Interests Demand Restoration of Excess Profits Tax.

CONFEREES IN DEADLOCK

Sub-Committees Fail to Make Headway on Virtually All Points.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—The Senate and House conferees locked horns to-day over the eight point plan of taxation to raise the \$350,000,000 needed yearly to finance a soldier bonus, as outlined in THE NEW YORK HERALD yesterday, and although the question was referred to a sub-committee of both houses no headway was made.

Members of the Senate directed their attack on the House program of taxation, specifically against the proposals to tax stock and bond transfers one-tenth of 1 per cent and to tax undivided profits 2 1/2 per cent.

When it was found in the morning that the full Senate Finance Committee, meeting jointly, were deadlocked on those proposals, the whole question was referred to a subcommittee consisting of Senators McCumber and Smoot and Chairman Fordney of the House Ways and Means Committee and Representatives Longworth (Ohio) and Copley (Ill.).

No Progress Reported. At the end of a long session of the sub-committee Senator Smoot declared: "The whole matter stands as it did. Representative Longworth made a similar observation.

Chairman Fordney said that while the House members are disposed to make some concessions for the most part, he feels the House program will be adopted.

Senator Smoot declared: "No power on earth can stop the bonus bill," but added that he was dissatisfied over the plan proposed to raise the needed funds. He repeated that if the tax suggested by the House committee is allowed to be imposed on undivided profits and on the sales of stocks, bonds and real estate, it will have most hurtful effect on the business world.

As one alternate plan some of the Senators proposed to add an extra cent to the first class postage rate, which would be \$100,000,000. That plan was rejected, however, by the House members.

Chairman Fordney declared that it will be impossible from the report of the Senate Finance Committee to make any agreement with the Senators for several days, and for that reason the bonus program in the House will have to be revised. It was planned to report the bill to the House next week and to hold a caucus of the Republican members to outline a plan of procedure to assure its speedy passage.

Senate's Course Explained. It was learned from authoritative spokesmen that so far the Senate Finance Committee has not put its stamp of approval upon any of the items enumerated. Long and brief reports of the committee have not rejected any of them with the exception of the proposed tax on the transfer of stock and bonds and on undivided profits.

Those struggling with the bonus question say it is the most harassing and exasperating one before Congress, the people of the country expect and are prepared for a revision of the tariff schedules but they are bitterly opposed to more direct taxation. On the other hand the soldiers demand a bonus, members of Congress point out, and there is no other source of revenue in sight that will meet the situation.

Floods of protests against the proposed taxes to raise the bonus continue to be filled with members of Congress. The farmers of the country are thoroughly aroused over the question and they are vigorously opposing several of the items. They point out that three of the proposals apply directly to them and if enacted they will be forced to contribute more to the bonus than any other class. The items affecting the farmers are the taxes on gasoline, automobiles and the increase in the parcel post rates.

The National Grange, representing a million farmer taxpayers, in a letter to

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FATHER MUST GIVE \$6,076,000 BOND AS GUARDIAN OF BOSTWICK GRANDSONS

A bond for \$6,076,000 will be required by the Surrogate's Court from Francis Francis of London, who applied yesterday for ancillary letters of guardianship to enable him to take possession of property in this country left to his two sons by the will of their grandmother, Mrs. Helen C. Bostwick, widow of James A. Bostwick of the Standard Oil Company. The bond is one of the largest ever required by the court.

The boys, who are at school at Rugby, are the sons of Fannie Evelyn Voronoff, a daughter of Mrs. Bostwick, whose first husband was Mr. Francis. She died in Paris last year. Her share in her mother's estate of \$29,264,181 was \$9,508,167. Mrs. Bostwick died in April, 1920.

The bond which Mr. Francis will have to give represents the value in this country of securities belonging to his sons, consisting almost entirely of Standard Oil shares. Their mother in-

herited a large fortune from her father before she received her share of more than \$6,000,000 under her mother's will and the bond at their majorities will come into about \$10,000,000 each.

Their father at the death of their mother was appointed their guardian by the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice in England, and a certified copy of his appointment, with a letter of introduction from the court, was presented to Surrogate Cobham with the application for letters ancillary. Among the securities which will be taken over for his sons by Mr. Francis when he files his bond are \$1,768,275 worth of the stock of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, \$42,000 worth of the stock of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana and \$148,000 worth of the stock of the Prairie Oil and Gas Company.

The Greenbergs, White Sulphur Springs, N. Y.—Special for Winter and Spring. Bookings—The Plaza.—Adv.

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FOUR ULSTER CONSTABLES KILLED IN BORDER WAR WITH THE SINN FEIN; ITALY CONSIDERS CONFERENCE DELAY

REPORT ROME WILL ASK POSTPONEMENT

Cabinet Placed Matter in Hands of Premier and Foreign Minister.

WASHINGTON WILL AGREE

Glad to Be Relieved of Acceptance or Rejection Just Now.

ROME, Feb. 11 (Associated Press).—The Italian Cabinet has authorized Premier Bonomi and Foreign Minister della Torretta to decide whether and in what manner the Genoa international economic conference, scheduled to open March 8, may be postponed.

Premier Bonomi has decided to go before the Chamber of Deputies at its opening next Thursday with the same Ministry which resigned with him last week, but whose resignation was not accepted by the King. He made this announcement to-day after the Ministers of his Cabinet had offered to resign and enable him to reconstruct a new Ministry if he so desired.

LONDON, Feb. 11.—The Giornale d'Italia of Rome, according to a Central News dispatch, announces that Italy will ask a postponement of the conference at Genoa.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—The United States toward the Genoa conference will wait upon study by this Government of notes from Great Britain and France.

The French note had not been received by the State Department before Secretary Hughes and other officials left. It is expected at almost any hour. The State Department has accepted as authentic press dispatches to the effect that the note is on its way. There is some mystery in failure to receive it, since a summary was made public in Paris several days ago. Secretary Hughes will leave Washington after Tuesday's Cabinet meeting to report the matter to Bernadotte.

The French note is reported to advise a postponement of the conference for three months. The British and Italian Governments are said to be in favor of holding it at the time formerly agreed upon, but it is admitted that French opposition would be sufficient to cause a postponement. The American Government will indorse any suggestion of a postponement.

Putting the conference off until June, it is believed, would make it difficult for this Government to avoid either an acceptance or a rejection of the invitation at the present time. President Harding, in a new note, it is intimated, states that if the conference is to be postponed the Government will have opportunity to make a more complete examination of the situation and signify its decision at a later time.

Two Friendly Games Going. Finally there were enough present to start a second game. Louis Plomsky, who has charge of the cutters employed by Albert Klugman & Bros., was in a loft in the same building, was the last man to enter. He stood near the door watching the players.

Plomsky heard a scuffling sound in the hall at the elevator shaft door and turned to peer out as the elevator operator, whose name could not be learned, was thrown bodily into the office.

In an instant the card players were springing up from the tables and rushing toward the door. They were met by the six bandits, each of whom leveled two pistols and ordered the men back.

"No noise and no chin music," said one of the robbers. "Shell out the money and jewelry and face the wall as you would a lunatic."

Plomsky started to protest, but he was silenced by a blow over the head. The butt of one of the pistols gouged his scalp and his hand was cut. As Plomsky lay on the floor, he said last night, he saw the robbers back his friends against the wall and heard them order everyone to put his hands up. He saw Sammie Frank, father of 1204 Washington avenue start on a dash for the door.

Clubs Man With Pistol. One of the bandits raised his gun as if to fire and, thinking better of it, faced after Frank and whacked him on the forehead. Frank dropped unconscious and the business of stripping the twenty men of their valuables went on. All this time, it was said, a seventh man, presumed to be a chauffeur, sat at the wheel of a big touring car at the northeast corner of Seventh avenue and Twenty-fifth street. It was in this automobile, according to watchmen, that the escape was made.

While three of the men searched the pockets of the card players, the other three stood off with their guns ready for action. One of the latter occasionally looked out toward Seventh avenue, and it was believed last night that he was keeping watch on the automobile and making certain there was no interference from the police.

All the jewelry and money—much of the latter snatched up from the center of the tables at which the games had been progressing—was thrown into small canvas bags which the men concealed in their pockets. Plomsky watched this stage of the robbery with some degree of satisfaction, having been known as the floor for floor-testing and then apparently forgotten.

But the robber who hit him remembered.

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BRITAIN LEANING TO FRENCH PRELIMINARY PARLEY PLAN

PARIS, Feb. 11 (Associated Press).—France now desires that the preliminary conference of experts to prepare for the Genoa conference shall include all the Allies, even the "Little Entente" countries, according to a semi-official statement issued to-night. France has organized her committees of experts for the study of the Genoa questions, one of them comprising Government officials and the other including banking, commercial and industrial organizations.

Great Britain has not yet replied to the invitation of M. Poincare for the preliminary consultation with the object of adopting a line of common action relative to the order of the day at the conference. It is semi-officially stated here, however, that the British Foreign Office is approaching acceptance of the plan for a preliminary study by British, French and Italian experts of both the resolution adopted by the Allied Supreme Council on January 6 calling the Genoa conference and the program of the conference.

SIX BANDITS HOLD UP 20 MANUFACTURERS

Two Friendly Card Games of Cloak and Suit Merchants Raided by Masked Men.

FINE COATS FOOL POLICE

Most Daring Robbery so Far in Downtown Fur and Cloth District Nets Little.

Six bandits, masked and provided with two automatic pistols each, held up twenty men in the office of M. Goldwasser & Sons, cloak and suit manufacturers, at 164 West Twenty-fifth street, late yesterday afternoon. The robbers escaped with between \$1,500 and \$2,500 worth of jewelry. At least one of the victims, Louis Plomsky of 908 Bushwick avenue, Brooklyn, was beaten.

The holdup was one of the most daring yet reported from the cloak and fur district. Special watchmen patrolled the block on which the left building where it occurred is situated and at the moment when the robbery was being executed two patrolmen from the West Thirtieth street police station were standing only twenty-five feet from the entrance of the building.

None of the watchmen of the patrolmen gave attention to the bandits for they dropped their masks in the building elevator and concealed their pistols. One of the men who was fobbed said the thieves had the appearance of prosperous business men.

There was a friendly game of cards going on in the Goldwasser office at 4 o'clock, and among the twenty men there, it was said, were several members of the firm, their foremen and members of other cloak and suit firms in the same building.

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NEAR CIVIL WAR

Republicans Capture 20, Wound Others in Raid That Leads to Killings.

MACHINE GUNS USED

Craig Sends Strong Note to Lloyd George, Fitzalan and Churchill.

BRITISH TROOPS ON WAY

Frontier a War Zone, With Armed Bodies Watching Each Other Like Hawks.

BELFAST, Feb. 11 (Associated Press).—Four Ulster special constables were shot to death, a number wounded and the remainder of a party of twenty captured at the railroad station at Clones late this afternoon.

The specials, on their way to Enniskillen, were waiting at Clones for the arrival of a train from Belfast. The train had entered the station and some of the specials were in the act of getting into the carriages when a party of Irish republican army men with rifles and a machine gun came on the platform. They immediately opened fire on the specials with their rifles and machine gun, and four of the constables were shot dead, one of them having his head blown off.

Some of the others were wounded, some were taken prisoner and the remainder escaped. The republican army men then fled. Taken absolutely unawares the specials had no time to fire a shot at the attacking party. Clones is in that part of Ulster which is included in the Free State territory. It is very near the border.

Protect to Lloyd George. Belfast received its first intimation of the tragedy through a message to the station master at the Great Northern terminus to the effect: "Send no more troops, regular police or specials by train." Then followed the news of the shooting and the casualty list. The Belfast police declare the specials were lined against a wall and mowed down.

Sir James Craig, Premier of Ulster, has addressed an urgent remonstrance to Premier Lloyd George, Winston Churchill and Viscount Fitzalan, in which immediate action is demanded.

Reports were received here to-day from the Ulster border that it was understood none of the captives taken in this week's kidnappings would be freed before next week.

These reports said the Ulster special constables and the contingents of the Irish republican army were watching each other like hawks across the Fermanagh-Monaghan line. Policing to-day was so rigid that business was entirely suspended. The border specials were halting every passing vehicle at Newtown, Dutler and Rosslea, while at Clones the republican army was practicing the same activity.

British Troops Coming. Sir James Craig returned this morning from London, announcing on his arrival that he had been assured four additional battalions of troops would be sent to Belfast immediately.

Sir James said he had set no time limit on the British action to secure the release of the Unionist prisoners taken in the recent raids. This statement was supplementary to his declaration before leaving for home that in the event of failure of the British authorities to secure the release of the kidnaped men he would carry out his own plans.

"We have to consider the whole situation carefully," he added to this morning's statement.

Shooting occurred in the North Queen street area of Belfast this morning. Police reinforcements were sent to the scene.

The Belfast Telegraph in an editorial this afternoon regarding this week's kidnaping episodes, says:

"We charge that these abductions were made with the knowledge and authority of Michael Collins. We charge that they were done by men wearing the uniform of the Provisional Government."

We charge that the victims were carried off, in the main, in motorcars recently handed over by the British Government to the Provisional Government. We charge that the Provisional Government is well aware where the abducted men are at this moment."

LONDON, Feb. 11 (Associated Press).—Conflicting reports are coming out of Ireland concerning the attitude of the Southern Provisional Government toward the recent kidnapings of prominent Unionists.

"The whole machinery of the Provisional Government is being employed to secure the release" of these men, according to the Dublin correspondent of the Times, who says the raids are disapproved by every member of that Gov-

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