

U. S. MAIL CLERKS NOW AFFILIATED WITH A. F. OF L.

Despite opposition by Postmaster General Burleson to affiliation by postal workers with outside organizations, the Railway Mail Association, an organization claiming a membership of 15,000 of the 16,000 railway mail clerks in the United States, has affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Edward J. Ryan, president of the association and its Washington representative, declares that Mr. Burleson has only himself to blame for this action, as his "treatment of the mail clerks has been incredibly harsh, unreasonable, unjust, and inhuman."

Ryan's statement.

In a statement, President Ryan said:

"There has been a growing sentiment among our members in favor of affiliation with the American Federation of Labor," said President Ryan. "A referendum vote of the entire membership showed a three-to-one majority in favor of going into the organized labor movement. We made application and were granted the charter of affiliation today.

"If Mr. Burleson is displeased with this tendency on the part of his employees to seek outside influence for the betterment of their working conditions, he need blame no one but himself.

Burleson Assailed.

"His treatment of the railway mail clerks has been incredibly harsh, unreasonable, unjust, and inhuman. He has reduced wage standards, he has dismissed old men—civil war veterans, many of them—has ruthlessly forced men to break up their homes and move to distant points.

"We have appealed to him and his subordinates in vain. It is the Burleson autocratic disregard of the rights of his subordinates that is driving them into the American Federation of Labor. We hope through this agency to set up a standard of reasonable conditions he has imposed on us."

U. S. HELPED TAKE JERUSALEM, SAYS BRITISH GENERAL

LONDON, Dec. 29.—How America indirectly aided in the capture of Jerusalem is told by Gen. Murray, director of British military operations, in the following report:

"The troops who fought at Gaza and Beersheba, the taking of which led to the fall of Jerusalem, drank water which came from Egypt, 120 miles away. It was brought in water pipes obtained from America. We also built a broad-gauge railroad across 150 miles of desert to carry supplies for hundreds of thousands of British troops.

"It is difficult to realize this achievement, for the Sinai desert has defeated almost everybody who has ever tried to cross it for hundreds of years. It has now been conquered by organization and industry, and by the help of material which we drew from America.

"Napoleon said that the four best defenses any country can have against invasion or attack are in the following increasing order of importance: A river, a mountain, an ocean, a desert—the latter the best defense any country can have."

\$12 SUITS STANDARD FOR ALL ENGLISHMEN

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The "standard suits" for men, which are to be manufactured under government control, will cost \$12 each.

The cloth, it is announced, "will be composed of the bulk of wool" and there will be a limited variety of fabrics, mostly of the favorite gray and brown tweeds.

The first of the suits will be placed on the market in February.

FINANCIAL

Coming Out!

Make Your Request Early!

CURB STOCKS

High—Low—Close Complete for Entire Year 1917

The demand last year was enormous for this valuable book. No investor should be without one.

MAILED FREE.

James W. Ball & Co.

57 EXCHANGE PLACE, New York.

Prove Loyalty to U. S. To Win Your Divorce, Judge Tells German

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 29.—"Bring me proof that you have been a loyal citizen and I shall probably waive the enemy alien point and give you a divorce," August Plessa Judge Foran told August Gottlieb, Mr. Gottlieb had been sued by Mrs. Elizabeth Gottlieb, and had replied with a cross petition charging desertion. Judge Foran called the case to be heard on the cross petition.

When the husband testified he had come to America from Germany seventeen years ago, but had never gone any further to become a citizen than to declare his intention, Judge Foran halted the hearing. Mr. Gottlieb declared that he had not become a citizen because he had always been a loyal resident. Judge Foran told him to return again with the proof.

JOB TOO LONELY, CAPITAL'S WOMAN CONDUCTOR QUILTS

Women's nerves prevent them from becoming successful car conductors on lonely routes, according to Mrs. Rosalie Goulding, of 631 F street northwest, who has just resigned her position as conductor for the Kensington Street Car Company.

"The Kensington company runs one lone car between Kensington and the lake, meeting the Chevy Chase car, a distance of four miles.

"She thinks, however, that if women were placed on street cars where conditions were favorable they might make a success. Several times, says Mrs. Goulding, she began thinking of what might happen in the way of an accident, and she mixed the car company tickets all up and became very nervous. The Kensington company force consists of a motorman and a conductor, and its routes cover two cars and four miles of track.

"One day when it was so cold," said Mrs. Goulding today, "and I never expected to reach the end of the line, the car was so full that I pulled the bell and called 'stop!' quite surprising myself at the noise I made. The few passengers and myself got out of the car and started to walk up the hill leaving the motorman to repair the damage. I've resigned."

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SITUATION ACUTE HERE, FUEL HEADS INFORM PUBLIC

(Continued from First Page.)

It is troubling the local fuel administrator, John L. Weaver, today.

When asked had anyone considered the proposition that the United States army be called to furnish skilled men to man trucks and automobiles now in Washington, due to scarcity of laborers and chauffeurs, Mr. Weaver said:

"Something should be done. The problem is a vital one, the matter of transport is now before us.

He admitted that the best local skilled laborers were now in camp near Washington and could probably be made available for local use.

"I have said it a number of times and again reiterate it that Washington, with President Wilson, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, the 60,000 Federal clerks, and others engaged here in administrative work are entitled to the same consideration that any army line on the front gets.

"If Mr. Wilson and his aids should break down on account of lack of fuel it would be a great calamity. I have frequently said that Washington is really the first line of defense, and should be so treated."

Many Trucks Available.

Weaver said that the local authorities had agreed to press into service the trucks used by contractors who are doing city work, if needed, for hauling coal.

Mr. Weaver admitted that a large number of trucks were available for hauling, but were useless, due to owners not being able to get laborers and drivers. There are many automobile trucks that may be used, if chauffeurs to run them were not so scarce.

CHAIN GANG FOR DRY VIOLATORS IN GEORGIA

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 30.—Through the action of the court of appeals, which affirmed the sentences of the city court of Savannah, four men convicted of having violated the State prohibition laws before Judge John Bourke, Jr., and given chain gang sentences must serve their time.

The men, who can now be saved only through probate of their sentences to the chain gang by the trial judge, a pardon by the governor or a probate of sentence by the State prison board, are: R. B. Raskin, S. J. Jacobson, L. Brooks, and Fred Ford, the last named colored. Nothing has been heard as yet from the case of Cord Meyer, who was convicted at the same time as the other defendants.

U. S. CONSULATE RUINED IN GUATEMALA QUAKE

Forty deaths have been reported officially in the Guatemala city earthquake and 90 per cent of the city had been demolished up to late Friday, according to the State Department messages yesterday.

Among the buildings destroyed was the American consulate, while the legion building, filled with refugees, was damaged. The earth shook continue.

PLAN 3,000 HOUSES FOR ALLEY POPULATION

Three thousand small dwellings to be built during the next six months to house Washington's alley population is the plan of the Emergency Housing Association is working today. Plans will be perfected at a meeting of the association Wednesday night at the First Congregational Church, Tenth and G streets northwest.

Twelve thousand persons, mostly colored, will be thrown out of their homes on July 1, when the law closing alleys in the District goes into effect. The plan to provide houses for these is to build small houses that can be rented at figures within the means of these alley dwellers.

Local capitalists as well as New York investors are being appealed to with the assurance of a profitable return on their investment.

WOMAN BADLY HURT AS RANGE BLOWS UP

A coal range in the kitchen of 421 P street northwest exploded this morning, severely injuring Sarah Billups, colored, thirty-eight years old, the occupant of the house, and demolishing the room.

The Billups woman was attempting to thaw out a compartment in the back of the stove used for heating water. The steam generated burst the iron into a hundred pieces, breaking her left leg and scalding her about the face.

The fire department responded to an alarm and extinguished the blazing room. Pieces of the range were found imbedded in holes in the ceiling. The woman was taken to Freedman's Hospital.

Hiram Johnson Best Tipper in Country, Porter Testifies

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—Senator Hiram Johnson of California is the best tipper in the United States.

Edward O'Donnell, porter at the La Salle street terminal, so testified in court.

He admitted that Potter Palmer, J. Ogden Armour, and Charles Comiskey were "pretty fair," but said Theodore Roosevelt was dodged him.

Johnson, he said, was regarded by all the porters as the prize.

THE SEVEN PEARLS

A great new motion picture serial by Charles W. Goddard, author of "The Perils of Pauline," "The Exploits of Elaine," and other successes. Read it here now—see it in the movies.

EPISODE FOURTEEN

As the box which Harry supposed contained the impostor, who has taken them! The pearls are gone! And he stamped up and down and swore that once he learned the name of the thief he would wreak such vengeance on him that he would not welcome death a thousand times over.

It took Stayne most of the evening to calm him, and even the next morning he continued to rave over his loss. In the midst of his raving Stayne spied a note under the door and passed it to Perry.

"Look here," cried the latter, reading Joe Goddard's letter: "here's a chance to set one pearl at least. Are you with me?" Stayne nodded, only too glad of a diversion after his stormy seas with his confederate.

"Let's start at once," said Perry. "I know where the pearls are, and we can reach there ahead of Ilma, for he says he has written to her also. Here's my chance to foil her—for she's got to win that seventh pearl."

As Perry started, he called, rushing to the door, "Joe's shanty's barrel near a side wall toppled over and out of it came the Executioner. He brushed off his clothes and started out of the door, leaving his eyes fixed on their retreating figures.

Only the Executioner, who stood witnessing this strange sight, took exception to Harry's action. He approached the couple and stopped the Executioner on the shoulder.

"Wait a minute," he said, while the astonished workmen grouped around the trio. "This girl belongs to my master and such time as she finds seventh pearl she'll be back here."

Harry was furious—releasing Ilma he faced the Executioner with blazing eyes. The other man also reenters this interference with a genuine frown. He turned and started toward the Sultan's emissary; only Ilma's intervention prevented a disagreeable scene. "He is right," she said sadly, "until I find the seventh pearl, I am not free to go. I have said, 'Wait a minute'—there is no time to be lost."

Following the lead of the Executioner, the couple left the bridge, the disappointment of the workmen who stood gazing after them wondering what the strange words of the foreign-looking man meant and why a perfectly good American should pay attention to them.

On the way back to New York Harry could not restrain his joy that Ilma was with him, while she herself tried to show her appreciation of his bravery in spite of the sour glances of the Executioner.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

Joe's note arriving at Ilma's apartment was read by her with the greatest eagerness. Here was her golden opportunity to redeem her promise. She called up Harry and told him the purport of the message, and he lost no time in hurrying to her.

He was as anxious as she to recover the pearls, and seemingly threw them precipitantly in her way.

But, though Ilma and Harry started at once, their enemies arrived at the shanty first.

Perry, even in his desire to balk Ilma, could not refrain from his usual criminal tendencies. He halted within a few feet of the door, and, pulling a marble from his pocket, showed it to Stayne. "See that?" he said. "Well, I'll fool Joe; I won't pay him a cent. I'll just substitute this pearl for the one he's going to look for."

He laughed and Stayne laughed, too. Also Joe Goddard laughed, for he had been looking at the twenty-two pearls, and he was not slow to make out what the plan of the wily Perry was. He took down a box of moth balls from a shelf, and, setting one nearest the door, he covered the pearl with a wrapper in paper and put it in the left-hand pocket of his waistcoat.

By the time he had replaced the box, he had replaced the arrival of Perry and Stayne.

"Hello!" greeted Joe. "Come into my palace, boys."

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"I've got it all right. The question is how badly do you want it?"

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While the party was nearing the metropolis a rogue connected with Grady's band was debating how he could obtain the highest price for the pearl which had fallen into his possession as a result of the Raskin, S. J. Jacobson, L. Brooks, and Fred Ford, the last named colored. Nothing has been heard as yet from the case of Cord Meyer, who was convicted at the same time as the other defendants.

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"Well," he said to Joe, "I guess we can't do any business."

"No, your price is too high," said Stayne, striving to conceal a grin. "Just as you say," Joe agreed, apparently not at all anxious to get rid of the pearl. He shut the door behind him and laughed. "The pearls and Stayne made off toward the water tank."

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Once in her room Ilma was face to face with the problem that had been obtruding itself upon her with more insistence as the days passed—that problem was how to secure the seventh pearl. She had only one chance, for she had now only one day left.

And it was with this same thought in mind that the Executioner accompanied Harry and her to the apartment.

"Tomorrow," said this strange man "is the last day."

"Isn't there some way you can extend the time limit?" asked the anxious Harry, while Ilma hung on his words.

"It is out of my hands," answered the Executioner, "the will of my power to change. Tomorrow is the last day. If the seven pearls are not in my hands to be returned to the Sultan for the harem; if she refuses, the life of her foster father will be forfeited at once."

Worn out as she was Ilma could not keep back the tears as the Executioner pronounced his fateful words.

It was true she knew that this was the bargain she had made, but always she had cherished the hope that the Sultan would repent at the last moment, and now knowing that she loved Harry with her whole heart, the idea of becoming the favorite of the Sultan's Commander of the Faithful was so repugnant to her that the mere thought appalled her. Then there came, crowding into her mind, the vision of Mustapha Bey smiling for her success and facing certain death if she failed to return. That dear old man who had brought her up journey back across the State, arrived at the former's home in the suburbs, and no sooner was the arch plotter inside than he saw that his home had been ransacked. With a haste that

bordered on the ludicrous he rushed for the lamp from which Harry had snatched the three pearls.

Even the hardened Stayne shrank back when he saw Perry's face. "The pearls have been stolen!" shouted the aviator. "Who has taken them? The pearls are gone! And he stamped up and down and swore that once he learned the name of the thief he would wreak such vengeance on him that he would not welcome death a thousand times over.

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"It is out of my hands," answered the Executioner, "the will of my power to change. Tomorrow is the last day. If the seven pearls are not in my hands to be returned to the Sultan for the harem; if she refuses, the life of her foster father will be forfeited at once."

Worn out as she was Ilma could not keep back the tears as the Executioner pronounced his fateful words.

It was true she knew that this was the bargain she had made, but always she had cherished the hope that the Sultan would repent at the last moment, and now knowing that she loved Harry with her whole heart, the idea of becoming the favorite of the Sultan's Commander of the Faithful was so repugnant to her that the mere thought appalled her. Then there came, crowding into her mind, the vision of Mustapha Bey smiling for her success and facing certain death if she failed to return. That dear old man who had brought her up journey back across the State, arrived at the former's home in the suburbs, and no sooner was the arch plotter inside than he saw that his home had been ransacked. With a haste that

bordered on the ludicrous he rushed for the lamp from which Harry had snatched the three pearls.

Even the hardened Stayne shrank back when he saw Perry's face. "The pearls have been stolen!" shouted the aviator. "Who has taken them? The pearls are gone! And he stamped up and down and swore that once he learned the name of the thief he would wreak such vengeance on him that he would not welcome death a thousand times over.

It took Stayne most of the evening to calm him, and even the next morning he continued to rave over his loss. In the midst of his raving Stayne spied a note under the door and passed it to Perry.

"Look here," cried the latter, reading Joe Goddard's letter: "here's a chance to set one pearl at least. Are you with me?" Stayne nodded, only too glad of a diversion after his stormy seas with his confederate.

"Let's start at once," said Perry. "I know where the pearls are, and we can reach there ahead of Ilma, for he says he has written to her also. Here's my chance to foil her—for she's got to win that seventh pearl."

As Perry started, he called, rushing to the door, "Joe's shanty's barrel near a side wall toppled over and out of it came the Executioner. He brushed off his clothes and started out of the door, leaving his eyes fixed on their retreating figures.

Only the Executioner, who stood witnessing this strange sight, took exception to Harry's action. He approached the couple and stopped the Executioner on the shoulder.

"Wait a minute," he said, while the astonished workmen grouped around the trio. "This girl belongs to my master and such time as she finds seventh pearl she'll be back here."

Harry was furious—releasing Ilma he faced the Executioner with blazing eyes. The other man also reenters this interference with a genuine frown. He turned and started toward the Sultan's emissary; only Ilma's intervention prevented a disagreeable scene. "He is right," she said sadly, "until I find the seventh pearl, I am not free to go. I have said, 'Wait a minute'—there is no time to be lost."

Following the lead of the Executioner, the couple left the bridge, the disappointment of the workmen who stood gazing after them wondering what the strange words of the foreign-looking man meant and why a perfectly good American should pay attention to them.

On the way back to New York Harry could not restrain his joy that Ilma was with him, while she herself tried to show her appreciation of his bravery in spite of the sour glances of the Executioner.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

Joe's note arriving at Ilma's apartment was read by her with the greatest eagerness. Here was her golden opportunity to redeem her promise. She called up Harry and told him the purport of the message, and he lost no time in hurrying to her.

He was as anxious as she to recover the pearls, and seemingly threw them precipitantly in her way.

But, though Ilma and Harry started at once, their enemies arrived at the shanty first.

Perry, even in his desire to balk Ilma, could not refrain from his usual criminal tendencies. He halted within a few feet of the door, and, pulling a marble from his pocket, showed it to Stayne. "See that?" he said. "Well, I'll fool Joe; I won't pay him a cent. I'll just substitute this pearl for the one he's going to look for."

He laughed and Stayne laughed, too. Also Joe Goddard laughed, for he had been looking at the twenty-two pearls, and he was not slow to make out what the plan of the wily Perry was. He took down a box of moth balls from a shelf, and, setting one nearest the door, he covered the pearl with a wrapper in paper and put it in the left-hand pocket of his waistcoat.

By the time he had replaced the box, he had replaced the arrival of Perry and Stayne.

"Hello!" greeted Joe. "Come into my palace, boys."

"No, you've got the pearl still," said Perry.

"I've got it all right. The question is how badly do you want it?"

"Let's see it first," parried Perry.

Ilma, who was standing near the door, pulled the covered pearl from her pocket and showed it to Stayne. "See that?" he said. "Well, I'll fool Joe; I won't pay him a cent. I'll just substitute this pearl for the one he's going to look for."

He laughed and Stayne laughed, too. Also Joe Goddard laughed, for he had been looking at the twenty-two pearls, and he was not slow to make out what the plan of the wily Perry was. He took down a box of moth balls from a shelf, and, setting one nearest the door, he covered the pearl with a wrapper in paper and put it in the left-hand pocket of his waistcoat.

ROGUE AUCTIONEER GEM

While the party was nearing the metropolis a rogue connected with Grady's band was debating how he could obtain the highest price for the pearl which had fallen into his possession as a result of the Raskin, S. J. Jacobson, L. Brooks, and Fred Ford, the last named colored. Nothing has been heard as yet from the case of Cord Meyer, who was convicted at the same time as the other defendants.

DEMANDS HIS SHARE

Then Stayne, mastered by greed, pointed his finger at Perry's head. "Deliver that pearl!" he said. "You've had too much of this all along; come across—I'm tired of sharing all the danger and getting none of the stuff."

Perry Mason, taken at a disadvantage, handed over the tissue paper case of the coveted pearl, but carefully wrapped it in paper and put it in the left-hand pocket of his waistcoat.

"Well," he said to Joe, "I guess we can't