

A ROYAL MYSTERY

Most Famous State Secret of the Reign of Louis XIV.

THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK.

Who the Unfortunate Prisoner Was Has Never Been Disclosed and When He Died His Body Was Destroyed by Chemicals in His Casket.

A famous state mystery of the reign of Louis XIV. of France was the mysterious prisoner, the Man in the Iron Mask. Many are the guesses which have been ventured as to who he was. Plays and novels have been written with the iron mask as the central character, but his identity has remained a secret. It is known without doubt that St. Mars during his life had as a prisoner a man whose face always was covered with a mask of black velvet fastened by springs of steel behind the head.

The guards had orders to kill the man if he ever exposed his face, and St. Mars' own life depended on nobody finding out who his prisoner was. His first prison was the castle of Pignerol. When St. Mars was transferred to the isles of St. Marguerite the king himself told the jailer to take his prisoner with him and cautioned him not to let him speak to any one, even his guards.

On the night of April 29, 1674, a closed litter escorted by a troop of horses stopped at Bron, some leagues from Lyons. From the litter descended a young man of slim and active figure, his face hidden by a mask and his hands firmly tied. In which state he lay down on a couch prepared beforehand. Next day ten horsemen arrived with sealed orders to convey the prisoner with the utmost secrecy to the fortress of Pignerol. So it was the Man in the Iron Mask began his twenty-nine years of captivity under the impassive, silent, remorseless St. Mars.

Several years later the man of the mask was seen again when St. Mars was transferred to St. Marguerite. This time troopers surrounded a chair covered with waxed cloth. The travelers stopped at an inn for supper. The more daring of the curious peasants peered through a small window from outside the locked supper room. The prisoner sat with his back to the window, and they could not tell whether he had on his mask. St. Mars sat opposite him with a pistol on each side of his plate.

This prisoner was the subject of much correspondence between St. Mars and Louis XIV. of France. Louis continually was asking about him. He gave full instructions as to the care of the man, and about the cell he was to occupy the king wrote:

"Let there be so many doors closed one after the other that the sentinels cannot hear a word, and you will never listen to anything he has to say on any pretext whatever. Threaten him with death if he ever opens his mouth to speak of anything but of what he may be absolutely in want of."

The blindly obedient St. Mars followed his instructions carefully. The doctor who waited on the prisoner said he had never seen his face, although he had examined his tongue. Dishes and plates were examined each time the prisoner was served to see if there was any writing on them. The guards always were ready to kill the moment he took off his mask.

In other respects the greatest attention was shown him, and nothing which he requested was refused. He always was dressed in black. St. Mars himself stood uncovered in his presence and remained standing until the prisoner had requested him to be seated. The jailer often took his meals with the prisoner.

Just who was the Man in the Iron Mask? Some thought he was an illegitimate son of Anne of Austria. Others said he was a twin brother of Louis XIV., whose claims might have deprived the king of his throne. Another writer makes him the leader of an association which was formed to assassinate the ruler. The most general belief is that he was Count Mattioli, first minister of the Duke of Mantua, who had betrayed the interests of Louis XIV. by failing to secure for him, as he had pledged himself to do in consideration for a bribe, possession of the fortress of Casale from his master. Louis XIV. knew the secret, but to all questions replied that if it was known who the prisoner was every one would be surprised to find him so uninteresting a person.

The prisoner died after a short illness in 1703. He was buried one autumn day, and his name was inserted in the prison register as "M. de Marchiel."

Eighty-six years later the frenzied citizens of Paris broke into the Bastille and rushed to the cell where it was known he had been kept. They stopped short before clean whitewashed walls. Nothing was in the room. The prisoner's clothes and the mask had been burned when he died. Chemicals had been put in his casket to destroy the body. Only one man had seen the face behind the iron mask during the twenty-nine years. He was St. Mars. And St. Mars never told. — Kansas City Times.

Her Blunder.
Bess—You interest me strangely, Jack—as no other man ever has. Jack—You sprung that on me last night. Bess—Oh, was it you? Pardon me for repeating.—Judge.

Religion is the best armor in the world, but the worst cloak.—Newton.

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Glasgow, Mont., Feb. 9, 1916.

The city council of the city of Glasgow, Montana, met in regular session in the office of the city clerk in the public library building at 8 o'clock p. m.

At roll call the following answered present: Aldermen Lezie, Hurd, St. Clair and Markle. Mayor Kent present and presiding.

The minutes of the meeting of January 18, 1916, were read and upon motion of Alderman Hurd, seconded by Alderman Lezie, were approved.

A letter from the present owners of the Carrington, North Dakota Heat and Power company, relative to the purchase of the Glasgow light plant was read and ordered filed, and the clerk instructed to answer it to the effect that the city of Glasgow had no intention of selling their plant at present.

The reports for the months of January from the police magistrate, city marshal and the city treasurer were read, ordered filed, and were approved, on motion of Alderman St. Clair, seconded by Alderman Lezie.

The matter of the new pump at the plant was discussed and the bid of Elmer Johnson for furnishing the same presented.

It was moved by Alderman Hurd and seconded by Alderman Lezie, that the bid of Elmer Johnson to furnish the city of Glasgow with a pump, as per specifications, be accepted.

Roll call: Voting yes, Aldermen Hurd, Lezie, St. Clair and Markle. Carried.

It was also moved by Alderman Lezie and seconded by Alderman Hurd, that the mayor and clerk be instructed to enter into a contract with Elmer Johnson for the purchase of said pump.

Roll call: Voting yes, Aldermen Hurd, Lezie, St. Clair and Markle. Carried.

Mr. Goodison being present in regard to a franchise to furnish the city of Glasgow with gas, the matter was discussed and the following motion made by Alderman Hurd, seconded by Alderman Lezie, that the matter of the franchise be laid on the table, indefinitely.

Roll call: Voting yes, Aldermen Hurd, Lezie, St. Clair and Markle.

The need of a volunteer fire department was mentioned by Alderman Hurd and he explained that the Commercial club had asked him to act as a committee of one to bring it before the council.

After a discussion, in which it was suggested that there be ten volunteers for each side of the track, with a chief and assistant chief in command; that some more convenient and heated building be found in which to store the hose carts and hose and that the city purchase one, and perhaps two chemical engines, the matter was referred to the fire and police committee, with instructions to confer with the Commercial club.

The ordinance committee reported some small progress toward getting the ordinances in shape to print.

Mr. Goodison asked that his application for a franchise be considered the first application and assured the council that when the weather permitted he would produce results that would prove that he was entitled to one.

Oil engine: The city engineer reported on the progress made on the foundation and estimated the time it would take to complete it.

The council instructed the city engineer to wire to the company to have the engine shipped at once.

The clerk was instructed to call for bids for the furnishing of fuel oil, f. o. b. Glasgow.

The auditing committee reported on the following bills:

N. E. Baynham, team for snow plow	4.00
C. O. Knight, electric supplies	25.80
Imperial Elevator Co., coal for plant	798.12
Imperial Elevator Co., coal for library	13.60
Meier and Senne, repair tools	20.95
H. R. Worthington, repairs for pumps	28.21
Coleman Hardware Co., supplies	5.70
Markle Transfer Co., coal and drayage	150.59
Andrew Troeger, barn rent	7.00
H. Valentine, cleaning away snow	2.00
J. L. Truscott, martingale for team	1.00
Moore Telephone Co., rentals	3.35
Courier, printing and supplies	281.70
Glenn Maris, tools	4.75
North Side Grocery, bran	1.50
Martin Fessner, labor	54.00
H. D. Palmer, meter refunds, etc.	70.83
W. W. Hurd, coal for library	85.77
Chas. Lamphere, carpenter at plant	54.60
Lewis-Wedum Co., supplies and material	85.50
Lewis-Wedum Co., lumber	142.00
Mutual Oil Co., sweeping compound	3.00
National Meter Co., water meters	624.00

It was moved by Alderman Hurd and seconded by Alderman Lezie, that

the bills be allowed as audited by the auditing committee and that the clerk be instructed to draw warrants on the respective funds in payment thereof.

Roll call: Voting yes, Aldermen Hurd, Lezie, St. Clair and Markle. Carried.

Adjourned subject to the call of the chair.

H. B. PALMER P. E. KENT,
Clerk Mayor.

State Topics

Cities and towns all over Montana will be much interested in a decision by Attorney General Poindexter to the effect that the public service commission has no jurisdiction in rate making in municipalities where franchises were granted before the creation of the commission and where such franchises contained schedules of rates to be charged the citizens.

On Thursday of this week the Conrad Flax Fiber company shipped to Belfast, Ireland, 40,000 pounds of lint and tow. This is the first consignment of fiber ever shipped from Montana. It was shipped to the main Irish spinners in Belfast. After a number of weeks spent in repairing the mill and installing new machinery it is again ready to begin work.

On the grounds that the statute under which the government sought to collect \$1 for every head of sheep grazed upon the Crow reservation by the Ash Sheep company only applied to horses, mules and cattle, and upon the further grounds there was no evidence of substantial damages, Judge Bourquin Saturday ordered an injunction entered restraining the defendant company from trespassing on the reservation and judgment in the sum of \$1 damages and costs.

Baldwin Schenk of the Warrick country started on his way to Big Sandy last Thursday in the storm to make final proof on his homestead. The snow being very deep, the horses which the stage man was driving became nearly exhausted before the journey was nearly completed, and the two gentlemen were compelled to stay over night in the cold. As a result Baldwin received a badly frozen foot by the time they reached town and it has been necessary for him to remain in town for medical treatment.

Indeterminate sentences of from 10 to 20 years in the state prison have been given George Thompson and Earl Chandler, convicted of holding up and robbing Emil Hottiger, a rancher, of \$270 in broad daylight on November 16, within sight of the Billings court house. Edna Chandler and Gladys Thompson, who were arrested with the two men and held on separate charges of shoplifting, pleaded guilty to petty larceny. The women were sentenced to six months in the county jail. The quartet was arrested in Great Falls.

As a result of the adoption of drastic measures at Missoula in an endeavor to raise the standards at the university, 18 students of the school have been notified that they have failed to "make good" in their studies and might as well pack their trunks and return to their various homes. President Scheuch deplored the fact that these students were forced to leave school because of their poor work as shown by the result of the semester examinations which ended last week. He stated that Montana has demonstrated its preparedness in athletics, but from now on it is going to be prepared in scholarship.

As a part of the program of the "dry" forces in the prohibition campaign which is now in full swing all over Montana, Dawson county has petitioned the county commissioners to set a date for an election, at which it will be determined whether or not local option shall prevail there. Word has reached the state house that a sufficient number of signatures have been secured, and that the petitions are now in the hands of the county commissioners, who are required to check them up and see that they comply with the law. The law states that one-third of the taxpayers in a county, who are electors, must sign these documents before an election can be ordered.

STATE BRIDGE ENGINEER.

Montana now has a state bridge engineer, who will make plans for all bridges constructed within the state and furnish them free to the counties, removing the necessity of employing a special bridge engineer for that purpose in the various counties, according to George F. Metlen, state highway commissioner.

The head of the department says Mr. Metlen was formerly connected with the manufacturing department of a large bridge concern and is giv-

ing the most careful attention to the needs of bridge construction in Montana.

In talking to the members of the board of county commissioners of Yellowstone county, the members of the state highway commission said that a uniform system had been adopted, which calls for competitive bidding in all counties for material for bridges. This plan, it is believed, will cheapen the cost of construction, since all plans must be approved by the commission, which will insure a uniform bridge construction throughout the state.

The matter of the cost of steel culverts was brought out. Mr. Metlen brought forward statistics showing that in the past, there has been a wide variation in the cost of culverts, some counties paying as high as 8 1-2 cents a pound, while other counties purchased the same quality of culvert for as low as 6 cents a pound. At present he stated they can be secured for 5 1-2 cents, in spite of the fact that steel is much higher at present than in the past two years. It is the intention of the commission to establish a uniform basis for purchasing culverts, so that one county will not have to pay more for the product than another.

Dr. Syntax.

On the English coast, at Land's End, there stands a curiously formed boulder with a profile resembling that of a human face. It is supposed that once the rocky head was held proudly erect and could look out over the blue sea, but during some period of disturbance the huge boulder was thrown forward, so that now the forehead of the man rests against a neighboring rock. All these rugged and massive pieces bordering the coast are fine granite. Locally the curious boulder is known as Dr. Syntax.

WILL TEST PRIMARY LAW

So many inquiries have come to the office of Secretary of State A. M. Alderson concerning the meaning of the so-called presidential preference primary law that it has been determined to get an expression from the supreme court as to what the law really means. Secretary of State Alderson said Saturday:

"Because of the fact that the language of the so-called preference primary act is in a manner indefinite and likewise for the reason that the act itself seems to fail to provide machinery for its operation, it has been decided to present the matter to the attention of the supreme court in order that this body may

definitely determine just what the act means, and in what manner it shall be put into operation.

"For this reason petitions are now being circulated in Helena in behalf of William Taylor, who desires to be nominated on the democratic ticket for the office of public administrator of Lewis and Clark county. In his petition Mr. Taylor demands to be placed upon the ticket for the office of public administrator at the primary election to be held under the so-called presidential preference primary, the date of which would mean April 21.

"It has been arranged that, in order to test the question, the county clerk will refuse to file Mr. Taylor's petition and that thereupon the supreme court will be asked to issue a writ of mandamus to compel the county clerk to act. The pleadings in the case will be so arranged that practically all questions involved in the construction of the primary act will be brought within the purview of the court.

"There are numerous questions involved in the proposed hearing. In the first place it will be decided whether those gentlemen who contemplate running for offices other than presidential electors and delegates to national conventions must enter the primary in April, or whether such candidates will not start until the primary in August. In other words, the court will be asked to say whether there will be two primaries this year—one in April and one in August—or whether the

entire tickets will be nominated in April and dispense with the August primary.

"The so-called presidential preference primary law provides for the nomination of candidates by petitions, but it does not say with whom these petitions are to be filed. The language of the act attempting to fix the percentage of signers on any petition is likewise ambiguous. The law also states that an elector may vote for but one candidate for any office.

"As a matter of fact there are eight candidates to be elected to each national convention, and there are four presidential electors to be chosen. If the language of the act were strictly followed it might be that only one presidential elector would be chosen or that only one delegate to a national convention would be selected.

"In order, therefore, that there may be no questions raised as to the validity of the ensuing elections, it has been deemed proper to ask the supreme court to pass upon all of these questions so that all candidates for public office may have a chance to have their nominations secured in a legal fashion.

"It is quite likely that the petition for writ of mandamus will be filed early next week. The matter will be presented for the relator by Albert J. Galen, former attorney general, and the defendant, County Clerk Duncan, will be represented by County Attorney McConnell and Attorney General J. B. Poindexter."

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Francis Bushman and Jas. J. Jeffries Appearing in the Metro Feature, "Pennington's Choice," at the Orpheum, Wednesday, February 16.